

King's Herald

SPRING 2023



CELEBRATING A NEW CHAPTER



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We welcome your letters, suggestions, or comments about the Association and the University. Opinions expressed in the *King's Herald* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the University's administration. Contact the Editor or Alumni and Development at:

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Cover image: Past and present chief librarians John Clouston, Adrienne Co-Dyre, and Claire Callaghan '71 at the official opening of the Elizabeth Russell Achievement Centre.

Parents: If you are receiving mail for your child, we would appreciate a current address. Please contact Alumni and Development.

If you wish to receive the *King's Herald* in **ELECTRONIC FORMAT ONLY**, please contact alumni@kings.uwo.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The Greatest Homecoming on Earth

Over the last few months, we have been increasing our in-person event options. I've loved the opportunity to meet more King's alumni, whether we're watching hockey, playing some bocce ball, competing in trivia, or just raising a pint - it's always great to meet fellow grads! With the change to summer weather, I'm hoping a patio outing might be the next alumni event offering.

We have other exciting events on the horizon, and we're all looking forward to a large Homecoming this year! Building on the success of last year, this year's theme of *The Greatest Homecoming on Earth* features plenty of social programming, family-friendly content, live music, continuous learning opportunities and the chance to celebrate some alumni success stories. I urge you to help spread the word to your former classmates and make plans to join us on September 22 - 24. Revisit some of your favourite campus spots while exploring the new additions. For more details on the schedule of events, check out the spread on pages 18-19 and visit www.kings.uwo.ca/homecoming to register.

We have four new members of our Alumni Board of Directors, and I'd like to take a moment to thank **Danielle McLennan '20, Lydia Li '02, Amelia Holden '00 and Kevin Van Lierop '05** for joining our team! We will have some openings on the board this fall, so if you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to alumni@kings.uwo.ca for more details.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dalla (Tong) Zhao '19

To keep up-to-date with everything alumni, please make sure we have your current contact info and that you add alumni@kings.uwo.ca to your safe sender list so you won't miss any event, networking or benefit opportunities. Don't forget to follow @KUCAlumni on our social channels.

To all of our upcoming graduates - I want to welcome you to the Alumni Association. I look forward to connecting with you and hope to see you at future alumni events.

Kind regards,

Colin Whitehead '06

President, King's University College
Alumni Association



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

One of the simple joys that has been returned to us, as COVID-19 (hopefully) continues to subside, is being able to walk across King's and see familiar faces, especially those of our students, happy to once again be attending classes on campus. We have also been holding in-person events again, many celebrating the successes of the King's community. This issue of the *King's Herald* will highlight examples of how our campus is full of activity once again.

Last November, we celebrated the grand opening of The Elizabeth Russell Achievement Centre at the G. Emmett Cardinal Carter Library. Our community had the opportunity to discover how the renovations and enhancements will further position the library and King's as an accessible, inclusive and inspiring environment. It was heartwarming to know Ms. Russell thought so much of King's, and wanted a legacy that would benefit our students for years to come.

King's values, an alchemy of the liberal arts and Catholic intellectual traditions, remind us our world extends beyond the brick-and-mortar buildings on Epworth Avenue. The School of Social Work recently expanded our partnership with The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope to provide free counselling and support to those impacted by traumas such as homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health issues. This is an incredible example of putting King's values and the skills learned in the classroom into real-world action to help others in our community.

Learning is a life-long endeavour. This is true for everyone, whether you are a student or even the President of a university college. Recently, I had the chance to travel to India to meet with educational leaders, strengthen ties with our partner schools, forge new relationships and show future students why King's is a place to be, become and belong.

The trip provided an incredible chance to learn more about India's culture and how our education systems can work together. It was a great reminder that even in a country halfway across the globe, we can find more things we have in common than ways we are different. At the end of the day, King's and the universities we visited in India all wish to provide the best education possible to prepare our students for a successful future.

Back home, we look forward to celebrating the achievements of our new graduates as part of Spring Convocation in June. Even after Convocation, the relationship between King's and our new alumni will remain strong. I have attended many alumni chapter events, thoroughly enjoying myself while meeting alumni and learning about the paths they have taken. Meanwhile, upon your return to King's, whether it be at Homecoming or just because you find yourself in the neighbourhood, we will give you a warm welcome home and be proud to hear of your accomplishments.

Respectfully,

David C. Malloy, PhD

President



The Elizabeth Russell Achievement Centre

RETHINKING THE LIBRARY SPACE TO MEET 21ST CENTURY NEEDS

Made possible thanks to a donation from the Estate of Elizabeth Russell, retired Chief Librarian, the main floor of the G. Emmett Cardinal Carter Library officially re-opened in November as The Elizabeth Russell Achievement Centre.

More than 100 people, including past and current employees, students, alumni, friends and media, attended the Grand Opening Celebration. They toured the newly redesigned space, which features a centrally located service desk, improved study and workspaces, enhanced technology, and offers greater accessibility for all library patrons.

The enhancements further position the library as an accessible, inclusive and inspiring environment for learning, collaboration, creativity, and student success.

ELIZABETH RUSSELL

Elizabeth Russell dedicated more than two decades of her career to King's, and she was committed to the library as the heart of the College.



LIBRARY – BEFORE

The original service desk no longer met accessibility requirements and was a priority for ensuring the new space is accessible for all patrons.



LIBRARY – DURING

Construction on the main floor of the library took place over the summer. During this time, patrons could access library services on the second floor.



LIBRARY – AFTER

The new service desk is accessible and visible to all library patrons.



Each area of The Elizabeth Russell Achievement Centre is accessible, comfortable and functional for all users.



PARTNERSHIP OFFERS FREE COUNSELLING TO PEOPLE IMPACTED BY TRAUMA

An innovative partnership between The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope and the School of Social Work is helping the most vulnerable rebuild dignity and renew hope through counselling services to overcome trauma.

The new King's Community Support Centre brings six students enrolled in the Master of Social Work (MSW) and Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programs to The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Working under the clinical supervision of Kylene Dube '83, MSW Practicum Coordinator at King's, the partnership offers students practical counselling experience while supporting individuals and families impacted by homelessness, substance use recovery, mental health, and other traumas.

"We are grateful for this collaboration with King's University College as this will significantly help London's most vulnerable access essential counselling services with the goal of achieving long-term positive outcomes that will create a pathway of stability," says Jon DeActis '81, Executive Director, The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope. "Professional one-on-one counselling services are vital in addressing root causes of personal adversity. This will complement existing programs offered at The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope to help those we serve."

The free counselling and support program began in January for Salvation Army clients and will continue until the end of July before starting up again this coming September. Up to 12 King's social work students will participate in the placement during the academic year.



"The King's Community Support Centre addresses the significant demand for community support around homelessness and health, with a view of reducing barriers to service and subsequently improving life circumstances for those in need," says M.K. Arundel '07, '08, Coordinator of Field Education for the School of Social Work.

"King's School of Social Work is excited to expand our partnership with The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope, where we can provide free accessible direct practice social work support to its service users," says M.K. "In response to the health and homelessness initiative, this is a collaborative effort to provide supplementary support to our hard-working frontline and rich learning opportunities for our students in preparation for their professional practice."

The King's Community Support Centre is located on the main floor of The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope, in the Community Corner. The centre is open every Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm for in-person intakes. Appointments will be booked on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

PROFESSIONAL ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELLING SERVICES ARE VITAL TO OUR COMMUNITY.

SHAKING THE MOVERS

CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH STUDIES STUDENTS FACILITATE WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-13 FROM ACROSS ONTARIO

The second King's Shaking the Movers workshop was held on November 26, 2022. The event involved 85 contributors, including child participants, student coordinators, undergraduate student facilitators and Childhood and Youth Studies (CYS) faculty. Based on the Landon Pearson Centre's (LPC) model for collaborative consultation with children, CYS undergraduate students worked together on campus to virtually facilitate the workshop with children aged 5-13 from across Ontario.

Led by Childhood and Youth Studies (CYS) faculty members Daniella Bendo and Hala Mreiwed, the 2022 Shaking the Movers workshop expanded to include student facilitators from two classes, CYS 3355: Rights-based Community Engagement and CYS 3351: Facilitating Child Advocacy.

The topic for this year's workshop, "A World Fit for Children: Making Our World a Better Place," provided a foundation for CYS students to develop child-rights-based videos, posters and activities, which focused on important themes selected by children, including poverty, bullying, mental health, education, healthcare, and the environment. Through these activities, young people shared their thoughts, ideas and suggestions about how to make the world a better place for children as they explored and discussed aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the context of their lived experiences.

CYS students compiled a report that captures the young people's key ideas, experiences and insights shared throughout the 2022 workshop. The report was presented to a network of decision-makers from across Canada at a conference at Carleton University through the LPC in April 2023. Decision-makers were asked to read Shaking the Movers 2022 reports from various regions. They responded positively to young people's suggestions and the issues outlined in the report. Many were saddened by the issues young people highlighted but were also inspired by their ideas and perseverance in a complex, rapidly changing 21st century.

Reflecting on this year's Shaking the Movers workshop, Assistant Professor Daniella Bendo says,

"Our CYS students came up with creative and engaging child rights-based videos, posters and activities that opened up important discussions with children about how to make our world a better place for children. The children provided insightful ideas, thoughts and suggestions on what A World Fit for Children should look like, and we look forward to sharing these perspectives with decision-makers."

The Shaking the Movers 2022 workshop was made possible thanks to a 2021 MOU between King's and the LPC and generous funding from the LPC, the John M. Davitsky Foundation at Toronto Foundation and King's University College.

The next Shaking the Movers workshop will run in fall 2023.



TWO VOICES. ONE MESSAGE OF HOPE AND POSSIBILITY

WHITE QUESTIONS. BLACK ANSWERS. HELPING KIDS TO BE SEEN AND HEARD.



Grace Ibrahima
& Rick Csiernik
TWO VOICES, ONE MESSAGE
OF HOPE AND POSSIBILITY

Dr. Rick Csiernik, Professor in the School of Social Work, is collaborating with Trinidadian-born author Grace Ibrahima on presentations that discuss racism with students and answer questions they may be otherwise afraid to ask. The foundation of the presentations comes from Grace's third

book, *White Questions, Black Answers: Helping Kids To Be Seen And Heard*, which provides open and honest answers to a collection of generic and blunt questions from students.

The presentations are an in-depth conversation on racism, bullying and substance misuse, and helping children find their voices in the post-pandemic world. During the presentations, Grace and Rick pay particular attention to respecting the students' intelligence and curiosity around complex topics.

Together, they aim to:

- Connect and share thought-provoking lessons with students and school communities;
- Offer students a safe space and the opportunity to ask questions, especially the uncomfortable ones; and,
- Provide growth opportunities to learn about racism and foster inclusivity through awareness.

In the question and answer portion of the presentation, Rick provides the perspective of a person of privilege, speaking to issues of white privilege, racism, misogyny and drug use in a manner that parallels Grace's presentation.

The content of the presentations fits with many schools' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion curricula and learning objectives. Expanding beyond its roots in Kitchener-Waterloo, Grace and Rick have partnerships with ten schools/school boards for either in-person or virtual speaking engagements or book purchases.

For more information about *White Questions. Black Answers. Helping kids to be seen and heard*, go to www.graceibrahima.com.

NEW! DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The King's Political Science department was renamed the Department of Politics and International Relations (PIR) effective January 1, 2023.

The decision for the new focus grew out of a joint faculty and student vision for the department. "Politics and International Relations is where the action is. Inside and outside the classroom, from the international to the local, students learn how societies work and why politics is the ultimate tool for change," says Dr. John Grant, Department Chair and Associate Professor for the PIR department.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR VP EXTERNAL

Since arriving here last November to assume the role of Vice President External Relations, I have had some incredible opportunities to hear from, and connect with, alumni. I am very excited to be here and grateful for this platform to speak to our alumni community on a wider level.

King's has the amazing potential to impact not only the future lives of our students, but this region, this country and, indeed, the world as a whole. King's continues to attract and retain such an amazing group of talented students because we are unique in the holistic educational experience we provide. Our alumni have tackled some of the great questions of our times; questions about sustainability, ethics, privacy, diversity and equity. That learning and dialogue, in a University setting, will help them move our world forward in a much more thoughtful way.

I have arrived at King's just as we begin to reflect on our role in the future, our vision and a new strategic plan. Anyone who has spent time on our campus or as part of our community will tell you that King's is already great. Our aim is to go from great to greater. We want to enhance our incredible student experience and do even more to position our students, those following in your footsteps, for success. In order to do so, we must build on past strengths and explore new territory. There will be a part for the entire King's community to play in shaping our future, including alumni.

This is also timely work as we approach King's 75th anniversary. This year will be a year of listening to our stakeholders, so if anyone reaches out to you, please share your thoughts. Research has always played a major role at King's, and alumni will be a key stakeholder in our research this year.

What are we offering that is different from other universities? What makes King's, King's? What can we do to continue to position our students and alumni for future success? How can we amplify what we already do to another, greater level?

To find out the answers to those questions, we will draw upon the input of our entire community on a scale greater than ever before. We want you to feel as though King's will always be your home, and we invite you to reach out to us because we would love to hear your thoughts, your opinions and advice. What did you enjoy about your King's experience, and how could future students benefit from changes being implemented? How would you like to see King's move forward? Now more than ever, we want your voice to be heard regarding our future direction.

At this time, no one can truly say where this new direction might take us, but by the time you receive your spring 2024 issue of the *King's Herald*, we will have assembled a clear foundation of our positioning for King's going forward. I, for one, am excited to see what path King's will take in the future, and I hope you are as well.

Esports and gaming

open a new world of possibilities

EXPLORING THE GROWING WORLD OF ESPORTS WITH STUDENT KRISTEN KAEMPF

Starting at King's in September 2019, Kristen Kaempf didn't have many opportunities to get involved with clubs or campus activities before the COVID-19 pandemic moved all of her classes online. During lockdown, she used her free time to dive into a new hobby and began exploring the world of gaming.

"I got a Nintendo Switch, and I started playing different games, like *Minecraft*," explains Kristen. Now, she regularly plays *Valorant*, a first-person tactical hero shooter game, *Counter-Strike: Global Offensive* (CS:GO), and other casual PC games.



Kristen just completed her third year at King's and is working towards an honours double major in Criminology and Sociology and a certificate in Law and Public Policy. Although her school work keeps her busy, after nearly two years of remote learning, Kristen knew she wanted to get involved with campus life for the 2022-23 academic year.

Upon learning of the Western Electronic (Esports) Gaming Association (WEGA), a club for students on campus who enjoy playing video games and who like to meet and socialize with other gamers, Kristen knew that it was not only a club she wanted to join, but also a club she wanted to be actively involved with. Set up similarly to a corporation, WEGA has seven departments: events, esports, design, internal, marketing, partnerships, and media, each with executive members who manage different areas of responsibility. Kristen applied to be part of the executive committee and served this past academic year on the executive team of the Media department.

Throughout the year, the club runs a wide variety of recreational and competitive events, including tournaments, casual gaming nights, and social events to build a community. Currently, the club has nearly 290 paid members, but non-members can participate in tournaments if they cover their event entrance fee. Recently, Western Campus Recreation added esports to the list of Western Intramurals, and members can strive for the coveted "purple shirt" by winning esports tournaments.

"We recently hosted a *Valorant* tournament that had 72 participants. Each team had a maximum of five people, and the top prize was \$800!"

Being involved at the executive level of WEGA has provided Kristen with opportunities to develop transferable skills, soft skills, and digital literacy skills that will be useful in her future career. She helps monitor the WEGA Discord server, a voice, video, and text chat app with over 2,130 members. Discord is used to host game nights, watch parties, and chats.

"I FEEL I'VE FOUND A PLACE WHERE I CAN THRIVE AND BE MYSELF WITH OTHERS WHO ARE ALSO GROWING WITH ME."



"The Media department live streams tournaments with commentary. This is known as casting and observing in the world of esports," Kristen explains. "Casting is describing what is happening inside a game in a way that a viewer can follow along. The caster must also keep viewers engaged and entertained. Observers are responsible for switching to interesting camera angles and player perspectives to create an enjoyable viewing experience. There are also Stream Managers who are responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly." As esports continue to grow in popularity, positions like casters, observers and stream managers have become viable professions.

However, it's not all games with WEGA. The club offers its members career-related events like speaker panels for those interested in working in esports or gaming industries. The club also holds sticker sales to help generate revenue with sticker art created by members of the Design department.

Although many WEGA members are in programs like engineering and computer science, the number of students in other subject areas, like Kristen, continues to grow. Historically, gaming has been predominantly marketed towards men, and although men outnumber women within the club, there is a 4:1 ratio of men to women within the executive, showing that esports and gaming are steadily growing in popularity with women.

For Kristen, what started as a hobby has grown into a passion.

"Joining WEGA has been the best decision of my undergrad experience," she says. "Everyone is very welcoming, and there's something for everyone, no matter your skill level or game preference. It's been awesome to connect with people with similar interests."

Although school is her main priority, Kristen works at Metro grocery store. Along with being on the WEGA executive, she is also a King's Soph, helping first-year students transition to university through orientation week activities. In addition, she volunteers at Boler Mountain Track 3 Ski School, teaching students with disabilities how to ski adaptively. She is a Canadian Ski Instructors' Alliance (CSIA) level 1 ski instructor and is certified to teach skiing internationally.

"I believe it is important to develop passions and that everything happens for a reason," says Kristen. "I feel I've found a place where I can thrive and be myself with others who are also growing with me." And with all that she has keeping her busy, somehow, Kristen still manages to find time to be a content creator, creating digital art and posting animation-based content on social media. She also hopes to start streaming in the future.

Kristen can be found @ItsLilKae on YouTube, Twitch, and Twitter.

Meet Gareth Bush '13

Toronto's best-reviewed wedding singer and this year's Homecoming performer

Gareth Bush '13 is a professional musician who plays and sings at weddings, private parties, corporate functions, public events, surprise proposals, and the local pub down the street. He is Toronto's best-reviewed wedding singer and this year's Homecoming performer.

We recently had a chat with Gareth about his musical career.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO MUSIC?

I was enrolled in many musical endeavours when I was young, like choir, piano lessons, etc. I became a proud band geek from middle school onward, playing the trombone and singing in high school musicals. Things took a turn when I found an acoustic guitar collecting dust in my high school music department's closet. I decided learning to play would be my everyday mission during lunch break. It quickly became my favourite hobby. I took to the streets and busked on Richmond Row to get some practice in and make a few bucks. From there, I graduated to pubs and private events. Word of mouth spread, leading to many more opportunities; the rest is history! It all snowballed very quickly.

WHO ARE YOUR MUSICAL INFLUENCES?

My two favourites are Noah Gundersen and John Mayer. Mayer inspired an entire generation of guitar players; his songs are so creative and complicated that it's a pretty in-depth way to learn how to play the instrument. Very challenging but rewarding.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A BAND OR HAVE YOU ALWAYS PERFORMED SOLO?

I've been solo pretty much the entire way. I enjoy performing with other musicians and do on occasion, but for a long while, I was managing a music career on top of a steady 9 to 5 job, which left very little room for fitting someone else's scheduling limitations into the mix. I like to keep it simple.

WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE BECOMING A FULL-TIME MUSICIAN?

I was in media and broadcasting on the communications side. My initial dream (before realizing that doing music full-time would be possible) was to be in sports broadcasting. I used to host a sports

talk radio show on Western's campus station CHRW every Wednesday and travelled with the football team to call the games on the air. I went to journalism school at Western for my Master's and later landed a job with the Toronto Argonauts of the CFL, handling their digital media. After a couple seasons with them, I moved on to the CBC in a communications and public relations role for six years. I eventually realized it was time to make the move to music exclusively and haven't looked back since.

WHY/HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A FULL-TIME MUSICIAN?

The "why" is easy. Music is my passion and what I was always meant to be doing. The "how" took a lot more work. It took 6 or 7 years of steady momentum working my way into the Toronto wedding and private event sector, playing as many shows as possible, networking with event professionals and planners, and collecting as many reviews as possible to generate a steady online presence. It wasn't an overnight decision. If I was going to leave the comfy government job/salary/benefits, I had to establish a consistent pattern of waking to new gig opportunities in my inbox every day.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE/LEAST FAVOURITE SONG TO PERFORM?

It's hard to pick one song as a favourite, but some I always come back to are *Harvest Moon* by Neil Young, *Crash into Me* by Dave Matthews, *Champagne Supernova* by Oasis, and *Have You Ever Seen the Rain* by CCR.

Least favourites would have to be *Perfect* and *Thinking Out Loud* by Ed Sheeran. They're not bad songs, and Ed is a phenomenal artist, but there was a good year and a half where that was what every couple wanted me to play at their wedding every weekend.

WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO COLLABORATE WITH?

Mayer, of course.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PRE-SHOW RITUALS?

I do a lot of vocal warm-ups in the car on the way to shows. I've gotten so many funny looks from



people in cars next to me at red lights as I make a bunch of funny sounds and lip trills to get my voice ready to sing for four hours straight.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE PERFORMANCE?

I don't think I have one specific one, but there are plenty of funny stories over the years. One was performing for one of the princesses from the royal family. She came over to say she liked the music, so I gave her my wedding musician business card and said, "I heard you guys like to throw big weddings."

WHAT CAN PEOPLE LOOK FORWARD TO FROM YOU AT HOMECOMING?

A mix of classic and contemporary sing-along hits from a very proud King's grad

WHERE CAN PEOPLE FIND YOU?

garethbushmusic.com
Spotify and anywhere you listen to music
youtube.com/gareth9
@garethbushmusic
on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Alexis Brudnicki

has found her passion

Olympic Gold Medalist Nadia Comaneci once said: "Enjoy the journey and try to get better every day. And don't lose the passion and the love for what you do."

In having a conversation with Alexis Brudnicki '09, it's abundantly clear that she has found her passion. A natural athlete, Alexis was a synchronized swimmer while at King's and has always been an avid runner, completing 15 full marathons, an ultra-marathon, and over 35 half marathons. But her heart belongs to baseball. She grew up playing baseball and softball and was a huge fan of the Toronto Blue Jays. She didn't, however, always realize what a significant role baseball would play in her career.

Alexis studied Criminology at King's and always thought she'd attend law school after undergrad. She even volunteered within the court system and was considering a focus on criminal law. However, school was not her favourite thing, and she didn't want to commit to another three years right away. When looking at one-year graduate options, she found a Sports Journalist program at Centennial College which grabbed her attention. She always enjoyed writing, and this diploma landed her a job right away with her beloved Blue Jays.

Alexis loved talking to people who are the best in the world at something. She worked game day operations as a statistician and scoreboard operator and then had the chance to travel as a Press Officer. She went to seven different countries on four continents, including a trip to Japan with the Women's National team, which was the most incredible experience.

After a few years of real-world experience, she was ready to turn her eye back to education – this time with an aim to take what she learned and apply it to the world of baseball. Alexis completed a master's degree in education, focusing on assessment and evaluation. Not content to stop there, she applied to do a doctorate of education in 2019. In the

application, she had to pose an organizational problem and propose a solution – she chose to focus on gender inequality and power dynamics in baseball.

In 2021, while working for Major League Baseball, Alexis reported an incident of sexual misconduct and found that the reporting process was poor. There was an investigation that ended with a favourable outcome for her, but the procedures in place needed further development and more structure. She explained that she was fortunate to be educated, have confidence, and speak English as a first language, yet she still found the process confusing. She recognizes that it would be even more challenging for someone with less advantages or privilege.

This experience led Alexis to shift her doctoral focus to study the lack of sufficient support structures in place for anyone who wishes to report sexual misconduct. Alexis came forward with her feedback, giving suggestions based on her research and her personal experience. She wanted them to add an ombudsperson and have more advocacy and resources in place for the individuals doing the reporting. Her suggestions have been accepted in theory, and she is hopeful they will be enacted soon.

Alexis was given a lawyer to work with who's been very helpful in sharing her expertise. Alexis hopes that her dissertation will provide further suggestions. She wants to "propose real change and give real answers," not just say things need to change.

In 2021, Alexis began pursuing a law degree to advance her advocacy work further. Once finished her law degree, Alexis has a goal to work within employment law and workplace compliance. She is on track to complete her PhD this October and graduate from law school next summer. When asked how she manages her time and can keep up with all her work, Alexis credits her physical workouts



"EVERY OPPORTUNITY, NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, COULD LEAD TO THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY. I WAS LUCKY TO ALWAYS HAVE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE TO SAY – TRY THIS."

for helping to keep her balanced and her stress levels down. She runs on a gym treadmill every day, followed by swimming laps.

Alexis has had the opportunity to work in so many facets of the baseball world and still feels very connected to the sport. She remarked that she sometimes misses travelling with teams and that even once she's a lawyer, she would love to take three weeks off to be a press officer again.

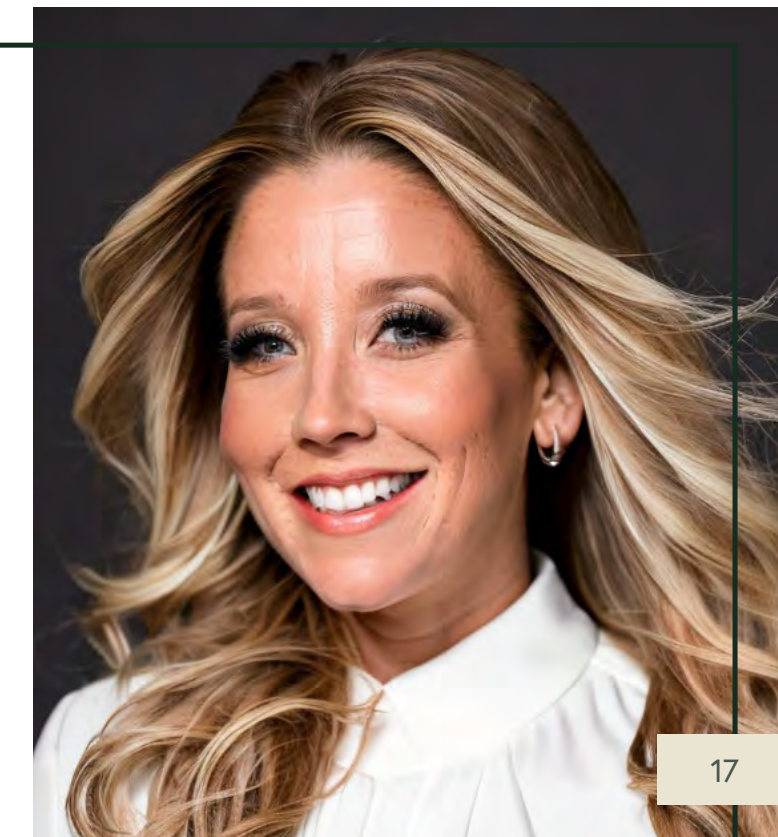
When asked what advice she has for those starting their career or looking to make a change, Alexis didn't hesitate:

"Every opportunity, no matter what it is, could lead to the RIGHT opportunity. I was lucky to always have people in my life to say – try this."

In terms of working in the sports field specifically, Alexis contends that networking is crucial. You need to be seen at events. She explains that if you're a woman in this field, you'll already stand out, and if people keep seeing you, it will show that you're involved and committed. Every experience is valuable. Talk to people – there is always something to learn. Being curious is always helpful. Things are improving, and Alexis has noticed a lot of change in the last ten years, but there are still not many women working in sports, especially on the writing side.

One of Alexis' proudest accomplishments was being named a recipient of the prestigious *Bob Elliot Media Recognition Award*. Describing her as "an individual who has provided unparalleled coverage of Baseball Canada's National Teams and athletes" and possessing "exceptional story-telling abilities," Baseball Canada bestowed this honour on Alexis in 2019. Receiving the award was extra special for Alexis as Bob Elliot is a close mentor who helped guide her in this industry. She described him like a father to her for over a decade, and his whole family has welcomed her.

Retrospectively, Alexis recognizes how privileged she has been to obtain such an education. She credits King's with giving her a strong foundation – honing her writing and research skills that have served her so well. It's hard to imagine someone who is so academically accomplished and has multiple advanced degrees commenting at one time that school wasn't their favourite thing and they weren't drawn to it. Perhaps this story shows the difference that finding one's passion can make. Alexis' journey has had challenges and involved an immense amount of work, dedication and persistence, yet she thrives. When asked of her ultimate goal, Alexis wants to "make things better and be a leader in the sports field." It's not hard to imagine that's exactly what she'll do.



THE GREATEST HOMECOMING ON EARTH

SEPTMBER 22-24

FOOD | FRIENDS | FAMILY | MUSIC | FUN
ENTERTAINMENT | INSPIRATION | MEMORIES

[KINGS.UWO.CA/HOMECOMING](https://kings.uwo.ca/homecoming)

COME ONE COME ALL



With events for alumni, families, employees, students and friends, Homecoming 2023 is the hottest ticket under the big top. Don't miss the fun on September 22-24. Make sure to follow @KUCAlumni on social media for all the latest and greatest Homecoming news!

If you'd like help planning your reunion, contact us at alumni@kings.uwo.ca. Alumni with grad years ending in 3 or 8 are celebrating anniversaries this year!

HOMECOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

5:00 pm - Alumni Awards Ceremony

5:45 pm - Homecoming Dinner

8:00 pm - Friday Night Live featuring Gareth Bush '13

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Stop by the King's Fest for various events scheduled throughout the day, including live music, BBQ, Kids Zone, carnival games, Faculty Panel Chat, Speed Mentoring, displays, demos, vendors and more. New this year - catch the Mustangs football game without leaving King's Fest in our special viewing area.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

10:00 am

Mass with Christ the King University Parish

NEW THIS YEAR

"Vendor Expo" at King's Fest!

If you have a product-based business, consider participating as a vendor. For more details, contact alumni@kings.uwo.ca.

2023 | KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ALUMNI AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominate outstanding King's graduates for the Alumni of Distinction and Recent Graduate Award

Visit kings.uwo.ca/alumni for more information and nomination form

RECOGNIZING
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS
PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
COMMUNITY SERVICE
INSPIRATION TO OTHERS

EVENTS RECAP

TORONTO CHAPTER AT JUMP RESTAURANT



OTTAWA CHAPTER AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA AND LIL Z'S PIZZA



TORONTO CHAPTER IN A PRIVATE SUITE AT THE TORONTO MARLIES GAME



LONDON CHAPTER AT THE FACTORY



CLASS OF 2023 LAST LECTURE CELEBRATION

Selected by the graduating class, this year's Last Lecture was presented by Daniella Bendo, Assistant Professor in the Department of Childhood and Youth Studies, who shared words of wisdom for those transitioning from school life to the work world. Following the lecture, the King's Alumni Association hosted a reception with a champagne toast given by Rob Ventresca '93, Academic Dean.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2022-23 CAREER SERVICES VOLUNTEERS!

Throughout the year, alumni returned to campus to speak to students about their career paths, sharing helpful advice about transitioning from student to professional, job searching and interview tips, and personal stories.

If you want to speak at a career event or become a mentor, please complete the Career Services Volunteer form at kings.uwo.ca/alumni-volunteer or contact alumni@kings.uwo.ca.

Upcoming Events



KING LEAR AT STRATFORD FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

This year's performance is Shakespeare's *King Lear* starring Paul Gross. Join us for a three-course lunch prepared by Stratford Festival catering, a lecture by King's professor and Shakespeare scholar Dr. Paul Werstine '70, and premium-level seating at a matinee performance.

TICKETS: \$148
Only a limited number of tickets are available, so don't wait to get yours!

STAY TUNED!

Other alumni events are in the works. Sign up to receive alumni emails so you don't miss out!
kings.uwo.ca/alumni/stay-informed/

Registration is requested for King's alumni events. For more information about upcoming events, please visit kings.uwo.ca/alumni or contact the Alumni and Development Office at alumni@kings.uwo.ca or 1-800-265-4406 x4502.

Retirement Jim Zuccherro '82

Jim Zuccherro '82 retired from King's in April 2023 after 36 years of service. Jim was a Lecturer and Academic Counsellor who helped support and steer the academic careers of thousands of King's students over the years.

We asked alumni to share memories of Jim, and here's what just a few of them had to say:

"Jim and I met at King's in 1980 and immediately bonded over our love for playing music. We have shared many great memories, and I consider him a true lifelong friend. He has always been caring, supportive and generous. I wish him a long and fruitful retirement and look forward to celebrating his new life."

- **Ray Martini '83**

"I came to Jim once with a complex problem due to the program changes, and he was the first person to really listen to me and help me out. Thanks to him, I was able to finish my studies with less stress and graduate on time. He was a one-of-a-kind counsellor. Wishing him all the best in his retirement."

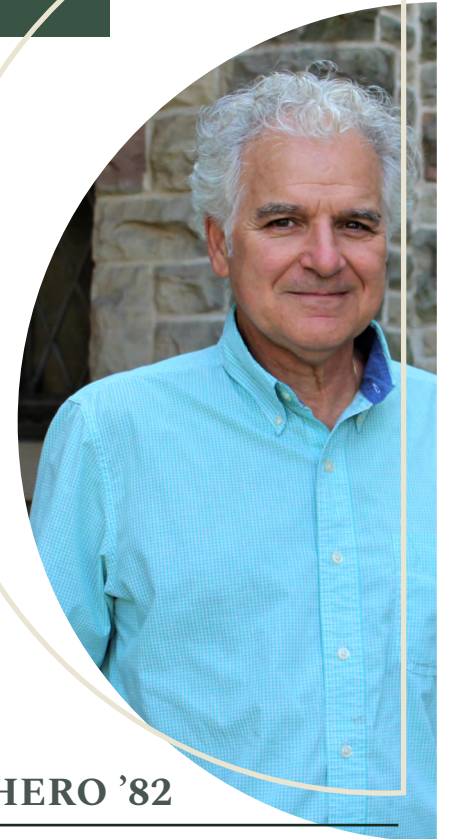
- **Kayley MacGregor '17**

"What impact! 23 years have passed since graduation, and I reacted extremely positively when reading Jim's name (that's saying something!) Such a kind, thoughtful and helpful person. The college is fortunate to have staff like Jim Zuccherro! Congratulations Dr. Zuccherro!"

- **Justin Landry '99**

"I took a writing course with Jim in 2008, and I remember his passion for teaching and how he made the course memorable with his anecdotes. I still remember how we discussed the helmet catch after the SuperBowl between the Patriots and the Giants in class, and his stories about how he was taught grammar, especially 'he, she, it.'"

- **Frank Maas '08**



JIM ZUCCHERO '82

"Jim was a year ahead of me when I started at King's in 1978. We both took a year off from our studies, so I finally got to know him quite well when he was in his fourth year and I was in my third. One of my fondest memories of Jim was at the final Happy Hour of the 78/79 school year. Jim's group 'attempted' to play 'Up on Cripple Creek' by The Band. I remember thinking, 'I have to get to know this guy.' Our mutual love of music drew us together, and we were more inclined to see a band downtown rather than imbibing at the Ceeps. Jim was a valued part of the King's community for nearly 50 years. Few might know that Jim is also a valued member of the London musical community. We live on opposite sides of the world but remain good friends. Happy retirement, Jim. Shine on!"

- **Tom Marshman '83**

Awards

EASING FINANCIAL BARRIERS

The academic and personal accomplishments of more than 200 students were recognized and celebrated at the 2022-23 Student Awards Ceremony. This year, three awards were established to serve under-represented communities in their educational journey and support the next generation of leaders.

CIBC MEM Inclusion Award supports students who identify as a member of the Black community, First Nations, Métis or Inuit, a person with a disability, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, or a person of colour who is interested in pursuing a career in the financial industry.

KPMG BIPOC Student Award supports and enables access to education for Black, Indigenous, and persons of colour (BIPOC) students who have demonstrated commitment to community leadership and a sustained and healthy balance of academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement on or off campus.

Sita Lakhotia Memorial Award was established by Kapil Lakhotia '02 to honour the memory of his grandmother, Sita Lakhotia. It is granted to a student registered in Economics or the BMOS program, with preference to those who are a single parent, or supporting dependents, and who is able to balance work, life, and education.



"This award has allowed me to participate fully in the King's experience while worrying less about my finances. I am an exam proctor, teaching assistant, residence assistant, VP of Analytics and Decision Science with the King's Economath Society (KEMS) and Social Media Assistant for the School of MEM. Thank you, KPMG, for making this possible."

Chen Z., 4th year Finance & Administration
KPMG BIPOC Student Award Recipient



"With inflation and rental increases, working part-time while being a single mother and an honours student is challenging. This award contributed to my living expenses and took off a lot of financial stress. Thank you for the honour of receiving this award."

Nicole M., 3rd year Social Work
The Sita Lakhotia Memorial Award Recipient



"This award has been the gift of time. It has allowed me to focus more on my studies, CPA exam preparation, and extra-curricular opportunities that help me establish connections and new networks."

Rijul J., 3rd year Accounting and Analytics & Decision Sciences
CIBC MEM Inclusion Award Recipient

"Receiving this award has boosted my morale and motivated me to work hard to achieve academic excellence. My family is very proud of this recognition. I am so grateful for this support."

Navdeep B., 3rd year Accounting
CIBC MEM Inclusion Award Recipient

PAVING STONE PROGRAM



The paving stone program was created to support the highest priority needs of King's University College from 1994 – 2010. Generous alumni, staff and faculty chose to honour their memories of King's by purchasing a brick for display in our walkways. Over time, many paving stones were damaged due to general wear and tear and salt usage in the winter months. While we hoped to restore the brickwork, the damage was irreparable, and the majority of stones were removed to ensure safe walkways for the King's community.

In recognition of those who supported the paving stone program, a new plaque is displayed in the quad near where the original bricks were located. Thank you to all members of the King's family who supported this program. Your investment allows King's to address immediate needs and emerging priorities, like scholarships, bursaries and emergency funding for students facing unforeseen financial challenges. You make a difference to our campus, community, and students!

MILESTONES

Share your milestones (job, marriage, birth announcements, etc.) in the next issue of the *King's Herald* by emailing your news to alumni@kings.uwo.ca or by completing the online form at kings.uwo.ca/alumni/address-update. Photos are welcome, space permitting.

Ian Sullivan '70 and his wife Paula Young have been married for more than 50 years. They have two children and five grandchildren. Ian is a retired lawyer.

Sharon Wright-Evans '74 retired from the positions of Bishop's Deputy Delegate and Director of Safe Environment Services with the Diocese of London in December 2022.

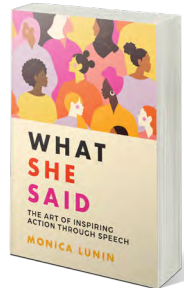
Chris Overholt '87 was named Senior Vice President, Global Partnerships with MSG Sports, effective March 27, 2023. Chris is a highly-regarded sports, media and entertainment executive with more than 30 years of industry experience across several professional sports leagues.

Nahid Mazaheri '89 is happily retired in British Columbia.

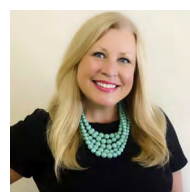


Jennifer Robson '92 published her latest book, *Coronation Year*, in April 2023. The royal historical novel tells the story of three very different residents of London's historic hotel, Blue Lion, as they converge in a potentially explosive climax on the day of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation.

Monica Lunin '94 published her book, *What she said: the art of inspiring action through speech*, in 2022. She received two awards at the 2022 Australian Business Book Awards for Best Book in the Communication and Sales category and Best Cover.



Trudy Prins '94 writes a blog called "Peripheral Ponderings" and has posted some memories of her time at King's. She says, "It was truly a blessing to return to school in my mid-thirties, and there were many benefits from my studies at King's. Never underestimate the value of an Arts degree!" Her blog site is peripheralpondering.net.



Shannon Patterson '95 was appointed Executive Director of Consumer and Patient Experience at Stamford Health in April 2022.

Greg Dack '98 lost his beloved wife Patricia on January 29, 2023. Patricia, a graduate of Brescia University College and Ryerson University, worked as a journalist before finding her passion working for non-profit organizations to help make the world a brighter place.

Jennifer Slay '99 was appointed Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization (EDID) at King's University College, effective December 1, 2022. Jennifer has over 23 years of experience in social work and community leadership.

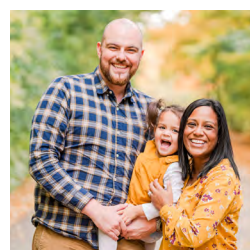


Kapil Lakhotia '02 was selected to participate as a member of the Pillar Nonprofit Network's Community Advisory Panel and in April 2023, he was named Chair of the Board of Directors.

Andrew Jardine '06 was appointed Chief Financial Officer with the Roman Catholic Diocese of London in November 2022.

Paul Wilton '07 was appointed Manager, President's Office at King's University College, effective February 7, 2023.

Krutika Patil '10 and Ken Kirkpatrick '10 have a beautiful 2-year-old daughter and look forward to further expanding their family this spring!



Justin Tiseo '16 was recognized as one of London's 'Twenty in their 20s'. He has been making a difference in the London community since he was a teenager. He was previously recognized with a Pillar Award and an Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers.

Shelby Lee '17, Breanna Shanque '17 and Olivia Heyda '17 visited King's in January 2023 with the next generation of King's students, Maddie, Blake and Kylie.



Denise Cooke '18 received her Master's in Interdisciplinary Studies from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC, in November 2022. She was appointed Academic Counsellor at King's University College effective April 2023.

Andera Novak '21 graduated from Fanshawe College's post-graduate certificate in Public Relations - Corporate Communications in June 2022. She began working full-time as the Marketing and Communications Coordinator at the London Children's Museum in September 2022.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of:

Alfred Guidice '65, who passed away on August 9, 2022.

Charles Lewonas '65, who passed away on June 15, 2022.

Robert Reed '66, who passed away on March 26, 2022.

Michael "Mike" Doucher '67 (aka The Duke), who passed away on November 2, 2022.

Michael Sirdevan '73, who passed away on July 19, 2022.

Mary Gross '74, who passed away on November 27, 2022.

David Thomson '75, who passed away on June 15, 2022.

Zoltan Rapai '76, who passed away on March 19, 2022.

William "Richard" Shelson '76, who passed away on May 22, 2022.

James "Jim" Walker '86, who passed away on December 14, 2022.

Suzanne Boshart (nee Reeve) '88, who passed away on March 28, 2022.

Dalton Corbett '89, who passed away on August 22, 2022.

Dawna Halls (nee Kennedy) '89, who passed away on May 12, 2022.

June O'Brien '89, who passed away on April 4, 2022.

Gregory Kelly '91, who passed away on November 18, 2022.

Maria Curcio '95, who passed away on November 2, 2022.

Caroline Dodman, associate alumna, who passed away on January 30, 2023.

Noreen Mark, associate alumna, who passed away on October 8, 2022.

Dr. Peter Albert "Al" Koop, Professor Emeritus of Economics, who passed away on March 16, 2023.

Dr. Koop taught economics at King's for 28 years, retiring in 1998. He loved teaching, had a keen interest in Mennonite history and enjoyed travelling to visit family and friends in Ireland, Scotland, Mexico and other countries. Dr. Koop also enjoyed spending time at the Hobbit's Haven, a farm his family shared with other professors from King's University College.



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