WATER DROP
An alumnus builds waterslides for the world

ART OF RESEARCH
Striking images illustrate the impact of Queen's

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QUEEN'S ALUMNI REVIEW
THE MAGAZINE OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY SINCE 1927

SUMMER 2022
Early construction of the state-of-the-art waterpark on Qetaifan Island North, Lusail City, Qatar.

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BY MEAGAN FITZPATRICK
I am writing this en route to Kingston from Barcelona, where I have been attending the third UNESCO World Higher Education Conference. At the invitation of the International Association of Universities, I participated in a session focused on “Leading universities into the future – finding pathways to transformation.” It was, of course, a privilege to be able to contribute to that discussion, especially in a global context, but it was also invigorating to discover how profoundly Queen’s new strategy, For the Future, aligns with the new UNESCO report unveiled at the conference. Entitled Knowledge-driven actions: transforming higher education for global sustainability, the report is the work of an Independent Expert Group on the Universities and the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For the 2030 Agenda to be successfully realized – and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved – the report asserts that higher education institutions are critical, particularly in three respects: in moving “towards inter- and transdisciplinary modes of producing and circulating knowledge;” in “becoming open institutions, fostering epistemic dialogue and integrating diverse ways of knowing;” and becoming “a stronger presence in society through proactive engagement and partnering with other societal actors.” Broadly speaking, these are the central components of Queen’s new Strategic Framework, approved by the Trustees one year ago, and as more and more institutions across the globe commit themselves to the 2030 Agenda, the possibility of building partnerships with real and demonstrable impact on the good of society and the planet increases dramatically. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, geopolitical tensions, and the mounting evidence that we are facing a climate emergency, it is hugely consoling to reflect on the role institutions of higher education, co-operating with each other, can and will play in assuring a better world for the young people whose futures these days seem so much in question.

In the halls of the conference, I could divine that in three or four years the collective imagination of UNESCO will be looking far beyond 2030 and the current set of SDGs. We should all hope that when the next World Conference on Higher Education occurs, the goals of Agenda 2030 will have been realized, global deficits in education, equity, and environmental sustainability will have been addressed, and universities and other civil institutions will be free to focus more exclusively on positively building a better future for humanity. In the meantime, however, Queen’s recently announced top-10 placing in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings confirms we are on track to make a major contribution to Agenda 2030. Standing second worldwide for “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions,” as well as for “No Poverty,” we are working to build “peace in the minds of men and women,” as the preamble to the constitution of UNESCO puts it. At this point in history, there is no more important task.
The Queen’s Alumni Review has been honoured with multiple awards since revealing its redesign in 2021.

Most recently, the magazine received the silver prize for design in the Periodicals/Magazines category in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s (CASE) annual Circle of Excellence awards – the premier recognition program for educational advancement around the world.

“Great cover designs! Beautiful use of photography and design to better tell the many stories and help the reader navigate through the publication,” the judges noted.

The magazine also claimed silver in the Publishing Improvement category, with the judges lauding the publication’s “remarkable transformation” and praising its change from a tired design to a fresh, bold one.

“It seems that every element, from the writing to the design, was masterfully planned and carefully implemented to support the overall vision,” they said. “The whole thing felt smart, sophisticated, and reflective of a unified vision.”

The magazine was also a top nominee in the National Magazine Awards (NMAs) B2B competition, which honours trade, association, and professional magazines across Canada, receiving seven nominations and several awards:

The magazine swept the Best Art Direction of a Complete Issue category, taking both the gold (fall, art directed by Queen’s designer Wendy Treverton) and silver (spring, art directed by Studio Wyse) prizes.

Photographer Jennifer Roberts’ portrait of applied mathematician Dr. Troy Day won an honourable mention for Best Photograph.

“Threads of History,” a feature about Alfred Bader’s prisoner-of-war shirt, won silver for Best Art Direction of a Single Article or Opening Spread. “Five on the Rise,” a look at our newest Canada Research Chairs, won an honourable mention.

Our spring 2021 issue received an honourable mention for Best Issue.

The Review was a finalist in the Best Magazine category, the most prestigious award given by the NMA B2B contest, and the only post-secondary publication nominated in this category. It took home an honourable mention.

The magazine also received three nominations in the National Magazine Awards, which honour “the most impactful work published in Canadian periodicals:”

“Making an Impact,” written by Queen’s communications officer Michael Onesi and photographed by Brendan George Ko, received an honourable mention in the Photo Essay category. The article looked at the university’s commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations.

The magazine garnered two honourable mentions in Art Direction of a Single Article from the National Magazine Awards for “Five on the Rise,” and a repeat nomination for “Making an Impact.”

“These awards are a testament to the hard work of our Queen’s Alumni Review team, and also to the loyalty of our Queen’s alumni, who helped us shape the future of the magazine by participating in our readership surveys, offering feedback, and sharing their stories,” said Scott Anderson, Executive Director, Marketing, Communications and Donor Relations. “And this is just the beginning.”
CONTRIBUTORS

Meagan Fitzpatrick studied political science at Queen’s followed by a master’s degree in journalism from Western University. She has worked as a print, digital, and broadcast reporter, and she covered Parliament Hill in Ottawa for many years. She was also a correspondent in Washington, D.C. She currently works as a journalist in her hometown of Toronto and loves exploring the city by bike. Read: “Just add water,” on page 32 and “Serving Canada around the world,” on page 46.

Ty Burke is a writer and editor who has worked with leading universities, science media, and academic journals. He writes about emerging research in a number of different disciplines, including health sciences, physics, economics, and archaeology. He is based in Ottawa and is the proud parent of a Queen’s University undergraduate. Read: “First Up,” on page 41.

Jordan Whitehouse (ArtsSci’07) is a freelance journalist and copywriter who writes about food, technology, business, the environment, and beyond. In 2019, he won gold at the National Magazine Awards: B2B in the Best Column or Regularly Featured category. Although based in Gananoque, he is a nomad at heart. Read: “Illicit impact,” on page 16.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Readers of our print edition may have noticed some changes to our paper stock, which has varied considerably for the past few issues. These changes are due to a worldwide paper shortage that is affecting everything from magazines and newspapers to catalogues and books. Several factors are to blame for the paper shortage, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and the situation is further complicated by labour shortages and rising distribution costs. All of this has led to a volatile market for those who are in the print publishing business, with inconsistent stock, higher prices, and delivery delays — all of which have meant that your Alumni Review has often landed a bit later and looked a little different each issue. Readers have responded both positively and negatively to the changing paper stock, but rest assured that we continue to work with our printing partners to secure the best possible paper with minimal delays. While the paper shortage appears to be with us for at least a few more issues, we thank all our readers for their patience and understanding as we navigate through these challenges.
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Spring and early summer are magical times at the Queen’s University Biological Station as new “migrants” begin to appear after a long winter. Birds, raccoons, newts, and wildflowers are just part of the parade that provided research opportunities for undergraduates.

**What:** Ecology of Spring field course  
**Where:** Queen's University Biological Station  
**When:** May 1-14, 2022
The Rankings
Queen’s a world leader in Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

Queen’s placed in the top 10 of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for the second year in a row, coming in seventh place out of more than 1,500 post-secondary institutions around the world.

The rankings measure the actions universities and colleges are taking to advance the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Created in 2019, the Impact Rankings are the only international assessment to evaluate how universities’ programs and initiatives align with the SDGs. This set of 17 wide-ranging goals is a universal call to protect the planet and its people.

Queen’s placed second worldwide in the “No Poverty” SDG, thanks to programs such as the Commitment Scholars Award, which provides financial support for students who are members of underserved or underrepresented groups and who have demonstrated leadership in racial justice, social justice, or diversity initiatives.

Queen’s also ranked second for SDG 16: “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions,” earning praise for training the next generation of policy-makers through the School of Policy Studies, and supporting academic freedom by being a part of the Scholars at Risk program, which arranges temporary research and teaching positions for scholars whose lives and freedom are under threat.

The Athlete
Basketball/rugby star player named one of U SPORTS top athletes

Sophie de Goede capped off an incredible season by being named the female recipient of the 2022 Lois and Doug Mitchell U SPORTS Athletes of the Year Awards.

The Commerce student led the Gaels to their first U SPORTS women’s rugby championship, November 2021.

and was named the tournament MVP. She was also named both the Ontario University Athletics and U SPORTS Women’s Rugby Player of the Year.

After the rugby season was over, Ms. de Goede joined the women’s basketball team and helped the Gaels win a bronze medal at the U SPORTS Women’s Final 8 Championship. She was named a Second Team OUA East Division All-Star after leading the OUA in rebounding, averaging 12.1 per game while adding 9.8 points per game.

She was also named the PHE’55 Alumnae Award winner as Queen’s Varsity Teams Female Athlete of the Year.

The Return
In-person convocation returns

Smiling graduates and proud family members returned to Kingston as Queen’s hosted live convocation ceremonies for the first time in two years.

The Class of 2022 – as well as members of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who had their ceremonies...
cancelled due to the pandemic – were invited to take part in the pomp and circumstance of convocation events in May and June.

Some ceremonies took place in Grant Hall while others were held at the Leon’s Centre in order to accommodate the large number of graduates.

Congratulations to all the new Queen’s alumni!

The Honour

Chancellor receives Order of Canada, Meritorious Service Cross

In May, Queen’s Chancellor Murray Sinclair, LLD’19, received a pair of honours during a ceremony hosted by Gov. Gen. Mary Simon, LLD’94, in recognition of his lifetime of work dedicated to championing Indigenous Peoples’ rights and freedoms.

Chancellor Sinclair received the Order of Canada (Companion), as well as the Meritorious Service Cross for his work as Chief Commissioner of Canada’s Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). He spent six years chairing the TRC, where he heard and documented the experiences of thousands of residential school survivors, and started the country on a journey of healing.

Queen’s community honours Chancellor Emeritus Leech

Queen’s hosts gala dinner to honour Chancellor Emeritus’s lengthy career of service.

On June 24, the university community gathered to commemorate the celebrated career of Chancellor Emeritus Jim Leech. Grant Hall served as the venue for a gala dinner and touching tributes from friends and colleagues, including Stephen Smith, Sc’72, LLD’17, Barbara Palk, Arts’73, Principal Emeritus Daniel Woolf, Artsci’80, Don Raymond, Sc’84, PhD’98, and Principal and Vice Chancellor Patrick Deane.

During the ceremony, Chancellor Emeritus Leech’s official portrait was unveiled. The most recent inclusion in a tradition that dates to the 1800s, the portrait will hang in the Peter Lougheed Room of Richardson Hall with those of previous chancellors such as Sir Sandford Fleming. Expertly executed by Stratford-based artist Leslie Watts, who was chosen by Chancellor Emeritus Leech personally, the egg tempera portrait features contemporary details such as a tricolour mask draped over the chancellor’s chair to help situate the painting in the events of his tenure.

Chancellor Emeritus Leech’s personal connection to Queen’s began when he received his MBA in 1973. A lengthy history of service began in the 1980s, when he served as a member of the Queen’s Board of Trustees, University Council, and Chair of Smith School of Business Advisory Board. Upon completing his tenure as chancellor, he was given the title of Chancellor Emeritus in 2021.
More than 17,000 works of art and culture are housed at Queen’s University’s Agnes Etherington Art Centre. The collection has strengths in Canadian contemporary and historical art in all media, Indigenous art, European paintings and works on paper from the 16th to the 20th century, historical African art, and Canadian decorative arts, quilts, and historical dress. Works are brought into the collection through various means, whether by purchase, donation, or bequest.

When the objects are not on view in Agnes’s galleries or on loan to other art museums around the world, where and how are these works stored?

“The collection lives in climate-controlled areas in Agnes’s facility,” says Jenn Nicoll, Collections Manager. “In this space, paintings hang on racks, works on paper are stored in solander boxes, quilts are rolled on acid-free cardboard rolls and Indigenous ancestors (historically referred to as artifacts in Western museology) may receive offerings of tobacco and visitations from community members. This care ensures collections are available to their communities and accessible to present and future generations.”

In June, Agnes began to pack the collection in preparation for the building of Agnes Reimagined, the new future-oriented facility. Some of the packing is on view in the exhibition *Collection Count + Care*, presented by Johnson, Johnston and Macrae Investment Group, part of CIBC Private Wealth Wood Gundy. Curated works in twos and threes hold space, or “take the stage,” for biweekly intervals, as Agnes says goodbye to them temporarily. Agnes’s current building is open to the public until Dec. 4 and construction is scheduled to end in 2025. Agnes’s temporary home will be MacGillivray-Brown Hall (218 Barrie St.).
BY THE NUMBERS

Temperature
20 C (68 F) ± 2° per 24-hour period

Humidity
50% setting, maximum variation of ± 5% per 24-hour period

6,675 sq. ft.
Area of storage

7,568
No. of works on paper

90
No. of quilts

Lights
Exposure is limited as much as possible to reduce damage to the physical and chemical structure of materials.

Sensors
Flood, smoke, and fire sensors are in both display and storage environments.
Jewelle Blackman, Mus’O1, will be entertaining audiences on Broadway this summer in the lead role of Persephone in the hit production of Hadestown. She shares her passion for musical theatre, her early days on stage at Queen’s, and how it’s possible for an introvert to step into the spotlight – and love it.

For Jewelle Blackman, a Queen’s graduate in theatre and film, years of professional investment paid a tidy dividend this spring. That’s when she took over the lead role of Persephone in the Tony- and Grammy-winning Broadway production of Hadestown by Anaïs Mitchell. Based on the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, Hadestown explores the fraught love of Persephone and her husband, Hades, the lord of the underworld, and includes multiple themes that resonate powerfully in the 21st century.

Ms. Blackman, a Toronto native, began dancing, singing, and playing violin and piano at a young age. She performed in productions at Queen’s before completing her bachelor’s degree and then continued with stage, television, and film work in Canada and the U.S., including three summers at Stratford. She is an original cast member in Hadestown, playing one of the Fates starting in 2019; she also became the understudy for Persephone until landing the part full time.

Playing Persephone must be thrilling. How did you land the role?

It’s the first time a lead role has been up in Hadestown in years, so it’s a big deal. When I knew it was coming available, I was very forward and sent an email to my director, the choreographer, and the musical director. I titled it “Having the audacity to ask” – to ask for what I want and need. They had auditions on a Friday, and I found out on the Monday I had the role. It was amazing. That was the role I wanted when I auditioned for the show in 2017. I said, “I’m going to do that role someday.”

Can you describe Persephone and how you relate to her?

I love her range. She experiences the highest highs and the lowest lows. She’s very layered. I haven’t seen a range for a woman character like that in a very long time. And at the heart of it all, she still loves Hades and there’s still the hope they can reconnect. Having been in a relationship that started with a lot of love and passion and got to a point that you almost don’t recognize the person anymore but still see glimpses of the person you fell in love with, I can definitely relate to Persephone.

Hadestown is rooted in ancient Greek mythology. How is it relevant to 2022?

Climate change is one thing. When Persephone goes down below, the weather is horrible, and we see what’s going on with our world as it’s warming up and how that’s affecting the ecosystem. I’d also say the themes of hope, persevering, and making choices to survive and then living with that. This is not some easy musical fare, but it’s so beautifully told and the music is so stunning that it’s easy to digest.
Had you always planned a stage career?

My intent was never to be an entertainer; I wanted to be an entertainment lawyer. I did a production of A Chorus Line with Queen’s Musical Theatre and got huge accolades. Then I saw The Lion King in Toronto in the summer of my first year at Queen’s and that changed the trajectory of my life completely.

What are your most vivid memories of Queen’s?

I remember walking around that campus and those buildings and always feeling, “This is a beautiful school.” Being involved in Queen’s musical theatre was where I got ready for all the other things I would do later. And I got to sing with a jazz band. I had a lot of freedom at Queen’s to try things out.

What do you like about performing?

I consider myself a bit of an introvert, but if you put me on stage, it’s, “Everybody, look at me.” I think I always had that as a child—it was something innate in me. It’s just a release, to put your all into being another person. It’s the freedom you have; you’re putting parts of you into the character to make it more authentic, parts of yourself you might be scared to reveal otherwise. It’s cathartic to just let yourself go like that.

Why does musical theatre appeal to you so strongly?

There’s this world of fantasy and different kinds of possibility. You’re in a different realm of reality. Imagine if, when our emotions became too much or we were feeling so ecstatic, we broke into song. I love that about musical theatre.

Along with playing Persephone, you’re writing two commissioned musicals. What are they about?

Boy Boy and the Magic Drum is from a children’s book by Machel Montano, a famous Trinidadian recording artist. It’s about a little boy with his drum who rallies everyone, about coming together and not giving up. My newest commission, The Trials and Triumphs of a Tar Baby, was inspired by Toni Morrison’s novel The Bluest Eye. It’s about two dark-skinned women growing up. I guess both are a lot about race; it’s a lot of me.

— Patrick Langston
Moving On
GORDON’S GUIDES FAMILIES THROUGH THE DIFFICULT TASK OF DOWNSIZING AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT

When a parent passes away, the adult children’s grief is often compounded by the enormous effort and stress of dealing with the estate as executors. Leslie Dal Cin and her sister found themselves in this situation when their father passed away. Their mother had passed earlier, and the sisters – living in different cities – now had to begin the complex and emotionally difficult business of selling the family house and contents accumulated over many decades.

“It was pretty daunting,” says Dal Cin, who retired in May as Executive Director, Athletics and Recreation, at Queen’s University. “We had already spent weeks sorting through all the belongings during trips to the Toronto home. We knew we needed expert help with managing the estate sale process and selling the house.”

Years earlier, Dal Cin had met the family behind Gordon’s Downsizing and Estate Services, based in Kingston and serving customers across Ontario. Barry and Alicia Gordon’s son Marty played on the 2009 Queen’s Gaels football team that won the Vanier Cup, and the family was a stalwart supporter of football and athletics generally at the school.

“I got to know them through sports,” Dal Cin says. “Talking to them in that environment, I learned about Gordon’s Downsizing and Estate Services. Their values, their approachability, and their professionalism were apparent. When we realized we needed estate services, I thought of them right away.”

Gordon’s provides seamless integrated services for individuals who are downsizing and for executors and powers of attorney dealing with estate matters. The company takes pride in reducing the complexity of these activities by being an efficient and professional provider of downsizing, contents appraisals, real estate, move management and estate settlement services – typically as a bundle.

“We’ve worked with thousands of clients over our family’s 60 years in business,” says Adam Gordon, President of Gordon’s Downsizing and Estate Services and – like his brother, sister, and father – a proud graduate of Queen’s University.

“We knew we needed expert help with managing the estate sale process and selling the house.”

“In some cases, we are able to provide services individually, but our ‘peace of mind guarantee’ is only offered when we handle everything involved in downsizing or estate matters. Our bundled soup-to-nuts service allows us to provide a predictable experience for families and comes with the added benefit of both better health and safety outcomes as well as being cost efficient for our clients.”

Dal Cin reached out to Gordon’s about the sale of her parents’ house and the disposition of its contents.

“They were incredibly attentive to our needs,” she says. “We talked about the estate services, and also the real estate services, and were very comfortable with the approach and the arrangements that were being made.”

The knowledge and experience demonstrated by the Gordon’s team, as well as the caring and compassion that was evident, gave the sisters complete confidence in their choice of professionals.

“We certainly wanted to maximize the value of the property in the robust Toronto market. We could have gone with a local Realtor but decided to go with Gordon’s instead based on their estates expertise combined with their personal touch. We were kept fully informed at every stage. We always knew what the next step would be, what we needed to do and what Gordon’s were going to do.”

Dal Cin says the engagement with Gordon’s was an entirely positive experience that exceeded her expectations. “At such a difficult and sensitive time, they were awesome to deal with from start to finish.”
David Clements was 15 when he first read *The Doors of Perception*. Published in 1954, Aldous Huxley’s account of his experiments with mescaline marked a sharp turning point in the popular perception of psychedelics and psychedelic drug research. For Mr. Huxley, these substances weren’t tools for turning on, tuning in, and dropping out, but possible ways for humans to expand consciousness. As he put it, his mescaline hallucinations weren’t distortions. “This is how one ought to see, how things really are,” he famously wrote.

For Mr. Clements, the book marked the beginning of an interest in how we might expand consciousness, enhance empathy, and explore psychotherapeutic approaches. And now the Queen’s MPA grad is putting that interest to work as the executive director of Psychedelics Research at Queen’s Faculty of Health Sciences.

The position was created in June 2021 in the lead-up to the launch of the Dimensions Health Research Collaborative, which is now bringing together researchers from across Queen’s and elsewhere to develop drug trials, policy, education, and knowledge translation in the field of psychedelics. Dimensions Health Centres Inc., which runs residential retreats and is exploring the use of psychedelic medicines and other interventions, is the founding partner of the collaborative.

Mr. Clements couldn’t have imagined a joint venture like this when first reading *The Doors of Perception* back in the ’80s. There is evidence that various psychedelics were used by Indigenous Peoples for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. And while substances like LSD showed initial promise in the 1950s for treating a range of mental-health issues, that research was abruptly halted in the late 1960s as the war on drugs took hold. The next 40 years became known as the “dark ages” for psychedelics research.

Today, however, as regulations begin to loosen and commercial interest blooms, psychedelics are being evaluated for their ability to relieve anxiety, treat depression, reduce fear in people with terminal illness, and even combat alcoholism.
“We’ve known since the 1960s that there is promise for the integration of psychedelics into our regimes for some of these very difficult-to-treat conditions,” says Mr. Clements. “But to establish the evidentiary basis for the clinical use of psychedelics, we need to have more well-structured, designed and sufficiently powered studies.” And that’s where the Dimensions Health Research Collaborative comes in, he says.

When it was announced, the collaborative touted a “multi-pronged approach.” The focus would be on furthering existing research, building education and awareness about the potential benefits and risks, and supporting the development of ethical and evidence-informed policy. Other goals included supporting training, education, and knowledge translation for health-care providers, as well as developing best practices for psychedelic therapies and harm reduction guidelines for the growing trend of personal use.

The collaborative has also appointed its first research scientist, Ron Shore. Dr. Shore’s research in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies focuses on the clinical application of psilocybin (or magic mushrooms). His initial focus with the collaborative will be on knowledge translation, he says, because there is a critical need for reliable, accurate, and evidence-based claims about the potential of psychedelics.

No wonder. The progression of psychedelics research in Canada over the past five years has been “wild,” says Dr. Shore. “As a drug researcher, I’ve never seen this level of positive interest in illicit substances. Given the backdrop of the opioid/drug toxicity/overdose crisis, and the clear mental-health burden of COVID in society, there is massive popular interest in psychedelics, and researchers are quickly developing all sorts of new clinical trials.”
FIELD TRIP

BY TOM SPEARS

Photograph by Camille Spencer
The search to make this world a better place takes Queen’s researchers all around the globe, and not always in the comfort of modern hotels. Faculty and students alike hike into jungles, travel Himalayan roads on horseback, visit scorching farm fields and desert diamond mines, and climb the sides of still-hot volcanic lava flows. Earth and its inhabitants still hold many secrets waiting to be uncovered, and researchers can’t do it all from a lab or library – sometimes just reaching a destination in one piece is a struggle. Yet it’s all in a day’s work for these Queen’s researchers in the field.
WHAT I LOVE IS BEING IN THE DEEP WILDERNESS WHERE THERE ARE NO ROADS...
Years back, Dr. Chris Spencer was doing geology research on Mount Etna, a volcano in Sicily that had recently erupted. He thought he was avoiding the recent lava flows—until he caught a whiff of burning rubber and his boots felt heavier. He had stumbled into a very fresh flow hot enough to melt the rubber on his boots.

Just another day not at the office. Dr. Spencer does not live for office work. Growing up in the mountains of Utah steered him into geology, a field in which he now studies what geochemistry can tell us about mountain-building processes at tectonic plate boundaries.

He has travelled the world—often the Himalayan mountains, Japan, and New Zealand, but also Namibia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Western Australia, northern and southern China, the American Southwest, and much of Europe.

“What I love is being in the deep wilderness, where there are no roads and it’s just me and my backpack, and no contrails overhead,” he says.

Along the way, he has had adventures. Take Namibia. He was travelling in a zone forbidden to most outsiders because it’s near diamond mines (though he had permits to explore there). Just him and a truck. And, of course, the truck got stuck in sand.

“I was alone, which wasn’t the smartest thing at the time,” he says. He dug fruitlessly for a day, then loaded up on food and water and started walking.

A day and a half later he reached a road, where some diamond-mine security guards eventually turned up and couldn’t believe this stranger was hiking through the desert. The men had AK-47s, so it was lucky he had the permits handy. His new friends “were very kind. They were just flummoxed, like what on Earth are you doing here?”

They generously took him to the mining camp for food and a shower, and drove him out the next morning to rescue the truck.

We had to ask: Have you ever been hurt in the wilderness?

“Um, hurt?” He pauses, thinking. “No, nothing that serious. I mean I’ve had cholera, I’ve had malaria several times,”—but was never injured.

His wife and two young sons not only approve of Dad’s adventures; they tag along, camping, while he is in the field. His wife (trained in dance, not geology) was his field assistant before the boys were born.

“Every time I’m at my desk, I am scheming ways to get away from the desk... it’s all about planning the next bit of field work.”

The Mount Etna boots, somewhat melted, lasted the field trip. Barely.
When Siobhan Speiran ventures into the jungles of Central America to study ecotourism, she knows she is being watched.

Quite frequently, in fact, she finds herself under curious scrutiny by monkeys that have captivated her since she first idolized Jane Goodall, the primatologist and anthropologist who became world renowned for her groundbreaking work with chimpanzees. And trekking through the Costa Rican jungle brings Ms. Speiran to the lives of monkeys and the delicate task of trying to balance tourism with the welfare of wildlife.

“Monkeys have haunted me my whole life,” says Ms. Speiran, a PhD candidate in environmental studies. “Jane Goodall was a major hero to me growing up,” she says. “She didn’t even have a university degree when she went [to Africa]. She went alone with her mother to do her field work and that’s what I did with my PhD. I went with my mother to Costa Rica. My mother was a botanist.

“I grew fascinated with [Dr. Goodall’s] perspective on how important it was to improve the lives of those in the communities in order to address the chimpanzee conservation issues stemming from the bushmeat trade and deforestation.”

She once intended to study wildlife tourism in Botswana, but ended up specializing in the monkeys of Costa Rica that are a prime attraction in that country’s ecotourism industry. She deals with howler monkeys, capuchins, squirrel monkeys, and spider monkeys.

It’s illegal to own, feed, or touch wildlife in Costa Rica. But some monkeys live in sanctuaries after being confiscated as pets or brought in from the wild after injuries.

She interviews the staff and owners of sanctuaries at every chance and has done volunteer work with them. “The broader effort of my research is to really look at the sustainability of Costa Rican sanctuaries” for tourism.

But she also goes into the jungle to see wild monkeys. This is sometimes a grey area, as some tour operators bait monkeys with bananas to bring them close enough to pose for photos with tourists – “wildlife selfies.”

“What I like about monkeys is that every single one is really a person to me,” says Ms. Speiran.

After watching them for months she sometimes thinks, “I can’t believe I couldn’t tell them apart [in] the first few days!”

They assess her at the same time. The watcher becomes the watched. “They return the gaze, whether it’s the tourist gaze or the gaze of the researcher.”

This relationship can only be built by being physically present in the jungle. For instance, one monkey she had been watching for a long time reached out its tail to touch her arm. She was startled, thinking it was a snake, and brushed it away.

“The next best thing for field work would maybe be a live camera feed. [But] there would be something missing in that interaction.”
MONKEYS HAVE HAUNTED ME MY WHOLE LIFE.
MEETING THEM WHERE THEY WORK IS CRITICAL.
A penny-pinching Greek farmer once forced Dr. Reena Kukreja to work a day picking field greens in return for letting her interview migrant workers on his farm. He thought her interviews cost him “lost time.”

“It was horta – Greek for greens such as dandelions, chicory, and dill,” she recalls. The men in the fields thought her day of hard labour was funny and ironic.

Dr. Kukreja, from the Department of Global Development Studies, researches the lives of poor and undocumented South Asian farm workers, following them in Greece. She will soon add Spain, Italy, and Portugal to her research focus.

Dr. Kukreja sees these workers as mirror images of the workers from Mexico and Central America who harvest crops in Canada and the United States.

“It’s absolutely similar – their wretched existence, the way they are exploited by the state, the way agri-business and farmers use their temporary status to give them low pay [and] deny them labour rights; these are common everywhere,” she says.

And meeting them where they work is critical.

“I work with marginalized populations who have no access to Zoom [or] internet, and they need face-to-face trust-building.”

Raised in north India, Dr. Kukreja speaks the languages of these workers – Urdu, Punjabi, and Bangla.

“They can speak to me without worrying how their words will be interpreted,” she says.

Even if these workers had internet access, she would never get their full story from a distance.

She has to “physically hoof it there in the field, and sit with them in their dormitories, go with them in the field, feel the heat of the sun with them, and listen to them when they are free.”

Her interviews are “semi-structured.” There’s a guide, but she welcomes changes of direction when the farm workers bring up topics she hasn’t thought of. Again, this works best face to face.

The dormitories are an example. She knew they were primitive, but only realized how bad they were when she saw Bangladeshi men on Greek farms sleeping in shacks made of plastic and cardboard, the rain leaking in and soaking their beds, and fetid drainage outdoors carrying disease.

“If I had not stepped inside I would not be able to write about the immense heat,” she says.

Greek men have occasionnally assumed that if she visits migrant workers, she is a sex worker.

“They try to proposition me, so I’ve faced a lot of tricky issues.” Greek police stop and question her too often.

This June she heads to orange and olive farms in Greece to meet workers from Pakistan, Albania, and North Africa.

In the meantime, this professor who studies these farm workers has been gardening.

“I’m a keen veggie grower. Actually, I’m late putting in my lettuce.” (This was April 30.) “That’s OK. Everything just evens out.”
Here, a gastropod mummy lays down her egg cases. The research assesses the stable isotope, clumped isotope, and trace element compositions of living and quaternary shells from the Arabian/Persian Gulf. The aim is to link the shell chemistry with its surrounding environment and use this link to assess oceanographic changes over the past 125,000 years. When the picture was taken, researchers were growing gastropods under lab conditions and performing in vitro fertilization of oysters.

When a mother polar bear digs out of the den, skin cells from her paws are abraded and stuck to the snow. Here, snow is collected from inside a maternal polar bear den to collect environmental DNA. Some preliminary research shows that we may be able to identify individual bears by analyzing these snow samples, information that can inform polar bear population management. The research is a pilot of ground-based non-invasive polar bear monitoring techniques, with a focus on Inuit inclusivity. Inuit Elders and polar bear hunters are key knowledge holders and collaborators throughout this research.

The Inuit practise an ongoing relationship with the land through camping, hunting, and fishing. As part of the BEARWATCH project, researchers explore how such knowledge, accumulated over many generations, and Inuit values can be ethically engaged in a community-based polar bear monitoring program. This picture was taken on a trip out on the land around Gjoa Haven during spring 2022. It captures George Konana collecting ice from the lake for tea. He traces ice with the right quality to give his tea a nice ‘reddish, brown’ colour. At this exact moment, he cracks out a huge piece, enough for a month of tea.
CATEGORY: Good Health and Well-Being  
WINNER: Elahe Alizadeh, PhD  
LOCATION: Queen’s CardioPulmonary Unit (QCPU)

COVID-19’s complications and mortality are associated with pneumonia and alterations in the pulmonary vasculature. Acquiring 3D images of vascular trees in animal models provide a useful tool to evaluate the effects of COVID-19 in humans. In the research, aimed at finding new drugs for COVID-19 under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Archer, vascular trees of a mouse were pressure perfused to maximal dilation with a radio-opaque material (barium). The heart and lungs were fixed and scanned using a VECTor4CT scanner. VECTor4CT is the first tri-modality imaging system equipped with an ultra-high-resolution micro-computed tomography scanner at Queen’s University.

CATEGORY: Partnerships for Inclusivity  
WINNER: Riley Malvern  
LOCATION: Kingston, Ontario

Oasis is a program co-developed by older adults to strengthen and sustain their communities to support aging in place. The Oasis Evaluation and Expansion research team has been working with Oasis communities since 2018 to expand the program across Canada and to evaluate a number of health and well-being outcomes. This photo depicts a mural that represents the power of communities coming together. Each square of this mural was designed by an Oasis member from communities across Kingston and Belleville. Together, the squares form the logo, which was designed by members of the original community.

YOU CAN VIEW THE FULL ‘ART OF RESEARCH’ GALLERY AT QUEENSU.CA/RESEARCH.
Introducing the Advanced Leadership for Social Impact Fellowship

Inspiring and empowering transformative social impact leaders. Grounded in real issues, real needs, and real impact.

Queen’s University launches this unique fellowship to prepare experienced leaders with the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to meaningfully tackle the root causes and drivers of social issues or problems.

A 12-month blended delivery program including on-campus residency sessions, online learning, and projects. Reflecting the complexity of social impact leadership, the program will draw on multiple disciplines from across Queen’s University and diverse subject matter experts.

By focusing on developing leaders with the skills and perspectives to tackle complex issues, Queen’s can help solve the world’s most significant and urgent challenges.

For more information contact Matthew Hawksley at m.hawksley@queensu.ca
Just Add Water

An engineering alumnus is making a splash at waterparks around the world.

By Meagan Fitzpatrick  Photography courtesy of Whitewater and Dan Horbal
Dan Horbal, Sc’03, loved water-slides as a kid and, after Queen’s, he found a career where he could design, build, and, most fun of all, ride them.

“I am passionate about water-slides,” Mr. Horbal says.

He’s travelled the globe thanks to this passion. Projects have taken him to China, Korea, Australia, the Bahamas, and multiple spots in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.

“I loved Lego growing up and now it’s like I get to do it for a job,” he says from Qatar, where he was living at the time of this interview. Mr. Horbal grew up in Oakville, Ont., and was a frequent visitor to waterparks and amusement parks. A high-school assignment to build a model rollercoaster inspired him to pursue engineering.

He arrived in Kingston in the fall of 1998 and, before long, the engineering faculty felt like a family, he says.

“Everyone wants to help you, everyone wants you to succeed as well,” he says. He and his classmates worked hard, pulling all-nighters to get assignments done, but they had plenty of fun, too.
Some of that fun came from carrying out elaborate pranks around campus. Like the time they got hold of a bus, made it look like it belonged to Corrections Canada and faked its crash into a building, back doors swung open to frighten students that convicts from Kingston’s notorious prisons were on the loose.

Mr. Horbal played hockey on intramural teams and played bass in a band – Hector the Bad Hombre – with other Queen’s students. They often performed at Clark Hall Pub. They even recorded an album. “I still have the MP3s,” he says with a laugh.

Not destined to become a rock star, however, he headed to Ottawa after graduation and moved in with Queen’s friends Ryan Munden and Ian Munro, both Sc’02.

He kicked off his job search and, to pay the bills in the meantime, he took a rather unusual position for a mechanical engineering graduate: cheese salesman. Mr. Horbal worked at the House of Cheesee, in Ottawa’s ByWard Market, and he admits he gained a few pounds while doing so.

Next, he took a landscaping job, to help shed those pounds. All the while, he had his sights set on getting hired at a waterslide company called ProSlide.

“That was the job I really wanted,” Mr. Horbal says. “I kept calling.”

Finally, a position opened and he got it. He dove into his waterslide work as a project co-ordinator.

He’d pore over design drawings and figure out how to build the slides. He’d write assembly manuals and send them out to crews in the field. When something went wrong, they called him, and he’d troubleshoot.

“I couldn’t get enough of it. It was like a new puzzle every time I got a new project,” he says. “I loved it.”
But in 2012 he was bitten by the travel bug and the cure was a sailing sabbatical of a lifetime. With friends, including Alex Moret, Sc’02, Mr. Horbal embarked on a year-long nautical adventure. The crew began in St. Maarten, sailed down the Panama Canal, and travelled across the vast Pacific Ocean to Australia.

“It was one of the best years of my life,” Mr. Horbal says. “It was an unbelievably fulfilling experience.”

Returning to work, he learned more about the installation side of projects and opened new waterparks. His added responsibilities took him to China for the first time and included testing the rides.

“I’d set up the waterslide and then I’d send myself down it,” he says.

He loved the exhilaration, and thought to himself, “I get paid to do this? This is unbelievable.”

But the thrill of being the first one down a newly built ride does come with some apprehension, he admits.

“There is a fear factor there,” he says. “Here comes the trust in the designers and here comes the trust in everybody that I’ve worked with.”

So far, that trust has paid off, and he’s never been injured.

Mr. Horbal, who now works for a Canadian-based waterslide company called WhiteWater, says he feels the pressure to not only ensure a slide is safe, but also fun.

“You want them coming out feeling like that was amazing and they want to go again,” he says.

While living away from family and friends in Canada is hard, he says he loves being on construction sites around the world and witnessing the designs come to life, one bolt at a time. There are a lot of bolts that go into holding a slide together.

“After 17 years, I still get new problems to solve, I learn new techniques to solve them and gain new skills in the process,” he says.

He’s thrown himself down hundreds of slides over those years, and yes, he does have some favourites.

The ones where you stand in a capsule, the floor suddenly drops out from below you, and you’re instantly hurtling down a steep slide? That’s a good day at the office for this Queen’s grad.
A family tradition

Queen’s changed the life of members of the Ross and Janson families. Now they give back to help others get the same life-changing opportunity.

For generations, getting an education has been very important to Peggy Janson’s family.

It goes back to her grandfather, who had three daughters and three sons. The children grew up in the 1930s and ’40s and her grandfather made sure his three girls (not the boys) had a university degree.

“He said a woman needs an education to support herself and he didn’t want (his daughters) to be dependent on their husbands,” recalls Peggy. “He said a man (didn’t need a degree because they) can always get a job if they have a strong back. It’s a unique way to look at things and shows that education has always been important in our family.”

“The only school I applied to was Queen’s because I knew I wanted to study engineering and Queen’s had the best engineering program in Canada.”

Her grandfather’s foresight helped Peggy’s mother, Marian Ross, Arts’46, when Marian’s marriage broke up and she found herself taking care of four children under the age of six. Fortunately, she could support her family because her Queen’s degree led to a career as a teacher.

Years later, Peggy and her husband, Peter Janson, Sc’69, would establish the Janson Family Entrance Bursary, which is awarded on the basis of financial need to first-year students in the Faculty of Arts and Science with preference given to female students from Northern Ontario.

The bursary reflects the journey of both Peggy and her mother, Marian, who came to Queen’s after growing up in Timmins (Marian) and Kirkland Lake (Peggy).

Like Peggy, Queen’s was the university Peter wanted to attend. In fact, it was the only one.

“The only school I applied to was Queen’s because I knew I wanted to study engineering and Queen’s had the best engineering program in Canada,” Peter says.

He made life-long friends there and his experience set him up for a long and successful career.

Meeting Peggy was perhaps the most important event that happened during Peter’s time in Kingston. Peggy had gone on one bad blind date during her time at Queen’s and swore she’d never do it again. But when a friend had a cold, she asked Peggy if she wanted to go on her blind date instead. That’s when she met Peter.

They have now been married for more than 50 years, have three children, and have had successful careers that took them around the world.

Peter didn’t choose to be a practising engineer. He was more interested in leadership and managing engineering companies. Peter, who was born in Sweden and grew up in Montreal, took jobs that led the family to live across Canada, the U.S., and South Africa. He rose in the management ranks and eventually became the CEO of major engineering firms such as ABB (ASEA Brown Boveri) US and Agra Inc. Peggy had several careers,
support the family’s entrance bursary. (Peggy and Peter also have gifts in their wills to enhance the bursary in the future.) Peggy’s mom, Marian, was a long-time member of Queen’s University Council (1985-97) who also made financial gifts to the school. The Janson/Ross Queen’s connections also include Peter and Peggy’s youngest daughter, Allison Janson, Artsci’04 (and her husband, Sean Hazell, Artsci’04), brother Tom Janson, Sc’71, Ed’02 (and his wife, Sue Boyd Janson, Com’71), nephew Mark Janson, Artsci’03, and niece Margaux Williamson, Artsci’99.

The Jansons give back because they know that education has the power to change lives. A bursary can mean the difference between dreaming of a university education and enrolling in classes.

Peter is grateful for his time at Queen’s because it gave him the skills and confidence that led to his successful career in business.

“We’ve been blessed and are very fortunate, so we like to give others the same opportunities.”

including as a real estate agent, librarian, and running an import giftware company.

The couple is happily retired and living in Florida, which gives them time to help their favourite local charities through financial donations and volunteering.

Together, they have supported many causes at Queen’s. Along with the Janson Family Entrance Bursary, the couple has given to their Sc’69 and Arts’71 Homecoming class-giving initiatives. They also supported Beamish-Munro Hall and Mitchell Hall. (Bruce Mitchell, Sc’68, DSC’20, the building’s namesake, was Peter’s former housemate at Queen’s.)

Giving back runs in the family. Daughter Jennifer Janson, Artsci’95, has arranged a gift in her will to support the family’s entrance bursary. (Peggy and Peter also have gifts in their wills to enhance the bursary in the future.) Peggy’s mom, Marian, was a long-time member of Queen’s University Council (1985-97) who also made financial gifts to the school. The Janson/Ross Queen’s connections also include Peter and Peggy’s youngest daughter, Allison Janson, Artsci’04 (and her husband, Sean Hazell, Artsci’04), brother Tom Janson, Sc’71, Ed’02 (and his wife, Sue Boyd Janson, Com’71), nephew Mark Janson, Artsci’03, and niece Margaux Williamson, Artsci’99.

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“We’ve been blessed and are very fortunate, so we like to give others the same opportunities,” Peter says.
How estate planning can be an act of love

Death can be an uncomfortable topic, but it’s important to have conversations with loved ones about wills, executors, power of attorney, and other estate planning issues well in advance, to ease the burden for those left behind when a person passes away.

It’s the reason why Queen’s Alumni Relations recently held an online event called “Estate Planning as an Act of Love,” because having what can be difficult conversations today will help your loved ones in the future.

The event was moderated by author and Credit Canada Debt Solutions CEO Bruce Sellery, Com’93, and featured lawyer Leanne Kaufman, Law’96, who is the CEO of RBC Royal Trust, with special guest David Chilton, author of the best-selling finance book, The Wealthy Barber.

Watch the event.

HERE IS A LOOK AT SOME IMPORTANT ESTATE PLANNING QUESTIONS AND ADVICE DISCUSSED DURING THE EVENT.

BRUCE: Why do you think estate planning is a conversation families need to have?
LEANNE: When you don’t do the estate planning and just leave it up to chance, you are not setting up the people you left behind for success. Family members are going to be grieving and dealing with the most difficult emotions they’ve probably ever experienced. People already have problems thinking straight at the time of grieving, and adding in a complex legal process, as well as trying to figure out what (the person who passed away) wanted, makes it even harder. So, I consider estate planning an act of love.

BRUCE: What are some of the ways of thinking about how to divide assets amongst the next generation, and how do we think about assets for family versus philanthropy?
LEANNE: It’s very personal. Some people will divide everything equally among their children. Some people want to recognize that one child may have received more during their parent’s lifetime – maybe their education was paid for, or they were given a down payment on a house – so it should be addressed how to equalize things. Philanthropy is a great conversation, especially for people who have a substantial estate who don’t think all their money needs to go to children and grandchildren – or those without children. It’s common for people to help the charities and causes they’ve supported during their lives through leaving a legacy in their will. Others may want to implement a trust because they want their legacy to continue for generations.

BRUCE: How do you pick an executor for your estate?
LEANNE: I think people naturally assume it’s going to be their kids or an immediate family member. But if someone doesn’t have great financial acumen, is not organized, and doesn’t have good attention to detail, or doesn’t live in the jurisdiction, they might not be a good fit for this role. Also, what is your choice going to do to family relations? Are you picking one child over another? Or are you picking all your children and forcing them to make decisions together when there is no family harmony? This may not be the best time to force them into a collaborative working relationship. Trust companies can also do this for you.

BRUCE: What advice do you have about starting the estate planning conversation without creating family fireworks?
LEANNE: Perhaps you can talk about how a friend you know struggled and caused a rift after a family member passed away without a will. You can also talk about the concept of a “When I die” binder, that sets out all the information your loved ones need to know – where to find and how to access bank accounts, assets, liabilities. This can be built as a family, so there are no surprises when the time comes.
Sharing gifts and values

A donor’s goal with any charitable gift or donation is to share with others. We typically think of sharing in the context of donor and beneficiary. The donor is sharing their gift – and by extension the donor’s values – with Queen’s and the student and alumni communities by giving to those specific groups at Queen’s that the donor wishes to support. A donor who wants to support upward mobility through higher education may make a gift to the Promise Scholars program, which provides first-generation students from low-income families with the financial support they need to attend Queen’s. A gift directed to Queen’s Athletics supports student athletes in their studies and training by minimizing the cost of educational and sports-related expenses. A gift to the donor’s faculty strengthens the legacy of support from one Queen’s generation to the next.

**SHARING VALUES**

One benefit of a charitable gift that is often overlooked is how a donor may also use their gift to Queen’s as a means to share the donor’s values with family members. Parents and grandparents often say they want their children or grandchildren to share their same values, but without the need to overcome the same hardships and difficulties they went through to develop those values. A donor may use their gift to share and instil their values in their children or grandchildren by involving them in choosing which initiatives to support.

Involving family members in the gift to Queen’s might work as follows:

1. **Spread the Love:** Allot a specific amount of the overall gift to each family member. Each member is then responsible for determining how their specific allotment will be gifted to Queen’s.

2. **Find Their Passion:** Each family member researches the various gifting initiatives and opportunities that are available at Queen’s. The Office of Advancement at Queen’s hosts a website that provides details on all the available gifts that may be made to Queen’s. Family members decide how they want their allotment of the gift to be allocated to the various gifting opportunities at Queen’s.

3. **Hold a Pitch Party:** Family members present their proposed gifts to the rest of the family and explain why they believe the recipient is deserving of the gift. This allows the family members to express the values that they believe the gift will support.

Parents who have implemented a family-giving strategy report that their children embrace the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process. Children often find gifting opportunities at Queen’s that might have been overlooked by the parents. As well, conversations between children and parents in which the gifts are explained and discussed allow children to express their own values and demonstrate concern for others.

**CONNECTING GENERATIONS TOGETHER**

For grandparents, involving younger generations in the gift decision is a way to bridge the generational divide through a shared experience. It is also an opportunity for grandparents to explain the long-term impact and legacy of the gift. Grandparents and grandchildren can discuss how gifts to specific students in need can change the course of a person’s life. Gifts to the Queen’s community at large, such as capital building projects, can create an enduring legacy for the entire university community. The enduring benefit that a gift to Queen’s creates is not limited to only the students and university. The conversations and interactions between grandparents and grandchildren become a legacy shared between generations.

**CREATE A TRADITION OF POSITIVE IMPACT**

A family-giving strategy also provides children with decision-making responsibility and a voice to express their own values. Children have their own ideas and solutions for how a gift to Queen’s may help make a positive impact. Involving children in the gifting process allows them to exercise mature and responsible decision making. It also provides children with the opportunity to see the effect their decisions and opinions have on students’ futures and the Queen’s community.

Many donors have made an annual family-giving strategy a family tradition. Each year, parents, grandparents, and children discuss how and why gifts should be made. In this way, each generation is able to openly discuss and share their values with each other while still benefitting the Queen’s community.

For more information on how to create your own legacy at Queen’s, contact the Gift Planning office at gift.planning@queensu.ca or visit our webpage at queensu.ca/alumni/giftplanning.

Brandon Hodge, Law’01, Partner, Specialty Tax and National Controversy Leader, MNP
“Agnes Reimagined will be a dynamic culture-making hub and an active civic and social force—mobilizing the transformative power of art to create more equitable, inclusive and sustainable worlds. Agnes will thrive equally on her deep community roots and global reach, and importantly, innovate within their intersection.”

—EMELIE CHHANGUR, DIRECTOR AND CURATOR

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Call or Email Rod or Matt White Directly for Detailed Listing Information
Sam Effah (MMIE’21) has represented Canada as a 100-metre sprinter, and is a graduate of the Master of Management, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship program at Smith School of Business at Queen’s University. He recently landed a role as a manager in brand marketing at RBC, and will serve as Canada’s co-chef de mission at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, alongside fellow Smith grad Claire Carver Dias.

I was really introverted growing up. I hated to be on stage and make presentations in class. I realized this was something I needed to overcome when I competed in my first World Track and Field Championships in 2009. I walked onto the track at the Berlin Olympic Stadium, and there were 80,000 people in the crowd. If you are not brave enough to speak to your marketing class, how can you perform in front of that many people?

I started out by speaking to youth. I was still an undergraduate student at the time, and started working with an organization called Classroom Champions. They have high-performance athletes teach lessons on skills, goal setting, and perseverance. I did lessons with five different classrooms, once a month. And I saw the impact that it was having on the students – and on me. It was huge for my development.
started to get really comfortable as a speaker, and began speaking to corporate teams, too. Public speaking did help make me more comfortable on the track, but it also turned into a real passion for me.

The first few times I spoke to a class, it was really nerve-racking. When you do not have the experience, you worry about what people will think of you. But kids don’t judge you; they accept you. I learned that if you are authentic and honest, people will respond well. I love to tell stories about my experiences as an athlete, but I always make sure there is a lesson that the students can take from them.

I worked with Classroom Champions for eight years, and when the pandemic hit in 2020, I really leaned into it. The facility where I was training was forced to close, and I was not able to access it, but I still found ways to train. That was a difficult time for everyone, but I knew that my work with Classroom Champions was not only for me; it was for the students, too. So, I continued the mentoring work I was doing via live chats and video calls.

Experiences like this one will help me speak to the adversity that athletes at the Commonwealth Games will face, and I can speak to it from very recent experience. I can talk to the athletes who may not get to compete because something happens. I trained in the same pandemic that they will be competing in, so I can relate to their experience. But you need to bring your best performance, even when the situation is less than ideal. My work with Classroom Champions helped me learn how to share my story with others. I want to use my experience to help elevate people – whether it is students in a classroom or athletes on a track.

When I was growing up, I had my dad as a role model, but I never had an external “hero.” Public speaking has allowed me to be a role model for people who look like me, who talk like me. I want to show people that even if you do run fast or dribble a basketball really well, you can be so much more than that. – Ty Burke

Tara McKenna, MA’12

Tara McKenna took a personal journey to a zero-waste lifestyle – now she’s helping others do the same

Tara McKenna, MA’12, came to Queen’s to change the world. Armed with an undergraduate degree in international development, she came to earn her master’s in urban planning.

“It felt very specific,” she says. “International development felt too big, but I realized right away that urban planning was a tangible way for me to improve the world.”

The degree led Ms. McKenna to a job with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, where she worked with biologists, conservationists, and other people who actually were changing the world. But it was at a family wedding in Indonesia in 2013 that she found her calling.

“I had always imagined Bali as this pristine tropical destination,” she says. “And it is, but when we went snorkeling, I found a lot of plastic and trash in the ocean. I was devastated, but also motivated to do something about it.”

Ms. McKenna’s instinct was to go back to school and study marine biology. “But I realized that wasn’t practical,” she says, “so instead I just read a lot.”
All of that reading led her to make some big changes.

“I was inspired by the idea of living with less, reducing my waste, and creating a non-toxic home environment,” she says. “I started scrutinizing the products I was using and the food I was eating. I realized that if I really wanted to change the world, the best way to start was by changing my life.”

That meant she had to learn even more. “I immersed very deeply in learning about minimalism and the zero-waste lifestyle,” she says. “I watched documentaries, got involved in my community, read everything I could get my hands on, and documented my journey on social media.”

After a decade of immersion, Ms. McKenna was ready to reflect on her journey. “It was a long road and I often felt overwhelmed,” she says. “It would have been easier if I had all that information in one place. I thought, ‘If there was one book that would help me change my life, what would it look like?’”

Don’t Be Trashy, Ms. McKenna’s first book, is the one-stop guide she wished was available when she started down the path toward a less wasteful lifestyle. She deliberately wrote the book in 12 chapters, tacking everything from food to fashion to finance to finding community among like-minded people. “Changing your life takes time,” she says. “I wrote 12 chapters so you can work through it month by month. You can’t change everything overnight, but you can do it over the course of a year and not be overwhelmed by it.”


— Deborah Melman-Clement
For one idyllic decade in the 1980s, the housemates at 96 Earl Street were like a bowl of homemade granola: some oats, some nuts, some honey – all wholesome, all good for you, and all better together.

They were living the dream, a dream fuelled by lentils and brown rice, all-natural peanut butter scooped from a bucket at Tara Natural Foods, and copious amounts of herbal tea brewed in a red enamel teapot purchased from Vandervoort General Store. There were seven or eight of them at any one time and they shared a love of the outdoors, a genial camaraderie, and a sense of belonging. Belonging, that is, to the mellow vibe of 96 Earl Street.

There was no TV in the home’s small living room and seldom any beer in the fridge – not by edict, just mutual disinterest. But there were happy times squeezed around the kitchen table or on the patio in the backyard, where guests were always welcome.

“The days at 96 Earl were the best,” says Andrew Roberts (Artsci’79, Law’86, MPA’89) who was there for the whole ride. “They were the best.”

The narrow row house just south of Bagot Street was never going to be just another shared student residence. From the first lease with the home’s then-new owners in 1981, it was conceived as a co-op, says Mr. Roberts. Decisions were to be made collectively, household chores shared equally, and new tenants approved by the group.

The success of the co-op owes something to Camp Outlook, the Kingston adventure camp for at-risk youth whose volunteer counsellors made up a number of the tenants through the years, according to Mr. Roberts. Volunteers at Camp Outlook, often Queen’s students, take young people from the Kingston community on wilderness canoe trips that can last up to 10 days.

Back-country campers who liked to give back to their community were a perfect fit for 96 Earl, says Mr. Roberts. “That was a huge theme – a love of the outdoors – among people at the house,” he says. “There was always somebody out on a canoe trip. In the winter, there were
always cross-country skis by the shed door.”

The house itself was “kind of hokey-pokey,” says Mr. Roberts: a warren of seven bedrooms (two on the first floor, five more upstairs), with a small kitchen and living room at the back and just one bathroom. “We got really good at sharing.”

Spending a year in the house’s smallest bedroom was a rite of passage for new tenants. Tim Greenwood (Artsci’79, Ed’83), the only other housemate to stay at 96 Earl for the duration of the co-op, took his turn in the cell-like chamber. “When I lay lengthwise in the room, that was kind of the length of the room,” he recalls.

Not everybody in the house was strictly vegetarian, says Mr. Greenwood, but pretty much everyone cooked vegetarian when their turn in the kitchen came up. “We had, like, Moosewood Cookbook, we had Whole Earth [Cook Book]... sort of these standard vegetarian books, and people would go into them.”

At the kitchen table, says Mr. Roberts, it was often a tight fit because dinner guests were common.

Former housemate Alan Cantor (Artsci’81, Artsci/Ed’83) believes the dinners were one way the co-op could vet potential new tenants. He says he got an invitation to join the group within two hours of having dinner at 96 Earl and helping with the dishes afterwards. “The main criterion for living at 96 Earl was demonstrating a willingness to tidy up after supper,” Mr. Cantor says.

The housemates at 96 Earl had “a stronger community ethos” than you might find in other student housing, suggests Mr. Roberts. “It was a very special group of people,” many of whom went into caring professions. Physicians, teachers, social workers, and a midwife are among 96 Earl’s alumni.

When the home’s owners decided to sell in 1987, Mr. Roberts couldn’t let go of the dream. Using a recent inheritance as down payment, he bought the building. It would continue using a recent inheritance as down payment, 1987, Mr. Roberts couldn’t let go of the dream. Throughout my years volunteering for Queen’s, I’ve seen adaptation firsthand, including the early questions on whether we should dip our toes into social media, which seems far-fetched now. For the last two years, we’ve adapted in all areas of our lives – balancing remote work with personal and family commitments, connecting with family and friends virtually, all while constantly assessing the health risks around us. What does adaptation for our alumni community look like?

We have an opportunity to adapt to a new reality, which is a chance to engage with more alumni wherever in the world they reside or whatever means they possess. For example, on June 9, 2022, the Queen’s University Alumni Association Awards Gala returned to an in-person format in Toronto for the first time since 2019. This is one of the hallmarks events of the annual alumni calendar – an evening to mark the important and measurable contributions alumni make in their local and global communities. This year we celebrated a phenomenal group of recipients who, in their personal and professional lives, serve as reminders of the impactful change Queen’s alumni make around the world.

But this year was different than years past – it was our first opportunity to adapt to the new normal. The gala was a fully immersive hybrid event designed to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of this awards ceremony. This is particularly important for engaging alumni who may have disabilities that can be a barrier to participation. Whether you were in Hong Kong, London, or Kingston, you could tune in and actively participate in this celebration.

Homecoming 2022 will be the next test. While, for many alumni, travelling to Kingston can be prohibitive or simply not feasible for their busy lives, that shouldn’t exclude them from celebrating and reconnecting with classmates and old friends. There will be more to come on this in the months ahead, but Queen’s is working to build hybrid options for Homecoming that go beyond the standard virtual event.

The QUAA mission statement commits us to “serve the alumni community in all its diversity.” By adapting to a new model of alumni engagement, we can better foster a lifelong connection to Queen’s in a more inclusive manner. Finding the silver linings from the pandemic will be key in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,
COLIN MCLEOD,
PRESIDENT, QUAA

FROM THE QUAA

Silver linings

The Queen’s community has always been an adaptable bunch. During the First World War, Queen’s repurposed Grant Hall into a military hospital. At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Queen’s researchers designed and built a ventilator in only 14 days. Throughout my years volunteering for Queen’s, I’ve seen adaptation firsthand, including the early questions on whether we should dip our toes into social media, which seems far-fetched now. For the last two years, we’ve adapted in all areas of our lives – balancing remote work with personal and family commitments, connecting with family and friends virtually, all while constantly assessing the health risks around us. What does adaptation for our alumni community look like?

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Gregory Galligan, Artsci’02, is a proud Canadian diplomat whose career path has wound through several of the world’s conflict zones and most recently led him to a high-profile position in Iraq.

Mr. Galligan was appointed Canada’s ambassador there at the end of 2021 – an announcement he found both exciting and humbling. “It’s an honour to get the nod to go,” he says, and the supportive reaction to the news was “incredible. I have friends from Queen’s who reached out to me immediately.”

After high school in Ottawa, Mr. Galligan started his education with Queen’s at the Bader International Study Centre (now Bader College), an experience he treasured. He loved travelling and seeing the places he was learning about in his textbooks. He participated in Queen’s Model United Nations and Model Parliament, activities that prepared him well for his eventual career. After graduating in 2002, Mr. Galligan headed to Brussels for an internship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

“I was witnessing this multilateral institution at a time of real global tension. From that experience, I thought, ‘I really like this, I want to pursue this,’” he says.

He then did a master’s degree in international relations at King’s College in London, followed by an internship with the British Broadcasting Corporation, where he was happily doing research for documentaries “until I...”

Serving Canada around the world

Canada’s new ambassador to Iraq took a long – and risky – road to diplomacy

BY MEAGAN FITZPATRICK

Queen’s alumnus and Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of Iraq Gregory Galligan is photographed in front of the Al-Shaheed Monument in Baghdad

Photography by Don Saunders, Embassy of Canada to Iraq
got a wonderful call asking if I’d like to join the foreign service.”

Mr. Galligan had been pursuing the foreign service since writing the entrance exams while at Queen’s.

It was 2005 and the time had come to start his career as a diplomat. He worked on the Middle East peace process, then shifted to the nuclear non-proliferation file, specializing in North Korea and Iran.

He was eager to get out from behind a desk and, in 2007, he got his wish. His first foreign posting was to Israel, where he spent three years, followed by a stop in Afghanistan. Mr. Galligan was a deputy director within a provincial reconstruction team. His job involved engaging with political, business, and religious leaders and other local Afghans. It was fascinating, and sometimes risky, work.

“It was a really unique experience. Some days you’d take a Black Hawk [helicopter] to work,” he says.

After an intense year in a war zone, Mr. Galligan packed his bags again and headed to Washington, D.C., for an exchange program with the U.S. State Department. After two years, he returned to Ottawa and filled several roles, including running the foreign affairs communications division. In 2020, he went abroad again, this time to Lebanon, where he was executive co-ordinator for Syria. He was chargé d’affaires at the embassy in Beirut when a massive explosion at the port rocked the city, killing more than 200 people and injuring thousands.

But Mr. Galligan was home in Canada visiting with family for Christmas when he got the news about his next big assignment: ambassador. This time it was for real, after he had prepared for the position once before. He was tapped to become ambassador to Venezuela but never deployed. Canada suspended operations at its embassy in Caracas in 2019.

Now Mr. Galligan’s hopes of becoming an ambassador have been realized and he will be representing Canada in Iraq for the next two years. He says he doesn’t know where his diplomatic passport will take him next.

“It’s an amazing career and I feel very lucky to get the opportunity to serve Canada around the world.”

Al-Shaheed Monument

Also known as the Martyr’s Memorial, the dome monument was designed by Iraqi sculptor and artist Ismail Fatah Al Turk as a memorial for the fallen soldiers in the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s. The two halves of the split dome are offset, with an eternal flame in the centre.
**1960s**

**Rob Peck**  
Arts’68  
Rob has chronicled his life in speeches, which have been presented at Toastmasters International, at church, and in eulogies at family funerals. He is thrilled to announce that, in 2022, he published the last 25 years of those speeches in a book, *Reflections: Speeches from the Heart*. Rob’s book is available at www.robpeckauthor.com.

**1970s**

**Melodie Campbell (nee Offer) and Michael O’Connell**  
Com’78 and Com’78  
Forty-seven years after constantly being put next to each other in class alphabetically, Michael O’Connell and Melodie Offer have made it permanent with a diamond. After finding her on Facebook, Michael stormed back into her life in the fall of 2020. Michael recently sold his company Canadian Printco, and Melodie is an award-winning crime writer. Friends can contact them at www.melodiecampbell.com.

**1980s**

**Don Breithaupt**  
Artsci’83  
Don Breithaupt is an Emmy-winning keyboard player, singer, songwriter, producer, and arranger behind the band Monkey House. The band’s new album, *Remember the Audio*, features Randy Brecker, Michael Leonhart, and Drew Zingg. Past albums have earned accolades, including a nomination at the 2020 Juno Awards.

**David Garlick**  
Ed’83  
David Garlick retired from his role as a secondary school principal in 2016. He published a collection of short stories called *The Principal Chronicles* in 2021 through FriesePress. Two of the stories are set during his time at Queen’s.

**Jeeva Sam**  
MDiv’82  
Jeeva Sam graduated from Queen’s Theological College and has recently published *The Unbreakable Marriage: How to Stand in Unity and Withstand Adversity*, which was co-authored with his wife, Sulojana.

**1990s**

**Richard Manley-Tannis and Rev. Shelly Manley-Tannis**  
MA’98 (Classics) and MDiv’01  
Richard Manley-Tannis completed his PhD through the Taos Institute and Tilburg University in the Netherlands and was awarded his doctorate in practical theology and relational construction in Tilburg, Feb. 17, 2020. The couple was lucky to have travelled to Tilburg and returned home just when the COVID-19 restrictions were becoming a reality.

**Paul Thompson**  
MA’90  
Paul Thompson was recently appointed deputy minister/deputy receiver-general at Public Services and Procurement Canada. He was recruited directly upon his graduation from Queen’s and has held a number of senior leadership roles since that time. Paul follows several family members
who are Queen’s graduates: his grandfather, Elwood Thompson (BA’24); his father, Keith P. Thompson (Arts’51); and two nieces, Katie Squires Thompson (Artsci’12) and Emma Squires (Com’14).

Rietta Wadman-Mills
Con.Ed’90
Rietta Wadman-Mills is happy to announce that she is enjoying retirement from a 30-year elementary teaching career at Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board and Lime- stone District School Board.

2000s

Heather (Campbell) Pope
Artsci’06
Heather (Campbell) Pope, and her husband Aaron welcomed Betty Lynne in December 2021. She joins big brother Clifford. The family can be reached at heather@dementiajustice.com.

Alicia Ho
Artsci’09
Alicia Ho is the founder and creative behind Precious Ones Photography in Toronto. She was awarded first place in family portraits for Portrait Masters 2022, a prestigious international photography competition, in March. Her work can be seen at PreciousOnesPhotography.ca.

IN MEMORIAM

Arland E. Benn
BASc’48
Arland Benn passed away on March 21, 2022. He was 96. He is survived by his wife, Jean; and children, Alison (Artsci’92) and Jeffrey.

Bevin Clark
BPHE’69
Bevin Clark died Feb. 25, 2022, age 78. He is survived by his brothers, Bob Clark (Sc’56) and Bill Clark (Sc’60); and nephews, Paul Tuff (Sc’84), and Peter Tuff (Arts’92).

David Ross Conn
BASc’59, MSc’61, PhD’70
David Conn PhD, Professor Emeritus, passed away on March 1, 2022, at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, Liliana; and children, Peter (Rama), Kristina (Mathew), and Michael (Sonya).

James Henry Coyle
MD’63
James Henry Coyle passed away on March 20, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; and children, Robert, David and Alaine.

Ted Allen Given
Arts’64
Ted Allen Given passed away on April 27, 2022, at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, Lillian; daughters, Jacqueline and Gillian; his brother, William K. Given; and son-in-law, John Ogden.

Rudolf Harmsen
Rudolf Harmsen passed away on March 23, 2022, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife, Jerroldine Harmsen (Arts’55); sister, Miek Zuidera; sons, Douglas and Leif; son-in-law, Mario Longtin; and daughter-in-law, Stephanie Cozart. He was predeceased by his brother, Arvid.

Barbara Rowand Lamb
Arts’60
Barbara was a trailblazer – volunteer, teacher, head of the business department at Sir James Dunn C & VS, and first female vice principal in the Sault Ste. Marie Board of Education. She died, age 95, surrounded by family and friends.

Brenda Marianne Large
Brenda Marianne Large passed away on March 25, 2022, at the age of 79. She is survived by her sisters, Kathy Large and Daphne Large (Ian Scott).

Charles (Charlie) Edmund Olmsted
Sc’51
Charles Edmund Olmsted passed away on Dec. 16, 2021, at the age of 94. Predeceased by his wife, Joan (2011), he is survived by his children, Peter (Sc’80)(Laura), Barbara (BA/BPHE’83, BEd’87)(Heather), Paul (Sc’84, MBA’91)(Sandra, Com’85), and Nancy (BA/BPHE’91, BEd’94).

Andrew (Andy) Patriquin
HBSc’75
Andy Patriquin passed away on Feb. 8, 2022, at the age of 72. Andy is survived by his son, Brad; his love, Stephanie; and her children, Chad and Jade.

Marion Agnes Price-Jones (nee Boyd)
Arts’64
Marion Agnes Price-Jones passed away on Sept.2, 2020, at the age of 83. She is survived by her children Shelley, Sharon, Greg, and Ron (all are Queen’s alumni, as were her parents and brother).

David Robinson
Sc’65
David Robinson passed away on Nov. 29, 2021, at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife, Judi (nee Bailey); son, Brent (Kim Weir); and daughters, Stacey Lavigne and Lianne Crowe (Jeff).

Rev. Dr. Douglas Harry Ross
Arts’56, BDiv’57
Rev. Dr. Douglas Harry Ross passed away on Nov. 6, 2021, at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife, Helen Ross (nee Ferguson) (Arts’54); and daughters, Jennifer Burnside, Mary-Janet Ross, and Elizabeth Phoenix.
Michael Davies

Respected publisher and philanthropist left his mark on Kingston and Queen’s

If Michael Davies had been born in another era, he may have been a merchant adventurer or an explorer seeking the Northwest Passage.

Instead, he was a respected publisher of the Kingston Whig-Standard, a generous philanthropist committed to his hometown and to his alma mater, Queen’s University, a devoted father, an ocean-going sailor, and a helicopter pilot.

Mr. Davies died March 22, 2022, after a long decline caused by Parkinson’s disease-related dementia. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elaine, his five children and their partners, 14 grandchildren, and his great-grandson.

He met Elaine Stephens in his teens. Their lifelong partnership was “one of the great love stories,” says John Rae, Artssci’67, a close friend and a fellow member of the Queen’s University Board of Trustees.

Mr. Davies was born in Kingston in 1936, the community he called home all his life. He graduated from Queen’s in 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts and then stepped into the family’s newspaper business.

The university was always close to his heart, says his son, Dr. Gregory Davies, who graduated with an honours BA in economics from Queen’s, later did his medical residency there, and subsequently joined Queen’s Health Sciences. His father felt a strong connection to the university during his working life and later he assumed several university-centred roles, including vice-chair of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Davies was also a community leader. His many roles included president of the Kingston Symphony, president of Kingston General Hospital, and co-founder of the Kingston Rowing Club.

He created endowments for the DAN School of Drama and Music and in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen’s through the Davies Charitable Foundation he started in 1990. The foundation has contributed $11 million to more than 600 worthy causes, all helping the community of Kingston and many including projects at the university.

He was a leader in the creation of the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, which boasts more than $25 million in endowments.

“He loved growing up in Kingston. He felt a huge responsibility for the privilege the community had given him to be the voice in the community,” Dr. Davies says. “He was really connected and involved. Every night he was out to some meeting... He was involved in every community group that was going on.”

That involvement led to the Order of Canada, Order of Ontario, and, in 1998, a Doctor of Laws from his alma
“Big ocean sailing is an unbelievable experience... I’ll never forget surfing a 67-foot boat down 30-foot waves alongside my father. You don’t get many opportunities like that.”

- DR. GREGORY DAVIES

As a teenager, Mr. Davies developed a passion for classical music. When others listened to Elvis and the Beatles, he hummed Beethoven. Later, he was a central figure in the restoration of Kingston’s Grand Theatre, the home of the symphony. And, in his final years, music soothed him, Dr. Davies says.

He began his sailing life in Kingston Harbour, but he went much farther. In his boat Minstrel (a.k.a. the family cottage), he sailed the Great Lakes, up the St. Lawrence to Newfoundland, and to Bermuda. Bigger horizons beckoned.

mater; he was the third member of the family to be so honoured, after his father, Arthur, and his uncle Robertson, the novelist.

Mr. Davies was not afraid to take a calculated risk in business or on the Atlantic.

His grandfather, Rupert, who, legend has it, had come to Canada from Wales with a one-pound note sewn into his coat, had purchased the Whig-Standard in 1925. The family held it until the paper was sold in 1990.

Mr. Davies assumed sole control in 1976, having been named publisher in 1969.

He hired the late Neil Reynolds as editor and the two went on to prove a small paper in a small city could punch well above its weight, winning two Michener Awards and many other honours – all recognizing the power and quality of its journalism.

He was a principled publisher, too. The Whig-Standard was the first Canadian paper to ban tobacco ads. He also banned smoking in the workplace – years before it became law.

The decision to sell in 1990 was another calculated risk.

It was "bittersweet for Michael, but he knew it was the right thing to do for the family," his son says. Five years later, the internet began its rise and the long erosion of print media began.

Mr. Rae, who first met Mr. Davies while working at Power Corporation overseeing that company’s regional newspapers, says he “knew what he wanted, and he did what he wanted.”

He commissioned the building of Archangel, a 67-foot vessel, and crossed the Atlantic 11 times. Over the years, he circumnavigated the globe twice. He would venture out for a month at a time, staying in touch with meetings at the Whig-Standard by ship-to-shore radio.

“We all grew up feeling very loved and included. He showed us an adventurous life. If you wanted to participate, you were welcome, but he was going to do it,” Dr. Davies says. “Michael included many friends from all walks of life and of all ages in his sailing adventures.

“Before we were married, the first time my wife went sailing was across the Atlantic” with her soon-to-be father-in-law.

“Big ocean sailing is an unbelievable experience... I’ll never forget surfing a 67-foot boat down 30-foot waves alongside my father. You don’t get many opportunities like that.

“...”

Mr. Davies giving a speech to the Canadian national news agency, The Canadian Press.
Shelagh Rogers, Arts'77, LLD'19, is one of Canada’s most beloved radio broadcasters and has a long list of awards and accomplishments. The longtime CBC Radio journalist, who can be heard interviewing writers on her show The Next Chapter, has been named an officer of the Order of Canada, was chosen to be an honorary witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and has spent seven years as the chancellor of the University of Victoria.

Now she is receiving the Symons Medal for her efforts to promote literacy, fight the stigma of mental illness, and foster truth, healing, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The award is administered by the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown and Ms. Rogers joins a list of impressive recipients that includes fellow alumni such as former governor general David Johnston, Law’66, LLD’91, and two prime ministers (Justin Trudeau and Paul Martin). Current Queen’s Chancellor Murray Sinclair, LLD’19 (who is also Ms. Rogers’ cousin), was honoured in 2019.

“I am totally thrilled and deeply honoured to accept this honour, and humbled to be in the company I am in,” says Ms. Rogers.

While the awards are nice, she says she volunteers and does advocacy work because it fills her heart and soul. Ms. Rogers – who developed a love for radio while volunteering for Queen’s campus radio station CFRC – tries to help others by being open about her own mental-health struggles.

“Back in 2003, when I started to talk about mental illness, people were not talking about it publicly,” says Ms. Rogers.

Part of the honour of receiving the Symons Medal is the opportunity to give a public lecture about the current state of Canada. The talk takes place on Oct. 13 in Charlottetown; listeners can expect to hear Ms. Rogers’ thoughts about dialogue, listening, and getting to know the truth, to change the story that many Canadians received through their early education about Indigenous Peoples.

“We need to talk to each other and have those difficult conversations to try to heal something that has been broken for centuries,” Ms. Rogers says. — Michael Onesii

As a recipient of the Symons Medal, Shelagh Rogers will give a public lecture about the current state of Canada this October in Charlottetown.
2020 will go down as the year of the great reset. The year we all got back to basics and were reminded of what really matters: family and protecting it. Maybe it’s time to reset the way you protect your family’s health, with Alumni Health & Dental Insurance. It can help cover the cost of things not covered by your government health plan, like prescription drugs, dental care and physiotherapy, while helping your family get the care you want for them.

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