



UNIVERSITY OF  
**KING'S**  
COLLEGE • HALIFAX

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**University of King's College Alumni Association  
Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday, September 13, 2022  
4:30 p.m. Atlantic  
Virtual via Zoom**

**Present:** William Lahey, Adriane Abbott, Ian Whytock, Adria Young, Elizabeth Ryan, Mary Barker, Arthur Shears, Cynthia Pilichos, Taunya Dawson, Peter Dawson, Andrew MacDonald, Lesley-Ann Steelworthy, David Fletcher, Katie Merwin, Isabelle Reynolds, Jordan Roberts, Rachel Cadman, Elizabeth McNeil, Chris Luedecke, Kimberly Goss.

**Regrets:** Stuart Patillo, Sheima Benembarek, Victor Bomers.

- 1. Opening performance by Chris "Old Man" Luedecke.**
- 2. College Prayer read by Mary Barker.**
- 3. Necrology List read by Cynthia Pilichos.**

Susan (Price) Barrett, (BA(Hons)'78)  
Julian Cyril Bloomer, (1943)  
Derek Brown, (Friend of the College)  
Brian Burnell, (Friend of the College)  
Kim Cameron, (BSc'68, DCL'10)  
Carol Ann Charlebois, (DCnL'14)  
Barbara Corbin, (Friend of the College)  
Michel Deguy, (DCL'16)  
Corinne (Dares) Earle, (BA'53)  
Bruce Elrick, (1977)  
Thomas "Neville" Elwood, (Friend of the College) Richard Goldbloom, (Friend of the College)  
William Graham, (Friend of the College)  
Gordon Handspiker, (BA'72)  
Wayne Hankey, (BA(Hons)'65 and Inglis Professor)  
John Honderich, (DCL'15)  
Daphne (Ross) Hurst, (BJ'80)  
Donald Johnston, (DCL'99)

Kathleen Jones, (BJ(Hons)'19)  
Mary (Comeau) King, (BA'42)  
John Leefe, (BA'66, DCL'01)  
Marian (Huggard) Lines, (BA'56)  
Katherine MacDonald, (Friend of the College)  
Guy MacLean, (Friend of the College and Former Dean of Men) Carolyn Marshall,  
(BA'48)  
Alexa McDonough, (DCL'95)  
Jacqueline McMahon, (BSc'69)  
Stuart McPhee, (BA'69, HF'05)  
Elias Mendeloff, (current student)  
Margaret (Harris) Myles, (BA'65)  
Ian Parker, (1958)  
Dale Petley, (BA'79)  
George Phills, (BA'63)  
Alan Reesor, (DCnL'81)  
Iris (Martell) Richards, (BA'42, DCL'80)  
David Richey, (BA'75)  
Lloyd Ripley, (MDiv'73)  
Anne "Nan" Robertson, (Student)  
Phoebe Roper, (Friend of the College)  
Muriel Smyth, (BSc'49)  
Harry Steele, (Friend of the College)  
Pearl (Mauger) Whittier, (1959)  
Marjorie "Budge" (Archibald) Wilson, (1946)  
John Yogis, (Friend of the College)

#### **4. Alumni Association President's welcome and introductions.**

Ian Whytock welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the AGM.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 02 June 2021**

Motion: (Barker/Dawson) that the minutes of 02 June 2021 be approved. Carried.

#### **6. University President's remarks**

President William Lahey prefaced his remarks with a note that, while Move-In Day and the beginning of the year went wonderfully, the College is very aware of young people in the community who are struggling with serious mental health challenges, and for whom the pandemic and the response to the pandemic has made a significant and challenging impact.

The College is committed to responding to anyone with those challenges by drawing on its tradition and culture of strong community, strong friendships, and additional professional resources where needed. The College is committed to the wellbeing and success of its young people, but the President noted that the circumstances for young people are very challenging at this time. He also noted that when he first arrived at King's, relationships between students, faculty, and the administration had been rather adversarial but that, in recent months especially, the KSU, while maintaining its strong positions of advocacy on behalf of its members, has become more vocally supportive of the university as it responds to the KSU's strong advocacy and needs of students with improved collegial governance and significant accomplishments for the long-term success of the university and students. The President remarked that this was his most important remark – that the strong relationships at King's reflect how the University describes itself and its community; it is friendly, and more than that, it is loving. King's is a place where the language of love and care, concern, and friendship is not just language to be used, but it is practiced and evident as people live and work together.

The major renovation project of Alex Hall was completed under budget and on-time (by hours), but on time, nonetheless, only withstanding a supply-chain delay with a mechanical component of the elevator, which will be functional by October. The pathway from the Quad to Alex Hall is not only accessible but stunningly beautiful and lives up to its persistent beauty and grandeur. Several rooms and washrooms can now accommodate students for whom accessibility is required; not only are the rooms beautiful, but they are possibly the most beautiful rooms on campus. Prince Hall renovations were also completed – the acoustics of the room have improved, and it is a more inclusive space with the removal of the former president's portraits which were almost exclusively white male portraits. These portraits are now on display in the Library's gallery. These renos are a major step towards creating an accessible community, as is the President's mandate.

The President also remarked on the approved Action Plan, titled *Towards a Culture of Consent and Respect*, and its imminent implementation resulting from the Janice Rubin report. This process will give the College the guidance it needs in terms of accountability for the past while accelerating progress underway of increased awareness of sexualized violence, its prevention, and how to respond to it appropriately when it happens (the College is honest and transparent in the assumption that sexualized violence will persist to some degree, as it may never be possible to extinguish it completely from a community). The President and many members of the King's community are proud of the work undertaken to produce the Action Plan.

The Board of Governors came to two major decisions in June: 1. With the encouragement of Douglas Ruck, the Board will hear more agenda items on EDI and reconciliation, and 2. The Board, along with the administration and faculty, approved the College as a signatory on *The Scarborough National Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Higher Education: Principles, Actions, and Accountabilities*, which is very significant. The College has committed to ambitious and aggressive action towards making King's a much more welcoming community to Black students, faculty, and staff. Of note, King's is the smallest school to sign onto the Charter.

Additionally, \$600 thousand has been approved over the next five years to create a program for Mi'kmaw students who want to study in the undergraduate journalism program. Up to three

Mi'kmaw students per year will be admitted to study without tuition expenses from scholarships, bursaries, and tuition waivers. The also includes establishing a list of initiatives to make all Indigenous people studying or working at King's feel more comfortable, adding an Indigenous Student Advisor, closer relationships to Dalhousie, designated space on campus for Indigenous students, and an exciting relationship with MSVU to work together in supporting prospective Indigenous students, with more hiring planned from the Indigenous and black communities, to add to the hires from the recent years from those communities.

The President remarked on the College's increased attention to an experiential learning approach, in the King's Experiential Learning Program and the Public Humanities program. These programs have been attracting more attention, initially from students and now externally from the wider community, who has shown surprise that King's is interested in applied and experiential learning. MITACS and King's have a partnership underway, with more info to come.

The Journalism School is now The School of Journalism, Writing & Publishing. In addition, a second MFA will launch next year, which is hoped will be the foundation for building a new space on campus for the Journalism school, with a modern gymnasium and athletic facility, as well.

Ian Whytock asked whether experiential learning has been driven by students or from administration. The President replied that it is a shared initiative, in response to a growing trend to challenge the value of a humanities education. Since his installation, the President has led efforts to create opportunities for students to gain valuable work experience while studying the humanities at King's. Increasingly, students are concerned about employment prospects. He noted, however, that many companies and industries value students who are trained in the humanities, social sciences, and philosophies, including and especially in tech and business.

Arthur Shears wondered what else King's can do to make students job ready. The President noted initiatives that include strong links between alumni and new graduates; an appreciation that an education in Journalism is a very good background for a wide range of career options; and a slate of initiatives underway over the next few years to create more opportunities.

Adriane Abbott added that, when possible, the President hosts Alumni Lunch & Learns in the President's Lodge on topics of interest to students, in addition to the newly created Careers after King's Committee, which will be focused on increased networking opportunities for young alumni.

Isabelle Reynolds expressed concern about how the administration has responded to student feedback and lived experiences, to which the President acknowledged the value of student efforts to change norms of the College and the immense work required to make those changes.

## **7. Alumni Association President's Remarks**

Ian Whytock updated Alumni on the installation of Chancellor Deborah Dean Little, which was special for several reasons, not least of which was the 18-month delay of the event due to COVID. It was a joyous occasion, with guests in attendance from across the country, and a wonderful re-invigoration of the College's purpose. He also attended one of the back-to-back Encaenia ceremonies for the grads of 2021, and former Alumni Association President Paul

Thomson attended the 2022 ceremony. He noted that the dinners following Encaenia were held in the Quad and were fantastic and hoped that could continue. He also noted that the Foundation Year Programme will celebrate 50 years in 2023. Dr. Neil Robertson is working on a book project of FYP memories and is accepting submissions of general FYP ephemera and artefacts – poems, recollections, satirical dialogue, FYP notes. Submit to: [FYPat50@gmail.com](mailto:FYPat50@gmail.com)

Besides events, the Association has been working on the structure of the Association and has established two new committees: Near and Far and Life After King's. The Near and Far Committee will recognize the need to be proactive about engagement beyond Halifax, the possibilities of which emerged during the pandemic. Life After King's will continue to build bridges across different groups of alumni and keep alumni in touch with King's going forward.

## **8. Advancement Director's Remarks**

Adriane Abbott began by introducing Kimberly Gosse, Alumni Relations Manager, Office of Advancement. Kimberly has been a member of the Registrar's Office for five years as Assistant Registrar of Student Recruitment and is excited to work with alumni at the other end of the student journey. Kimberly will attend the Golf Tournament, to which alumni can contribute.

Adriane noted that the Office is excited to work with the two new Alumni Committees, in addition to all the upcoming events this academic year, including the FYP anniversary. The Office has learned a lot about virtual participation, which has revolutionized alumni relations in some respects. There is a lot of brainstorming and planning underway so alumni, stay tuned!

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

On behalf of Stuart Patillo, Adriane Abbott presented the Financial Statements for the year.

### **a. Motion to accept Financial Statements.**

Motion: (Barker/Dawson) approved. Carried unanimously.

### **b. Motion to appoint KPMG as auditors**

Motion: (Barker/Dawson) approved. Carried

## **10. Search Committee**

Ian Whytock provided a brief update on the Search Committee, which met on June 29, 2022. The Alumni Association thanked Victor Bomers and Rachel Cadman for their years of service, and they will both receive a gift from the Association in gratitude. Their positions will be filled by Geoff Davies, Lauren Holtebrink,. All other members are returning. Also, Alexandra (Addy) Shiocet will join the Far & Near Committee and Matt Irwin the Finance Committee

### **a. Motion to approve slate of officers.**

Motion: (Ryan/Dawson). Carried unanimously.

## 11. Announcements and New Business

### **a. Action Plan for a Culture of Consent & Respect (guests: Katie Merwin, Jordan Roberts).**

Katie Merwin and Jordan Roberts thanked the Alumni Association for making space to discuss the new Action Plan, which resulted from the independent review announced in February 2021 of the charges of sexual assault by former professor Wayne Hankey. The review had dual purposes: to determine the facts of historical allegations and recommend steps King's must take to ensure safety of the community. In May, the interim report was released, which included ten recommendations to address culture, campus life, and other policies at King's. Before the full report is released, Merwin and Roberts will offer workshops and resources to process the trauma and sexualized violence, as it will be a difficult time for many in the community. There is a fulsome implementation for the Action Plan, which includes specific supports for faculty, staff, and students, in consultation with those communities, upon release of the report, and includes sessions for the community with a verbal summary of the report, in-person and virtual supports, and external trauma-informed facilitation for debriefing and one-on-one opportunities with professionals.

It was also recommended that King's review and enhance its training. In consultation with the new HR manager at King's, onboarding training for new and existing faculty has been enhanced with new processes and information on policies, rights, and responsibilities. There were also four significant actions and activities during Orientation Week to this end.

There is continued engagement with faculty regarding close relationships between faculty and students at King's, which is, to the College's credit, one of the unique and valued aspects of the College's history. However, the plan is focused on making those interactions safe by reducing risk factors for how those relationships can become sexualized violence. Vice-President Sarah Clift has been involved in this work, and discussions are underway between departments, faculty, and directors, and a code of conduct policy will be drafted and approved. This work is being done thoughtfully but also in a manner that is responsive and timely.

The King's Student Union is creating more adequate supports for students and working with the Mental Health Committee on standards for post-secondary students, training for mental health literacy, promoting training for faculty and staff to increase their capacity to handle students in distress or with trauma, and the launch of the Courage to Act Toolkit.

### **b. Impending release of the final report.**

The approach to this work is nuanced, and in anticipation of the final report, there will be differences in approach to processing the information – alumni will have unique and varied responses to the report than current students, for whom the relationship is different.

Merwin and Roberts asked what the Alumni would like to see in terms of resources and for the community, invited alumni to review the plan, and invited insights. Roberts has the budget to implement the recommendations, resources, and options.

Alumni can reach out to Roberts at: [Jordan.roberts@ukings.ca](mailto:Jordan.roberts@ukings.ca).

## **12. New Business**

Isabelle Reynolds stressed her concerns for student safety in the current academic year.

## **13. Next Meeting: TBA**

## **14. Adjournment**

Motion: (Young/Pilichos) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:55pm.