Go Green!

Read the King’s Herald online

If you would prefer to only receive an electronic copy of the King’s Herald, please contact Alumni and Development at alumni@kings.uwo.ca or call 519-433-3491 / 1-800-265-4406 ext. 4522.

Recent issues of the King’s Herald are available online at www.kings.uwo.ca/kings-herald/
The King’s response to COVID-19

Campus News

Life After King’s

The Pandemic

Alumni at Home

Events

Foundation Update

Milestones / In Memoriam

Correction: The fall 2019 issue of the King’s Herald included a photo of Dr. Pamela Cushing receiving the Tanis Doe Award for Canadian Disability Study and Culture. The accompanying caption should have identified Dr. Madeline Burghardt as photographed with Dr. Cushing. Dr. Burghardt is a former King’s faculty member.
“Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!” These words, spoken by the cartoon icon, Miss Frizzle (from The Magic School Bus), are more relevant now than ever. There are endless opportunities to take risks and countless ways to try to connect the dots. As King’s alumni, I argue that we are the best prepared for these challenges. Why? Because your King’s education honed these skills, skills that are increasingly relevant and sought after in today’s world.

It is because our professors put student development first that we are able to confidently grapple with new concepts, and that so many alumni find personal and professional success after graduation. Our education inspires change in both ourselves and others - and in other ways of thinking. At King’s, you learn how to become the best version of you.

Our education does not stop at graduation. The skills we learned during our time at King’s stay with us. As alumni, returning to King’s, even virtually, allows us to engage in new ways, to take new chances, and to get involved with both the King’s community and the communities in which we live. It allows us to flex the mental muscles our professors helped us build and strengthen. There are so many opportunities that are waiting to be explored - opportunities that allow King’s alumni to continue to connect with a community of thought leaders.

It’s important to continue taking chances and to continue making mistakes. But it’s especially important to enjoy the moments that allow us to get messy because that’s where the magic lives.

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon, either virtually or in person once we are permitted to gather together again.

Stay safe, and stay daring!

Jennifer Ayers ’08
President,
King’s University College Alumni Association
June 30 marks the completion of my first year as principal of King’s University College. When I initially thought about what I’d like to share with the community through the King’s Herald, I reflected back on my experiences during the first six months in this role. At that time, King’s was operating as usual. The campus was filled with students, employees, and visitors; people were gathering for events that were taking place in our buildings; and I was meeting with students, alumni, faculty, staff, and members of the community, learning all I could about what makes King’s the special place that it is.

At the start of 2020, I had the opportunity to host alumni gatherings in London, Hamilton, and Toronto. Not only did I meet some of our amazing graduates, but also I shared my vision for the future of King’s. At that time, I could not have imagined what King’s, and the world as a whole, would be facing only a few short weeks later.
By March 16, 2020, King’s was operating largely as a virtual campus. Our community worked together to move most of our services, offices, and classrooms online. All on-campus events were postponed, cancelled, or hosted virtually, including online open house events with virtual campus tours for prospective students and their families. I am continually amazed by the resiliency of our community as we adapt to this new “normal” in innovative ways.

It was with great disappointment that I announced the postponement of the spring 2020 Convocation ceremonies. Convocation is a milestone that is celebrated not only by our graduating students but also by family, friends, alumni, faculty, and staff. On behalf of the King’s community, I extend a heartfelt congratulations to all members of the Class of 2020. We look forward to celebrating your academic and personal achievements with you in the future.

While these are unprecedented times, one thing remains the same and that is our focus on maintaining the impressive King’s Cares attitude towards the most important aspect of all: the health and well-being of our community members.

We are continually developing ways to improve the online delivery of the King’s experience. Immediately after becoming a largely virtual campus, King’s launched a unique call back system that allows individuals to submit a question through an online form and then receive a call back from an employee who is best suited to provide a response. Our staff and faculty are hosting virtual meetings with current and prospective students to provide information related to the King’s experience, and to help students prepare for the next step in their academic career.

An essential services team including employees from Physical Plant, Residence, King’s International, and Food Services, continues to maintain our beautiful campus both inside and out. This includes providing clean and safe residence space to students who were unable to return home due to travel restrictions or other issues.

King’s will offer more than 70 online courses across all disciplines this summer, including a new course taught by Professor Jordan Kotick from the School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics, that will look at the economic and market environment in the age of COVID-19. All summer courses can be completed anywhere in the world with reliable internet access as there will be no in-person exams.

However, as we move closer to the summer months, we know that many students are concerned about their employment options. Student Affairs, in collaboration with departments across King’s, launched an Employment and Student Support web page to provide current and graduating students with employment resources, and information about financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Content is also provided by King’s partners like the London Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), Immploy, Knighthunter, and Career Services at King’s and Western. Alumni and community members are invited to provide tips and ideas to share with students, and employers looking to hire King’s students or graduates can post jobs on the King’s Job Board. Visit www.kingsjobboard.ca for more information.
Alumni are also supporting current students and recent graduates through the Life After King’s Mentoring Program. This program matches alumni who are established in their career with students or graduates who are interested in career exploration. More information about the Life After King’s program is available on page 13. Thank you to all alumni who have expressed interest in, or who already are, supporting the career goals of students and graduates.

Another concern that students are facing is the substantial and unforeseen financial burdens caused by this health crisis. Many students have told me they are concerned about their ability to pay for food, rent, and other essentials, right now and in the coming months. I have also heard from members of the King’s community who have asked how they can help. I am continually amazed by the generosity of our community, and I am grateful for those who have already donated to the King’s Student Emergency Fund. I would like to extend a big thank you to King’s University College Students’ Council who generously stepped up to support their fellow students with a $40,000 donation to our Student Emergency Fund.

If you are able, I hope you will consider supporting King’s students. A donation of any amount will make a significant difference. More information about the Student Emergency Fund is available at www.kings.uwo.ca/StudentEmergencyFund.

A unique initiative that has grown out of social distancing is Alumni at Home, a collection of images and videos shared regularly on the King’s Alumni Facebook page. Content is submitted by alumni, and helps shine a light on positive, uplifting aspects of life during a global pandemic. I have enjoyed the creativity, positivity, and talent that has been shared by alumni contributors, and I look forward to watching the Alumni at Home initiative continue to grow and unite our community.

King’s faculty also continue to make significant contributions to the community. Not only have they adjusted their teaching to an online platform and worked to support our students in new ways, but also they are also providing their expertise on various subjects related to COVID-19.

Here are just a few examples of King’s faculty providing insight, information, and positivity:

- **Professor Carrie Arnold**, Thanatology, provided information about how parents and adults can support children who may be grieving the loss of celebrations, friendships, and expectations, which can lead to feelings of anger, confusion, sadness, and anxiety.

- **Professor Vincent Geloso**, Economics, examined the economic parallels between the Spanish flu and COVID-19, and the lessons that should be learned from this historic episode.

- **Professor Alison Meek**, History, provided insight into COVID-19 conspiracy theories and how they attempt to bring a sense of order to events that represent a significant disruption to our regular routine, but can also create fear, spread disinformation, and create more chaos.

- **Professor Joe Michalski**, Sociology, wrote about the personal and societal benefits that may come from the current health crisis. His message of finding “silver linings” during this challenging time can be read on page 15 of this issue of the King’s Herald.

- **Professor Paul Werstine ’70**, English, received a shout out from renowned actor Sir Patrick Stewart who has been recording videos of himself reading Shakespearean sonnets and posting them on his social media channels. The sonnets are from print editions produced by the Folger Shakespeare Library and edited by Barbara A. Mowat and Professor Werstine. In honour of Shakespeare’s 456th birthday, Dr. Werstine gave a reading of Sonnet 116 which was shared on the King’s Facebook page.
During difficult times such as these, we know that many people look to their faith community for prayer and support. With parishioners unable to gather in places of worship, Campus Ministry has provided opportunities for virtual gatherings, including Daily Prayer Live broadcasts on the King’s Campus Ministry Facebook page, pastoral counselling through virtual appointments, and Virtual Scripture Study through video conference. Campus Ministry also provided prayer and reflection resources to celebrate Holy Week.

The COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving. I encourage you to visit our COVID-19 page at www.kings.uwo.ca/covid-19/ for the latest information.

Although we don’t know when the campus will return to being the fully operational, vibrant and beautiful place that we all love, our community remains strong, connected, and committed to our values and vision as “a place to be, and a place to become.”

As always, take care of yourself, take care of each other, and we will take care of King’s for your return as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dave Malloy
Principal
King’s Commons on Richmond expands residence options

“King’s is delighted by this opportunity to offer yet another style of residence living, very near campus, to our students. We aim to give students a choice as to how they want to experience life at King’s. Residence living is an important part of the university experience. Not only is it safe and affordable, but it is a way to build community and lasting friendships,” says David Malloy, Principal.

The King’s Commons on Richmond will add to the already diverse inventory of residence accommodations, which includes traditional shared and single residence rooms in Alumni Court and Wemple Hall buildings; townhouse residences; upper-year housing-style residence in Epworth Place; and International House for international degree and exchange students.

New partnership supports career planning for international students

“Immploy offers opportunities for students to make valuable career connections in the local community, which will help them find careers in their chosen field,” says Linda Weber, Manager of King’s International. “When students can match their skills and knowledge with positions available in the job market, everyone benefits.”

An Immploy mentor program will offer training to those who wish to provide mentorship as it relates to their own career experiences. For example, mentors may choose to invite international student mentees to professional gatherings to introduce them to their professional network.

With the agreement, King’s is now an Immploy Corporate Champion. Joe Henry, Dean of Students, adds that this partnership is in line with the College’s commitment to support student transitions and success.

For more information about Immploy, visit www.immploy.ca.
Experiential learning trip leads to meeting Pope Francis

Experiential learning trips promise unique opportunities for students, but some who participated in this year’s Reading Week trip for the “Rome and the Christian Tradition” course could not have predicted that they’d find themselves sitting in the front row of a Papal Audience.

Prior to departing on the Rome trip, Colleen Sousa, fourth-year Honours Double Major in History and Religion & Society, suffered a broken leg. While waiting in the Vatican security line, she and classmate Danielle McCann, third-year Catholic Studies for Teachers student, were ushered through a different security line and taken to the front row where Colleen was invited to receive a blessing for those who were sick or injured.

As the Audience finished, Pope Francis came down the steps with his security and shook hands with all in the front row, including both Colleen and Danielle.

Danielle admits that when the Pope came up to her she was at a loss for words. “All I could do was stare! He had a soft smile on his face and, as I shook his hand, I couldn’t bring myself to say anything.” As a life-long Catholic, she describes that experience of meeting the head of the Catholic Church as surreal, and something she will be thankful for forever.

“It was overwhelming meeting him,” says Colleen. “I tentatively stuck my hand out and he actually reached out and grabbed my hand to shake it. When I looked at his face I could tell he was genuinely smiling, you could see it in his eyes, and I felt that he genuinely wished me better health.”

While the Papal Audience was certainly the highlight of the trip to Rome, overall the trip was very rewarding for the students.

“The trip was like a culmination of everything I have learned throughout my degree,” adds Colleen. “I thought back to my first year in the King’s Foundations in the Humanities program and couldn’t help but feel that it had all come full circle. It is one thing to learn about the Christian Tradition in a classroom, but it is a totally different experience when you get to go to places that are influential and important to Christianity.”

Watch the video of the Papal audience at www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9vQYHNu5e0
The School of MEM receives status from Chartered Financial Analysts program

The School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics (School of MEM) has been accepted into the Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA) Institute University Affiliation Program, joining 36 universities in Canada and 595 others across the world that participate in the program. Ivey Business School at Western is the only other school in London that has been recognized with this status.

“This international affiliation is an honour and an amazing opportunity for King’s,” says Dr. Grigori Erenburg, Director of the School of MEM.

To earn the status, the School of MEM’s Bachelor of Management and Organizations Studies (BMOS) – Finance and Administration (Honors Specialization) has been acknowledged as incorporating at least 70 percent of the CFA Program Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK). As well, the program is recognized for placing emphasis on the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. The BMOS – Finance and Administration (Honors Specialization) program will position students to obtain the Chartered Financial Analyst ® designation.

“This is such an incredible opportunity for King’s students, alumni and employers,” says Dr. Josephine Gemson, Assistant Professor of the School of MEM. “This designation is truly worthy and useful for students who intend to specialize in finance. Employers recognize and value the CFA designation for its comprehensiveness, relevancy to the industry, subject coverage, and focus on ethics.”

Dr. Gemson explains the BMOS – Finance and Administration (Honors Specialization) was the School of MEM’s first choice for the CFA Institute University Affiliation Program because it has the most comprehensive coverage of the CBOK. She adds the next step will be applying for designation for other programs including BMOS – Finance & Administration (Specialization) and Finance and Wealth Management Program, which is a joint program with Fanshawe College.

“The designation is the most globally renowned, accepted, and widely recognized professional credential in finance. The overall benefits for being in this program are hard to overstate,” says Dr. Gemson.

The affiliation will provide credible recognition to the quality and relevance of the BMOS – Finance and Administration (Honors Specialization) program, strengthen King’s relationship with the CFA Institute, improve programs’ curriculums and keep them in line with developments in the financial industry, and provide direct financial benefits to students planning to take the CFA exam.

Live From Westminster

If you missed David Malloy, Principal, performing with Rick McGhie at Homecoming 2019, you can still hear his musical talents online from his Live from Westminster concert series performance in December 2019. The concert series showcases the unique musical talents of faculty, staff, and students from across campus. Dr. Malloy, who graduated from Western with a BA ’83 and MA ’86, is a lifelong musician who often uses his skills to support charities in his community.

As part of our commitment to working with our local communities, the School of Social Work is pleased to have partnered with the Salvation Army Centre of Hope’s new Recovery Community Centre.

The new Recovery Community Centre, housed within London’s Salvation Army Centre of Hope, provides a holistic approach to those in the community who are seeking recovery from substance use, recognizing they may also be experiencing other significant life factors that could hinder their health and well-being. This Centre was developed in response to the current needs in London, Ontario.

In early 2019, the seeds for a social work clinic within the new Centre were planted as we began discussions around providing social work support for their programming under the umbrella of the Recovery Community Centre. Leaders from both the School of Social Work and the Salvation Army met to tour the site and discuss facilitating a Social Work Student Placement Clinic. The partnership is a significant win for both organizations in meeting local community needs. In an effort to inform programming with social work best practices, a Social Work Graduate Student Assistant was provided to build a foundational framework, establishing protocols and policies around assessment, intake, and intervention delivery.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, six Social Work students were placed at the Salvation Army Centre of Hope’s Recovery Community Centre to further develop programming and begin to deliver individual and group counselling to in-patient service users. It is anticipated that the Social Work Student Placement Clinic will grow to include support for the broader London community and, as a result, the Clinic will serve as the site for an increasing number of Social Work student placements in the future.

Increased competition for experiential learning from many different disciplines has greatly diminished the availability of suitable social work placements. At the same time, the social service sector has been faced with sky-rocketing demands for their programs and services with fewer resources to deliver them. Given this reality, this is an exciting partnership for the School of Social Work that will provide guaranteed placement opportunities for our students at various levels. Through these placements, students will receive relevant and meaningful direct practice experience while increasing the capacity of the Recovery Community Centre to meet the needs of its clients.

If you or your organization are looking for new and innovative ways to support your programs, services and ultimately your clients, please contact the Field Education Office in the School of Social Work. We’re dedicated to growth and ready to grow with you!

|$50 for 50|
Commemorating School of Social Work 50th anniversary

To commemorate our 50th anniversary, the School of Social Work is creating an award to support BSW or MSW students who are parents. The award will provide much needed financial support to students who are pursuing their education and passion in the field of Social Work.

Please join in our anniversary celebrations by making a donation in support of this award. Financial support from our alumni demonstrates our profession’s dedication to helping individuals, families, groups, and communities to enhance their individual and collective well-being.
Life After King’s
Alumni supporting students

The Life After King’s program continued to grow and gain popularity in 2019-2020. This year, nine alumni panel events were hosted for different faculties between September and March. One late-spring event was cancelled but has been rescheduled for the fall of 2020. More than 30 alumni returned to King’s to speak about their experiences as graduates with approximately 400 students in attendance across all events.

Life After King’s alumni panels feature 3-5 graduates representing different fields. Students can learn from, meet, and ask questions of a range of professionals who all attended the same program in which the students are enrolled. Alumni are invited to speak about their time as King’s students, additional training or schooling they pursued, their career paths, and advice they have for students wishing to enter their line of work.

Spenser Henstock is a fourth-year student in Psychology with a certificate in Professional Communication. “I noted each Life After King’s event on my calendar over the past year and attended many. I think about the advice many King’s alumni shared at their Life After King’s sessions, specifically that one’s career is a journey. As a graduating student, that perspective has helped me focus on my school work, networking, and professional development, especially during this uncertain global and economic time.”

For the hosting academic departments, the value of the program is multifaceted. Some faculty members look at the panels as an opportunity to demonstrate to earlier-year students the value of their specific program, as students are still deciding on their degree module options. Others look at it as an opportunity to demonstrate to senior-year students the variety of career and academic options available to them after graduation.

“Life after King’s is a wonderful way for our students to imagine what their future might be like,” says Dr. Darcy Harris, Chair of the Thanatology Department. “It’s one thing to read about potential careers, but to actually interact with people who are just a little ahead of them provides students with real-life inspiration and very practical suggestions toward their future work in the field.”

The events are run in partnership between Alumni and Development, Student Affairs, and the hosting departments. Kayley MacGregor ‘17, Experiential Learning Coordinator at King’s, consistently receives positive feedback from students. “What I hear most often is that it helped open their minds to career possibilities they may not have considered before. They also say they felt reassured that their experience was normal and that they are on the right track – even if they are feeling lost at times.”
For Joe Henry, Dean of Students, the value of the Life After King’s program can’t be understated. “This program is at the heart of King’s as a place where students can be and become. The individual stories of discovery shared by alumni help students to realize new career opportunities; where they can leverage their total experience at King’s toward paths they never imagined for themselves. I think this is part of the secret sauce we have fostered at King’s with a strong and dedicated alumni community, committed to giving back to students.”

In addition to panel events on campus, Life After King’s offers alumni mentorship for students and recent graduates looking to connect with alumni in their field of interest. Violette Khammad ‘18 is a recent graduate who has completed a Master’s degree and is just beginning her job search. “I am ready to kickstart my career, and I am so thankful for the opportunity to be connected to my alumna mentor, who is well-established in the field that I am interested in [pursuing].” For Violette, her mentorship interest was in a specific field within a specific city. Fortunately, King’s alumni all over the globe are willing to assist students and recent graduates in finding their way. “Our shared King’s experience gave us an instant bond! I found it valuable to meet in person to ask questions about my mentor’s life after King’s, to gain insight into what her career is like, while learning about other potential career avenues that I can pursue. Even after our meeting, I am happy to stay connected with my mentor and have her as a resource.”

If you are interested in speaking at a future Life After King’s event or in mentoring a King’s student or graduate, please complete the Career Services Volunteer form at kings.uwo.ca/career-volunteer or contact alumni@kings.uwo.ca.
Dr. Emily Landon, an infectious disease epidemiologist, recently informed us of COVID-19’s seriousness and offered practical advice about quelling its spread. The pandemic demands a swift, comprehensive response. As Dr. Landon noted, sacrifices must be made that include measures such as sheltering in place to limit residents from non-essential travel:

“A successful shelter in place means that you will feel like it was all for nothing. And you would be right. Because ‘nothing’ means that nothing happened to your family, and that’s what we are going for here.”

The various interventions designed to reduce the spread of infections are known as “transmission reduction” and “physical distancing” measures. These include everything from such basic practices as vigorous handwashing and not sharing cutlery, to full-blown quarantines. The decision to self-isolate when one is ill for at least 2-3 weeks remains the single best “anti-viral” medicine for everyone. That will slow the spread of COVID-19 while buying time to develop vaccines, implement additional public health measures, and ensure the health care system can manage new cases effectively.
The epidemiologist’s powerful message has prompted some sober reflection: Are there any positive aspects of a pandemic? Yes, remarkably, there are some potential benefits. And they can be genuinely transformative.

We learned when we were quite young of the “silver linings” that surround every cloud. These pandemic clouds have coalesced into a “perfect storm” of sorts: the continuing health risks involved, the mounting toll on human life, and an economic calamity unmatched in our lifetimes. Yet despite the health and economic problems that pandemics create, there are “silver linings” we should remember.

To see these benefits requires what psychologists call a cognitive “reframe,” which means learning how to look at a situation in new ways. That is what I am suggesting we do here, at least in part, as we deal with the gathering clouds.

Among the many personal and societal benefits worth noting, here are four of each:

**Personal Benefits**

1. Books and blogs. There are far too many great books to read, intelligent discussions to digest, and even great movies to watch while “home alone.” Sign up for The Great Courses online. I point out to my university students the privileges they enjoy simply because their “job” demands that they read, reflect, and write for a few hours each day. You can do the same. There’s far too much to be learned and, as you may recall from *The Lion King*, “There’s more to see than can ever be seen, more to do than can ever be done.”

2. Rediscovering talents. Not only can you consume others’ works, but you have your own creative capacities. What songs and poems have you been meaning to write? What paintings or drawings might you sketch? Alternatively, what repairs need to be done, or shelves need to be built, or outlets need to be installed? Everyone has special talents, even if they’ve been dormant for years. Reawaken your own imaginative potential and unleash your creative genius!

3. Reconnecting. Everyone spends at least some time already in the company of friends and family. Perhaps, some might argue, too much time! But the time normally spent with our loved ones often feels constrained by the pressures of our everyday lives and hectic schedules. Our defences are already on high alert; we need a vacation. Imagine instead actually having more free time. We are much better people when we are relaxed. When framed this way, perhaps you can use this time to reconnect with your “best” self and with others.

4. Exercising. We have long understood the benefits of exercising, but our conventional lifestyles often impinge on our opportunities. Now a great many people are rediscovering the joys of taking walks, riding bicycles, shooting baskets in front of one’s house, or taking shots on net while rollerblading. Saving perhaps two hours per day through reduced commuting means less stress and more time for exercise—a classic win-win scenario.
Societal Benefits

1. Pollution reduction. The pandemic has created a natural experiment that has already produced compelling evidence. The waters of Venice’s canals have cleared dramatically, while the pollutants above China’s most congested cities have decreased. We obviously cannot simply shut down the economy permanently, but the sanctions on travel and business have had an immediate environmental impact. We have learned we are not helpless to combat global problems if we commit en masse to certain changes. Mother Earth is incredibly resilient. And so are we.

2. Rethinking work. We have an opportunity to reconsider our work habits, including many jobs that currently involve commuting. Much can be changed, both for the benefit of the environment and our personal well-being. We can work from home more, communicate virtually, and conference through Zoom. Imagine shifting our work habits to rebuild our economies and lifestyles in a greener direction.

3. Slowing down and connecting. Perhaps we might slow down to get to know each other better or lend a hand to people we thought were strangers. The scientific research has long demonstrated that we reap tremendous psychological and health benefits from helping others and creating more supportive communities. Fewer stressed out, anxious, and depressed people and a more balanced approach to life almost certainly will result in lower crimes rates and less predatory behavior in general. We are in this together, and, if we connect and face the challenges together, the gains will be enormous.

4. A global re-set. Perhaps the greatest “gift” the pandemic offers is a re-set button for humanity. People are realizing that our seemingly innocuous actions directly impact each other. Individual liberties are foundational, but somehow even conservative politicians are now proposing versions of universal healthcare and universal basic income to help the vulnerable and vast majorities of the population adversely affected.

The pandemic clearly brings with it some dark clouds. However, it also has created the necessity for change, a change that many of us probably have already sensed was necessary. The pandemic reminds us of our common humanity and our precarious place in the Earth’s grand experiment. We realize that we have time to readjust our personal habits and tweak our institutional arrangements.

The classic song by Spirit in 1970 reminds us: “It’s nature’s way of receiving you. It’s nature’s way of retrieving you. It’s nature’s way of telling you something’s wrong.”

A half-century later, the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us “something’s wrong,” but simultaneously has created a remarkable sense of clarity in our “2020 vision.” Why not use our newfound knowledge and wisdom to proactively and collectively solve some of our most stubborn problems?

Excelsior!
As King’s classes and services moved online, and scheduled events were postponed or cancelled, the Alumni and Development office launched the “Alumni at Home” initiative as a way for the King’s community to stay connected. Posting daily through King’s University College Alumni social media channels, alumni and friends are sharing uplifting messages, helpful tips and tricks, and glimpses into their lives at home during this unique time. Facebook Live events have also provided alumni with a platform to share their special skills and talents.

Share your inspirational stories, tips for working from home, creative ideas for educating and entertaining children, and self-care recommendations with the King’s community by emailing alumni@kings.uwo.ca.

Aleesa Prendergast (class of 2020) reminds the King’s community to get outside when you need to. “Spending time in the sunshine gives me the extra motivation I need to push through my schoolwork!”

Many alumni are using their time at home to rediscover old hobbies. Corey Cooke ’01 has brought a Robotron arcade game back to life for in home entertainment. No word on whether his kids have beat his high score yet. Have you picked up an old hobby again since starting social distancing?

Laura Fyfe ’12 and husband Tyler Marr celebrated their three-year anniversary on April 8. To celebrate, they put on their wedding attire and attended a virtual “White and Bright” event in support of Pathstone Mental Health in Niagara. Happy Anniversary Laura and Tyler!

An avid crocheter, Tabitha has begun designing her own patterns, starting with a collection of cacti!

Many of us are spending time either picking up old hobbies or learning new ones. Associate alumna, Tabitha Wills, is doing a bit of both.

Cristina Bacara ’18 is completing her Master’s in Public Administration at Western, and one of many King’s alumni still burning the midnight oil to finish her term as a grad student. Good luck Cristina, and to all of those still working hard on their studies!
Ahmet Faham ’08 began writing a story 11 years ago that he never intended to share with others beyond his family and friends. In light of the current situation, he decided to publish his story “The Ties That Bind” as a way to spread some positivity. You can read Ahmet’s story online at https://www.wattpad.com/story/219944180-the-ties-that-bind and follow @thetiesthatbind on Instagram for future updates.

Proud Mom moments: when your kid graduates from King’s! Thanks to Kevin Metcalfe ’19 for sharing this photo of him and his Mom celebrating his Convocation last year.

Jeremy Santucci ’12 has been a regular globe trotter for many years now (here he is at Petra in Jordan in July). He has a great perspective for those who love to travel, but can’t right now.

“One of the reasons I enjoy travelling so much is to learn about different cultures and peoples. This doesn’t always have to be done in person. There are many ways you can still learn and explore virtually. Many leading museums are now offering virtual tours. I’ve also listened to a lot of travel podcasts, and watched documentaries and YouTube videos.”

Today’s post from Mary O’Connor ’10 is a “shelfie” of her must-read list. Many of us are looking at stacks of books that we’ve been meaning to read, but maybe haven’t had the time for. For others, it’s a perfect time to pick up an old favourite. What are you reading right now?

Thank you to Heather and Greg Doran, both class of ’90, who have supported the King’s Student Emergency Fund. “It is our pleasure to support King’s students,” says Heather. “We have always wanted to help students who find themselves in tough positions, because although it may be temporary, it feels like the end of the world at the time.”

Our current situation has a big impact on our alumni who love to travel. Jeremy Santucci ’12 has been a regular globe trotter for many years now (here he is at Petra in Jordan in July). He has a great perspective for those who love to travel, but can’t right now.

“One of the reasons I enjoy travelling so much is to learn about different cultures and peoples. This doesn’t always have to be done in person. There are many ways you can still learn and explore virtually. Many leading museums are now offering virtual tours. I’ve also listened to a lot of travel podcasts, and watched documentaries and YouTube videos.”

Today’s post from Mary O’Connor ’10 is a “shelfie” of her must-read list. Many of us are looking at stacks of books that we’ve been meaning to read, but maybe haven’t had the time for. For others, it’s a perfect time to pick up an old favourite. What are you reading right now?

Thank you to Heather and Greg Doran, both class of ’90, who have supported the King’s Student Emergency Fund. “It is our pleasure to support King’s students,” says Heather. “We have always wanted to help students who find themselves in tough positions, because although it may be temporary, it feels like the end of the world at the time.”

Ahmet Faham ’08 began writing a story 11 years ago that he never intended to share with others beyond his family and friends. In light of the current situation, he decided to publish his story “The Ties That Bind” as a way to spread some positivity. You can read Ahmet’s story online at https://www.wattpad.com/story/219944180-the-ties-that-bind and follow @thetiesthatbind on Instagram for future updates.

Proud Mom moments: when your kid graduates from King’s! Thanks to Kevin Metcalfe ’19 for sharing this photo of him and his Mom celebrating his Convocation last year.
Mark your calendars for Homecoming 
October 15-18

Are you ready to celebrate Homecoming 2020? It’s never too early to start making your reunion plans! Save the date for King’s Homecoming events.

Stay tuned for details!

Relive Homecoming 2019:
www.kings.uwo.ca/homecoming

Grad years ending in 0 and 5 will celebrate their anniversaries!
Alumni Events

Hamilton Chapter Festive Lunch

Hamilton area alumni were treated to a delicious lunch at one of the city’s newest restaurants. The food was delicious, and for many it was a first opportunity to meet Dr. Malloy.

London Chapter Shoebox Event

King’s alumni hosted its first shoebox event in support of the King’s Campus Ministry outreach program at St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre. Alumni were asked to bring shoeboxes and gift items, such as hats, mitts, socks, toiletries, and treats, and spent the evening wrapping gifts while sipping on eggnog and enjoying Christmas cookies. Shoeboxes from alumni contributed to more than 400 shoeboxes donated by the King’s community and distributed to members of the community who might not otherwise receive gifts at Christmas.

Toronto Chapter Merry Hours

Alumni in the GTA gathered for a festive pint with Dr. David Malloy at Walrus Pub & Beer Hall in downtown Toronto. It was a great networking event for alumni in the city, and an opportunity for friends to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

Principal’s Roundtable Events

Early in the New Year, Dr. David Malloy hosted alumni events in Toronto, Hamilton, and London, where he spoke about his first 6 months as principal and his vision for the future of King’s. Each event featured lively discussion and insight from the alumni in attendance.

MEM Career Day

The School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics hosted its annual Career Day in February. The event featured nine alumni speakers, as well as information booths with local employers, helping students plan for their futures. Thank you to this year’s alumni speakers:

- Daniel Getachew ’15 BMOS
- Delina Ivanova ’12 BMOS
- Peter Luchak ’86 BA
- Joe MacDonald ’80 BA
- Andrew MacNeil ’18 BMOS
- Jason Peetsma ’01 BA
- Renfang Tian ’13 BA
- Jeff Trang ’13 BMOS
- Laura Wimperis ’16 BMOS

ROOM at the Grand Theatre

On March 10, King’s alumni joined Western alumni for the opening night performance of ROOM at the Grand Theatre, followed by a private Q&A with author, Emma Donohue.
Stay tuned!

Planning is in progress for fall/winter 2020 alumni events.

Visit www.kings.uwo.ca/alumni for updates on virtual and in-person events, including the King’s golf tournament, chapter events, and Life After King’s alumni panels.

Sign up for the King’s alumni e-newsletter to receive updates in your inbox.
A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our world has changed drastically since my last reflection in the King’s Herald. We at King’s, like everyone, have had to adapt to an ever-changing environment as we navigate through a pandemic.

Our Alumni and Development team has moved to home offices and is focused on bringing our alumni community together through Alumni at Home. I hope you’ve been able to follow us on our Facebook and Instagram channels to see this new program in action. You, our alumni, are doing amazing things out there – even from home. We’ve included a few samples in this issue. Be sure to continue following us on social media as this program evolves.

Many of you have expressed a desire to support current King’s students during this crisis. The King’s Student Emergency Fund is a great way to do this, providing support for students who are struggling to pay rent, buy groceries, and otherwise manage their new realities. For more information go to page 24.

We have also found ourselves changing direction in other ways. There were different types of articles and topics planned for this issue, but we felt it necessary to hit “pause” due to the new realities we have been facing in recent weeks. Much planning goes into each issue of the King’s Herald, and our goal always has been to share valuable updates from campus as well as interesting stories from our alumni and campus community.

We would like to invite you to share your thoughts on what you would most like to see from the King’s Herald in future issues. Please write to alumni@kings.uwo.ca and let us know the topics that are of most interest, whether it is updates from beloved faculty, new initiatives on campus, or alumni making news. We look forward to hearing from you!

With best wishes in the coming weeks – please take care of yourself, take care of each other, and we will take care of King’s.

Jana Gordon, MA, CFRE
Executive Director,
Alumni and Development
Foundation Updates

During this unprecedented time, many students are facing substantial and unforeseen financial burdens. The King’s Student Emergency Fund provides financial assistance for:

- food purchases and other essential costs for financially disadvantaged students
- housing challenges for those unable to return home to their family
- securing an internet connection at home
- other financial hardships that have presented themselves due to the health crisis

To donate to the Student Emergency Fund, visit www.kings.uwo.ca/StudentEmergencyFund
Every gift makes a difference.

Supporting mature learners

To ensure opportunities and support for all students, King’s was pleased to announce new scholarships for mature learners (aged 25 years or older) effective fall 2019.

The Laura L. Newsome Mature Student Award was made possible by the generosity of John Anderson ’77, who established this award in honour of his sister, Laura Newsome, who successfully attained her Master of Social Work while raising two young children.

The King’s University College Staff Association also established two awards for mature students that will help recipients balance work, life, and education.

Joe Henry, Dean of Students, notes that supporting learners of all ages sends a message to students that learning never ends. “Mature learners can be tremendous role models for learning at any age,” he explains. “These scholarships show the College’s overall dedication to the diverse age range of our student population and our desire to support their needs so they can be successful.”

During the 2019-2020 academic year, King’s had more than 600 registered students aged 25 and over.

Amanda Nepean-Molesworth (left) received the 2019-20 King’s University College Staff Association Mature Student Award, which was presented by Denise Cooke on behalf of the Staff Association at the Student Awards Ceremony.

Luisa Bonilla Alvarez was the 2019-20 recipient of the Laura L. Newsome Mature Student Award. Joe Henry, Dean of Students, presented the award at the Student Awards Ceremony in November 2019.
The Power of Now
For Valerie Terejko ’10 (nee Morrison), there’s no time like the present to prepare for the future.

Many people think of a will as something they can put off until “later.” However, uncertain times like those we are currently facing with COVID-19 remind us of the importance of being prepared for the unthinkable. Not only does a will provide you with peace of mind, but also it ensures your loved ones are both informed of your wishes and cared for in the event that something happens to you.

Valerie Terejko ’10 (nee Morrison), firmly believes it is important to ensure your affairs are in order, and she recently confirmed her intentions to leave a gift to King’s in her will.

With a career in fundraising, Valerie, Manager of Development at McMaster University, has substantial knowledge of the benefits of planned giving. She also understands the repercussion of not having a will in place. “Preparing a will requires conversations that many people find difficult, but it is important to be thoughtful and organized in your planning so your loved ones are not burdened, especially when they are dealing with difficult emotions like grief.”

Valerie views her will as an overall representation of who she is today, and the impact she wants to leave as her legacy. “Of course, first and foremost my husband and I ensured that our two children will be taken care of, but we also want our will to represent what is important to us.”

When choosing to include a charitable gift in her will, Valerie explains that King’s was an obvious choice because of the significant impact her undergraduate years have had on her life. “Not only did I make lifelong friendships at King’s, but I also discovered interests that have led me on my career path. I am grateful for the opportunities I had at King’s, including the financial support I received through donor-funded student awards and bursaries. It was a privilege to receive this support, and I want to ensure that future students have the same access to a bright future.”

If you have questions about leaving a gift in your will, or if you would like to share your King’s story, please contact Kim Malcolm at kim.malcolm@kings.uwo.ca or 519-433-3491 x4565 / 1-800-265-4406 x4565.

Honouring Emil Pietruszewski
On October 29, 2019, the King’s community learned the heartbreaking news that one of our students, Emil Pietruszewski, tragically passed away as a result of a multi-vehicle collision. Emil was in his fourth year of an honours specialization in Criminology and major in Psychology, with plans to pursue a career in forensic psychology.

“He put his heart and soul into whatever he was doing,” said friend and classmate Nistha Chakraborty who also volunteered with Emil in a psychology research lab. “He was a very hard-working and earnest person,” she added. “He would make anyone feel comfortable and at ease.”

Hailley White, 2019-20 King’s University College Students’ Council President, described Emil as a giving person. “You could always count on Emil to show up,” she said. “He cared about other people and cared about making the world a better place, especially through what he was learning in psychology.”

Through conversations with Emil’s family and friends, it was decided that the best way to honour Emil’s passion for helping those around him is to establish a student award in his memory. This award will support students in Sociology, Criminology, and/or Psychology who share the same values and dedication to helping others as Emil demonstrated during his time at King’s.

To learn more about honouring Emil Pietruszewski, please contact Kim Malcolm at kim.malcolm@kings.uwo.ca or 519-433-3491 x4565 / 1-800-265-4406 x4565.
Salvatore Restivo ’76 is currently serving as Priest-Chaplain at St. Mary’s General Hospital in Kitchener, Ontario.

M.J. Perry ’78 earned a Master of Divinity from Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, in 1986, and was ordained in the United Church of Canada 1989. She served four pastoral charges and as a nursing home chaplain, before asking to be placed on the Discontinued Service List (v) in 2008. She went back to school at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary for a Master of Theology, graduating in 2014. In addition to her continuing education, M.J. was married in 1986, became a parent in 1990, and widowed in 2017.

Christopher Makuch ’93 was appointed as Vice President of MaisonBrison Communications Inc. in Toronto, effective January 6, 2020.

Robert Bell ’95 was one of nine recipients of the 2019 Governor General’s History Award for Excellence in Teaching. He was recognized for his Grade 5/6 class project “Who was Hazel Layden?” that investigated the life of 14-year-old Hazel, who died of Spanish flu in 1918.

Kevin Van Lierop ’05 and Michelle Foglton ’13 were married on September 28, 2019, at King’s. Kevin recently completed a Master of Adult Education from St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia.

Kelli Houle (nee Cowley) ’07 and her husband welcomed their second daughter, Charleigh Marie Houle on February 24, 2020. She was 8.3lbs and 22.5” long. Mom, Dad and big sister Rhyan are in love.

Matthew Wilson ’07 was recognized as a Certified Specialist in Real Estate Law by the Law Society of Ontario in October 2019.

Paul Wilton ’07 received a 2020 London West Community Recognition Award from Peggy Sattler, MPP, for his volunteer work, dedication, and commitment to his community.

Andrew Macdonald ’08 published his novel When We Were Vikings in January 2020. The novel is described as “an uplifting debut about an unlikely heroine whose journey will leave you wanting to embark on a quest of your own.” It was listed in the February 3, 2020, issue of People magazine as one of the best new books.

Thomas Cooke ’11 was appointed Manager of Privacy, Ethics and Internal Threat Assessment at the Centre for Advanced Computing. This is a new position created as a result of new Ontario government legislation related to COVID-19.

William Denis ’12 completed Ironman 70.3 Triathlon in Muskoka in 2019, and is signed up for the full Ironman in Mont Tremblant in 2020.

Rachel Robinson ’12 and Joshua Blackmore ’07 were married in May 2017. Their daughter, Bella Maria, was born in August 2018. They currently live in Toronto.
Barry Yaverbaum ’66, who passed away on April 10, 2020.


Joseph “Joe” MacDonald ’80, who passed away on February 12, 2020. Joe was a dedicated volunteer, passionate ambassador, and loyal alumnus of King’s. He gave back to King’s as a volunteer with the King’s University College Foundation, as a speaker for the School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics Career Day events, and as a donor. Joe was an inspiration to many – from current students to Foundation Board members, and he will be greatly missed.

Paula Lenardon ’83, who passed away peacefully on November 5, 2019.

Emma Hunter ’13 works as a campus missionary with Catholic Christian Outreach at Queen’s University. She and her husband Michael recently had their first baby, a daughter named Sophia.

Lanny Fisher ’15 and his wife Karla Rexer welcomed their beautiful baby son Kaiden Fisher on December 12, 2019.

Sam Boer ’17, who performs under the name “Samson Wrote”, was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award in the “Pushing the Boundaries” category for his album, Pigeon. Listen to the album or purchase it online at samsonwrote.com. Sam completed his Master of Arts degree in Literatures of Modernity at Ryerson University, and received the MA in Literatures of Modernity Award for the Best Essay in the program.

Nicole Szklarczyk ’19 was awarded an SSHRC Graduate Scholarship and will begin pursuing her MA in English at Queen’s University in fall 2020.

Emma Wood, student, was awarded a SSHRC Graduate Scholarship and will begin pursuing her MA in English at McMaster University in fall 2020.

Paris Semansky (nee Meilleur), associate alumna, along with husband Mike and daughter Anna, welcomed Mira Rose Meilleur Semansky at home on March 22, 2020.

In Memoriam

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of:

Barry Yaverbaum ’66, who passed away on April 10, 2020.


Joseph “Joe” MacDonald ’80, who passed away on February 12, 2020. Joe was a dedicated volunteer, passionate ambassador, and loyal alumnus of King’s. He gave back to King’s as a volunteer with the King’s University College Foundation, as a speaker for the School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics Career Day events, and as a donor. Joe was an inspiration to many – from current students to Foundation Board members, and he will be greatly missed.

Paula Lenardon ’83, who passed away peacefully on November 5, 2019.

Emil Pietruszewski, student, who passed away on October 29, 2019.

Ross Gibbons, former part-time Political Science Instructor, who passed away on December 9, 2019. Ross was well-known to the King’s community and taught at King’s since the late 1990s.

Lesley Harman, Professor of Sociology, who passed away on December 28, 2019. Dr. Harman served on the faculty at King’s since 1988 and achieved Full Professor in 2004. She earned the Edward G. Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching for 1999-2000. She touched the lives of thousands of students and will be remembered for her passion for sociology and her deep concern for her students, earning her the playful nickname “Mother Bear.”
King’s University College alumni, feel confident with preferred rates from TD Insurance.

You could save with rates on car, home, condo and tenant’s insurance.

Get a quote and see how much you could save!

Go to tdinsurance.com/kingscollege
Or call 1-888-589-5656