

# Queen's University Alumni Association



Greetings QUAA Volunteer Leaders,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 Queen's University Alumni Association (QUAA) Annual General Meeting, my final one as QUAA President. With a new normal taking shape for alumni engagement over the past year, we've had a busy and fulfilling year, with many opportunities to connect in-person. A silver lining of the pandemic has been that the hybrid model is here to stay, and for a meeting such as our Annual General Meeting, holding it virtually means we can more equitably reach Assembly members who are located across the globe.

Below you will find a summary of the QUAA's most significant activities over the past year, but I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few memorable moments.

In September 2022, several of our members participated in "A Mile in Their Shoes: Truth, Empathy, and Reconciliation" educational opportunity. This opportunity to learn about the residential school system through in-person learning with Indigenous communities was a powerful reminder that all members of the Queen's community are partners in truth and reconciliation efforts. We hope to participate in the event again in the coming year, and I challenge each of you to reflect on how you can support Indigenous truth and reconciliation as it relates to Queen's. If you are uncertain how best to contribute, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Later on that fall, we saw the return of Homecoming on campus, which included a mix of classic events like the Tricolour Guard Dinner and the Gaels Football game, and new events such as the Fall Harvest Alumni Gathering, the Queer Alumni Chapter Happy Hour and the Black Alumni Chapter Cookout. In what was a gorgeous weekend in Kingston, it was wonderful to see alumni reconnecting with each other and students, and the vibrancy it brought to campus. While hybrid is here to stay, sometimes you can't top the chance to connect in-person.

Lastly, the QUAA Board had the opportunity to disburse a sizeable amount of the funds we steward to support initiatives on and off-campus. We disbursed \$10,000 in funds to 7 student and alumni groups through the QUAA grants process. Through the QUAA Projects Fund, we supported the "Road to Graduation" to support student's pathway to becoming alumni, and in partnership with the Queer Alumni Chapter, we supported an event with the Honourable Gloria J. Epstein, Com '72. I'm also proud to announce that for the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row, QUAA Board Members reached 100% participation in annual giving.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and Queen's community involvement in 2022-23. I've been fortunate to connect with many of you over the past year, and learn about the exciting ways you are championing alumni engagement and representing your communities. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Alumni Volunteer Summit and QUAA Awards Gala in June 2023.

Cha Gheill,

Colin McLeod, Artsci'10  
58<sup>th</sup> Volunteer President, Queen's University Alumni Association  
Chair, QUAA Board of Directors

2023 - 2024



## Queen's University Alumni Association

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**Mission:** "To reach out and foster a lifelong association with Queen's, to engage our members in the life and work of the University, and to serve the alumni community in all its diversity."

**Vision:** The QUAA Board will **engage**, **develop**, and **celebrate** outstanding Queen's alumni volunteer leaders.

 **100%** participation from the QUAA Board of Directors in annual giving for over 13 years!

# 2022-23: A Year in Review

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigeneity

Last year, the QUAA set a collective goal to further EDII for students and alumni in partnership with the university. To achieve this goal, the Board continues to integrate EDII commitments into each Board portfolio and support EDII efforts throughout the alumni community. In 2022-23, at the Board level, this included:



- The focus of the Director (Special Projects) portfolio shifted to focus on EDII. Specifically, following the work the Board has done to augment EDII considerations internally, our focus has now shifted to the larger alumni community, to work towards better understanding the on-campus and post-graduation experiences of marginalized and underrepresented groups. This will help to ensure that alumni engagement and programming can better serve the diverse nature of the alumni community.
- Board members participated in the “A Mile in Their Shoes: Truth, Empathy, and Reconciliation” educational opportunity. This experience was designed for non-indigenous alumni. It was developed by the Office of Advancement in close collaboration with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and TAP Resources, an Indigenous-owned event management and consulting group. “A Mile in Their Shoes” is an opportunity for alumni to learn about the Indian Residential School system.
- We remain committed to recruiting a diverse group of volunteers to the Board and Assembly.

Beyond the Board, there have also been exciting advancements with Alumni Chapters and the Queen’s Student Alumni Association. Highlights from the past year include:

- The Queen's Black Alumni Chapter continues to grow promoting diversity at Queen’s. The Queen’s Black Alumni Chapter Reunion Cookout, held during Homecoming weekend, was one of the top ten most viewed Homecoming events on the Alumni website. The event saw 70+ attendees ranging from alumni, students, faculty and staff members, with over 90% of attendees being students.
- The Queen’s Indigenous Alumni Chapter is building a supportive community in partnership with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. In partnership they have provided many learning opportunities and resources to learn more about Indigenous initiatives within the Queen's community including world Indigenous lecture series, Indigenous ways of knowing workshops, information about Treaty Recognition week, and Truth and Reconciliation.

- The Queen's Queer Alumni Chapter continues to build a supportive and active community following its official launch in December 2021. The chapter has been focused on creating safe space through virtual and in person events such as *Pride at the Pub* and *An Evening with the Honourable Gloria J. Epstein, Com'72*. The chapter assists in amplifying the voice of the Queen's 2SLGBTQ+ community and providing support and resource to members seeking professional or personal assistance.

Moving in to 2023-24 all Chapters are taking time to focus internally increasing student awareness and recruitment in order to ensure sustainability.

## Funding Queen's Initiatives

Each year, through the [QUAA Grants](#), the QUAA Board disburses grant funding to deserving student- and alumni-led groups to support events and initiatives aimed at promoting connection and inclusivity within the Queen's community, particularly between students and alumni. In 2022, due to a surplus from the endowed fund, we had access to \$10,000 in funds to disburse. In total, we received 18 applications, with a total amount of funding requested of \$33,000. Through these funds, we were honoured to be able to support 7 student and alumni groups through 2023.

The QUAA Projects Fund, which was established by the Board to support QUAA initiatives several years ago, was utilized in 2022-23 to support the "Road to Graduation" a program that introduces graduating students to the alumni association. QSAA took the lead on this initiative, which launched a social media blitz (with prizes) to offer students entertaining and innovative tips on how to stay connected to Queen's following graduation. During Road to Graduation programming 1,510 students registered, Queen's collected 1,008 non-Queen's email addresses to keep in touch post-graduation and received 851 pieces of advice from graduating students.

Utilizing funds from the Florence MacRae Speakers' Fund, the QUAA also supported an event in Toronto in partnership with the Queer Alumni Chapter: an evening of conversation and community building with the Honourable Gloria J. Epstein, Com'72, lead investigator of the Missing and Missed: Report of the Independent Civilian Review into Missing Person Investigations. This event saw 88 Queen's community members registered with a 72% attendee rate.

This impact was made possible thanks to the generous support of alumni contributions.

## QUAA Alumni Gala

Our community celebrated remarkable Queen's alumni with an [Awards reception](#) in Toronto in June 2022. Those honoured include Dr. Michelle Searle, Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching; Leslie Laing Gibbard (MSc'82, PhD'87); Jim Leech (MBA'73), Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award; Sharon Ranson (Com'80), Alumni Mentorship Award; Jeremy Mosher (ArtSci'08), Herbert J. Hamilton Volunteer Service Award; Kimberley Molina (ArtSci'07), Marsha Lampman Volunteer Award; Heather Evans (Com'16), One to Watch Award; Aaryan Chaudhury (ArtSci'21), Outstanding Student Leader Award; Danielle Charland (ArtSci'22), Queen's Student Alumni Association Volunteer of Distinction Award); and Yinka Adegbusi (ArtSci'13), Rising Star Volunteer Award.

## Welcoming 2022 Grads

In May and June of 2022, on the heels of an unprecedented couple of years due to the pandemic, Queen's University was finally able to welcome and congratulate graduates, in-person, as they crossed the stage at the Leon Centre to receive their diplomas in front of family and friends. It was a unique and special ceremony as

many 2020 and 2021 graduates accepted the invitation to join the ceremony to fulfill their university rite of passage. In honour of the Classes of 2020 and 2021, every graduate was sent a special notebook and scarf, in hopes to lift their spirits and signify the importance of their hard work. We would also like to acknowledge that the 2022 graduates endured the challenges through the pandemic as well.

Although the Class of 2022 was the first to return to the “new normal” with an in-person Convocation, the Young Alumni Engagement unit, staff partners and Queen’s Student Alumni Association (QSSA) President, Samara Lijiam, Artsci’23, decided to mark the occasion by filming the graduates in real time, prior to their taking the stage. Graduates were asked questions about their favourite memories from their time at Queen’s and how they were feeling being able to participate in Convocation in-person. With the help of the Advancement Marketing team, a keepsake video was produced and sent out to every graduate in the two weeks following the ceremonies. The Fall 2022 grads also received a keepsake video. We hope that each and every graduate is proud of their perseverance and hard work through an extraordinary time in history and we are pleased to welcome them to the Queen’s alumni community.

## Queen’s Global Alumni Network

**216,372** Number of Queen’s alumni

**155** Number of countries in which Queen’s alumni live around the world

**4,300** Number of Alumni Volunteers

**38** Number of Active Alumni Branches



## Snapshot of Queen’s Events (May 2022-April 2023)

One of the best ways in which we foster community is through our Branch alumni network and Chapter affinity-based groups. Our Branches and Chapters continued to pivot between virtual and in-person events, and they did so seamlessly– delivering events covering a wide range of topics. Since many of these events were virtual, we were able to offer access to events to the broader Queen’s alumni community, breaking down geographic borders and making events more accessible than ever.



Below you will find a list of alumni gatherings organized by chapters and branches over the past fiscal year.

Spring 2022			
4-May-22	Social	Branch	Vancouver
1-Jun-22	Hill Award Event	Branch	Vancouver
8-Jun-22	QQAC – Queen’s Pride at the Pub	Chapter	Toronto
15-Jun-22	A Feast in the Forest	Branch	Toronto
21-Jun-22	Calgary BBQ	Branch	Calgary
Summer 2022			
7-Jul-22	Art of Business	Branch	Hong Kong
14-Jul-22	Caribbean Update	Branch	Caribbean
26-Aug-22	Lawn Bowling	Branch	Vancouver
Fall 2022			
21-Sep-22	UN Event "Girl Rising" in NY (During UN General Assembly)	Branch	NYC
1-Oct-22	Pre-Homecoming Reunions	Reunions	Kingston
2-Oct-22	Fall Picnic	Branch	Okanagan
6-Oct-22	UK-Canada Chamber of Commerce Alumni Reception	Branch	London, UK
8-Oct-22	Terry Fox Run	Branch	NYC
18-Oct-22	VPI Asia Trip with Alumni Reception	VPI	Jakarta
19-Oct-22	VPI Asia Trip with Alumni Reception	VPI	Ho Chi Minh City
19-Oct-22	Singapore Branch/Smith Social	Branch	Singapore
26-Oct-22	Social	Branch	Montreal
29-Oct-22	QBAC Reunion Cookout (part of Homecoming 2022)	Chapter	Kingston
October	Tricolour Champions	Branch	Toronto

Winter 2022			
16-Nov-22	CANY Canadian University Alumni Reception	Branch	NYC
16-Nov-22	QTAB Volunteer Appreciation Event	Branch	Toronto
22-Nov-22	Missing & Missed: An Evening with the Honourable Gloria J. Epstein	Branch	Toronto
23 -Nov-22	QBAC Speaker Series	Chapter	Virtual
24-Nov-22	Skating Event	Branch	London, UK
26-Nov-22	Women's Volleyball Pub Night	Branch	Toronto
26-Nov-22	Brockville Santa Claus Parade with Queen's Bands	Branch	Brockville
29-Nov-22	Calgary wine and cheese	Branch	Calgary
December	Gaels Giving (Toy and Food Drive)	Branch	Toronto
2-Dec-22	Alumni Reception in Capetown, South Africa with Dean Deluzio	Branch	Capetown
14-Dec-22	Holiday Hugs	Branch	Kingston
7-Jan-23	Skate & Donate for Calgary Children's Cottages	Branch	Calgary
17-Jan-23	Toronto Branch Award 2020	Branch	Toronto
26-Jan-23	Queen's Model Parliament and Alumni Reception	Branch	Ottawa
11-Feb-23	Curling on Cape Cod	Branch	Boston
18-Feb-23	Après ski	Branch	Okanagan
23-Feb-23	Hamilton Bowling event	Branch	Hamilton/Halton
24-Feb-23	Alumni Reception in Singapore	Branch	Singapore
25-Feb-23	Curling Funspiel	Branch	Ottawa
Spring 2023			
12-Mar-23	Alumni Reception in Bangkok	Branch	Thailand
18-Mar-23	Social in Canmore	Branch	Calgary
25-Mar-23	Alumni Reception in Dubai	Branch	UAE
28-Mar-23	Elevate Artsci Event	Partnership	Waterloo
2-Apr-23	FAS Alumni Reception in Mumbai	Partnership	Mumbai
4-Apr-23	Bagels and Bequests	Branch/Gift Planning	Ottawa
4-Apr-23	Interuniversity Trivia	Branch	Kingston
13-Apr-23	Johnson Award	Branch	Calgary
18-Apr-23	Bagels and Bequests	Branch/Gift Planning	Vancouver
20-Apr-23	Alumni Social in Stockholm	Branch	Stockholm
25-Apr-23	Toronto Small Business Initiative	Branch	Toronto

# Homecoming 2022 – Back on Campus

After two years of virtual Homecoming, at long last it returned to campus at the end of October. With the theme “United at Last”, Homecoming 2022 was a special opportunity for alumni to gather, together again, in-person. This event is not just a weekend in the calendar, but an inflection point for alumni and their

**Registrants** **2642** (19% increase over previous year)

**Reunion Gatherings** **90** (2% increase over previous year)

relationship with Queen's. Homecoming 2022 saw 2,642 registrants, 1,321 who were captured as attendees at Grant Hall's Meet and Greet. With 90 Reunion events surrounding the Homecoming weekend, many alumni reconnected with former classmates. There were many traditional Homecoming events such as the Parade to Richardson Stadium followed by the Football game, and a few new events such as the Fall Harvest Alumni Gathering, the Queer Alumni Chapter Happy Hour and the Black Alumni Chapter Cookout. All in all it was a successful return to in-person Homecoming programming and expect 2023 to be equally as exciting.

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