



Get to know University Councillor Kieva Hbranchuk, Artsci'09



Why did you select Queen's University?

To me, Queen's was always the best of the best and I had set my sights high. After taking a quick weekend trip with my family to visit, I knew it was where I wanted to be. I was absolutely ecstatic when I got accepted!

Most memorable moment as a student?

I can remember feeling very excited when Alistair MacLean, the Dean of Arts and Science at the time, accepted to take me on as his thesis student during the fourth year of my honour's degree in Psychology. Alistair was open-minded and made room for me to study something that I was truly interested in, within the confounds of his own area of expertise. Having a mentor who was so caring and supportive was invaluable to me as I moved along the path toward my own career in academia.

Tell us a little about your career?

I received my undergraduate degree in Psychology from Queen's University in 2009 and then a Behavioural Science Technician post-graduate certificate from George Brown College in 2010. I then worked at both Surrey Place Centre in Toronto and at the CHEO Autism Program in Ottawa before making the big move to New York City. While there, I earned my M.A. in Teaching as Applied Behaviour Analysis and my Ph.D. in Applied Behaviour Analysis at Columbia University. I have taught as a Professor at Columbia University, Arizona State University and Brock University. I also helped to pioneer the Scottsdale Children's Institute, an integrated kindergarten readiness program down in Arizona where I served as the Clinical Director for two years before moving back to Canada. I currently sit on the Program Board for the Association for Behaviour Analysis International as the Area Coordinator for Behavioral Development.

When I am not providing services through my private practice, Kenna Learning Inc., I work as a cross-appointed Professor in the Behavioural Science and Behavioural Psychology Faculties at St. Lawrence College. I am both a certified special education teacher and a doctoral-level board certified behaviour analyst. I specialize in teacher training as well as in supervision of evidence-based service delivery to students with and without disabilities. My interests include effective delivery of instruction, analyzing rates of learning in young children, inclusion/integration, kindergarten readiness, and the CABAS® (Comprehensive Application of Behaviour Analysis to Schooling) model. My research focuses on how teaching procedures can be effectively modified to accelerate student learning.

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

If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life. Take the time to figure out what that really is.

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

Probably my academic publications because evidence-based literature lives on long after you're gone, and the valuable discoveries made within the scientific community have far-reaching potential to help relevant populations indefinitely.

How do you spend your free time?

During my free time you will find me spending time with my family – my husband Mike, our two children James (3) and Leo (1) and our dog Freyja, who is a Norwegian Elkhound. One of our current major interests includes investing in the revival of our limestone farmhouse located on 7 acres just north of Kingston. It's a designated heritage site and we think it's a pretty special place! I also enjoy traveling whenever I can and playing the violin whenever I find a moment to do so.

What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

I thought it was a great way to give back to a community that gave me so much.

Your aspirations for being on University Council?

I hope to make valuable connections within the community, influence student life in positive ways, help shape policy/procedures at the University that will improve students' educational experience, and perhaps even find some new areas of interest in which I can be passionate and stive to make a difference.

Anything else you would like to add/highlight?

I hope to be a point of contact or mentor for any student who wishes to find out more about what it was like to be a Queen's University student or who may have questions about what life has been like since graduating.

Connect with [Councillor Hbranchuk](#) on LinkedIn.