



DONOR IMPACT  
REPORT 2018

Music student Andrea Pedro plays  
the new donor-funded Steinway  
concert piano at Convocation Hall

## What does the future look like if we build it together?

More than 100 years ago, our founders and first students launched the University of Alberta to help build a city, a province and a country, citizen by citizen, and to solve the problems we face together.

This year, donors joined U of A students, faculty and other partners to continue to imagine and build a future of healthy, safe, resilient and vibrant communities.

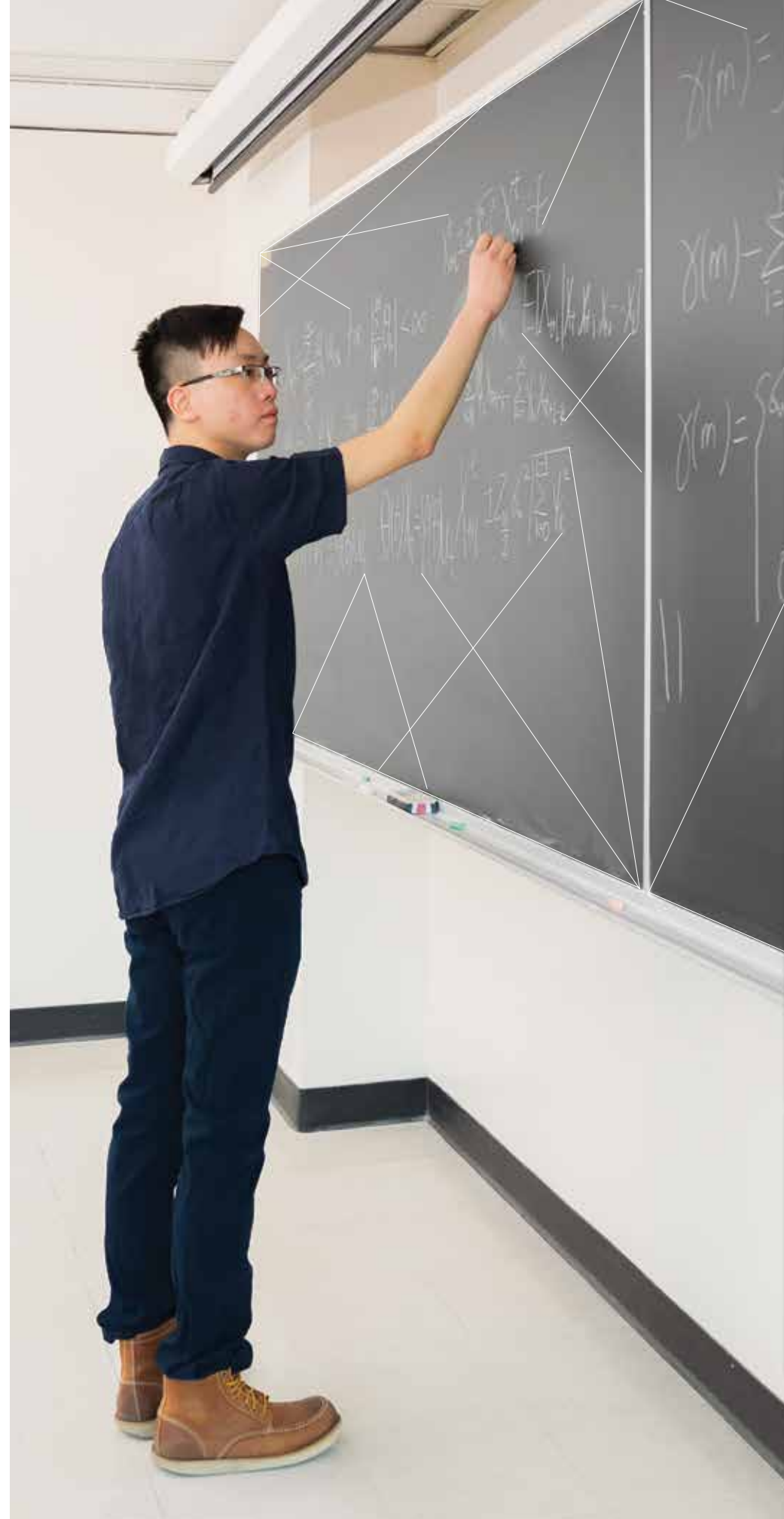
As the examples on these pages show, your generosity fosters potential, brings ideas to life, breaks down barriers and lifts people up.

Your gift helps address the needs of today and builds a better society for tomorrow.

**Thank you.**



Nobody can do it alone. A donor-funded scholarship has helped fourth-year mathematics and finance student Zhaoxin Ye focus on how businesses can use statistical theories to plan for future risk and uncertainty.



YOU ARE ONE OF  
**18,583** DONORS

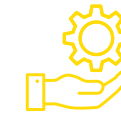
TOGETHER, YOU  
GAVE **\$142.6 M**

### HERE'S WHAT DONATIONS SUPPORTED IN 2017-18



**RESEARCH 36%**

You advanced research and discovery and helped attract talented faculty.



**PROGRAMS 33%**

You enhanced teaching, experiential learning and student research opportunities.



**FACILITIES 19%**

You transformed campus through new and enhanced buildings, labs, libraries and learning spaces.



**AWARDS 12%**

You reduced financial barriers for students and helped them achieve their potential.

### ENDOWED GIFTS

**Your gift has an enduring impact**

Donors to endowed funds provide the university with a steady, predictable and perpetual source of income.

**\$1.4 B**

Value of University of Alberta endowments

**\$27 M**

Added to endowments in 2017-18

**\$38 M**

Made available in 2017-18 from endowment funds to support research, teaching and learning

### ANNUAL GIFTS

**Your gift has an immediate impact**

Donors who give annually make an immediate impact and help address emerging and high-priority needs.



**4,748**

Loyal donors who have supported the U of A each year for the past five years



**4,133**

First-time donors



**10,765**

Donors who are U of A alumni



**1 in 5**

Number of Canadians who have been diagnosed with a sports-related concussion

**40%**

Increase in rates of reported head injury among children and youth relative to other sports injuries between 2004 and 2014

**9**

Number of accelerometers that measure mechanical impact on a dummy's head in the U of A's Biomedical Instrumentation Laboratory

**83**

Canada Research Chairs held by U of A faculty and recognized by the Government of Canada as "the world's most accomplished and promising minds"

## Head in the Game

This year you helped reinforce research

Ringette player Megan Ogle was racing down the ice when she collided with a bigger player. She fell, her head snapping backward as she slammed against the ice.

Her memory of the incident is hazy, a sign she sustained a moderate concussion. In the weeks after the injury, lights and noise bothered her and carrying on a conversation was exhausting. Ogle counts herself lucky her brain injury wasn't worse. Soon she was back to work on her research — coincidentally — on the biomechanics of head and neck injury.

**There is no helmet certified to protect against concussion. Donor-funded research aims to change that.**

One in five Canadians has had a concussion diagnosis, but it's estimated 50 per cent of concussions are never reported. The effects — including chronic pain, diminished neurological capacity and depression — can add up to a lifetime of challenges and missed opportunities.

There is no helmet certified to protect against concussion. But at the U of A's Biomedical Instrumentation Laboratory, where Ogle is a master's student, donor-funded research aims to change that. The lab's research includes looking at helmet protection from combat blasts, learning about the brain's chemical response to impact, and measuring a helmet's degree of protection.

Thanks to donors, this research will lead to improved design and testing of protective gear, safer games and better lives.



Megan Ogle was halfway through her master's research in head injury biomechanics when she sustained a concussion on the ice.



500

Approximate number of U of A students who have been affected by the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire

47

Students who have received support from the Disaster Relief Bursary since 2016

1 in 3

Dollars of total undergraduate student financial support provided by donors

57%

Portion of total donor-funded endowments that provide scholarship, award and bursary support for students

## Air to Breathe

This year you helped students stay strong

Nicole McMillan's journey from heartache to resilience mirrors that of her hometown, Fort McMurray, Alta. In less than a year, her mom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, her dad was laid off and a wildfire devastated the northern city, forcing a mass evacuation. After they returned, McMillan took on four jobs to help her parents. Going back to school seemed impossible.

The U of A Disaster Relief Bursary, funded by nearly 100 donors, helped McMillan get back on her feet and into class. The business student returned to Fort McMurray for an internship in human resource management — experience she wants to apply to a future career in employment law.

**"My mom always told me, 'Life doesn't stop because I get sick.'"**

**NICOLE McMILLAN, DISASTER RELIEF BURSARY RECIPIENT**

Thanks to the bursary and another donor-supported award, McMillan's mom was able to see her daughter pursue her dreams. "My mom always told me, 'Life doesn't stop because I get sick.'" Her mother passed away in May 2017, one year after the wildfire.

McMillan has seen the impact of collective generosity — from her donor-funded bursary to the outpouring of support for Fort McMurray. She hopes to pay it forward by returning home after graduation to start her career and help her community rebuild.



"I couldn't have done it without donor support," says Nicole McMillan, at home in Fort McMurray, Alta., two years after the wildfire.



Take a virtual tour of the Aga Khan Garden, Alberta at [uab.ca/akgtour](http://uab.ca/akgtour).



**260**

Audience capacity of the open-air amphitheatre, where visitors will enjoy recitals, performances and other events



As the northernmost Islamic garden in the world, and designed for the Edmonton region's climate and topography, the Aga Khan Garden, Alberta is unique in the world.

**4.8**

Size in hectares of Aga Khan Garden, Alberta, equivalent to 31 NHL-size hockey rinks, the largest Islamic-inspired garden in North America

**160,000**

Annual attendance expected at the U of A Botanic Garden, as the Aga Khan Garden, Alberta attracts people to the region from near and far, doubling the current attendance

**12**

Water features and fountains added to the area for visitors to enjoy. The central Calla Pond and surrounding wetland have been revitalized and replanted.

"The tradition of Islamic gardens places an emphasis on human stewardship — our responsibility to nature and to protect the natural world."

HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

**26,000**

Perennials, wetland plants, shrubs and trees

**17,000**

School children who visit the U of A Botanic Garden each year. New interpretive programming will enhance visitors' understanding of Islamic traditions, music, sound and poetry.

## From the Ground Up

This year you helped new spaces bloom

Opening in June 2018, the spectacular new Aga Khan Garden, Alberta will draw people from all backgrounds together in the largest Islamic-inspired garden in North America — an environment where cultural acceptance and understanding take root.

Located at the heart of the University of Alberta Botanic Garden near Devon, the Aga Khan Garden, Alberta embraces the local climate and landscape and forges a connection between contemporary Alberta and the

traditional Islamic world. People from around the world will come to retreat, gather and celebrate.

Islamic gardens feature paved surfaces and geometric design that contrast with the natural world and explore human creativity. Visitors to the new garden will encounter forest paths, orchards and reflective pools. In the central courtyard, a fountain system will flow over terraces and past sunken gardens and plants that change colour with the seasons.

The garden is a gift to Albertans from His Highness the Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of the Ismaili Muslim community.

His Highness has stated: "The garden is a central element in Muslim culture, a symbol of a spiritual ideal — a place where human creativity and divine majesty are fused, where the ingenuity of humanity and the beauty of nature are productively connected."

8

Examination chairs available in the expanded clinic, doubling the number of patients that dentists and students can accommodate at one time



Low-income patients and families get access to care, and U of A dentistry students get hands-on experience through a community partnership.

## Bridging a Gap

This year you helped communities smile

3,000+

Patients each year who will receive dental care because of the donor-funded expansion of the Boyle McCauley dental clinic

140

Days each school year that dentistry students will provide services at the clinic — supporting the community and gaining invaluable experience

755

Emergency visits to the dental clinic in 2017-18. With dental problems the most common physical health issue experienced by the homeless, one of the goals of the clinic is to lessen the load on hospital emergency rooms.

U of A dentistry student Connor Grimes was doing his regular volunteer shift at a community clinic in Edmonton's inner city when a 17-year-old girl arrived in severe pain. Her tooth was decaying and infected, and part had broken off. There was no way to fix it, but Grimes was able to pull the tooth, giving the teen some much-needed relief.

**“Working at the clinic opened my eyes to the barriers people have.”**

**CONNOR GRIMES, DENTISTRY STUDENT**

Many patients who come to the Boyle McCauley Health Centre dental clinic face obstacles such as homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse. They may not be able to access dental care when they need it most.

“Working at the clinic opened my eyes to the barriers people have,” Grimes says. He plans to continue giving back to this underserved community once he has his own dental practice.

A major expansion is underway at the Boyle McCauley dental clinic, thanks to a community partnership with the U of A School of Dentistry and generous ongoing donor support.

Soon, the clinic will become a teaching site for dentistry students, doubling its current capacity and increasing access to dental care for vulnerable populations — and creating more qualified, compassionate dentists in the process.



**97%**

Portion of concert pianists who choose to perform on Steinways

**150**

Concerts, recitals and master classes presented by the U of A music department this year

**311**

Students enrolled in music programs at the U of A. Many go on to perform nationally and internationally.

**20,000+**

Arts lovers who took in U of A music, theatre and design shows in 2017-18, illustrating the university's impact on the arts community

## A Note of Thanks

This year you helped make music

Master pianist and U of A music professor Jacques Després knows playing on a great piano is key to his talented students giving their best performances. U of A music students have access to renowned instructors and many opportunities to perform, but the concert pianos have aged.

Wear and tear on older pianos changes how they feel and sound, preventing students from playing to their potential. "It's like listening to music on earbuds with a laptop," Després says. "The music is there but not at the best possible quality."

**"When you play on a piano of this quality, you realize things about the music you would not realize on another piano."**

**JACQUES DESPRÉS, MASTER PIANIST AND MUSIC PROFESSOR**

Thanks to a dedicated group of donors, a Steinway Model D concert grand piano made its debut at Convocation Hall this spring. It will be an invaluable learning tool for students.

A Steinway takes more than a year to build and is made almost entirely by hand. "When you play on a piano of this quality, you realize things about the music you would not realize on another piano," Després says. "You're not held back by the instrument."

The new Steinway will enrich Edmonton's vibrant arts community by attracting more visiting musicians, whose master classes and performances will benefit students and music lovers alike. "It is truly a special instrument," says Després.



Watch and listen to music student Andrea Pedro (above) play the new concert piano at [uab.ca/steinway](http://uab.ca/steinway).

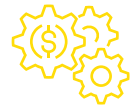
THANK YOU FOR HELPING  
BUILD EVEN MORE



**TOP 5**  
Universities in Canada



**TOP 100**  
Universities in the world



**\$12.3 B** U of A's impact on Alberta's economy



**41**  
National 3M Teaching Fellows  
(the most in Canada)



**74**  
Rhodes Scholars



**8,500** Degrees granted each year



**78**  
National sports titles



**2,750**  
Academic All-Canadian student athletes  
(the most in Canada)



**1.5 M** People employed worldwide by U of A alumni-run organizations

Every gift uplifts our students and researchers — and improves the many lives they go on to touch

“Your support builds bridges that create opportunity and reveal possibilities the world might otherwise never have been able to see.”

**KATICA NAUDE**  
FIRST-YEAR CHEMISTRY STUDENT AND  
DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



“Universities endure because of their unique role — to pursue truth, to prepare citizens and to drive change. Donors strengthen that role by helping us tackle complex problems, create stronger communities and educate the next generation so that they can build a better future.”

**DAVID H. TURPIN**  
President and Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Alberta

---