



Get to know University Councillor Cathy Matthews, Com'86:



Queen's: B. Comm. (Honours) '86; Chair, Board of Directors, AMS '86; University Council '17-21, Judge, QEC '17, Board of Trustees '19-22

Career: CPA, CA, Ernst & Young; Managing Director, Investment Banking, TD Securities, Toronto, Vancouver, New York and London; Consultant, National Bank Financial; Founder, WealthTable

Past Volunteer: Director, Camp Oochigeas; Director, New Haven Learning Centre; Director, Council for Human Development

Independent Studies: Executive Education: Harvard, London Business School & Wharton School; Human Development: Adler Centre & Neufeld Institute.

1. Why did you select Queen's University?

I wanted a well-regarded direct entry Canadian Commerce Program. Many of the counsellors from my years at summer camp were in 2nd/3rd year at Queen's. My uncle, a Queen's Alumnus was very encouraging.

2. Most memorable moment as a student?

No doubt a common alumni response would be meeting their residence roommate or floormates on the first day. This was certainly the case for me in meeting my roommate and discovering my childhood friend literally since birth, born the same day in the same hospital, was on our wing and floor at Vic Hall. Another memorable moment was my appointment as Chair of the Board of Directors, AMS. I had managed the AMS election campaign for a team that lost. Sometimes when you lose, you win, you just don't know it at the time.

3. What is your job?

Upon graduation from Queen's, I worked at Clarkson Gordon and earned my certification as a CA. At the time, TD was building its securities business and I had the opportunity to join. I was very fortunate to be part of the growth of TD Securities in the decade that followed. I worked with wonderful peers and mentors in all major product groups including corporate finance, specializing in Canadian renewable energy, and in equity and debt capital markets, equity sales and credit derivatives. I have also worked as a strategy consultant and in product development in the financial services sector. Increasingly, I have been committing my time to advancing sustainable finance and ESG given the urgency of these issues.

Earth is hiring. Women are hiring. From an historical perspective, earth and women have arrived at their respective tipping points at more or less the same time. The urgency of these agendas has been compounded by C-19. As stated in the *Final Report of the Expert Panel on*

Sustainable Finance, 2019, "Canada's nationally-determined commitments under the Paris Agreement are anchored by a target to reduce domestic GHG emissions by at least 30% below 2005 levels, by 2030." Soon women will manage more than half of all global personal wealth. Women have a critical role to play in advancing the sustainable finance agenda to tackle climate change at a massive scale.

4. **What's the best career advice you've ever received?**

Work with people you respect and admire. Work hard when you are young as opportunities will open up for you.

In light of the highly challenging conditions of C-19, I offer a perspective from David Brooks, NYT columnist and best-selling author. I recently had the opportunity to ask David, "What do you see as the touchstones for youth on the road to character through Covid-19?" David's response was: "For the next 2 years, do something that you would never otherwise do. Build what they call identity capital ... By you taking the next 2 years and doing something completely unusual, you've expanded your horizon of risk and you'll be able forever after to say, hey I did this crazy thing when I was 22 and it worked out. I was a fisherman off the coast of Nova Scotia or whatever and I could handle it. Treat it as a hiatus and what you'll have developed in that time I think is some sense of character. Because when you look at people who really show great character, they never learned it because they took a fantastic vacation in Hawaii. They did something really hard, where they got to the bottom of their selves and their desires shifted. Their desires for status became immaterial, their desire to serve some good and be with people took precedence. To me that shift in motivation is really the essence of character formation. Finding something you can really commit to, making promises to it and then fulfilling your promises to something you really love. "

5. **What's the career highlight you're most proud of?**

Being selected as the sole candidate for a two-year capital markets and buy side immersion program at TD Securities based in Toronto, New York and London.

6. **How do you spend your free time?**

There is a book called *Range* by David Epstein. I would describe myself as a "Range" girl. I share Epstein's conviction that engaging in a variety of interests enhances each individual interest. I love to spend time being active in nature with family and friends and this time of year, near or on water, fresh or salty. I am drawn to the power of forests. Our family has created an initiative called TreesCO2 (treesco2.com and [@trees_co2](https://twitter.com/trees_co2)) issuing a global tree planting call to action at the UN last Fall. As well, I have a strong interest in human development and epigenetics, in part arising from past volunteer experiences and studies in these fields.

7. **What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?**

I had recently moved back to Toronto after almost a decade in Vancouver. I saw University Council as an opportunity to come "home" and build on my student role as Chair of the Board

of Directors, AMS. I was also motivated as a woman and mother of daughters to engage in leadership opportunities that capitalized on my professional experiences.

8. What are some of your most memorable milestones/accomplishments as a Councillor?

Serving, as a Council Trustee on the Queen's Board of Trustees is a great honour as is my role as Board of Trustee's appointed Councillor to the University Council Executive Committee. In my capacity of Board Trustee, I am a Member of the Board of Trustee's Capital Assets and Finance Committee and the Board of Trustee's Investment Committee. I also serve on the Investment Committee's Energy Transition Sub-Committee and was a Member of the Board of Trustee's Climate Change Action Taskforce

9. Your aspirations for being on University Council? To continue my engagement with Queen's in hopes of making a meaningful contribution.

10. Do you have any words of wisdom for incoming Councillors?

We each have a unique set of experiences as incoming Councillors. My advice would be to draw on these areas of expertise in choosing a focus for making your individual contribution.

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