KING'S HERALD

FALL 2026



Celebrating leadership,
service and community impact

KING'S
University College

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KING'S CONNECTOR

AN ALUMNI COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Wednesday, May 12, 2027

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5:30-8:00 p.m.

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COVER IMAGE:
2026 Alumni Award recipients at Homecoming.

Pictured from L–R: Marcy Gallant, BA'24, Justin Tiseo, BA'16, and Lucy Lee, BA'92.

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Some articles may have been reformatted to fit the style of the *King's Herald*.

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The world our students will inherit will ask much of them. Our responsibility is to prepare them not only to succeed within it, but to help shape it—with wisdom, courage, compassion, and hope.

WHAT IS A UNIVERSITY FOR?

Across Canada and beyond, questions about the value, relevance, and future of higher education have become increasingly common. Discussions about affordability, employability, artificial intelligence, and the changing nature of work appear regularly in public debate. Is university still worth it? Are universities preparing students for the world as it is and the world as it is becoming?

These are important questions. The world is changing rapidly. New technologies are transforming how we work, communicate, and learn. At moments like these, it is natural to ask what universities contribute and whether they can adapt to changing circumstances.

Yet these questions are not new.

As historian William Whyte reminds us in his recent book *The University: A History in Stone, Silk, and Blood*, universities have faced similar challenges for centuries. Throughout their long history, they have been criticized, questioned, and repeatedly declared obsolete. They have endured wars, political upheavals, economic crises, and technological revolutions. Through it all, they have adapted while continuing to advance knowledge, educate generations of students, and help societies understand themselves and the world around them. Questions about universities are not signs of their irrelevance. More often, they are signs of their importance.

Since our founding in 1954, we have been guided by the motto Via, Veritas et Vita—the way, the truth, and the life. Rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, we believe in the pursuit of truth and knowledge, the dignity of every person, and our responsibility to one another and to the world we share.

We are here to educate the whole person for the whole of life.

That means preparing students not only for their first job, but also for lives of purpose, service, leadership, citizenship, and meaningful relationships. The knowledge and skills students develop matter deeply. So too do character, judgment, compassion, and the capacity to engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

At my installation in March, I described King's as an open circle: a community with a clear centre and an open edge. We are grounded in enduring values while remaining open to new questions, new knowledge, and different perspectives. It is precisely because we know who we are that we can welcome people from diverse backgrounds, beliefs, experiences, and perspectives.

What makes King's special is not simply our mission, but the people who bring it to life. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and community partners each contribute in different ways to the work of King's. Our roles may differ, but we are united by a shared purpose: a commitment to learning, discovery, service, and the pursuit of the common good.

That shared purpose gives me great confidence in our future.

I believe deeply in the value of higher education. I believe in the mission of King's. And most importantly, I believe in the people who make this community what it is.

The world our students will inherit will ask much of them. Our responsibility is to prepare them not only to succeed within it, but to help shape it—with wisdom, courage, compassion, and hope.

That is what a university is for.

With best wishes,

Robert A. Ventresca, PhD
PRESIDENT & PROFESSOR



Love is a Universal Teaching

President's Lecture of the Veritas Series, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph



"Love is a universal teaching," says Tanya Talaga, reflecting on the Anishinaabe Seven Grandfather Teachings. "The seven teachings, I believe, might be used by anyone. It doesn't matter if you're Indigenous or not. Think about your homes and communities and apply these teachings in your life."

That message was at the heart of Talaga's President's Lecture at King's, where the award-winning Anishinaabe journalist and author challenged an audience of almost 400 to confront difficult histories and consider how the teachings might guide a path forward.

Talaga, whose book *Seven Fallen Feathers* tells the stories of seven Indigenous young people who died in Thunder Bay between 2000 and 2011, spoke about her experience reporting on their deaths and the lack of widespread media attention they initially received. The book went on to win several awards, including the RBC Taylor Prize and the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing.

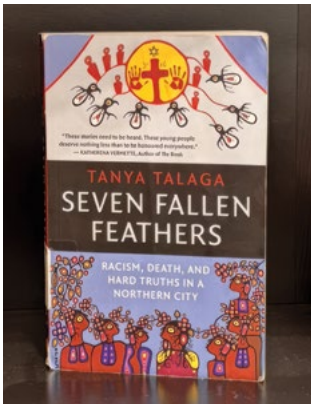
Her lecture addressed ongoing challenges facing Indigenous communities in Canada, including access to clean water, education and safe places, as well as the lack of progress on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. She also spoke about residential school denialism, which she encounters regularly.

Against this backdrop, Talaga turned to the Seven Grandfather Teachings: respect, humility, love, honesty, bravery, wisdom and truth. Drawing on her forthcoming book, *Seven Grandfather Teachings*, she explained how each teaching is represented in the animal kingdom.

"The eagle teaches us about love," she said, describing how the eagle offered to teach humans love when the Creator asked the animals how they could help people.

Talaga brought this teaching to life through the story of Elder Sam Achneepineskum of Marten Falls First Nation, a survivor of three residential schools who became her friend and mentor during the inquest into the deaths of the seven young people. Achneepineskum provided spiritual guidance and support to their families.

"His road to love and his road to peace have not been an easy way," Talaga said. "I know for a fact that he works on it every single day and that his own motivation, his own sense of love, comes from these teachings."



Achneepineskum is also a cousin of Chanie Wenjack, the 12-year-old who died of exposure in 1966 while attempting to walk home from the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School. Wenjack's story later inspired *Secret Path*, the book and music project led by Tragically Hip singer Gord Downie.

President Rob Ventresca connected the evening's themes to the responsibilities of universities in advancing Truth and Reconciliation.

"Learning begins with encounter, and encounter requires courage," he said, emphasizing the importance of teaching the history and legacy of residential schools honestly, examining institutional failures and creating opportunities for thoughtful dialogue.

"Helping students engage with difficult questions, weigh evidence, and learn from different perspectives is at the heart of what universities do."

Talaga's message offered a reminder that confronting painful truths and building a more compassionate future are not separate tasks, but part of the same journey.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Moments like these remind us that being King's alumni is about more than the years we spent on campus. It is a lifelong community, shaped by the people, friendships and experiences we carry with us.

It is an incredible privilege to begin my term as President of the King's University College Alumni Association. I step into this role feeling proud, grateful and genuinely enthusiastic about what lies ahead for our alumni community.

First, I want to recognize our outgoing President, Amelia Holden, for the energy and enthusiasm she has brought to the Board. Amelia has a remarkable ability to inspire others and create excitement around our work, and I am grateful for the example she's set. I also want to acknowledge the many volunteers and Alumni Board members who generously give their time, ideas and enthusiasm to support King's and its alumni.

I initially became involved with the Alumni Board as a new way to engage with King's. Returning to the community as a volunteer has reminded me that our connection to King's continues to evolve long after we leave campus.

As President, I am excited to build on that sense of connection. I look forward to learning from our alumni, bringing new ideas to the table and helping create opportunities for people to engage with King's in ways that are meaningful to them.

Homecoming offered the perfect reminder of why that matters.

The Homecoming Dinner and Alumni Awards Celebration brought together graduates from across generations to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of members of our alumni community. It was a wonderful evening in a beautiful setting, bringing together great hospitality and entertainment with, most importantly, a room full of people whose individual King's experiences span decades. There is something special about seeing those generations come together, share stories, celebrate one another and discover how much they still have in common.

That spirit carried into the rest of Homecoming weekend. For the past two years, I've had the opportunity to ride as part of the Homecoming celebrations alongside Western's touchdown horses. This year, I experienced it from a different perspective. For the first time, one of the horses carried the King's flag. Helping behind the scenes and watching alumni eagerly line up for photos with that specific horse was a memorable display of King's pride and a fitting addition to a weekend that also celebrated the talented student-athletes who represent both King's and Western on the field.

Moments like these remind us that being King's alumni is about more than the years we spent on campus. It is a lifelong community, shaped by the people, friendships and experiences we carry with us.

As we move into the year ahead, I hope you will find your own way to stay connected, whether that means attending an event, reconnecting with a classmate, volunteering, mentoring a student or simply following along with what is happening at King's.

I am honoured to represent this community and excited to see where the year takes us.

Warm regards,

Courtney Morgan, BA'11
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



A Lifetime Dream Fulfilled

For Lori Parker, mother, grandmother and mature student, graduating from King's fulfils a promise she made to herself many years ago.

At 70, she crossed the stage with fellow King's graduates as part of Western University's 328th Convocation ceremonies, receiving her degree with an honours specialization in Sociology and a minor in Psychology after 19 years of part-time study.

Parker began her university career at 50, after raising four children as a single mother for many years. While continuing to support her family, she worked as an LCBO manager and fit classes around her regular day off each week. She maintained consistently high grades and says she missed fewer than five classes in 19 years.

Over the years, that support at King's has been "incredible," Parker says, praising the "beyond wonderful" professors. Partway through her studies, she qualified for a bursary that gave her more flexibility to balance her education with other responsibilities. She continued studying through changing circumstances, including her retirement in September 2021. Throughout, she was determined to keep learning and complete her degree.

"It wasn't easy. Life throws boulders at you at times," says Parker, who has three grandchildren. Continuing meant honouring the ambitions of her younger self.

"I faced a lot of challenges, as everyone has, but to me it was about rising above and stepping back to that 19-year-old that was going to go to university, and life took her in a different direction. It was taking her back and fulfilling that path. When life knocks you down, you just get back up again."

Returning to university at 50 also gave Parker an opportunity to pursue something for herself after years focused on her family and career.

"I made a promise to myself that I was going to do it as a mom. This was for me. This was my little piece of identity, my little piece of accomplishment."

As she approached the end of her degree, Parker took a summer course to finish sooner. Her family gathered to watch her cross the stage at Convocation, a moment that brought a long-held promise to herself full circle. But completing her degree will not mark the end of her time in the classroom. Parker plans to keep studying and has already signed up for a first-year Thanatology course at King's out of interest. She is even discussing further study in Psychology with her academic advisor.

"I will continue courses for as long as I can, even if they're just for fun," she says.

After 19 years at King's, her message to fellow students reflects the commitment she brought to her own education.

"What I always want to say to my fellow students is: seize this. This is very important. You might only get this chance. Seize the moment, work hard, and show up."

"I faced a lot of challenges, as everyone has, but to me it was about rising above and stepping back to that 19-year-old that was going to go to university, and life took her in a different direction. It was taking her back and fulfilling that path. When life knocks you down, you just get back up again."

Strengthening King's Future

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

King's continues to build on its academic mission and commitment to student success through a series of leadership appointments and role updates. These appointments bring valuable experience, institutional knowledge and fresh perspectives to King's leadership.



King's welcomed **Krista Larson** as Vice-President, External and Advancement, effective November 9, 2026. She brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in strategic enrolment management, marketing and communications, brand strategy, student engagement and external relations. Her experience will support strategic enrolment planning, strengthen external relationships and help improve the student journey through more coordinated services and systems.



Dr. Mark Yenson has been appointed Vice-President and Academic Dean for a five-year term, following a national and international search. A member of the King's faculty since 2010, Dr. Yenson joined the Department of Religious Studies, where he taught and developed courses in the Catholic Studies program. His research and publications focus on historical and systematic theology. He has also served as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies and Associate Academic Dean, and was appointed Interim Vice-President and Academic Dean in September 2024.



Dr. Laura Melnyk-Gribble has been appointed Interim Associate Academic Dean, returning to a role she previously held from 2019 to 2022. A former Chair of the Department of Psychology, she brings extensive experience and a strong understanding of King's academic programs, policies and governance. Her knowledge of King's and its academic mission will provide continuity and informed leadership as King's advances its academic priorities.







Dr. Graham Broad will serve as Interim Associate Dean of Research, bringing a strong record of scholarship, teaching, and service. As King's Research Excellence Chair for 2025–2028, Dr. Broad previously chaired the Department of History and the Research Grants Committee from 2019 to 2023. His experience supporting research will strengthen the research culture at King's and support scholarly work across the community.

Additional senior leadership updates include **Paul Wilton, BA'07, BEd'11, MPA'18**, as University Secretary and Senior Executive Officer and **Joe Henry** as Associate Vice-President, Campus Life and Dean of Students. Their roles support our commitment to student life and a connected campus community.

Looking ahead, the work of these leaders will help sustain academic excellence, strengthen the student experience, and nurture the relationships that make King's distinctive.



Leading with Purpose

Lucy Lee, BA'92

2026 Alumni Award of Distinction recipient

> *I believe that professional success is inherently accompanied by the responsibility to make our community a better place."*

For **Lucy Lee, BA'92**, returning to King's was an opportunity to reflect on how an education can shape not only a career, but a life. More than three decades after studying English and Sociology, Lee remains connected to King's through philanthropy, mentorship and a commitment to creating opportunities for others.

Today, Lee is a partner at Cohen Highley LLP, where she has practised personal injury law for more than 25 years. An accomplished litigator, she has represented clients before tribunals and courts at every level, including the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Her work is grounded in empathy and compassion, helping people navigate difficult and often life-changing circumstances.

As she built her legal career, Lee gradually lost touch with King's but was reconnected through the late faculty member JD Han, which led to a decade of service on the King's Foundation Board, including serving as chair. Meeting students and faculty and learning about new programs renewed her appreciation for the opportunities King's offers each generation.

That connection has extended into her professional life. Inspired by students' interest in experiential learning and legal careers, Lee and her colleagues at Cohen Highley created an annual "Day in the Life of a Lawyer" program. The initiative gives students a more realistic understanding of the profession and an opportunity to learn from practicing lawyers.

Lee has also contributed to the broader community through volunteer leadership. She is the past president of the board of directors of LEADS Employment Services London, has supported the Canadian Paraplegic Association and the Acquired Brain Injury Association, and currently serves on the board of St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation.

Her commitment to education is deeply personal. In 2025, Lee established the Wha Ja Lee Award at King's in memory of her mother, who valued learning but was unable to attend university because of cultural and financial barriers.

One scholarship recipient's response particularly moved Lee. The student described not only the financial support, but also how the award helped sustain her through long nights and demanding studies. She spoke of carrying compassion, accountability and a commitment to lifting others up into her future career.

"It's a wonderful reminder that an act of support extends further than just that one act," Lee said. "If that support helps another person pursue their aspirations, and in turn, they're able to turn around and support others, then its impact continues well beyond the original donation."

Lee accepted the Alumni Award of Distinction with gratitude and a sense of responsibility, recognizing that accomplishments are shaped by the people who teach, challenge and encourage us along the way.

"I believe that professional success is inherently accompanied by the responsibility to make our community a better place," she says.

For Lee, giving back is a way to ensure that the opportunities she values continue to reach others, helping future generations of King's students discover their potential and find ways to make a difference.



Taking the next step, wherever it leads

Justin Tiseo, BA'16

2026 Emerging Leader Award recipient

> *My time at King's gave me a lot more than a degree. It gave me relationships, mentors, friendships, and experiences that shaped how I approach my career and the way I work with people."*

When **Justin Tiseo, BA'16**, started at King's, he thought he knew where his future was headed. Studying Criminology, he planned to become a police officer. Instead, his career took a different turn, leading him to East Park Golf Gardens, where he is managing partner and co-owner of one of London's best-known recreation and entertainment destinations.

"Today, I get to lead over 200 team members at East Park," Tiseo said when accepting the Emerging Leader Award. "While the career path was unexpected, I've realized that a lot of what I learned at King's has been incredibly valuable in what I do today."

His work at East Park has helped transform the longstanding local landmark into a destination for family entertainment, concerts and corporate events. Business London recognized Tiseo's leadership and contributions to the local economy by naming him among its "Best of the Best Top 20 in Their 20s."

Although his career differs from the one he originally envisioned, Tiseo's commitment to community service has remained consistent. As a London high school student, he founded the John Paul II ONERUN fundraising campaign for breast cancer research. The initiative grew to include 200 student volunteers and 7,000 participants from 10 Catholic high schools, raising more than $1 million for Wellspring and local hospitals.

While studying at King's, Tiseo continued seeking opportunities to get involved. He participated in students' council, clubs and campus life, and served as a Soph, helping incoming students feel welcome during orientation.

"Being recognized by [King's], a place that played such a special role in my life, is very important to me," he said. "My time at King's gave me a lot more than a degree. It gave me relationships, mentors, friendships, and experiences that shaped how I approach my career and the way I work with people."

Leading a large team means making decisions, navigating challenges and creating an environment where people can contribute and grow.

"One of the biggest lessons I've learned through my career is that leadership really isn't about having all the answers," he said. "It's about surrounding yourself with good people, listening, being willing to learn, and creating opportunities for others around you."

Tiseo continues to give back to King's by mentoring current students, hoping to offer the same encouragement he received. He credits people who supported him along the way, including Dr. Tara Bruno, and hopes to help others discover their own direction.

"You don't always have to know exactly where you're going," he said. "Sometimes you just have to be willing to take that next step, say yes to an opportunity and see where that leads."

For Tiseo, the path from Criminology student to business owner has reinforced the value of staying open to possibilities. He is proud to contribute to the city where he grew up and grateful for the experiences at King's that continue to shape his work and his relationships.

Helping others discover their potential

Marcy Gallant, BA'24

2026 Alumni Ambassador Award recipient



> *"King's gave me people who believed in me, who supported me, and helped me see my potential in academia."*

"I couldn't have picked a better place than King's," says **Marcy Gallant, BA'24**. "It was the right people and the right environment for me to realize what I was capable of."

For Gallant, whose undergraduate years included an honours double major in Childhood and Youth Studies and Disability Studies, King's provided more than an education. It offered the encouragement, relationships and opportunities that helped her discover her strengths and imagine new possibilities for her future.

Gallant graduated with distinction and received the 2023–2024 Board of Directors' Gold Medal for the highest average in the final year of her module. She also earned a Certificate in Child and Youth Advocacy. Yet when she reflects on her time at King's, she speaks as much about the people who supported her as she does about her academic accomplishments.

"King's gave me people who believed in me, who supported me, and helped me see my potential in academia," she said when accepting the Alumni Ambassador Award.

One of those people is Daniella Bendo, Associate Professor of Childhood and Youth Studies, who serves as a mentor to Gallant. In her acceptance remarks, Gallant thanked Bendo for her guidance, as well as the friends and family members who encouraged her along the way.

Today, Gallant is continuing her academic journey by pursuing a master's degree at Brock University. She also serves on the board of the Canadian Alopecia Areata Foundation, supporting children, youth and families affected by alopecia through mentorship, events, fundraising and advocacy. In this role, she has shared her story as a workshop facilitator and keynote speaker at Fanshawe College's Ignite Career Conference.

Across these roles, Gallant draws on her education and personal experiences to help others feel supported and heard. Her work reflects the values of the Alumni Ambassador Award: ethical leadership, service and a commitment to empowering others.

"I'm incredibly grateful and honoured to receive this award," she said. "I'm very proud to be a King's alumna and deeply grateful to have been nominated for this award."

> I'm very proud to be a King's alumna and deeply grateful to have been nominated for this award.

For Gallant, the relationships and opportunities she found at King's continue to influence both her professional direction and the person she is becoming. Now, through teaching, youth advocacy and mentorship, she is helping create that same sense of possibility for others. Her journey is a reminder that a King's education continues to make an impact long after graduation, not only through what alumni accomplish, but also through the people they encourage along the way.



KING'S HOMECOMING 2026

The Crown AFFAIR





This year, King's Homecoming entered a new era. From the Class of '64 to the Class of '26, alumni came together to celebrate the people, memories and connections that keep us connected for life.

The Crown Affair, King's Homecoming Dinner, was hosted at 100 Kellogg Lane, bringing alumni, students and friends together for an evening of celebration, including the presentation of our 2026 Alumni Awards and Crowning Moments for reunion-year graduates.

Over the weekend, alumni also gathered for breakfast with President Rob Ventresca, a Social Justice & Peace Studies reunion, and the Homecoming football game to cheer on our Western Mustangs.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make Homecoming 2026 a memorable celebration.













Thank you to this year's sponsor, whose generous support helped create a memorable celebration.

FOYSTON, GORDON & PAYNE INC.
INVESTMENT COUNSEL

Save the date for 2027:

September 24–25. We hope to see you there!



Early concept - Wemple East Wing corridor and classrooms

A Legacy of Learning



More than 60 years after graduating from King's, Frank Schlichtherle, BA'62, invested in the future of the place that helped shape his path. Through a $1.5-million estate gift, Schlichtherle's legacy will support modernized learning spaces and an endowed experiential learning award, creating opportunities for generations of students to come.

After graduating in 1962, Schlichtherle taught history at Cayuga and Caledonia high schools until he retired in 1996. His connection to King's continued long after he left the classroom as a student. He began supporting King's in 1988 and remained an annual donor for decades. In conversations with King's Foundation staff, he shared his hopes for how his estate gift could benefit future students, choosing to invest in both the spaces where they learn and the experiences that help shape their education.

"For Frank, this is a crowning moment, a chance to give back to the place that helped shape who he became," says Terra Ahrens, Executive Director, Foundation, Alumni & Development. "His gift reflects a lifelong commitment to education and a belief in the transformative power of the student experience. Through his generosity, Frank's connection to King's will continue to make a difference in the lives of future students."

Creating spaces for learning

Schlichtherle's gift will support classroom modernization in Wemple Hall, including naming a classroom in his honour. The investment builds on work already underway to create accessible, flexible and welcoming spaces that reflect the needs of today's students and faculty.

One example is the recently modernized classroom in Wemple Hall, room 147. Funded entirely by King's students, the renovated space demonstrates how thoughtful design and collaboration can improve the learning experience.

Students, faculty and staff contributed to the planning process, helping identify what the classroom needed to support different teaching styles and student needs. Accessibility, comfort, technology, lighting and sound were considered, with an emphasis on creating a space that works for the people who use it every day.

The result is a brighter, more open classroom with new windows, updated technology and a flexible layout designed for interactive and collaborative learning. Improved accessibility features allow the room to accommodate students with differing needs, while adaptable screens, instructor controls and integrated sound technology give faculty more flexibility in how they teach. Details such as additional power outlets and comfortable seating help make the space practical for everyday use.

"Creating spaces that support an exceptional student experience starts with listening to the voices of our students, faculty and staff and understanding what is needed to support innovative teaching and learning," Ahrens says. "The modernization of our classrooms reflects that collaborative approach."

Schlichtherle's gift will help King's carry this work forward. Concept plans for Wemple Hall's East Wing illustrate how future improvements could bring more natural light into learning spaces, update furniture and finishes, and create stronger connections between classrooms and shared areas. Proposed features include soft seating and laptop bars that give students more places to study, collaborate and connect between classes.

While the plans represent a vision for future renewal, they reflect a continuing commitment to creating spaces that support how students learn and how faculty teach.

Learning beyond the classroom

Schlichtherle's legacy will also support an endowed experiential learning award, helping make global learning opportunities financially accessible to students who might otherwise be unable to participate.

At King's, learning extends beyond lectures and textbooks. Through courses, trips and global learning opportunities, students can apply their knowledge in new settings, encounter different perspectives and deepen their understanding of the world around them. Financial barriers, however, can make these experiences difficult to access.

An endowed award will help reduce that barrier, giving future students an opportunity to take part in an experience that could shape their academic, personal and professional journeys.

Together, the two areas of support reflect Schlichtherle's belief in the value of education and the importance of creating the conditions for students to thrive. His gift will contribute to learning environments that evolve with the needs of the King's community while helping students access opportunities that extend their education beyond campus.

"More than half a century after graduating, Frank Schlichtherle's extraordinary gift will transform classrooms and gathering places into modern, accessible and inclusive spaces for students to learn and thrive," says Dr. Robert Ventresca, President of King's. "The gift will also expand access to experiential learning so that future generations of students can put their education to work shaping the world to come."

Schlichtherle's connection to King's has endured well beyond his student years. Through this legacy, that connection will continue in the classrooms where students gather, the experiences that broaden their horizons and the opportunities that help them make their own crowning moments at King's.



Early concept Wemple East Wing classroom

You can leave a legacy of knowledge and opportunity that empowers compassionate, thoughtful leaders who will uplift communities, champion justice, and serve the common good.

To learn more about leaving a gift to King's in your Will, please contact Kim Malcolm at 519.930.5635 or kim.malcolm@kings.uwo.ca.

Shared beginnings. Different paths. Connected for life.

The experiences we had at King's shaped not only what came next, but also who we became. Our paths since graduation may look different, but the memories, relationships and sense of belonging we share are part of what connects us, wherever life takes us.



"King's is a unique oasis in the Canadian university landscape. It is a home away from home and a place where lifelong friendships are built."

Mike Lawless, BA'02 (History)
Head of Apple Music, Canada

"As an international student, King's was where my journey toward a meaningful career began. The mentorship and community I found at King's shaped who I am, both personally and professionally."

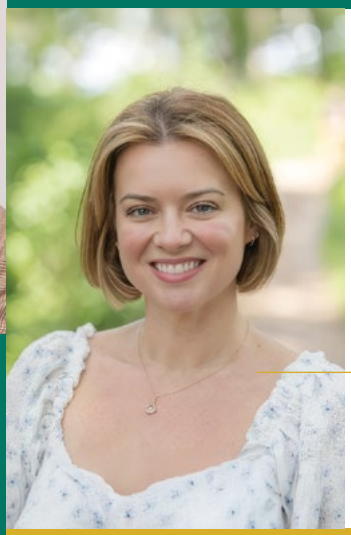
Tingting Zhang, BA'16 (Economics and Social Justice & Peace Studies)
Policy Analyst, C.D. Howe Institute



"King's gave me the space and support to discover what kind of leader I wanted to be. I was constantly encouraged to use my voice and talents in service of others."

Patrick Searle, BA'11 (Religious Studies and Political Science)
CEO, Council of Canadian Innovators





"At King's, I experienced tremendous personal, emotional, and intellectual growth. Along the way, I built lasting friendships and learned the patience and grace that come from giving yourself permission to grow through hard lessons."

Mandy Priamo, BA'07 (Sociology and History)
Director of Product Management, Spotify



"Through the conversations, field experiences, and relationships I built at King's, I learned to ask better questions, challenge what isn't working, and understand the importance of using my voice to create change."

Jennifer Matwawana, BSW'99, MSW, RSW
Leadership coach, keynote speaker, co-founder of AWL Partners, and author of You're Not the Boss of Me: Slaying the Inner Critic.

"My time at King's changed the way I see people. It taught me to consider a person's lived experience, strengths, environment, and the systems surrounding them."

Mohamed Rahme, BA'22 (Disability Studies)
System Navigation & Information Specialist at ConnexOntario



We want to hear from you!

What memories have stayed with you since your time at King's?

Share a meaningful connection, a memorable experience or a moment that helped shape who you are today.

Your story could be included in a future issue of the King's Herald or alumni e-newsletter. Send your story to **alumni@kings.uwo.ca**.

Looking back 60 years





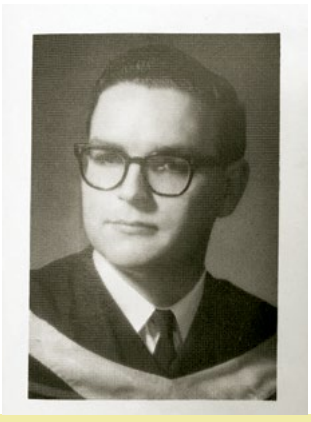
During the 1965-66 academic year, the Rev. E.D. Larocque, MA, began his first year as Dean, having served at King's for 11 years.

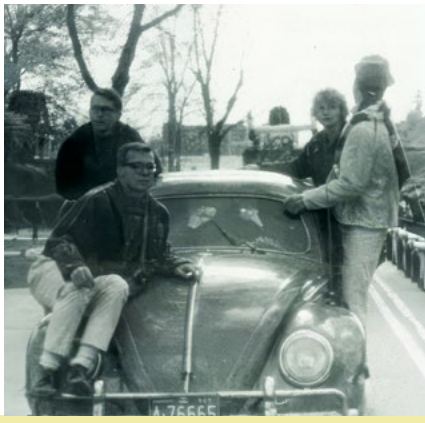
Enrolment was 184 students, and there were 16 faculty members employed. Arthur Daniels, BA'66, served as President of the Students' Council. The Class of '66 had 54 graduates, the last to graduate under the name Christ the King College. In September 1966, Christ the King College was officially renamed King's College.

Dennis Buckley, BA'66 (left), and Paul Webb, BA'66 (right), celebrated their 60th anniversary at Homecoming with President Rob Ventresca (middle), who presented them with a commemorative memento. Their graduation portraits are pictured below.









Canadian Highlights

POPULATION:
Canada's population reached 20 million.

PENSIONS:
The Canada Pension Plan began, with Canadians starting to contribute in 1966.

POLITICS:
Lester B. Pearson was Prime Minister.

TELEVISION:
Colour television broadcasting arrived in Canada, with CBC beginning regular colour programming on Sept. 1 and CTV following later that month.

HOCKEY:
The Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup.

FOOTBALL:
The Saskatchewan Roughriders won their first Grey Cup.

AT THE MOVIES:
A Man for All Seasons won the Academy Award for Best Picture at the 1967 Oscars, honouring films released in 1966.

ON THE CHARTS:
"The Ballad of the Green Berets" by Barry Sadler became Billboard's No. 1 single of 1966.

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 **kings.uwo.ca/alumni/address-update**. Photos are welcome, space permitting.

David Peres, HBA'84, worked in Brand Management at Nestle Purina before starting a promotional marketing agency called Accumark/6dgrees, one of Canada's best promotional marketing companies. After 18 years, he started working in real estate in Toronto for Keller Williams. He finished in the top 10 agents in the office for five consecutive years and was #1 in Canada for most of 2025. David has three kids and is in an amazing relationship with his fiancée, Diana.



Paul McDonnell, BA'62, is retired as a faculty member at the University of New Brunswick and a Clinical Psychologist in private practice. His research and clinical interests focused on child development and disorders of development. Paul and his wife, Liz, live in Fredericton and enjoy music, cycling, kayaking and family time.



Jim Scarfone, BA'70, received the 2026 Windsor Law Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his community.





Pictured are (left to right): Tom Cloutier, Gino DeVuono, Aldo Berlingieri, Cory Boisselle, Ralph Bozzo, Greg Tomlinson, Steve Foster and Reno Berlingieri. Non-golfers Steve Case, Mike Rupar, Joe Coady and the late Rick Maloney were missed.

Thomas Cloutier, BA'80, provided an update on behalf of alumni from Townhouse 6 in 1976: "2026 marks the 50th anniversary of a group of wide-eyed "Frosh" from Hamilton, Georgetown, Sarnia, Woodstock, Whitby and Toronto meeting for the first time in the basement lounge of Townhouse 6. The 1976 King's way of life (happy hours, ball hockey marathons, endless debates on the Leafs and Habs, the inaugural season for the Blue Jays, dances in the cafeteria, playing Euchre and Risk while listening to Supertramp, watching The Gong Show and Happy Days before lunch, Lucan on Halloween, to name a few) was very different from each of our own high school experiences, but we all adapted nicely and quickly. Fast forward from that Labour Day weekend in 1976 to June 2026, when a number of boys gathered for their 25th annual golfing get-together, this time at Cobble Beach in Owen Sound, to once again reminisce and retell stories about the people and events from that four-year period of their lives. The friendships and bonds that formed that first weekend as part of the Townhouse Six community have remained strong for 50 years and will continue for many more to come."

Irene Fairles, BSW'91, Living my best life after 21 years with London & Middlesex CAS in Mexico for 7 months each year.

Francis Doyle, BA'07, and family welcomed baby Gemma in June 2026.



Tabitha Carey, BSW'99, MSW'12, was ordained in the United Church of Canada on June 27, 2026. She also welcomed her third grandchild in August 2026.



Emily Austin, BA'11, is the 2026-27 Writer-in-Residence with the University of Ottawa's Department of English, teaching a "Writing the Novel" capstone undergraduate fiction workshop. She is a bestselling queer Canadian author of six books across fiction and poetry, including the instant bestsellers *Is This a Cry for Help?* (2026) and *We Could Be Rats* (2025). Her next novel, *Garbage Girl*, will be released in 2028.

David Steen, BA'21, is a Branch Operations Manager at Fastenal. He is married and has one daughter.



Nicole Yawney, MSW'21, has received four awards in her healthcare role and moved into her own private practice full-time in 2025. She began her PhD program in Social Work in the fall.



Helly Patel, BMOS'26, is working in corporate finance at London Health Sciences Centre and is a Level I candidate in the CFA Program. Her goal is to work on Wall Street.

Stan Lasanowski, BA'64, and Virginia Lasanowski celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 5, 2026.



IN MEMORIAM

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of:

- **Frank Schlichtherle, BA'62**, who passed away on June 14, 2026.
- **Richard Perreault, BA'82**, who passed away on June 17, 2026.
- **Harold Parker, BSW'83**, who passed away on June 28, 2026.
- **Geraldine Clarke, BA'86**, who passed away on May 5, 2026.
- **Phillip Schuyler, BSW'03**, who passed away on September 12, 2026.
- **Frieda Zandbergen, Associate Alumna**, who passed away on May 31, 2026.
- **Patrick Beatty**, friend and supporter of the Christopher Perrin Beatty Award in Political Science, History or Philolsophy and the Christopher Perrin Beatty Lecture in Recognition of King's Outstanding Teaching Faculty, who passed away on September 23, 2026.



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