

ANNUAL WOODSWORTH COLLEGE AWARDS DINNER

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
WOODSWORTH COLLEGE

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Layan Elfaki, Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Gold recipient, brings remarks in the Great Hall, Hart House.



Shayna Thompson (award winner),
Stacy Rodriquez (guest)



The Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Award recipients pose with Lynda Hamilton (who presented the awards on behalf of Brookfield Partners Foundation), and Carol Chin (Principal, Woodsworth College).

ANOTHER YEAR of celebrating students! On Thursday, Feb. 6, the Woodsworth Community came together to celebrate and acknowledge the many accomplishments and academic excellence of its students and to thank our donors for their support. Principal Carol Chin hosted the evening that featured remarks from Cheryl Shook, assistant principal & registrar; Harlan Tufford, president, Woodsworth College Alumni Association; and Simran Sawnhey,

president, Woodsworth College Students' Association. Throughout the evening, all scholarship recipients were acknowledged and applauded. The event was capped off by the presentation of the Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Scholarships and the inspiring remarks given by Layan Elfaki, the Gold recipient. The Brookfield Peter F. Bronfman Leadership Scholarship recipients were Isabella Gallelo, Blythe Hunter, Andrea Johns, Melissa MacDonald and Jennifer Simpson. ■



L-R: Sepideh Sobhani (guest), Ali Aghaeinia (award winner), Geoff Leckey & Arianne Reza (guests)

INSTALLATION OF NEW PRINCIPAL



The installation party with drummer Archer Pechawis



The U of T Spirit Singers



President Meric Gertler administers the Oath of Office

ON WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16 at a music-filled ceremony in Kruger Hall Commons, Professor Carol Chin was installed as the eighth Principal of Woodsworth College. Faculty, staff and students of the College as well as former principals Angela Hildyard, Mariel O'Neill-Karch, John Browne and Joe Desloges attended the occasion. Bringing remarks and greetings were Chancellor Rose Patten; Jane Pepino, vice-chair of Governing Council; Jay Pratt, vice-dean, Faculty of Arts & Science; Cheryl Shook, assistant principal & registrar, Woodsworth College; Sean Kiefte, past president, Woodsworth

College Alumni Association; and Simran Sawhney, president, Woodsworth College Students' Association. President Meric Gertler administered the oath of office.

Archer Pechawis, a Toronto-based new media and performance artist, led the procession with the Cree Sunrise Song, Waniskâ. The U of T Spirit Singers, led by Isabel Bernaus, conductor, and accompanied by Katharine Petkovski on the piano, accented the ceremony with inspirational music.

Carol set forth her vision for the College for the next five years in her well-received remarks, concluding

them by saying, "Every day, we need to acknowledge the traditional land and do our part toward Truth and Reconciliation. Every day, we need to put into practice our commitment to access and to equity, diversity and inclusion and, every day, we need to find ways to support our students. And that is my pledge to you, as Principal of Woodsworth College."

The lively reception that followed was an opportunity for colleagues and friends to congratulate Carol on her new role. It was a very special day for the College. ■

PLANNED GIVING – A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

Jan Monaghan was a long-time friend and supporter of students at Woodsworth College. She had been a member of the Woodsworth College Council while teaching part-time in the Faculty of Nursing. When she retired in 1996, she established a merit-based scholarship that supports sole support parents with financial need. Over the years, Jan contributed to the award, as did her daughters, to mark special occasions such as their mother's birthday or Mother's Day. They knew that



these gifts, made in her honour, were very meaningful to her. Jan passed away in July 2019; however, she has left a meaningful legacy through the provision in her will of a financial addition to her award.

Jan was a thoughtful and generous supporter of the College whose foresight in establishing a planned gift will result in more financial support for students into

the future. We are deeply grateful for her many years of friendship and support.

Michelle Osborne, executor director, gift planning at U of T, comments that, "We are honoured that Jan decided to extend her support of the College by including a gift in her will for the award she created over 20 years ago. During her lifetime, Jan annually learned of the bright successful students who benefited from her award. Her bequest extends her lifetime support and has increased her award so that even more deserving students will benefit from her generosity."

If you would like information about gift planning, please contact Michelle Osborne at 416-978-3811 or michelle.osborne@utoronto.ca or Barbara Track at Woodsworth College at 416-978-4197 or barbara.track@utoronto.ca. Please see the insert for more information on how to become a bequest donor and a member of the College's Legacy Society and the University's King's College Heritage Society.

BRIEFLY

On Nov. 7, Woodsworth College celebrated its graduating students at **Fall Convocation**. A record number of students with their family members and friends attended the festive reception in Kruger Hall. A total of 177 degrees and three Human Resources Management certificates were conferred.



Graduands preparing to enter Convocation Hall



Principal Carol Chin and guests in Kruger Hall Commons

Long-time staff member **Lee Jeffery** retired at the end of February. She had been a steadfast member of the Registrar's Office for 44 years, primarily focused on academic petitions. The College will miss her unwavering support for Woodsworth students and her calm and thoughtful demeanour. Congratulations, Lee, on your well-deserved retirement!



Lee Jeffery



L-R: Susan Sperling, Morley Gunderson, Jeanette May



L-R: Morley Gunderson, Rafael Gomez, Richard B. Freeman, Carol Chin, Ettore Damiano

Professor Richard B. Freeman, Herbert Ascherman Chair in Economics at Harvard University, delivered this year's **Morley Gunderson Lecture in Labour Economics** in a packed Kruger Hall. The lecture topic was *Labour in the Era of Robots and Algorithms*. Recognized at the event for contributions to the field of labour economics were Jeanette May, formerly the director, People & Culture at the Toronto Police Service, and Susan Sperling, director of communications at Northland Power Inc. Both women were presented with the **2019 Morley Gunderson Prize**.

Prof. Anna Shternshis



Professor Anna Shternshis, AI and Malka Green Professor of Yiddish studies and the director of the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, U of T, was this year's **Saul Goldstein Memorial** lecturer. Her lecture topic was *Singing Through Destruction: How Music Documented the Holocaust*. It centred around her research on the lost Yiddish lyrics written by Soviet Jews during the Second World War. This well attended-event was an important evening for the College.

ALUMNI-STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

This year the College's Alumni/Student Mentorship Program had a record number of matches with 48 pairs participating. The opening reception was well attended and provided an opportunity for the mentors and mentees to meet one another and network. This year, a workshop on how to leverage social media for job readiness was also included as part of the program.

Mentee **Andrew Gallant** recounts his experience with the program and his mentor:

"What Stefan brought to the table was experience, and a strong business acumen; two things I was completely lacking. I decided right then and there that I was going to put as much effort as I could into taking advantage of this opportunity because I knew it was something important and I haven't looked back. With Stefan as my mentor I have learned about a lot of important skills that I don't really get to learn about anywhere else. Skills like curating a strong resume, effective communication, problem solving, networking and evaluation.

The important connection between everything Stefan has shared with me is that it's stuff that I don't really get exposure too anywhere else. It is the sorts of things that have helped me the most in my current hunt for a summer job."



L-R: Barbara Track (Woodsworth staff), Navdeep Johal (mentor), Simran Sawhney (mentee)



Kurt Mighton (mentee) and Eloi Silva (mentor)



Organizers and participants of SEE U OF T

ACCESS PROGRAM: SEE U OF T

Support, Engage, Experience University of Toronto

Spearheaded by the Woodsworth College Registrar's office, SEE U of T is a new access program in collaboration with the Toronto District School Board.

The program's goal is to encourage students, who come from communities historically underrepresented at U of T, to view post-secondary education as a viable option, and to consider U of T, in particular, as a first choice. Program participants are exposed to course-like settings, which explore the themes of Popular Culture and Order and Disorder, and are offered experiential learning opportunities and a chance to participate in campus life at U of T. This first year of the program included a total of more than 30 students from Downsview Secondary School and Runnymede Collegiate.

A lively and well-attended **Alumni Café** was held on Dec. 3 featuring Amy Barron, professor of Museum Studies at Fleming College in Peterborough, Ont. and the program co-ordinator at the Clarington Museums & Archives in Bowmanville. Her engaging talk about mystery writer Agatha Christie's life included many aspects of her biography, particularly her love of the Middle East and the life she lived with her famous archaeologist husband, which provided the basis for many of her greatest novels: *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Death on the Nile*, and *Murder in Mesopotamia*. Barron also

touched on how researchers into Alzheimer's use Christie's novels to unravel the mysteries of the human mind.



Alumni Café speaker Amy Barron

Students from Kenya Study at Woodsworth

Through a generous gift from Nancy McCain and Bill Morneau, a five-year pilot program, the Morneau-McCain Scholars Program, has been established at Woodsworth. The purpose of the scholarship is to offer students from the Morneau Shepell Secondary School for Girls in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya the opportunity to study at U of T. To date, five students are taking part in the program with another six expected this spring.

The College's role is to help make the transition to life in Canada as smooth as possible for these students by providing both academic assistance and a network of peer support. The students start their studies in the Academic Bridging Program, where they have access to academic advisers, learning strategists and study skill seminars that will help prepare them and set a course for academic and personal success.

The program is co-ordinated through the World University Service of Canada. You can read more about the program and read quotes from the first two students at <https://boundless.utoronto.ca/impact/empowering-kenyan-women-with-a-u-of-t-education/>

OBITUARY

Professor Peter Silcox, the second principal of Woodsworth College, passed away Oct. 12, 2019. He served as principal of the College from 1977 to 1984. Professor Silcox was a political scientist and a member of the U of T faculty from 1964 until his retirement in 2003. He



also served as the Associate Dean and Vice Principal of the University of Toronto at Mississauga.

Our sincerest sympathies go out to his wife Antonia and his children, Mary and Mark.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALUMNI REUNION

Mark your calendars!
Thursday, May 28, 2020
6 to 8:30 p.m.

William Waters Lounge,
Woodsworth College Residence
RSVP: events.woodsworth@utoronto.ca or call 416-946-5391

Join alumni association board members, Woodsworth College alumni, and friends for a brief WCAA Annual General Meeting, volunteer recognition, and the presentation of anniversary pins to those celebrating their 25 year anniversary of graduation from Woodsworth/U of T. A reception and BBQ will cap off the event.

Announcement

We are temporarily suspending print publication of this newsletter.

You may find updates on College news and events at <https://wdw.utoronto.ca/>.

We will be emailing a periodic e-newsletter with news and events.

To add or correct your email address, please email us at alumni.woodsworth@utoronto.ca



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