



Annual General Meeting of King's Alumni Association Minutes
Tuesday, 12 September 2023
5:00 p.m. Atlantic
Virtual via Zoom

Present: William Lahey, Kimberly Gosse, Adria Young, Ian Whytock, Andrew MacDonald, George MacLean, Paul Thomson, Steven Wilson, Nick Harris, Sam Sharp, Adriane Abbot, Lois E. Miller, Nerissa Zhang, David Fletcher, Gordon Cameron, John Adams, Mary Barker, Kim Kierans, Elizabeth Ryan, Nevin French, Stuart Pattillo, Lesley-Anne Steelworthy, Roselle Green, Steph McGrath, Nerissa Zhang

1. Alumni Association President's Welcome

Ian Whytock, Alumni Association President, welcomed everyone for joining the Annual General Meeting and called the meeting to order.

2. College Prayer read by Ian Whytock

3. Necrology List read by Elizabeth Ryan

Necrology list:

June (Conway) Beeby, (1952)
Richard Bird, (BA'58)
W. Marshall Black, (BA'51)
George Burchill, (BA'49)
Sheri Clift, (friend of the college)
John Cook, (1955)
Mary Courtney, (friend of the college)
Brian Cuthbertson, (friend of the college)
Margaret Dechman, (BA'78)
James Deignan, (friend of the college)
A. Fraser Dewis, (1963)
Frances Dibblee, (1956, 1972)
Meinhard Doelle, (friend of the college)
Ruth (Hopkins) Fisher, (BA'52)
Edgar Gerhardt, (1956)
Joan Glode, (friend of the college)
Geraldine Hamm, (BA'62)

Laretta (Landymore) Harris, (BA'64)
 C. William Hayward, (1958)
 Harold Hazen, (BA'56, LTh'58, DCnL'97)
 Alan Hebb, (1954)
 Mac Howe, (friend of the college)
 Heather (Martin) Inglis, (1952)
 Joan Johnston, (friend of the college)
 Evelyn Fox Keller, (DCL'18)
 Peter Kussmaul, (friend of the college)
 Walter Kemp, Inglis Professor, Former Director of Music, King's Chapel, Public Orator
 Jack Lawson, (MFA'18)
 Valerie MacDonald, (BA'72)
 John MacDonell, (BA'88)
 Don MacVicar, (HF'89)
 Stuart McPhee, (BA'69, HF'05)
 Christopher Meagher, (1998)
 Douglas Morrison, (1954)
 Mabel (Corkum) Naugler, (DipJ'52)
 Donald Neish, (BA'51)
 Jim Nunn, (1969)
 Jen Powley, (BJ'01, MFA'15)
 Glen Pye, (1977)
 Michael Rudderham, (BA'58)
 Brian Sherwell, (BA'48)
 Sharon (Green) Spence, (BA'62)
 Jennifer Stephen, (BA(Hons)'02)
 Audrey (Powell) Weir, (1952)
 J. Christopher Wilcox, (DCL'06)
 George Yates, (1949)

Elizabeth Ryan spoke about Donald MacVicar, HF'89, who she first met at the Art Gallery when she was a volunteer. John, who was from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, began career at the Bank of Nova Scotia, which he began when he was 17 and which he retired from as the District Vice-President of Nova Scotia in 2000. John had a great sense of humour and he was admired by all; he was community-minded and a founding member of the Friends of Hope Cottage, a lifelong member and Chair on the Board at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS), became an Honourary Governor at AGNS, and received an Honourary Fellowship at King's College for his work with the Board of Governors and his dedication to the Community. Elizabeth also remarked that Brian Cuthbertson was a great neighbour, friend, scholar, and author who will be missed.

David Fletcher spoke about Walter Kemp, who had succeeded Peter Fletcher as the Chair of the Music Department at Dalhousie University, nothing that he and Walter shared similar music tastes and that Walter had an immense talent not just in the organ but in choral conducting and romantic literature, and of whom he has been in orbit since 1978. David's last memory of Walter was not long before his passing at a performance of *Così fan tutte* for which he was the

musical director. David remarked that Walter was a tremendous musical inspiration for the city. Elizabeth added that Walter had a wonderful sense of humour, tremendous skill with students, and was a very lovely companion: “To quote Shakespeare, we will never see his like again.”

4. Approval of minutes of Annual General Meeting, 13 September 2022

Mary Barker congratulated the University on the recent great enhancements to disability and accessibility at King’s College, especially regarding the accessibility of Alex Hall. As a student, Mary had a considerable disability, which may not have been evident at the time, and challenges with accessibility at King’s, but which new students will not experience, to the College’s credit. She thanked the influence of the late Sarah Dubé and the late Jen Powley. She does hope for improvements regarding parking and the claiming of passes in the future.

Motion: (Barker/Lois E. Miller) that the minutes of 13 September 2022, with amendments to the spelling of Kimberly Gosse, are approved. Carried.

5. University President remarks

President William Lahey began with the commitment to share Mary Barker’s remarks with the College’s new Accessibility Officer, Michelle Mahoney. He thanked all guests for attending this year’s Annual General Meeting, which shows a continuation of King’s alumni’s love and commitment to the university, noting the attendance of recent graduates (Nick Harris, Sam Sharp, and Nerissa Zhang). The President noted that, with the pandemic in the background, there has been an atmosphere of unbridled spirit and delight for many to be in-person at the College.

The President reported that the Alumni Brunch after Encaenia was truly lovely; Kim Kierans was bestowed with an Honourary Degree, and both Encaenia and Alumni Week were celebratory. The President looks forward to spending more time with alumni. For the first time since 2016, the President’s Office and the Office of Advancement will be making national and international visits soon, and he is looking forward to meeting alumni in-person, many for the first time.

As many are aware, the President noted that the College has been building relationships with the African Nova Scotian and Mi’kmaw communities. In the case of the African Nova Scotia community, the College renamed the recently resurrected Prince Scholarship to the Gordon Earle Scholarship, who received an honorary degree last year. Gordon Earle is one of the most inspirational people the President has spent time with. In the Mi’kmaw community, an Advisory Circle of twenty to thirty members have been meeting monthly with Mi’kmaw representatives from Nova Scotia and Quebec, including recent graduate Emma Metallic, and recent honorary degree recipient Kathryn Burton, who hails from Gaspé, and now lives in Boston. The new Indigenous Student Support Centre opened in September, in the new accessible part of Alex Hall. It was designed by Trina Roach and Auntie-In-Residence Emily Pictou-Roberts.

President Lahey noted that the first week of the Foundation Year Programme was fantastic. The first day was the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, then the *Book of Genesis*, and then Chief Stephen

Augustine gave a lecture on the Mi'kmaw Creation Story. The feeling in the room was electric. At General Tutorial, hundreds of people showed up, for the first time in memory. The President takes this as a sign that things are changing at King's, and he is excited about the transformation through relationships with the Mi'kmaw community and its leaders. The President noted that he does hear from alumni from time to time regarding change and continuity, and the change in tradition. There is an excitement for newness and change, but he does hear concerns, and such conversations are hard. But he looks forward to having them in-person. As far as he understands, the College is attempting to weave together a new fabric of what has made King's an exceptional university with new things that make it a more inclusive and welcoming community, for those who have been underrepresented, or who never felt welcome. The College is working to provide a great education in the Foundation Year Programme and Journalism, which is intellectually challenging regardless of the community. The College has maintained traditions such as Formal Meals and Matriculation, while weaving in the traditions of communities who have been underrepresented. Over the last 18 months, the President himself has learned about himself, about living in harmony with natural world, and about community in relationships with Mi'kmaw elders, thinkers, students, and alumni, which made him very aware of what he was missing before, and which instills confidence in his own ability to be President going forward. Both the African Nova Scotian communities and Mi'kmaw communities, report on seeing a difference at King's, including courageous action. These actions happen for the university and benefit all those who study, work, and teach at King's, and by extension, these actions make an even greater contribution to the world, city, province, and country we live in. The President invited response from alumni members.

Mary Barker inquired as to whether King's is involved in a lawsuit. The President remarked that there were two lawsuits and three claims made against the College, all of which have been settled. Ian Whytock thanked the President on the clear communications on those subjects. The President noted that Adriane Abbott, along with Jordan Roberts, the Board of Governors, the King's Student Union, the Executive of the Alumni Association, and others in the guided and led in those communications. The President expressed thanks for all the advice that matter.

6. Alumni Association President's remarks

Ian Whytock noted that the 2023 Alumni Weekend was a success. President Lahey welcomed alumni on the first night. The evening included the launch of the FYP 50th anniversary book where alumni old and new read excerpts from it. The 2020 and 2023 Alumni Award recipients were honoured at Mimosas & Brunch on Saturday morning, followed by a presentation in Alumni Hall from Stephen Marsh (BA '97) on why people love great books but can't stand them.

In the afternoon, the harbour tour, which was at capacity, featured cold beverages and warm company; the weather was atrocious, and the event was wonderful. Spirits were not at all dampened despite the elements. Festivities wrapped up on Sunday in the lodge and President Lahey. Ian acknowledged Kimberly Gosse, Alumni Relations Manager, who was instrumental in planning the weekend, with thanks for making the weekend so successful. At Encaenia, two of this year's Honourary degree recipients were King's College alumni, which reflected well on all

alumni and the university. Elizabeth Ryan joined Ian in the privilege of handing out gifts to new alumni to encourage new alumni to stay involved through the Alumni Association.

The Association has been modernizing its structure with a few new committees established to undertake that modernization, as well as increase alumni engagement, and find opportunities more alumni involvement. The Near and Far Committee is excited to connect with alumni around the world. Ian thanked the rest of the Executive and also Stephanie McGrath for the efforts and expressed gratitude to the Office of Advancement for the organisational support.

7. Advancement Director's remarks

Adriane Abbot first remarked that the Alumni President, Ian Whytock, and the Association Executive has been extraordinary. She joined Ian in cheering on Kimberly for the work she's done with Executive and noted that the new committees are doing work she has not seen in a long time. Adriane echoed President Lahey's remarks that the College is in a very exciting stage, and the Office of Advancement is excited to go out into the community. As an update, the Advancement Office has moved off campus to 1559 Brunswick Street due to a consolidation of student and community services in the NAB Link. There is now a wonderful synergy of student services and support staff opposite the King's Student Union office with community and student-focused supports in place there. The mailing address for the Office of Advancement will remain the same, but Adriane invited alumni to visit downtown. She is delighted to expand the campus beyond the Quad and, in the same ethos, expand the work the Office is doing in the upcoming year. She is looking forward to working with everyone this coming year.

8. Treasurer's Remarks

Treasurer Stuart Patillo provided an update of the endowment, which is down 10% year-over-year. This decline, however, was not the result of poor government by wealth manager Scotia Wealth but reflective of the turbulent market and interest rates. The shift to management with TD Bank will give the endowment a more competitive rate with a wider depth of knowledge on growth. Stuart thanked Scotia Wealth and its advisors for their many of years of service.

Mary Barker inquired about the professional fees, which tripled from last year. Stuart responded that the fees were related to the legal aspects of transferring the endowment from Scotia Wealth to TD Bank, and combining the CRA number with King's College, which required legal counsel to work through challenges. This administrative fee was a one-time increase.

a. Motion to accept Financial Statements.

Motion (Patillo/Cameron) to accept the Financial Statements. Carried. Unanimous.

b. Transfer of Endowment to King's.

Motion (Patillo/McGrath) to reappoint KPMG as auditors of financial statements.

Carried. Unanimous.

As a final note, Stuart remarked that this is his final Annual General Meeting as Treasurer as Nevin French will be taking the role going forward. Stuart will be in place for a one-year transition period. He thanked the Committee. On behalf of the Executive, Ian thanked Stuart for his years of service as Treasurer and looks forward to seeing him at the next AGM.

9. Search Committee

a. Message of Appreciation

Steph McGrath reported that the Search Committee has worked hard to include alumni from diverse backgrounds and experiences. She thanked retiring Executive members, including Adria Young (Secretary) and Elizabeth McNeil and welcomed Nevin French as Treasurer and Nick Harris as Secretary, with Nerissa Zhang on the Executive Committee, and Laura Holtenbrink on the Executive Committee. Laura will also sit on the Board of Governors as the alumni representative. She noted Laura is always eager to volunteer, give ideas, and get things done.

Steph reminded the group to invite alumni in any part of the world and background to committees and groups, including Careers After King's, that would welcome their support.

b. Motion to elect Slate of Officers.

Motion (McGrath/Kierans) to approve new slate of officers. Carried. Unanimously.

10. Announcements

Adriane Abbott passed on a message of thanks for the generous donations to the Alumni Appeal and, from the King's Student Union, thanks for donations to the Wardroom Appeal. Adriane noted the goal was \$10,000 and the result was over \$13,000, which will help the KSU pay off the Wardroom loan so well done! A very cute video will be shared.

Stephanie McGrath thanked President Lahey for his openness to hear feedback and asked about the process on delivering feedback. The President recommended direct conversation, but conversations can be made available for groups of alumni. Informal conversations are always welcomed, and any feedback or outreach is welcomed and available, as well.

As tradition, Elizabeth Ryan made a toast of sherry to the Alumni Association.

11. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn (Whytock/Ryan), 6:04pm.

