The Alumni Students Mentorship Program, now in its third year, has expanded to 45 pairs of mentors and mentees. Following the kick-off event in the fall, participant pairs engaged with each other face to face, over the phone or by email. The intent is to broaden students’ awareness of possible careers as well as giving them the opportunity to make important connections and develop professional and personal skills.

The program has been very successful and many of the mentors have been part of it from the beginning. Mentors gain the satisfaction of knowing they are helping students understand the unfamiliar and often daunting world they will face.

The program is part of a very successful university-wide effort encouraging alumni to get involved and work with students as they prepare to graduate.

If you are interested in participating as an alumni mentor please contact stephanie.woodside@utoronto.ca
A Message from Acting Principal

Carol Chin

It was an honour and a delight for me to preside over the Annual Awards Dinner this year. It was wonderful to be able to spend time with students and donors to celebrate all that makes Woodsworth special amongst the University of Toronto colleges. Showcased were exceptional students who have achieved very high academic results while also committing themselves to volunteer work, part-time jobs, family responsibilities, and more. I met students who were single parents, recent immigrants, and leaders both on campus and in the wider community. It was truly inspiring—and humbling—to hear their stories and to glimpse the dedication and effort that has produced their academic successes.

Much of this would not be possible without the generous support of our donors who have established so many scholarships to support and recognize academic accomplishment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters whose contributions enable us to deliver both merit-based scholarships and financial aid to students in need. We couldn’t do it without all of you.

In these past months I have been able to get to know the Woodsworth community well. It has been a privilege to work amongst a dedicated group of staff and faculty who make the College such a vibrant institution.

I welcome any comments and suggestions from our alumni and look forward to meeting more of you during the rest of this year.

Thank you for your support.
For more information call 416.978.0811

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Dr. Timothy Sayle (WDW '06) will be joining the U of T Department of History as of 1 July 2016. He specializes in international relations and global security. Dr. Sayle received both his Bachelor and Masters degrees at the University of Toronto and then went on to complete his PhD at Temple University in 2014.

Dr. Sayle is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Southern Methodist University’s Center for Presidential History. His research interests offer many opportunities for global security and peacekeeping. Since finishing his dissertation, Dr. Sayle has maintained an active research agenda including coordinating an oral history project on President George W. Bush’s decision to “surge” troops in Iraq in 2007. We welcome Timothy back to the campus and hope to see him soon at the College!

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Lori Riznek:

When Lori graduated with her PhD she was uncertain which way she wanted to take her career. Lori chose Woodsworth College, hearing her professorial lifestyle, but rather that she relished the images of a student and an opera singer. Lori is passionate about teaching and learning and because of this a bequest to U of T in your will. And hope to see him soon at the College!

After graduating with her degree in finance and economics, Genevieve Nixon (WDW 13) joined TD Bank as a Credit Underwriter. Genevieve found ways to add value to her position by implementing a number of initiatives to improve efficiency within the Credit Centre Operations. Genevieve was recognized as one of TD’s top performers in 2015 and to recognize her accomplishment, it was sent to a conference in January where she had the opportunity to network with TD’s senior executive team. Recently she was promoted to the role of Business Process Analyst within the Auto Finance area. Genevieve also serves as the treasurer of the Alumni Association of Woodsworth College. Congratulations and all the best in your new role, Genevieve!

First June Straker Award winner:

Amina Jama, a third year student majoring in Equity Studies, Diaspora and Transnational Studies, with a minor in African Studies, is the first recipient of the June Straker Award. The award was established to honour June’s more than 40 year career at Woodsworth College on the occasion of her retirement.

Amina said on hearing of receiving the award: “I met Ms. Straker while I was still in the Transitional Year Program and she was the reason I chose Woodsworth College to pursue my undergraduate program. She was there for me when I began this arduous journey and cheered me on even when I thought I never deserved it. Ms. Straker believed in me when I gave up on myself, she encouraged me to do my best and helped me to build my confidence, to achieve academic excellence, for this I am honored and humbled to be the recipient of the 2015 June Straker scholarship award.”

b2B Backpack to Briefcase: Working with the Centre for Industrial Relations & Human Resources and the Centre for Criminology & Sociological Studies, the College hosted two well-attended speed networking events featuring alumni working in industries and sectors associated with the two program areas. These events gave students an opportunity to hear first-hand what career opportunities are possible upon graduation. This program is a joint venture with the Faculty of Arts and Science.

AAWC Workshop Sessions:

Two professional development workshops were hosted by the AAWC: “Your Career from the Inside Out.” The sessions were well received and the participants left with a better perspective on whether their personal identity matches their career aspirations.

Alumni Cafe: The Alumni Association continued to host very interesting speakers on topical subjects. Speakers and topics included: Prof. Beth Fischer, on American politics; Marvin Zuker speaking on the intersection of education, family and criminal law. All events were well attended.

Join the Boundless Campaign by leaving a bequest to U of T in your will. And support the limitless potential of students like Bradley.

Find out more: michelle.osborne@utoronto.ca 416-978-3864 or give.utoronto.ca