



Get to know University Councillor Jeremy Gooden, Sc'16:



1. What is your most memorable moment as a student?

I met my wife in first year at Queen's and it's tough to narrow down a single moment of us together. Breakfasts at Ban Righ, studying together, watching her walk across the stage for convocation...many to count!

2. What is your current career?

I'm a Director at Altas Partners, a Toronto-based private equity firm, in the Portfolio Solutions Group where I work with the executives of our portfolio companies to drive performance and profitability. This includes tackling topics such as sales & pricing, mergers & acquisitions, talent, and technology to accelerate how fast our portfolio companies can grow. I've also been fortunate to lead our firm's ESG efforts over the last year, which has been an interest of mine in recent years. Prior to Altas, I worked for ~7 years in the consulting industry.

3. What is the best career advice you've ever received?

The best advice I received was from another Queen's grad while I was a summer student between my 3rd and 4th year. I think I was too naïve at the time and believed the world was a meritocracy, and I didn't believe in the power that networking could have on one's career. While chatting with this Queen's grad and debating if networking was useless or not, she said that I could either "play the game" and reap the benefits to advance in career and life or continue to believe life was a true meritocracy and be left behind. Putting it that simply cut through the noise for me as I definitely didn't want to be left behind, so from then on, I've been very focused on networking and how to "get ahead" beyond traditional means, which has helped me many times both personally and professionally.

4. What is the career highlight you're most proud of?

One of my consulting projects through work was partnering with the United Nations Development Programme to help four countries' small & medium businesses recover better from

the COVID-19 pandemic during late 2020/early 2021. This was a particularly tough time around the world and with small & medium businesses being the engine of many economies, I was very fortunate to be able to give back in this way.

5. How do you spend your free time?

Watching European football, trying new workout classes in Toronto with my wife, reading books, going on hikes with my two dogs, or spending time with family and friends!

6. What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

I have two primary reasons for being involved in the University Council – supporting & advancing equity at Queen’s and having a platform to support young alumni as they transition from Queen’s to the workforce given the stresses of the pandemic. It’s encouraging to see the progress we’ve made on DEI at Queen’s and as well the programming to help young grads, but we’re still in the early innings for these. On the transition for young grads to the workforce, now is a particularly tough time for finding employment given the broader economy and I’ve seen grads have full-time offers rescinded. I’m looking forward to staying involved in both topics and helping out where I can!

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