



King's Convocation Celebration of Overcoming Challenges

October 17, 2022

London, ON – King's University College will be celebrating 120 students who will be graduating as part of [King's Fall Convocation](#) on October 19, 2022, including Ron Robert, 84, mature student and Alzheimer's spokesperson.

For each of the graduating students, walking across the stage at Convocation is an important step in their life's educational journey. This particular journey had a fair share of challenges. Most of the graduating students would have attended during the height of the pandemic and spent a great deal of time attending classes remotely while King's became a largely virtual campus.

Robert had his own set of challenges to overcome. Coming to King's in 2018 was part of Robert's strategy to fight the effects of Alzheimer's disease. Robert was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2016 and decided to go back to school to keep his brain stimulated to fight the effects of the disease. While he is proud and excited to graduate, Robert admits he is "really nervous" about taking part in Convocation, "but that was part of my bucket list – to cross the stage with the other graduates."

Robert will be graduating with a three-year Bachelor of Arts Major in Cross Disciplinary Studies and become part of the King's alumni family of over 20,000 graduates.

You can read the full story on Ron Robert's graduation [here](#).

Convocation will begin at 10 a.m. in Alumni Hall at Western University. King's will celebrate our graduates after the convocation ceremony at a reception in the Vitali Student Lounge in Monsignor Wemple Hall (located at King's at 266 Epworth Avenue). Parking will be available in Parking Lot 1 at King's, adjacent to Wemple.

Quotes:

Dr. Andrea Lawlor, Associate Professor of Political Science

"Working with Ron has been the privilege of a lifetime. It's so rare to meet a person with so much experience in the field that you're teaching, coupled with a willingness to share his experiences with the students. I would lecture on the constitution, but Ron was quite literally in the corridors of power where and when it was being negotiated. While I provided the theory and the context, Ron could share such fascinating insights into the negotiations and personalities behind these momentous events. Ron's experiences transcend so many areas of politics – he could teach a master class in the subject. Still, he is unfailingly, kind, humble and generous with the students."

Carol Walters, CEO, Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners - Elgin Middlesex and Oxford

“Through his studies at King’s and his dementia advocacy work, he has helped reshape the common (and often problematic) views around Alzheimer’s. Despite the challenges the disease may present over time, he is living his life to the fullest degree possible. And through his academic work among his student colleagues, he has broken through the ageism wall with his courage, openness, and sharing of his valuable life experiences.”

Paul Wilton, '07, Associate Registrar in Enrolment Services

“Ron’s been a wonderful addition to our campus. Always positive, Ron brightens up the day of everyone he interacts with. He engages in class discussions, contributing unique perspectives from a lifetime of experience. Ron takes time to connect with and support other students and is always willing to offer some wisdom to those in need.”

About King’s

King’s is a public Catholic University College that provides general and honours degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master's degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally autonomous, King’s is academically affiliated with Western University, and King’s graduates receive a Western University degree. King’s is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centered on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person.

For more information, please contact:

Jane Antoniak, MCM, APR
Director, Communications & Media Relations
King’s University College
266 Epworth Ave. London, ON
jane.antoniak@kings.uwo.ca
519-719-9366
@kingsatwestern
www.kings.uwo.ca