

2026-27

Queen's University Alumni Association (QUAA) Board of Directors



Allison Williams, Artsci'09
QUAA President, Chair of the Board of Directors

Allison Williams is a lawyer at one of the province of Ontario's specialty community legal clinics, Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY). Originally from small-town Northwestern Ontario, Allison threw herself into student life while attending Queen's. She obtained an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies with a minor in Women's Studies (2009); however is most proud of being honoured with the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award upon convocation for her distinguished service to the University in non-academic extracurricular activities. Allison went on to obtain her Masters of Arts from the University of Toronto (2011), before getting her Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School (2015). Allison was called to the Ontario bar in 2016. Prior to taking up the QUAA President's role, Allison served for four years as the QUAA Board's Director of Giving, promoting alumni philanthropy and giving through Queen's.



Akin Akinsipe, MBA'19
Director, Co-Chair – Alumni Giving Committee

Akin is a commercial leader at Shell, where he focuses on operations, strategy, and leading large teams across complex environments in the energy sector. Based in Calgary, he brings extensive experience in managing risk, driving performance, and delivering results in dynamic and evolving markets.

Akin holds an MBA from Queen's University and has been actively involved with the alumni community for several years. He most recently served as President of the Calgary chapter, where he focused on strengthening alumni engagement and building a more connected and vibrant local network.

Beyond his professional role, Akin is actively involved in mentorship and community initiatives, supporting the development of students and early-career professionals through various organizations. Akin brings a combination of corporate leadership, community-building experience, and a strategic perspective to the Queen's University Alumni Association Board of

Directors. He is passionate about fostering strong alumni connections and supporting the long-term impact of the Queen's community.



Angela Xu, Com'22
Director

Angela is a first-year MBA student at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Prior to Stanford, she worked in management consulting at Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Bain & Company, advising clients across consumer, financial services, and other industries on strategy and transformation.

Angela graduated from Queen's University's Smith School of Business with a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in 2022. During her time at Queen's, she received several awards and scholarships recognizing her leadership and contributions to the community. She was actively involved with the Queen's Consulting Association, FreshSight Pro-bono Consulting, Smith Commerce Society, and QHacks, and also completed a semester abroad in Hong Kong.

Angela is passionate about community building and mentorship. In addition to serving on the Queen's University Alumni Association Board of Directors, she has served on the Board of the Junior League of Toronto and volunteered as a mentor supporting newcomer youth.

Outside of work and school, Angela enjoys HIIT workouts, karaoke nights, travelling, and exploring new restaurants.



Carolyn Desrosiers, Artsci'06
Director, Co-Chair – Alumni Recognition Committee

Carolyn is a Chief of Staff and operations transformation leader currently working in the health care industry. She has worked in a variety of industries including health, real estate, retail and tech, ranging from Fortune 500 companies to start-ups. Her work includes designing organizational structures, leading change management initiatives, establishing global teams, overseeing project management offices, and mobilizing leadership teams.

Carolyn resides in Utah with her husband and children. She formed the Queen's Alumni Utah Branch in 2023 in an effort to connect with other alumni based in the state. She is also a mentor in the Queen's Alumni Mentorship Initiative and is passionate about encouraging other alumni to mentor current undergraduate students.

Carolyn enjoys the outdoor lifestyle that the Utah mountains provide. She regularly hikes, skis and competes in triathlons.



Cheryl Carver, MIR'89
Director

Cheryl has over 30 years of combined Human Resources leadership and consulting experience. She prides herself on creating and maintaining strong working relationships with all organizational stakeholders to provide solutions to meet their unique challenges now and into the future. Cheryl currently works as a Consultant for Leduc Consulting, where she provides expert advice and guidance on various human resources topics. Before joining Leduc Consulting, Cheryl spent 18 years at the University of Saskatchewan in various leadership positions, most recently as the Associate Vice-President of People and Resources.

Her areas of expertise include labour relations and collective bargaining, total rewards strategy development, shared services delivery models, strategy and governance oversight, leadership development, and diversity and inclusion. She has both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Masters of Industrial Relations Degree as well as holds a Certified Professional Human Resources designation.

Cheryl has served as a director on numerous boards including the Remai Modern, Cape Breton University, Out Saskatoon and Tamara's House Women's Shelter. Today she resides in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan with her wife Annie and their 11 year old son Liam.



Galvin Niu, Sc'19
Director, Co-Chair - Alumni Giving Committee

Galvin graduated from Queen's with an Electrical Engineering degree in 2019 with a specialization in the innovation stream. He was part of the inaugural class. During his time at Queen's, Galvin was involved in a number of clubs. Starting as a first-year representative at the engineering society council. And then holding roles such as the engineering external relations committee chair, and Queen's Global Innovation Conference Co-chair.

After graduation, Galvin did a 6-week backpacking trip before moving to Toronto for his full-time job with IBM. His professional career has allowed him to fine-tune his communication, long-term strategy, event planning, and relationship management skills. Ensuring the success of the portfolio.

With roots in Manitoba, Galvin loves the outdoors. When he's not working or helping out others, he can be found enjoying nature.



Gareth Gibbins, Com'00, MIR'01, LLB'04
Director

Gareth is an international pension and policy expert with over two decades of experience across governance, regulation, and system design. He is the founder and principal of The Pension Forge, the Lead of the PCE Lab at the National Institute on Ageing's (NIA) Pension Centre of Excellence, and the creator of The Social Yield.

Holding three Queen's degrees, a BCom (2000), MIR (2001), and LLB (2004), his eight year academic journey shaped both his professional foundation and his enduring connection to the university community.

An Associate Fellow at NIA, Gareth is active in leading international pension bodies and speaks widely on pension issues at home and abroad. He is also a passionate advocate for neurodiversity in the workplace, inspired by his two sons on the autism spectrum, and has led grassroots programs to advance inclusion in professional environments.



Julie Nixon, Com'99
Director

Originally from Ottawa, ON, Julie is a Com'99 graduate, alumna of Bader College (1998), and longtime President of the Queen's Alumni Portland Branch. After her time at Queen's, Julie ventured to Toronto, London, and New York where her experience included brand management for Kraft Foods (Kraft Dinner, Kool-Aid) and Scotch whisky maker William Grant & Sons (Glenfiddich, The Balvenie).

A resident of Portland, Oregon since 2008, Julie lives with her daughter Mirabelle, and dog Oskar in the city's vibrant south east side. As Director, Business Development, Exports for Dairy West, she has worked in agriculture for the last 10+ years, and now builds trust and sales for local Northwest USA dairy foods, ingredients, and commodity products in global markets.

In her spare time, Julie is Founder and Past President of CISV Portland, a volunteer-run non-profit that provides cross-cultural peace education to youth ages 11 and up. She can often be found hovering over the cheese tray at social gatherings.



Kelly McKinley, Artsci'91

Director, Co-Chair – Alumni Outreach and Volunteer Engagement Committee

Three years as a docent at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre was how she caught the museum bug! Fast forward 35 years, Kelly McKinley is the CEO of the Bay Area Discovery Museum, a children's museum at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge in Sausalito, California. She previously served as Deputy Director of the Oakland Museum of California where she oversaw collections, conservation, curatorial, interpretation, exhibition design and production, and evaluation and visitor research. Other professional roles have included Executive Director of Education and Public Programming at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, Canada, and senior roles at Bruce Mau Design in Toronto and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.

Kelly has lectured internationally on museum leadership and taught in the graduate museum studies programs at the University Toronto, Bank Street College in New York, the University of San Francisco, and the graduate curatorial studies and criticism program at the Ontario College of Art and Design University in Toronto. She has served on the board of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the Museum Education Roundtable and EdCom (the AAM professional network for museum educators) and the editorial board of *Curator: The Museum Journal*. Current board service includes the Association of Children's Museums and First Five Marin. Her writing and work has been featured in recent publications including *What is a Museum: Perspectives from National and International Museum Leaders* (eds. Quinn and Peña Gutiérrez for ICOM-US); *The Inclusive Museum Leader* (eds. Catlin-Legutko and Taylor, 2021) and *Museums Involving Communities: Authentic Connections* (Kadoyama, 2018). Along with David Wistow, she is the co-author of the bestselling children's book *Meet the Group of Seven* (1999).

Along with her husband John Stewart (Queen's BSc Mech Eng '90 and MSc '95), Kelly is a resident of San Francisco. She received a BAH in Art History and French from Queen's University in 1991, and a Master of Museum Studies from the University of Toronto in 1993.



Nicolas Brassett Duque, Artsci'25

Director

Nicolas Brassett Duque is a graduate of Queen's University with a strong interdisciplinary focus on technology, leadership, and community engagement. A trilingual professional fluent in English, Spanish, and French, Nicolas brings a global perspective shaped by extensive international experience, having traveled to more than 25 countries.

During his time at Queen's, Nicolas demonstrated a strong commitment to student leadership and community building, with a particular focus on advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion. He

is the founder of both the Queen's Latino Engineering Club and QHOPE (Queen's Hispanic Organization for Pre-Medical Education), initiatives aimed at fostering representation, professional development, and community among Latino students across STEM and health-related fields. He also mentored the Lawtonica team, which went on to win the 2025 Mayor's Innovation Prize, highlighting his ability to support high-impact student innovation. Nicolas has a growing background in entrepreneurship and emerging technologies, with a focus on artificial intelligence and its applications across industries. He is passionate about leveraging innovation to drive meaningful impact and expand access to opportunity.

As a member of the Queen's University Alumni Association Board, Nicolas is committed to strengthening alumni engagement, supporting student success, and contributing to a more inclusive and globally connected Queen's community.



Stacy Kelly, Artsci'93
Director, Co-Chair – Alumni Recognition Committee

A non-profit executive with over 25 years of experience in fundraising, development, and management, Stacy Kelly was born in Ottawa, and raised in the Outaouais region of Quebec. He earned a BA (Hons) in Philosophy from Queen's University and holds the Master Financial Advisor in Philanthropy (MFA-P™), a specialized Canadian professional designation that equips philanthropic advisors with the expertise to help clients align their wealth with their personal values through tax-efficient strategic legacy and charitable giving plans. Stacy began his leadership adventures in retail management at Trailhead Kingston, and then entered the charitable sector, rising through progressive roles at Queen's University, OCAD University, and The 519 (a City of Toronto agency) before enthusiastically returning to Kingston in 2022 to become the executive director of the Community Foundation.

Dedicated to community service, Stacy was the founding artistic director of Aylmer Youth Theatre (Quebec) and founding director of ASUS Camps (Queen's). He was also a director of Kingston Student Housing Cooperative, Progressive Independent Community Press Inc., Drop-in Centre Kingston, Inc., and was a member of the organizing committee of Queen's University Association for Queer Employees. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Queen's University Alumni Association, is co-founder and president of Queen's Queer Alumni Chapter, is a global mentor with Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre, is on the executive of the Kingston Estate Planning Council, and is a member of the Program Advisory Committee for the new Bachelor of Commerce: Social Innovation at St. Lawrence College.

Stacy has been recognized with an *Ontario Volunteer Service Award* from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (2017), the *Herbert J. Hamilton Volunteer Service Award* from the Queen's

University Alumni Association (2019), and the *Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award* from the Association of Fundraising Professionals South Eastern Ontario Chapter (2024).

Stacy lives in Kingston with his husband, Mark Julien, who is a writer and illustrator.



Tamanna Chauhan, MIB'23
Director

Tamanna is a graduate of the Master's program in International Business from Smith School of Business. Beyond her professional role as a Senior Consultant at KPMG Canada, Tamanna is deeply passionate about networking and community building. She actively engages in coffee chats and informal mentorship conversations, viewing them as both an opportunity to learn from others and to support individuals earlier in their professional journeys.

Having personally experienced the impact of mentorship and alumni support during her transition as an international student, Tamanna is committed to giving back to the Queen's community in a meaningful and intentional way. She values the role of alumni in creating a strong support system that extends beyond graduation and across geographies.

She is particularly interested in fostering stronger connections between alumni and students, and contributing to initiatives that enhance engagement, visibility, and collaboration within the QUAA community.



Toby Thomas, Sc'85
Director, Co-Chair - Alumni Outreach & Volunteer Engagement Committee

Toby has more than 35 years of experience generating growth, tackling complex strategic issues, and building world-class capabilities in leading companies.

Toby is CEO of Orttech, a Value-Added Engineered Solutions provider for Torque Management and Power Transmission applications and recently retired as President and CEO of Kinetico Incorporated, a global manufacturer and provider of world-leading residential and commercial water purification, water treatment systems and services. Prior to Kinetico, Toby was a Senior Partner at Monitor Group, a leading global strategy and growth consulting firm where he was responsible for driving growth and creating more effective commercial strategies for Monitor, and for leading companies. He

was a founding member of Monitor's Markets practice building powerful, practical, and cost-effective growth strategies for world-class organizations across a wide set of industries. Toby started his career as a New Products Process Engineer, with Frito-Lay in their R&D group where he developed and brought new products to market.

Toby has a B.Sc. (Chem. Eng.) from Queen's University, and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Since 2024, he has served on the QUAA Board of Directors and previously served on the Board of Trustees and on the University Council of Queen's University. He served as the President of the Water Quality Association (WQA), served on the WQA Board of Directors and Board of Governors, as a Board Member of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, and as a Board member for the Water Quality Research Foundation.

Associate VP, Strategic Engagement - VACANT

Delegate for 2026 AGM: Chief Advancement Officer, Michelle Fuko