

Alumni Engagement



Take Action in the Spirit of Sisterhood

As the world prepares to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) the focus is on accelerating action—but what does that really mean? This theme for IWD 2025 will be the focus of UCalgary Alumni's next Dig In! webinar on March 6, where our distinguished panelists explore how activism, art, and advocacy drive change in society. From legal battles to provocative storytelling, discover the impact of action in shaping a more equitable future. Ahead of the event, our own **Deb Cummings, MEd'17**, spoke with industry leaders **Althea Francis, BA'95, LLB'99**, **Teresa Posyniak, MFA'83**, **Laurel Johannesson, MFA'99**, and **Gina McKinnon, BA'12** for a preview of this important discussion.

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Alumni Features



Black History Month at UCalgary

The University of Calgary celebrates Black History Month (BHM) with events and learning opportunities that showcase Black excellence and explore important issues. From performances to discussions on AI and racism, BHM fosters education, reflection, and community. Upcoming events include the **Young, Black and Gifted in Tech** event (Feb.14) and the **Mobilizing for Change Conference** (Feb.27-28).

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Leap Before You Look

Cara Moeller Poppitt, BComm'06, BA'06 is the keynote speaker for the **2025 Launch Your Career Conference** kicking off March 4. As a global thought leader, international speaker, and the author of a new book *Big Freakin' Change*, releasing this summer, Poppitt is inspiring individuals to step out before they're ready, embrace transformative action and knowing change isn't something to wait for—it's something to jump into.

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What's on Deck?



Young Black and Gifted in Tech | Feb.14

Hosted by Innovate Calgary, in partnership with UCalgary Alumni and the UCalgary Black Alumni Network, this event invites Black post-secondary students to explore careers in tech. Alumni can join a virtual panel and keynote with industry leaders shaping the future of tech. Together, let's build a more diverse & inclusive tech community that celebrates Black excellence and innovation.

[Register Now](#)



Mobilizing for Change: Addressing Anti-Black Racism Conference | Feb.27-28

The University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work is hosting the **"Mobilizing for Change: Addressing Anti-Black Racism"** conference on February 27-28, 2025. You can register today to attend this two-day hybrid event which will feature impactful discussions and amazing networking opportunities aimed at dismantling systemic racism and promoting racial equity.

[Register Now](#)



Dig In! Celebrating Women's Leadership, Creativity & Impact | March 6

You are invited to Dig In! with an exceptional panel of UCalgary alumni from a diverse variety of fields, including the arts and corporate sectors, for a conversation on sparking change as powerful women led by our moderator **Althea Francis, BA'95, LLB'99**. Join us ahead of this International Women's Day to celebrate and learn from these incredible alumni.

[Register Now](#)



Register for UCalgary Summer Camps!

Find your roar! Don't miss out, register now for the highly popular UCalgary summer camps. From business and design, to STEM, arts, aquatics, sports, outdoor camps and more, there something for everyone from age 4-17.

[Register Today!](#)

Alumni Offers



Free AI Essentials Course

Unlock the power of AI to simplify tasks and supercharge your productivity. In this **FREE** course, offered by Continuing Education, you will explore AI fundamentals, learn about generative AI and advanced search techniques, discover practical applications of tools like Microsoft Copilot, Office 365 Copilot, and Azure Cognitive Services. This course empowers you to confidently integrate AI into your work and daily life — no prior experience required! Please register in only one section.

[Learn More](#)



Free Course on Climate Change

Participate in a **FREE** online course on climate change created by the Office of Sustainability and partners through the Mobilizing Alberta initiative. The course takes 4-6 hours to complete, and participants receive a certificate of completion that they can add to their resume or LinkedIn profile. Recent research shows that 64% of Albertans are very concerned or concerned about climate change and taking this course is an action that Albertans can take from the comfort of their own homes.

[Learn More](#)

Awards & Recognition



Arch Awards Nominations Due March 2

Celebrate 40 years of the Arch Awards by recognizing a UCalgary alum. If you know of a graduate who is making an impact on their industry and in their communities, nominate them for a 2025 Arch Award today. Nominations close 11:59 p.m.MT on March 2. Need some inspiration? Check out the Arch Award 2024 **Class of 2024**.

[Nominate Now](#)

Campus Connect

Life Reimagined: How Franci Sterzer Transforms Adversity into Impact

After an accident left her paralyzed, **Franci Sterzer, BA'20, MSc'24**, pursued new possibilities in education and entrepreneurship with UCalgary. Through perseverance and purpose, she's turning personal adversity into meaningful impact. Read her inspiring story of transformation and empowerment.

[Read More](#)

University of Calgary Mourns the Passing of the Aga Khan

The University of Calgary mourns the passing of His Highness, the Aga Khan IV, spiritual leader of the world's Ismaili Muslims and a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. **Prince Karim Al-Hussaini**, who became the 49th hereditary Imam at age 20, passed away on Feb. 4, 2025, at 88. UCalgary proudly awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 2018, recognizing his global impact.

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How Quantum Computing is Reshaping the Future: What It Means for Startups

Quantum technology is no longer just theoretical—it's already making an impact. As industries adapt, what opportunities and challenges do quantum startups face? **Dr. Barry Sanders, BSc'84**, scientific director of Quantum City, explores some of the key considerations for quantum startups and investors.

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Dinos Swimmer Versluys Named Top 8 Academic All-Canadian

Nathan Versluys of the University of Calgary Dinos has been selected as one of the Top 8 Academic All-Canadians for the 2023-24 season, he now becomes the ninth student-athlete in Dinos history to be honoured. Power swimmer with a GPA of 3.91 joined Canada's elite student-athletes in Ottawa to receive Governor General's medals.

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Upcoming Events and Programs

- Feb.1-28 | February is Black History Month
- Feb.11 | Alumni Career Workshop: Resumé Writing Resources
- Feb.12 | 2SLGBTQIA+ Speaker Series: Rainbow Elders
- Feb.12 | Mobilizing Alberta Climate Conversations: Speculative Futures
- Feb.14 | Young, Black and Gifted in Tech
- Feb.24 | Alumni Career Workshop: Career Planning
- Feb.25 | Science in the Cinema: A Man Called Otto
- Feb.27-28 | Mobilizing for Change: Addressing Anti-Black Racism Conference
- March 2 | Last Day for 2025 Arch Awards Nominations
- March 4 | Calgary Institute for the Humanities 7th Annual Naomi Lacey Memorial Lecture
- March 4-6 | Launch Your Career Conference
- March 5 | Alumni Wellness Workshop: Assertive Communications
- March 6 | Dig In! Celebrating Women's Leadership, Creativity & Impact
- March 8 | International Womens Day
- March 10 | Alumni Career Workshop: Thinking About a Career Change?
- March 10 | Alumni Career Workshop: Resumé Writing Resources

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