

## **Governor General's Silver Medal 2019**

The Governor General's Medal, established in 1873, is one of the most prestigious awards that can be received by a student in a Canadian educational institution for exceptional academic achievement. The University of King's College Governor-General's Silver Medal recognizes academic and journalistic excellence. It is awarded to a journalism student who is graduating with first-class Honours in the Bachelor of Journalism (Honours) degree program, or with Distinction in the one-year post-baccalaureate Bachelor of Journalism degree program, who has shown significant professional development during his or her time in the School of Journalism. I am pleased to present this award to **Meagan Campbell**.

Meagan Campbell is the best kind of journalist. She tells true stories that are compelling, flowing, and pleasing to the ear. Her stories make the complicated clear, and bring readers insight and understanding.

Meagan has integrity, compassion, and a furious work ethic. She is strong, but not domineering. Thoughtful, but not afraid to make a decision. She is curious, smart, and an excellent listener. What's more, she is also kind and fun. All of this means that she is admired and respected by both her peers and her professors.

For her Honours Project – a major feature article required of all fourth-year Journalism Honours students – Meagan chose to explore whether the federal government should fund Canadian newspapers as they transition from print to digital. She interviewed federal cabinet ministers, newspaper publishers, and important journalists, and created a story offering solid research, choice quotes, and unexpected revelations. While doing her Honours Project she also found time to work on a major freelance article for the New York Times.

Like all great journalists, Meagan Campbell cares about people. At just 18 she created a service to bring books to people in long-term care homes. At one seniors' centre she also offered weekly memoir-writing workshops. And that same year she founded an Atlantic Provinces chapter of PEN Canada, a national writers' group, and has campaigned in support of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

In 2015 Meagan went to Canada's national news magazine, Maclean's, on a third-year internship – and stayed for more than two years. Maclean's didn't want her to leave. They knew that although still a teenager she had deep intelligence, a passion for hard work, and instincts that run true. She wrote feature articles, political stories, commentaries, and more.

We are glad that she returned to complete her undergraduate degree at King's this year. In her years at King's, Meagan has taken every opportunity to learn and to help. Whether it was in the classroom, on the basketball court or out in the field doing journalism, Meagan was always looking for a way to improve her skills, create a better story and create a better world.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Governor General's Medal to **Meagan Campbell**.