



U OF T BLACK ALUMNI CONFERENCE

SATURDAY

09:30 AM - 4:30 PM

APRIL 11, 2026

CHECK IN / INFORMAL NETWORKING

MC:

Randa Ali (HBSc UTM '19; MScSM UTM '23), UTBAA
Chief of Staff

Sidoné Grange (HBSc UTM '25) UTBAA Class of 2025 President

09:30 AM

10:00 AM

INTRO TO THE UTBAA, BLACK AT UTM, LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Baliqis Hashiru, (BSc '13; HBA New '15), UTBAA Co-President

Sidoné Grange, (HBSc UTM '25), UTBAA Class '25 President

Martin Kengo, Manager at the Black Initiatives Office, UTM

10:00 AM

10:10 AM

ICEBREAKER

Njeri Fraser (BAsC '19), UTBAA Director of Marketing

10:10 AM

10:25 AM

WELCOME REMARKS AND OPENING KEYNOTES

Rhonda McEwen (PhD '10), President & Vice-Chancellor,
Victoria University, U of T

Drawing from her unique perspective as a scholar and a leader, **Dr. McEwen** will delve into how technologies like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and social media are shaping our world, with a particular focus on issues of equity, access, and representation. She'll share her personal journey and professional insights, offering a critical look at the opportunities and challenges these technologies present, and discuss strategies for ensuring that the future of technology is inclusive and beneficial for all.

10:25 AM

10:45 AM

PROGRAM





PANEL DISCUSSION:

10:45 AM
11:35 AM

Career Accelerator Conversation with HR and Talent Leaders

Moderator: **Sidoné Grange**, (HBSc UTM '25) UTBAA Class of 2025 President

Panelists:

IG Ajagunna (HBA UTM '23), People Engagement Specialist, Nelson
Mical Brhane (HBA New '19), Researcher, Global Executive Talent Acquisition, Equinix
Lauren Canzius (HBA WDW '06), Alumna and HR Strategist

LUNCH AND ENTERTAINMENT

11:50 – 12:00: Get Food

12:15 – 12:30: Performance (Performer: **Kimberly Beckles**,
Class of 2014, Sapphenix Movement)

12:15 – 12:45: Deep Networking

11:35 AM
12:50 PM

PANEL

Being your Own Boss or Side Hustle: How to Leverage Resources and AI and More

Facilitator: **Randa Ali** (HBSc UTM '19; MScSM UTM '23), UTBAA Chief of Staff

Panelists:

Malcolm Wright (HBA UTSC '15), Co-Founder and Chief Partnerships Officer, Nobellum
Kareem Abdur-Rashid (HBSc UTM '20; MSc '22), Founder, Kare Chemical Technologies
Natalia Thawe (HBSc 2009, TRIN, MSc 2012) Thawe Intellectual Property Law, Founder & Principal Lawyer, Patent Agent

12:45 PM
1:35 PM

BREAK

1:35 PM
1:50 PM





BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:50 – 2:40 PM

Session A: Mental and Physical Wellbeing 101

Kimberly Beckles, Kimberly Beckles (HBS Sc UTSC '14), Sapphenix Movement

Session B: Decoding your Compensation 101

Ig Ajagunna (HBA UTM '23), People Engagement Specialist, Nelson

Session C: Developing Your Professional Brand 101

Lauren Canzius (HBA WDW '06), Alumna and HR Strategist

BREAK

2:40 PM

2:55 PM

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Colleen Ward (BA UTM '94), Senior Vice President,
Enterprise Delivery Office, Scotiabank

2:55 PM

3:10 PM

UTBAA KEYNOTE:

Baliqis Hashiru (BSc '13; HBA New '15), Co-President, UTBAA

3:10 PM

3:15 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Derrick Raphael (GPLL '16), Co-President, UTBAA

3:15 PM

3:20 PM

GROUP PHOTO

3:20 PM

3:30 PM

CLOSING RECEPTION, NETWORKING AND PRIZES

3:30 PM

4:30 PM

