

2021 – 2022 QUAA Board of Directors



Rico Garcia, Artsci'13
President, QUAA

Born in Monterrey, Mexico, Rico moved to Canada in 2009 to attend Queen's (he was lucky to have witnessed the Gaels win the Vanier Cup in his first year). At Queen's, Rico studied Applied Economics and Global Development Studies, lived in five different residences, worked as a Residence Don, and loved to get involved (particularly in student government).

A past recipient of the QUAA Outstanding Student Award and the Tricolour Award, Rico loves volunteering for Queen's and sharing his passion for his alma mater with his younger brother

Max. Rico has served on the QUAA Board since 2014, first as Director of QUAA Awards, later as Director of Alumni Volunteer Summit, and more recently as EVP Operations.

Rico currently resides in Toronto, where he works as an Engagement Manager with McKinsey & Company. He also holds a Masters of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and enjoys running outside and cheering for the Denver Broncos when he's not volunteering for Queen's.



Leigh Kalin, Artsci'92
Ex-Officio, Associate VP (Alumni Relations & Annual Giving)

Before her role as Acting Associate Vice-Principal (Alumni Relations and Annual Giving), Leigh was a member of Queen's Office of Advancement executive team and played a leadership role in the university's successful Initiative Campaign. Leigh was a key strategist and major gift fundraiser (leading the central development team) directly contributing to the \$640M Queen's Initiative Campaign.

During her six years at the University of Toronto, Leigh was involved in the \$1B Great Minds Campaign — the largest campaign in Canadian history at that time — and subsequently serving as a major gifts officer at Upper Canada College.

She holds a BAH, Political Science, Queen's University, 1992.



Colin McLeod, Artsci'10
Executive Vice-President, Operations

Colin was born in Cornwall, ON and graduated from Queen's with a BAH in Political Studies. During his time at Queen's, Colin was a Senior Peer Advisor at the Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (S.O.A.R.), Head Manager of the AMS Walkhome Service, and President of the Queen's Student Alumni Association (QSAA).

After graduation, Colin moved to Ottawa and completed a Master's of Arts in Public Administration at Carleton University. He also got involved with the Ottawa Alumni Branch and founded the Branch's Young Alumni Committee.

Colin currently works at Global Affairs Canada, where he works on economic sanctions policy. Colin is happiest when hanging out with his wife, Laura (Artsci'10, MPA '11) and Portuguese water dog, Alfie.

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Lisa Hood, ArtSci'04

Executive Vice-President, Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition

Lisa graduated from Queen's Faculty of Arts and Science in 2004 with a degree in biology and psychology. Although she loved her research experience at the Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS) it was her work as a student caller at Queen's Telefundraising Services and co-chair of the 2004 ThankQ program that led to her career.

Lisa worked for Queen's Annual Giving for six years, managing Queen's Telemarketing Students and then in the Faculty of Applied Science. During this time EngSoc honoured her with the Golden Pillar Award and made her an honorary member of EngSoc. In 2009 Lisa assumed the role of Associate Director, Annual Fund for the University of Guelph where she oversees a team responsible for raising approximately \$5M annually. At U of G, Lisa completed her Masters in Leadership, earning Dean's Honour recognition for her research on employee retention in the nonprofit sector, and in 2014 was named to Guelph's Top 40 Under 40.

During her free time, Lisa mostly chases her two young children around. She is an active volunteer within her industry, as well as her community, and, of course, for Queen's (University Councillor and ArtSci'04 Class Giving Chair). She is a proud member of the [Grant Hall Society](#) and the [Royal Legacy Society](#).



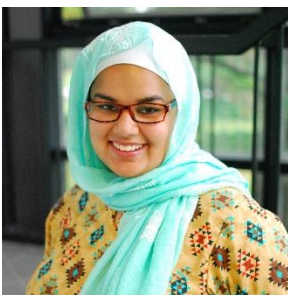
Yinka Adegbusi, ArtSci'13

Director, Alumni Constituency Groups

Yinka graduated from Queen's in 2013 with dual degrees in Physics and Mathematics. During her time at Queen's, she was actively involved in student groups activities, including being the president of Queen's University Chamber Choir (now known as Queen's University Chorus) for three consecutive years. She was also a founding member of Queen's Black Academic Society, and Queen's Black History Month (now known as Kingston Black History Month), where she served as an executive on both organizations consecutively.

Yinka is passionate about giving back, particularly to youth empowerment causes, her reason for co-founding and chairing the Queen's Black Alumni Chapter to effectively connect self-identified black students and recent graduates to the alumni community. She is also a foodie with an affinity for photography and minimalist design.

Yinka currently works for KPMG Canada as a Market Insights Manager, where she leverages data analytics to provide insights that enable business leaders to make data-driven business decisions.



Tuba Chishti, ArtSci'15

Director, Alumni Volunteer Summit

Tuba was born in India, grew up in Saudi Arabia and Canada. During her time at Queen's, Tuba spent way more time broadening her out of classroom experiences- usually in student government, but eventually graduated in 2015 with a BAH in Economics, and a minor in Biochemistry.

After Queen's, she stumbled into the professional side of working at a post-secondary institution and took her first job at the University of British Columbia, and then at the University of Guelph. Currently, Tuba is happily working in Toronto at Humber College with college and university residents helping them transition into post-secondary environments, build resilience, and take responsibility for their actions. She often jokes that she is slowly making her way eastward bound back to Kingston.

During her free time, Tuba is usually at a park with her many cousins' babies, reading a book, or catching up on Netflix.

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Jasmit Kaur, Artsci'17
Director, Young Alumni

Born in Belgium, Jasmit moved to Canada in sixth grade. At Queen's she studied Political Studies, with a focus on international relations. Jasmit was actively involved on campus in her time at Queen's. She most values her experiences as a bhangra dancer with the Queen's Indian Students' Association and her work with the Queen's Student Alumni Association (QSAA). Serving as QSAA President in her final year fostered a lifelong love for the Queen's community.

After graduating, Jasmit spent a year working as a Parliamentary Assistant in the Senate. She is now at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, fulfilling her lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer. She very happily spends most of her time at the Bora Laskin Law Library, with her books. She spent a summer working at the Johannesburg Labour Court pro bono clinic, getting a taste for the international human rights work she hopes to do long-term. After graduating, Jasmit will spend a year clerking at the Court of Appeal for Ontario before moving to New York City to start work at Sullivan and Cromwell LLP.

In her free time Jasmit can be found with family, at a dance class or engrossed in a book.



Jackie Lewis, Artsci'11
Director, Special Projects

Jackie's first day on Queen's University campus was when she arrived for frosh week and she has been a supporter since that first day. She graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) with a major in history and a minor in art history. During her time on campus she worked as a Telefundraiser in Queen's Call Centre, volunteered as co-chair of Queen's Foreign Policy Conference, and spent a spring semester at the Bader International Study Centre.

After her time at Queen's, Jackie completed a post-graduate certificate in Fundraising and Volunteer Management at Humber College. She also completed her Masters of Business Administration while working at the University of Calgary.

Jackie was involved with the Toronto Branch as Director of Volunteers and later in Calgary as the Director of Events and Branch President. She had the good fortune to attend many signature events including Annual Dinners hosted by Kim Sturgess (Sci'71) and Johnson Awards. She also worked alongside volunteers to launch new events such as the Disrupt YYC speakers' panel.

She returned to Ontario in 2020 with her husband, Stephen Jackson, Sc'11, and is working as an Associate Consultant with the Offord Group in Toronto.



Allan McGavin, Com'08, Law'12
Director, Global Branch Network

Allan spent eight wonderful years at Queen's, graduating from Commerce in 2008 and then from Law in 2012 (with a bonus year in between). While at Queen's, Allan was active with the Queen's Rugby Football Club, the Queen's Law Rugby Club, and the Queen's Business Law Clinic.

Following his return to Vancouver, Allan started volunteering with the Vancouver Branch of the QUAA, first as an executive member and then as President from 2015-2019. Allan was proud to receive the [Marsha Lampman Award](#) for his work developing the Vancouver Branch.

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Allan currently works as a business lawyer at the law firm Farris LLP in downtown Vancouver, advising owners, directors, and executives of companies (both public and private) across a variety of industries. Outside of work, Allan also volunteers with the BC SPCA and the alumni board of St. George's School.



Kathy Owen, Arts'67
Director, Alumni Awards

Kathy graduated from Queen's in 1966 with a degree in English and French, after which she embarked on a career as a teacher. During the 70s she was involved in local Queen's Alumni branches in Orillia and Toronto. After her retirement as a secondary school principal in 2008, Kathy again looked to Queen's Alumni for volunteer opportunities. For seven years she chaired the Events Committee for the Toronto Branch, a committee whose purpose was to provide engaging activities and speakers for the wide demographic in the Toronto area.

A recent recipient of the Herbert J. Hamilton Volunteer Service Award, Kathy is enjoying her role on the QUAA Board. When she is not volunteering for Queen's, she can be found volunteering as a member of her condo's Board of Directors; travelling with her husband, Bob (Arts'66, Law'68); or enjoying the pursuits of her three grandchildren.



Julia Reid, Artsci'08
Director, Marketing & Communications

After graduation in 2008 Julia moved to London, England and attended Queen's Alumni Branch events to meet people and make friends. She met a young chap named James, Artsci'04, and recently they married and now have a daughter.

While a student at Queen's Julia majored in English Literature and studied at the Bader International Study Centre in her first year. Back on campus in Kingston she was a member of the Women's Empowerment Committee, Queen's Model UN and Students Taking Responsible Initiatives for a Viable Environment.

Julia has been part of the Queen's Alumni branch in New York City (Past President) and still works closely with the branch exec team helping to engage local alumni. She currently serves as the Artsci'08 Reunion Coordinator and is an elected member of University Council. Julia is a past recipient of the [QUAA Rising Star Award](#).

Julia has over 9 years of marketing and communications experience working with digital and social media marketing agencies as well as with PR and management consultancies in London and New York. Julia and James have two daughters. Julia and her family love to travel, ski and enjoy meeting other Queen's alumni in NY.



Allison Williams, Artsci '09
Director, Alumni Giving

Allison graduated from Queen's with a BAH in Political Studies in 2009, before completing her MA in Political Science at the University of Toronto in 2011 and her JD at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University in 2015. At Queen's, Allison held various student leadership roles, including serving as Social Issues Commissioner for the AMS, residence don at Jean Royce Hall on West Campus, and as the inaugural President of the Queen's Student Alumni Association (formerly known as the Student Team on Alumni Relations). As a result of the depth and breadth of her extracurricular involvement, Allison was honoured with the Agnes Benedickson

Tricolour Award upon graduation.

After graduation, Allison worked at Summerhill for a year, as a TD Meloche Monnex Fellow in Alumni Relations. She is a former Toronto Branch volunteer, and she remains a loyal and proud annual donor to Queen's.

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Allison currently remains living in Toronto where she works as a staff lawyer at Justice for Children and Youth a non-profit legal aid clinic providing direct legal representation to children under the age of 18 and homeless youth under the age of 25.



Irene Wood, Artsci'79
Director-at-Large, Reunion Coordinator

Irene was born and raised in Bowmanville, ON and graduated from Queen's in 1978 with a BA in French and German literature. While at Queen's, Irene was involved with the Women's Residence Council, intramural basketball and Queen's Bands as a majorette.

Since graduation Irene has been part of local Queen's Alumni branches in Hamilton, Toronto (Past President) and now Hamilton-Halton and is always decked out in her tricolour wardrobe at all Queen's events. She currently serves as the Artsci'79 Reunion Coordinator. Irene is a proud member of Queen's Royal Legacy Society and a supporter of her class bursary.

Currently, Irene works in the Office of the Mayor for the City of Hamilton and previously has enjoyed a 30 year career in administrative, marketing and project management in both the public and private sectors. Irene loves to be engaged in her community and volunteers with the Art Gallery of Burlington, as well as being actively involved in municipal, provincial and federal politics.

Besides tennis in the summer and curling in the winter, Irene and her husband, John, have embraced a new chapter in their lives with the birth of their first grandchild, Archer - a future Queen's grad.