

2024-26 QUAA Board of Directors



Allison Williams, Artsci'09
QUAA President

Allison is a practicing 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.



Angela Xu, Com'22
Director, Co-Chair – Alumni Engagement Committee

Angela is an Associate at Boston Consulting Group (BCG), where she works on diverse projects, providing strategic advice and solutions to clients across various industries such as Consumer, Financial Services, and Energy & Natural Resources. She 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 earned various awards and scholarships for her active contributions to the community and her leadership roles, including involvement with Queen's Consulting Association, FreshSight Pro-bono Consulting, Smith Commerce Society, and QHacks. Angela also completed a semester abroad in Hong Kong and worked in various internships in management consulting, internal strategy, and e-commerce operations. She is committed to community service, serving as a board member at Junior League Toronto and volunteering as a newcomer mentor at North York Community. In her free time, Angela loves to break a sweat in HIIT classes, belt out tunes at karaoke nights, and embark on culinary adventures exploring new restaurants.



Carolyn Desrosiers, Artsci'06
Director

Carolyn is a seasoned Chief of Staff and strategic operations leader with over 15 years of experience driving organizational transformation and business growth across a range of industries, including healthcare, real estate, retail, and technology. Her career spans startups to Fortune 100 companies, where she has advised C-suite executives, led large-scale change initiatives, and built high-performing global teams. Carolyn's areas of expertise include organizational design, operational efficiency, program management, and talent strategy. She is also PROSCI-certified in change management and has a strong track record of aligning complex operations with long-term business goals.

Currently based in Utah, Carolyn is the Founder of the Queen's Alumni Utah Branch, established in 2023 to foster community and connection among graduates in the region. She serves as a Director on the Queen's University Alumni Association Board and is a dedicated mentor in the Queen's Alumni Mentorship Initiative, where she supports fellow alumni and empowers the next generation of Queen's students.

Outside of her professional pursuits, Carolyn is an avid triathlete, two-time Ironman 70.3 finisher, and outdoor enthusiast who enjoys skiing and hiking in the Utah mountains with her family.

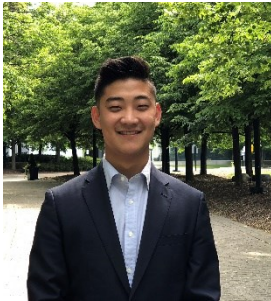


Cheryl Carver, MIR'89
Director

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.

Cheryl graduated from Queen's in 1989 with a Masters of Industrial Relations degree. She also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Cape Breton University 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 12 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's can be found enjoying nature.



Ghazal Abdullah, MIB'23
Director

Ghazal is a recent graduate of a Double degree masters' program in International Business and Management from Smith School of Business and University of Mannheim. Prior to this, Ghazal has interned with UNICEF, Apollo International Ltd. and led the Korean Film Festival Canada's tour in Kingston.

Ghazal decided to continue her professional journey in Kingston as the Investment Outreach Coordinator for Kingston Economic Development. In her role, Ghazal identifies high potential companies to attract investment in the sectors of sustainable manufacturing and life sciences. Ghazal likes to be involved within community through her formal role, organizing networking events for Kingston's young professionals. In her free time, Ghazal practices her piano skills, volunteers at local events.



Julie Nixon Rentsch, Com'99

Director, Co-Chair – Alumni Recruitment and Recognition Committee

Originally from Ottawa, ON, Julie is a BCom'99 graduate, alumni of Bader College (1998), and longtime President of the QUAA Portland USA branch. After her time at Queen's, Julie ventured to Toronto, London, and New York where her experience included brand management in both the consumer goods (food) and premium beverage alcohol sectors.

A resident of Portland, Oregon since 2008, Julie lives with her husband Robert, daughter Mirabelle, and dog Oskar in the city's vibrant south east side. As Business Development Director for the Oregon Dairy Council, she now works in agriculture, building trust and sales for local dairy foods and commodity products throughout the US and in export markets.

In her spare time, Julie is Founder and 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.



Kahir Rahemtulla, Sc'17

Director

Kahir graduated from Queen's University in 2017 with a degree in Chemical Engineering, enriched by a dynamic professional internship in Calgary. He went on to earn MSc and MD degrees from the University of Alberta in 2019 and 2022, respectively. He is currently an internal medicine resident in his hometown of Edmonton and will be pursuing a respirology fellowship starting this summer.

Kahir looks back fondly on his time at Queen's, where he actively participated in Engineering Week, the Engineering Society, and Orientation Week. He is excited and grateful for the opportunity to give back to the Queen's community through QUAA, recognizing it as a cornerstone of who he is as a professional, friend, and person today.



Kelly McKinley, Artsci'91

Director

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.



Sarah Virani, Artsci'11
Director, Co-Chair – Alumni Engagement Committee

Sarah is a Toronto-based lawyer who advises hospitals and healthcare organizations on all manner of legal and risk issues. Originally from Vancouver, Sarah fell in love with Queen's and moved across the country to pursue an Honours degree Health Studies and a minor in Spanish language. During her undergraduate career, she was an active member of the Queen's Ismaili Muslim Students Association (QIMSA) and the Arts and Science Orientation Committee, holding multiple leadership roles in each. In her spare time, Sarah enjoyed trying all of the restaurants in Kingston and playing intramural volleyball. She graduated with honours and received the QIMSA Service Award for her distinguished service to the Queen's and Kingston Ismaili Muslim communities.

Sarah went on to obtain a Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the Ontario bar in 2015. Prior to joining the QUAA Board, Sarah served for four years as a member of the Queen's University Council.



Simon Marmura Brown, MA'18
Director

Simon Marmura Brown came to Queen's to pursue a master's degree in Political Studies. Finding campus life and teaching so rewarding, he elected to continue his education at Queen's and completed his PhD in Political Studies in 2024. Throughout his work as a teaching assistant, teaching fellow, and graduate mentor, Simon has taught or mentored hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students at Queen's.

Simon has also served on many departmental, university, and graduate student committees and boards, and is excited to continue working with the Queen's community!



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

Born in Ottawa, Stacy grew up in the Outaouais region of Quebec. After graduating with a major concentration in Philosophy, he began his career in retail management and then was lured back to Queen's to take on roles in admissions, recruitment, program management, and advancement with the Office of the Registrar (2000-2003), Smith School of Business (2003-2005), and the Office of Advancement (2005-2010). Relocating to Toronto in 2011, Stacy progressed through management roles with Development & Alumni Relations at OCAD University (2011-2017) before becoming the director of philanthropy at The 519 (2017-2022). Stacy was thrilled to return to Kingston in August 2022 to become the executive director of the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area.

Devoted to community service, Stacy has served as a director of Aylmer Youth Theatre, Kingston Student Housing Cooperative, Queen's ASUS Camps, Progressive Independent Community Press, Queen's University Association for Queer Employees, Drop-in Centre Kingston, Inc. In addition to serving on the QUAA Board, Stacy is co-founder and President of the Queen's Queer Alumni Chapter, and is a Global Mentor with the Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre.

Stacy has been recognized with an Ontario Volunteer Service Award from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (2017), and the Herbert J. Hamilton Volunteer Service Award from the Queen's University Alumni Association (2019), and Outstanding Professional Fundraiser award from the Association of Philanthropy Professionals South Eastern Ontario Chapter. Stacy lives in Kingston with his husband, Mark Julien, who is a writer and illustrator.



Toby Thomas, Sc'85
Director, Co-Chair - Alumni Giving Committee

Toby has more than 30 years of experience generating growth, tackling complex strategic issues, and building world-class capabilities in leading companies.

Toby recently retired as President and CEO of Kinetico Incorporated, a leading global manufacturer and provider of residential and commercial water purification, water treatment systems and services. Prior to Kinetico, he 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. Toby 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. Previously Toby 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) and 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.



Leigh Kalin, Artsci'92 (Ex-Officio)
Associate VP, Strategic Engagement

Before her role as Acting Associate Vice-Principal (Strategic Engagement), 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.