



COUNTDOWN to THE BAN RIGH CENTRE'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

In the fall of 1974, the Ban Righ Centre was founded with a vision of an alternative space to provide supports for mature women students. In 2024, we will celebrate 50 years of doing what we do best.

Countless testimonials and success stories from current students and alumnae prove that this model - a model based on meeting students where they are, on building warm and respectful relationships, and on fostering community among women from all faculties and from all stages of life - works.

Thanks to our many supporters, alumni, boards of directors, and dedicated staff over the years, the Ban Righ Foundation has stayed true to this vision.

Join us in celebrating 50 years of success and imagining the 50 years to come. Watch your email, snail-mail, and our social media for events and programming in celebration of 50 years of the Ban Righ Foundation.

SAVE THE DATE
October 24, 2024

50
years

**Ban
Righ
Foundation**

1974-2024

Welcome Home: HOMECOMING 2023

Will you be in town for Homecoming 2023? We are hosting a Ban Righ Centre Welcome Home Drop-in on Friday October 20th from 10am-4pm at 32 Bader Lane. Come tour the Centre, chat with staff, or just say hello. We will have snacks and refreshments, and we'd love to see you.



CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

To celebrate the end of another academic year, the Ban Righ Centre organized programming tailored to graduating students and student professionals. Between May and June, we planned three events: free headshots with a professional photographer, graduate's drop-in tea, and an online Career Services workshop.

Professional Headshots

Sixteen students got an opportunity to have free professional headshots taken with photographer Kristen Ritchie. Students were excited to use their professional photo on their LinkedIn profiles, conference applications, on departmental websites and more.



headshot of Tibeb Debele



headshot of Elham Yousefinejad



photo of graduating student & family

Grad Tea

We held a drop-in tea for graduating students during the 4 days of convocation in June. We invited students to bring their family and friends to the Ban Righ Centre before or after convocation to be celebrated by proud staff and students in a comfortable and relaxed environment.

Career Services Workshop

To end the convocation-season celebrations, we hosted an online Career Services workshop on Job Search & Networking. Participants were invited to identify their personal and professional values and their job priorities and learned how to begin mapping their networks. We've heard from our students that they would like more opportunities to network with each other and Ban Righ Centre alum; and this workshop was a good opportunity to create that space.

"It was very helpful. It reduced my level of stress as I learned that job search is a time consuming and demanding process for everyone." Elham Yousefinejad

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

PA Day Gardening

As we began to welcome the warmer days of summer, students said that they wanted more opportunities to spend time outside. Our PA Day gardening allowed mature students and moms who could bring their kids to the Centre to spend some therapeutic time with their hands in the dirt, beautifying the patio area of the Centre. Kids got to take their plants home, and lunch and fresh-baked cookies were provided. It was a lovely way to welcome summer in Kingston. And the flowers bloomed all summer long!



photos of students & their kids and staff gardening

Writing Studio

As summer came to an end, we wanted to give students an opportunity to ease into the swing of the academic year. Eleven students registered for our week-long writing studio. Students committed to coming to the Centre from Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm, to spend some dedicated time working. We had some students writing and revising dissertations, one student preparing for her qualifying exam, and a few BRC regulars chugging away at papers and assignments. Our students stayed focused, except during lunch when the House livened, and students had a chance to connect with each other and with representatives from Student Academic Success Services.

"It was very motivating to meet people who were all determined to complete their projects! Having individual workspaces, interacting with others during lunch time in the common areas has been great and worked very well. I really enjoyed the healthy snacks and the catered food. I would like to thank everyone who contributed organizing such a well-run event and taking care of us, participants, so well. I appreciate the Ban Righ Centre's support. It is comforting to know that we can always speak to Lisa, Taylor, and Susan in a confidential and safe way. Thank you!" - Ozge Girgin.

photo of PhD Candidate, Ozge Girgin

THE WOMEN OF BRC

Corinna Dally-Starna

PhD Candidate Environmental Studies

I feel privileged to add my story to the long list of women who will feel forever associated with the Ban Righ Centre (BRC). Like many of us, I did not come to the BRC at the restart of my academic journey. When I reflect on why it took me until my last year on campus (year 5 of my PhD in Environmental Studies) to make this homey environment my go-to place, the answer is two-fold. One, based on my upbringing, strength and independence are equated with “making it on your own” which also means that reaching out and seeking assistance is a slow process for me. Two - and this is a rather surprising

self-discovery - feeling “special” as a woman has been a somewhat foreign concept for me, perhaps because that status is not always equated with the most positive experiences. But here I am, catching the morning breeze through the window while sipping on a coffee with the comforting sound of one of my fellow students preparing a delicious lunch in the kitchen as background noise. So how did I get here?

Born and raised in Germany, I went to the U.S. more than 30 years ago where I completed undergraduate work as well as a M.Sc. in Education while becoming a freelance translator of historic documents. A convoluted path led me to Canada in 2004 where I “repotted” myself by starting a career in a new field with a Master of Environmental Studies from Queen’s, a steppingstone to becoming a public servant. My dream to pursue a PhD became reality in 2018. A seemingly life-long student, filled with enthusiasm for my original research project, little could stand in the way of successful completion, or so I thought. But life happened. When my frustration with my degree work and the desire to quit the program hit an all-time high last year, I made my way to the BRC. Once I crossed the threshold, life changed! There are many whose journeys will not be shared in public, but some have been shared with me. When I graduate next year, it will be because I was able to stand on the shoulders of giants (the founders and donors), was inspired by the many courageous women who shared this space and their stories with me, and because of the warm-hearted and fiercely protective BRC staff who act as a powerful anchor when life sets us adrift and threatens to let us go off course.



photo of Corinna Dally-Starna

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? 50th Anniversary Edition

We are reaching out to alumnae of the Ban Righ Centre as the Centre's 50th Anniversary is the perfect opportunity to highlight and celebrate 50 of our former students and their successes after graduation.

If you were ever a student who enjoyed the supports and community offered by the Ban Righ Centre, we invite you to participate in our 'Where Are They Now?' 50th Anniversary Edition Poster Series. Submissions should include:

- a hi-resolution photo (one that shows you at work would be wonderful!)
- a few sentences about your time at or connection with the Ban Righ Centre or reflections, the program and year you graduated from Queen's, and a little about what you have moved on to including your job title. The posters will be made public at several events throughout the 50th Anniversary year.

We would LOVE to hear from you and to have you as part of this project.

Thank you for considering this request. We are looking forward to the next chapter (another 50 years!) in this amazing place!

Agnieszka Chalas

Assistant Professor,
Museum Studies, University
of Toronto



Atefe Azizi

Senior Engineer

Lisa Binkley

Assistant Professor,
Dalhousie University



Sara Forte

Mediator, Lawyer &
Entrepreneur

Valeria Li

Senior Risk Analyst,
Brookfield Renewable



Dr. Sana Tibi

Associate Professor,
Florida State University



Dr. Kristin Finkenzeller

M.D., Department of
Obstetrics & Gynaecology,
Queen's University



WHO IS SHE?

Who is the special woman in your life?

Whose well-timed act of kindness will you never forget? Who saw you through a difficult time, gave you a lift up, or some sage advice? She helped you when you needed her; she had your back, and today you are stronger, wiser, and more hopeful because of her.

In anticipation of our 50th anniversary next year, we are launching our *"Who is She?"* fundraising and outreach campaign this fall.

The campaign will give everyone an opportunity to honour the important women in their lives and to support the work we do at the Ban Righ Centre.

We will be sending invitations to participate soon - we hope you will join us in celebrating the marvelous women who have made a difference in all of our lives!



IN MEMORY

The Ban Righ Centre bids a fond farewell to friends of the Centre.



Jane Kaduck
1933-2023



Molly Higginson
1944-2023



Lucinda Bray
1947-2023



Janice Sutton
1934-2023



Catherine Carter
1942-2023

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



photo of Thandi Nkole

I'm Thandi Nkole, and I am passionate about effecting change and creating opportunities, particularly for youth and women through promoting access to quality education, social services, and resources for capacity-building. I have a background in STEM and process improvement, and I currently work as the Industry and Student Engagement Specialist in the Faculty of Engineering, Corporate Relations.

In 2016, I enrolled in a professional master's program in Healthcare Quality here at Queens' University. Those two years felt like a whirlwind, juggling studies

and supporting my young family. The Ban Righ Centre was a breath of fresh air – a home filled with the comforting scent of freshly cooked soup and the sounds of laughter. I'm grateful for the supportive environment where I could recharge, find encouragement, and connect with fellow women experiencing similar phases in their career journey. I was on the receiving end of an opportunity crafted by past visionary women students who looked beyond what their eyes could see. When the call for new board members came, I applied because I wanted to contribute to this cause.

As a Ban Righ board member, I am always excited to learn from and collaborate with extraordinary women from diverse backgrounds, and together, like the women before us, we continue to shape the future by supporting and advocating for mature women students and student mothers.

WHO WE ARE and WHAT WE DO


The Ban Righ Centre relies on a team of experienced staff to provide supports and services to mature women students at Queen's. It takes creativity, time, and dedication to stay connected with our students. We provide one-on-one student advising both in person and virtually, offer quiet study spaces, and student-centred programming including a daily lunch, professional development activities, and more.

Ban Righ Centre Staff

- Susan Belyea - Director
- Lisa Webb - Student Advisor & Program Planner
- Taylor Cenac - Student Advisor & Program Coordinator
- Nikisha Grant Ridley - BRC Assistant

STAYING IN TOUCH

There are many ways to find out what is going on at the Ban Righ Centre. We regularly post about upcoming events on Facebook, Instagram, and our website. If you are in Kingston, we welcome visitors to the Centre.

 queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre

 instagram.com/banrighcentre

 fb.com/TheBanRighCentre

 youtube.com/@banrighcentre

 twitter.com/banrighcentre



BAN RIGH CENTRE

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Ban Righ Foundation Board of Directors 2023-24

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