



King's Herald

FALL 2023

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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:

519-433-3491 | 800-265-4406 x4522

alumni@kings.uwo.ca

King’s University College Alumni and Development

266 Epworth Avenue, London, ON N6A 2M3

kings.uwo.ca/alumni

Executive Director, Foundation, Alumni & Development: Terra Ahrens

Editor: Jennifer Jones

Content Contributors: Laura Peters, John Milner, Raymond Garcia, Steve Grimes,
King’s Communications and Media Relations

Design: Tim Bugler

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Cover image: Bangishimo '13, Recent Graduate Award recipient, and Jennifer Slay '99 Alumni Award of Distinction recipient at the 2023 Alumni Awards Ceremony. Photo by Raymond Garcia.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. I am pleased to update you on Homecoming and other activities of your King's Alumni Association.

Homecoming is not just a celebration of our alma mater but also a time for us to come together as a community and reconnect with old friends, reminisce about our college days and create new memories. It is a time to celebrate our shared experiences and the bonds that were formed during our time at King's.

This year's Homecoming was bigger and better than ever, living up to its name as "The Greatest Homecoming on Earth!" We welcomed 380 alumni, students and friends back to campus for a weekend full of events and celebrations, including the Alumni Awards Ceremony, Homecoming Dinner, and King's Fest.

This year marked my third opportunity to moderate the Faculty Chat, which examined the pros, cons, and ethical issues around modern technology, including artificial intelligence, social media, and nuclear weapons. Thanks to our faculty panelists, Dr. Graham Broad, Dr. Jason Dean and Dr. Wendy Ellis, who provided unique perspectives on the topic. If you have suggestions for faculty chat topics or panelists, please send them to alumni@kings.uwo.ca.

Highlights from Homecoming are included on pages 16-17, and there is a photo album on the KUCAlumni Facebook page that I encourage you to check out.

If you attended Homecoming and have not completed our feedback survey, please scan the QR code and take a few moments to let us know what you liked and what you hope to see at next year's Homecoming.

As always, I invite you to get involved with your King's Alumni Association. Events are held throughout the year, so make sure you're receiving the alumni e-newsletter and follow @KUCAlumni on social media for the most up-to-date information.

Additionally, consider volunteering your time and expertise. We are in need of alumni who can support students by offering one-day job shadowing opportunities, becoming mentors or participating as speakers at career-related events. Your wisdom and experience can guide and inspire students as they navigate their future career paths.

Lastly, spread the word about your King's Alumni Association and the benefits of alumni involvement. Reach out to your fellow alumni, share your stories and memories, submit a nomination for the Alumni Awards and encourage your fellow graduates to keep in touch. Together, we are a strong and vibrant community that will continue supporting and uplifting King's for generations to come.

Colin Whitehead '06

President, King's University College
Alumni Association



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to another issue of the *King's Herald*. I am always excited to receive each issue and proud to read the accomplishments and stories of King's alumni throughout these pages.

I am pleased to let you know that my own story at King's will continue. On July 1, 2024, I will begin my second term as President of King's.

My first term was certainly eventful, but I feel that many things have been accomplished since I arrived in 2019:

- The Elizabeth Russell Achievement Centre opened, thanks to a \$1 million donation from the estate of Elizabeth Russell, one of the largest individual gifts in King's history.
- A research office and the \$1 million King's Research Excellence fund was established.
- The Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization (EDID) was established after the formation of the King's/Brescia Joint Presidents' Anti-Racism Working Group with Brescia University College; an Indigenous Initiatives Advisor was appointed, and the Progress Pride flag was flown, showing that King's is a place for everyone.
- The President's Accessibility Advisory Committee was established to facilitate a barrier-free campus.

While many achievements may have happened under my watch, the true credit should be extended to the stellar team of faculty, students and administrative people, all of whom take great pride and care in the stewardship of King's University College. I am grateful for their support, not simply for the tasks they complete but for their energy, dedication, and belief that constantly inspire me as we continue to make King's a place to be and a place to become.

That support, and yours, will be needed as King's moves towards establishing a new strategic framework focusing on thoughtful, sustainable campus infrastructure and programming in service to our overall mission, vision and values. There is much work to be done and many changes to come, but I know that the team assembled here at King's is more than up to the task and will utilize their talents to craft a vibrant, fiscally sound, solid place to be during these times of ongoing change.

Speaking of change, we were saddened to hear that Brescia University College will be ending its 104-year history of Catholic education for women and the long tradition of a Catholic education partnership between King's and Brescia. We are, however, encouraged by the merger with Western University, which will provide a new home of programs and pathways for domestic and international students who need cultural support and help with English-language proficiency before they start their degree program. Western will offer Brescia's unique programs (i.e., Foods & Nutrition, Family Studies and Human Development) and integrate them into an appropriate faculty.

At this time, I want to reassure you that King's will remain a strong affiliate of Western, committed to our purpose and our vision as a leading liberal arts, values-based university. No matter what changes may lay ahead, King's will always be a place for you, our beloved alumni, to call home.

Respectfully,

David C. Malloy, PhD
President



Meet Dr. Erin Hannah, Associate Dean of Research

Dr. Erin Hannah is an internationally renowned expert on global political economy, known widely for her path-breaking research on gender and trade. She began her career at King's in 2008 and was named Full Professor of Politics and International Relations (formerly Political Science) in 2023.

In July 2023, Dr. Hannah was appointed to the position of Associate Dean of Research (ADR), in which she will help solidify the University's reputation as a place of academic and research excellence with global reach and local impact.

The position of Associate Dean of Research is new to King's. Can you tell us about the role?

As the Associate Dean of Research, I will help develop the University's research agenda, establish research infrastructure and support, promote equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization in research practices, foster interdisciplinary collaborations, and position King's as a leading research center with a strong commitment to justice, community orientation, and transformative liberal arts education.

What are some of your goals in terms of research at King's?

I will help establish a holistic understanding of research that is inclusive of a wide variety of research traditions, including Indigenous ways of knowing as a pathway toward reconciliation.

Alongside more traditional research practices, I will help champion community-based engagement, public intellectual work, knowledge mobilization beyond the university, disseminating ideas about pedagogical innovations, and building external partnerships, including with local First Nations.

Our distinct value proposition is centred on our commitment to social justice, ethical action and community engagement. These golden threads link our world-class research to the high-quality liberal arts education we deliver in our classrooms, and I see my role as central to fostering these connections, ensuring that our students not only receive an



outstanding education but also develop a deep sense of responsibility and purpose that prepares them to make meaningful contributions to society.

What impresses you about the research being done at King's?

King's faculty are amazing! Their research is world-class, impactful for many communities and serves important social goals.

What really impresses me is the widely shared commitment to social justice, advocacy for equity-deserving groups, and the empowerment of marginalized communities. Dedication to ethical action is evident in community engagement initiatives - many involving King's students and alumni - where King's researchers collaborate with different communities to co-create knowledge and drive positive change.

Something that sets King's apart from other universities is the involvement of undergraduate students and alumni in most research projects. These training and capacity-building opportunities are unrivalled elsewhere and contribute to skills-based development, capacity building and the development of future leaders and change-makers.

Our faculty bring their research into the classroom in a myriad of ways. Unique experiential learning opportunities, community-based engagement, and active learning, for example, are often connected to, and made possible by, the many networks in which King's researchers are embedded.

It is also notable that King's punches WAY above its weight in terms of external grant capture. Over the past five years, King's researchers have secured over \$8 million in external grant funding, and this number continues to grow year over year.

More than half of current, externally funded research projects at King's are led by our talented women researchers. That is notable in itself, but it is especially significant following the COVID-19 pandemic - a time when the burdens on women in every segment of society were multiplied as they bore the brunt of amplified caregiving responsibilities. Considering the challenges posed by the pandemic and its aftermath, the rapid and upward trend in external research activity by women researchers at King's is truly remarkable. I am impressed by their unwavering commitment to research.

Tell us about your research.

My research and teaching interests include global political economy, gender and trade, sustainable development, global governance, global civil society, the role of expert knowledge in global trade, and innovative pedagogy. My research is geared to correcting long-standing inequities based on gender, race, class, and other intersectional identity characteristics.

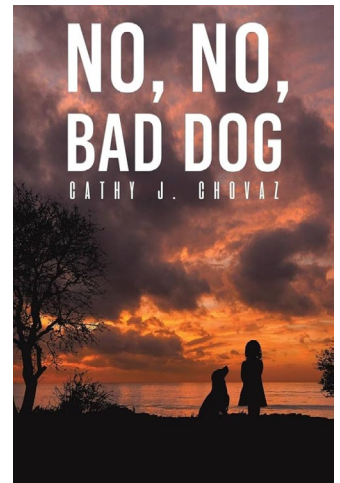
I am the new editor of the best-selling textbook worldwide in my field (*Global Political Economy 7th Edition*, Oxford University Press, 2024), taking over from John Ravenhill. Consistent with my commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization (EDID), this edition has been thoroughly updated to account for new contemporary developments and integrates diverse contributors, non-Western views, and themes such as colonialism, gender and race.

I have held several major national and international research grants to investigate the conditions under which trade can act as a lever for progressive social change, gender equality, and sustainable development. Working at the intersection of economic policy and human rights, I routinely advise governments and international organizations on developing equitable and inclusive trade policy and minimizing the adverse impacts of trade policy on vulnerable communities, including women, racialized people, 2SLGBTQIA+, Indigenous people, and those living with disabilities. For example, I am an expert member of the World Trade Organization's Gender Research Hub, Global Affairs Canada's Gender and Trade Advisory Group and the GBA+ Sub-Committee.

Currently, I hold a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant with Silke Trommer and Adrienne Roberts at the University of Manchester to examine gender mainstreaming in global trade governance and its implications for redressing inequality, exclusion, and disempowerment in the global economy.

What is one of your favourite books or publications by a colleague?

There are so many brilliant books published by my colleagues at King's, but at the moment, my favourite is *No, No, Bad Dog*, a debut novel by Dr. Cathy Chovaz, Full Professor in Psychology at King's. The book is a testament to her three decades of clinical psychology expertise on mental health and deafness, brilliantly woven into the captivating story of Mary, a young girl born into a predominantly deaf family who is navigating the complexities of being 'different.' Complexities of identity, marginalization and familial bonds are explored in this beautiful book. Indeed, Dr. Chovaz tells this story with profound depth and sensitivity, challenging readers to reimagine life as we know it. The novel is available for purchase from major book retailers.



For more on Dr. Erin Hannah's research and expertise, visit erinhannah.ca.



Predicting recovery after brain injury

Dr. Loretta Norton, Assistant Professor of Psychology and one of the first researchers in the world to measure brain activity in the ICU, led an interdisciplinary team of researchers, including neurologists at London Health Sciences Centre and Lawson Health Research Institute, to tackle the question of which intensive care unit (ICU) patients will survive severe brain injuries.

“We know that predicting meaningful functional recovery after an acute severe brain injury is a substantial clinical challenge in the ICU,” explains Dr. Norton. “It is an important endeavour because meaningful conversations surrounding the continuation or withdrawal of life-sustaining therapies occur.”

Currently, clinical tools exist to predict poor outcomes following injury from traumatic brain injury and cardiac arrest. Still, there is a lack of reliable clinical tools to predict a good recovery. In the absence of those negative findings, an individual is thought to have an indeterminate outcome.

“Simply put, we just don’t know how well an individual will do following their injury,” says Dr. Norton. “I hope my research will have a meaningful impact on those families and healthcare professionals tasked with making such difficult life and death decisions.”

Dr. Norton’s research uses functional MRI (termed fMRI) to determine brain function in patients. “I try to determine if patients can hear, perceive speech, understand language, or even follow our commands by examining their brain activity,” she explains.

“Sometimes it comforts families to know that many patients still retain the ability to hear sounds and speech.”

Her team measured brain activity in 25 patients at one of London’s two ICUs in the first few days after a serious brain injury and tested whether it could predict who would survive and who would not. Combining fMRI with an AI application known as machine learning, the team looked at certain brain networks that are thought to be active even when your brain is at rest. They found they could predict patients who would recover with an accuracy of 80 per cent, which is higher than the current standard of care.

Although it is an exciting discovery and a step in the right direction for more accurately predicting recovery, more data is needed to create a better prediction tool. Dr. Norton and her team are continuing to collect datasets. They are also moving much of their research to bedside tools, such as functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), so patients don’t have to be transported to the MRI suite for imaging. They can also extend their work with fMRI to patients who can’t otherwise communicate, such as two patients Dr. Norton studied with Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

Currently, Dr. Norton’s research team in the ICU and hospital setting includes two King’s psychology alumni. Sophie Kelly '21 is a second-year master’s student in Neuroscience at Western University. She is researching sex differences in the neurocognitive recovery of patients after cardiac arrest. Hassan Al-Hayawi '22 is also a second-year master’s student at Western University. He uses high-density EEG to understand cognitive processing in critically ill patients.

A mural created by The Youth Coalition Combatting Islamophobia (YCCI) in honour of the Afzaal family was unveiled at the intersection of Hyde Park Road and South Carriage Road in London in June 2022.



The Loss Lab

Two years after a fatal attack on the Afzaal family in London, Ontario, researchers from The Grief and Loss Research Lab (The Loss Lab) at King's began conducting meaningful interviews with members of The Youth Coalition Combatting Islamophobia (YCCI), a youth-led movement that aims to dismantle Islamophobia and all forms of hate and to bring about positive social change through public education campaigns.

Under the leadership of Dr. Carrie Traher (nee Arnold), Director, and Research Associates Dr. Lisa McLean and Dr. Adrienne Sauder, The Loss Lab is an interdisciplinary research hub dedicated to critical analyses of the effects of death and non-death losses at various life stages. Thanatology, the study of death, dying, grief and loss, is a recent field of academic research. As the only undergraduate program of its kind in the world, the Thanatology program at King's is uniquely poised to contribute to death and grief literacy locally, nationally and internationally.

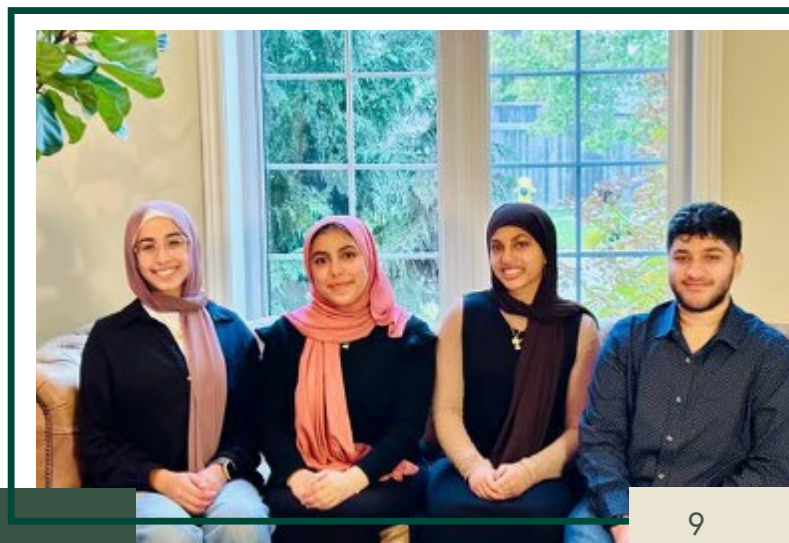
The interviews conducted by Dr. McLean and Research Assistant Athir Jisrawi allowed YCCI members to share their experiences of grief, reclaiming power, and activism. Edited dialogue from the interviews is included in the *Routledge International Handbook on Child and Adolescent Grief in Contemporary Contexts*, in a chapter called 'It's How We're Leaving Our Mark: The Youth Coalition Combatting Islamophobia and Grief Activism.'

"Through guided discussions and introspection, [YCCI members] demonstrated how we transformed our collective grief for our friend who was killed into a powerful catalyst for change and advocacy," says Maryam Al-Sabawi, speaking on behalf of YCCI. "We are especially grateful that through this chapter, others will find inspiration and courage within themselves to create change and develop the resilience necessary to move beyond their pain. We are forever thankful to Lisa and Athir for giving us this opportunity, trusting us to lead, and for their continued support and belief in us."

Another initiative of The Loss Lab is a study entitled "Picturing Loss, Grief, and Resiliency among Yazidi Refugees in London, Ontario." Conducted by Dr. McLean, primary investigator, and Dr. Traher, co-investigator, in partnership with the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Yazidi refugees are invited to contribute to a photovoice participatory arts-based project. For this project, participants use photos and descriptive analysis to facilitate the sharing of stories of grief, loss, and resiliency experienced by Yazidis as they seek to re-make their lives in Canada following their violent displacement from their home communities in Iraq. The results of this project will be shared in a public photo exhibit in spring 2024.

The Loss Lab provides students with opportunities to critically reflect on thanatological research, to better understand the significance of research in the field, and to develop hands-on skills. Collectively, participants in The Loss Lab review current research and identify gaps in the literature to apply and extend existing knowledge regarding theory and clinical application. Current research interests include Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), bereaved university students, and creative interventions for those who are bereaved.

For information about how you can support the work of The Loss Lab, contact foundation@kings.uwo.ca.



YCCI members (L-R): Jenna Khorshed, Maryam Al-Sabawi, Ayesha Islam, and Esa Islam.

DR. ANTONIO CALCAGNO NAMED FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

The Royal Society of Canada elected Dr. Antonio Calcagno as Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in the Academy of the Arts and Humanities, naming him among Canada's top scholars.

The Royal Society of Canada was founded in 1882 and is the senior national body of distinguished Canadian scholars and scientists. Fellows are nominated and selected by their peers for outstanding academic contributions to the humanities, natural and social sciences. King's has one other elected Fellow, Dr. Paul Werstine, Professor of English. King's also has elected members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, which recognizes emerging academics by the Royal Society of Canada. These include Dr. Robert Ventresca, Dr. Rachel Birnbaum and Dr. Calcagno (2015).

"This is truly an outstanding achievement for Dr. Calcagno. Recognized globally for years as an important philosopher of social and political philosophy, Antonio is receiving from the Royal Society of Canada well-deserved recognition for his contribution to the academy. We are so very proud to call him our own," says Dr. David Malloy, King's President.

Dr. Calcagno received the recognition on November 16, 2023, at the Royal Society of Canada Celebration of Excellence & Engagement in Waterloo, Ontario. "This award is meaningful because it helps recognize the importance of a broad, pluralist approach to philosophy. More research work needs to be carried out to expand our understanding of the rich and diverse figures and traditions that constitute human thinking and the life of the mind. My own work in phenomenology, history of philosophy, and social and political thought is very much dedicated to this ideal," says Dr. Calcagno.

At King's, Dr. Calcagno specializes in social and political theory as a researcher and instructor. His work in early phenomenology focuses on canonical thinkers and the archival and interpretive recovery of women philosophers who




set the foundation for the phenomenological movement. His extensive scholarship has brought to the foreground the contributions of figures marginalized by racism, sexism, and prejudice, including Edith Stein and Gerda Walther. Dr. Calcagno has also been a key figure in introducing contemporary Italian philosophy to wider audiences. His connections to Italy have benefited King's students. In 2017, he helped establish an experiential learning program at the Rondine Centre in Italy for King's Social Justice and Peace Studies students as part of their course studies, and he has been an instructor for the King's course there.

Being named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada adds to Dr. Calcagno's long list of academic recognitions. Dr. Calcagno is the author of five books, editor of seventeen books and has published over 100 articles. Along with Dr. Silvia Benso, he is also the translator of the forthcoming work of the philosopher Elena Pulcini. The winner of various major SSHRC grants, he co-founded the North American Society for Early Phenomenology and the Society for Italian Philosophy. In 2018, he received the King's University College Hugh Mellon Excellence in Research Award.

Excellence in Teaching

The King's community came together on November 22 to celebrate this year's Awards of Excellence in Teaching recipients. Dr. Darcy Harris presented the Christopher Perrin Beatty Lecture on "Navigating the Many Shapes of Loss and Grief," exploring how grief can be viewed as an essential and potentially transformative experience. Dr. Jennifer Silcox delivered the Part-Time Faculty Lecture on "My Unexpected Path: Becoming a Teacher," discussing her passion for creating a collaborative learning environment and how she strives to empower students to take learning into their own hands.




Dr. Darcy Harris, Professor of Thanatology, has been a faculty member at King's since 1998. As the coordinator of Thanatology, she developed the major and minor modules in Thanatology and the Honours Specialization in Thanatology program. She has created, developed and taught over a dozen courses, including several Thanatology and Palliative Care Certificate Courses through Western's Continuing Studies.

"I am so deeply honoured. It is a privilege to be a part of the Thanatology program at King's, and I am grateful to be surrounded by so many exemplary colleagues and our wonderful students. I consider this Award a true highlight of my career," says Dr. Harris.

The selection committee noted Dr. Harris' outstanding record of teaching excellence, self-reflectiveness and responsiveness to students, innovative program development, and versatility in pedagogy.

Dr. Jennifer Silcox, Assistant Professor, Childhood and Youth Studies, became an instructor of Sociology in 2012. In July 2023, she became a full-time faculty member with the Department of Childhood and Youth Studies.



Dr. Jennifer Silcox

"I feel honoured to be given the King's Excellence in Teaching Award for part-time faculty for my dedication to King's and my students," says Dr. Silcox. It's heartwarming to know that my students enjoy and appreciate my courses. I look forward to continuing my teaching journey at King's while endeavouring to discover new and interesting ways of inspiring students in the classroom and helping them become the changemakers of tomorrow."

"King's is proud to be a centre of transformative learning, and both recipients of the Awards for Excellence in Teaching embody core principles and values of King's - scholarly excellence, thoughtful and adaptive pedagogy, and care for their students," says Dr. Mark Yenson, Associate Academic Dean. "Dr. Harris and Dr. Silcox are outstanding and inspiring exemplars of teaching excellence at King's."

ADVANCING FACULTY RESEARCH THROUGH SSHRC GRANTS



In fall 2023, several King's faculty were awarded Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grants totalling over \$1.2 million. These grants allow faculty to collaborate with colleagues and experts across Canada to advance their research.

Dr. Thomas Tiek, Professor of Politics and International Relations, is co-director of an SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, “Empowering Black Youth in Southwestern Ontario: A Collaborative Project Exploring How Black Youth in Southwestern Ontario Negotiate their Multiple Marginalities.” The research team will document, analyze, and co-create strategies to alleviate the systemic and racial inequalities faced by Black youth in the under-documented areas of London-Middlesex, Sarnia-Lambton, Chatham-Kent, and Windsor-Essex.

Dr. Rachel Birnbaum, Professor Emerita cross-appointed to Childhood and Youth Studies (CYS) and the School of Social Work, is a co-recipient of an SSHRC grant for a collaborative study on “Responding to Challenging Times: An Inflection Point for Family Justice in Ontario.” The five-year study will investigate recent changes to the Divorce Act, the Children’s Law Reform Act, and the intersection of family violence and high-conflict families involved in parental separation.

Dr. Joseph Michalski, Professor of Sociology, will direct a multi-disciplinary team of experts on a collaborative study on sibling conflict. “The Canadian National Study of Adolescent Sibling

Conflict, Aggression, and Bullying” will look at all types of sibling conflict – from everyday disagreements to more severe acts of aggression. The team will look to describe and explain the main conflict resolution strategies that siblings tend to use with each other during adolescence and examine different risk factors that may lead to more extreme forms of physical aggression and bullying.

Sociology professors **Dr. Liam Kennedy** and **Dr. Derek Silva** received an SSHRC Insight Grant for a collaborative research study on “Policing and Post-Pandemic Participation in Sport and Physical Activity.” The study will examine how sports activities and places like gyms, golf courses, basketball courts and soccer fields, were experienced, politicized, and regulated during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the central goal of understanding the barriers and challenges to post-pandemic participation in recreational sport, particularly for criminalized, marginalized, and underrepresented groups.

Dr. Lesley Bikos, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology, and **Dr. Jeffrey Preston**, Associate Professor of Disability Studies, are co-recipients of an SSHRC Insight Grant, “Modelling Permanent Supportive Housing into Canada’s Housing and Homelessness System,” which aims to drive both policy and practice in order to save lives. The research team hopes to answer five critical questions, including what is and is not working in rehousing those with highest need and how is supportive housing best delivered.

EDID Awareness Week 2023



Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (EDID) Awareness Week 2023 took place from October 2-6, with events and activities that shared education and awareness on the importance of decolonization, the realities of racism, disability rights, and faith systems, celebrating our 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and shining a light on other equity-denied groups. Planned in collaboration between Western University, Brescia, Huron and King's, this year's theme was "Honouring our Ancestors by Coming Together to Work Towards Reconciliation and Equity."

Throughout the week, 10 King's alumni and the current King's University College Students' Council President participated as speakers at various events, sharing their voices and experiences in meaningful conversations.

Following the film screening of "Down: Canada's Black Caregivers," **Moses Latigo '09** and **Tanya Hansler '08** were part of a panel that shared their lived experience of navigating the world of parenting a child with a disability. The film examines how we can raise awareness and reduce the stigma of raising children diagnosed with Down's Syndrome.

Skylar Franke '13, **Sunday Ajak '23**, and **Laura Crowe**, King's University College Students' Council President, shared a virtual stage with internationally known and revered advocate, activist and author David Suzuki. *Environment Equity with David Suzuki* was part of a King's Author Series hosted by the Cardinal Carter Library, The Write Place at King's, the King's University College Students' Council, and King's EDID Office.

Bangishimo '13 shared their experiences creating space for the Indigenous, Black and Racialized communities using photography to amplify these stories.

Rob Ventresca '93 participated on a panel about the history of antisemitism, how it manifests today and hopes for the future.

Siham Elkassem '15, '16 and **Nusaiba Al-Azem '15** were part of a panel of experts that discussed ways to disrupt Islamophobia and Xenophobia in our systems and city.

Following a presentation by King's professor **Dr. Jane Sanders** on *Disproportionate Suspension and Expulsion from School: Acknowledging the Expanded Systemic Racism, Inequity and School and Community Violence*, **Moses Latigo '09**, **Leroy Osbourne '01** and **Michelle Young '96** participated in a panel that looked at the disparities in disciplinary actions faced disproportionately by Black, Indigenous, male-identified students, students requiring educational support, and those residing in lower resourced communities.

Alumni Awards

Congratulations to the 2023 Alumni Award recipients: **Jennifer Slay '99** is the Alumni Award of Distinction recipient, and **Bangishimo '13** is the Recent Graduate Award recipient.

"Two exceptional alumni, Jennifer Slay '99 and Bangishimo '13, were celebrated this fall for their uniquely exceptional contributions and remarkable achievements. We are proud to count each of them as esteemed members of the King's community."

Jennifer Ayers '08,
Chair of the Alumni Awards Selection Committee

ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION



Jennifer Slay '99 is King's first Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization (EDID). Her professional career has spanned over 23 years. After graduating from King's, she began her career in social work. She moved up the ranks at the Children's Aid Society from conducting investigations as an Intake Worker to Supervisor of Indigenous Family Services. In 2012, she received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for her work in the community and was recognized as one of Canada's Women of Confidence in *Chatelaine* magazine. She co-created and produced *Melanated View* for Rogers Television, which, in 2020, earned her the City of London Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Oppression Award. Jennifer served as a member and Vice-President of The Congress of Black Women of Canada - London Chapter.

A psychotherapist who helps persons with anxiety and depression, Jennifer is the owner of Jennifer Slay Counseling and Coaching. She has authored several books, including *Finesse Your Life - Mind, Body, & Spirit* and the *Finesse Your Life* journal, and is the co-author of *Dreaming Big, Being Bold*.

Her nominator said that Jennifer was "the epitome of when passion meets hard work."

"While it must be noted that Jennifer held positions of leadership in the workplace and no doubt inspired other visible minority coworkers to aspire for leadership, it is Jennifer's appointment as King's University College Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Decolonization that has inspired so many Black women. Jennifer's work ethic, integrity, and empathy for humanity are demonstrated in how she leads both in the corporate arena and in the not-for-profit world. She has used this to inspire other women and girls to be all they can be and 'Slay' at it," added the nominator.

At the Awards Ceremony, Jennifer acknowledged those who have supported her at every stage of her life, including her family, friends and colleagues. "I am very humbled and very honoured to receive this award. The person I most want to dedicate this award to is my mother. There would be no Jen Slay without Rosalie Ansine."

RECENT GRADUATE AWARD

Bangishimo '13, an IndigiQueer Anishinaabe originally from Couchiching First Nations, is a photographer, filmmaker, community advocate, and co-founder of O:se Kenhionhata:tie, also known as Land Back Camp.

After earning their Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) from King's in 2013, Bangishimo moved to Kitchener-Waterloo to pursue their Masters of Social Work: Indigenous Field of Study from Wilfrid Laurier University. At the end of their program, Bangishimo and their mother, a Residential School survivor, made national news as the first parent and child to graduate at the same time from the same program at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Bangishimo was the Events Coordinator at the Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre (WISC) at the University of Waterloo for five years before leaving to pursue their love of photography. They travelled the world for a year, visiting twelve countries and numerous Indigenous communities, taking photos and sharing the stories of the people they met along the way for their project "Nations and Voices."

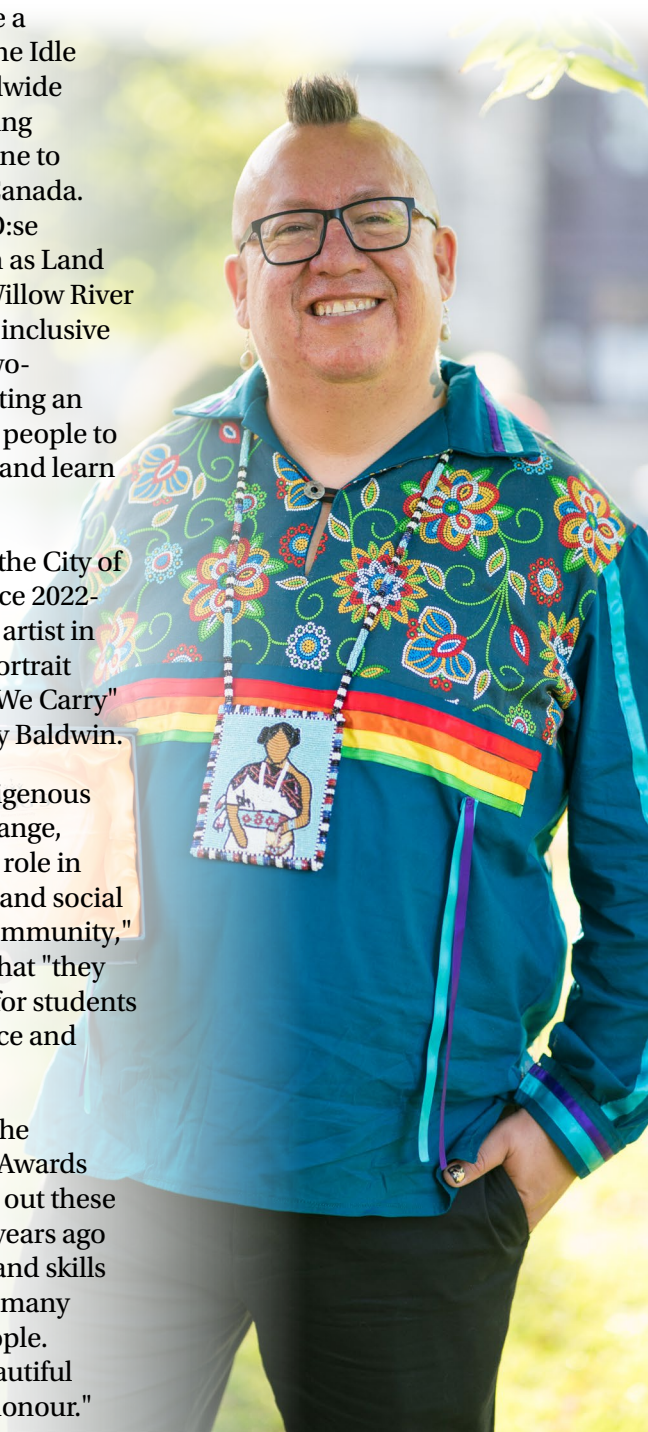
Since 2018, Bangishimo has created numerous portrait series that have been on display in art spaces across Canada, including a 25-foot-long billboard in downtown Kitchener. In 2020, Bangishimo's portrait series "Land Back Camp: Our Voices" won the *Briarpatch Magazine's* "Writing in the Margins" contest.

In 2012, Bangishimo became a community organizer with the Idle No More movement, a worldwide Indigenous movement to bring attention to the injustices done to Indigenous peoples across Canada. In 2020, they helped found O:se Kenhionhata:tie, also known as Land Back Camp, in Kitchener's Willow River Park, establishing a safe and inclusive space for Indigenous and Two-Spirit communities and creating an environment for Indigenous people to reconnect with their culture and learn about their Indigeneity.

Bangishimo was selected as the City of Kitchener's Artist in Residence 2022-2023. As the first Indigenous artist in this role, they worked on a portrait series titled "The Medicines We Carry" along with local artist Britney Baldwin.

"By raising awareness of Indigenous issues and advocating for change, Bangishimo played a crucial role in fostering a sense of activism and social justice within the campus community," said the nominator, adding that "they continue to be a role model for students passionate about social justice and community change."

Bangishimo acknowledged the School of Social Work at the Awards Ceremony, saying, "I walked out these doors [at King's] exactly ten years ago this month with knowledge and skills that I continue to share with many communities and young people. It's been an amazing and beautiful journey. Thank you for this honour."



CONGRATULATIONS, JENNIFER AND BANGISHIMO

THE GREATEST HOMECOMING ON EARTH



Whether celebrating an anniversary or reconnecting with friends, the Homecoming Dinner provided many opportunities to reminisce while enjoying a delicious dinner and entertainment by Academy Circus.



Alumnus Thomas Gauthier '68 received a standing ovation for his milestone 55th anniversary.



Friday Night Live featured the musical talents of Gareth Bush '13.



This year's Faculty Chat examined modern technology and its impact on our lives. Dr. Graham Broad, History, Dr. Jason Dean, Economics, and Dr. Wendy Ellis, Psychology, shared their perspectives through the lens of their areas of expertise.

SAVE THE DATE
Homecoming 2024
September 27-29



As part of the Homecoming Dinner, alumni with grad years ending in 3 or 8 received their commemorative pin with anniversaries ranging from 5 to 55 years.



King's Fest was bigger and better this year with live music, a Vendor Expo, a petting farm, a bouncy castle, lawn games, face painting, a photo booth, a BBQ lunch and more!



Speed Mentoring, presented by TD, allowed students to meet with alumni mentors from various fields and professions and ask questions to gain career insight.

2024 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-awards for more information and nomination form

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The 28th Annual King's Golf Classic and virtual silent auction was a great success, raising \$65,000 in support of King's students, thanks to our sponsors, golfers, donors and auction participants. These funds ensure the King's Golf Classic Award continues to support mature students with financial needs and contribute to other priorities of the University.



Congratulations to this year's winning team: Jessie Piercey, KJ El-kadri '06, Matthew Thuss '98, Dennis Yoo '02.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Like many devoted readers of the *King's Herald*, I proudly count myself among the alumni of King's University College, and I am thrilled to be back on campus in my new role as Executive Director of Foundation, Alumni and Development.

Since my graduation in 1994, the changes at King's have been striking – new buildings, a larger student body, and an expanded array of programs. Yet, amidst these transformations, the essence of King's remains unchanged. The close-knit community, the warm and supportive atmosphere, and the profound sense of belonging continue to define the King's experience.

For those who haven't visited King's in a while, I extend a warm welcome to come back and explore our familiar haunts. I'd be delighted to arrange a personal tour for you.

As an alumna, I fully grasp the profound impact our King's experience had on our lives. It was a period of immense personal and intellectual growth, a time when enduring friendships were forged. Today, we have powerful avenues to share our journeys – our triumphs, our milestones, and our contributions to the world.

Through platforms like the *King's Herald*, our alumni newsletter, and various social media channels, we can now connect with the larger community. I invite you to contribute your stories, be they tales of professional accomplishments, personal achievements, or the positive changes you are affecting in your community. Your narratives serve as a wellspring of inspiration, motivating not only fellow alumni but also current students. They stand as living testaments to the transformative influence of a King's education.

The Homecoming celebration this year offered a wonderful opportunity for me to engage with alumni spanning from the Class of '68 to the Class of '23, listening to your cherished tales. To all who generously shared their King's experiences with me, I extend my thanks. I am eagerly anticipating the chance to continue these enriching conversations in the months ahead.

As we set our sights on 2024, I am filled with hope to encounter both new faces and familiar friends at Homecoming. I extend a personal invitation, especially to my fellow classmates from the Class of '94, to join me in commemorating our 30th anniversary.

In my journey with the Alumni and Development team, I've been immersing myself in understanding how alumni maintain their ties with King's. I want to express my gratitude for your support and loyalty to our alma mater. Whether your contributions are financial, professional or personal, please know that they wield a significant influence on the accomplishments of our students, alumni and the university as a whole.

I am filled with enthusiasm about collaborating with you to further enhance our legacy and pave the way for a vibrant future for our community. I encourage you to reach out with ideas, suggestions, or concerns you may have; your input is invaluable and much appreciated.

Thank you for your warm welcome back to King's. I look forward to reconnecting with you and hearing your stories. Together, let's continue to celebrate the spirit of King's.

Best regards,

Terra Ahrens '94

Executive Director of Foundation, Alumni and Development



Foundation News

Supporting Students Facing Adversity

Almost daily, Joe Henry, Dean of Students, and the Student Affairs team meet with students struggling due to unforeseen financial emergencies, including some who are already balancing school while working several jobs.

"The stress caused by financial emergencies impacts a student's grades, energy level, and concentration," explains Joe. "Ultimately, their performance today will impact their future prospects, and we want to do everything we can to ensure the success of each student at King's."

King's provides counselling and resource services to support the health and well-being of students. Still, those whose academic progress is in jeopardy due to financial hardship rely on the Student Emergency Fund to provide short-term relief.

"The Student Emergency Fund helps students with urgent expenses, like rent, food, and basic living necessities. However, the number of students benefiting from the Student Emergency Fund is limited to the amount of available funds," says Joe. "I am so grateful to those who donate to this vital fund and give our students the helping hand they need to achieve their academic goals."

To support the Student Emergency Fund, go to www.kings.uwo.ca/StudentEmergencyFund.



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To discuss giving options or sample language for your Will, please contact Kim Malcolm at kim.malcolm@kings.uwo.ca.

WWW.KINGS.UWO.CA/LEGACY

Retirements

King's is a special place because of the faculty and staff that work here, and we recognize the critical role they play in maintaining a high-quality education and a positive learning environment for students. Recently, the King's community bid farewell to four distinguished faculty members whose contributions to teaching span more than 100 years combined.



After starting as a sessional instructor in the School of Social Work in 1978, **Dr. Dermot Hurley** joined the faculty in 2001. In addition to teaching, Dr. Hurley contributed to King's Cultural Festival each year with the band Irish Stew.



Dr. Christopher Roney joined the Department of Psychology in 1995, and during his time at King's, he served as Chair of Psychology and as a member of the Research Grants and Research Ethics committees.



Dr. Rachel Birnbaum, Professor, cross-appointed with Childhood and Youth Studies and the School of Social Work, has been a professor at King's since 2002. She was selected as a Member of the Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists in 2016, recognized with the Hugh Mellon Research Award in 2016, and received the inaugural Distinguished University Professor Designation in 2023.



Dr. Ayoub Yousefi started his career as an economics professor at King's in 2001. During his tenure, he was involved in planning and leading change with the School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics, and he served as Department Chair and on numerous committees.

We wish our retiring faculty members all the best and thank them for their years of service and dedication to King's. If you have a message of congratulations for these professors, send them to alumni@kings.uwo.ca, and we will forward them along.

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.

Ina Kevins (nee Hedden) '81 joined the Government of Canada on August 4, 1981, and retired on March 24, 2017.

Joseph Szekeres '82 retired in 2017 after a 33-year teaching career with the Durham Catholic District School Board. He is now a freelance professional theatre reviewer, having travelled to the Grand Theatre, Stratford Festival, Centaur Theatre and many theatres in downtown Toronto.

Julia Parker (nee Mayos) '83 retired from her position as Executive Director of Correctional and Justice Services and Community Alternatives for Youth after 38 years with The Salvation Army in London and Area.



Edward Baker '83 retired as Vice President of the Ontario Hockey League in June 2023 after 35 years. The League established the Ted Baker

Teammate of the Year Award in recognition of his years of service. The award will be presented annually at an awards ceremony at the Hockey Hall of Fame. A photo of the rendering of the trophy was unveiled at an event in August, which Ted attended with his wife Joanne (UWO '83) and sons Benjamin and Zachary.

Richard James '84 is entering his fourth year as a professor with the Faculty of Education at Ottawa University.

Teresa Burnett-Cole '92 recently convocated with her Doctor of Theology (ThD) from Victoria University at the University of Toronto. She is the Coordinating Minister at Glebe-St. James United Church in Ottawa, and she teaches at the Montreal School of Theology.

Lisa Latif (nee Van Damme) '94 was appointed Registrar at the University of Guelph, effective August 28, 2023.

Doug Fry '98 was appointed President of North America with Subway Canada, effective September 5.

Sarah Gladwell '00 spent nearly 20 years working as a Reference Librarian for the New Brunswick Public Library Service. She received the "Individual of the Year" award in 2019 for her work with visually impaired patrons and an Exemplary Service Medal from the Government of New Brunswick for assisting Public Health and Safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, Sarah returned to London to care for her father, Bob Gladwell (Western alumnus), who sadly passed away in February. She is working part-time at Fanshawe College in the Library Learning Commons and settling back into life in London.

Ryan McKie '03 was inducted into the Western Mustangs Sports Hall of Fame on September 22 in recognition of his athletic excellence. He was a defenseman on the Mustangs hockey team from 1999-2003, serving as team captain during his final two years. He helped the Mustangs to three straight Queen's Cup appearances between 2000 and 2002, including the 2002 championship.

Dilraj Sandhu '06 has been practicing law since he was called to the Bar in 2011. He has been married for 12 years and has a daughter and son.



Matthew Wilson '06 was elected Chair of the London Health Sciences Centre Board.

Ryan Gauss '08 was confirmed as a citizen appointee for the London Police Board on June 27, 2023.

Cameron Roden '08 runs his own business and has produced three feature films, two of which received awards.



Rebecca Keast '10 has worked as an Executive Assistant with the Thames Valley District School Board since 2015. She got married on December 30, 2015, and welcomed her daughter on July 12, 2020, and her son on October 12, 2022.

Kaitlyn Bowley-Pasternak '12 was blessed with her first child, Nolan Jeremy Reid Pasternak, on June 30, 2023.



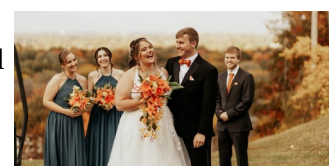
Brock Eldon '14 authored *Ground Zero in the Culture War*, which was published as a three-part series by C2C Journal. He is a Professor of Foundations in Literature at RMIT University, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Amelia Wilde '16 completed her Master's in Library and Information Science from Western University in June 2023.

Michaela Therrien '18, Urban Planner and Data & Outcomes Manager, City of Detroit, was appointed to the King's University College Board of Directors effective July 1, 2023.

Sara Hanna (nee Saeed) '19, '20 is working at Western's Faculty of Engineering, providing counselling to engineering students, and has her own clinic, Inspire Counselling Service.

Sarah Dennerley (nee MacDonald) '20 married Alex Dennerley on October 13, 2022.



Neal Fleet '21 is an Ambulance Communications Officer with the Ministry of Health

Kayla Skinner '21 recently got engaged. She works as a clinician at a group home for boys and has nearly completed her Master's in Counselling Psychology from Yorkville University.

Alexis Frith '23 is a Funeral Director's Associate at George Funeral Home in Warton, Ontario.

Renee Rossi '23 is attending Western University's Faculty of Education. She is grateful for her undergraduate experience at King's and thanks her professors, peers and family for their continued support.

DEVELOPING THE ART OF BRIDGE-BUILDING

By: Elizabeth Soltis '88, Founder/Director, Bridges Global - www.bridgesglobal.net



This year, I reached a milestone in my life. I published my first book, *Authentic Collaboration: A Bridge to Meaningful Connection*. Through this process, fond memories of King's came to mind since university was my first 'bridge' into the world. It was during this time of maturation that I began to discover why meaningful connection matters to me.

With this book, my intention is to evolve the practice of collaboration so that more people experience the power of authentic connection. To that end, I offer a nuanced collaboration vision and 45 exercises. My hope is to catalyze a new conversation about developing the art of bridge-building so families, organizations and communities thrive. I see collaboration as the most essential life skill of our era.

As a holistic paradigm, authentic collaboration is about respecting self and others and Earth while working together. One is a mirror to the other. Authentic collaboration celebrates interdependence in acknowledging that our relationship with ourselves and our source - Earth - directly affects how we connect with other people. It carries the spirit of mutual gain to allow space for empathetic listening and courageous expression.

A bridge is a perfect metaphor for reciprocity, power-sharing and co-creation with all our relations. The structure symbolizes the possibility that we can meet in the messy middle to explore and discover our deeper truth. This heart-centred practice offers a gateway to new possibilities and greater peace.

Given that the quality of our relationships influences the richness of our life, how can we bridge-build to hold all needs with care?

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of:

Ronald Holmberg '61, who passed away on May 9, 2023.

William Huska '61, who passed away on June 28, 2023.

Robert Porayko '65, who passed away on April 15, 2023.

Matthew Scholtz '69, who passed away on June 19, 2023.

Anita Kain '80, who passed away on July 25, 2023.

John Hercus '81, who passed away on July 16, 2023.

Mary Elijah '89, who passed away on May 5, 2023.

Victoria Baertsoen '21, who passed away on May 21, 2023.

Stephen Zolis, associate alumnus, who passed away on May 31, 2023.



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