Get to know University Councillor Kasmet Niyongabo, Sc'11, MBA'20:

Saskatoon, SK, Manager, Integrated Planning and Dynamic Scheduling. Member, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. Director of External Communications for the Queen's Engineering Society. Founder of the Kazies Awards, a photography and video contest fundraiser. Director of Events for the Saskatchewan Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs.
Current term: 2024

1. **Why did you select Queen's University?**
   I fell in love with the campus on my visit in Grade 12. I went to a French high school, so the idea of switching to English for university was a little daunting, but Queen's has such a great reputation, so I took the leap. It was an amazing experience and I have enjoyed it thoroughly. More recently, I chose Queen's for a second time when I was looking for a business school to do my MBA. The Smith School of Business has an excellent program selection and incredible flexibility for those of us who don't live in major centers.

2. **Most memorable moment as a student?**
   It's hard to pick one. I met some of my favorite people at Queen's and I had a great time as an engineering student. One of the best memories was the Mining engineering end of year trip to visit some mines in Chile. It was a great year to end the program and our class had a great time while we were there. Another good memory was running for the AMS. Although our team didn't win, it was a great experience.

3. **What is your job?**
   I work for Nutrien as a manager in the Next Generation Potash department. My job is to improve Planning and Scheduling for our network of potash mines. As part of the digital transformation team, I work with mine planners, project managers, engineers, accountants, managers, and executives to identify, initiate, fund, and execute projects that will help Nutrien keep a competitive position in years to come.

4. **What's the best career advice you've ever received?**
   You have to map out what you want from your career and seek out people who can help you get there. Opportunities don't just find their way to you, you have to be on the lookout, and more importantly, you have to be ready the make a move when they come around. I really appreciate that advice because it puts the responsibility to advance your career in your control. It also highlights the fact that we all need to be on the lookout for mentors and opportunities to better our skills.

5. **What's the career highlight you're most proud of?**
   I had a few highlights at Cameco when we were designing the Millennium mine and when I put together the life of mine plan for Cigar Lake. We had great teams, and the work was high paced and very engaging. At Nutrien, I had the opportunity to do a major shaft steel replacement project at Allan as well as a few borer improvements projects. I had the opportunity, and still continue, to work with wonderful teams.

6. **How do you spend your free time?**
   My wife and I have two 6 month old twin boys to find a way to keep us busy. We've been enjoying going on family picnics, gardening, and spending lots and lots of time at the lake on the long weekend.

7. **What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?**
   Going back to Queen's to complete my MBA reminded of how much I love the campus and the council seemed like a great idea to give back to the university and to meet great people. I was happy to see the amazing support from my old professors, classmates, friends, and the Queen's community in general. Looking forward to the start of my term on council.

8. **Your aspirations for being on University Council?**
   I'm looking forward to being a great ambassador for the school. I love the university and I want to make sure that the next generation of Queen's students gets to enjoy it just as much as I did. Moreover, the world is changes rapidly and I have a vested interest to ensure that the university evolves and adapts in a way that would make me proud to see my own kids graduate from Queen's two decades from now.

9. **Anything else you would like to add/highlight?**
   Looking forward to giving back

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