



# CELEBRATING ALL TOGETHER

Join us as this year we combine our Student Spring Awards under the banner of Inspiring Women - after all, some of the most inspiring women we know are the students who pass through our doors!

The Student Spring Awards honour the determination and success of mature women students at Queen's. Thirteen students will receive awards that have been established by supporters whose generous gifts allow the Ban Righ Foundation to continue this tradition of honouring students.

The Ban Righ Foundation has hosted the Inspiring Women Awards since 2016. Women are nominated in two categories - the Ban Righ Foundation Mentorship award, which goes to a Queen's faculty member, and the Ban Righ Foundation Leadership Award, which goes to a community leader.

Drawing on the talents and experiences of women students, alumni, supporters and friends, these events have featured music, poetry, panel discussions and impassioned keynote addresses. For two years we hosted the event virtually - this year we are excited to return to a live event at the gorgeous Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

## BAN RIGH FOUNDATION INSPIRING WOMEN 2023 AN EVENING AT THE ISABEL

Thursday April 27  
7:00pm

Isabel Bader Centre for the  
Performing Arts

Recognizing outstanding women from Queen's and the Kingston Community and honouring the hard work and determination of mature women students



Admission to this Event is Free  
Please Register to attend

[inspiring-women2023.eventbrite.com](https://inspiring-women2023.eventbrite.com)



Awards will be presented at the  
Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts at

## Inspiring Women 2023: An Evening at the Isabel

Join us on Thursday April 27, 2023 at 7 pm



Can't attend in person? The event will be streamed live at  
[www.isabeldigitalconcerthall.queensu.ca](http://www.isabeldigitalconcerthall.queensu.ca)  
(scroll down to upcoming live streams)

## THIS YEAR'S INSPIRING WOMEN



### Dr. Sara Nabil - Mentorship Award

Dr. Nabil is an Assistant Professor of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and Interaction Design at the School of Computing at Queen's and the founder and director of the iStudio Research Laboratory. Her great passion for interior design colours her research and drives her innovative work on smart homes and interactive furniture. Her work supports the quality of life of marginalized groups including refugees and people with physical disabilities. In Dr. Nabil's vibrant studio-like laboratory, her research group celebrates cultural and gender diversity, which empowers more women and visible minority students to advance in STEM fields.

Dr. Nabil's nominations letters described her attention to the "whole student". She helps women students find their voice in a complex technical field - opening new doors to the world of computing. Her students feel seen as individuals and supported to do excellent professional work as scholars and technicians.

*"She dedicates time for 1-on-1 coaching for students, particularly women, apart from supervisory meetings. She tailors her coaching and mentorship to their specific needs, gives generous advice, or simply devotes that time for listening to their thoughts and/or challenges. She's truly committed to creating a safe, accepting environment."*

### Yasmine Djerbal - Leadership Award

Yasmine Djerbal is first a daughter, a sister, an auntie, and a friend. She works as an Educational Developer in anti-racist pedagogies and inclusion at the Centre for Teaching and Learning at Queen's. Yasmine is a community organizer committed to social justice and social change. She has been involved with various organizations including the Reelout Queer Film Festival, OPIRG Kingston, the Levana Gender Advocacy Centre, and the Mutual Aid Kingston Garden Network. She is the co-founder of Roots & Wings, an organization aimed at girl, trans, and gender-non-conforming youth of colour. She first came to Canada as an international student from Algeria a little over 10 years ago and holds an MA in Gender Studies and a PhD in Cultural Studies from Queen's.



Yasmine was nominated by a diverse group of colleagues and friends on campus and in the community. The nomination letters noted the broad impact she has made in many grass-roots community initiatives in Kingston as well as the work she has done over the years in making Queen's campus a safer and more inclusive place for so all.

*"Yasmine does everything she does in service of others. She is always promoting other people's strengths and abilities, helping people connect to new opportunities. Yasmine is a woman who inspires because she recognizes the inspiring qualities of others"*

## ACTIVITY AT THE CENTRE

### Thanksgiving 2022

In October, the Ban Righ Centre offered students a change from our usual soup. A Thanksgiving meal, complete with all the fixings, was enjoyed by 25 students.

There is a lot to be grateful for - and good food is right up there!



### Winter Bazaar 2022

After a 2 year hiatus, the Ban Righ Foundation hosted its Winter Bazaar at the Centre on December 8th. The children were excited to "shop" for their family members and help wrap the gifts.

The parents had the chance to connect with one another while enjoying a meal at the end of a busy semester.

*"I wanted to thank you all for the wonderful gifts you gave me at the Christmas Bazaar, lots of treats that I continue to enjoy and to tell you how thrilled Elsie-Mae was to give out her personally purchased and wrapped gifts to the family. It was something I have helped her with previously, but there was a whole other level of independence and pride in her giving this year, it was very precious, and it all came out of your generosity!"*

-Sarah Walker



### Partnering with An Clachan

The Ban Righ Centre has co-hosted several evening events with women students from An Clachan, a university-owned complex providing housing for students and their families. The evenings revolve around food (of course) and activities for women and their kids. With many mature women students living in An Clachan, it's a natural partnership for the Ban Righ Centre. These events help us reach more students from all across Campus.



## Soup Lunches

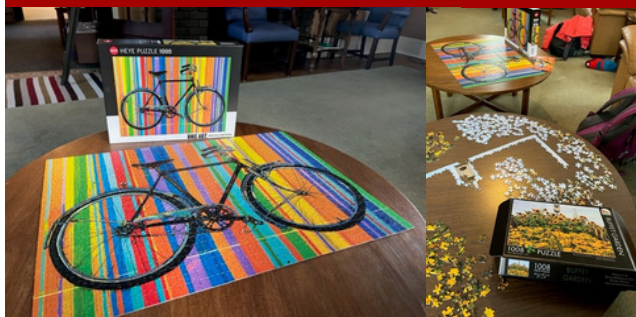
Our soup lunches continue to be the busiest time of the Ban Righ Centre day. Thanks to a talented team of student staff and the occasional Guest Chef, we are able to provide nutritious and delicious meals free for students daily. Sharing food is a wonderful way to take a break, connect with friends, and re-fuel for a busy life.



## Front Lawn Concerts



In October we hosted a free lunchtime Front Lawn concert with local musician, Emilie Steele. It was a hit with our students and with everyone who passed by, and we hope to do more of these when the weather permits.



## Lounging Around

Sometimes students just need a moment to relax during their busy days. We put jigsaw puzzles out in the lounge for all to enjoy.

## WOMEN OF BRC

**Saskia De Wildt**

### PhD Environmental Studies

In my PhD research, I use artistic practice and aesthetic action to explore what affective change towards an ethical space, process and practice of engagement can be established between western and Inuit knowledge in polar bear research and management. The Ban Righ Centre really made a difference for me over the years. As an international PhD student from the Netherlands, BRC started off being a nice workspace with great soup and a place to connect with people. Six months into my program Covid-19 began and, like many others, it really uprooted me, even more than I already was! With lots of travelling back and forth between the

Netherlands, Ontario and Nunavut over the last years the BRC has been a constant in an otherwise very irregular existence. Every once in a while I would get a personal check-in from Lisa or Susan, really lowering the threshold for me to reach out at moments when I could use some advice or help of any kind even after not having seen any of them in person in months.



Saskia/Vinny von Vinci in Gjoa Haven, Nunavut

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The other thing that the BRC really did for me, was to facilitate a bridge between academia and my drag (see @vinnyvonvinci). Being invited as a speaker to their fireside chat in early 2020 must have sown the first seeds for me to eventually include drag as a method in my research. It's really impressive, and I am grateful, for how the Centre manages to create a sense of care and community... even in times like these.

## A BIG THANK YOU!

We want to thank everyone who has donated so generously over this past year. Getting back on our feet for in-person activities this year has been exciting but challenging. With cost of living increases, particularly in food and housing, student need is higher than ever, adding to the stresses of managing academic and personal life. We are delighted that we get to meet many new and returning students who come through our doors every day seeking the various kinds of support we offer.

People form the heart of the Ban Righ Centre. We remain committed to a high-quality, individualized approach to student advising and programming. This takes staff time and care, and many of you acknowledge that through your estate planning, pledges, and regular gifts to the Foundation.

Your contributions help us to continue in our work to help mature women students at Queen's achieve their academic and personal goals. We really couldn't do it without you.

On behalf of everyone at the Ban Righ, thank you.

Susan Belyea, Director, The Ban Righ Centre

Donations can be made through our website at

[queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre/donate/making-gift](https://queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre/donate/making-gift)

or mail a cheque made out to Queen's University (Ban Righ Centre) to:

Queen's University  
Gift Services  
Old Medical Building  
99 University Avenue  
Kingston, ON K7L 3N6

## A TIMELY GIFT



Each fall we try to help students with winter clothing. This year, Claude Chapdelaine (ArtSci '64), a long-time supporter of the Centre and its students, offered \$3000 to help women buy winter clothing for their families.

*"When I heard of the pressing need for winter clothes, it tugged at my heart," says Chapdelaine. "I am so happy to hear that my contribution had a snowball effect".*

Chapdelaine's donation was matched by the Estate of Larry Gibson and individual donations from Kingston community members and several Queen's University faculty and staff. In total, the Ban Righ Centre received \$6,500 to distribute to 23 students with 42 children. We were able to provide each student with \$100 each, as well as another \$100 for each child. We distributed these funds as small "surprise" bursaries at the end of the term.

## STAFF PROFILE

### Taylor Cenac

The Ban Righ Centre is thrilled to welcome Taylor Cenac to the team as Student Advisor and Program Coordinator. Taylor is no stranger to Queen's or to the Ban Righ Centre. She holds a BAH in Women and Gender Studies (University of Toronto), and a Masters degree in Gender Studies (Queen's University), as well as a Social Service Worker diploma (St. Lawrence College). Taylor is committed to engaging with students with warmth and enthusiasm to assist them in all aspects of their time at Queen's. She joined us in January, and is a great addition to the Ban Righ team. Taylor has worked with marginalized and underrepresented groups in Kingston and is devoted to social justice work both professionally and in the community. In addition to her work at the Ban Righ Centre, she continues to be active in community initiatives.



## 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.

### Ban Righ Centre Staff

Susan Belyea: Director

Lisa Webb: Student Advisor & Program Planner

Taylor Cenac: Student Advisor & Program Coordinator

Nikisha Grant Ridley: BRC Assistant

### Ban Righ Foundation Board of Directors 2022-2023

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Lisa Webb  
Taylor Cenac

## STAYING IN TOUCH

There are many ways to find out what is going on at the Ban Righ Centre. Our website has a whole new look, and we regularly post about upcoming events on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If you are in Kingston, we welcome visitors to the Centre.



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STUDENT AFFAIRS  
BAN RIGH CENTRE