

**Huron**  
UNIVERSITY



**COMMUNITY IMPACT  
REPORT** | 2025-2026



# Forward, Together

*Celebrating Achievements Shaping  
the Next Chapter at Huron*



Because of you, Huron continues to thrive as a community united by a shared belief in our mission to develop **Leaders with Heart**. Thank you.

This year has been one of extraordinary growth and momentum. Our alumni network has never been stronger, joined by an expanding community of parents, friends, and partners who believe in the transformative power of a Huron education. Together, this community ensures our students are known, challenged, and inspired to lead with character, compassion, and conviction.

In 2025 we welcomed our **largest incoming class ever**, a powerful affirmation of Huron's growing reputation for values-based education. This milestone brings new opportunities and new responsibilities. As we grow, we must remain intentionally small while continuing to invest in financial aid and innovative student experiences so every student can fully realize their potential.

While we are proud of how far we have come, there is still important work ahead: to deepen accessibility, strengthen our programs, and prepare graduates to serve, lead, and make a meaningful difference in their communities and beyond.

This report highlights just a few of the generous acts that make this work possible. Thank you for believing in our students, our mission, and the future of Huron. **Together, we are building something truly extraordinary.**



*Barry Craig*

**Dr. Barry Craig**  
*President & Vice-Chancellor*  
*Huron University*

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## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$30,000**

typical annual cost of a Huron education, including tuition and living expenses

**1 in 5**

Huron students receive significant financial support each academic year

**5,000**

the number of applications received for 800 first-year spots at Huron

**30**

students is our average class size

## CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

Joining a growing community of Huron graduates.

"Huron taught me many important lessons, but one particular lesson sticks out the most: say 'Yes' to opportunity. I said 'Yes' to flying halfway around the world to the UAE with a group of strangers. I said 'Yes' to joining student council and getting involved. And finally, I said 'Yes' to doing a speech in front of my whole graduating class."

**WILL SIMPSON**

Graduate and 2026 Class Speaker,  
Management and Organizational Studies, Policy & Ethics



# YOUR **GENEROSITY AT WORK**

**Each and every gift to the Huron Fund creates opportunities for Huron students to reach their full potential. The Huron Fund supports our students' most pressing needs through scholarships and financial aid, career development and internship opportunities, and experiential learning. Here are some of the students whose paths have been transformed by your generosity.**



“My journey has been made possible by financial aid, including support from alumni and friends of the University. Scholarships and bursaries don’t just ease the cost of tuition, they open doors. They’ve allowed me to take on leadership roles with the student council and youth mental health organizations, join new clubs, explore my interests, and focus on learning rather than worrying about finances.”

## **LESLEY WALTER**

Second-Year Management and Organizational Studies Student  
Walkerton, ON

“As an aspiring archivist with a passion for public history and rare books, I’ve benefited from experiential learning and research opportunities through Huron’s Community History Centre and class trips to Nova Scotia, Ohio, Greece and the U.K. These hands-on experiences have fueled my love of history and shaped my future career plans. Many of these opportunities came with costs above and beyond tuition, and they wouldn’t be possible without support from Huron alumni.”

## **BRIANNE MACHAN**

Fourth-Year History Student  
Sarnia, ON



“Receiving an entrance scholarship has empowered me to focus on my learning, join clubs like the Huron Psychology Association and HUDS (Huron Underground Dramatic Society), and take on new leadership roles. I’ve also benefited from experiential learning opportunities. Experiences like these have fundamentally shaped the way I understand my field and the impact I hope to have in the future.”

## **GEORGIA BUBEL**

Third-Year Psychology Student  
Barrie, ON

# HURON LAUNCHES PEERLINK MENTORING PROGRAM WITH ALUMNI SUPPORT

**Earlier this year, Huron introduced the *PeerLink Mentoring Program*, a new student wellness initiative made possible thanks to the generous support of Huron alumnus Taylor Harris '13 and The Harris-Taylor Family Foundation.**

*PeerLink* expands on Huron's commitment to student wellbeing by providing a platform for upper-year student mentors and first-year mentees to build meaningful connections, share experiences, and develop practical strategies to support their growth and success. *PeerLink* was also designed as an opportunity for upper-year mentors to strengthen their communication and leadership skills, while contributing to Huron's caring, inclusive campus culture.

"*PeerLink* was created in response to conversations which identified a growing need for early connection and peer encouragement with healthy habits and learning strategies," says Heidi Braaksma, Director, Student Wellness. "Many students shared that they benefit most from guidance offered by classmates who have 'walked the path' before them, and understand the academic, social, and emotional transitions of university life."

"Despite the availability of wellness supports on campus, overcoming the stigma and reaching out for support is still a challenge for many students," shares Taylor Harris. "My family and I are proud to be partners in the *PeerLink* Mentoring Program. Mental health and wellbeing play an important role in students' academic, professional, and personal development."

Developed through the fall of 2025 and launched in January 2026, the inaugural program included recruitment and training for a team of upper-year mentors, followed by an eight-week pilot that engaged 20+ participants in more than 40 on-campus interactions. Mentors also received regular coaching with Huron's Wellness team. Feedback from the inaugural cohort has been positive and will support a full-year launch in the 2026-27 academic year.

Huron is grateful to The Harris-Taylor Family Foundation and the Harris-Taylor Family, including Taylor Harris '13, Robin Harris '94, Kathleen Taylor, Honorary Doctorate of Divinity '22, Kevan Harris, and Neil Harris, for their support and commitment to our students.

TAYLOR HARRIS '13



**Reflection from Udit Singh, *PeerLink* Recruitment & Training Coordinator, Fourth-Year Psychology Student, on his experience facilitating the training for *PeerLink* mentors:**

"I kept returning to one guiding question as I built the session: What do I want mentors to feel ready for when a first-year student reaches out in a moment of distress? From there, everything took shape. As the conversations unfolded, I could see mentors leaning in, testing their instincts, and finding their voices. This work is about cultivating awareness and confidence from within."

# YOUR LEGACY



**RICHARD GOVONI AND  
SUSAN (BARR) GOVONI '71**

## **A Proud Alumna. A Lasting Legacy.**

Susan (Barr) Govoni '71 was many things. She was courageous, tenacious, and loyal, a life-long learner, and a feminist. She loved wine, cats, and enjoying Shakespeare's plays at The Stratford Festival. She was also, very proudly, a Huron alumna.

Working in the banking industry in the 1970s wasn't easy as a woman. Susan persevered and retired as Senior Vice President of the Bank of Hawaii. When diagnosed with ALS, Susan never stopped living life to the fullest. During this phase of her life, one of the matters on her mind was giving back to institutions that had played a vital role in her journey.

"Susan felt her university education was superior," explains one of her best friends, Janice Eichner. "She was wicked smart."

From that love, Susan, along with her late husband, Richard, honoured Huron with a legacy gift which established The Susan and Richard Govoni Scholarship and Bursary Fund providing financial aid for students pursuing a Huron education.

Janice says Susan was a person who was always working on self-improvement and is pleased to know Susan's legacy will ensure students can reach their potential.

Susan lived by the principle, recalls Janice, "that one should take responsibility for one's role and change whatever needs to be changed." If she could, Janice says Susan "would tell students to never stop learning."

## **Leave a Legacy that Lasts**

Legacy gifts are acts of profound generosity, opening doors for future students and ensuring Huron can continue shaping **Leaders with Heart** for generations to come. The legacy shared in this story reflects a belief in education that endures long after we're gone.

If Susan and Richard's generosity inspires you, or to learn more about leaving a gift to Huron in your will, please contact **Anne-Marie Rodger** at [annemarie.rodger@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:annemarie.rodger@huron.uwo.ca) to start the conversation today.



# 2025 ALUMNI AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

Huron's Alumni Awards of Distinction honour graduates whose leadership, excellence, and service create lasting impact in their fields and communities. As our flagship annual recognition program, the awards celebrate the hallmark achievements that define a Huron education and inspire the next generation of **Leaders with Heart**.

On November 19, 2025, our community came together in downtown Toronto to celebrate the year's remarkable recipients and the many ways they continue to shape their professions and uplift the world around them.

**Congratulations to our winners!**



**Nick Eaves '90**  
*Alumni Award of Distinction*



**Stephanie Murphy '11**  
*Emerging Leader Award*



**Vivek Prabhu '13**  
*Beverly Paterson Wood Award for Volunteer Service to Huron, Co-recipient*



**Peter Theophilos '94**  
*Beverly Paterson Wood Award for Volunteer Service to Huron, Co-recipient*



Scan the QR code to watch the 2025 Alumni Awards of Distinction video.

Interested in learning more about our Alumni Awards? Visit [huronu.ca/alumni/alumni-achievement-awards](https://huronu.ca/alumni/alumni-achievement-awards)

Photos (clockwise):

1. President & Vice-Chancellor, Huron University, Dr. Barry Craig
2. Alumni Association Board member Aaryan Lakhan Paul '24
3. Huron Alumni Awards of Distinction

4 & 5. Moments of connection and leadership that move our community forward

# Huron



## NATION BUILDER PROGRAM

FOUNDING SPONSOR:  
THE SCHULICH FOUNDATION

Huron University's Nation Builder Program has completed its first full year with clear, measurable impact on students' academic growth, professional readiness, and sense of civic responsibility. Supported by *The Schulich Foundation*, the program combines academic learning with career-ready experiences that help students understand how they can contribute to Canada's future.

A key academic component was Contours of Canada, a for-credit course examining prosperity, governance, identity, and sustainability through dialogue with leaders and hands-on learning. Students described it as a meaningful shift in how they see their role as future contributors to public life. Additional courses will follow in 2026–27.

Experiential learning was equally strong. More than 85% of students securing exclusive internships with

some of Canada's most successful companies across sectors such as finance, consulting, energy, public policy, media, and law, expanding their professional networks and providing early exposure to meaningful work.

Workshops, debate training, guest lectures, and individualized career support further strengthened students' leadership development. As Huron welcomes its next cohort, the program is becoming a defining part of the student experience.

*"After the successful first year of the Nation Builder Program, we are already seeing the transformational impact this experience is having on students at Huron. Canada needs bold, thoughtful leaders, and this program is helping prepare students to lead with purpose, innovation, and real-world impact."*

**JUDY SCHULICH**

President, The Schulich Foundation

**Nation Builder students received the opportunity to learn directly from experts and business leaders through guest lectures, workshops, and networking opportunities, including:**

**Bill Simpson '99,**  
Partner, Lerner  
Lawyer-in-Residence, Huron University

**Kevin Vuong,**  
Senior Fellow,  
MacDonald-Laurier Institute

**Martha Leach,**  
Entrepreneur, Land Developer

**Josh Morgan,**  
Mayor, City of London

**BlackNorth Initiative**  
**London Chamber of Commerce**  
**Speech & Debate Canada**

"The Nation Builder program has broadened my perspective on what it truly means to build a nation. Visiting organizations, ranging from global corporations to community shelters and faith-based spaces, has deepened my understanding of diverse lived experiences and how businesses and cultural institutions shape the world around us."

**AVA PAPANIKOLAOU**

Governance, Leadership & Ethics  
Second-Year Huron Student  
Kitchener, ON



# President's **SPARK** Speaker Series

Big ideas are taking centre stage at Huron. An extension of the Nation Builder program, the inaugural 2025-26 President's SPARK (Shape Possibilities, Awareness, Resilience, and Knowledge) Speaker Series drew hundreds for inspiring conversations that continue to fuel the bold, forward-thinking energy shaping our future.



## **Building Canada's Future; a fireside chat with Michael Medline '84**

Michael Medline, former CEO of Empire Company Limited, joined award-winning journalist Steve Paikin OC OOnt and President Dr. Barry Craig for a candid fireside chat on the enduring value of liberal arts, ethical leadership, career resilience, and Canada's economic competitiveness. Medline urged boldness in removing barriers to innovation, calling on leaders to move fast and think long-term.



## **Mobsters, Money, and the Existential Threat to Canadian Sport**

Internationally renowned investigative journalist Declan Hill, PhD, delivered a gripping keynote on the existential threat gambling poses to sport integrity, exposing the scale of a global industry fuelled by addiction, match-fixing, and organized crime. A panel featuring renowned law professor and arbitrator Richard McLaren '68 OC and Tim Hutzler, general counsel for Soccer Canada, explored safeguarding sport through regulation, transparency, and ethical leadership.



## **In Conversation: Anique Asher & Gillian Riley on Leadership and the Future of Banking**

Gillian Riley, former CEO of Tangerine Bank, and Anique Asher, Executive Vice President at Scotiabank, joined moderator and Huron faculty member Dr. Kate Graham for a compelling conversation on leading through change. The thoughtful discussion challenged students to get comfortable with discomfort, think critically about AI, and invest in the people around them.



## **SPARK Spotlight with Ali Budd '04**

Ali Budd, President & Principal Designer, Ali Budd Interiors shared an honest look at her successful yet unconventional path, emphasizing adaptability, authenticity, and creating opportunities rather than waiting for them. She urged students to rethink traditional success, embrace uncertainty, build their own networks, and pursue what they want, not what they think they "should" do.

# THE FAIRFAX CENTRE FOR FREE ENTERPRISE

At a time when Canada faces significant economic headwinds, the Centre aspires to:

- Play an active role in the advocacy and education of free enterprise and entrepreneurial thinking
- Equip young people with the understanding and skills to become contributors to the Canadian economy and thus Canadian society
- Encourage and facilitate important conversations that draw on the connection between economic growth and social progress, and the roles of government and the private sector
- Support related scholarly activity related to free enterprise and free markets
- Become part of a global network of like-minded organizations

Thanks to a landmark \$10 million investment by Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited in 2025, throughout the last academic year the Centre offered new student experiences including case writing mentorship, participation in case competitions, consulting opportunities, and avenues to learn more about free enterprise systems and entrepreneurial thinking.



**VICTOR THOMAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Victor brings two decades of leadership experience across non-profit, post-secondary, and business sectors. He currently serves as President & CEO of the Canada-India Business Council, a role he will continue alongside his appointment as Executive Director. Thomas is widely recognized for his contributions to public service and leadership in Canada and abroad.



**FAITH JAYAKARAN, MANAGER**

Faith Jayakaran brings experience in operations, business development, and event management across the business and not-for-profit sectors. In this role, Jayakaran will focus on building meaningful opportunities for students while strengthening connections between the Centre, the Huron community, and external partners.

The Centre was officially launched in 2026 at an event featuring a conversation with Huron's Chancellor Prem Watsa and Lauren Templeton, Founder & President of Templeton and Philips Capital Management, LLC, about economic principles, ethical leadership, economic innovation, and sound business thinking.

Guests were also introduced to Victor Thomas, the Centre's inaugural Executive Director and heard inspiring remarks from Dr. Barry Craig about the Centre's purpose in educating future founders, ethical leaders, and creative citizens.



Photo: Moderator Steve Paikin OC OOnt, Lauren Templeton, and Prem Watsa in conversation

# A SLICE OF HISTORY AT HURON



Photos (left to right): 1. A Culinary Services team member makes a hawaiian pizza 2. Dr. Barry Craig, President & Vice-Chancellor and Scott Durnin, VP Infrastructure & Facilities, with members of the Panopoulos family 3. Making pizza with flair!

Huron celebrated the official naming of the Sam Panopoulos Pizza Oven in Burnlea Dining Hall, honouring the late creator of the Hawaiian pizza and his family's deep roots in London, ON.

Sam Panopoulos was a Greek immigrant whose curiosity changed the way the world eats. In 1962, working in a Canadian restaurant, he placed pineapple on a pizza for the first time. It was unconventional, unexpected, and it sparked a global conversation that has never really stopped.

The event brought Dr. Barry Craig, Aramark President Steve Prisco '95, the Panopoulos family, students, staff, and community members together on campus to shine a light on a story of creativity and cultural impact that began right here in Canada. Huron's pizza oven now carries Sam's name as a daily reminder that one bold idea, born from a willingness to experiment, can travel across countries, cultures, and generations.

## TRANSFORMING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR FUTURE LEADERS IN MINISTRY

### Celebrating a \$1M Investment from Lilly Endowment Inc.

In October 2025, Huron announced a \$1 million (USD) grant (\$1.4 million CAD) from Lilly Endowment Inc. to strengthen theological education through a project entitled 'Forming for the Future: Theological Education for Emerging Ministry Leadership'. With a focus on preparing pastoral leaders for the challenges of modern ministry, the project builds on the success of Huron's Licentiate in Theology (L.Th.), an innovative continuing education pathway delivered in partnership with Anglican dioceses nationwide. The grant is enabling significant program enhancements, including a new supervised ministry mentorship program and dedicated online learning platform. It will also create new pathways between Huron's degree and non-degree programs, expanding opportunities for emerging lay and ordained leaders.



"This good news comes at a critical time for the Faculty of Theology, allowing us to continue building on our 160-year legacy of forming leaders of faith, compassion, and service, while expanding access to context-driven theological education across Canada."

**DR. DAN SMITH**

Dean of Theology & Vice President, Academic

# DECADES OF **HEART**

## **A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY & IMPACT**

On April 23, 2026, our Huron community of alumni, friends, and partners gathered in downtown Toronto for a night of connection and shared pride, all in support of student financial aid.

The evening, hosted by Jon Erlichman '99, featured remarks from Co-Chairs Susan Hummel '92 and Geoff Spidle '91, and Dr. Barry Craig.

Together, attendees contributed an incredible \$140,000 to student financial aid, an inspiring testament to the generosity and spirit that define Huron. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us and made this celebration of community impact possible.

### **Co-Chairs**

Susan Hummel '92  
Geoff Spidle '91

### **Event Committee**

Jennifer Bassett '96  
Michael Deluce '01  
Jack Jelinek '20  
Aaryan Lakhan Paul '24  
Karen Mulder '95  
Rob Munro '95  
Vivek Prabhu '13  
Adrienne Smith '92  
Trevor Sookraj '19



*“No matter what decade you graduated in, we all share an understanding of Huron’s heart. This has always been a place that shapes ethical leaders who use their talents to make a positive impact in a complex and changing world.”*

**DR. BARRY CRAIG**  
President & Vice-Chancellor



Photo: A full house for a shared vision

Our sincere appreciation goes to our event sponsors and the outstanding committee members whose efforts and enthusiasm helped create a night filled with impact and community spirit.



Photos (clockwise):

1. Evening emcee Jon Erlichman '99
2. Nate Clark '14, Drew Sussman '17, Emily Addison '16, Trenton MacDuff '17, Vivek Prabhu '13, Moustafa Ezz '16
3. Melinda Rogers-Hixon, Caleb Frigo, and Dave Keystone

4. Co-chairs Susan Hummel '92 and Geoff Spidle '91
5. Designed with heart, shared with joy

# PHILANTHROPY: SUSTAINING OUR MISSION TOGETHER

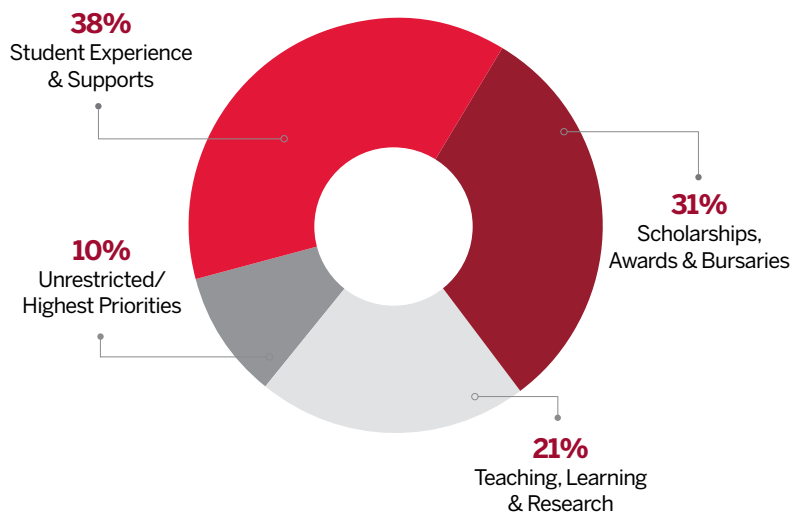
Philanthropy plays a critical role in Huron’s mission to develop **Leaders with Heart**, and we are grateful for the support of so many Huron alumni, friends, parents, churches, foundations and corporate partners. Together, your support ensures we can continue to deliver the highest quality student experience and create more accessible pathways to higher education. **Thank you!**

Support for Huron students comes in two forms: Expendable gifts offer immediate, flexible funding to advance our mission and meet the priorities, and emerging needs of students today. Endowed gifts provide long-term, sustainable support for Huron and for future generations of students.

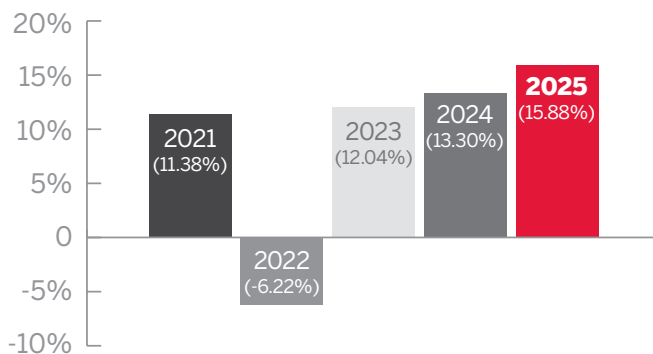
Huron is fortunate to steward over 261 endowed funds supporting diverse areas of the University. These gifts are overseen by committed volunteer board members and invested in a professionally managed, diversified portfolio through the Huron University College Foundation. Distributions are reviewed annually and are currently calculated using a 4% payout rate (plus fees) based on a five-year rolling average of the endowment capital balance.

**This was a record year for investments in Huron students and the University’s mission. Thank you for your trust and support!**

**Areas of Impact—here’s how \$8.372 million in cash received this year breaks down:**



**Endowment Investment Returns**  
(December 31, 2025)



## 2025-26 **GIVING HIGHLIGHTS**

(May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026)

**\$8.372 million**

Total Cash Received

**531**

Number of Donors

**70%**

Expendable

**30%**

Endowed

**\$24.413 million**

Endowment Market Value

(December 31, 2025)

# CELEBRATING GIFTS OF TIME & TALENT

Our mission is made stronger every day by the incredible generosity of our volunteer leaders. Their time, expertise, and unwavering commitment help bring our mission to life in countless ways, in the classroom and beyond. We are profoundly grateful to our Board members and to every individual who chooses to give back by sharing their time and talent. Your generosity strengthens our community and inspires lasting impact. **Thank you!**

## HURON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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 Al Donald '80  
 Susan Farrow '85  
 Suzanne Fleming '90  
 Kyle Hartlen  
 Caleb Hayhoe '85  
 Frank Holmes '78  
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 Chelsea Smith '11  
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 Natalie Pierce '14  
 Maria Puccia '18  
 Drew Sussman '17  
 The Rev. Andra Townshend O'Neill '18



“Serving on Huron’s Alumni Board has deepened my appreciation for how engaged alumni shape a strong university. Having benefited from that generosity myself and now watching my daughter experience Huron, it makes it especially meaningful to give back to a community that continues to invest in its students and their futures.”

**ROBERT MUNRO '95**  
Board Director, Alumni Association

# LEADERS with *heart*

## Connect with us!

Email: [huradv@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:huradv@huron.uwo.ca) | [huronu.ca](http://huronu.ca) | [@huronuni](https://www.instagram.com/huronuni)

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

