

**GREAT NEWS ABOUT
GROWING MEMBERSHIP!**

We are now at 1,000+ members and growing! Thank you to all new members and please continue to spread the work about the advantages of being a RAQ member.

**Monthly news &
updates**

**Student entrepreneurship success: Diane Kelly chats with
Greg Bavington, Executive Director
Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre**



Are you familiar with the **Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre** (DDQIC)? We had an opportunity to learn all about this exciting Centre from the Executive Director, **Greg Bavington**. And to catch your attention, some say the Queen's Innovation Centre programs and results put it among the top five entrepreneurship centres in North America!

The Innovation Centre was created in 2012 as a collaboration between faculty and entrepreneurial alumni, and because of generous gifts in 2016 from the Dunin and Deshpande



Queen's has been supportive of the Centre's mission and provides its students with wonderful state-of-the-art space in Mitchell Hall. The **Rose Innovation Hub** is equipped with 10 meeting rooms, lounges, and co-working spaces, the DDQIC Rose Event Commons for hosting large gatherings, and a student-run on-campus makerspace, all of which is available for use by students.

And you don't have to be a member of Queen's to take advantage of the Centre's resources. Members from other universities can participate in the training and opportunities

families, it continues to grow.

The Centre began as a lean start-up, its mission to encourage, enable and support the innovation activities of students, faculty, entrepreneurs, regional and Canadian companies by providing incubators, accelerators, joint courses, workshops, internship opportunities, seminars, and business plan competitions.

What does it provide our students?

Greg said that, while Queen's students learn certain academic skills, many of which are program-specific, it may be difficult for a student leaving a particular discipline to access the broad range of skills necessary to examine, understand, and try to resolve today's complex issues and challenges. The Innovation Centre's mission is to help students bridge those gaps, whether it be through entrepreneurship skills training, encouraging teamwork across disciplines, enabling the understanding of the results that can be achieved by pulling together as a team, or providing experiential learning opportunities.

For example, the **Queen's Innovation Centre Summer Initiative** (QICSI), the Centre's flagship program, gives participants training, mentorship, funding, and office space to launch their own start-up that solves a defined problem. Building on the success of QICSI, the Centre helped develop the **Master of Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship program** (MMIE) in the Smith School of Business that equips graduates with the skills to handle any entrepreneurial endeavour, from the formation of a start-up, to embarking on social innovation activities, to looking at innovation within a corporate environment. If you go onto the Centre's website, in addition to QICSI and formal entrepreneurship courses leading to degrees and certificates,

available at the Centre as do students from Africa. These international connections have resulted in productive student exchanges in Africa and India. Greg emphasized that the Centre wants its students to be focussed on the impact of their work and social innovation has become an important component of the programs. The Centre wants its programs to be financially accessible and so it provides a variety of income-producing opportunities and grants for its students.

What is entrepreneurship, we asked?

Greg said that an entrepreneurial mindset means that you are comfortable with uncertainty, you have a desire to solve problems but know that there may be a variety of solutions, you want to work with others to achieve your goals, and you believe that you can make a difference. The Centre works on instilling this entrepreneurial mindset in its students.

A measure of the success of the Centre is the fact that there is a 49 percent survival rate among the companies that are created by its students, a number that far exceeds the standard survival rate of start-ups in Canada.

Greg is proud of the fact that the Centre has opened the innovation door to a wide variety of students, not just engineering and MBA grads. Everyone in the entrepreneurial field knows that arts and humanities students bring essential skills to and have a role to play in the creation and sustainability of new organizations.

Greg is especially proud of the relationship the Centre has forged with the City of Kingston in its efforts to encourage entrepreneurship in the City and works closely with the City on projects like the **Mayor's Innovation Challenge**.

you will see a whole suite of entrepreneurship programming including online workshops, conferences and clubs on innovation, pitch competitions, a mentorship network, a makerspace, and more.

Photo credits: DDQIC



Check out some of the companies that own their origins to QICS below!

Spectra Plasmonics (QICSI 2017) - <https://www.spectraplasmonics.com>

Spectra Plasmonics delivers a chemical sensor for applications including food safety, forensics, and law enforcement. With state-of-the-art capability, this device saves time and money in detecting trace levels of harmful compounds in complex mixtures.

RockMass Technologies (QICSI 2016) - <https://www.rockmasstech.com>

Rockmass Technologies enhances the process of geotechnical surveying and data acquisition by improving safety, efficiency, and accuracy. The device automatically maps a rock face while the software analyses the data and breaks it down into key information that is used to determine the structural stability of a tunnel, mine shaft and/or rock face.

Mosaic Manufacturing (QICSI 2014) - <https://www.mosaicmfg.com>

Mosaic Manufacturing created a stand-alone device that attaches to a 3D printer and allows for even and clean printing in colour. Mosaic gained 464 backers and \$231,803 CAD in their Kickstarter campaign in 2015 and are now shipping their product.

CleanSlate UV (QICSI 2014) - <https://cleanslateuv.com>

CleanSlate UV is a biosafety company creating the next generation of intelligent sanitization solutions. They leverage the power of UV-C light to kill the most dangerous bacteria and viruses without damaging devices.

Mark your calendars

RAQ's monthly Speakers' Series is now back to in-person events at the University Club plus the option of joining by Zoom! January and February dates for the Lunchtime Speaker Series are:

- Tuesday January 18, 1:00–2:00 pm with guest speaker Dr. Wendy Craig
- Tuesday February 15, 1:00–2:00 pm with guest speaker Dr. Audrey Kobayashi

Donate now to RAQ Bursary

The RAQ bursary supports students in need. Our goal is to provide a \$2,500 award per year. We encourage members to support this worthy cause if your finances permit such a donation. The Office of Advancement often hears from students that it is absolutely life-changing to receive an award.

Donate now

More perks for interested members!

For those who are interested, RAQ members are eligible to join the **Retired Teachers of Ontario Association (RTO/ERO)** as former educators. This group offers a variety of benefits, including health coverage, travel insurance as well as webinars and lectures. RTO membership also includes access to Venngo MemberPerks that offers discounts on a wide range of products and services for health and wellness, travel, entertainment, apparel, and more. For membership information with RTO, please see [this link](#), and for details



Cultural and recreational opportunities for RAQ members!

RAQ Council member Catherine Purcell encourages other RAQ members to join her in hiking local scenic spots and enjoy well-earned post-refreshment in safety and comfort. In addition to recent trek up the Rock Dunder Summit Trail (see photo above), the next hike is planned for **Landon Bay on the 1000 Island Parkway on Friday Nov 26th at 2:30pm followed by a drink and food at the Cornwall's Pub in Rockport**. For those who have hiked Landon Bay before, you'll know there is a lookout with a beautiful view of the Bay and St Lawrence River.

These hikes have become so popular that there is a waiting list so please let Catherine Purcell (cpurcell300@gmail.com) know if you can't make it so more people can participate.

This welcome response has encouraged us to offer another hike at **Landon Bay at 2:30pm on Wednesday December 1st led by Diane Kelly**. Those who are on the wait list will be assured a space but please RSVP to ensure a spot! There are a maximum of 12 places and double vaccination is required.

Getting your cardio workout while out in nature is the best way to ward off the winter blues. See you on the trail!

We are very pleased to partner with the Agnes Etherington Arts Centre to host curator-guided tours for

about perks from MemberPerks, check out [this link](#).

RAQ members of their *Studies in Solitude* exhibit. For those who are unable to join the RAQ tours, the exhibit, featuring works of art by early modern Dutch artists such as Rembrandt van Rijn, Jacob van Campen, Heyman Dullaert, and Cornelis Bisschop, runs until June 12, 2022 and we hope to arrange more tours.

Quick hits: Pension and benefits

Pension update: With the shift to the University Pension Plan (UPP), updates on the rate of investment return will be provided only annually, rather than monthly. This was disappointing news for RAQ but the UPP provided us with their rationale for this decision, which RAQ members can check out at [this link](#).

Pension Services plans to issue their usual communique to pension recipients regarding the annual pension adjustment in late November or early December.

Benefits update: RAQ members are reminded that, as a result of the annual review of premium rates for benefits, the premium rate for Retiree Dental coverage has increased by 5 percent. No other premium rates were affected. Please see [this link](#) for the new dental coverage rates.

]

