

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

[Executive Committee](#)

The committee will meet in June for the selection of the 2026 [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. The University Council Executive Committee may present up to eight Distinguished Service Awards each year.

In addition, Alexi White (Chair, Program Committee) will attend this meeting to present the AGM agenda for the Committee's approval.

Save the Date: Councillors are encouraged to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the 2026 DSA recipients at a reception held during the Retreat on the evening of November 13. Information on registration will be shared soon.

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

[Nominating Committee](#)

The 2026 University Council Alumni election closed on May 27. The ten successful candidates for the four-year terms are (*candidates in **bold** were re-elected to the Council*):

- Olufunke Igbede
- Jennifer Janson
- Donika Jones
- **Chessa Jope**
- Màiri MacDonald
- John Marshall
- Rob Ramsay
- Michael Whitcombe
- Garry Willard
- **Elaine Wu**

35/40 (87.5%) of elected Councillors voted in the election. Thank you to all who participated in this important process.

These Councillors will begin their terms on Council effective September 1, 2026. [Get to know our new Councillors](#) by referencing their [respective biographies](#). To prepare new Councillors, an orientation will be held June 3rd.



Elaine Wu, Chair, Nominating Committee

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

[Program Committee](#)

AGM/Retreat

Purpose: To further deepen Councillors' knowledge and engagement with the university to fulfil their role as Ambassadors and Advisors to the University. Councillors are encouraged to actively participate in discussions to enhance their understanding and provide informed perspectives. The Retreat is not intended to finalize decisions,

endorse specific actions or initiate formal follow-ups. Rather, it serves as a forum to build a shared foundation of insight that will enrich ongoing advisory and ambassadorial activities.

Councillor Role: Attend and actively participate in the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**, held once a year, typically in November, the date of which is set a minimum of one year in advance. (Note that in accordance with Bylaw C, section 10, the Executive Committee may, at its discretion, ask Councillors who have not participated in-person or remotely at more than one AGM to forfeit their membership on the Council.)

Mark your calendars:

| Event: | Date: | Time (EST) | Location: |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Virtual AGM | Tuesday, October 13 | 11:30 am-1:00 pm | Virtual |
| Retreat | Friday, November 13 | 1:00-3:30 pm | Donald Gordon Centre |
| Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) | Friday, November 13 | 5:30-7:30 pm | The Isabel |
| Retreat | Saturday, November 14 | 8:30 am -1:00 pm | Mitchell Hall |

Agendas: The Program committee is working on the theme, speakers, and program elements. A report will be presented to the Executive Committee at their June meeting. Stay tuned for details.

The Program Committee is still 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.

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 October 2- (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, Doug Bruce, Samantha Cheung, Jeremy Gooden, Alison Holt, Chessa Jope.

- **Senate:** The next Senate meeting will be held on September 24 **at 2:30 pm**, if required (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](#).

I hope you are all well. It was nice to see some of you at the Board of Trustees last month, and out and about at events like the Queen's Law Alumni Awards.

Congratulations to Chessa Jope and Elaine Wu on their recent re-elections to council and to all newly elected councillors – the QUAA Board looks forward to working with you!

QUAA Gala Awards: At the time of writing, we are days away from the QUAA Gala awards reception, which will be held this month in Toronto. Our slate of exceptional recipients is found [on our website](#), Special congratulations again to councillor Elaine Wu on her recognition!

QUAA Board Retreat: On the day following the Gala, the QUAA Board will meet for our retreat. I am very much looking forward to meeting our new Board members in person. While I announced them in the last newsletter, their biographies have since been posted on [our website](#). You are welcome to read them to learn a little more about:

- Akin Akinsipe, MBA'19 (Calgary, AB)
- Gareth Gibbins, Com'00, MIR '01, Law'04 (Toronto, ON)
- Nicolas Brassett Duque, Artsci' 25 (Kingston, ON)
- Tamanna Chuhan, MIB '23 (Toronto, ON)

QUAA Board Members Profiled: A few of our Board Members were also recently profiled in the [Alumni Volunteer Spotlight](#). Stacy Kelly, Artsci'93, and Julie Nixon, Com'99 shared about their experiences as co-chairs of the QUAA Board's Alumni Recognition Committee.

You may have also seen Board member Carolyn Desrosiers, Artsci'06, featured as part of the "Pay it Forward day" fundraising campaign. Pay It Forward Day coincides with the birthday of Dr. Alfred Bader, who credited Queen's for shaping his future and whose legacy has created a tradition of paying it forward among our alumni community.

Marty, Royce, Bader Fellowship Recipients: The selection committee for the Marty, Royce and Bader Fellowships met last month to select three alumni who identify as women to receive these awards. The Fellowships will support their pursuit of advanced study, research, or transformative endeavours that advance knowledge, contribute to society, or enable creative expression.

Congratulations to Lisa Webb, MPA'06, Stephanie Telesca, Artsci'09 and Ariana Lewis, BHSc'24! The submitted proposals from these recipients will support innovative initiatives across health research, sustainable rural development and the arts. Watch for more information about these recipients and their projects in upcoming Alumni News.

Thank you and have a wonderful start to your summer!



[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.

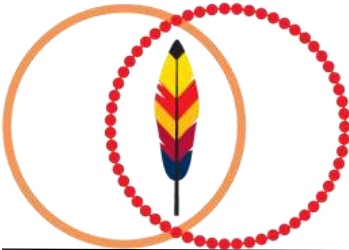
June – Pride month



Pride Month is a time for people to come together to celebrate the 2SLGBTQ+ community and advocate for their rights. The Queen's community is showing its support by raising the Progress Pride flag on campus in front of Douglas Library. In addition, [Yellow House's](#) Pride activities will help members of the Queen's and local communities connect with each other during [Kingston Pride celebrations](#).

The [Principal's Action Group for Gender and Sexual Diversity \(PAGGAS\)](#) is leading an effort to support and celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ community year-round.

June - Indigenous History Month



June is National Indigenous History Month. Join us all month in discussing the true history of Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island, as well as to learn more about the culture, languages, and contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. For more information on events, find the Office of indigenous Initiatives on: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

June 22-24 - [International Symposium Series on Reflective Practice for Legal Professionals](#)

The Series brings together scholars, educators, and practitioners to explore how disciplined reflection can strengthen the legal profession's response to contemporary challenges and advance reflective practice across the legal educational spectrum and beyond. [Register here](#).

Queen's [Spring Convocation](#):



[Ceremony Schedule](#)

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_4HgOAIbDTBAAtQ7s 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.

June 4 QUAA Awards Gala



The [Queen's University Alumni Association](#) (QUAA) is proud to recognize the achievements of outstanding alumni and students at the annual [QUAA Awards Gala](#). Recipients of these awards demonstrate the best qualities of the Queen's community, illustrate the impact our alumni have on the world, and inspire gratitude in all of us.

A special **congratulations to University Councillor Elaine Wu**, Artsci'94, MIR'00, Law'03 on winning the [Herbert J. Hamilton Volunteer Service Award](#).

The QUAA Gala Awards will take place on **Thursday, June 4, at Gladstone House in Toronto**. If you'd like to join in the celebration, [register now](#).

June 21 (12 pm-3 pm) - [Queen's University Biological Station](#) (QUBS) Open House, 280 Queen's University Rd, Elgin



Join us for a day of discovery – tour the new research building, meet the scientists behind the work, and explore the research, outreach, and stewardship that make QUBS special. Refreshments and snacks provided! No registration required.

October 16-18 – Homecoming:



2026 marks the 100th year since the first Reunion Weekend took place at Queen's. This year we celebrate 100 years since that first weekend with Homecoming 100.

This is a milestone reunion for classes ending in 1 and 6, and for Tricolour Guard (alumni celebrating having graduated 50 years ago, or more). All alumni are welcome to attend festivities on campus during Homecoming weekend. Mark your calendars and make sure to book [accommodations](#) early.

Key Dates

- **June 24** - Registration goes live. **Encourage your networks** to [update their contact information](#) to stay connected.
- **October 1** - Registration closes
- **October 16-18** - [Homecoming](#)

Search for next dean of Smith Engineering

Kevin Deluzio will conclude his second term as dean on June 30, 2027. In accordance with [Senate procedures](#), Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Matthew Evans will chair a committee to advise the Principal on the future direction of the faculty and on the selection of the next dean.

Members of the Queen's community are invited to provide input on the present state and future prospects of Smith Engineering, to deanship@queensu.ca. All submissions will be treated confidentially.

More information about the search process will be posted on the [Provost's Office website](#) and in the [Queen's Gazette](#) as details become available.

Queen's celebrates Nursing Week



Each May, we celebrate the people who make the healthcare world go round. National Nursing Week is a chance to recognize the dedication, expertise, and empathy that nurses bring to hospitals, communities, and classrooms across Canada. Among this year's highlights: [a story from Queen's Health Sciences](#) revealing how nursing students are partnering with the Canadian Museum of Health Care to fight loneliness in Kingston area seniors. It's just one of the many

remarkable community health projects Queen's nursing students regularly support in our community. For more information, check out the [nursing website](#).

Stay on Campus and support the University:



[Keep it on Campus!](#) As a department within Student Affairs, revenue generated from Event Services helps provide vital student life programs and contribute to the University's learning environment. Please consider campus for your events and investing back into student life! And, **share with your networks**.

Summer Accommodations: Relax in comfortable and affordable rooms located within easy walking distance to Kingston's waterfront, local attractions and boutique stores in our historic downtown. With 2-bedroom rooms available between May and August, Queen's University is proud to host ~~to~~ guests from around the world. [Book your room today!](#)

Plan a meeting, conference or event: Whether you're planning a small reception or an international conference on campus, count on Queen's Event Services to provide the services you need to make your event a success.

Our picturesque campus offers an exceptional setting for meetings, conferences, weddings, black-tie dinners, and gala affairs. Our professional and experienced event coordinators can assist with all the details – from securing the perfect venue to managing all the food and beverage specifics. We know what to expect when planning an event on campus, making our team a tremendous asset to any event. [Start planning](#).

Weddings: Queen's provides an idyllic setting for a dream wedding. Our campus features stunning ceremony and banquet venues, atriums and courtyards, with parks and the waterfront within walking distance. Our creative menus and stellar service will ensure that your special day is memorable for you and your guests. [Start planning](#).

Sports Groups: Queen's University offers everything needed to host large-scale sporting events and tournaments on campus. Boasting a variety of state-of-the-art athletic facilities, on-site accommodations, dining halls, and meeting and banquet spaces, Queen's provides the complete package. [Start planning](#)

Event Services is directly tied to many UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and [Housing and Ancillary Services' Sustainability Goals](#), contribute to the [university's social impact](#) and making a tangible difference in the lives of others.

[Request additional information.](#)

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.



Thank you to **University Councillor Bittu George** for serving as the Co-chair of UCARE ([University Council on Anti Racism and Equity](#)). This is his 4th year of service on UCARE, serving as a community/alumni representative on the Council. Queen's is committed to the university's equity goals as reflected in the [Senate Educational Equity Policy](#), and invites nominations from all interested applicants including women, racialized persons, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+ persons. In accordance with its mandate, the University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity (UCARE) will maintain a minimum of 51% representation from racialized groups. UCARE invites [nominations to serve as members of the Council](#).

University Councillor Bittu George also serves as a **member of [the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts Community Advisory Board](#)**. The Advisory Board serves as a sounding board that supports the Director's artistic and administrative vision of the Isabel, the awareness of the changing artistic and socio-economic contexts in which the Isabel operates, the Isabel's capacity to fulfill its mission and mandate, and the vibrancy and relevance of the Isabel's work as a leading performing arts centre and locus of the arts.

STUDENT LIFE



Queens Student
Alumni Association

Students for a short time...alumni for a lifetime.

Queen's Student Alumni Association ([QSAA](#)) is a student-run organization that prepares students for success by connecting them to alumni, encouraging them to be leaders, and supporting their journey towards becoming engaged Queen's alumni.

The QSAA facilitates workshops ([Alumni Career Roadmaps](#)), [programming](#), [events](#) and [fundraising](#) opportunities to inspire students to give back to the Queen's community. The QSAA provides professional development through partnerships with **Career Services** ([Queen's connects Career Network for Students and Alumni](#)) and the **Queen's University Alumni Association** to inspire leadership in current students on their path to success.

QSAA hires a president, four directors, and a large team of ambassadors each year. Directors gain volunteer and project management skills specific to their portfolios. Ambassadors work under their director's portfolios to help bring programming to students.



Introducing the 2026/27 President: **Yehonatan Shakarghi**, BHSc'28. Yehonatan has been a member of the QSAA for the last two years, first as a first-year representative and this past as the Director of Giving where he helped with a record number of applications to the QUAA Grants Program.

Yehonatan is also the recipient of the [QSAA Volunteer of Distinction](#) awarded at the Alumni Gala.

You may also remember Yehonatan as one of our student volunteers at the 2025 Council Retreat.

For questions, you can [email Yehonatan](#), or the QSAA works with [Jessie Mercer](#), Alumni Officer, Student & Young Alumni, Office of Advancement,

[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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[Smith School of Business](#)



Questions: contact
ucouncil@queensu.ca