



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

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**University of King's College Alumni Association**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday, September 21, 2017**

**5:00 p.m.**

*Boardroom, Second Floor A&A Building*

*University of King's College*

*6350 Coburg Road*

**Present:** Jonna Brewer, Alyssa Feir, Ben Kates, Chère Chapman, Paul Thomson, Jen Laurette, Lindsay Cameron Wilson, Jennifer MacLeod, Victor Bomers, Bill Lahey, Thomas Ledwell, Graham McGillivray, Brennan McCracken, Adriane Abbott, Bill Lahey, Kathy Miller, Elizabeth MacDonald (Advancement), Steph McGrath, Elizabeth Ryan, Okanta Leonard, Mary Barker, Beth McNeil,

**Regrets:** Laura Sears, Bob Mann, Cynthia Pilichos

**1. College Prayer read by Lindsay Cameron Wilson**

**2. Necrology list read by Paul Thomson**

Bob Anderson (Friend of the College)

M. Alberta (Bryant) Boswall (BSc '48)

Cyril Bugden (BA '49)

John Burns (1966)

Robin Calder (BA '69)

Pamela (Ventham) Collins (BA '50)

Sandra Cowan (Parent)

Jack Craig (DCL '89)

John Crocker (BSc '62, DCL '90)

Sarah Dubé (BAH '11)

Christopher Feunekes (BAH '13)

Ernest Fisher (1953)

Louise Ghiz (BA '69)

Aidan Harrington (Current Student)

Mary (Rettie) Henderson (1953)

Angus Johnston (Inglis Professor, former Vice-President & FYP Director)

Margaret (Currie) MacDonald (BA '55)

Colin MacLean (BA '86)

Kim Moar (BJH '90)  
David Morrison (BA '64, LTh '65)  
Harold Nutter (BA '44, MA '47, BLitt '47, DD '60)  
George Parker (BSL '53, BDiv '59, HF '86)  
Adrian Potter, Father Innocent (BA '71)  
Kara Quann (BA '93)

### **3. Alumni President's welcome and introductions**

Jonna Brewer, President of the University of King's College Alumni Association welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

### **4. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 22 September 2016**

Motion: (Paul Thomson/Lindsay Cameron Wilson) to approve the minutes of September 22, 2016 AGM as circulated. Carried.

### **5. University President's Remarks**

President Bill Lahey joined the meeting by telephone as he was on his way to meet with the Atlantic University President's. He noted that a highlight of his summer was the alumni national tour he made with Adriane Abbott and Kathy Miller. They held events in Moncton, Fredericton, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Victoria, and Vancouver in the span of six days. He had wonderful conversations with alumni from different decades. Much of the conversation was between alumni in his presence and it was a valuable learning experience. The President noted that it was striking how different the King's experience was for many alumni, but also the commonality. The conversations stressed the importance attached to residence life, social life and community life, as well as academic life.

The MFA welcomed its fourth cohort; there are 30 students this year. Like all previous cohorts, there is a great cross-section of people. The program has gone from strength to strength. Graduates are now publishing books and they are receiving high acclaim, which adds greatly to credibility to the program.

The Humanities for Young People program ran for the second time. The theme this year was reconciliation. There was lower participation than last year, but still great participation. There were seven or eight indigenous youth that came from right across the country to participate. The Elders in residence at Dalhousie were significant participants in the program.

The President also reported that Conference Services made money this summer. The residence was full of visitors.

The University has begun to work on the plan for renovating the tri-bays. King's is going in the direction of retaining original architecture and room design rather than the redesign completed in North Pole Bay.

He noted that there have been important conversations about enrollment across the campus community. With a year of experience of a revamped recruitment strategy, there

has been good conversation about what worked and what didn't and how to build on the success in the year to come.

A lot of work has been done around a Public Certificate of Humanities. A program than has students working in the community and to bring what they've learned in these experiences back into their academic experience and vice versa. There will be a fundraising aspect to this endeavour. More consistent with the tradition of King's students going out into the city of Halifax and becoming involved often as volunteers.

The academic year is off to a good start. We did not increase first year enrollment, but enrollment did not go down. King's maintained stable first-year enrollment for the first time in four years. The proportion of FYP students coming directly out of high school has increased, which suggests that changes in our recruitment strategy are working. Enrollment is up in terms of journalism students. We saw increased enrollment from areas where we put our recruitment efforts – Nova Scotia and New England. The retention level from first to second year increased significantly.

The President reported that the university is preparing a three to four-year development timeline, which includes developing a budget for the next three years. The budgets for two years out would be provisional. He stressed the importance of getting out of one-year planning. Parallel to the budget development, King's is building a three-year enrollment plan for both recruitment and retention. Many of the actions we need to take around enrollment strategy are not possible in a 12-month time frame but can be developed over multiple years.

The President also reported that the university has hosted town halls on the financial state of the university for information purposes. The town halls looked back over five years and presented a look ahead to five years. This information helps to put the challenges and decisions to be made in context. The Bursar and President would be happy to prepare a presentation for alumni.

The university is being administered by the president by a five-year mandate developed by the Board of Governors. This mandate can be found in the public documents section of university website (<https://ukings.ca/administration/public-documents/>).

King's, in association with NSCAD, through Halifax Higher Education Partnership has started a working group on the interaction between Halifax universities, the community college and the arts and culture industry. It is exploring how the relationship between the universities and arts and culture can be further developed. One lens is the concept of the creative city.

Doug Ruck was honoured at the Alumni Annual Dinner with the Judge J. Elliott Hudson Distinguished Alumni Award. He was invited to the first formal meal as a guest at the high table. Doug shared the story about why he had chosen to attend King's: King's was differentiating itself from other universities as being welcoming for African Nova Scotians. He came to King's because it had a scholarship for African Nova Scotians even though he didn't win it. President Lahey announced that King's will resurrect and reinstitute the Prince Scholarship for African Nova Scotian students.

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

May was busy for alumni activities. There were meet and greets in five cities. The Annual Dinner took place with over 70 alumni and guests in attendance. There was a 1980s reunion organized around that weekend. Many of the attendees of the '80s reunion stayed on campus. There was also a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion event organized by Mary Barker. They had a tea party in the Willwerth Garden. The cross-country tour for alumni with President took place. The 24<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament was held at Granite Springs Golf Club in August. There were 21 alumni golfers in attendance including a cohort from Bermuda. Next year will be 25<sup>th</sup> tournament and we are looking at ways to reinvigorate the tournament. Alumni are gearing up for WAC, which is on October 19<sup>th</sup> – more information to come.

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

Adriane Abbott has been working to articulate what the Alumni Association could do for King's that could give alumni momentum to do things on their own. Four key ideas have come forward: two ways that alumni can work together to help each other and two ways they can work together to help King's.

One idea is to leverage the upcoming WAC events to empower alumni to tell stories about their King's experience through their own social media channels. For example, "Why King's? discuss."

Adriane reported that they are also exploring how to get alumni involved in the recruitment cycle once a student has accepted their offer. Alumni could be matched with incoming students to welcome them to the community and answer questions.

One thing we know is that young alumni often need help to find their feet immediately after graduation. President Lahey has held lunches in the Lodge for students to meet with alumni on a specific topic. There are four booked for this year. This is a project that alumni branches could do for young alumni – young alumni brought in on a themed basis with well established alumni. It could serve as an information networking opportunity.

Because of King's intimate size and our ethos of community, it could be helpful to reach out to alumni who are one and two years out from graduation to check in. We know we will get mixed reactions, but if could have ten resources we can give to them to help them out if they require it could be a good opportunity to build a connection.

These four initiatives would be supported by online community.

Adriane is hoping to work with the Alumni Association to make these real in the coming months.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

Graham McGillivray submitted a written report. A copy of the unaudited financial statements for the twelve months ending March 31, 2017 were provided in the Annual General Meeting information package.

- a. Motion: (Mary Barker/Paul Thomson) to accept the Financial Statements. Carried.

- b. Motion: (Graham McGillivray/Jen Laurette) to appoint G&R CPA (formerly Rector Colavecchia Roche) as the Alumni Association's auditors for the 2017-2018 year. Carried.

## **9. Search Committee**

Jen Laurette reported that she will be moving from the role of Vice President to President as Jenna Brewer's term as President ends. Paul Thomson is stepping into the Vice President role. Alyssa Feir is staying on as secretary for a third year. The role of treasurer is still in discussion. The executive is welcoming two new members. There are two departures: Graham McGillivray and Thomas Ledwell. Jenna is stepping down as President but will stay on as Past President. Jen extended her personal thanks to Jenna and Jenna extended her thanks to Jen.

- a. Motion: (Mary Barker/Lindsay Cameron Wilson) to elect nominated slate of new Executive Members. Carried.

## **10. Announcements and New Business**

### **a. Alumni Association Endowment Fund**

Graham explained that we will be looking to have the alumni endowment funds managed alongside the university's endowment funds. The purpose is to realize cost savings and simplify management. We will begin discussions with the Bursar and prepared a presentation at next executive meeting.

### **b. Alumni Association golf tournament**

We are looking at ways to reenergize the golf tournament. It is becoming challenging to get more sponsors and participants. One individual who has been integral to the tournament is King's Athletics Director, Neil Hooper. We are looking to involve him in a more comprehensive way. One idea that came up was to direct the money raised by the tournament to athletic scholarships and athletics programming. Currently the money raised goes to student entrance awards. Larry Holman, longstanding alumni volunteer is involved in the discussions.

Jen Laurette adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.