

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

Executive Committee

The call for the 2025 Distinguished Service Awards is now open! Do you know someone who has made Queen's a better place and deserves to be recognized? Inaugurated by the University Council in 1974, this award recognizes individuals who have made Queen's a better place through their outstanding contributions. Each year the University Council Executive Committee invites nominations for up to six DSAs, which may be extended by an additional two to a maximum of eight to recognize exceptional alumni contributions. Additional details can be found [here](#). The deadline for nominations is **April 27 at 4 pm**. All nominations will be considered by the Executive Committee in June.

Executive Committee: Patrick Deane (Chair), Doug Bruce (Vice-Chair), Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, Heather Black, Mary Drinkwater, Letitia Golubitsky, Chessa Jope, Yanique Williams

Nominating Committee

2026 UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ELECTION:

- Nominations for 10 positions available on the University Council opened March 19
- The deadline for nominations is Thursday, April 2
- An online election will be held from May 13-27 to select the ten new, or returning, Councillors
- Alumni will be alerted to this election via email. **To ensure they will receive communications about this election**, please encourage alumni in your networks to update their contact information and confirm their communication preferences by contacting the Alumni Relations Office by email: records@queensu.ca or by phone: 1-800-267-7837. Questions about the election can be directed to ucouncil@queensu.ca. Note: this must be done by May 9.



Elaine Wu, Chair, Nominating Committee

On behalf of your Nominating Committee: John Armitage, Alexander Lam, Irene Mukasa, Colby Pereira

Program Committee

June 3 - Orientation: As we head into Councillor elections, Orientation details are being compiled. If you could offer a piece of advice to yourself as a newly elected University Councillor, what would it be? What do you wish you had learned during orientation that would have assisted you in your role? Please send feedback to ucouncil@queensu.ca for consideration for this year's Councillor Orientation.

The Program Committee is seeking volunteers to serve as “**buddies**” for newly elected councillors. In this role, you'll share your experience, help answer questions, and ensure each new councillor has a friendly, familiar connection ahead of the AGM and retreat. Email the [secretariat](#) to sign up.

Mark your calendars:

- October 13 (**11:30 am-1:00 pm**) – Virtual AGM
- November 13 (pm)-14 (am) – In-person Retreat

If you have a topic/presenter for consideration, please forward to ucouncil@queensu.ca

- **November 13 (5:30-7:30 pm) – [Distinguished Service Awards](#)** –Inaugurated by the University Council in 1974, this award recognizes individuals who have made the University a better place through their extraordinary contributions. Nominations are now open. Councillors are encouraged to nominate and attend the celebration.

Questions? Contact ucouncil@queensu.ca



Alexi White, Chair, Program Committee

On behalf of your Program Committee: Yinka Adegbusi, John Armitage, Leo Bailey, Heather Black, Letitia Golubitsky Colby Pereira, Chris Polson, Susan Zhang

Governance Updates: As an advisory body, the University Council participates in Queen's governance processes along with the Board of Trustees and the Senate. Councillors can stay informed of recent governance activity at the University by reviewing open session materials from both the Board of Trustees and the Senate on the [Governance Portal](#).

- **[Board/Council Trustees](#):** The next regular Open Session of the **Board of Trustees** meeting will be held on May 8 (meeting dates can be found on Board [website](#)). You can check out the Board agenda/minutes on the [Governance Portal](#). To attend the Board's Open Session, please submit your request in advance to the [Secretariat](#).

University Council Trustees: Heather Black, Samantha Cheung, Jeremy Gooden, Alison Holt, Chessa Jope, Yanique Williams.

- **[Senate](#):** The next Senate meeting will be held on **April 16 at 2:30 pm** (meeting dates can be found on the [Senate website](#)). You can review the Senate agenda/minutes on the [Governance Portal](#). To attend any portion of the meeting, please submit your request in advance to the [Secretariat's Office](#).



Queen's University
Alumni Association
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[Queen's University Alumni Association \(QUAA\)](#) President Update

Hello Councillors,

Spring has sprung - and it's a great time to come out of hibernation to connect with your alumni constituents – and with each other! I had a great time connecting with **Norman Farrell, Heather Black, Chessa Jope and Elaine Wu** at the recent Queen's Law Alumni Pub night in Toronto. Kudos to **Elaine** for organizing such a fun event. I hope the rest of council gets a chance to connect like this, soon!

[QUAA Gala Awards](#)

Speaking of Elaine and her dedication to our alumni community – I am thrilled to share that she has been selected as one of our 2026 QUAA Gala Award winners!

We have an amazing group to honour in Toronto at the Gladstone Hotel on June 4th, 2026. Here is the complete list (*Note: Recipient names are not public at this time but are being shared with University Councillors*):

[Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award](#) – David Phipps, Artsci'85, PhD'91

[Outstanding Alumni Achievement](#) – Elan Mastai, Artsci'97

[Alumni Global Citizenship Award](#) – Norman Musengimana, MMIE'18

[EDII Alumni Award](#) – David Nesbitt, MBA'70

[One to Watch](#) – Alexandria Zlatar, Artsci'18

[Herbert J. Hamilton Award](#) – Elaine Wu, Artsci'98, MIR'00, Law'03

[Marsha Lampman Volunteer Award](#) – Diana Chang, Artsci'10

David Field, BSc'70 (posthumously)

[Outstanding Student Leader Award](#) – Natalie Kearn, HSc, 24

[Initiative of the Year Award](#) – [Somewhat Reunion](#)

Thank you to everyone for spreading the word and promoting these awards among your networks. You made the job of selection very difficult, as we had an incredible group of candidates this year.

[Marty, Royce Bader Fellowships](#)

Thank you also to those of you who promoted the Marty, Royce, Bader Fellowships in your networks. These fellowships are for Queen's University alumni who identify as women, to support their pursuit of advanced study, research, or transformative endeavours that advance knowledge, contribute to society, or enable creative expression. We saw a marked increase in applications for these fellowships this year!

[Alumni Assembly Quarterly](#)

We recently held the Alumni Assembly Quarterly meeting. It was hosted by [QSAA](#) President, Samantha Rogers, and included a panel of student leaders reflecting on their experiences and interactions with alumni. **Bittu George**, one of your University Council representatives on Assembly was able to attend to provide University Council updates, including about the upcoming elections. Hopefully we get lots of good candidates!

[Update to QUAA Constitution & By-laws - QUAA President's term](#)

Note that members of Alumni Assembly recently voted to amend the QUAA Constitution & By-laws to modify the two-year, non-renewable term of the QUAA President to a two-year term with the option of a one-year renewal.

So, I am pleased to announce that I will be renewing my term as QUAA President for one more year and will therefore serve my term until April 30th, 2027. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have more time in this role, and I am looking forward to seeing you all again at University Council retreat, Homecoming, and any other places we cross paths in the coming year!

QUAA Director Hiring

The [QUAA Board](#) has also completed the interview process for our four incoming QUAA Board Directors. We hope to extend offers this week, and I look forward to announcing them in my next UC update. In the meantime, I want to extend my thanks again to outgoing Directors, Sarah Virani, Kahir Rahemtulla, Sc'17, Ghazal Abdullah, MIB'23, and Simon Marmura Brown, MA'18 and PhD'24.

Our QUAA Board of Directors will meet in Toronto for our annual retreat, following the Gala awards in June. In advance of this, we will be working internally on selecting chairs for our standing committees and doing some preliminary thinking around goal setting for the coming year!

Reminder to make your Annual gifts

With April upon us, this is your last, last chance to please remember to [make your annual gift this year](#). There are so many worthy activities of the University to lend your support to. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the [many opportunities!](#)

Have a wonderful April!



[Allison P. Williams](#), Artsci'09, President and Chair, QUAA Board of Directors

QUAA Assembly Members [appointed by the University Council](#): Bittu George and Erin Polansky

UPCOMING EVENTS – Be an Ambassador!

Councillors represent University Council and Queen's University by attending, participating in, and/or promoting various events. Please check the [Alumni Events calendar](#) for a list of all upcoming alumni events (including branch, reunion, etc.). Consider participating and/or learn more to share with your alumni networks.

April 6 - Winter Term Classes End

April 9-23 - Winter Term Final Exams

April 6 – [Tartan Day](#)



On October 21, 2010, the Minister of Canadian Heritage officially declared April 6 as Tartan Day. It is celebrated on April 6 because it is the anniversary of the signing of Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, the Scottish declaration of independence. In Canada, the day originated in the late 1980s in Nova Scotia, where it was declared an official day by the provincial government. It then spread across the country, with many provinces joining in.

Queen's Tartan is held within [The Scottish Register of Tartans](#) and was designed by Judge [John Matheson](#), Arts'40, LLD'84 for Queens University, Ontario. Colours: Blue represents Medicine; Red represents Arts & Science; Gold represents Applied Science; White represents Nursing Science; Green represents Commerce & MBA; Purple Theology; all representing the six Queen's academic hoods. Consider purchasing some [Queen's Alumni Tartan merchandise](#).

April 6 - Art of Research Submission Deadline

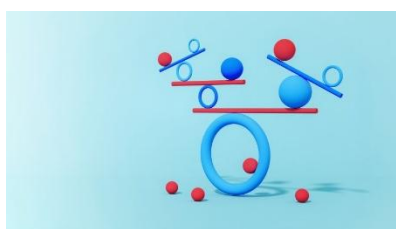


The [Queen's Art of Research photo and video contest](#) offers a creative and accessible way to share the groundbreaking research taking place at the university while celebrating its global and social impact. Images submitted to the Art of Research contest are used across a variety of Queen's Research channels, print and digital, including this website.

This year's competition has been inspired by the university's [Strategic Research Plan 2025–2030](#) and the [Queen's Bicentennial Vision](#) with the launch of new categories to showcase the researchers themselves and the groundbreaking work they are pursuing.

The 2026 contest will award eight prizes of \$250 each with the contest closing **April 6**. Queen's faculty, staff, students, and alumni are eligible to participate. [Submit your photo or video](#).

April 9 (1:00-2:00 pm) – Designing an Organization that Delivers webinar



Discover how structure, culture, people and tasks drive performance and alignment.

Growth strategies fail. Transformations stall. Accountability blurs. The way an organization is designed can make the difference between merely surviving and thriving. But what is organizational design and how do you shape an organization so that it truly works?

High-performing organizations don't evolve by accident. They are intentionally aligned across four critical pillars: structure, culture, people and tasks. When these elements reinforce one another, strategy gains traction. When they don't, even the best plans struggle to translate into results.

Join Smith Business Insight and Queen's Executive Education for a high-impact free webinar led by Distinguished Professor of Organizational Behaviour Matthias Spitzmuller. Examine how design choices shape accountability, decision-making, agility and performance. [Registration](#)

Winter 2026 Elder Talks



OFFICE OF
INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

Elder Talk sessions are an opportunity to learn from our Cultural Advisor Te ho wis kwûnt - Allen Doxtator. Al originates from Oneida Nation of the Thames and is a member of the Bear Clan and explores Indigenous worldviews, with a safe space to ask questions after each session. Join virtual bi-weekly on Thursdays (**12:00 to 1:00 pm**).

[Register today](#) for the following sessions:

- Thursday April 9, 2026: Open Session/Question Period
- Thursday April 23, 2026: TBD
- Thursday May 7, 2026: Open Session/Question Period

April 14 (4:00-5:30 pm) -University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity (UCARE) Meeting



**HUMAN RIGHTS
AND EQUITY OFFICE**
at Queen's University

The [University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity \(UCARE\)](#) was established to coordinate, monitor, and report on the progress of university-wide initiatives to address racism and promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Council helps to shape the vision and strategy of the university and serves as a critical voice

for diversity and inclusion at Queen's. UCARE invites the Queen's community to its next public meeting. This meeting will be held in-person with a hybrid option. Please email vpcei@queensu.ca to attend the Public Meeting and inquire about the [volunteering on UCARE or one of the Sub-Councils](#). And please feel free to share this invitation with others.

April 20 (12 – 1 pm): A Healthy Response to Climate Change -Virtual



Dr Courtney Howard is an Emergency Physician in Yellowknives Dene Territory in the Canadian subarctic and a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Calgary. The Chair of the Global Climate and Health Alliance and first woman president of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, she is on the Editorial Advisory Boards of the Lancet Planetary Health and the Journal of Climate Change and Health. During her Master of Public Policy studies at Oxford University, she focused on using a planetary health lens to explore transitions to an economy centered around wellbeing. She has two young daughters and loves to dance.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the planetary health frame and how it relates to health and health systems. (scholar, professional)
2. Anticipate and manage the major threats posed by climate change to health and health systems. (leader, professional)
3. Describe priority action items to protect planetary health now and into the future. (leader, scholar, advocate, professional, communicator)

Free event. Everyone is invited to register. [Register now to save your spot.](#)

April 19-25 [National Volunteer Week](#) / [International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development](#)



**Volunteer
Bénévoles
Canada**



The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. The theme for National Volunteer Week 2026 is Ignite Volunteerism. At its core, Ignite Volunteerism means inspiring Canadians to reconnect with their communities through acts of service, civic

action, and mutual support. The campaign responds to a decline in formal volunteering by inviting people from all backgrounds to "Find Your Thing" – discovering personal ways to contribute, whether through local events, grassroots initiatives, or ongoing volunteer commitments.

The *Ignite Volunteerism* campaign will serve as a celebration of Canada's volunteers while inspiring a new generation of participation—creating a stronger, more resilient, and inclusive Canada for everyone.

This National Volunteer Week, we recognize you as University Council members for the care, insight, and dedication you bring to Queen's University. Your contributions play an important role in guiding the university's direction and supporting a strong, connected community. The time and thought you invest help ensure Queen's continues to grow and adapt in meaningful ways. Thank you for the commitment and perspective you bring to your role. Your efforts help shape the experience of our community today and into the future.

Investigate other ways to [get involved!](#) [Contact us](#) for any questions about volunteering or to submit your ideas for new initiatives.

Queen's [Spring Convocation](#):



[Ceremony Schedule](#)

Grant Hall (4 ceremonies, May 2026)

- Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22
- Ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. each day

Slush Puppie Place (10 ceremonies, June 2026)

- Monday, June 22 to Friday, June 26

- Ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. each day

Reserved seating is prominently situated, which allows guests better sight lines of the stage. A link to the RSVP form can be found at: https://queensu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4HgOAJBDTBAtQ7s RSVP by April 25 (May ceremonies) and May 28 (June ceremonies). Details: [Brent Cameron](#)

Convocation Volunteer Opportunities:

The University relies on the support of volunteers to help create an unforgettable convocation experience for our graduates! Please consider signing up and sharing with your alumni networks.

Note: Volunteers will be supported by a team lead who is on hand to answer any questions you may have.

[Alumni Relations:](#)

- **Alumni pin distribution:** Alumni are invited to stand on stage and distribute an alumni pin to the Class of 2026 to welcome them to the Queen's University Alumni Association. The Alumni representative also provides a very brief (scripted) welcome to graduates.
- **Summerhill Sendoff:** Welcome graduates into the Alumni Association, reminisce about your university days and advise on resources available to graduates beyond graduation. This reception will happen outside on the steps of [Summerhill](#), the oldest building at Queen's. There will be refreshments, music, and displays and [Summerhill](#) will be decorated in tricolour for the occasion. Receptions take place daily, June 22 to June 26, following each of the graduation ceremonies, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm and 6:00pm and 8:00pm.
- **Sign up** and for additional details, please contact jessie.mercer@queensu.ca

[Office of the University Registrar:](#)

- **Graduate Registration:** Welcome grads, check them in, hand out cards, and point them in the right direction.
- **Graduate Assembly:** Keep the energy high and the lineup moving — help grads get organized and ready for their big moment.
- **Guest Services:** Be the friendly face guests meet first: check them in, offer directions, and help everyone feel right at home.

Sign Up! Use the [Spring 2026 Convocation – Volunteer Form](#) to select your shift(s). It only takes a moment and choosing more than one shift—if you're able—provides valuable support across our busy ceremony schedule.

To help plan training sessions in advance, volunteers are asked to submit shift commitments by:

- **Wednesday, May 6** for May ceremonies
- **Wednesday, June 10** for June ceremonies

Questions? Reach out to convocation@queensu.ca for any additional information.

LEARN AND SHARE



Queen's University
Alumni Association
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[A century of connection: The story behind the founding of the QUAA](#)

Learn more about [the QUAA](#) and the many ways to stay connected.

Queen's IRC



A leading provider of premium professional development programs in labour relations, human resources and organization development. Queen's University IRC programs are designed for busy practitioners, delivered by subject matter experts, and grounded in adult learning principles. For generations, professionals have turned to us for expertise in human resources, labour relations and organizational development. Our world-class facilitators design programs that reflect today's workplace realities, equipping HR, labour relations, and organizational leaders with practical strategies they can apply right away. Whether you join us in-class, online, or through a custom

program tailored to your organization, you'll gain trusted insights and proven tools backed by the expertise of one of Canada's most prestigious universities. Virtual and In-Person learning. Check out their [Programs](#), [Certificates](#), [Custom Training](#), and [webinars](#) (free and on demand). Speak with a [program advisor](#). Queen's IRC offers a range of discounted rates for Queen's alumni

COUNCILLOR SPOTLIGHT

- Please ensure you [update](#) your contact information (mail, email, phone) to stay informed about Queen's.
- Get to know your fellow Councillor members by visiting their [biographical sketches](#) and submitting/reading profiles. Please contact ucouncil@queensu.ca to complete your online profile.
- Learn more about how you can [support Queen's University](#).
- If you have exciting personal or professional news you would like to share through your monthly newsletter, please send us details to ucouncil@queensu.ca. In addition, [please share](#) your participation with University activities to record the impact of Council.

Chessa Jope met with a QSAA student as part of the QSAA Volunteer of the Week Program; recognizing the incredible efforts of these students.

Susan Zhang has joined the Alumni Outreach and Volunteer Engagement Committee of the QUAA Board.

STUDENT LIFE

You may be aware that AMS President Jana Amer has tendered her resignation, effective March 9. The AMS VPs issued a statement: <https://www.myams.org/official-statement-by-vice-president-nurzynski-and-vice-president-perisa-on-the-resignation-of-president-amer/>. This was also posted to the AMS Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/queens_ams/p/DVXXThjDlts/



Thank you to [Dinah Jansen](#) and [CFRC 101.9 FM - Campus and Community Radio](#) for highlighting this year's Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award recipients [Emils Matiss](#), [Bisola Victoria Olaseni](#), [Oluwamisimi Oluwole](#), and [Daniel Reddy](#)! The award is the highest tribute that can be paid to a [Queen's University](#) student for distinguished service, leadership, character, and community impact during their time at Queen's. Listen to the [conversation with this year's winners](#)!

The semester they went to the Olympics

Hallie Clarke and fellow health sciences student Alison Mackie are two Olympic athletes currently completing their degrees at Queen's. [Read their story](#) about what it's like to compete against the best in the world and navigate coursework, deadlines, and everything else that comes with being a student athlete.

[Queen's University](#) links to keep you informed

Councillors are expected to subscribe, review, and share Queen's publications and social media to remain knowledgeable about resources, services, and benefits offered to alumni through the Alumni Association

[Principal](#)

[Queen's Strategic Goals](#)

[QUAA](#)

[Rector](#)

[Alma Mater Society](#)

[SGPS](#)

[QSAA](#)

[Queen's Alumni Review](#)

[Queen's Gazette](#)

[Queen's Quarterly](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

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UNIVERSITY SECRETARIAT
AND LEGAL COUNSEL

Questions: contact
ucouncil@queensu.ca