

King's Herald

A magazine for alumni and friends of King's University College
at Western University Canada

Spring 2017



Photo by Anne Geddes



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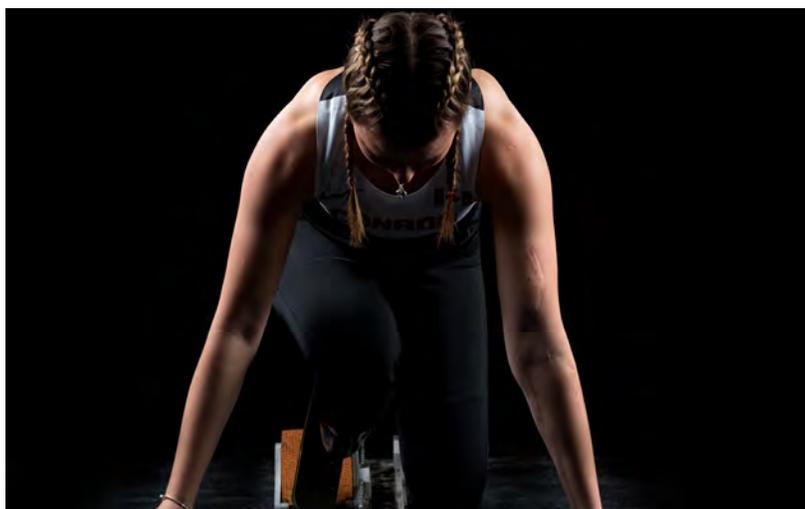
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We welcome your letters, suggestions or comments about the Association and the University. Opinions expressed in the *King's Herald* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the University's administration. To contact the editor or the Office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

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Parents: If you are receiving mail for your son or daughter, we would appreciate his or her current address. Please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs

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KING'S CONNECT

THE EDITOR WRITES

By Erin Lawson

BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS DIFFERENCES

Creating unique educational programs at King's to help students evaluate their role in the world is often driven by the passion and commitment of individual faculty members. Dr. Pamela Cushing developed the Disability Studies Program at King's to create a space for rethinking traditional, medical approaches to disability, mental health and related social institutions. By using a liberal arts lens, disability becomes part of a contemporary, interdisciplinary debate and adds a new perspective to concerns that touch all our lives: rights, family, access, inclusion, sports, education, youth, workplace, art, war, aging, cultures and mobility.

Dr. Cushing started down this academic path through her research interest in the role of caregivers. This led her to consider organizations like L'Arche that provide a high level of care. Founded by Jean Vanier, L'Arche is an international network of communities where people with and without intellectual disabilities live and work together, in mutually supportive ways. The organization is committed to helping create an open, inclusive and compassionate society where every person is valued and can make a contribution.



As an anthropologist, Dr. Cushing immersed herself in the L'Arche community to better understand their distinct approach to disablement and care which evolved out of Jean Vanier's theological and philosophical reflections on mutuality and difference. Many insights learned there have been verified by recent academic research, and they inform the heart of Disabilities Studies at King's.

This issue of the King's Herald looks at four alumni and one student who are changing perceptions and challenging stereotypes around ability and disability.

To learn more about the Disability Studies program at King's, visit www.kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies/



This issue of the *King's Herald* features stories written by five King's communications interns, under the supervision of Jane Antoniak, Manager of Communications and Media Relations. Interns pictured from left to right: Subathra Varadharaj, Taylor Rummell, Natalia Otten, Nicole Bullock, and Kelsey Stanczyk.

KING'S CONNECT CAMPUS NEWS

Campus News is compiled from select articles produced by King's Media and Communications. To stay current with King's News, visit www.kings.uwo.ca/news/.



King's University College Board of Directors has unanimously approved and enacted a new sexual violence policy aimed at creating clear procedures and support for the entire King's community. The policy was developed after an extensive community consultation process and is in alignment with the Ontario Human Rights Code, and the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act. More information can be found at www.kings.uwo.ca/safecampus.



London Interfaith Peace Camp at King's was a recipient of the City of London's Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award (DRRIA). The Award recognizes unique contributions in promoting public awareness of diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights. The London Interfaith Peace Camp is a collaborative community project that encourages understanding and co-operation among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith groups.



The King's Social Justice and Peace Club, in partnership with the Sisters of St. Joseph, brought the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (UNGIFT) Box project to King's from January 17-27, 2017. The exhibit is a walk-in piece of public art that is designed to raise awareness of human trafficking and stand in solidarity with survivors. #unwrapphetruth #StopTheTraffick



Emily Denommé '16, **Chris Ginou '16**, and fourth year student **Wyatt Merkley** received recognition as Highly Commended Entrants for the prestigious international Undergraduate Awards 2016. The Undergraduate Awards recognize the world's top performing students in their undergraduate coursework, and provides them with support, networking, and other opportunities to further their scholarly paths.



CELEBRATING KING'S SCHOLARLY MONOGRAPHS

Congratulations to the authors of the King's Scholarly Monographs of 2016-2017. Pictured with Dr. Sauro Camiletti, Vice-Principal and Academic Dean, Dr. David Sylvester, Principal, and Dr. Joseph Michalski, Associate Academic Dean, from left to right:

- Dr. Graham Broad - *One in a Thousand*
- Dr. Judith Dunlop - *Increasing Service User Participation in Local Planning*
- In Memoriam, Dr. William R. McKercher - *Libertarian Thought in Nineteenth Century Britain*
- Dr. Julius-Kei Kato - *Religious Language and Asian American Hybridity*
- Dr. Imants Barušs - *Transcendent Mind: Rethinking the Science of Consciousness*
- Dr. Carolyn Chau - *Solidarity with the World*
- Dr. Thomas Malleson - *Fired Up About Capitalism*
- Dr. Thomas Tiekou - *Governing Africa*
- Dr. Rick Csiernik - *Substance Use and Abuse: Everything Matters*
- Dr. Erin Hannah - *NGO's and Global Trade: Non-State voices in EU Trade Policymaking*

Not pictured:

- Dr. Rachel Birnbaum - *Law for Social Workers: A Canadian Guide*
- Dr. Sally McNamee - *The Social Study of Childhood*



Dr. Judith Belle Brown (BSW 1974). In October we congratulated Dr. Judith Belle Brown for receiving the 2016 Family Medicine Researcher of the Year by the College of Family Physicians of Canada. We are thrilled to recognize her achievements and acknowledge her commitment to inspiring new research and interdisciplinary collaboration. "No longer are we consumers of evidence, we need to be creators of the evidence, creators of the knowledge" - Dr Judith Belle Brown
Congratulations!

KING'S CONNECT CAMPUS NEWS

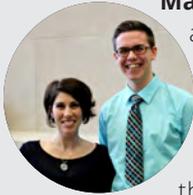
Dr. Bharati Sethi, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, is co-investigator for three projects that have received major research grants totalling \$450,000 in funding. Two grants are funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and one is funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (SSHRC-CIHR).



Dr. Cathy Chovaz, Professor of Psychology, was a keynote presenter at the 5th World Federation of the Deaf Asia Conference in Singapore in October 2016. Dr. Chovaz's keynote was entitled: Mental Health and Deaf People: What are the facts? The conference is a global forum to discuss issues and ideas related and relevant to deaf development, especially pertaining to developing nations in Asia.



Professor Carrie Arnold and fourth year Thanatology student **Mark Shelvock**, will be honored at the 39th annual Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) Conference in Portland, Oregon in April. Professor Arnold won the ADEC Conference Scholarship Award, which recognizes up-and-coming professionals in the field. Mark won the Undergraduate Student Paper Award for his essay, "A Life Worth Living: Examined and Unexamined Grief".



First year student **Matthew Bettencourt** was named a 2016 top Rookie in Ontario football by Ontario University Athletics. Matthew joined the Mustangs in 2016 as one of their top offensive line recruits. He helped the Mustangs finish the season as the top-ranked offence in the country, averaging 49.1 points and 569.4 yards per game.



Third year Political Science and Social Justice and Peace Studies student **Floranda Agroam** has been appointed as a community leader for Canada's 150th anniversary celebrations. Community Leaders are the community voice of Canada 150 for the federal government at local events.



First year student, **Eric Straatman** and his band, On A Tuesday won The London Music Office's contest to be the opening act for the popular Canadian band, USS. Music from On A Tuesday can be found on iTunes, Spotify and YouTube.



PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

King's is pleased to announce the appointments of:



Adrienne Co-Dyre, Director of Libraries, effective August 22, 2016. Adrienne comes to King's with 12 years of experience in library service at Brescia University College, London, most recently as Acting Director.



Julie Horne, Director of Human Resources, effective January 9, 2017. Julie has 15 years of experience in human resources, most recently at the Lawson Health Research Institute, London.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

By Dr. David Sylvester

LEARNING AND LIVING IN TRYING TIMES

...we need an intimate knowledge of the past. A man [or woman] who has lived in many places is not likely to be deceived by the local errors of his [or her] native village: the scholar of history has lived in many times and is therefore, in some degree, immune from the great cataract of nonsense that pours from the press and the microphone of his [or her] own age.

C. S. Lewis, Sermon 'Learning in Wartime', Oxford, 1939

The events of the last political cycle seem quite unprecedented, at least in my lifetime. While eerily entertaining, the political and social maelstrom we are witnessing not just south of the 49th but across the globe indicates that all may not be well, at least to those of us who actually think about inclusive society, democracy, and (to be blunt) the rise and fall of civilizations. Without speaking about particular political parties, we can agree, I believe, that the destructive rhetoric, the personal and collective dishonesty, the demonization of vulnerable groups, and the fundamental lack of respect for institutions, communities, and neighbours, is disheartening for all of us who work daily to build up rather than tear down community. My own view is that this lack of respect for people, for long-established processes, and the shocking disregard for the truth are undermining our ability to exercise effective democracy and to maintain the tenuous threads that bind us together in a pluralistic civil society.

On one level, I am inspired by C.S. Lewis' sermon about the nature of learning in periods of social and political upheaval (in his case, at the outset of WWII). Lewis argued that rigorous study, especially the study of history, provided students (and by extension society) with much needed perspective. Lewis believed that history helps us all put things in perspective—that this is not the first time things have unravelled in unfortunate ways—but also that history inoculates us from misinformation and from being manipulated by those who would have us swallow their particular world view. His reflections are more than relevant today.

But I think we at King's need to go even beyond Lewis's scholarly tonic for society to challenge our students and ourselves to dig deeply into the issues that confront us. Our goal must be to extend a critical lens beyond our textbooks to the developments unfolding outside the university gates and to work for justice and the common good. This is the task of a university, and it is certainly the task of a Catholic university. Let me put it another way; actually, let me quote Pope John Paul II who in his 1990 constitution on Catholic higher education wrote:

A Catholic University...is immersed in human society...and is called on to become an ever more effective instrument of cultural progress for individuals as well as for society. [It should take on]... the study of serious contemporary problems in areas such as the dignity of human life, the promotion of justice for all, the quality of personal and family life, the protection of nature, the search

for peace and political stability, a more just sharing in the world's resources, and a new economic and political order that will better serve the human community at a national and international level. Ex corde ecclesiae (ECE), I.B.1.32

"The Christian spirit of service to others for the promotion of social justice is of particular importance for each Catholic University", the Holy Father wrote, "to be shared by its teachers and developed in its students. Every Catholic University must contribute concretely to the progress of the society within which it works..."(ECE, I.B.1.34) In other words, it is not enough to think about the problems of our day and the roots of injustice, we must take action.

While travelling home from Washington, D.C. last February from meetings of North American Catholic university presidents, I thought about how King's takes up these challenges. I was struck by just how important it remains for all of us at King's to affirm the dignity of all those with whom we work, study and live, and that as educators we have a particular responsibility to reach out to our students and colleagues to model the inclusive community I believe we all expect. While many of these dislocations seem far away, they have had a significant impact upon many members of our community here on campus. The deterioration of civil discourse has been unfolding these last months on both sides of the border, and we only need to look to Quebec to see the fruits of disrespect here at home.

As a professional historian, an educator, and as Principal of King's, I believe this political and cultural crisis underscores more than ever the necessity of the kind of education we provide at King's. As Lewis stated throughout his 1939 Oxford Sermon, education matters. In his words, "Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered." At King's, we are very good at 'Good Philosophy', and work very hard with our students across every discipline we teach to connect to the problems of our day. Above all, however, we are a community that celebrates all its members and supports the rich diversity of abilities, ideas, faith perspectives and cultures that make us whole. In these trying times, King's proudly recommits itself to what we have long claimed is our College's purpose, to seek truth and to work for justice.



A PLACE TO GROW

 King's School of Social Work is a wonderful place for learning: a place where you can push conceptual boundaries, explore new territory, and enhance your skills. Our small class sizes and the commitment of our faculty to quality teaching will provide you with a warm and stimulating environment.

For over 40 years, the School of Social Work at King's has maintained an outstanding reputation for graduating competent social workers sought after by employers.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

King's University College is an affiliated university college of Western University. Graduates of the King's School of Social Work BSW and MSW programs receive a Western University Degree.

BSW (Honors) Program

Preparation for professional practice in the dynamic and evolving profession of social work begins in the Bachelor of Social Work. Our program includes education for social work practice with individuals, families, groups and communities. The Bachelor of Social Work program begins in the third year. Students from college or other universities are encouraged to apply.

Direct Practice MSW Program

The MSW program at King's University College is a Direct Practice (non-thesis) program designed to develop and enhance the knowledge and practice skills of social work professionals.

1-Year MSW Program

A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree is an entrance requirement for the 1-year MSW program.



New for 2017-2018: 2-Year MSW Program

Beginning in 2017, the School of Social Work is pleased to introduce a 2-year MSW program for students

holding an undergraduate honors degree in a discipline other than social work.



SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

In the School of Social Work, we believe that you never stop learning. This year, our Professional Development program is offering five half-day continuing education workshops. Whether you're looking to upgrade your skills, complement your education or explore new areas of interest, our Professional Development program can help you achieve your goals.

All of our workshops are facilitated by highly qualified, knowledgeable instructors with considerable experience in their area of expertise.

Please visit our website for more information and to register for any of the following workshops.

Workshop Schedule

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

Gender-Based Violence Across the Life Course

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017

Mindfulness and Self Compassion for Social Workers and Allied Professionals

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

For more information about upcoming workshops or to register visit kings.uwo.ca/social-work/professional-development/

These workshops meet Continuing Competency requirements of registration with the OCSWSSW (check out NEW funding opportunities from the OCSWSSW at www.swswpdf.org). King's Field Instructors, OASW members, and students will receive significant discounts.





ALUMNI SCHOLARS

Tosha Densky (BSW 2011, MSW 2014) and **Trevor Johnson (BSW 1994, MSW 2006)** have written the Foreword for Lee, B. & Todd, S. (Eds.) (2017). *A Casebook of Community Practice: Problems and Strategies (2nd ed.)*. Mississauga, ON: CommonAct Press.

Abir Al Jamal (MSW 2015) has contributed to a recent journal article: Baobaid, M., Al Jamal, A., and McQuaid, B. (2016). *Empowering Immigrant Families and Communities to Respond to Radicalization, Interventionen*, October, 32-37.

Julie Casey (MSW 2016) presented a poster at the OASW Conference in Toronto in November 2016 entitled: Nourishing Hearts: Animal Assisted Interventions, and sat on a Panel at the same conference: *Winning Strategy: Starting Your Social Work Career from Scratch*.

A number of our alumni have contributed to chapters in a new publication: Csiernik, R. & Rowe, W.S. (Eds) (2017). *Responding to the Oppression of Addiction: Canadian Social Work Perspectives, third edition*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

Joe Antone (BSW 2014, MSW 2015): The Role of Culture in Prevention (with R. Csiernik).

Melissa Brideau (BSW 2012, MSW 2015): How open is the meeting? Attending AA in a wheelchair (with R. Csiernik).

Melissa Brideau (BSW 2012, MSW 2015): The Intersection of Addiction with Issues of Ability (with R. Csiernik).

Blanka Jordanov (BSW 1989, MSW 2014): Is Alcoholics Anonymous of Value for Social Work Practitioners? (with R. Csiernik).

Tanielle O'Hearn (BSW 2014, MSW 2015): Understanding the Violent Substance Abuser: Issues in Intimate Partner Violence (with R. Csiernik).

Jim Watkin (BSW 2000, MSW 2008): Prevention as Controversy: Harm Reduction (with R. Csiernik and W. Rowe).

HOMECOMING 2017


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Mark your calendars now

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Anniversary years will end in "2" or "7".

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SPRINTING HER WAY TO THE TOP

By Nicole Bullock, King's Communications Intern



Madison Wilson-Walker has a story to tell.

As a Western Mustang sprinter and long-jump varsity track and field athlete, and Team Canada athlete, the first year student's accomplishments are nothing shy of inspirational. She is also an inspiring example of perseverance following tragedy.

At the age of three, Madison was diagnosed with a rare form of meningitis, which led to both of her legs being amputated below the knee, as well as finger amputations. After a period of healing and being fitted for her first prosthetics, her family enrolled her in numerous organized sports. These sports gave Madison the chance to live, what she describes as, the most normal lifestyle she could. She found her calling for track and field after her Grade nine year at Lord Dorchester High School, and joined the London-Western Track and Field Club soon after. Her coach, teammates, friends, and family have been supportive the entire way. "No one treats me like I have a disability," she says. "They all treat me like any other person."

With dreams of making the varsity team that she watched day-after-day while practicing at Western with her track team, Madison decided that King's was the perfect fit for her needs. Her desire for a smaller campus and classes meant that she could focus on her goal of studying Social Work and Disability Studies, while also gaining the varsity athlete experience.

Her advice is to never give up. Her goal is to encourage other people with a disability.

"You will find something you will be great at. It may not be in sports, but it could be anything. You can't dwell on what others think or get upset if people look at you because you are different than them."

She continues to advocate for accessible buildings and encourages others to learn how to approach someone with a disability. "It's as easy as asking a person with a disability if they need help, and not being offended if they decline," she explains. "Or, simply ask questions." Madison states that she is more than happy to share her story or answer questions. "It was difficult to leave the track club I was with after making the Mustangs varsity team. My new coach and teammates had to adjust in order to learn about and understand my abilities." During competitions she wears athletic running blades, while her day-to-day life is spent wearing prosthetics.

Madison is a successful Team Canada athlete. In the latter part of 2015, she made the team for the Para-World Championships, which was held in Doha, Qatar. Today, after many competitions, she is ranked fifth in the world and has beaten her personal bests in all of her events. Although she missed the cut-off for making the team for Rio de Janeiro in 2016, she continues to stay positive. She looks forward to the Road to London 2017 for the Para-World Championships.



Not only iconic as a Canadian athlete, Madison's experiences led her to be featured in an international campaign by famed photographer Anne Geddes. In April 2016, Madison traveled to New York City to be Canada's representative in the "Win for Meningitis" campaign. The campaign is a series of photographs featuring athletes who suffered from meningitis, showcasing their astonishing athletic abilities, while also raising awareness of meningococcal disease and the importance of vaccination. "I got to meet a lot of other athletes who were involved in para-sports around the world. Being the Canadian representative was also such a cool experience. I didn't know anyone else who had the same disease, so it was nice to meet those who went through the same experience."

Madison can be described not only as an advocate and a role model for persons with disabilities, but also as an inspiration for everyone she meets at King's. She is very open about her disability and is never offended by questions and inquiring looks. Given her confidence, it is not surprising that she has been asked to speak in classrooms, both at high school and university levels. "I don't really take no for an answer and I try my best to not say 'can't'. I like to think I have a positive mindset and allow other people to see that too," she says. "It's about being optimistic and not looking down on the hardships in life." Madison explains that she doesn't regard her disability as a problem; her life is normal as far as she is concerned.

"It is a neat experience to share my story, and tell other students with disabilities that they are capable of doing what may seem like the impossible," says Madison. With experiences and attitudes like these, there is no doubt that she will find much success in years to come.



CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

By Subathra Varadharaj, King's Communications Intern



For Darren Lillington '06, serving people makes life complete. He has committed himself to helping people with disabilities and spinal cord injuries. "I work for people with spinal cord injuries and other physical inabilities, to help them access the services and supports that they need in order to live independently and actively within their community," he says.

Darren believes that it is his family's Catholic spiritual practices that have brought him into this service. "I come from a Catholic family, which is why I chose King's. My family taught me the value of volunteering, going to church regularly, and being compassionate and helpful to others. It was everything we did as a family."

Having worked with Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (SCI Ontario) as Regional Service Coordinator in Thunder Bay for about seven years, Darren is committed to improving the independence, quality of life and health outcomes of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and indigenous people. Aware of the challenges faced by these populations, he continually strives to find creative solutions for a healthier, more fulfilling life for each of his clients.

"The organization was founded in 1945 when soldiers were coming home from World War II with spinal cord injuries. At

that time, there weren't a lot of community supports to help them get back to living their lives. So, a group of veterans founded an organization that would help people with injuries live and participate actively in their community," he says.

Working with SCI Ontario has provided Darren with unique opportunities. In 2009, after a year of research and planning, Darren and a group called "Team Independence" assisted an individual with a high level spinal cord injury to become the first person in a wheelchair to reach the North Pole. Darren also assisted his client in becoming the first wheelchair user to complete a HALO (High Altitude High Opening) skydive from 30,000 feet. These trips not only show that there are no limits to the human spirit, but they also challenge the general perception of disability.

Darren is currently involved in a documentary project called *Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary Dreams*, which depicts the story of Maggie Sofea, an 11-year-old child who broke her neck and spinal cord during a family camping trip. "Because of the support she needs from others, Maggie was forced to leave her community. Her family moved to Thunder Bay where I met with them," said Darren. "Maggie's dream was to return to her remote northern community of Nibinamik,

Ontario, and the campsite where she had sustained her spinal cord injury. We spent a week in Nibinamik to support her and help get her resettled back into her community."

It was while he was at King's that Darren recognized his capacity to do something for others. He was inspired by the values that King's taught him, which motivated him to get involved in many volunteer initiatives. After graduating with his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and returning home to work in Thunder Bay, Darren enrolled in Lakehead University's social work program. His goal was to work with either the older population or with people with disabilities. Upon completing his social work degree, he landed a job with the local disability service.

The sequence of events in his life has helped him achieve his goals. "I knew that I wanted to work with people and help people in some capacity. When I was at King's, I did a few volunteer placements at the mental health hospital and I worked a bit at Merrymount Children's Centre. I found those experiences to be very rewarding," he says.

Presently, Darren is working with his wife to start a health supply business that will provide much-needed quality care to the community at affordable prices.



ROCK THE CHAIR

For Robert Buren '95, everything in his life changed on October 5, 2008.

By Natalia Otten, King's Communications Intern

While mountain biking with a friend, Robert attempted to jump an obstacle, but his awkward landing sent him over the handlebars and head first into the dirt, instantly breaking his back and leaving him paralyzed. He was 37 years old, married and a father of two daughters aged 4 and 2. Robert went from being fully able-bodied to learning to live without the use of his lower body. With the inspiration of his family, he was determined to continue living life as independently as possible.

Prior to his injury, Robert had always been active and even thought about competing in a triathlon. After his accident, he turned to sports as a major part of his rehab, and, once he realized that this dream could still become a reality, he sought the guidance of Chris Bourne, from Ottawa, one of the world's leading paratriathletes at the time, and with the help of his family and friends, started working towards this goal.

It wasn't overnight that Robert learned to adapt to his new reality and acquire new skills. For several years after the accident, he built up his strength and endurance with the ultimate goal of competing in an Ironman. Known as one of the most difficult endurance events in the world, the Ironman triathlon is a 226 km race. It begins with a 3.8km swim, followed by a 180km bike, and finally, finishes with a full marathon run (42.2km). Athletes have 17 hours to complete the race, and Robert sought to do this with just his arms.

Robert began with shorter distances and increased his endurance over time. To date, he has completed 6 half-iron distance triathlons and 2 full Ironman races. In 2016, he became the first Canadian paraplegic to qualify for, and complete, the Ironman World Championship in Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii. With each race that Robert completes, he personifies the Ironman mantra that "anything is possible".

Robert attributes much of his success to his family and the positive people in his life. He constantly challenges stereotypes and reminds people not to feel sorry for him. Instead, he encourages others to try and keep up. Rather than making assumptions about what he can't do, he wants to show people what he can accomplish.

A large part of Robert's life now is about giving back. He recently joined the Board of Directors with Spinal Cord Injury Ontario, an organization that was a tremendous resource for him during his recovery. Through his community work, Robert wants to make the world more inclusive and change peoples' opinions about



those with disabilities. "I want to educate people on what's possible for anyone with a disability, and how important it is to make our world more inclusive."

Through speaking engagements at high schools, universities and other public and corporate events, Robert uses his love of public speaking to share his story and inspire others. In 2012, he participated in a TEDx Youth event in Mississauga, where he was the keynote speaker that closed out the event.

Currently, Robert is focusing his time on building a non-profit mentoring association called NBT Mentors (NBT stands for No Better Time). With hopes of launching the program in the summer of 2017, Robert is building a network of mentors across Canada that can give back to the community by helping students, non-profits and small businesses. He explains, "If I can capture the cream of the crop to build this mentoring community, I think it could really have a dramatic impact on our country, and on those who either give their time to or are willing to benefit from mentorship." To learn more about NBT Mentors and sign up for the newsletter, visit: www.nbtmentors.org.

Robert gives a great amount of credit to King's University College for his career accomplishments. He is grateful for the education he received at King's and appreciates the knowledge he gained. Both the culture of the school and the professors who he has stayed in contact with have had a tremendous impact on his life.

Robert has a few simple keys to success: Focus on what you can do, rather than what you cannot; set goals that are big, but achievable; surround yourself with positive and successful people; and always work hard. "With dedication and determination, I truly believe that anything is possible."

Check out Robert's blog: www.rockthechair.com



A CONDUIT TO ACCOMMODATION

By Kelsey Stanczyk, King's Communications Intern

Before coming to King's, Kim Ruiter '12 wasn't sure what area of study she wanted to pursue. Taking a first-year Social Justice and Peace Studies course was her first exposure to the idea of systemic justice. In her courses at King's, she was encouraged to think about the way social structures are set up and how they affect different people disproportionately, resulting in both positive and negative outcomes. "It's such a different way of thinking that I had never really considered," recalls Kim. "There were so many different things you could look at and still be within the Social Justice and Peace Studies program. I decided to pair that with Sociology because a lot of it has to do with society and how society is structured. The two programs went well together and I really enjoyed being able to explore different topics." This gave Kim the freedom to take courses on many topics she hadn't had the chance to study before.

Her studies at King's led her to pursue a career in law and today she works as a Junior Associate at Baker Law in Toronto, a firm that focuses on accessible justice for all. "I was really interested in the different notions of justice, what justice is, and what it looks like," explains Kim. "One thing I was particularly interested in was the distinction between individual justice and structural justice. These were totally new ideas to me and now they're something I deal with every day. I like that law allows me to work with both. I can look at justice on an individual level, but also work on cases that are more structural and potentially precedent-setting. Those cases can impact not only individual clients, but also how systems or structures are set up in order to get better results for all."

Kim finds that her most difficult cases involve people with disabilities that are not immediately obvious. These are called invisible disabilities and include mental health conditions and learning disabilities. She says invisible disabilities are still not well understood. Unlike a person who needs a wheelchair, which obviously requires a ramp to access certain areas, people with invisible disabilities have to identify their disability in order to receive accommodation. "It is often difficult to convince people, especially employers, that (a) the disability exists and (b) there are different ways to provide support and accommodations," she says.

Part of Kim's job is to work closely with her clients' health care professionals to communicate with the clients' employer or schoolboard in order to get the proper accommodations in place. This often means explaining, "this is the disability and this is what they need. Even if you can't see it – even if it doesn't make sense to you, this is what is needed," she says.

The upcoming Canadians with Disabilities Act from the Ministry of Sport and Persons with Disabilities will address many of the issues that Kim's firm deals with every day. "This might increase awareness about disability issues, which in turn, could lead to an increased number of cases, but at the same time, it might alleviate the need for others," she explains.

"I am an outsider," says Kim. "I don't have a disability. When you're talking to someone and you want to be sympathetic you say 'I understand', but I clearly don't understand." Kim makes sure to not speak for the disabled community, but rather assists people in advocating for themselves. Lawyers are neutral conduits who help people access the very complicated legal system. "I don't see my job as advocating on behalf of someone; I see it as advocating with and for someone. It is a partnership. When someone tells me 'this is what I need,' I can tell them, 'I understand the law and this is how I can help you achieve that goal.'"



CONNECTING STUDENT WITH SUCCESS

By Taylor Rummell, King's Communications Intern

Growing up in what she calls “a teaching world”, it was easy for Genna Goodwin '13 to see her career path. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Diana Goodwin '79, who has worked with the Thames Valley District School Board for more than 30 years, and the King's Disabilities Studies program for three years, Genna found inspiration in the passion Diana has shown throughout her career in education.

Appreciative of the exposure to teaching and significant influence her mother has had on her, it is not surprising that after graduating from King's with an Honors BA in Childhood and Social Institutions, Genna went on to complete her teaching degree at Western. From there, she began a two-year position working with blind and low visibility students with the Thames Valley District School Board.

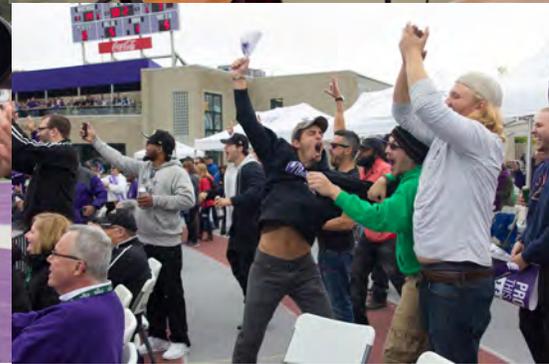
Reflecting on this experience, Genna notes that she faced some unique challenges as she worked to meet the needs of her students. “Many things in our world are very visual specific,” she explains. “Providing students with the proper information for them to have the background knowledge to understand a concept can be really difficult.” Those who live without a visual impairment can easily take their sight for granted and not fully understand how difficult it can be for blind and low visibility individuals to perform seemingly simple tasks. As an example of these challenges, as well as her dedication to both her profession and her students, Genna recalls teaching students to read a map through structures and labeling. “Finding new and different ways to bring information to students helps make school more fun and intriguing.”

During her time working with blind and low visibility students, Genna received the Beatrice Helmkey Award in recognition of her outstanding achievement in teaching, scholarship and dedication to early childhood education. Reminiscing about the evening when she won this teaching excellence award, Genna notes that, although the recognition was unexpected, it was a great moment for her and her colleagues to celebrate their work.

Today, Genna works full-time as a senior kindergarten teacher at Lord Elgin Public School in London, and she finds that it's the small things that make her job so enjoyable. “Seeing students set goals for themselves and then reach those goals is one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching,” remarks Genna. “Making connections with the students and seeing them succeed is one of the many things I love.”



EVENTS RECAP



▲ Homecoming

Homecoming 2016 welcomed alumni and friends back to King's with celebrations held across campus, including a special musical performance by alumni band, Nick Nasal at the Friday Reunion. Other weekend highlights included the Alumni Brunch where Brent Shea '80 received the Alumni Award of Distinction, and Matthew Wilson '07 received the Young Alumni Award, and the football game where alumni cheered on the Mustangs as they defeated Laurier 45-26.



▲ Stratford

Alumni and friends were treated to a delicious lunch and insightful lectures by King's professors Dr. Ian Rae and Dr. Paul Werstine, before catching a matinee performance of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.



▲ 21st Annual King's Golf Classic

Over 21 years, the King's Golf Classic has raised close to half a million dollars for King's priority projects. In recognition of the tremendous support of our golfers and sponsors, King's established the Golf Classic Student Award, which will support a mature student with financial need. Thank you to all the golfers and sponsors who participated in the tournament.



◀ Principal's Lecture on Contemporary Indigenous Issues

Award-winning author Joseph Boyden gave the inaugural Principal's Lecture, speaking about his writing career and his focus on the historical and contemporary experience of First Nations peoples. Prior to the lecture, a reception was held in Labatt Hall to unveil the Angel Band Stained Glass Mobile, which was donated to King's by renowned artist Ted Goodden.



◀ Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a day that encourages kindness and generosity, and we are proud to report that, once again, students, alumni, friends, and employees came together to make the #igivetokings campaign a success. From spare change to leadership donations, hand-written thank you notes to social media posts, every participant was so giving.



▲ Evening Breakfast

The Alumni Association's exam period tradition continued in December with more than 200 students lining up for the 10:00 pm Pancake Study Break.



▲ **King's Players present: *Reefer Madness*** The Alumni Association hosted the opening night reception for the King's Players production of *Reefer Madness* on January 25. The musical comedy showcased the talents of 23 cast members and 10 crew members, who attended the reception along with family and friends who attended the performance.



▲ London Chapter: Axe Throwing Event

Alumni engaged in some friendly competition with a round robin axe throwing tournament at the BATL Axe facilities in London. Congratulations to the axe throwing victor, Jeff Buchanan '09.



◀ Life After King's Alumni Panel Events

The Alumni Association, together with Career Services, hosted 4 in-class career focused events during the 2016/17 academic year. Each event featured alumni who work in various fields. Thank you to those alumni who shared their experiences with King's students.



MARCH
28

Alumni Networking Breakfast

Tuesday March 28, 7:30 a.m.

Start your day off with a complimentary breakfast and the opportunity to network with alumni in your area. Hosted by alumnus Sheldon Hines '09 at One London Place.



APRIL
01

With Glowing Hearts: Canada 150 Celebration

Saturday, April 1, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

The King's Chamber Choir will perform Canadian folk music in the Kenny Theatre, Darryl J. King Student Life Centre at King's.



MAY
02

Ottawa Chapter: Parliament Hill Gathering

Tuesday, May 2, 5:00-7:00p.m.

Ottawa-area alumni are invited to an evening of socializing and networking at the Parliamentary Dining Room with **Peter Fragiskatos '04**, MP for London North Centre.



APRIL
06

Hamilton Chapter: Scotch Tasting

Thursday April 6, 7:00 p.m.

The Hamilton Chapter is hosting a scotch tasting event at The Hamilton Club with King's **Professor Alan Pomfret**. It promises to be a "dram good evening". Tasting fee not included.



APRIL
18

Toronto Chapter: Trumplandia: Adventures in Exceptional Politics Breakfast and Lecture

Tuesday April 18, 7:30 a.m.

Join us for breakfast and a lecture with Political Science **Professor Ben Muller**.



MAY
27

Niagara-on-the-Lake Battle Fields Tour

Saturday May 27

Alumni and the King's community are invited to a special day in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary. Join **Professor Graham Broad** for a one-of-a-kind War of 1812 Battlefields.

Stay Tuned! Keep an eye out for information on events planned for fall 2017, including:

King's Hour - a series of culturally and academically engaging lectures on issues of importance to the King's community and society as a whole.

Principal's Lecture on Contemporary Indigenous Issues - an annual lecture that honours the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Veritas Series for Faith and Culture - gatherings of artists, scholars and theologians who foster learning and dialogue to support and challenge us in living lives of faith and justice.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

All Alumni events require registration for the event. For more information about upcoming events, please visit www.kings.uwo.ca/alumni or contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@kings.uwo.ca or 1-800-265-4406 x4502.



SEPTEMBER
11

Annual King's Golf Classic

Monday September 11

Eagle your way through Highland Golf and Country Club and support King's University College students. kings.uwo.ca/golf-classic/



SEPTEMBER
24

Twelfth Night at the Stratford Festival

Sunday, September 24, 11:30 a.m.

Save the date for the annual Stratford Festival event. Visit kings.uwo.ca/stratford-festival/ for details

HOMECOMING 2017



OCTOBER
20-22

Start planning your King's Homecoming 2017! Alumni with graduation years ending in 7 and 2 will be celebrating anniversaries! We have a full schedule of events planned, including an Alumni Awards Brunch, and seats at the Homecoming football game against Ottawa. Stay tuned for more details, and see you at Homecoming! www.kings.uwo.ca/homecoming/



Feast of Christ the King

Celebrating Student Success

Every year, King's hosts two ceremonies that honour student award recipients and the donors who have supported student awards at King's. Feast of Christ the King and the Student Awards Reception provide opportunities for donors, award recipients and their families to meet and celebrate the outstanding academic achievements of King's students.

Thank you to those who have made an investment in King's students by supporting these awards, and congratulations to this year's award recipients on their academic and personal success.



Student Awards Reception





WINDOWS WITH A STORY

By Taylor Rummell,
King's Communications Intern

The Darryl J. King Student Life Centre has a new feature that brings beauty, light and inspiration into the space. Three stained glass windows have been installed along the dividing wall between the Cardinal Carter Library and the Spriet Learning Commons.

The windows were a gift to King's from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph's in Canada after the Sisters obtained the collection from St. Joseph's Hospital in Sarnia.

King's Chaplain, Rev. Michael Bechard shared the meaning of these windows saying, "They depict Jesus' ministry of teaching, healing and embracing the

vulnerable. I think when you look at the things Jesus embodied in his life, they're almost the aspirational statements that we have as a community at King's. All of us, regardless of whether we are administrators or faculty members, staff or students, we are summoned and empowered to put those values of the gospel into place."

The King's Art Committee decided to install the windows in the Student Life Centre so that their beauty, as well as the values that they represent, can be appreciated by the many people who gather in the space.

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TEAM TRUE PATRIOT LOVE



This summer, **Michael Breech '05** and **Bryan Murphy '06** are racing for Canadian Veterans and their families.

On June 17, 2017, Michael and Bryan, as part of Team True Patriot Love, will cycle in the Race Across America (RAAM) to raise awareness and funds for the True Patriot Love Foundation in support of Canada's men and women in uniform.

RAAM is a rigorous and demanding 4,800 km road race, one of the most respected and longest running ultra-endurance race events in the world. Running non-stop from Oceanside, California to Annapolis, Maryland, it is 30% longer than the Tour de France and must be completed in half the time. With 25 different countries represented amongst 60 teams, Team True Patriot Love will attempt to set a new Canadian team record, besting the current record of 6 days, 2 hours and 21 minutes.

Years before committing to what has been called "the toughest test of endurance in the world," Michael and Bryan conquered their undergraduate studies at King's. Meeting on the first day of University as roommates in Wemple Hall, Michael and Bryan faced triumphs and challenges that solidified their friendship and will make them assets to their 8-man team.

For more information about Team True Patriot Love, True Patriot Love Foundation and the Race Across America, visit www.teamtpl.com. You can also find Team True Patriot Love on Instagram and Twitter at @teamTPLraam.

Join King's in cheering on Michael, Bryan and Team True Patriot Love on June 17, 2017, in support of Canadian Veterans and in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know an outstanding King's graduate?



*For more information about the nomination and selection process,
please visit www.kings.uwo.ca/alumni
or call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 519-433-3491 x4502 or 1-800-265-4406 x4502*

Nominations close on Friday, June 10, 2016

BECOME A MENTOR

Life After King's Mentoring Program

The Life After King's Mentoring Program aims to connect alumni with students and alumni who are interested in career exploration. Mentorship offers an opportunity for students and alumni to explore potential career paths and begin to develop their professional networks.

Learn more at:
www.kings.uwo.ca/alumni/benefits-and-services/career-mentoring/



KING'S

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MILESTONES



Thomas Cloutier '80 provided an update from the *Townhouse Six boys*:

September 2016 marked the 40th anniversary of a small group of wide eyed "Frosh" meeting for the first time in the basement of Townhouse 6. The King's way of life of "you's guys gotta be bookin' every day" was adopted immediately, but quickly abandoned once they realized what else King's life had to offer. Happy Hours, ball hockey marathons, endless debates on the Leafs and the inaugural season for the Blue Jays,

dances, playing euchre and 9-5-2 while listening to Supertramp, Bee Gees and Fleetwood Mac, watching Monty Python, The Gong Show and Happy Days before lunch, Lucan on Hallowe'en, Intermural sports, etc. just to name a few. Fast forward from that Labour Day weekend in 1976 to 2016 which saw a number of boys return to London as part of their annual golfing weekend. Gathering in an unrecognizable King's cafeteria, they once again reminisced about people and events from that four year period of their lives before touring the campus and

heading out to Forest City National Golf Course to continue the day followed by a mandatory stop at the Ceeps later in the evening. The friendships and bonds that were created that first weekend as part of the Townhouse Six community remain with the boys 40 years later. Pictured (in the King's Cafeteria) are (left to right) Aldo Berlingieri, Tom Cloutier, Cory Boisselle, Ralph Bozzo, Greg Tomlinson, Gino DeVuono, Steve Case, Mike Rupar and Reno Berlingieri. Missing from the photo are Steve Foster and Joe Coady, and the late Rick Maloney.

2017 Women of Excellence Honourees

Congratulations to the 2017 Women of Excellence Award recipients:



Mary Intven-Wallace '73, Arts, Culture, Education & Training honouree, who is being recognized for her work as an acclaimed artist, a beloved teacher and a talented author of 16 children's books.



Lynne Cram, former King's University College Board Chair, Outstanding Achievement honouree, who is being recognized for her decades of volunteerism and philanthropy, and for her impact specifically on the Boys and Girls Club of London as a volunteer, donor and as Chair of their Horizon Campaign.

Mary and Lynne are among eight award recipients who will be honoured at the 2017 YMCA of Western Ontario Women of Excellence Gala Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at the London Convention Centre.

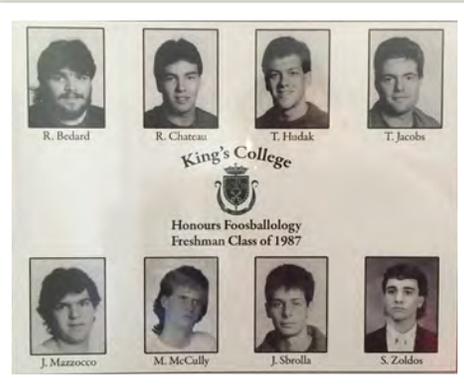
MILESTONES

Joanne Doucette '76 published her new book *Leslieville* in 2016. Only 60 copies were printed as a special project for the Clan Leslie gathering in Fergus, Ontario, but the fully illustrated e-book is available online and for free download at archive.org, search term "Leslieville".

Sharon Reid (nee Cove) '92 welcomed her son in November 1998, and remarried on August 9, 2014. After working in developmental services for 23 years, she shifted her career focus in 2015 to work in the Violence against Women sector.

Lynda Hutchinson '01 welcomed August M. Fraser to the world on July 18, 2016.

▼ **Katrina Clarke (nee Marr) '06**, her husband Jason, and big sisters Adelaide and Rose, are pleased to announce the arrival of Lila Mackenzie, who was born on January 2, 2017, weighing 7lbs, 6oz.



▲ **James Sbrolla '90** hosted a foosball tournament in January with **Ray Bedard '91, Ray Chateau '90, Matt DeChellis '90, Tom Hudak '91, Tom Jacobs, , Joe Mazzocco '90, Mik McCully '91 and Stan Zoldos**. The annual tournament has been running for about 15 years. (Pictured from left to right: Stan Zoldos, Ray Chateau, Mik McCully and James Sbrolla)

Andrew Jardine '06 ▶, and his wife Erin are overjoyed to share the news of the arrival of Elizabeth "Ellie" Jane. Ellie was born on February 13, 2017, and has already been taken under the wing of her four older siblings..



Colleen Buckley (nee DeAnna) '91 and **Peter Buckley '94** received the 2016 Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Hero Award in recognition of their work promoting equal employment for people with disabilities. Among their contributions, Colleen and Peter, McDonald's franchise owners, support May as an awareness month for Community Living, and have raised thousands of dollars through McHappy Day proceeds. The award was presented to the Buckley's by a 15-year employee within their organization who has spina bifida.

Joanna Bedggood '07 has returned to King's as Manager of Student Wellness.

Krutika Patil '10 and **Ken Kirkpatrick '10** ▶ were married in Toronto on September 4, 2016. Picture: King's Professor Matthew G. Yeager, groom Ken Kirkpatrick, bride Krutika Patil, and **The Honourable Thomas Carey '74**.

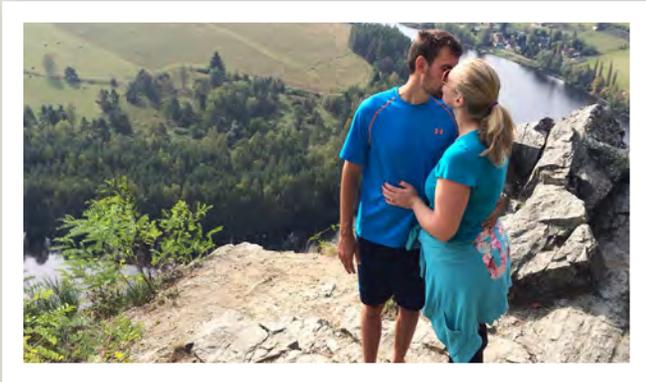




◀ **Todd Goold '11** and **Stephanie Greatrix '11 BSW, '14 MSW** got engaged on September 9, 2016, and their wedding will take place on October 28, 2017.



▲ **Dan Vervaecke '12** and **Bronwyn Griepsma '13** welcomed their son Theodore Daniel Griepsma Vervaecke into the world on May 27, 2016.



Skylar Franke '13 bought her first house with her partner Nick Soave, associate alumnus, who she met while attending King's. They live in London.

▲ **Kate Pivrnec '12** and Curtis Clarysse got engaged on September 29, 2016, while on vacation in Prague, Czech Republic. Their wedding will take place on August, 18, 2018. Kate is also currently the "go-to" person for King's alumni activities as she covers the role of Alumni and Development Officer until January 2018.

Share your milestones 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.

IN MEMORY

We extend our condolences to the friends and family of:

Keith McNally, associate alumnus, who passed away on March 7, 2016. Keith attended Christ the King College from 1956-1958, and graduated from Western in 1961.

B. Lynne Warren, associate alumna, who passed away in the Strathroy Hospital, with her family by her side, on February 2, 2017.

Gerald McKerral '65, who passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family at Woodstock General Hospital on December 27, 2013.

Eber Rice '65, who passed away unexpectedly at his residence on January 29, 2017.

Renato Gasparotto '69, who passed away at his home, surrounded by the love of his family, on February 13, 2017.

Gerarda (Sharon) Czikk (nee Van Bussell) '73, who passed away peacefully on September 8, 2016, at McCormick Home in London.

Mary-Alice Nolan '84, who passed away peacefully at peopleCare Oakcrossing, London, on December 12, 2016.

Bernadette Cramer '90, who away on February 20, 2017.

Frank Matus '91, who passed away peacefully with family by his side on November 16, 2016.

Doreen Greenfield '94, who passed away with her family by her bedside on December 30, 2016, at Victoria Hospital in London.

Melanie Warner '94 who passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and friends on August 5, 2016, at Toronto East General Hospital.

Michael Dufton '10, who passed away suddenly on February 2, 2017.

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