

UNIVERSITY OF
GUELPH
HUMBER

TORONTO, ON

2023 / 2024
ANNUAL REPORT





Indigenous Artist: **Patrick Hunter, 2022**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Guelph–Humber and Humber Polytechnic are located within the traditional and treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit. Known as Aadoobiigok, 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, Aadoobiigok continues to provide a vital source of interconnection for all.

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Limitless Possibilities

For over 20 years, the University of Guelph-Humber (U of GH) has challenged students in their academic studies and integrated hands-on opportunities to apply their knowledge in real-world experiences, so they have limitless possibilities when they graduate.

At U of GH, we support our students in achieving their full potential where they become community contributors, leaders, critical thinkers, and agents of change.

The 2023/2024 Annual Report shows the U of GH experience through the Guelph-Humber community, and our students. This report is a culmination of our achievements as an institution and captures the positive impact we have had during the year.

As the world continues to change through the rapid development of artificial intelligence, shaped by global changes and a shifting economic climate, we will continue to adapt. We will evolve and enhance our curriculum and programs, foster new opportunities and experiences for our students and lead through a uniqueness that can only be offered at U of GH.

Melanie Spence-Ariemma, Ph.D.
Vice-Provost and Chief Academic Officer



Gratitude

The 2023/2024 academic year at Guelph-Humber was an exciting one, filled with academic accomplishments and brand-new events, such as the U of GH Women of Distinction recognitions and a visit from Dr. Vikas Swarup (author of best-selling novel *Slumdog Millionaire*), who spoke about the key role of global citizenship.

Over the duration of the year, students embraced their learning opportunities, both inside and outside our classrooms and labs. They engaged in experiential learning and research, excelled in their work placements, challenged themselves by participating in external competitions and conferences, and reinvigorated many of our student clubs and societies. Rarely does a week go by where I am not made aware of a competition our students have won, a significant project they have embarked upon, or a unique workplace experience they have undertaken. It is what makes this community truly special.

I would like to thank every member of Guelph-Humber for their dedication, commitment, and hard work in supporting the university.

George Bragues, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Provost, Academic



The University of Guelph-Humber (U of GH) is located in Toronto and is a partnership between the University of Guelph (U of G) and Humber Polytechnic (Humber). U of GH was founded over 20 years ago on the principle of integrating experiential learning opportunities into the academic curriculum.

U of GH is a university that does things differently. Drawing from the expertise of our founding institutions, U of GH

offers a closely connected community, a low student-to-instructor ratio, the opportunity to engage in scholarly activities and gain valuable workplace experience.

U of GH is an ambitious and highly supportive community that takes students' success personally. This community comes together to provide an environment where students can learn and achieve their full potential.

2023/2024 Student Profile

Fall 2023	Full-Time	Part-Time
Justice and Public Safety	2	110
Media and Communication Studies	334	61
Community Social Services	221	234
Early Childhood Studies	536	355
Justice Studies	777	51
Kinesiology	483	41
Psychology	387	44
Business Administration	960	84
Non-Degree	3	5
Total	3703	985

Enrolment by Age

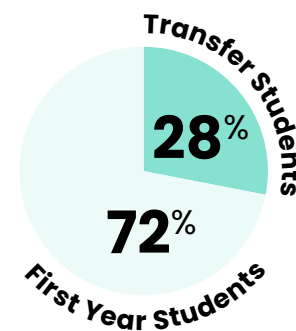
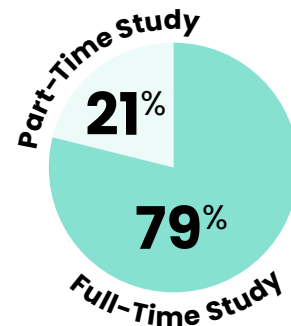
- 17-19 years = 1546
- 20-24 years = 2238
- 25-29 years = 322
- 30-39 years = 336
- 40+ years = 246

Students
in Total

4,688

Top Catchment Areas within Ontario:

Brampton, Bolton, Etobicoke, Milton, Mississauga, North York, Toronto, Woodbridge



836 students in 3 Programs Offering Online Delivery

Global Learning Opportunities

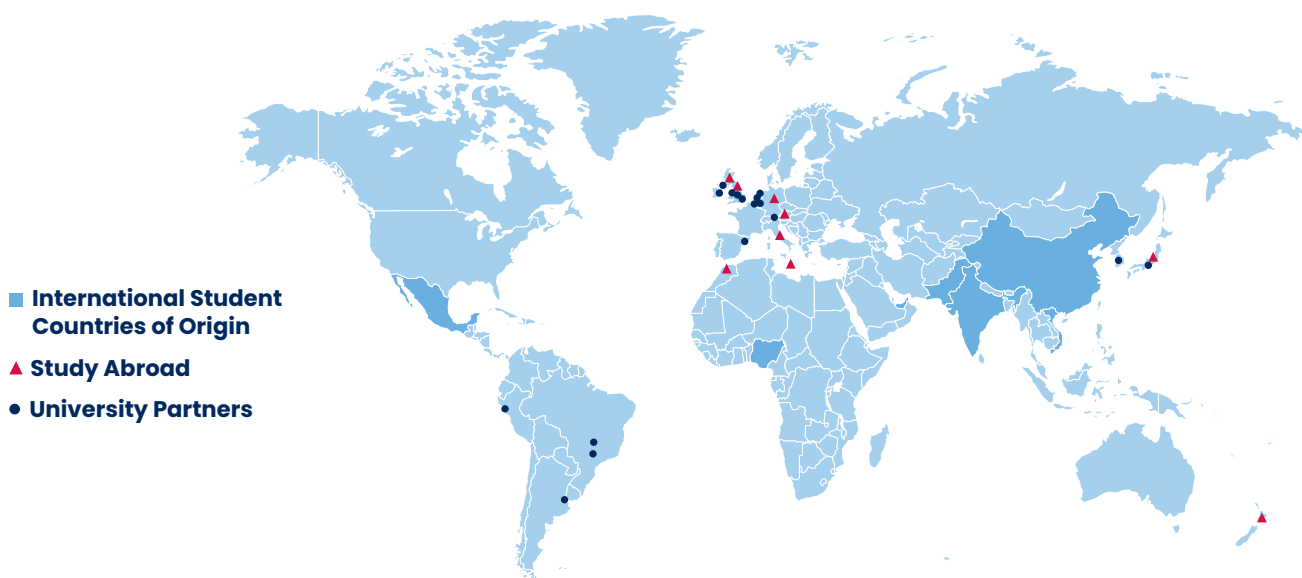
International Students

71 international full-time and exchange students studied at U of GH (Fall 2023) and came predominantly from the following countries:

- Bermuda
- China
- India
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- United Arab Emirates
- Vietnam

Study Abroad in Summer 2023

Liberal Studies oversees the summer Study Abroad programs. U of GH Study Abroad are 0.5 credit General Elective courses offered during the summer semester. In 2023, 78 students, 7 course directors and 8 administrators participated in international study tours that took them to Austria; Germany and Malta; Italy; Japan; Morocco; New Zealand; and Scotland and England.



18 international university partnerships:

- Avans University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands
- City Law School, United Kingdom
- Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands
- Haute Ecole Ephec (Ephec University College), Belgium
- IQS – Institute Quimic De Sarria Cets, Fundacio Privada, Spain
- Management Center Innsbruck 'MCI', Austria
- Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
- Maynooth University, Ireland
- Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom
- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Perú
- Soka University, Japan
- Solbridge International School of Business, Republic of Korea
- University of Ulster, Northern Ireland
- UniEVANGELICA, Brazil
- Universidad de San Andres, Argentina
- University of Ribeirao Preto, Brazil
- University Colleges Leuven, Belgium
- University of London, United Kingdom



“ “ “

I chose Guelph-Humber because I liked the idea of the dual-credential program where one can get a degree as well as a diploma in just four years of study. My classes are very interactive so I am easily able to connect with my peers and faculty. After graduation, I plan to pursue a career in investment banking.

” ” ”

– Nandini B.

Third-year Business Student from India; Alumni Student Assistant; Career Support Peer; Learning Support Peer; Vice President of Activities; Accounting Society; President, Women in Business Society

Awards, Bursaries and Scholarships

OSAP – in 2023/2024, U of GH students submitted a total of 3,206 OSAP applications that resulted in 2,582 students receiving OSAP funding. Students received a combined total of \$23.6 million OSAP funds (full-time and part-time grants and loans combined).

Scholarships (includes Institutional Funded, Donor Funded, and Government Funded Awards) – in 2023/2024, 2,667 scholarships and awards were provided to U of GH students for a combined total value of \$4.98 million.

Over the course of the 2023/2024 academic year, 182 students were hired for Work Study and Research Assistant part-time jobs and earned a combined total of \$697,137 (approximately 70% of part-time jobs on campus are designated as work study positions. These jobs are predominantly for students who demonstrate financial need).

	# of Combined Students Earnings	
Work Study	159	\$632,206
Research Assistants	23	\$64,831
Total	182	\$697,137

Founders’ Academic Merit Scholarships

These entrance scholarships are awarded based on first year applicants’ admission averages and their demonstrated leadership achievements in their schools and/or communities. New students must submit applications to be considered for the Founders’ Academic Merit Scholarships and all applicants are required to have a minimum admission average of 90% (inclusive of subject requirements).

In the Fall 2023 semester, seven (7) scholarships were awarded to students who were starting in their first year of studies at Guelph–Humber, and a total of 21 scholarships were renewed for students going into their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year of studies.

The Vice–Provost Entrance Scholarships

Established in 2021, the Vice–Provost Entrance Scholarship recognizes the first–year student in each program who had the highest final admission average for their respective cohort. 7 Vice–Provost Entrance Scholarships were awarded in Fall 2023. All 14 of the previous award winners renewed their scholarships.

Vice–Provost Award for Academic Excellence

This award recognizes the highest GPA for graduating students. The successful 2023/24 recipients were:

- Business – Naomi Fernandes
- Community Social Services – Kristina Strachan
- Early Childhood Studies – Shannon Soul
- Justice and Public Safety – Darren Barry
- Justice Studies – Amy Gotkin
- Kinesiology – Massimo Pascuzzi
- Media and Communication Studies – Adam Adachi
- Psychology – Natasha Tat

Michael Nightingale Community Enrichment Award

This annual award has been established to honour Michael Nightingale, who served as the first Vice–Provost and Chief Academic Officer at U of GH from 2001 to 2005. This award is presented to a graduating student who has made significant contributions to the U of GH community, beyond their own program of study, and shares Michael Nightingale’s commitment to enriching the student experience at the University. The 2023/2024 recipient was Jasmine Bates from the Media and Communication Studies program.

Student Life

First Year Experience Program (FYE)

U of GH supported 1,396 new students through 22 groups led by a First Year Experience Leader. FYE held 11 events this year to help new students transition: one virtual social during the summer semester, two workshops and three socials in the fall semester, and three socials and two workshops in the winter semester. Outside of events and workshops, students engaged in virtual discussions where they made connections, learned about important dates, events and campus services, and found answers to their questions.

Student Societies

U of GH has 78 volunteer society executive positions across 17 student societies (student groups related to academic programs). Of those, 58 positions were filled during the 2023/2024 academic year. There was a total of 79 society-run events during the 2023/2024 academic year.



11 First Year Experience events hosted

78 Volunteer society executive positions



35 Support Peers available for student assistance

15+ Career-related student events



CAREER EVENTS



This past academic year, over 15 career-related events were held. Below is a sample of those events.

Partner Appreciation Event: Held in Summer 2023, this annual event celebrated the field and career partnerships that make our programming and student experiences such a success. At this event, partners were invited to campus where they were celebrated and acknowledged for their involvement in providing our students with experiential learning opportunities. Guests heard from our students and alumni about their individual experiences with placement/internship and enjoyed music, light refreshments, and appetizers while connecting with staff, administration, and faculty.

Graduate School Fair: In Fall 2023, U of GH students had the opportunity to get up-to-date information from 14 surrounding universities and colleges' graduate and professional programs. This in-person fair gave students considering further education the information needed to explore graduate opportunities by speaking with admission and program representatives and learning more about the admission requirements needed to be a successful applicant.



U of GH Career Fair

University of Guelph-Humber Career Fair:

In Winter 2024 students from all programs had the chance to talk to employers and representatives about opportunities for new grads, interns, and student employment. This event was held over two days and welcomed over 60 employers and university partners to campus.

Human Services Networking Fair: U of GH students had the opportunity to participate in this in-person networking event with partners of the University of Guelph-Humber’s human services programs. This event introduced students to field placement opportunities and provided an opportunity to network with partners and employers.

Kinesiology Networking Event: U of GH students had the opportunity to participate in this in-person networking event with partners of the University of Guelph-Humber’s Kinesiology programs. This event introduced students to field placement opportunities and provided an opportunity to network with partners and employers.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Career Panel: A gathering of professionals working in equity, diversity, and inclusion programming in leading organizations (Canadian Tire, PepsiCo, Staples). This panel discussion explored how each organization

is approaching EDI and leading the way in the development of best policies and practices. A networking component followed the presentation.

Law Enforcement & Emergency Services Fair (in partnership with A.B.L.E): U of GH hosted a career fair for Justice Students and the community in partnership with the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E). Exhibitors represented police departments, government, law enforcement agencies, fire, and ambulance services. This fair was among the largest of its kind in Ontario.

Navigating Success: A Black Professional Forum: Co-hosted by U of GH and BSSE (Black Student Support and Engagement). Interested students joined an event that brought together accomplished Black professionals and student leaders. The goal of this event was to promote inclusivity, celebrate diversity, and provide valuable guidance as students navigated their academic and professional paths.

Partnerships For Employment: U of GH students were invited to attend a career fair hosted by the University of Guelph, the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College. This event was the largest of its kind in the country and connected over 3,000 students with over 200 employers.

Registrarial Services

Registrarial Services plays a central role in every aspect of the student experience, by supporting students from initial contact to graduation and beyond. As a student-centred service, the Registrar's four divisions: Marketing and Student Recruitment, Admissions Services, Registration and Academic Advising, and Student Financial Services strive daily to make a difference in student's lives. Registrarial Services is a primary information resource for students, staff and instructors, and it actively seeks ways to effectively inform students of their rights, responsibilities, and related procedures. This office also works collaboratively with, and supports, academic and administrative departments and areas at U of GH.

- Marketing and Student Recruitment
- Admissions Services
- Registration and Academic Advising
- Student Financial Services



5,092

**COMBINED HOURS OF
ACADEMIC ADVISOR
APPOINTMENTS IN
2023/2024**

Alumni Services

U of GH is pleased to receive support from donors who contribute to student awards. In recognition of U of GH donors, two are being showcased this year, the Dr. Evelyn Bird Prize and the Lullaboo ECE Scholarship.

Dr. Evelyn Bird who previously taught at the University of Guelph established a prize to support students in the Kinesiology program who completed placement in a high school setting.

The Lullaboo ECE Scholarship was created by Lullaboo Nursery and Childcare Centre to award Early Childhood Studies students who share the organizations passion and commitment to the field of ECE.



Receiving this award means more than just financial assistance; it confirms my hard work and aspirations. I deeply appreciate your encouragement toward my potential, and I am completely committed to making the most of this opportunity and accomplishing my goal of becoming an educator.



– Leandro Longo, This year's recipient



I would personally like to say thank you very much for donating this money to help supporting university students with their learning. Receiving this award means a lot to me and impacts me to be able to continue my graduate studies and be able to apply it to my tuition.



– Alessia Vitale, This year's recipient



2023 / 2024
GRADUATES

1,315

17,000+ alumni
worldwide

Business

The Business program provides students with an expansive foundation in business practices giving them a competitive advantage. Through a combination of in-depth content, practical applications and embedded experiential learning, students explore a range of business areas to spark curiosity and refine their business skills. Students learn how to market goods, fund a business, lead others, work ethically, think big, collaborate, and above all, focus on their career goals. Guelph-Humber's location in Toronto provides students with access to Canada's largest job market which allows them to build their professional networks.



LEADERSHIP

Jerry Chomyn is the current interim Chair of Business and Adjunct Professor in the Lang School of Business and Economics at the University of Guelph. As interim Chair he introduced a new specialization in human resources and a co-op option that is awaiting final approval. He is an accomplished media professional and manager and was an academic leader at Humber Polytechnic prior to joining U of GH.



Jerry holds a Master of Arts in Leadership from the University of Guelph, an honours undergraduate degree in general studies from Thompson Rivers University, and an advanced journalism diploma from Humber Polytechnic.

LEADERSHIP



Dr. Beverley Fretz serves as an interim Associate Head of Business. A seasoned professional in education and training, Beverley has extensive experience across the private, public, and non-profit sectors, both internationally and locally. Her work in higher education includes teaching and program management at the University of Guelph, and as a Director of Student Services at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo.

Dr. Fretz holds a PhD in Adult Education and a Master of Education in Adult Education, both from the University of Toronto OISE. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (Business, Sociology, Art) from Goshen College in Indiana and holds diplomas in Human Resources Management (HRM) and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).



Dr. Farkhanda Shamim serves as an interim Associate Head of Business since 2020, briefly assuming the role of interim Associate Dean at Humber College.

Dr. Shamim established academic exchange agreements with IQS in Barcelona, Spain, and Technological University Dublin, Ireland. Her international experience includes roles at the University of Toronto, University of Bahrain, Nagoya University, and Kobe University in Japan. She led the Quality Assurance team at the University of Bahrain to secure AACSB accreditation for its Business Program. A prolific researcher, Dr. Shamim's scholarly contributions have earned numerous research grants and scholarships.

Dr. Shamim holds a PhD and a Master of Arts in International Development from Nagoya University, Japan, a Master of Philosophy in Economics from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, a Master of Science in Economics from International Islamic University, Islamabad and a Bachelor of Arts in Statistics and Psychology from Punjab University.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



Aida Memisevic is a Business program instructor and this year's recipient of the Outstanding Mentorship Award. For the past five years, Aida has elevated the program through her Event Management classes, which feature experiential learning methods and learner-led art gallery events executed to professional standards.

An award-winning entrepreneur with a master's degree in digital media, Aida brings real-world business experience to the classroom. Her expertise spans entrepreneurship, marketing, and personal branding strategy. As a successful marketing consultant and media entrepreneur, she has created television content broadcast in over 60 countries. Aida has conducted interviews with celebrities on the red carpet, as well as business leaders, including those from Shark Tank and Dragon's Den to former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

Aida's innovative teaching approach, combining business theory with practical application, has enhanced our curriculum. Her mentorship inspires students to develop a strong work ethic, adopt an entrepreneurial mindset, and meet high professional standards.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Aalima Chandiwala is a recent graduate of the Business Administration program specializing in Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship. She received multiple awards for leadership and academic excellence, including the Gold Medallion for Outstanding Leadership, an inaugural GH Woman of Distinction Recognition, IGNITE Student Scholarship for Community Involvement, First Class Scholarship, and Student Leadership Scholarship. She made significant contributions as Co-Founder & President of Let's Get Together X U of GH, Sustainability Ambassador at Humber's Office of Sustainability, Marketing Executive Member at the Humber Muslim Student Association, and as a Student Ambassador for the Canadian Marketing Association and the Science Rendezvous.

Aalima was also recognized for her involvement in several organizations, including U of GH's ACE Chapter, and as an organizer for the university's first International Applied Business Conference. She served as a mentor and leader to her peers. In her professional roles, Aalima developed tailored marketing strategies at U of GH, increased newsletter engagement, managed social media channels to enhance event promotion and audience engagement, and contributed to brand strategy and media relations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Business Student Advisory Council Newly formed, the Business Student Advisory Council is a forum for students to provide student-centred input related to the Business program. Meeting each semester, approximately three nominated students from each program year utilized their leadership skills to accelerate communication between all levels of the program.

Academic Exchange Agreement with Technological University Dublin, Ireland The Business program signed an Academic Exchange Agreement with the Faculty of Business at Technological University Dublin (TUD), Ireland. TUD is Ireland's first technological university, known for its entrepreneurial ethos and industry-focused approach, aligning closely with the teaching approach of U of GH.



Business Trade Show Winners

Business Trade Show: 2024 Winning Team Business learners, Sabrina Policelli, Radhika Sharma, Angelica Audia, and Alexandra Case pitched a novel idea, 'Encapsulated' during the Business Trade Show held in March 2024 as part of the Small Business Planning course. 'Encapsulated' is a mobile application designed to help users select outfits from their existing wardrobe, simplifying the daily decision of what to wear.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Network of International Business Schools (NIBS) Case Competition – U of GH Wins Bronze Medal

The NIBS case competition, one of the oldest undergraduate case competitions in the world, tests students' problem-solving ability, business acumen, cultural insight, communications skills, and teamwork.

This competition consisted of four rounds. From a case report submission round, the top 16 teams from countries including the USA, Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, and Germany, were invited to Technological University in Ireland, where they competed in 3 four-hour timed rounds, a three-hour timed semifinal, and a five-hour timed final.

McKenzie and Mundi wanted to be on the case competition team to apply what they learned in class.

NIBS Case Competition Team

Lyna Tran (4th year Accounting), Evan Thomas (3rd year Undeclared), Kamaldeep Mundi (3rd year Accounting) and Kyle McKenzie (3rd year Finance)



“ “ “

It's not enough to graduate with just a degree anymore. That's not the standard for anyone. I figured if I wanted a better shot at networking and some real-life experience this was a good thing to do.

” ” ”

– Evan T.

Member of the NIBS
Case Competition Team

“ “ “

A large part of why I wanted to be on the case competition team was to develop my public speaking skills, problem solving skills as well as meeting other people who are passionate about business.

” ” ”

– Lyna T.

Member of the NIBS
Case Competition Team

ESTABLISHING GUELPH-HUMBER'S BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Business program established its inaugural **Business Advisory Council** this year. This industry-focused council served as a bridge between the Business Program and the business community. The purpose of the Council was to enhance collaboration and communication, in support of the learning experience at U of GH. In March 2024, representatives of 21 industries including Canada's Wonderland, CIBC Mellon, Health Care Insurance Reciprocal of Canada, Ontario Soccer, Brand EQ, BMO Global Asset Management, RBC Insurance, Scotia Bank, and Carlton Cards Limited attended a meet and greet event. The Council discussed opportunities for collaboration which included teaching students how to leverage AI as a business tool to solve problems; increasing co-op hours to strengthen learner relationships with companies; inviting guest speakers from the industry; having students fill vacancies in areas with skills shortages and partnering with large companies to find ways to help students with tuition costs.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Dr. Farkhanda Shamim (Associate Head of Business), Dr. Leslie Malloy-Weir (Liberal Studies instructor) and Maiza Sy (4th year Kinesiology student) conducted a mixed methods research study titled "Perceptions of inclusion and exclusion among undergraduate international students at the University of Guelph and Guelph-Humber." Their study focused on the experiences of international students regarding equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) efforts.

Key findings revealed that many international students felt excluded primarily due to rude behaviors, being left alone during holidays, and barriers to accessing paid work and healthcare off-campus. Additionally, 46% of respondents reported a decline in mental health, while 42% experienced a decline in physical health since arriving in Canada.

The preliminary findings of this research were presented in May 2024 at the Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference held at the University of Guelph, highlighting the need for improved support for international students.

Community Social Services

The Community Social Services (CSS) program assists learners in acquiring skills that will enable them to meaningfully contribute to improving lives and changing society. They engage in the exploration of current social issues and understanding the challenges faced by vulnerable populations so they can learn how to deliver impactful services, such as counselling, mediation, and crisis intervention. Learners graduate with important skills in social services—how to listen, how to support someone, understanding boundaries, professionalism, cultural awareness, compassion, global citizenship, and self-care.



Amy Deecon,
See Change Symposium Guest Speaker

LEADERSHIP

Dr. Paul Sherman is the Chair of Community Social Services. He is also Director of the Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship (SERC-GC) at U of GH and Adjunct Professor at the University of Guelph. Prior to joining U of GH, Dr. Sherman worked as a clinician and senior administrator in diverse community mental health settings for over 30 years. He continues to teach, conduct research and publish peer-reviewed journal articles on global citizenship, as well as Soka education.



Dr. Sherman earned his PhD in Education and Social Justice from Lancaster University, United Kingdom., an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from York University, and a post-graduate diploma in Child Assessment and Counselling from the University of Toronto.

LEADERSHIP



Olivia Boukydis, is the Associate Head of Community Social Services and is Adjunct Professor at the University of Guelph. After working as a clinician in the senior-care sector for a decade, she joined the university as an instructor in the Community Social Services Program. Ms. Boukydis also worked as the Senior Research Supervisor of the Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship (SERC-GC) before moving into the role of Assistant Head of CSS in 2021. She has authored and co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles on areas of academic research, such as Soka (value-creating) education, global citizenship, and the Grey Panther Movement.

Ms. Boukydis holds a Master of Social Work from the University of New England, United States of America and an Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Family and Community Social Services from the University of Guelph-Humber. Olivia is a PhD Candidate (Education and Social Justice) in the Department of Educational Research at Lancaster University, United Kingdom.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



Amanda Crognale has been teaching at U of GH since 2015 and is a U of GH alumna from the Justice Studies program (2010). She holds a Master of Education from the University of Toronto. She provides psycho-educational group and individual counselling to mandated clients charged with domestic violence. Her counselling focuses on key topics including healthy relationship skills, elements of power and control in intimate relationships, and non-violent strategies for conflict resolution. She incorporates a trauma-informed approach that recognizes the interconnections between violence, trauma, and recovery. This type of professional rehabilitative practice has been quite rewarding to her.

Crognale has engaged in instruction and student support advising at several local institutions. Her teaching areas include social issues, criminology, criminal justice, case management and clinical social service work. Crognale adopts a learning-centred approach to increase student engagement and critical thinking to generate meaningful learning experiences.

She is committed to creating an inclusive and successful learning environment that addresses diverse learning styles and needs. She brings with her a unique lens that attempts to bridge the gap between the disciplines of social work and criminal justice.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Julianne Uzun graduated in 2024 from the Community Social Services part-time online program. She works at the William Osler Health System as the Senior Program Administrator for the McMaster University Family Medicine Residency Program.

Julianne graduated from U of GH with Distinction and received the CSS Scholarship for Excellence in Online Learning. Her involvement at U of GH went beyond her studies as she was a two-time Agora Fellow, attended the CSS annual symposiums, and was the student speaker at the CSS recruitment webinars for the online program.

Julianne is excited to start the MEd program for Social Justice Education at the University of Toronto, OISE this fall, where she will be completing a collaborative specialization in Workplace Learning and Social Change. Her research interests are focused on exploring the intricate relationship between medical education and social justice, particularly within the context of the Ontario healthcare system.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

5 New CSS COURSES INTRODUCED

Anti-oppressive Social Work Practice

Spirituality in Social Work Practice

Honours Thesis Preparation

Honours Thesis

Leadership and Advocacy for Global Issues

CSS had an exchange event in Kansai, Japan between the Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship (SERC-GC) and Kansai Soka High School.

This exchange was the culmination of a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project between the two institutions. At the exchange event the six SERC-GC research assistants and 16 Kansai Soka High School Learning Cluster students met for the first time in-person and presented their joint projects. The SERC-GC students also spent time visiting Hiroshima, Osaka, and Tokyo. University of Guelph-Humber Vice-Provost, Dr. Melanie Spence-Ariemma, accompanied the group and together with Dr. Sherman, met with officials of the partnerships established through SERC-GC.



Students in the CSS program continued their success in securing both employment in the field and entrance to graduate schools. Some examples include employment positions at St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto) and Peel Addiction Assessment and Referral Centre (Mississauga), and acceptance to the Master of Public Policy program at the University of Toronto, the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law program at York University and to Master of Social Work programs at the University of Toronto and the University of Windsor.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The annual See Change Symposium is a student-led event that fosters their knowledge acquisition and engagement. This year's "Working on Wellness" symposium centred on the health and stability in social services by focusing on the well-being of human service practitioners. The symposium team promoted the importance of self-care in social work by addressing important topics such as the reality of burnout and compassion fatigue, managing mental health, and the normalization of self-care in practice.

CSS students engaged with professionals in the field of social services which included Amy Deacon (MSW) founder of Toronto Wellness Centre, Tammy Whelen a mental health educator, and Danielle Pomeroy (MSW) a CSS instructor and mindfulness facilitator.

A career panel of professionals and U of GH alumni shared their strategies for combatting burnout, career transitions, and helpful realities of practice. Panelists work in a range of settings including hospitals, child welfare, public sector, and not-for-profit.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Sherman's article from his 2022 U of GH research grant titled, "What Motivates Students to Engage as Global Citizens?", was accepted for publication in the journal **Citizenship, Teaching, and Learning**. This research followed on his 2017 GH research grant, "The impact of short-term study abroad on global citizenship identity and engagement", which was published in 2020.

Olivia Boukydis' research titled, "The Gray Panther Movement as a Model for Intergenerational Approaches and Late-Life Activism: A Critical Cosmopolitan Perspective", was published in a peer-reviewed journal in 2023. Olivia presented her research at the 6th Annual World Conference on Aging and Geriatrics in Prague, Czech Republic, an international conference on ageing in society.

The SERC-GC COIL project with Kansai Soka High School was presented at two conferences; **Celebrating International Collaboration** (Lancaster University, United Kingdom) by Dr. Sherman and Olivia Boukydis, and **Teaching and Learning Innovations** (University of Guelph) by Dr. Sherman and two research assistants who worked on the project, Ihtisham Ahmed and Massimo Pascuzzi.

IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In their final year, CSS students engaged in the program's capstone project to demonstrate what they learned through their field experience. Students highlighted a social issue related to their practicum, examined its impact, and explored opportunities for change at different levels of practice. Students presented their findings and shared their experiences with their peers at the end of their final semester. Their poster presentations included observations they made, individuals they worked with, and projects they participated in to highlight the significance of their topic and identify opportunities for change.

One student completed her practicum at Peel Addiction Assessment and Referral Centre (PAARC). This practicum involved working with and supporting individuals living with

substance misuse. From September to April, this student took the initiative to work across the organization and participate in various programs to grow her evolving skill set. This student spent time in the Withdrawal Management Program, supporting individuals staying in their homes, while they worked towards restoring their health and well-being. This student had a far-reaching impact through her direct-practice efforts and involvement, as well as her involvement with research, collaborative treatment discussions, and work towards dismantling stigmas surrounding substance misuse. Her experience in her senior practicum resulted in a full-time employment offer immediately following graduation.

Early Childhood Studies

The Early Childhood Studies (ECS) program delves into the science of early childhood development by integrating insights from psychology, neuroscience, education, and health. This interdisciplinary approach examines the complex processes influencing physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development in a child's early years. It highlights the impact of genetic, environmental, and social factors on the developing brain and body, emphasizing how early experiences and interactions shape a child's future health, learning abilities, behavior, and overall well-being.

Professionals in Early Childhood Studies play a crucial role in shaping not only individual development, but also the future of society. Furthermore, early childhood development is a key equalizer, offering opportunities to break cycles of poverty and reduce inequalities, leading to more inclusive and equitable societies, and fostering a resilient global community.

LEADERSHIP

Dr. Nikki Martyn is the Chair of Early Childhood Studies and adjunct faculty in the Family Relations and Applied Nutrition department at the University of Guelph. She has developed an innovative academic program which puts children at the centre and a national online degree program for Early Childhood Educators. She designed an inclusive smart classroom to ensure educators understand the use of technology in children's lives. This past year, Dr. Martyn was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her significant contributions to the ECS program, described as the heart of the program, fostering a nurturing and secure environment for learners and their future work. She has received awards including



the John Bell award for exceptional faculty at the University of Guelph, for curriculum design and the establishment of a rich and meaningful in-person and online teaching and learning community.

Dr. Martyn earned a Doctorate in Education in Child Psychology and Early Childhood Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

LEADERSHIP



Carri-Ann Scott served as the Interim Associate Head of Early Childhood Studies. As a Registered Early Childhood Educator, she brings a strong educational background to the program. With over 10 years of experience in kindergarten and special education, she is dedicated to creating inclusive educational environments, with an emphasis on neurodiversity-affirming practices. Recognized with the Instructor Appreciation award from ECS students at U of GH, Ms. Scott teaches with a clear focus on preparing students for their professional roles, encouraging students to consider the “whole child” in their pedagogical approach.

Ms. Scott has a Master of Educational Technology degree from the University of British Columbia, a Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Studies at the University of Guelph and Early Childhood Education diploma at Humber Polytechnic and is currently enrolled in a PhD program in Sociology at Lancaster University.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



Christine Zupo is a full-time faculty member at Humber Polytechnic, where she plays a pivotal role in the Early Childhood Studies program at the University of Guelph-Humber. She completed her Master of Arts in Early Childhood Studies from Toronto Metropolitan University and is passionate about integrating Indigenous perspectives into education. As a guest on Turtle Island and a treaty person, Christine feels a deep responsibility to unlearn colonized ways of being and build genuine relationships with Indigenous communities.

She co-developed the Introduction to Indigenous Studies course, which serves as an open door for Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Holders to engage with students and break down colonial barriers. Christine also leads transformative initiatives like the Blanket Exercise and virtual tours of residential schools. She is dedicated to advocating for 2-Spirit and LGBTQ+ voices, emphasizing the importance of Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, and promoting awareness and empathy through education. Christine Zupo was recognized for her exceptional support and care for students during this year’s ECS Instructor Awards.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Lance Constantine is a pioneering early childhood professional, serving as the first Student Senator for the Early Childhood Studies program at U of GH. In this role, he acted as a representative for the U of GH community within the University of Guelph Senate, contributing to committee discussions and advocating for initiatives that support student well-being and academic success.

He recently graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Studies and previously earned an Early Childhood Education diploma from Humber College. As a Registered Early Childhood Educator, Lance is dedicated to nurturing young minds and empowering youth in the Greater Toronto Area and globally to discover their voice and achieve their dreams.

His commitment to education and advocacy extends to his long-term goal of serving in the Parliament of Canada, where he aspires to influence policies affecting children's education and well-being. Lance's leadership and dedication aim to make a significant impact in his community and beyond.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Development and implementation of national block transfer pathways into the Early Childhood Studies program, providing Early Childhood Educators with opportunities to advance their academic credentials through the Distance Education program pathway.

3 specializations were developed with expected launch dates in Fall 2025:

- **Children's Futures** – will provide students with the opportunity to consider the impact of global technology and innovation in children's lives. Child futures is a unique subset of Futures Studies, an academic discipline which is the first in the world. Courses include: Privacy and Ethics with Children, Advanced Technology and Designing for the Future
- **Infant and Child Mental Health** – will provide students with additional knowledge and skills to make a positive contribution to the positive mental health of infants, children, and families. This specialization will support students in their practical application of current research; recognition of risk and preventive factors; and application of early intervention. Courses include: Developmental Neuroscience, Social Epigenetics, and Grief and Loss
- **Pathway to Child Life** – will provide students with an opportunity to gain the course work required to become a certified child life specialist. The Certified Child Life Specialist credential is a professional designation issued by the Child Life Certification Commission, a subsidiary of the Association of Child Life Professionals. Every year, several ECS students are admitted to the sole Canadian Master's program. Courses include: Introduction to Child Life, Adolescent Development, and Grief and Loss

Graduates of the program have been accepted into a number of professional and graduate programs including: Bachelor of Education programs across Ontario, Master of Teaching at the University of Toronto/OISE, Masters in Child Life & Pediatric Psychosocial Care at McMaster University, and Master of Science in Occupational Therapy at McMaster University and Queen's University, among other graduate programs.

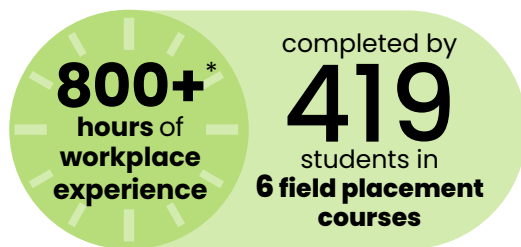
SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Dr. Nikki Martyn developed and published the EEPO human-technology interaction framework, focusing on how technology, especially AI, can support healthy child development and well-being. Recognizing that children's understanding of themselves and the world is shaped by those they trust to answer their question. Dr. Martyn emphasizes that technology should complement rather than replace human interaction. Her framework is built on the belief that genuine human experiences are essential for a child's growth and well-being.

Students in the inaugural ECS Research Seminar course explored the evolving landscape of post-secondary education, focusing on essential human skills: creativity, innovation, digital literacy, adaptability, flexibility, and emotional intelligence. It highlights the importance of fostering belonging and inclusion, as these factors greatly impact students' academic motivation and mental health. Students desire personalized, experiential learning that integrates project-based methods, emotional support, and technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence. The future of education is envisioned as more flexible, digital, and inclusive, with a focus on emotional connection and hands-on learning opportunities to enhance student engagement and well-being. Recommendations include enhancing interpersonal relationships, providing inclusive environments, and promoting innovative learning approaches.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

These field practicums offered students valuable learning experiences through direct engagement and mentorship, both within the practicum environment and through classroom interactions with their professors. They provided opportunities to discuss and understand policies, routines, behavior, and learning strategies. This year, students completed their field placements in organizations such as the Hospital for Sick Children, Ronald McDonald House and various elementary school boards and early intervention and prevention settings.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

For Orange Shirt Day, the Early Childhood Studies program organized two impactful events to honour the thousands of survivors and children lost to Canadian Indian residential schools. The program created an immersive art experience featuring an orange rock meditation labyrinth and an interactive wall mural, serving as poignant tributes and spaces for reflection and remembrance.

In addition, Elder Caroline King and the Moccasin Identifier Project collaborated with the ECS program to facilitate a moccasin-painting activity at the university entrance. This initiative aimed to acknowledge and celebrate the Indigenous peoples of Canada, fostering awareness and reconciliation through a visual commemoration of their history and contributions.





Justice Studies

Throughout the Justice Studies program, students build the skills required in any area of justice such as critical thinking, research methods, and how to write effectively. In the second year of their studies, students focus in on one of two areas: Community and Justice Services, which centres on social issues and explores the development of community programs, ways to work with victims and offenders, and methods of crime prevention, or Police Foundations, which prepares them for a career in the various levels of law enforcement in the Canadian justice system. Advanced courses immerse learners in issues such as ethics, equality, rights and freedoms, youth and the law, and criminology.

Bachelor of Applied Arts in Justice and Public Safety (online)

This part-time program is designed to meet the needs of working (public or private) professionals. Students in this program are police officers, paramedics/EMS, fire fighters, military, community and mental health workers, and other frontline public safety workers, and range from relatively new employees to managers, command staff, and senior executives.

Courses are 100% online and students can complete their degree, a Bachelor of Applied Arts from the University of Guelph, in two or two-and-a-half years.

LEADERSHIP

Dr. Gary Ellis is the Chair of Justice Studies and Adjunct Faculty in the University of Guelph Political Science Department. With a background of more than 30 years in policing, Dr. Ellis has many published works and written training materials, and he also acts as a consultant to several government and private entities, in addition to being a frequent conference presenter. He has extensive experience in international justice and executive training and is a member of the FBI National Academy Associates and the Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.



Dr. Ellis completed a PhD in Educational Leadership at the University of Toronto, a Master of Arts in Leadership and Training at Royal Roads University, and a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Waterloo. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy Executive program.

LEADERSHIP



Jasdeep (Jessy) Singh is the current Associate Head of Justice Studies program. Mr. Singh has been teaching at U of GH since 2011. He has worked in several positions within the community safety and wellbeing sector that include roles with the Toronto District School Board, York Regional Police, Humber College, Toronto Police Service, and the City of Toronto. Mr. Singh's research interests are in police accountability and oversight. He regularly speaks on matters related to improving community and police relations.

Mr. Singh completed his Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy at the University of Guelph and his Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Justice Studies at the University of Guelph-Humber.



Dr. Glenn Hanna was the Assistant Program Head of Justice Studies and Adjunct Faculty in the University of Guelph Political Science Department until December 2023. Prior to his work in post-secondary education, Dr. Hanna had a successful career of over three decades in policing with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). He is the recipient of the RCMP Long Service Medal (Silver Clasp), the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for outstanding contributions to Canada, the RCMP Commanding Officer's Commendation for his work on a major drug importation investigation, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director's Commendation for his work on a joint US/Canada organized crime investigation.

Dr. Hanna completed a Ph.D. in Education at Nipissing University, a Master of Arts in Leadership at Royal Roads University and an Honours Bachelor of Applied Arts in Justice Studies from the University of Guelph-Humber.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



Stephen Metelsky has been teaching at the postsecondary level since 1995. He creates a dynamic classroom setting with a theoretical and practical approach ensconced in a learner-centred environment.

Mr. Metelsky has a Master's degree in Criminology and spent 21 years in policing, retiring in 2017 as a sergeant. He worked in a diverse set of investigative roles but specialized in organized crime, informant development and undercover operations as a handler and operative. He is the author of two non-fiction books: *Undercover* and *True Crime Stories from a Canadian Columnist*. His book *Undercover* received rave reviews on CHCH News, Global News, and in a Toronto Sun review: "Metelsky has written a chilling new book that chronicles some of the most harrowing police undercover operations in Canadian and U.S. history."

Mr. Metelsky is also a contributing writer with *The Hamilton Spectator*, *Metroland Media*, *Hamilton City* magazine, and *Blue Line* magazine. He is regularly contacted by media in Canada and the United States pertaining to consultation on true and organized crime and he recently appeared on an episode of Global TV's "Crime Beat."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Tenisha Noel - Justice Studies '24

During her time in the Justice Studies program at U of GH, Tenisha wore many hats: mentor, leader, researcher, and community builder. As a Senior First-Year Experience Leader, an Outreach Assistant at Black Student Success and Engagement (BSSE), and an Academic Program Representative (APR) for IGNITE, she was able to connect with and support her peers. Through her role as vice president of activities for Alpha Phi Sigma, an international honours society that helps students prepare for careers in policing and the law, she organized and participated in various enriching activities.

A significant highlight for Tenisha was working as a research assistant under Dr. Laura MacDiarmid. This work culminated in a group presentation of Dr. MacDiarmid's research on restorative justice for victims at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting in Chicago. Tenisha received the Student Member Achievement Award for her team's work.

Tenisha felt that her experiences at Guelph-Humber were invaluable and that they provided her with practical skills, leadership opportunities and a strong foundation for her future career.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Alpha Phi Sigma Society is an international justice honours society that helps students prepare for careers in the justice system by encouraging academic achievement, boosting leadership skills, and promoting a strong interest in social justice. U of GH's Alpha Phi Sigma Society's activities over the past year included the participation of 6 students in the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting in Chicago (March 2024), with the focus being wrongful convictions. One of the highlights included two U of GH students, Priya Puran and Tenisha Noel, contributing to the presentation of Dr. Laura MacDiarmid's research on Assessing Restorative Practices with Youth.

Brianna Bettridge was awarded the 2024 Chapter Social Media Proficiency Award at the conference for the time and effort that a student Vice President of Media & Partner Relations dedicated to the role.

Guelph Humber Pre-Law Society (GHPLS)

The fourth annual GH Cup organized and hosted by GHPLS took place with a specific focus on Indigenous law. The two-day event included a keynote address from Caitlyn Kasper, a senior lawyer with Aboriginal Legal Services, whose legal expertise is in appellate court law reform and test case litigation in criminal, child welfare and civil rights. Justice Studies students Serena Allidina, GHPLS President, and Jenny Trang, Mooting Operations Vice President for the society, found personal connections to the event and discovered how passionate all students were about learning how to analyze legal issues from various perspectives.

Members of the GHPLS also participated in mooting competitions at other institutions across the province and placed at the Western Cup, U of T Cup and Osgoode Cup. Additionally, members of this society organized various events including Pathways to Law, Alumni Night, and Not Your Average Law Job.



ACJS Conference, Chicago

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Mock interviews form a component of the AHSS 4080 Transition to Work course, where industry practitioners assist with interviewing and advising fourth-year Justice Studies students. This event pairs professionals working in a range of fields (justice, public safety, law, government, security, financial services, community services, education, and more) with a group of four to five students for an hour and offered the students an opportunity to practice their interviewing skills and build their career network.

Up to
300 
student mock interviews
facilitated by alumni & industry partners

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Eight students completed independent studies with Dr. Laura MacDiarmid. These courses involved a research collaboration with Hope 24/7, a not-for-profit organization in Peel Region that provides support services to survivors of relationship and sexual violence. Examples of studies include:

The Experience of Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: What Does Closure Look Like? By Hope Moxam. Hope analyzed interview data collected from survivors of gender-based violence with a focus on understanding their perceptions of closure. Four themes emerged from the analysis highlighting the complex journey toward healing and recommendations to support and empower survivors.

Exploring the Needs and Barriers of Gender Based Violence Victims by Meha Ganpat. Meha utilized intersectionality as a theoretical lens to explore barriers survivors experience when seeking support from social services. This involved analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data which provided insights on aspects of race, cultural norms, and financial barriers that shape survivors' experiences.

Sexual Violence and Cross-Cultural Understanding: A Review of the Literature and Best Practices for Community Mobilization by Maria Palermo, Mayan Goldberg, Shael Banza, Isabella Summers, and Kishana Lindsay. The students conducted library research and completed a review of the literature exploring sexual violence, intersectionality, community mobilization, and prevention.

Findings were presented to representatives from Hope 24/7 and students collaborated with the Psychology department to display their work at the inaugural research conference.

ADDRESSING REAL-WORLD CHALLENGES

Students in Canadian Social Problems courses (AHSS305) collaborated with community partners to address real-world challenges as part of their final assignment. The project was designed around principles of community-engaged teaching and learning, an evidence-based pedagogy that involves active and critically reflective experiential learning. These principles bring course content to life through opportunities for students to apply course-based knowledge in real-world contexts.

Students welcomed guest speakers from the Peel Regional Police and the Islington Seniors Shelter, who shared information concerning social issues and best practices related to intimate partner violence, housing and homelessness, and systemic racism. Students explored, analyzed, and proposed solutions to current issues, while working collaboratively in groups. Their work resulted in the production of knowledge mobilization resources shared with community partners. In addition, students were invited to visit Islington Seniors Shelter and organized holiday activities with the residents.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Kinesiology

The Kinesiology program prepares students for success after graduation, whether that entails working or studying in the fields of health, wellness, exercise sciences, rehabilitation, education or research. The curriculum both anticipates and reacts to industry demand with the relevant courses, experiential learning opportunities inside the classroom and in the workforce, and exceptional faculty who are actively working and/or conducting research in the field. Students engage in understanding how the body works, how to make it work better, about health issues, disease, and rehabilitation.

Throughout the program, students develop a strong foundation in scientific principles and theoretical frameworks and apply this knowledge to diverse populations including healthy individuals, elite athletes, those with chronic illnesses and people facing injuries or unique challenges. The application is what sets U of GH Kinesiology students apart. Graduates of this program are not only knowledgeable but are also confident in applying their skills to various populations and in various work environments.

LEADERSHIP

Dr. Leslie Auger is the Chair of Kinesiology and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, in the College of Biological Science at the University of Guelph. Dr. Auger is a leader and administrator for the program, a course instructor, an active researcher, a Registered Kinesiologist and a Clinical Exercise Physiologist (CSEP) with a high-performance specialization. In 2024, Dr. Auger was a recipient of the inaugural U of GH Women of Distinction recognition.

Dr. Auger completed a PhD in Human Health and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Guelph, and a Master of Science in Community Health Sciences and a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at Brock University.



LEADERSHIP



Dr. Nathan Campbell was the Interim Associate Head of Kinesiology at U of GH. Dr. Campbell worked on the development and delivery of the curriculum within the Kinesiology program as well as community outreach initiatives. He is a Certified Athletic Therapist and a Registered Kinesiologist with over 20 years of experience in the field of sports medicine. Campbell has been teaching and advising students at U of GH since 2012.

Dr. Campbell completed a PhD in Integrated Biosciences at Western University, a Master of Science in Biomechanics and Neuroscience from the University of Guelph, an undergraduate degree in Kinesiology at the University of Waterloo and an advanced diploma in Sports Injury Management from Sheridan College.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Philip Millar is a faculty member in Human Health and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Guelph and has been teaching in the kinesiology program at U of GH since 2015. Dr. Millar teaches both Exercise Physiology and Independent Research Study in Kinesiology, two 4th year courses. He is an active researcher, focusing on blood flow, blood pressure, and vascular and cardiac function tied to novel therapies for the management of clinical conditions.

In 2024, Dr. Millar mentored three undergraduate thesis students each through 2-semester primary research projects and continues to work with U of GH alumni who are completing master's and Ph.D. degrees in his lab. The students' thesis topics were:

1. Histamines are responsible for augmented sympathetic transduction following acute aerobic exercise in normative adults (Samuel Amanual),
2. The effect of antihistamines on skeletal muscle glucose uptake post-exercise: a pilot study (Skye Clark) and
3. Maximal Exercise Blood Pressure Response Differences Between Ethnic Populations (Tishaun Stec-Marksman).



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Brianna Quinlan is a graduating kinesiology student and this year's recipient of the U of GH 2024 Gold Medallion for Leadership Excellence. Brianna's involvement has extended beyond both academics and the walls of the Kinesiology program. This past year Brianna served as the President of KinSoc, the Kinesiology program's student society. Here she led student initiatives and learning opportunities for her peers. Additionally, Brianna was a Coordinator of Student Volunteers for the 2024 Science Rendezvous where she led in recruiting and organizing volunteers for this community outreach event. Brianna was a leader throughout the Raptors 905 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) high school event which saw 800 high school students attend an interactive activity promoting Kinesiology at U of GH.

Brianna plans on continuing in her passion for education when she attends Teacher's College in Fall 2024 at Western University.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

246 KIN students each completed 242 FIELD PLACEMENT HOURS

Over three semesters 246 Kinesiology students completed two field placement courses (242 hours in total, one in third year accumulating 88 hours through on-campus (11 hours) and off-campus (77 hours) placements, and a second in fourth year accumulating 154 hours at another workplace location. Through field placements, the students gained incredible first-hand experience working with a professional mentor that aided in their decision-making and taught them valuable transferable skills to enhance their job and graduate school applications. The Kinesiology program has approximately 160 placement partners in the community who accept field placement students within the three semesters. Examples of this year's placement partners included Markham Stouffville Hospital in the Pathology Laboratory, Enfield Place Dental Centre, Healthwise Physiotherapy, Peel District School Board, and Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre.



My placement was valuable because I was put into an environment that I was not particularly familiar with and learned a lot of useful skills along the way. My supervisor and other team members helped with my development as the semester went on and I was surprised on how quickly I was able to adapt to the new environment. As a placement student, my advice would be to begin preparations as early as possible to ensure that you get the experience that you want and to be fully prepared for what new experiences will come your way.



**– 3rd year Kinesiology student
who completed their placement as
a Trainer Intern in Winter 2024**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ihtisham Ahmed, 4th year Kinesiology student, presented at the 2023 Ontario Exercise Physiology (OEP) Conference. His research on 'Muscle calcification in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)' is part of his undergraduate thesis under the advisement of Dr. Chris Perry from York University. Ihtisham is investigating the progression of Duchenne muscular dystrophy and possible treatments for patients with the disease. Ihtisham will begin his Master's in Fall 2024.

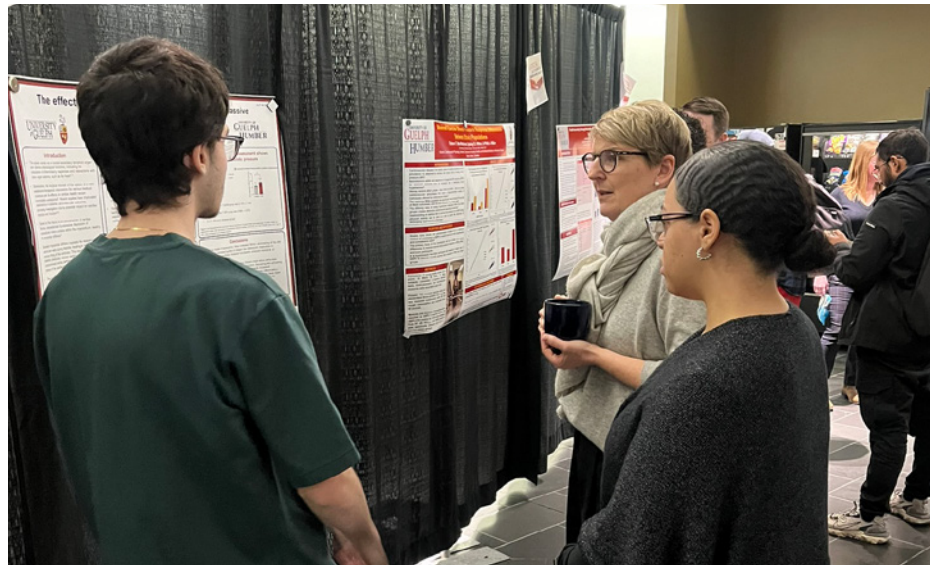
Graduates of the Kinesiology program were accepted into the following graduate schools:

- Physician's Assistant (McMaster University), Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, Sherman College of Chiropractic, various Teacher's Colleges, Nursing (Trent University), Northeast Chiropractic College, Master of Science (York University and University of Guelph), Master of Science in Occupational and Public Health in Epidemiology (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Graduates of the Kinesiology program were hired at the following companies (*two placement partners who have hired U of GH students upon graduation):

- City of Calgary's Recreation department for youth programs, One Health Clubs - Personal Training Director, Optimum Physiotherapy (*the student's 3rd year placement), Collaborative Healthcare Network (*the student's 4th year placement)

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY



Inaugural Kinesiology Thesis Conference

Kinesiology students displayed posters with their research findings and spoke to students from all programs, instructors, and administrators about their projects. This year, examples of the students' research included:

- **Food Insecurity Among University of Guelph-Humber Kinesiology Students**, by Sarah Shannon, supervised by Dr. Laelie Snook. Sarah received a U of GH student grant to present her research at a multidisciplinary national conference at the University of New Brunswick
- **Investigating Cardiovascular Dynamics - Understanding the Influence of Hydration and Sex on Orthostatic Tolerance** by Megan Hunt, supervised by Dr. Michael Tymko
- **Modulating Cerebellar Activity with Low-intensity Focused Ultrasound Stimulation for Primary Orthostatic Tremor** by Jaffar Hashimy, supervised by Dr. Jean-François Nankoo at Toronto Western Hospital.

It was a valuable opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate a wide variety of skills essential for success in both academia and in the professional world. These included public speaking, critical thinking, receiving feedback and knowledge translation.

KINESIOLOGY HOSTS SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS

This year the U of GH Kinesiology program hosted Science Rendezvous for the 7th year, as part of the national science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (S.T.E.A.M.) initiative. This event received formal recognition from the Ontario Premier. Approximately 600 community members attended, and this event involved 60+ U of GH student volunteers from across all 7 programs, alumni, and Humber College students. Additionally, 50 high school volunteers from 18 local high schools actively participated along with 14 community partners including Let's Get Together, Tech4All, Astronomy In Action and Toronto Libraries.

New this year were partnerships with Scouts Canada, Girl Guides of Canada, Canadian Blood Services and Canadian Girls in Science. The theme of the event was 'Innovate' and involved 38 activity stations where visitors of all ages could engage with volunteers, learn through a hands-on activities and be innovative. The Kinesiology program innovated at the event level by enhancing the overall visitor experience for several equity deserving families. This included a partnership with the TDSB to provide food for visitors and the distribution of TTC tickets prior to the event to ensure equal opportunities. We look forward to our next event on May 10, 2025!



PAUSE AND REFLECT



INABLE URBAN BEEHIVES



RED FOX



Media & Communication Studies

The Media and Communication Studies program prepares graduates for a broad range of industries that use media to develop organizational identity, strategy, and marketing to drive their success. Students learn complex historical and theoretical concepts in the areas of law and ethics, the power of mass and social media and the psychology of effective branding, strategy and messaging.

Students also develop advanced skills in writing, photography, video and audio production, storytelling, graphic design, project management and reputation management, which prepare them for a wide range of careers in media content creation and management. Community engagement is woven throughout all four years of the program, giving students a deep appreciation for the role and value of media. Exceptional faculty, who are also award-winning professionals, inspire students with experiential learning that mirrors current industry practice.

LEADERSHIP

Kathy Ulyyott is the Chair of Media and Communication Studies (MCS) and Adjunct Professor, School of English and Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph. She came to U of GH as Assistant Program Head in 2013 with a broad background combining teaching with media industry experience. Prior to joining U of GH, Ms. Ulyyott won numerous national awards as the editor-in-chief of Homemakers Magazine, executive editor of Canadian Living Magazine and managing editor of Flare magazine. She was instrumental in creating the Emerge capstone projects, which involve almost all fourth-year students in the program and in the past 10 years have won more than 300 international awards.

Ms. Ulyyott holds a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from the University of Saskatchewan and a Master of Arts in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario (now Western University).



LEADERSHIP



Marc Tavares is the Associate Head of Media and Communication Studies, and Adjunct Professor, School of English and Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph. He has over a decade of experience in media production and education, including 10 years at U of GH as a Media Technologies Specialist. He led the transformation of several learning spaces at the University to support emerging technologies and integrated AR/VR into the MCS curriculum. Prior to joining U of GH, Mr. Tavares worked in many production-based roles where he produced, directed and edited video content for numerous clients, brands and musicians.

Mr. Tavares holds a Master of Educational Technology from the University of British Columbia and an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Radio and Television Arts from Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University).

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



James MacDonald has taught many courses since 2013, including Introduction to Journalism and Public Relations, Transition to Work, and Media Relations. He's best known to students as one of the creators and collaborating instructors for Media Practices, mentoring students in Emerge projects that have many international awards.

James epitomizes the multiplicity of skills demanded by the complex modern media environment. After an 11-year career as a broadcast journalist (working for CBC, Canwest Global, and CTV in Canada, and then CNN, covering the Asia-Pacific from Hong Kong), he joined Ornge in 2010 as Director, Communications and Public Affairs. Overseeing communications for the organization responsible for all air ambulance and critical care transport in Ontario, James shepherded the organization through intensive public controversy in the early 2010s, then played a central role in rebuilding its reputation.

From 2020-2022, he led Ornge in partnering with Nishnawbe Aski Nation on the communications launch for Operation Remote Immunity, a campaign to make the COVID-19 vaccine available to 32 remote Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario. For this massive and highly successful program, the partners received an International Association of Business Communicators Ovation Award of Excellence. James' vast experience and daily involvement in storytelling, crisis management, media relations, and relationship management bring a fast-paced industry alive for students and inform up-to-the-minute course content.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Jasmine Bates is a recent graduate of the Media and Communication Studies student who specialized in Digital Marketing and Social Media. The winner of the 2024 Michael Nightingale Community Enrichment Award, Jasmine demonstrated her passion for the U of GH community and its success throughout her academic career as a Student Transition and Resource Team Leader, First Year Experience Leader, Director on the IGNITE Board, Undergraduate Student Senator for the University of Guelph, and Academic Management and Program Committee member.

In March 2024, Jasmine hosted U of GH's inaugural Women of Distinction recognitions on International Women's Day. She demonstrated her personal commitment to social justice and advocacy in her Emerge capstone project, wherein her team created a digital marketing campaign for The Hub Hamilton, which supports high-risk individuals and youth experiencing homelessness, poverty, and addiction. In Fall 2024, Jasmine will be pursuing further studies at Osgoode Hall Law School.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fourth-year students shared their final year capstone projects in the Emerge Showcase held March 25–26. All can be found on emerge.ghmedia.ca.

An example of one project was:

- Kate Carveth produced and facilitated a panel discussion titled Decolonizing Journalism with Alexandra Shimo (a journalist, television producer and author of the books *Up Ghost River* and *Invisible North*); Owen Thompson (CJTM MET Radio and alumni of U of GH); Matt Simmons (a reporter based in Gidimt'en Clan territory, home of the Wet'suwet'en/Witsuwit'en Nation in B.C.); and Kaitlynn McLeod, (a U of GH Justice Studies student, and Indigenous Programming Assistant at Humber College's Indigenous Education & Engagement Centre).

The panel shared journalists and storytellers – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous – must do a better job of ensuring Indigenous people's stories are told with sensitivity and inclusivity.



Tristien Chilelli, Kaitlyn Poncelet, Darcy Klimczyk and Matthew Jorge, student creators of the virtual-reality documentary about ADHD called **Restless**, won the Best Interactive Infographic Pinnacle Award from the College Media Association in Atlanta.



EMERGE PROJECTS

From a volunteer-run LGBTQ+ resource library to an organization dedicated to protecting endangered species, partners who worked with fourth-year Media and Communication Studies students through the Emerge capstone projects gave them opportunities to not just apply their skills to real-world environments, but to make a difference in local, provincial, national, and international communities. Working closely with these organizations, students addressed challenges such as awareness-building, fundraising, social media impact, and reputation building with comprehensive communications, marketing, and content plans.

Among the 20 organizations who partnered with students were Sunshine Therapy Dogs, which pairs a dog and human volunteer team with organizations throughout Toronto; Ian Anderson House, a residential end-of-life-care hospice in Oakville; the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie; Out on the Shelf, an LGBTQ+ resource library in Guelph; Rewriting the Code, an international network that supports women in tech; and Earthroots, a Canadian environmental charity.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Students in the Media and Communications New Worlds: Exploring XR course partnered with Business students in their Event Management course to create an interactive VR experience of the stories behind the work of Canadian abstract artist Rina Kazavchinski. The interactive experience premiered as **Hues of Happiness – The Palettes of Identity** in the U of GH Gallery.

Approximately 100 partners participated, including CBC's World Report, Apatisiwin Skills Development, Stratford Festival, Easter Seals Ontario, Rogers Media, Corus Entertainment, Faulharber Communications, Harry Rosen, Pinch Social and the Italian Contemporary Film Festival.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

All Media and Communication Studies students in their fourth year of study have the option to complete a capstone project or a thesis. The Multimedia Thesis option was introduced this year. Students can combine the written component of their research with video, audio, graphic, and other multimedia elements. This year's theses included:

- **Who's Scared of an Old Lady? An Analysis of Creepy Old Women in Horror**, by Kaitlynn Lewis, supervised by Dr. Greg Kelly. Kaitlyn explored "hagsploitation," where older women in horror films are portrayed as frightening, malevolent, unstable, and/or disgusting – and its relation to cultural misogyny regarding women and aging.
- **Beyond the Crime Scene: The Evolution of Edutainment**, by Kanishya Kanheswaran supervised by Jamie Killingsworth. Kanishya examined the recent surge of the "true crime" genre and its impact on law, law enforcement, and impacted communities. Her thesis was the first multimedia thesis produced in the program and included a seven-part video series.

Psychology

The Psychology program examines theories and research exploring human thought, feeling, and behaviour. Learners discover how psychology influences daily life and society, and study behaviour, cognition, emotion, and mental health. They explore the processes and factors that shape who people become by studying topics such as development and aging, culture and diversity, psychotherapy, and neuroscience. The Psychology program is dedicated to science and social justice through its curriculum and experienced faculty.



LEADERSHIP

Dr. Alice Kim is the Chair of Psychology. In service to her field, she is the Chair Elect for the Teaching of Psychology (ToP) section of the Canadian Psychological Association, and a Co-Editor for the Canadian Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). In 2023, she received a D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning from the Society of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. In 2024, she was the inaugural recipient of the SoTL Research Award from the Canadian Psychological Association ToP section.

Dr. Kim earned a PhD in Psychology, a Master of Arts in Psychology and an Honours Bachelor of Science in Human Behavioural Biology from University of Toronto.



LEADERSHIP



Dr. Adam Sandford is the Associate Head of Psychology, and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Guelph. He has published several peer-reviewed articles, primarily in face recognition, with international collaborators and has received a multitude of grants to support his research. Dr. Sandford represents U of GH with student research assistants on several Big Team Science research initiatives to produce high-impact research. Dr. Sandford is currently the Director Representing Science and Chair of the Scientific Affairs Committee at the Canadian Psychological Association.

Dr. Sandford earned a PhD in Psychology from the University of Aberdeen, an Honours Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Kent, a Postgraduate Diploma in Research Methods with Distinction from the University of Aberdeen, and a Bachelor of Education from York University.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Allison Reeves is an Assistant Professor in the Psychology program at U of GH and a Clinical Psychologist working in Indigenous healing and cultural resurgence. She holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. As an instructor, she has always been interested in weaving Indigenous epistemologies (or ways of knowing) into best practice teaching approaches for adult learners.

In 2023, she was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award for Early Career Faculty from the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences at the University of Guelph in recognition of her relational and anti-oppressive teaching pedagogy. In 2024, she published two pieces for the textbook, *Interactive Psychology: People In Perspectives* (2004, WW Norton & Co.), entitled, "Psychology is a historically Western discipline...What does this mean?" and "Psychology's Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report".

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Natasha Tat is a 2024 graduate of the Psychology program at U of GH. In Fall 2024, she began her Master of Science studies at the University of Victoria's Digital Health Lab, focusing on virtual reality (VR) exercise-based interventions for individuals with depression. In support of her graduate studies, Natasha has been awarded a prestigious Canadian Graduate Scholarship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the federal health and medical research agency of Canada, in addition to other scholarships from the University of Victoria.

Natasha's undergraduate thesis focused on the impact of VR meditation on students, revealing significant mindfulness improvements for those with moderate stress levels. In addition to receiving many honours throughout her undergraduate career, Natasha was nominated by the university to participate in the CEOxIDay program, where she was selected as a finalist and was also successfully paired with Melissa Farrell, CEO of Halton Healthcare, for a day of leadership enrichment and mentorship.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Students and alumni from the Psychology program who applied to graduate programs this past year **secured prestigious Canada Graduate Scholarships from tri-council funding agencies:** 1) Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the federal humanities and social sciences research funding agency; 2) Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the federal health and medical research agency.

Graduates from the Psychology program were **accepted into a variety of graduate programs:**

- E.g., Master of Science in Neuroscience, Western University (formerly the University of Western Ontario); Master of Arts in Applied Social Psychology, University of Guelph; Master of Science in Kinesiology, University of Victoria; Master of Social Work, University of Windsor

The program established **a collaboration with the global humanitarian organization "Action Against Hunger"** to involve students at U of GH in education, advocacy, and solutions for the widespread causes and effects of hunger, with an emphasis on 1) mental health and 2) human cognitive, social, and emotional development.

PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

The program recently launched the Psychophysiology Association, a new student club, to continue providing students with additional and different types of opportunities to gain hands-on knowledge and experience using psychophysiological technologies (e.g., electroencephalography, galvanic skin response) within the discipline. The club consists of 60 student members across programs, including one president (Sydney Lytwyn) and three vice-presidents (Diya Advani, Kirti Singh, Nathan Fernandes).



[I joined] to be able to experience hands on learning. As we know, university is mostly textbook based and over these 3 years I have found that I would really love to finally use what I learned in my courses into the real world.



Sara Cohen
4th year Psychology student

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



Students gaining hands-on experience using biometric and immersive technologies for applied psychological functions: Technologies that are widely used within the field of psychology were integrated into the curriculum offering students' the opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge and experience using this applied technology within the discipline. This initiative included the procurement of biometric technologies that are commonly used within the discipline for both research and clinical purposes, such as portable electroencephalography (EEG) headsets, galvanic skin response (GSR) readers and immersive technologies, particularly virtual reality (VR) headsets.

An example was Natasha Tat's thesis project, **Tripp to tranquility: Evaluating the effects of virtual reality (VR) meditation and perceived stress on state mindfulness in novice meditators**, that was supervised by Dr. Mandy Wintink.

In line with the program's initiative to integrate technology within our students' experiences, Sofia Cordero, a 2nd year Psychology student, shared: "As a psychology student I would love to learn and get hands on experience ... I know that these tools, such as learning about EEG's, would be very useful for my degree".

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Students conducting and disseminating psychological research: The program launched the **first annual Psychology Conference** which also showcased Justice Studies students independent research projects and research conducted through the Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship at U of GH. Students and alumni from psychology presented thesis research projects, research completed as a research assistant and research conducted as a part of their placement.

Examples of the students' research included:

- **Applying positive psychology to the climate crisis: Examining student beliefs, behaviours, and resilience in responding to environmental concerns** by Ashley Rodrigues (Psychology alumni), supervised by Dr. Allison Reeves. Ashley conducted a thematic narrative analysis of interview data that focused on resilience and hope. The general findings were that (1) eco-anxiety in young adults can be debilitating, and (2) behavioural changes and resilience measures can help.
- **Academic Pressure: First-generation immigrants in Canada** by Safa Abdillahi (Psychology student), supervised by Dr. Nalini Ramlal. Safa conducted statistical analyses on survey data that focused on whether first-generation immigrant students experience more academic pressure than Canadian-born students. The general finding was that first-generation immigrant students indicated significantly more self-reported academic pressure compared to Canadian-born students.
- **The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Undergraduate Students' Learning Experiences: What was learned about how students learn?** by Sara Najjar (Psychology student), supervised by Dr. Jennifer Lasenby-Lessard. Sara conducted thematic analyses on interview data, focusing on how the pandemic impacted students' study habits and learning experiences. The general findings suggest that there was variability in students' experiences, coupled with increased self-awareness and resourcefulness among students.

Liberal Studies

The Liberal Studies department offers relevant and engaging elective course offerings that meet the university requirements for a general elective and explore areas of interest to Guelph-Humber students. The current range of Liberal Studies course offerings are designed to broaden student's perspectives, deepen their knowledge of topics outside their discipline of study, and reflect broader societal issues and challenges (i.e., Truth and Reconciliation, Climate Change, Sustainability, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion). Liberal Studies courses also include Psychology, Art, Drama, Canadian Studies, Globalization, Politics, Music, Science and The Meaning of Life.



LEADERSHIP

Dr. George Bragues is the Associate Vice-Provost, Academic at U of GH and he is also Adjunct Professor in the Department of Management at the University of Guelph. He is currently assuming the role of Interim Chair of Liberal Studies, which began in January 2024. He has published op-ed pieces in Canada's Financial Post, as well as a variety of scholarly articles and reviews in journals such as The Journal of Business Ethics, Qualitative Research in Financial Markets, The Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics, The Independent Review, History of Philosophy Quarterly, Episteme, and Business Ethics Quarterly.



Dr. Bragues holds a PhD in Political Science from Boston College, a Master of Business Administration from York University, a Master of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Toronto.

LEADERSHIP



Dr. Matthew LaGrone was the Program Head for Liberal Studies until December 2023. Dr. LaGrone has contributed to peer-reviewed journals and has chapters published in several edited volumes. He has written in a variety of fields including Jewish history, environmental ethics, freedom of religion, and online education. In 2023, Dr. LaGrone received a University Teaching Leadership Fellowship from the University of Guelph.

Dr. LaGrone has a PhD in Religion from the University of Toronto. He held post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Delaware (2008–2011) and the University of Toronto (2012–2013).



Dr. Nitin Deckha is the Interim Associate Head of Liberal Studies. Dr. Deckha is a member of the Research Fund Committee, chairs the Liberal Studies Curriculum Committee and is actively involved in the cross-disciplinary Community of Practice of Teaching and Learning. Before assuming his current role, Dr. Deckha was a longstanding instructor across various programs at U of GH. He has published and conducted research in gender, policing, and higher education.

Dr. Deckha holds a PhD in Anthropology from Rice University, a Master's Certificate in Adult Training and Development from Schulich Executive Education Centre, York University, a Master of Arts in Sociology of Education from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Philosophy from McGill University. Dr. Deckha is also a Certified Training Development Professional (CTDP).

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Sharon Reid has been teaching in Liberal Studies since 2009. Her course, *Teaching Drama to Children*, explores the power of active learning using drama-based instruction, creative thinking tools, and problem-based learning. Her students immerse themselves in learning the practical aspects of teaching, from setting learning goals to communicating with parents.

Her hands-on classroom is a place where students apply theoretical principles and co-construct learning together through theatre games, improvisation, and story theatre creation. Through learning to teach theatre and drama to others, students are empowered to devise, create, communicate, and reflect with confidence, engagement, and responsibility.

Dr. Reid holds a PhD and Master of Arts in Drama from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Education from its Faculty of Education. She has more than two decades of experience teaching children, teens, and adults, as well as a professional theatre manager, a freelance lighting designer, and a theatre scholar. Her scholarship combines professional theatre practice and studio research with academic publications in nineteenth-century staging, the golden age of melodrama, and contemporary Canadian theatre.

AGORA FELLOWSHIPS

The prestigious Agora Fellowship was first offered in 2013 and provides a unique opportunity for eight students from various programs to discuss perennial themes of the human condition. This is followed by a field trip with an itinerary related to the themes of the conversations. The field trip enables students to obtain an experiential learning experience that deepens their understanding of the topics they read and discussed.

This past academic year, Fellows explored Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Humanity, which featured discussions around the differences between human and artificial intelligence, the ethics of AI, and its potential benefits and threats. This year's Agora Fellows participated in a field visit to Boston, USA where they explored urban architecture, green spaces, art and science museums which included historic sites such as the Innovation Trail Tour, Boston Public Library, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum.



The fellowship delved into the very current and pressing topic of artificial intelligence (AI) and how it links (or does not link) to humanity. The assigned readings, whether it was Plato's ancient Phaedrus, or the modern work of Hello World by Hannah Fry, were all very engaging.... Through the discussions, I specifically learned about how crucial AI can be in the medical field. Despite the varying views within the fellowship, AI being beneficial to medicine was something we could all agree on. On our trip to Boston, we walked the innovation trail in Cambridge. This is a small area where massive events happened, such as the sequencing of the human genome. The trip really rounded off the experience well, showing us just how much AI can change the world of innovation, medicine, and everything in between.



– Aris Papageorgiou
2023/2024 Agora Fellow



2024 Agora Fellows, Boston



The Agora Fellowship Program was an incredible experience that pushed me out of my comfort zone. Before applying, I knew little about AI and was not an avid reader. However, I was eager to grow. I developed significantly due to meeting like-minded students, reading intellectually stimulating books, and engaging in meaningful discussions. Being chosen as an Agora Fellow boosted my confidence, leading me to join clubs and become more active in the U of GH community. The readings taught me how AI might impact the medical field, the justice system, and daily life. The discussions enlightened me on using AI as a tool rather than relying on or fearing it. My trip highlight was visiting the MIT Museum in Boston, showcasing AI's future, such as the Wearable Reasoner tool and deepfakes. The program encouraged me to think critically about AI. I will continue considering its ethical implications in my everyday life.



– **Victoria Garcia-Rodriguez**
2023/2024 Agora Fellow

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

100+
COURSES RUN BY
LIBERAL STUDIES EACH YEAR

Popular and new electives include:

- **Classical Mythology**, which explores ancient Greek mythologies that have influenced Western civilization
- **American Sign Language**, where students learn the fundamentals in vocabulary and hand gestures to begin to communicate effectively
- **Indigenous Peoples of the Americas**, which weaves histories of colonization and treaty formation with Indigenous origin narratives and rights doctrines
- **Cinema of Horror**, which surveys classic and contemporary films from the genre
- **Emerging Technologies** connects technological developments, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and quantum computing with workplace applications and social and cultural transformation

Liberal Studies also oversees the summer Study Abroad programs. Study Abroad is designed to broaden student perspectives by introducing them to the worldviews, practices, and mores of other cultures and societies so that students can better appreciate global diversity and be better equipped to thrive in an inter-connected world. 78 students, 7 course directors and 8 administrators participated in international study tours to Austria; Germany and Malta; Italy; Japan; Morocco; New Zealand; and Scotland and England.



New Initiatives and Events

GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADER IN RESIDENCE AT U of G

In October 2023, Dr. Vikas Swarup, former Indian High Commissioner to Canada, a retired diplomat, and best-selling author of *Slumdog Millionaire*, visited U of GH to engage with senior leaders, staff, instructors and students. He spoke extensively as to why global citizenship matters, and the vital role universities can play in creating these much-needed global citizens.

Dr. Swarup's talk, entitled "The Shape of our World" was a part of his new role as a "Global Thought Leader in Residence" at the University of Guelph in partnership with the Canada-India Foundation. During this residency, Dr. Swarup worked to build bridges with Indo-Canadians, one of the largest diaspora groups in Canada and the world, through knowledge and cultural exchange.



Dr. Vikas Swarup

STLHE CONFERENCE BURSARY RECIPIENTS

In early 2024, for the first time, members of the U of GH community were invited to apply for a conference bursary to join the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) community at their annual conference in Spring 2024, in Niagara Falls. Attendance at this conference was intended to support the deepening of subject matter expertise in the scholarship of teaching and learning and facilitate new ideas and innovations that can be brought back to our university community.

Dr. Grace Barakat from the Justice Studies program and Dr. Laelie Snook from the Kinesiology program were the recipients of the 2024 bursary. Dr. Barakat and Dr. Snook have demonstrated a commitment to teaching and learning excellence and the U of GH community looks forward to their continued valuable contributions.

“ “ “

Being surrounded by instructors, administrators, and teaching and learning staff, all dedicated to improving the classroom experience, is invigorating. This year's STLHE did not disappoint on any front.

” ” ”

– Dr. Laelie Snook

U OF GH 2024 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

U of GH honoured and celebrated the incredible achievements of seven extraordinary females from the university's community during its inaugural 2024 U of GH Women of Distinction recognition on March 8. Taking place on International Women's Day, recipients of the novel award, who were comprised of instructors and staff members, students, and alumni, were recognized for being an inspiring leader, making an impact in her chosen field, and uplifting other women to succeed. Each recipient's nomination submission highlighted their unique, positive, and meaningful contributions to our internal and external communities.

The honourees were: Dr. Leslie Auger (Chair, Kinesiology), Aalima Chandiwala (fourth-year Business student), Alyson Green (Academic Advisor, Early Childhood Studies), Dr. Laura MacDiarmid (Assistant Professor, Justice Studies), Tenisha Noel (fourth-year Justice Studies student), Maya Marcus (Media and Communication Studies alum, 2021), and Megan Roopnarine (Media and Communication Studies alum, 2021).



2024 Women of Distinction Honourees

From left to right: Alyson Green, Dr. Leslie Auger, Tenisha Noel, Mary Anne Chambers (U of G Chancellor), Dr. Melanie Spence-Ariemma (U of GH Vice-Provost and Chief Academic Officer), Jasmine Bates (Student Moderator), Maya Marcus, Aalima Chandiwala, Megan Roopnarine, Dr. Laura MacDiarmid.

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