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If you feel as though we JUST had an Annual General Meeting of the Queen's Alumni Association ("QUAA"), indeed it has only been six months since the last AGM. If you were in attendance at our last AGM in November 2024, you may recall that I shared that we were delayed in our reporting for that year, given all the changes to our Board structure and the hiring of a whole slate of new QUAA Board members. We have now returned to the usual timing of our AGM, and I assure you that even though it has only been six months since our last report, there are still a lot of exciting activities and developments to report on.

That said, while I offer this report with a sense of pride in our activities and optimism for the future, I also wish to acknowledge that I do so against a backdrop of uncertainty in the higher education sector in Canada, influenced by several political and social factors we are all well familiar with. Now, more than ever, the QUAA and our alumni community can be a source of support for the institution. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of Alumni Assembly for your continued engagement with Queen's, and all that you do within your spheres of influence to advocate for Queen's and for the benefits of a higher education. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for all that you do.

#### Year One of a New Board and Structure

As highlighted in the last report, there is a new QUAA Board structure which is committee-based. I am very pleased to report that the new committee structure is working quite well. While our Board meets less frequently, this frees up time for our committees to work collaboratively on other projects

In addition to an Operations Committee, which is internally-focused and engaged with the running of the Board itself, there are currently three other committees:

The *Alumni Giving Committee* creates awareness and encourages philanthropy among the Board, Assembly, and the broader alumni community, supporting the Office of Advancement's efforts in communicating the impact of philanthropy within the alumni community and has oversight of the Alumni Association Grants process with a focus on the QUAA Mission and the Board's commitment to I-EDIAA.

The *Alumni Engagement Committee* supports and increases engagement of individual alumni and those in various constituency groups (Branches, Chapters, Faculty activity, Young Alumni etc.). The committee ensures that our engagement opportunities support the diversity of students and alumni of the University.

The *Alumni Recruitment and Recognition Committee* recruits alumni volunteers to Assembly, and supports recruitment efforts of Chapters and Branches. The committee also supports the QUAA Gala Awards process and encouraging attendance at the QUAA Gala Awards celebration. This committee is also responsible for identifying additional



opportunities for recognition of diverse alumni (Queen's Alumni Review, Cause and Effect Podcast, Alumni to feature on Social platforms etc.) in partnership with Queen's Advancement.

One of the benefits of our new structure is we have been able to welcome non-Board members onto our committees for the first time, with the goal of making the Board more accessible and inclusive, while also increasing our capacity by having more volunteers. We would like to encourage any alumni who are interested in the mandates of the aforementioned committees to reach out if they are interested in joining.

Our Board will be meeting for its annual retreat on June 19th, 2025, the Friday before the AGM. One of the goals of the AGM will be for the committees to begin to engage in some forward planning, now that we have settled into the new committee structure. Ultimately we are working towards identifying 2-3 specific, actionable outcome goals for each committee for the coming year, while still delivering on our usual, annual slate of programming, which involves the selection and recognition of QUAA Gala awards recipients, awarding QUAA grants, nurturing and celebrating philanthropy at Queen's, and supporting and fostering activities which support our QUAA mission: "To reach out and foster a lifelong association with Queen's, to engage our members in the life and work of the university, and to serve the alumni community in all its diversity."

Animating a lot of our discussion about what is to come in the next year, is the fact that 2026 will mark the 100th anniversary of the <u>Queen's University Alumni Association</u> and <u>Queen's Homecoming</u>. We want to take this opportunity to highlight the QUAA, our members and the contributions they make to Queen's, the country and the world. We welcome the suggestions and participation of all our members in this celebratory project.

# Honouring Exceptional Alumni and Students

Speaking of celebrations, on June 18th, 2025, we will be celebrating a slate of exceptional Queen's alumni at our 2025 Gala Awards reception in Toronto. This year's recipients are:

# 2025 QUAA Gala Award Recipients:

Alumni Global Citizenship Award, Laura Tamblyn Watts, Artsci'94

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, David McDowell, Artsci/PHE'86, Ed'87

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization Alumni Award, Edward Thomas Sc'06, MASc'12

Herbert J. Hamilton Volunteer Service Award, Colin McLeod Artsci'10

Initiative of the Year Award Bachelor of Art Education/Bachelor of Fine Art 55th Alumni Reunion

Marsha Lampman Volunteer Award, Kristine Robinson Com'15 and Susanne Gage Artsci'92

One to Watch Award, Daria Juüdi-Hope BNSc'11, MPH'20

Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award, Jill Barber Artsci'02

Outstanding Student Leader Award, Daniel Reddy PhD Candidate



Queen's Student Alumni Association Volunteer of Distinction, Aliza Tiwana (selected by QSAA, awarded at Gala)

We are so thrilled to celebrate these incredibly worthy recipients!

The reception is already sold out! It is a good problem to have, but it would perhaps be helpful to have a larger venue for next year. If you have any connections in your network that might give Queen's access to such a space (in Toronto, or beyond? We are open!), I know the Strategic Engagement team would be interested in connecting with you about it. You can connect with them through Alumni Officer, Volunteer Liaison, Lindsey Kull at <a href="mailto:lindsey.kull@queensu.ca">lindsey.kull@queensu.ca</a>. Note that the Strategic Engagement team in Advancement is always interested in exploring unique and novel venues for events, which might draw out alumni who do not regularly participate in alumni activities.

# Events / Global Alumni Engagement

The QUAA Board has been working closely with Queen's Advancement and the Global Alumni Strategy team over the past year, as it looks to continue to strategically, meaningfully engage alumni from across the globe. This past year we were thrilled to support and have Board Members attend many events, including Queen's Homecoming, branch events, and the Queen's Micro-Summits in Palo Alto, Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary. Personally, I also had the pleasure of moderating virtual discussions with the Principal, leading the Oil Thigh at the Agnes Benedickson Tricolour Award Reception in Kingston, and sitting on a hiring panel for the selection of the two new, Toronto Branch Co-Presidents.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work closely with Queen's staff and other alumni volunteers in the QUAA Branches and Chapters, to strategically engage alumni. To help you get a sense of the places and spaces our alumni were engaged this year - here is a list of alumni events:

**Events list coming from Alumni Strategy** 

Events list confing from Admini Strategy				
FY 2023-2024 Alumni Engagement Programs/Events				
Date	Initiative	Partners	Location	
1-May	Ottawa Leadership Briefing (A	Office of the	Ottawa	
	conversation with Principal Patrick Deane	Principal		
	- Ottawa)			
1-May	UAE Branch Networking Event	Queen's Alumni UAE	Dubai	
		Branch		
15-May	Toronto Branch Tricolour Luncheon	Queen's Alumni	Toronto	
		Toronto Branch		
16-May	Minneapolis-Saint Paul Alumni Gathering		Minneapolis	
			MN	



17-May	Master of Earth and Energy Resources	Faculty of Arts and	Calgary
	Leadership (MEERL) Reception: Calgary	Science	
23-May	Vancouver Branch Spring Social	Queen's Alumni Vancouver Branch	Vancouver
27-May	Kingston Leadership Briefing (A conversation with Principal Patrick Deane - Kingston)	Office of the Principal	Kingston
28-May	Kingston Branch Spring Trivia Night	Queen's Alumni Kingston Branch	Kingston
31-May	Toronto Leadership Briefing (A conversation with Principal Patrick Deane - Toronto)	Office of the Principal	Toronto
1-Jun	QUAA Awards Gala 2024		Toronto
4-Jun	London, UK Fireside Chat: Reimagining Engineering Education	Smith Engineering	London UK
5-Jun	Celebrate Queen's Law 2024	Faculty of Law	Toronto
13-Jun	A night of wonder: Queen's Toronto alumni at Cirque du Soleil	Queen's Alumni Toronto Branch	Toronto
17-Jun	Royal Legacy Society - Tea Talk 2024	Gift Planning	Virtual
19-Jun	Summerhill Sendoff	Queen's Student Alumni Association (QSAA)	Kingston
23-Jun	Queen's University Biological Station Open House	Faculty of Arts and Science	Kingston
26-Jun	Elevate Oakville: A Celebration of Arts and Science Education	Faculty of Arts and Science	Oakville
27-Jun	Switzerland Branch Canada Day BBQ	Queen's Alumni Switzerland Branch	Zurich
16-Jul	Uganda Alumni Gathering	Vice-Provost Global Engagement	Uganda
20-Jul	Dubai - Alumni Coffee Social	Queen's Alumni UAE Branch	Dubai
1-Aug	Singapore Branch Summer Social	Queen's Alumni Singapore Branch	Singapore
18-Aug	Calgary Branch Summer BBQ	Queen's Alumni Calgary Branch	Calgary
28-Aug	Brisbane Alumni Social		Brisbane AU
5-Sep	LA Social with Erica Walters	University-Wide Development, Queen's Alumni Southern California Branch	Santa Monica CA



6-Sep	Sweden Branch Dinner with VP Global	VP Global	Stockholm
	Engagement	Engagement,	
		Queen's Alumni	
		Sweden (Stockholm)	
		Branch	
7-Sep	Ottawa Branch Tricolour at the Redblacks	Queen's Alumni	Ottawa
		Ottawa Branch	
9-Sep	2024 A Mile in Their Shoes: Truth,	Office of Indigenous	Brantford
	Empathy and Reconciliation	Initiatives	
12-Sep	Calgary Branch - Young Alumni Welcome	Queen's Alumni	Calgary
	Social	Calgary Branch	
12-Sep	Dubai Alumni Social - Canadian Schools	Queen's Alumni UAE	Dubai
	Meet Up	Branch	
13-Sep	Fine Art 55th Anniversary Weekend		Kingston
18-Sep	Faculty of Law: Classes of the 1960s		Kingston
	Reunion		
19-Sep	Ottawa Branch Alumni Welcome Social	Queen's Alumni	Ottawa
		Ottawa Branch	
19-Sep	Toronto Branch - Young Alumni Welcome	Queen's Alumni	Toronto
		Toronto Branch	
20-Sep	Japan Branch Alumni Social	Queen's Alumni	Tokyo
		Japan Branch	
25-Sep	Alumni Social with Dean Kevin Deluzio	Smith Engineering	San Francisco
			CA
26-Sep	London, UK Branch - Alumni Social/Young	Queen's Alumni	London UK
	Alumni Welcome	London UK Branch	
27-Sep	Germany Branch Retreat	Queen's Alumni	Germany
		Germany Branch	
27-Sep	Law'84 Reunion Weekend		Kingston
30-Sep	Northern California Branch - Terry Fox	Queen's Alumni	Palo Alto CA
	Run and Young Alumni Welcome	Northern California	
		Branch	
30-Sep	Vancouver Branch - Young Alumni	Queen's Alumni	Vancouver
	Welcome	Vancouver Branch	
30-Sep	Abu Dhabi Alumni Social - Canadian	Queen's Alumni UAE	Abu Dhabi
	Schools Meet Up	Branch	
1-Oct	Bagels and Bequests: London Edition	Queen's Alumni	London
		London ON Branch	
5-Oct	New York Branch - Terry Fox Run and	Queen's Alumni New	New York
	Young Alumni Welcome	York City Branch	
8-Oct	Shanghai Branch Reception	VP Global	Shanghai
	,	Engagement,	_



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		Provost, Faculty of	
		Arts & Science, Smith	
		Engineering,	
		International	
		Admission	
10-Oct	Beijing Branch Reception	VP Global	Beijing
		Engagement,	
		Provost, Faculty of	
		Arts & Science, Smith	
		Engineering,	
		International	
		Admission	
11-Oct	Hong Kong Branch Dinner	VP Global	Hong Kong
		Engagement,	
		Provost, Faculty of	
		Arts & Science, Smith	
		Engineering,	
		International	
		Admission	
15-Oct	Ali Velshi: Small Acts of Courage	Queen's Alumni	Toronto
		Toronto Branch	
17-Oct	UK Canadian University Alumni	Canada-UK Chamber	London UK
	Networking Reception	of Commerce	
17-Oct	2024 Distinguished Service Awards	University Council	Kingston
	Reception		
18-Oct	Brisbane Homecoming Social		Brisbane AU
18-Oct	Homecoming 2024		Kingston
19-Oct	QBAC Alumni & Student Meet and Greet	Queen's Black	Kingston
		Alumni Chapter	
		(QBAC), Yellow	
		House	
19-Oct	Queer Alumni Chapter Mixer	Queer Alumni	Kingston
	·	Chapter	
19-Oct	Faculty of Education - 55th Anniversary	Faculty of Education	Kingston
19-Oct	Class of 2009 Breakfast		Kingston
20-Oct	Singapore Branch Terry Fox Run	Queen's Alumni	Singapore
		Singapore Branch	
21-Oct	Ottawa Branch - How the US election will	Queen's Alumni	Ottawa
	affect Canadians	Ottawa Branch	
23-Oct	Elevate Texas: Austin	Faculty of Arts and	Austin TX
		Science	



24-Oct	Clavata Tayası Hayatan	Faculty of Auto and	Houston TX
24-000	Elevate Texas: Houston	Faculty of Arts and Science	Houston ix
3-Nov	Tour de Toronto: Queen's alumni bike tour	Queen's Alumni Toronto Branch	Toronto
7-Nov	Alumni Social in Vancouver	Smith Engineering	Vancouver
7-Nov	A Conversation with Principal Patrick Deane: Fall Edition	Office of the Principal	Virtual
8-Nov	Queen's University in Dubai	Smith Engineering	Dubai
12-Nov	CANY Canadian University Alumni Reception	Canadian Association of New York (CANY)	New York
16-Nov	Brockville Branch - 2024 Reception for Queen's Bands	Queen's Alumni Brockville Branch	Brockville
20-Nov	Law, Taylor's Version; A Gaels of the Last Decade event	Faculty of Law, Queen's Student Alumni Association (QSAA)	Virtual
21-Nov	London UK Branch - Annual Skating & Winter Warmers Night	Queen's Alumni London UK Branch	London UK
26-Nov	Montreal Branch 5 à 7	Queen's Alumni Montreal Branch	Montreal
28-Nov	Ottawa Cha Gheill reception with Dean Jane Philpott	Queen's Alumni Ottawa Branch, Faculty of Health Sciences	Ottawa
3-Dec	Sydney Branch - Happy Hour with Kevin Deluzio	Queen's Alumni Sydney Branch, Smith Engineering	Sydney AU
3-Dec	Giving Tuesday: QSAA letting writing campaign	Queen's Student Alumni Association (QSAA)	Virtual
9-Jan	New York Connection: Meet New Smith Business Interim Dean	Smith School of Business	New York
9-Jan	Ottawa Branch - Queen's Model Parliament reception 2025	Queen's Alumni Ottawa Branch, Queen's Model Parliament	Ottawa
24-Jan	Queen's Alumni reception at Vancouver RoundUp 2025	Faculty of Arts and Science	Vancouver
1-Feb	Japan Branch Alumni Social Night	Queen's Alumni Japan Branch	Japan
4-Feb	Vancouver - Law Reception	Faculty of Law	Vancouver



8-Feb	Ottawa Branch - Annual Curling Funspiel	Queen's Alumni	Ottawa
	2025	Ottawa Branch	
13-Feb	Al at Work - Rights, Risks, Opportunities Conference	Faculty of Law	Toronto
19-Feb	Al and the Power of Supercomputing • Micro Summit		Palo Alto CA
21-Feb	Canada in Asia Conference (CIAC) Alumni Reception	Provost, VP Global Engagement, Faculty of Arts and Science	Singapore
25-Feb	Words Left Unspoken - Toronto Screening	Smith School of Business	Toronto
27-Feb	Words Left Unspoken - Kingston Screening	Smith School of Business	Kingston
27-Feb	Calgary Branch - Alumni social at Last Best Brewing	Queen's Alumni Calgary Branch	Calgary
4-Mar	Toronto PDAC 2025 GSGE Alumni Reception	Faculty of Arts and Science	Toronto
5-Mar	Mining Alumni Social in Toronto	Smith Engineering	Toronto
11-Mar	Smith Business Calgary Chapter Networking Event	Smith School of Business	Calgary
14-Mar	Words Left Unspoken - NYC Screening and Social	Smith School of Business	New York
22-Mar	Boston Branch - Annual Curling Event 2025	Queen's Alumni Boston Branch	Falmouth MA
25-Mar	Media and Law in the Age of AI • Micro Summit	Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts & Science	Toronto
4-Apr	Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award Celebration 2025	Queen's Student Alumni Association (QSAA)	Kingston
5-Apr	Queen's Health Sciences ICAM Reception Halifax	Faculty of Health Sciences	Halifax
11-Apr	Farewell Lecture Series: Smith Business Professor David McConomy	Smith School of Business	Kingston
15-Apr	The Dr. Malcolm Peat Lecture presents Rosa Idalia	Faculty of Health Sciences	Virtual
15-Apr	Smith Business Toronto Alumni Chapter Event	Smith School of Business	Virtual
16-Apr	A Conversation with Principal Deane: Spring Edition	Office of the Principal	Virtual
23-Apr	Revolutionizing health care with Al and big data • Micro Summit		Vancouver



# Funding Alumni and Student Activities

This year, as in past years, the QUAA Board disbursed grant funding to deserving student and alumni-led groups to support events and initiatives aimed at promoting connection and inclusivity within the Queen's community, particularly between students and alumni. The Grant Selection Committee, using a revised rubric and after through and extensive deliberations, unanimously supported a recommendation to provide grants to the following groups, from the Iris Marsh Alumni Expansion Endowment Fund:

Queen's Genetically Engineered Machine Team (\$1,500)

The Queen's Genetically Engineered Machine Team (QGEM) is a student-led research and design team that competes annually at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition. Focused on advancing synthetic biology, QGEM conducts innovative research projects each year, tackling real-world scientific challenges with the potential for tangible impact. The group sought funds to support their workand the presentation of their findings at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition.

Queen's Global Medical Brigades (\$1,000)

Queen's Global Medical Brigades provides students the invaluable opportunity to witness and address health care discrepancies worldwide. They sought funding to support the executive team attending the Greece brigade this April. In Greece the group was to be supporting asylum seekers and refugees from the Middle East, Ukraine, and African regions

Queen's University International Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society (\$2,000)

Q-ACS is a student-led organization dedicated to enhancing the chemical community at Queen's University. Q-ACS aims to advance professional and technical development while promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect (DEIR) within the Queen's chemical community.

Q-ACS sought funds to support an initiative titled "Celebrating Collaboration & Cross-Disciplinarity in the Chemical Sciences." This initiative aims to highlight the transformative potential of collaborative, multidisciplinary research in driving innovation within the chemical sciences. The event was to include a networking reception, keynote lecture, seated dinner, and an awards presentation to celebrate student, postdoctoral, alumni, and faculty achievements.

# ReseNeX (\$400)

ReseNeX is a youth-led initiative dedicated to fostering equitable access to research opportunities for students from underrepresented backgrounds. Recognizing the systemic barriers that students—particularly those in rural regions and from marginalized backgrounds—face in



#### securing mentorship and research placements

#### TEDxQueensU (\$2,000)

The TEDxQueensU conference is a platform that fosters a diverse and inclusive environment, enabling attendees to explore new ideas, connect with like-minded individuals, and embrace cultural diversity.

Note that while the initiatives above exhausted the funds available from the Iris Marsh Alumni Expansion Endowment Fund, the QUAA Board decided to fund a final initiative from funds available to it through the QUAA Special Projects Fund:

#### Queen's Model Parliament (\$2,000)

Queen's University Model Parliament (QMP) brings together nearly 200 delegates to engage in political debate, leadership, and policy analysis in Ottawa at the House of Commons. Participants draft and debate legislation, experience parliamentary procedures firsthand, and interact with high-profile speakers, including Members of Parliament and media personalities.

The six initiatives put forth by these groups run the gamut of convening fora (platforms to conferences), content (scientific to civic discourse to humanitarian), alumni / student engagement (direct mentoring to full participation), communities (Queen's/Kingston to Canadian to International), I-EDIIAA focus (content to access to participation), and impact (tens to hundreds impacted).

We look forward to receiving their after action reports from these groups!

Reviewing the financial report included with the AGM materials, you will also note that through the QUAA Special Projects Fund, we also provided funds (\$3,000) to the award winning Bachelor of Art Education/Bachelor of Fine Art 55th Alumni Reunion. These funds were used to assist alumni artists with the cost of transporting their art for an exhibition at Union Gallery in Stauffer Library in the fall.

I was so grateful to have the opportunity to bring greetings from the QUAA Board to this group of alumni at a reception held at Union Gallery while this alumni art hung there. It was an exceptionally special event that fostered intergenerational alumni connections, and it was so heartening to see the passion this group has for the arts at Queen's.

# Board Giving/ Philanthropy

Our Board members continue to support the university not only with their volunteering but also through financial contributions. For another year (now 15+ in a row), I am happy to report that our Board achieved 100% participation in annual giving – meaning every single member of the Board donated to Queen's in the last fiscal year.



Not ones to rest on our laurels, we have been thinking of ways that we can inspire and motivate our fellow alumni to give to Queen's as well. As part of this, we mobilized our QUAA special projects fund to provide \$5,000 in gift matching funds for a mini-campaign around Giving Tuesday. The funds were quickly exhausted and we were thrilled at the uptake and enthusiasm the campaign generated and hope to do something similar next year.

# Conclusion

It's been wonderful for our new Board to be hitting its stride! I trust that at the AGM we will have even more thoughts to share coming out of our retreat scheduled just a few days before. I look forward to connecting with you all there.

Thank you all, for all that you do in your volunteer roles at Queen's, and for supporting the work of the QUAA Board.

Warmly,

Allison P. Williams, Artsci'09
59th Volunteer President, Queen's University Alumni Association
Chair, QUAA Board of Directors
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Submitted by QUAA President, Allison P. Williams, Artsci'09, on behalf of the QUAA Board June 9, 2025