

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

Executive Committee

Distinguished Service Awards: The 2026 call for nominations closed April 27. The Executive Committee will meet in June to review all nominations and select this year's recipients. The DSA reception will be held November 13 at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. All Councillors are encouraged to attend the celebration as part of the Retreat weekend programming. Special early bird pricing will be available to Councillors.

At the June meeting, the Executive Committee will also receive the report from the Program Committee and will review the proposed agendas for the Council virtual AGM and in-person Retreat.

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

Nominating Committee

The 2026 University Council election will be held from May 13-27. There are 50 candidates running for the 10 available positions (four-year terms, September 2026-2030). All Councillors are asked to vote and encourage your respective alumni networks to vote for their peers.

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 process can be directed to ucouncil@queensu.ca. 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.

AGM/Retreat

Purpose: To further deepen Councillors' knowledge and engagement with the university to fulfil their role as Ambassadors and Advisors to the University.

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 meeting and registration details.

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.

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.



Queen's University
Alumni Association
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Hello Councillors,

Hope you are enjoying some May flowers! The end of the school term coincides with some transition on the QUAA Board.

QUAA Director Onboarding

The QUAA Board is pleased to welcome four new members to the QUAA Board:

- **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)

We held an orientation session for these new members last month and are busy integrating them into our team. I am also pleased to recognize the ongoing contributions of our continuing Board Members: **Carolyn Desrosiers**, Artsci'06, **Cheryl Carver**, MIR'89, **Galvin Niu**, Sc'19, **Julie Nixon**, Com'99, **Kelly McKinley**, Artsci'91, **Stacy Kelly**, Artsci'93 and **Toby Thomas**, Sc'85.

We are currently shifting members of our team into new committee member and co-chair roles, getting ourselves situated and ready to hit the ground running into the next term. I look forward to connecting with this group and doing some forward planning at our retreat in June following the QUAA Awards Gala celebration.

QUAA Gala Awards

As noted in my update last month, we have an amazing group to honour in Toronto at the Gladstone Hotel on June 4th, 2026, including our own **University Councillor, Elaine Wu!** [Registration for the celebration](#) is now open! We hope that our Toronto-based councillors will consider attending.

New Alumni Branch Leadership in Calgary and Vancouver

The QUAA Board also recently supported the hiring of new leadership into the Calgary and Vancouver Alumni Branch leadership roles. I'm pleased to share the names of the new teams:

Calgary:

- President - **Jees Joseph** – MBA'21
- Partnerships and Philanthropy Lead - **Derek Fraser** – Artsci'83 and '84
- Volunteer and Operations Led - **Nadine Finch** - MBA '22
- Communications Lead - **Lucy Pei** – Com'10 MM'11
- Young Alumni Lead - **Kate Jennings** – Sci'21

Vancouver:

- Co-president - **Ran Carter** – Artsci'10
- Co-president - **Jonathan Kong** – Artsci'11
- Partnerships and Philanthropy Lead - **Jonathan Ho** – MBA'17
- Volunteer and Operations Lead- **Tania Astorino** – Law'03
- Young Alumni Lead - **Maxwell Yuen** – Nurs'25

Looking forward to seeing what this new group of volunteers can accomplish out West! As always, we invite any University Councillors based in Calgary and Vancouver to connect with these volunteers, to help get them oriented and to support their events and initiatives.

Have a great month!



[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



University Councillors are invited to deepen their connection with the [QUAA community](#) by expressing interest in joining a QUAA Board Working Committee. These committees play a vital role in advancing alumni engagement and strengthening our shared impact for Queen's.

The QUAA Board is currently seeking a few additional members for three committees: Alumni Giving, Alumni Recognition, and Alumni Outreach and Volunteer Engagement. Each offers a unique opportunity to contribute your perspective, collaborate with fellow alumni volunteer leaders, and assist the QUAA Board in shaping meaningful initiatives that support the QUAA, Queen's and its students.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like to learn more about the work of these committees, please reach out to the [QUAA Board](#) and share your interest. Your experience and insight are invaluable in assisting the QUAA to continue to build a vibrant and connected Queen's community.

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.

Teaching and Learning Month



Teaching and Learning Month at Queen's (May–June) brings together teaching and learning events from Faculties, Schools, and Support Units, providing a shared focus for showcasing innovative practices and fostering collaboration. Organized by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, the month highlights Queen's commitment to student learning

and academic excellence. For [more information, resources and the schedule of events, check out the Teaching and Learning month website.](#)

May 5 – National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



Also known as [Red Dress Day](#), May 5 honours the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, 2 spirit, and gender diverse people in Canada by encouraging learning and building awareness to end violence. Métis artist Jaime Black helped inspire the red dress movement, where red dresses are hung from windows and trees to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors. Learn more on the [Office of Indigenous Initiatives website](#)

May 6 (10-11:30 am) –Last Lecture Series: To Lecture as Fully Human (Hybrid)



If you could design your ideal final lecture, what wisdom would you like to impart? Queen's inaugural Last Lecture Series invites a distinguished Queen's faculty member to explore this opportunity during Teaching and Learning month.

Join for the inaugural Last Lecture with [Dr. Eleanor MacDonald](#)! Drawing from decades of experience teaching and mentoring students in the Political Studies, Cultural Studies, and Gender Studies departments at Queen's University, Dr. MacDonald challenges us to reimagine the educational encounter, inspiring us to teach as fully human. [Registration Link](#)

May 7 (12-1 pm) -2026 Elder Talk:



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. [Register today.](#)

May 9 (10 am - 3 pm)– [Science Rendezvous Kingston](#)



A free, annual science festival for Southeastern Ontario families hosted by Queen's University. Bringing together the Kingston community with local S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experts and Queen's researchers, since 2011. Booths, special presentations, sensory friendly science zone, and more. Held at the [Slush Puppie Place](#), 1 Tragically Hip Way. Check the [webpage](#) for more details.

May 14 – [Moose Hide Campaign Day](#)



MOOSE HIDE
CAMPAIGN
CAMPAGNE
MOOSE HIDE

The [Moose Hide Campaign](#) began as a BC-born Indigenous-led grassroots movement to engage men and boys in ending violence towards women and children. It has since grown into a nationwide movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians from local communities, First Nations, governments, schools, colleges/universities, police forces and many other organizations – all committed to taking action to end this violence. Queen's is an [ambassador](#)

[campus](#) for the Moose Hide Campaign, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to reconciliation and addressing violence on campus. Learn more on the [Office of Indigenous Initiatives Instagram](#)

May 18 – Victoria Day – University Closed

May 19 (7-8 pm ET) – A Queen's Conversation: The University of Today and Tomorrow with Principal Patrick Deane and Chancellor Shelagh Rogers



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 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.



Homecoming 100 - A celebration of past, present, and future

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

- **May 22** – Faculty, Reunion and Event details for registration must be submitted through [Queen's Homecoming and Reunions 2026 Events](#).
Some classes are planning reunions at Homecoming and different times in the summer or fall. To find out what your classmates are organizing, check in with your reunion coordinator or visit the [Reunions Page](#). If your program year does not appear, there is currently no active reunion committee. Interested in helping plan your reunion? [Get in touch](#).
- **June 24** - Registration goes live. Encourage your networks to [stay informed](#) by updating their contact information.
- **October 1** - Registration closes
- **October 16-18** - [Homecoming](#)



Did you know - [Career Services](#) is available to graduating students/new alumni for up to 1 year after graduation! Visit in Gordon Hall or access our services and resources virtually! Check out [Career Prep Modules](#), [Magazines](#), [Work with Impact Career Guide](#) and meet with [Career Educator and Coaches In-person or via Zoom](#) Share the word to your graduating students and Queen's parents!

Queen's Mottos ([from Queen's Encyclopedia](#)):

- Queen's motto is ***Sapientia et Doctrina Stabilitas***, generally translated from Latin as "Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times." The phrase is adapted from Isaiah XXXIII.6 and has been in use since the 1850s.
- The motto of the **Faculty of Law** is *Soit Droit Fait*, a Norman French phrase for "Let right be done." The phrase is traditionally associated with the rule of law in England.
- The motto of the **Faculty of Medicine** is ***Manu et Corde Medicus***, which translates from Latin as "The doctor works by hand and heart."
- The motto of the Engineering Society - ***Quis Dolor Cui Dolium*** - is more irreverent. It translates as "Who suffers who has a cask of wine?" It was devised in 1963 by **Classics** professor Tony Marshall after he was approached by Engineering Society executives interested in lending Latin dignity to the society's informal English motto "What the hell as long as there's free beer."
- ***"Princeps Servusque Es"*** (be a leader and a servant) is the motto of the **Office of the Rector**, and embodies what the Rector strives to do for Queen's students.

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.

Leo Bailey is a recipient of the TMU annual G. Raymond Chang Outstanding Volunteer Awards who has shared his time and talents to build strong communities and enrich the student experience. Congrats Leo!

STUDENT LIFE

Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award Recipients:



Emils Matiss, Bisola Olaseni, Simi Oluwole, and Dan Reddy were the 2026 recipients of the [Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Awards](#) and were inducted into the Tricolour Society. Watch the [video recap](#) and view the [photos](#) of the event. Thanks to **Bittu George** for attending to congratulate recipients and network with student leaders!

Queen's Student Affairs Leadership Awards:



In partnership with faculties and schools, student leaders, and colleagues across the university, [Queen's Student Affairs](#) delivers diverse high-quality programs and services to students, from their first point of contact with Queen's through to graduation, and beyond!

Every year, Student Affairs celebrates extraordinary student leadership on campus and in the local community.

The [Student Leadership Awards](#) honour student recipients of the Peer Leadership Award, the Indigenization, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Anti-Racism (I-EDIAA) Impact Award, and the Brian Yealland Community Leadership Award. Nominations are submitted by students, faculty, community members, and staff. **Congratulations to the [2025-26 recipients!](#)**

In addition, Student Affairs presents the annual [Michael Condra Outstanding Student Service Award](#) to Queen's faculty or staff who have displayed a commitment to providing outstanding service to students, outside of a teaching role. **Congratulations to the [2025-26 recipients!](#)**

If you have any questions about these awards, please email studentaffairs@queensu.ca

Three Minute Thesis: No props, one slide, 3 minutes.



3MT® is a university-wide competition for Queen's Masters (thesis or research project) and doctoral students in which participants present their research and its wider impact in 3 minutes or less to a panel of non-specialist judges.

Distilling research into a clear form, without over-simplifying or making it overly complex, and highlighting the wider implications of this research are important skills to carry into post-graduate employment and public service.

The 2026 Three Minute Thesis Competition at Queen's University has concluded. Thank you to all finalists for their outstanding presentations. Congratulations to this year's winners:

First place: Mahta Fakhraei Rad (Mining Engineering)
Second place: Meghan VanBuuren (Biomedical Engineering)
Third place: Robert Policelli (Translational Medicine)
People's Choice Award: Robert Policelli (Translational Medicine)

First place winner Mahta Fakhraei Rad will represent Queen's at the Ontario 3 Minute Thesis Competition on May 6, 2026, hosted by Brock University. We're excited to support her as she takes the next step in her 3MT journey!



Congratulations to the winners of the [2026 GRADflix competition!](#) These creative graduate researchers stood out for their engaging and impactful videos. Watch the 2026 GRADflix submissions on our YouTube page. Link in bio.

First place: Erica Lee (Biomedical Informatics)
Second place: Amanda Chapman (Translational Medicine)
Third place: Olivia DiPaolo (Translational Medicine)

[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](#)

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Questions: contact
ucouncil@queensu.ca