Get to know University Councillor Stephanie Garraway:


1. Why did you select Queen’s University?

After my acceptance, I took a (self-guided) tour of the campus and immediately knew that Queen’s is where I needed to be. The campus is a representation of the reputable and strong history of the university, but also a symbol of the tight-knit community that makes Queen’s a unique experience.

2. Most memorable moment as a student?

There are too many to list!

Besides all the amazing people I met at Queen’s, who are now lifetime friends, the highlight of my time at Queen’s was through my involvement with the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society Orientation Week. As a frosh, I had difficult time being away from home, and truly finding a passion outside of academics, so I took it upon myself to become a frosh leader, an orientation committee member, and later an executive. During each of those roles, my objective was to ensure that those first few moments when new students arrive, they feel welcome, included, and find a place within the Queen’s community to flourish and bring to light their individual talents. Working with students, other orientation leaders, and faculty during each of my roles in ASUS Orientation was and continues to be one of my best Queen’s memories.

Another great memory was the experience I had when enrolled in a Global Development Studies course over the summer. This course focussed specifically on the history, development, and culture of Cuba, with half the course taking place on campus and the other in Cuba. Through the course, I was able to delve into a culture closely connected to my own and conduct field research that sparked immense personal growth.
3. **What is your job?**
   I am a lawyer practicing construction and infrastructure law, with a focus on the review, preparation, and negotiation of various “front-end” construction documents for complex national and international projects.

4. **What’s the best career advice you’ve ever received?**
   “Struggle and emerge.”

5. **What’s the career highlight you’re most proud of?**
   My family emigrated to Canada from the tiny, beautiful island of Trinidad & Tobago. While both my parents were privileged to complete post-secondary degrees, they started from the ground up when they left Trinidad. The fact that I pushed through multiple years of school, including some tough times during law school and beyond, and now practice in a niche and exciting field with clients from all over the world is the true highlight of my career.

6. **How do you spend your free time?**
   I love to travel. I have spent months in South East Asia, Latin America, and Europe and am itching to head off to my next adventure.

   When I cannot travel, if I’m not at home binging various online series, you can catch me on the golf course.

7. **What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?**
   My Queen’s experience was unique. It was not always the smoothest ride, but I came out of it as a stronger person. I wanted to stand for election to University Council to shed light on the fact that the Queen’s experience is not “one size fits all” but built on inspiring students of all walks life to hone their individual talents and skill sets. As a University Councillor any work that I do is premised on that goal.

8. **What are some of your most memorable milestones/accomplishments as a Councillor?**
   Coming back to campus for annual meetings!

9. **Your aspirations for being on University Council?**
   Continue to push Queen’s to challenge the norm and continue to strive to create unique experiences and tools for students to develop academically and personally.
10. Do you have any words of wisdom for incoming Councillors?

Don’t be shy to get involved. Now is the time to give back to Queen’s and to use your expertise to help future students.

Connect with Stephanie on LinkedIn.