

THE KING'S

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE KING'S UNIVERSITY / FALL 2016

# CONNECTION

KING'S GRABS HEADLINES WITH ISOTOPES MATTER | ROB VAN WEERDEN MAKES SUSTAINABILITY PAY OFF  
CAMPUS MASTER PLAN: ROADMAP TO A THRIVING FUTURE | FROM MOUNTAIN TOPS TO CLIP PLOTS  
TRIAL BY FIRE 'LIFE-CHANGING' EXPERIENCE | CHARGING STATION PUTS KING'S ON THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE MAP



## THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE



**THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK BY FRANCES GOODRICH AND ALBERT HACKETT**

**PRESENTED BY THE KING’S UNIVERSITY DRAMA PROGRAM**

N102 Theatre, The King’s University 9125 50 Street, Edmonton

Thursday, Nov. 17: 7:30 p.m. opening night  
Friday, Nov. 18: 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Nov. 19: 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Nov. 20: 2 p.m. closing performance

Ticket prices: \$15 general admission, \$10 students and seniors (not including service fees)

Tickets sold online at [www.kingsudrama.eventbrite.ca](http://www.kingsudrama.eventbrite.ca), at The King’s University Bookstore (780-465-8306), and at the door. 120 tickets available per performance; Eventbrite sales close an hour before show time.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 25, 7:30 P.M.**

**THE KING'S UNIVERSITY CHOIRS WITH GUESTS SHUMEYALA**

**MCDougall United Church**



**EARLY DECEMBER TBD  
4:30 P.M.**

**CAMPUS CHRISTMAS LIGHT-UP EVENT**



**ONGOING, UNTIL DEC. 15**

**ROB LONGLEY’S BIBLE SERIES: ART DISPLAY FEATURING PAINTINGS FROM 66 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

**KING’S ATRIUM**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 4, 7:30 P.M.**

**CHAMBER MUSIC: MARK EELES, CELLO; CHARLES STOLTE, SAXOPHONE; JOACHIM SEGGER, PIANO.**

**NICHOLAS B. KNOPPERS HALL**

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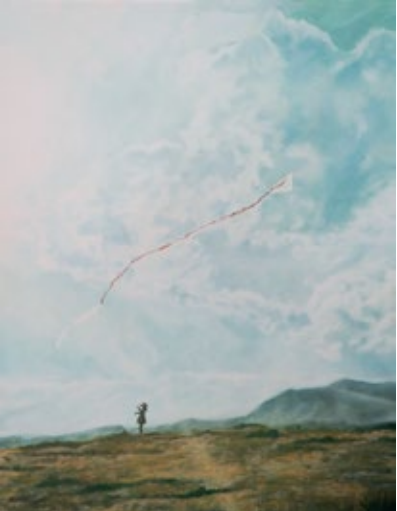
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**COVER ART BY....**

Nicole Gingrich, a third-year Bachelor of Arts student majoring in psychology. She is a member of the painting club and is currently studying social justice in Honduras as part of a semester abroad program. Gingrich is from Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Please send alumni updates and address changes to:**

Alumni Relations  
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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
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# ALL GOOD GIFTS



Gifts come in many different shapes and sizes. The King’s University has been given many gifts over the years. Some are monetary; many are not. Many are people who have shared their wisdom, passion for King’s, and expertise with us. One such individual is Bill Diepeveen. Bill spent the past nine years as Board member and the past six years as Board chair. The Board by-laws only permit two three-year terms; however, an exception was made for continuity of leadership as the President, Board chair and Senate chair were to change all at the same time.

Bill’s leadership has been a gift to us. The discernment process he led for his final board meeting as chair was inspirational. As we consider moving forward with exciting plans for serving our community, strengthening teaching and research, equipping success, empowering people and advancing sustainability, we examined where that vision would be best fulfilled.

The answer? Bloom where you are planted.

*Melanie J. Humphreys*  
DR. MELANIE J. HUMPHREYS

## SHARED VISION 2020

*Highlights from this past year*

### 1. Serving Community

Established a public course offering

Completed our institutional commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with a bench of remembrance and a garden

Signed on to a Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta agreement to acknowledge treaty land in large ceremonial gatherings

Targeted social media campaign to connect with alumni

Established relationships for potential collaboration and exchange with a Christian post-secondary institution in South Korea

### 2. Strengthening Teaching & Research

Implemented a new system for academic program review and renewal

Developed four new academic programs, all in different stages of approval: kinesiology, sociology (4 year program), interdisciplinary sciences and liberal studies

Established a dual-credit course offering between the Edmonton Catholic School Board and the Leder School of Business

### 3. Equip Student Success

Developed a proposal for an academic enrichment centre to assist students with a variety of academic needs

Developed a proposal for a career, vocation and professional development centre to assist students and alumni in vocational discernment, job preparation, internships, etc.

### 4. Empower People

Conducted a Board governance review

Initiated a new employee orientation program

Launched regular training and development opportunities for all employees

### 5. Advance Sustainability

Developed a revised Campus Master Plan that is ecologically responsible and innovative

Increased resources within financial services for better budgeting and planning purposes

Developed plans for a fundraising campaign to assist in realizing Shared Vision 2020

## BEYOND SUSTAINABILITY

# CAMPUS MASTER PLAN: ROADMAP TO A THRIVING FUTURE

BY JANET PAQUETTE

The math is simple when the health of a university is measured by enrolment. A steadily growing student body paves the way to a solid future. But it’s not that simple, of course, neither to continue growing nor to accommodate that growth.

A look behind the scenes at the administration of a busy campus like The King’s University shows growth not only has to be managed but planned for and encouraged—far in advance.

Identifying priorities to propel the student population toward 1,000 is a key focus in the Shared Vision 2020 strategic plan adopted by the King’s Board of Governors in March 2015.

“We have a growing student body, so are

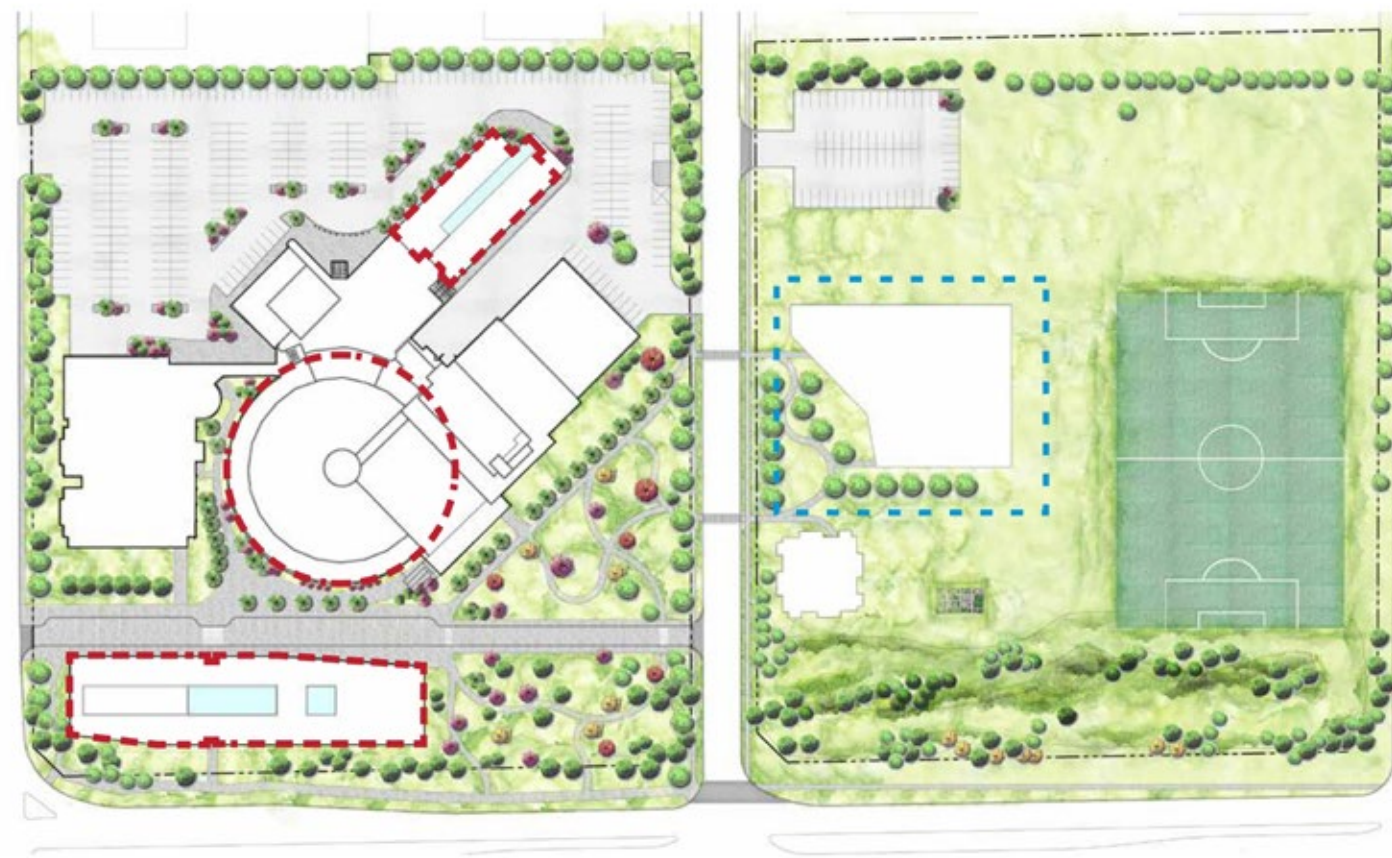
we going to run out of space? How much can our current location accommodate growth?” says Ellen Vlieg-Paquette, vice president of administration and finance, also in charge of the overall campus master planning process.

Enter the new Campus Master Plan for King’s, which outlines inspiring new expansion possibilities and scenarios. The master plan promotes sustainability by finding ways to fully use existing infrastructure, as well as advocating LEED standards for new construction.

It all starts with seeing King’s as a campus, not just a building. This includes seeing the potential of the mostly empty south side of campus.

High on the list of priorities in the new





The Campus Master Plan concept above illustrates new areas for expansion and renovation. Centre for Excellence in the Sciences (top left) Learning Commons (bottom left) Campus Heart Renovation (centre left) and future Athletics Complex (right).

master plan is an expansion of the science wing, to allow the creation of a Centre for Excellence in the Sciences, building on the strength, popularity, and growth of King's natural and social science programs.

Other improvements include considerable renovations to the main interior space of King's to create more room for elements of a student success centre, a better cafeteria, chapel, and other open study space. In the medium-to-long term, a new "learning commons" building on 50 Street would create classrooms, office space, a new library, and meeting rooms with a face to the community. And in the longer term—or sooner, depending on the potential for partnerships with various levels of government and perhaps private industry—a major new health and wellness

centre with double gym, new fitness centre, and possibly even a café to be shared with the community. A 1,500-seat performance hall at some time in the future completes the dream, along with another residence building and a parkade.

Attention to minimizing environmental impact and nurturing or creating new green space are paramount through the plan.

"Our architect has said the current campus could accommodate 1,000 students. We just have to utilize the space more efficiently," says Vlieg-Paquette. That means, for instance, that booking classrooms for classes during hours they currently sit empty could create additional capacity.

The last time King's administrators and

board developed or updated a campus master plan was in 2002. Since then, the challenge has grown to develop a campus that is ecologically responsible and innovative—and that will attract even more students. The goal is to make more effective use of King's overall "footprint," which is actually not much smaller than the original footprint for MacEwan University in downtown Edmonton.

The latest plan takes a multi-pronged approach. In addition to improvements already mentioned, the plan would upgrade the front entrance landscaping and parking areas, improving its curb appeal while making the area more efficient and sustainable. It also includes additions to academic space, starting with the expansion of the science wing, to encourage and deal with the increases in the student body from 750



Rendering of campus from the Southwest corner. The Learning Commons sits to the left of the frame, existing Tower Residence in the distance, and new campus quad out front.

students to 1,000, and as far into the future as 1,900 students in the medium term and 4,000 in the long term.

"Really living into our current facility—that's the first priority," says Vlieg-Paquette. "There's still more than we can do to use this place more efficiently. And the second thing is to plan for the next expansion. It will take us some time to work with our support community and other resources."

The vice president, who has been managing King's finances since 1998, estimates King's will need two to three years to identify funding from donors and other sources for the proposed facilities expansion.

Provincial funding accounts for 26 percent of the operating budget, but as an independent institution, King's is not eligible for capital funding from the

province of Alberta. This made a recent infrastructure grant from the Canadian government for \$300,000 a cause for celebration.

"We need the extra space after we reach 1,000 students, and we need to make plans and seek support well before we reach that point," Vlieg-Paquette says.

Part of King's immediate to mid-term plan is to retire existing debt. The newer North Academic Building opened in 2006, but there's still \$2 million owed on it. While King's does plan for debt reduction in the annual operating budget, deficits in recent years have hampered paying it down.

"If we're looking for King's to set an example for good financial stewardship, it includes debt reduction," says Vlieg-Paquette. 🦋

**Guiding Principles:** Throughout its work, the internal Campus Master Plan Steering Committee represented all corners of the university, and the architects at GEC Architecture who are translating dreams into drawings have been motivated by the following mutually agreed guiding principles: faith, community, and learning. The plan has to support the interdisciplinary nature of King's, take into account the importance of faith, enhance all human interactions, and be environmentally sustainable.

**GEC Architecture:** GEC's work for King's is led by architect Peter Osborne, who says the best part of his job is when he helps a diverse group of people come together and create something positive. He has built an impressive portfolio of municipal, transportation, and institutional projects, including a number of university projects in Alberta, and a reputation for design excellence.

**Foundation makes it happen:** The \$300,000 cost for retaining GEC Architecture to help create the new Campus Master Plan is being borne entirely by The King's University Foundation, whose 80 members have since its inception in 1985 made many critical projects and programs possible that were impossible within existing King's budgets, including launching the Secondary Education program with \$780,000 over seven years.



# KING'S MAKES HEADLINES WITH ISOTOPES MATTER

BY JANET PAQUETTE



Dr. Mahaffy presenting at the IUPAC conference on chemistry education in Kuching, Malaysia

To hear Dr. Peter Mahaffy recount the huge public splash made by King's science scholars in the last few months is a reminder that the world in 2016 is truly a small place. Thousands of hits, likes, and shares later, Dr. Mahaffy modestly ventures to call the explosion of attention “kind of viral.”

The development of a new interactive periodic table of the elements and isotopes is big news for scientists and science educators around the world. It was launched Aug. 17 by the King's Centre for Visualization in Science (KCVS) and the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) at the International Conference on Chemistry Education in Kuching, Malaysia. The following week Mahaffy travelled from Malaysia to Philadelphia to present to 100 high school teachers at the American Chemical Society's national meeting.

“It's another opportunity for King's to be on a world stage and to be recognized by so many people internationally for creative, imaginative interdisciplinary work done by a team of undergraduate students and faculty,” says Dr. Mahaffy.

The phenomenal spread of the news has been online, of course. Social media, blogs and magazines led the way, followed by major media outlets, in heralding the Isotopes Matter initiative. An open website that highlights the pervasive role of isotopes in modern life, it is aimed at students in high school or post-secondary. It includes a free interactive electronic IUPAC periodic table displaying the many different features and applications of isotopes, along with supporting materials.

Sally Mitchell, currently considered North America's top high school science teacher, hailed the new digital periodic table as the end to “boring mathemat-

ical equations as the introduction to isotopes.” She is the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow at the U.S. Energy Department's Office of Science.

Dan Leskiw, a chemistry teacher at Jasper Place High School in Edmonton, welcomed the interactive periodic table as “a hub for students to begin their analysis and interpretation of the data.”

The list of links to coverage (about 30 sites) continues to grow, and King's supporters can catch some of the international buzz by checking out [www.kcvs.ca](http://www.kcvs.ca), the website of the King's Centre for Visualization in Science.

Dr. Brian Martin, co-director of KCVS with Dr. Mahaffy, noted the excited reception in an interview that took up a half-page recently in the Edmonton Journal. He also acknowledged “fear, loathing by some who think the periodic table was finished 100 years ago and it shouldn't be touched.”

The project helped to modernize the periodic table to better reflect improvements in technologies, says Dr. Martin, a professor of physics, math and astronomy at King's whose work at KCVS with Dr. Mahaffy and a supporting cast of undergraduates started 11 years ago.

“Brian Martin is a genius at taking very complex scientific concepts and essentially developing a storyboard in his mind that could be made accessible for people who don't have a scientific background or understanding of the science concepts,” says Dr. Mahaffy of his colleague.

Every summer, the pair works with four to six research assistants, coming from a variety of disciplines including computer science. Most are from King's, but one or two students in recent years have

been from the University of Alberta. With youth on their side, the students “are not far removed from their own initial understanding of these concepts, of what a high school student might find confusing about isotopes,” says Dr. Mahaffy.

He recalls how delightfully surprised and amazed international scientists and science educators were in Malaysia and Philadelphia to learn that one member of the Isotopes Matter team, Rachel Hislop-Hook, was only a first-year undergraduate student.

“The message that comes through is that King's is a world leader in the visualization of science and in the effective use of undergraduate students in research. We know from our experience in science here, one of our distinguishing features is the extent to which undergraduate students get involved in research.”

It's also worth noting that King's is only one of four Alberta post-secondary institutions to have a nationally accredited chemistry program. The others are the universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge.

The members of the Summer 2016 team at KCVS are, in addition to Dr. Mahaffy and Dr. Martin: Mckenzie Oliver, Rachel Hislop-Hook, Alexander Shmakov, Tyler deBoon, Ashley Ritter, and Marc-Olivier Lajeunesse.

King's reputation for supporting its academic community's research and schol-



KCVS 2016 Team Members: Back row, (left to right): Dr. Peter Mahaffy, Tyler deBoon, Ashley Ritter, Marc-Olivier Lajeunesse, Dr. Brian Martin. Front row, (left to right): Alexander Shmakov, Rachel Hislop-Hook, Mckenzie Oliver

arship “in a way that makes a difference in the world” has attracted top-quality faculty and students, maintains Dr. Mahaffy, although it's difficult to quantify that assertion.

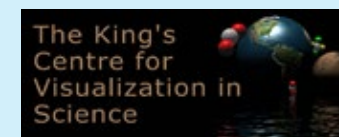
Hundreds of students who have had the opportunity since 1990 to be involved in research projects are in effect the best promoters of King's after they graduate and begin to work in their fields.

“At King's we want to be part of the formative development of young people. It's so exciting to watch them go through that development, to gain confidence in their abilities, and to tackle really important challenges and make meaningful contributions that are recognized,” Dr. Mahaffy says.

Learn more at [www.isotopesmatter.com](http://www.isotopesmatter.com) and [kcvs.ca](http://kcvs.ca).

## REFLECTIONS ON WORKING AT KING'S CENTER FOR VISUALIZATION IN SCIENCE

BY MCKENZIE OLIVER,  
4TH-YEAR CHEMISTRY STUDENT



Over the last three summers, through my work at KCVS, I've had the fantastic opportunity to work on learning resources that many King's students use. Though our resources have received attention in the past, nothing in my experience quite compares to the reach of Isotopes Matter.

This summer I was humbled to find that KCVS's resources are being used for education all around the world. Most surprising of this experience was how many people contributed to the project. Fittingly, a far-reach-

ing resource came from a far-reaching place of collaboration, and a lot of communication happened over the course of the summer as things came together. I never expected how big this project was really going to become.

I am thankful for the blessing this opportunity has been and hopeful that I have been able to help educate people in chemistry to a positive effect. I am excited that we've put together some really cool resources that so many people will get to play with and learn from.





*Vice President of Administration and Finance Ellen Vlieg-Paquette says debt reduction is a key goal and is essential for fiscal sustainability.*

## FUNDING THE DREAM THROUGH FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

BY JANET PAQUETTE

Imagining the future of King's as it continues steady growth is exciting, but dreams need a sound financial footing to become reality. As staff and faculty review the potential of the Campus Master Plan projects, a small task force is examining advancing financial sustainability. That goal has been enshrined as a priority in the university's strategic plan, Shared Vision 2020.

The task force of staff and faculty are conducting research on sustainability, including student numbers and recruitment strategies, tuition levels and government funding, as well as investigating other sources of revenue. Debt reduction is also on the table, particularly bank-financed capital debt, currently at \$2.6 million. The total capital debt load stands at about \$17 million,

of which 85 percent is held by King's supporters.

The King's University is unique among post-secondary institutions in that expansion and renovation projects have been financed by the King's RRSP program and term loans from supporters. The RRSP program encourages retirement savings for supporters and offers King's financing at savings rates, a benefit of about 1.5% in interest costs. The supporter loans start at a minimum of \$10,000 and terms ranging from one to five years, with interest rates that are somewhat higher than current savings rates, or about 2.2%.

Ellen Vlieg-Paquette, vice president of administration and finance, says King's is deeply appreciative of supporters

who for many years have shown their commitment to the cause of Christian higher education by investing their money in The King's University. But the vice president is determined that future building projects will move ahead only after necessary funds are identified.

"We're trying to reduce debt on the existing campus, that's our goal," she says. "Our preference is to finance campus expansion and renovation through donations, grants, sponsorships, and other possible sources of funding. We also have to consider returns on investment for certain kinds of projects, such as the renovations we did to the tower residence, which are being paid back in a reasonable timeframe through increased occupancy." 🏰



## INSPIRED FOUNDATION MEMBERS CONSIDER FUTURE SUPPORT

BY DAN VANKEEKEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | THE KING'S UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

The King's University Foundation is at a crossroads.

At their Annual General meeting in September, members kicked off a process to revisit the Foundation's original purpose, reviewing the various types of support it has provided the university since it was launched as an independent funding arm by a group of business people, farmers, and professionals in 1985 during a time of extreme fiscal crisis for King's. The goal? To begin to talk about what role it should play going forward.

There are now approximately 80 members—a real "public manifestation of support to King's," as former King's President Dr. Henk VanAndel put it in his remarks after the Foundation dinner, which also featured alumni and student musical performances and a surprise performance by Joachim Segger (music program head) and his wife Marnie Giesbrecht (sessional instructor) on the piano keyboard together.

At the AGM, members were inspired to see the new proposed King's Campus Master Plan in a discussion led by architect Peter Osborne from GEC architecture, and to hear updates from King's President Dr. Melanie Humphreys. At the dinner that followed, they heard three relatively new working teachers testify to the transforming power of their King's education, possible because of a \$780,000 commitment by the Foundation over seven years in support of the secondary education after-degree program.

The Campus Master Plan is helping King's re-envision its thriving future as a growing university and is therefore a natural fit for Foundation support. In 2015-16 members agreed to invest \$180,000 to initiate the process, which King's could not pay for out of its own budget. The plan is helping ensure King's understands the full cost of any

new facilities required to fulfill the new Shared Vision 2020 strategic plan for the institution. Now the Foundation is adding \$120,000 in 2016-17 to complete the facilities planning process.

This total \$300,000 gift is one of the largest recent investments from the Foundation and is instrumental in preparing King's as it will seek funding over the next number of years from its supporting communities to help realize the first elements of Shared Vision 2020.

Taking all of its rich history of support into account, as well as options for the future, a report and recommendations on the ongoing direction and role of The King's University will be brought to the April 2017 meeting of the Directors of the Foundation and then shared with members for decision at their 2017 Annual General Meeting. 🏰

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY, DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

## DONOR OFFERS TO MATCH GIFTS TO THE PATHS TO THE FUTURE FUND



As Valedictorian last spring, Ryleigh Jacobs described her gratitude for the sense of community at King's and the presence of ubuntu (I am because you are) that exists thanks to the positive influence of meaningful relationships within the King's family.

Now a donor has stepped forward to heighten that sense of community and interconnectedness by offering a matching gift when people contribute to the new Paths to the Future Scholarship

Endowment. The endowment was established to help make a King's education accessible to more students.

Your gift is essential and now will literally double in value thanks to this generous donor who understands the power we have when we work together to make a difference for students.

Please go to [www.kingsu.ca/donate](http://www.kingsu.ca/donate) to make your gift today so you can have double the influence on students being able to experience ubuntu at King's. 🏰





NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

To better meet the needs of prospective students, the university website Kingsu.ca received a massive update this summer. The site, built using metrics from heat mapping and user analytics, features a sleek new interface that significantly improves user experience, particularly for those accessing it on mobile devices.

The redesign allows for new and improved ways to tell the stories of King’s, from faculty and student research to campus activities to the wide variety of ways King’s endeavours to pursue a better world.



ORIENTATION

King’s welcomed its largest student population to campus this September. Over 790 students started or continued in a degree program, 250 students packed our campus Residences, and 13 Edmonton high school students began dual credit courses through the Leder School of Business.

Not a bad way to begin the year. Good thing the Campus Master Plan is well under way!



GETTING TO THE HEART OF WHAT YOU WANT

Newly arrived Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Neal DeRoo, a continental philosopher and founder of inallthings.org, keynoted the Fall Interdisciplinary Studies Conference. DeRoo challenged attendees to think about what they really want and how that drives their actions. He noted that that despite a world filled with promises of happiness, humanity at its core is driven by an overarching desire to be a part of the relationship God wishes to have with His creation.



COMMUNITY BANQUET 2016

A 330-guest crowd packed the King’s gymnasium last month for an evening filled with entertainment, stories, and conversations in support of student scholarships. The banquet featured the musical talents of King’s alumna Jontue Elan Kuyvenhoven, and insights from Lisa DeMoor (BA ’06 Politics-History-Economics) who spoke about how her education prepared her for work in Ottawa as a policy analyst for the federal government. Together at the banquet we raised more than \$18,290, a record amount, for student scholarships. Thank you!

KING'S VOLLEYBALL TAKES FIRST RUN AT NATIONALS!



Eagles volleyball Middle and Nationals All Star, Jocelyn Van Ryk

At King’s, we like to talk about community. The women’s volleyball team at The King’s University is so much more than community; it is family. I’ll always remember being on the first ever King’s team to make it to Nationals. Many times throughout the season, Coach Grace Scott told us playing volleyball is not just about the skill, it’s about having each others’ backs and supporting each other. Our team always supported each other on and off the court.

The atmosphere at Nationals made it so much more exciting. Because we had never been there, everything was that much more eye opening and exhilarating. In our first game against College of the Rockies, we were running on such a high that we played one of the best games of our season. Since we no longer had the pressure of making it to Nationals, we were able to play freely and have fun against new teams, learning about the game at a deeper level. Although we didn’t get the result we were looking for, we got to play at nationals and will build off that experience for this season.

Jocelyn Van Ryk

Middle, 4th year Bachelor of Psychology student, Surrey, BC



Eagles volleyball Left Side and Nationals All Star, Keri Alcorn

After transferring to King’s in my fourth year of eligibility as an ACAC athlete, I can remember how exciting my first practice was. The excitement of that first practice is how I would sum up my first year at King’s. The whole season was surreal. The connection our team has is unlike any I’ve had on other teams. People say this all the time, but our team is honestly a family. Grace, our head coach, ensures that we spend a lot of time together, set goals and work as a unit. This was a huge part of our success last season. Everyone comes in understanding how privileged we are to be a part of a post-secondary team. We understand that we were given these talents for a reason and work to achieve the most we can.

Having played on another college team I can honestly say how lucky each student athlete is to be on a King’s team. The students and faculty at King’s showed us tremendous support throughout the season. The backing our team got made going to nationals so much more exciting! Being able play a leadership role on our team has made me much more humble, confident, and thoughtful. We are constantly pushed to be better people and better players as part of the King’s student-athlete experience. I’m so excited to finish my last year of eligibility at King’s and push for nationals with the team again this season.

Keri Alcorn

Left Side, 5th year Bachelor of Education student, Peace River, AB

2016 Women's Volleyball Team at the CCAA National Championships in Charlottetown, PEI.







*An older example of King's commitment to sustainability is the campus swale area. This 1.5-acre site was intentionally developed as a wild habitat upon purchasing the 50 Street campus in the early 1990s. The swale contains many plants and wildlife distinct to the area.*



*Rob Van Weerden, director of facilities at The King's University since 1998*

REDUCING KING'S FOOTPRINT ONE STEP AT A TIME

# ROB VAN WEERDEN MAKES SUSTAINABILITY PAY OFF

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

Every organizational shift needs an in-the-trenches champion. In the greening of The King's University, Director of Facilities Rob Van Weerden has played that role since coming on staff in 1998.

Having proven his ability to cut operational costs while managing Enbridge Towers in Edmonton's city centre, Van Weerden predicted from the first that he would reduce water, natural gas, and power use at King's by 20%. Within six years, campus power consumption dropped by 29%, water by 36% and natural gas use by 50%. By 2014, King's carbon footprint, or overall greenhouse gas emissions, had shrunk more than 25%.

Today, this university spends about half as much per square foot for power and

natural gas as its counterparts across the country. As King's President Melanie Humphreys puts it, "Rob Van Weerden has quietly and systematically reduced the footprint of King's over the years through innovating small changes that add up."

In part, Van Weerden does that through attention to detail. Setting air-processing systems to turn off in vacant areas of the campus. Running boilers just above building demand while pulling in night-time air on warm days to take advantage of "free cooling." Not only installing touchless and low-flow washroom fixtures, but keeping a hawk eye on meter readings and offering workshops in toilet maintenance to reduce loss through leaks. "Most building managers just let the thing run," he says. "But that wastes a lot of energy."

While water and natural gas use have plummeted, power is proving a tougher trajectory to shift, Van Weerden says. Not only has residence population tripled and building occupancy increased overall, but the number of electronic devices used by each person has skyrocketed. A few years after arriving, Van Weerden complicated his task by returning air conditioning to campus. While delighting summer occupants, that move added to the power load. In fact, all the lights flickered when the second of two vintage chillers started up, a reminder of the challenges presented by a second-hand campus.

Since then, the chiller has been replaced with a more efficient model. That's just one of the many retrofits squeaked into an always-stretched institutional budget. Electrical controllers, installed at a

cost of \$65,000 in 2003, paid for themselves in two years by cleaning up "fuzzy power" previously lost to heat. Three heat reclaim units, installed between 2009 and 2011 for \$400,000-plus, are on track to achieve payback in a decade. Power factor correction units, installed in 2014 for \$35,000, recouped their cost in 10 months by capturing power otherwise lost to the ground.

There's more. On the lighting front, Van Weerden has reduced wattage, installed motion-sensing switches, replaced inefficient fixtures, and embarked on a multi-year shift to LED bulbs. Seeing a spike in air conditioning use following the opening of the North Academic Building, he purchased roll curtains for a bank of south-facing windows, dramatically cutting heat gain, glare, cost—and carbon footprint.

Many institutions use such savings to fund future sustainability initiatives, notes Dan Beveridge, whose PhD research at the University of Saskatchewan has him interviewing sustainability leaders at campuses across Canada's prairie provinces. Not so at King's, where the dollars return to general revenue. Yet Van Weerden pushes forward, convinced sustainability is both right and beneficial to the university's identity. "Rob can go back to the board or executive and trust that they will support his initiatives," Beveridge observes. "It's a culture of collaboration and trust that allows that system to work."

Indeed, Van Weerden says support for his efforts has escalated over time, not only in requests granted, but in commitments made. In 2010, former President Harry Fernhout joined post-secondary





*Running the university boiler system at just above building demand is one reason why King's natural gas consumption has decreased by 50% over the past six years.*

leaders across the country in signing a Climate Change Statement of Action. Shared Vision 2020, the recently adopted King's roadmap for the future, puts high priority on sustainability—environmental as well as financial. The emerging campus expansion plan makes environmental stewardship a key component.

Nor is Van Weerden alone in driving toward sustainability. Will Ryks, director

of information technology services, has achieved near-gold rating on computer purchases as rated by the Green Electronics Council EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool). Cleaning staff use environmentally friendly supplies, aided by a shift from carpet to porcelain floors that cut maintenance and replacement needs.

Student initiatives range from an annual month-long sustainability challenge to

lobbying for better transit to improved bike lockups to tree planting. “We want to live the things we teach in our classrooms, and this academic institution very much has an ethos of sustainability,” says Dr. Michael Ferber, vice president of student life.

Now Van Weerden is engaged in a second wave of savings focused on a broader array of sustainability concerns. In part, those concerns are surfacing through participation in STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System), a framework developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

King's use of STARS, in turn, owes its genesis to Environmental Studies (ENVS) students and their professor, Dr. John Wood. As Dr. Wood tells it, that story begins in 2002, when ENVS students in Internship Reflections and Issues, their capstone course, audited the institution's environmental performance. Students have completed a fistful of reports for King's since then, including a more thorough audit using the then-new STARS rating system. King's became a founding adopter of STARS, scoring bronze in 2011 and silver in 2012. Now it's aiming for gold.

Seeing the value of STARS as a learning and motivational tool, Van Weerden is using it as his sustainability roadmap. But expectations set by STARS are increasingly tough, requiring best practices for everything from the transparency of endowment funds to modes of transportation and non-sweatshop purchasing. What's more, submitting a thorough and accurate STARS report is a massive undertaking. One university included in Beveridge's research dedicated two people to the task for more than half a year.

“We have decided on environmental sustainability, but we haven't fully staffed for it yet,” Dr. Wood muses. “Most institutions have at least a part-time sustainability coordinator. This is no one's job other than Rob's at the margins. It needs to be someone's day job.”



*Heat reclaim units installed on the North Academic Building. Heat is recovered from the building's exhaust at a rate of up to 90%. On a one-degree day, the units bring in fresh air at 17 degrees!*

Dr. Wood envisions a day when King's has a dedicated endowment fund that enables the university to hire a sustainability coordinator and tackle larger

projects that are difficult to fit within the general budget—geothermal heating, carbon offsets, and solar panels, to name a few.

“For our size, we punch above our weight,” he says. “It's just there's more that could be done. And because of the passion of our faculty and staff, we could do so much more.” 🏰



### SIMPLY SUSTAINABLE

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

Dr. Joanne Moyer, who joined the King's ENVS faculty in 2015, has no car. As a result, the purchases most of us might toss into a trunk make it home on the back of her bike.

An ironing board. A gardening hoe. A shoe rack. “It's part of my personal entertainment,” she says. “I'm working myself up to a goat.”

That's one of the tales you might hear in the course on voluntary simplicity Moyer is teaching at King's this year. She'll also pose a challenge: How can each one of us live more simply and sustainably?

As one of their assignments, students will adopt a simpler practice for two months and then journal about the experience. In Winnipeg, where Moyer taught a similar course, one student went vegan, another gave up processed food, another designed recycled goods, others learned how to fix their bikes at the on-campus bike shop. To her students' surprise, Moyer bought a new

bike. “Voluntary simplicity doesn't necessarily mean making sacrifices,” she told them. “I'm investing in a tool that's important for my life.”

Moyer grew up with an ethic of simplicity—reusing plastic bags, gardening, walking to school, playing with home-sewn dolls when Cabbage Patch Kids were all the rage. She spent two formative years in Tanzania while her father took on a CIDA project that came with a big house and four servants, alongside poverty. As she says, “All those things help you look more critically at the culture you live in.”

Students taking Moyer's previous voluntary simplicity courses have termed the experience transformational. As she says, “You can't ask for more than that.”





From left: Abigail Douglass (SA President), Daniel Wassenaar (Business Student), Dr. Daniel Kim (Assistant Professor of Business), Ryan Young (Director of Applied Learning, Leder School of Business), Susan Martin (Program and Internship Coordinator, Leder School of Business)

## CHARGING STATION PUTS KING'S ON THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE MAP

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

Click on a map of electric vehicle charging stations in Edmonton, and you'll see a cluster along Highway QE2, another cluster downtown and just one station serving the east side—at the King's University. Initiated by students in the Leder School of Business, the Level II EV60 charging station was installed in August. Uptake was nearly immediate, says Ryan Young, the school's director of applied learning. "Just 30 minutes after I posted the news on an electric vehicle site, a Tesla was pulling in to refuel."

The idea originated in a challenge posed by Kent Rathwell of Sun Country Highway, who is aiming to provide electrical charging stations across Canada. Speaking during a King's Interdisciplinary Studies conference on climate change, Rathwell said if King's agreed to

host a charging station, he would waive his speaker fee to help fund it, leaving a cost of about \$4,500 for installation.

Club members accepted the challenge. Putting on their entrepreneurial hats, they teamed up with other individuals and clubs across campus to raise the money in a one-week fundraising blitz involving henna art, caricatures, personalized haiku, baked goods, a pie tossing challenge, and more.

Previously concerned that the Interdisciplinary Studies conference had sparked more talk than action, club members were impressed by the enthusiastic response. "Everyone was willing to help, even if they couldn't give financially," says Cassandra Sperling. "We just enabled the movement."

To the students' delight, the charging station is encouraging others around campus, including Young, to consider

going electric. After all, now they can pull into a prime parking stall, plug in and come back three hours later to a

fully fueled car. As Young observes, "Besides connecting with people in society who are concerned about the environment, we're encouraging the King's community to live more sustainably by making it easy to make a green choice."

Young also has visions of making the station self-sustaining. Noting concerns about the fact that much electricity in Alberta comes from coal-fired power plants, he says, "My hope is that now we can move to the next step, and offset the electricity used at the charging station with solar power." The cost? About \$10,000, double the amount raised for installation. Another challenge waiting to be met. 🏠

## FROM MOUNTAIN TOPS TO CLIP PLOTS: LEARNING IN CREATION

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

Standing atop Alberta's Cyprus Hills, King's students drink in much more than an awesome view. Learning that water from this continental divide travels to both the Gulf of Mexico and Hudson's Bay, they begin to read the landscape as a whole. Delving into the biology, physics, climatology, and chemistry of the place, they see the intricacy of its parts. While helping to plan and execute trip logistics, they gain leadership and teamwork skills.

"It's called teaching from—instead of simply teaching about—creation," says Dr. John Wood, dean of the sciences. And it's a hallmark of learning at King's.

"This is Deuteronomy teaching," Wood adds, recalling the Bible's exhortation to instruct our children as we walk with them in the way. Jesus continued the tradition, as did Greek scholars, he notes. "So we're applying really biblical educational principles here, rooted in scriptures and thousands of years of experience in the best kind of pedagogy."

Learning outside the classroom happens in other disciplines as well, but the Environmental Studies program is particularly known for it, says Dr. Harry Spaling, ENVS director. "It's the best way to learn how to take care of God's creation, and ideally that will become a lifelong pursuit."

"I vividly remember almost every field trip I did," says James Witzke, a 2004 ENVS graduate who pursues creation care as both work and leisure. "Being out with an inspired instructor who is putting himself right in the heart of what you've learned provides a lot of that first-hand understanding."

ENVS students enjoying the cafeteria's famous cinnamon buns during a beginning-of-term open house reminisce about favourite field trips. For Sarah



Opportunities to learn in the field extend to countries such as Kenya, where both Dr. Harry Spaling and Dr. Joanne Moyer are active in community-based research.

Olge, a trip to Jasper National Park stands out. Besides learning about the geographic formations that created the mountains, and landscapes shaped by glaciers, water, and wind, she treasures the time in youth hostels and vans.

Others recall trips to Edmonton's waste management and water treatment centres, temples and mosques, Fort McMurray, and Banff. Students have paddled the North Saskatchewan River to investigate water quality and stood small beside behemoth earthmovers while exploring Alberta's resource extraction practices. "It really inspires you to apply your in-class learning to the actual world," says Karambir Singh, who does exactly that as co-leader of the King's Keepers campus club.

Students at King's and other Christian colleges can also take advantage of the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, whose campuses offer field training in coastal, prairie, and rainforest ecosystems. Several King's professors have taught at Au Sable, where it's understood that teaching outdoors demands careful methodology, Wood

notes. "In the Au Sable community, we learn and sharpen each other in how to teach in context."

Because field experiences give students such "tangible frameworks to hang ideas on," they are especially beneficial for students who struggle in the classroom, Wood says. "With the flattening of government funding and the rising number of students enrolled and the challenge of having so much complex material to cover, my peers at other universities say, 'We cannot afford to take students to the field anymore.' At King's we can't afford not to."

Learning from and in creation is professing at its best, Wood adds. "In a classroom, you can be a teacher, but walk into the field and open up God's interactive, alive, dynamic world, and suddenly you have to be a professor, talking about the deepest things, moving past theory and concept to being. At heart, living sustainability is about being, not doing—about being in relationship with others, making difficult choices. And that you can teach so well by being in context, in creation." 🏠



# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM EQUIPS STUDENTS FOR DIVERSE FIELDS

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

Students passing through the King’s atrium this fall are greeted by photos of their peers at work: raising weather balloons, banding ducks, helping kids understand everyday science, studying endangered pine, and more.

Such images hint at the diversity of internships open to students in the Environmental Studies (ENVS) program. By extension, they provide a window into the many places you’ll find ENVS graduates advancing sustainability—or as ENVS Director Dr. Harry Spaling puts it, “managing the praise function in creation.”

The King’s University ENVS program is founded on a vision of sustainability quite unlike the more typical notion of balancing economic, social, and environmental needs, says Dr. Spaling, who was hired to launch and shape the program in 1995 and returned to the role of ENVS Director in 2015 after wearing several other hats at King’s. “The purpose of creation is not to take care of people, but to worship our creator. So the task of the steward is not to find the secret equilibrium spot, but to protect the praise function: to do what’s just or caring for creation. That’s what I want students to understand—but more than understand, to own and to grapple with in their day-to-day work.”

James Witzke is doing exactly that. A 2004 ENVS graduate, he manages environmental monitoring for the west coast Gitxaala First Nation, whose way of life is threatened by multiple pipelines and other projects. That role takes him from grassroots community meetings to lofty corporate boardrooms, where he argues for First Nations’ inherent rights and titles, including the right to protect sacred places and traditional hunting grounds.

“I don’t think any program could have molded me better for what I’m doing now,” Witzke says. “Oftentimes I’m using my background as a stepping stone to confidently bring the idea of faith and spirituality into a boardroom, something I never ever thought possible. Having instructors open and willing to discuss many ideas while being firm in their own beliefs really prepared me to be more open and mindful about how to engage in the world around me.”

The King’s ENVS is unique in its breadth and interdisciplinary focus, Spaling says. Deliberately called “environmental studies” rather than the more conventional “environmental science,” it offers degrees in arts as well as science. In fact, the ENVS BA holds the distinction of being Canada’s first accredited



Photos from field trip to the Cyprus Hills with Dr. John Wood (top).

ited environmental arts degree. That mark of excellence was granted in 2011 by ECO (Environmental Careers Organization) Canada, the certifying body of the Canadian Environmental Accreditation Commission. The ENVS BSc received accreditation that same year, becoming Canada’s sixth accredited environmental science degree.

Witzke testifies to the importance of training that explores the humanities as well as science. “When I started, I thought the way to preserve the earth was to be on the frontline working to understand it so we could make choices about preservation—and there’s a lot of truth to that,” he says. “But that’s just the starting point. We need to take that understanding and sell it, tell it to the right people so they see why it’s important. And I’ve realized I’m better at that.”

From the first, the ENVS program has included a summer internship, coordinated in recent years by Nancy Burford. Besides helping students prepare to navigate the job search and interview process, she keeps in contact all summer—and beyond. “I feel like it’s not just a job,” she says. “You’re investing in the people God puts in your path.”

Burford also produces ENVS Footprint, a twice yearly newsletter. Last year, she teamed up with Kara Letain, an ENVS student specializing in social media, to produce videos for Facebook



Water testing in the North Saskatchewan River Valley

and Instagram. And Burford masterminded the photo display highlighting internship experiences, which she intends to repeat in years to come.

Thanks to a longstanding relationship with Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, students also have access to more than 25 courses in Michigan, the Pacific Northwest, South India, and Costa Rica. Besides doubling the available curriculum, says Dr. John Wood, who served as Au Sable’s part-time dean for six years while also teaching at King’s, the institute offers “the intangible of being thrown together with Christian men and women from around the world in a highly charged academic field environment that is invaluable for their future thinking.” Other King’s professors have also taught at Au Sable, and three years ago King’s became a sustaining partner, promising to make a substantial financial commitment to underwrite student tuition.

In their final year, ENVS students take a capstone course that challenges them to reflect on their internship experience and complete a group project for a client. “Our biggest client has been the administration, and we’ve done that deliberately,” says Dr. Wood, who has taught the course since 2002, most recently in concert with Dr. Joanne Moyer. “It’s the way we’ve enhanced sustainability at King’s.”

When reflecting on their time as interns, some students admit being conflicted about situations that did not align with their values. That tension is a sign the program is doing its job, Dr. Spaling says. “If we can train our students to see they have a role to be self-critical, to be prophetic when needed—that’s my dream.”

And it shows that students are growing in their understanding of complex topics. “Environmental issues and problems often involve differences over human values and affect people as much as other components of the environment,” Dr. Spaling says. “So it’s a very deliberate decision to address the environment from a human perspective as well as understanding the science of creation care.” King’s was one of the first to offer a Theology of Creation course. Students are often surprised when the professors quickly move beyond debates over the ancient past to a deep theological exploration of our role in the contemporary creation.

Dr. Spaling finds joy in the program’s steady growth and evident impact. All students graduate with an area of specialization in addition to their common environmental core courses, he notes. As a result, they’re well prepared to enter particular positions or advanced study—and to play significant roles wherever they land.

“Our graduates are stewards of creation at all levels of policy, research and education, including many who’ve gone on to graduate school,” he says. “As a result, we have a profile that’s disproportionate to our size.” 🙌



# HUNTING THE URBAN HARE

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

*White-tailed jackrabbit on campus. Edmonton's jackrabbit population has increased dramatically from less than 500 in 1992, to around 2,600 in 2016.*

Who are these creatures sharing our city with us? That question has taken Dr. John Wood and his students into the streets and parks of Edmonton many a wintry night. Their quest: the white-tailed jackrabbit.

The lean, spring-legged creatures abound in Edmonton, yet most of us know little about them. Twenty-four years ago, when Dr. Wood chose this species as the focus of his research, even he confused them with the smaller, woods-loving snowshoe hare.

Instead, white-tailed jackrabbits (or *Lepus townsendii*) are grassland species that have migrated to urban centres as their prairie habitat shrinks. Adding to the potential for confusion, they are hares, not rabbits. Adults live in above-ground depressions or “forms” rather than in burrows, and the young (or leveret) are born eyes-open and fully furred. Who knew?

After nearly a quarter century of field research, Dr. Wood knows all that—and much more. His contributions to the paucity of literature on the urban hare include a chapter in the 2006 book *Coyotes Still Sing in My Valley: Conserving Biodiversity in a Northern City*. Another large mass of data regarding the species’ numbers and habits sits begging for time to be written up.

Before joining the King’s biology and ENVS staff, Dr. Wood studied urban water insects in California and Washington, driven by a passion to know, and thus better steward, his creaturely neighbours. Moving north, he realized that doing aquatic research during the school term would take students onto thin ice. The hare loping past his window suggested a dryland alternative.

“In some ways, it doesn’t really matter what species you study,” he says. “Death reigns out there, and these are the ones that lived. Every one is a highly successful organism with a fascinating story.”

In 1992, Wood began taking senior ENVS students on hare-hunting missions, flashlights and notebooks in hand. “We had to learn to distinguish bag bunnies from real bunnies,” he says, recalling the plastic bags that nearly entered early population counts.

Even minus the bags, Edmonton’s white-tailed jackrabbit population has escalated in the decades since, growing from less than 500 to nearly 3,000 before settling at about 2,600. Urban gardens and greenspaces provide ample food in an environment largely free of predators, Dr. Wood notes. “They do breed like bunnies. So just lower the predation rate slightly and the population will grow.” In fact, the classic “prairie cycle,” in which populations of small mammals expand and then contract as predator

numbers rise, no longer seems to apply.

Traffic is the major hazard for the urban hare, who can sprint as fast as 70 km an hour. For the tiny leveret awaiting their mother’s brief appearances to nurse, birds post the greatest danger. Dr. Wood has filmed an adult jackrabbit in a life-and-death chase to save her baby from a diving owl.

These hares are nocturnal, or as Wood puts it, “kind of like a teenager – up all night, asleep all day.” Through careful observation, the King’s hare-hunting crew has pieced together some defining habits. As dusk falls, the adults emerge from their forms, take a few steps, stretch and are off for the night. By the middle of the night, they’ve settled into a quiet time of eating and grooming. As sunrise nears, they may congregate before scattering to their own forms, where they sit out the day. “Our activities create space for them, and they habituate to our behaviour,” Dr. Wood says. “But they are not domesticated; they are still wild animals.”

Dr. Wood compares the joy of studying the white-tailed jackrabbit to being Bartholomew Cubbins with his 500 hats. “Every time you take one off, there’s another one. You never get to essence, you’re always discovering something new—and the closer you look, the more fascinating it is.” 🐰



UPCOMING EVENTS:

## LEDER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

*John Leder, one of the founding donors of the Leder School of Business, presenting at King's 2015 High School Business Case Competition*

### SECOND ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

The High School Business Competition hosted by the Leder School of Business at King’s is a business case competition specifically designed for grade 11 and 12 high school students in the Edmonton area. In teams of four, students tackle a real-world business situation where they can use their knowledge in marketing, strategy, accounting, entrepreneurship, and finance. Students create recommendations, or develop a plan, which they present to a panel of judges at King’s using PowerPoint format. The top three teams can win from \$300 to \$1,000 cash. There are other prizes as well.

Once the case is released in November, teams will have approximately two weeks to develop their recommendations and presentations. There will be “social good” component. On November 25, teams will present their plans at King’s to a panel of judges from the community.

### 13TH ANNUAL KING'S UNIVERSITY CAREER FAIR

The 2017 Career Fair will take place in the Atrium at The King’s University on Thursday, January 26, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Open to all King’s students, it provides an ideal opportunity for businesses, employers, and students to connect. Students will be looking for part-time work during the winter term, as well as full-time employment opportunities for the summer in the forms of internships and summer positions. Graduating students will be interested in career-entry positions following convocation.

Complimentary lunch is included for all exhibitors and will be available at noon. Beverages will also be available throughout the day. Regular booth rates are \$275 for organizations and \$175 for registered charities.

#### For more information about the event:

Susan Martin - [susan.martin@leder.ca](mailto:susan.martin@leder.ca)

Paula Mitchell - [paula.mitchell@leder.ca](mailto:paula.mitchell@leder.ca)

### EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM BEGINS WINTER 2017

The Leder School of Business is launching its new Executive Education program this winter. The program will offer business professionals short courses that provide hands-on experience and focus on skills that can be applied immediately in a work setting. Participants in the program will have the opportunity to package courses together to earn a professional certificate from the Leder School of Business.

This winter, the school will offer courses that focus on Business Communication. Short courses on public speaking, presentations, business writing, and negotiation/mediation will be offered in the evenings. Each course will be approximately 9-12 hours.

Registration details are still being finalized. For more information, please visit [www.leder.ca](http://www.leder.ca), or contact Ryan Young, Director of Applied Learning at the Leder School of Business : 780-465-3500 x8073 or [ryan.young@leder.ca](mailto:ryan.young@leder.ca)

The following courses will be offered in winter 2017:

*Executive Communication Skills*  
(3 evenings, 9 hours)  
Instructor: Lori Mohacsy.

*Effective Presentations*  
(3 evenings, 9 hours)  
Instructor: Mike Klueh.

*Power Writing for Business Leaders*  
(3 evenings, 9 hours)  
Instructor: Stephanie Mitchell.

*Mediation and Negotiation*  
(4 evenings, 12 hours)  
Instructor: Bill Diepeveen.

Learn more at  
[www.leder.ca/executive-education](http://www.leder.ca/executive-education)



# FAITHFUL DONORS KEY TO KING'S SUCCESS

I THANK MY GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST FOR ALL OF YOU. —ROM. 1:8

The King's University provides one of the most affordable, highest-value Christian education experiences in North America, thanks to the broad support of its greater community. From its inception in 1979, King's has relied far more on the financial support of its donors than most public universities. Tuition and government grants cover only a portion of the actual cost of operating a university. Any given year, 16 to 18 percent must come from charitable donations.

That's where King's many faithful donors come in.

"The impact of the generosity of our supporters on our students is real, and it is inspiring," says Dan VanKeeken, vice-president for institutional advance-

ment. "Tuition for each student would be thousands of dollars higher without it. And ongoing operations and improvements to King's would not be possible without the vision and faithfulness of the community."

Add to this the millions of dollars in supporter loans, the support of The King's Foundation since 1985, and the King's Guild, and it all amounts to a Christian institution thriving on the faithfulness of its supporting communities across the country.

King's has donors from every province and a handful of countries, including the United States, where King's alumni operate a small foundation for American gifts. Each year, about 1,000 donors send King's between \$3 million and \$4

million toward operating costs. Many have been giving since King's began.

Every few years there are also larger bequests from supporters who have put King's in their will, some treating the school as an "extra child" and leaving a legacy accordingly. The last few years have seen extraordinary gifts towards tower residence renovations, the Gerry Segger Heritage Collection (an archive focused on the Dutch and German Canadian immigrant experience), and the astounding \$12 million pledged by four families in 2014 toward creating the Leder School of Business.

"It's amazing what our supporters will give, when they are inspired and believe their investments will make a difference to our students," VanKeeken says.

With most financial support coming from individual Christian Reformed Church (CRC) members, over half a million dollars annually comes from more than 90 CRC congregations in Western Canada. The level of support is all the more impressive when the makeup of the student body is considered, with less than a third now having ties to the CRC and a growing number coming from at least three dozen denominations.

Development Director and King's alum Shannon Tuininga says the support King's receives reflects the history of the CRC and "the value its people place on Christian education."

At King's, those supporters are making a difference, even as the school works to increasingly earn support from outside of the CRC as well. 🙌



Fifth-year Bachelor of Education student, Vanessa Gulayets. Students like Vanessa go on to teach from a Christian perspective in public and Christian schools across Canada.

# ALUMNI: THE NEXT DONOR GENERATION

BY JANET PAQUETTE

If you walked the hallways of King's in recent weeks, or attended a campus event, the noise level alone would persuade you that here on 50th Street beats the heart of a vibrant university. You would not be wrong.

But the heart of King's beats beyond the campus boundaries in distant points around the world, and in small towns in Western Canada. Like Westlock, for instance. In this rural area northwest of Edmonton, one couple's efforts in support of their alma mater exemplify the kind of steady workout crucial to the long-term health of King's.

Mike and Katie Middel graduated from King's in 2014 and now make their home on an acreage 10 minutes north of Westlock. Mike works as an apprentice carpenter, Katie as a financial services coordinator for the provincial government. They attend Cedar Creek Christian Fellowship, a small rural congregation of the Apostolic Church of Pentecost, where they lead the teen youth group.

"Mike and I often talked about how King's changed us in ways we didn't expect," says Katie. "How we are more responsible consumers, how we think about social justice. We are so grateful for how much King's grew us, challenged us and changed us."

When the couple, both 24, was asked to lead a teen youth group at church, they realized their service would allow them "to give back to King's so other students could have the opportunity we had."

Says Mike: "I think our time at King's has

really impacted how we lead this small group of teens." Adds Katie: "It's kind of a cool way that we can send kids on their way to King's. We're kind of another little artery."

Despite the pressures of maintaining their acreage and building careers, Mike and Katie have made room in their budget for monthly donations to King's.

King's is not a high-profile choice for Westlock teens pondering post-secondary. Katie, whose family roots are Roman Catholic and Lutheran, said she was surprised on starting at King's to see so many students from nearby Barrhead and Neerlandia, although she soon learned about the institution's Dutch immigrant history.

Mike's connections to King's are deep, however. His father, Harley Middel, is a King's alumnus from 1984 and a current King's board member. Two of his siblings also attended King's.

"I hope more of us from Westlock will go to King's," says Katie, noting her parents have always supported Christian higher education but were not familiar with King's before she enrolled. "We recommend King's to any young person who is talking to us, to let them know how wonderful it was for us."

And that's just the kind of effort that Development Director Shannon Tuininga needs to meet the next great challenge on the road to a sustainable financial future for King's.

"We see donors who were involved with

King's since the '70s are passing on. How do we get that degree of faithfulness and commitment for King's translated to the next generation?" asks Tuininga.

Tuininga and his staff are looking for ways to create direct links between supporters and King's.

"If we think about collaboration and connection, I think it's really about us engaging with our community beyond the walls of King's. How do we interact in a mutually beneficial way?"

Bringing the campus to outside communities is one way of achieving that. For instance, King's faculty may run issues-oriented workshops in various communities to offer leadership in areas related to poverty and justice or oil and gas pipelines.

But if Christian post-secondary institutions are to continue to thrive and grow, the challenge remains to increase the heartbeat of younger generations of believing parents and churchgoers for Christian education. Throughout North America, most high school graduates from Christian homes who go on to post-secondary education do not choose Christian institutions.

So when Katie and Mike Middel talk to young people in northwestern Alberta about their post-high school plans, it's not only about King's, it's about a Christian university education more broadly.

"We are not so much in competition with each other," they say. But King's is happy to be their institution of choice. 🙌



# YOU + KING’S = PERFECT PAIR

Whether it’s hiking in the mountains, heading to a job interview, or walking down the aisle, our alumni are proud to show off their King’s colours with the perfect pair of alumni socks. To claim your own complimentary pair, visit [kingsu.ca/alumni](http://kingsu.ca/alumni) and the Alumni Relations Office will send them straight to your door.

*Coby (née Doef, BA’02, BEd’04) and Phil Visscher (BSc’04), Chris (BCom’03) and KarieAnn Mantel (née Dykstra, BA’02, BEd’04), Wayne (BA’03) and Renee Prins (née Visscher, BA’04), Jay (BA’05) and Sharlene Bueckert (née Foster, BA’03), Dennis (BSc’02) and Jocelyn Perrin (née Veenstra, BA’02, BEd’04), Jeremy (BA’02) and Wendy Larson (née Schulz, BA’03).*



## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Jon Bakker (BA’06) participated in the Great White North Triathlon this summer in Stony Plain, AB.



Eric Bomhof (BA’17) & Sarah VanWornden (BSc’17) celebrated their engagement this summer. These two are currently completing a “Justice Studies” semester abroad in Honduras.



Chelsy Bowman (née Stevens, BA’05) serves the community of Fort Saskatchewan, AB as the Rector at St. George’s Anglican Church. She loves spending time with her husband, Jordan, and their energetic son, Maks.



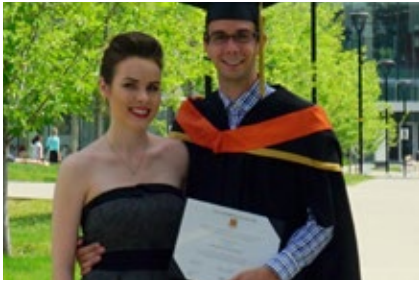
Danielle Koekkoek (BA’12 & BEd’15) and Brandon Peters celebrated their wedding vows July 23 in Cranbrook, BC surrounded by some very special alumni friends.



Our condolences to the friends and family of Shannon Cooper (’05). She passed away June 30 following a serious heart attack.



Kathy MacFarlane (née VanGalen, ’87) earned her Master of Arts in Leadership from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC.



Evan Joyes (BA’11) recently completed his Masters of Planning in Environmental Design from the University of Calgary with the support of his loving wife, Mychele (née Freund, BA’11).



Jontue Elan Kuyvenhoven (BMus’13) is the talented singer-songwriter featured at this year’s Community Banquet. She is currently working on her first full-length album following the success of her first EP, Jontue Elan.



Michelle Oosterhuis (BA’03) competed in the Spartan Race in Red Deer, AB with a finishing time of 56:46, winning her age category and placing 10th out of almost 800 women competing.



David Fraser (BMus’14) and his wife, Qelsey, are excitedly awaiting their first child. This future musician is due March 2017.



Former teammates on the 2013 Honduras Water Project Rebecca MacDonald (BA’13) and Jason VanBoven (BA’14) are engaged to be married February 11, 2017.



Jordan (née Brandsma, BSc’10) & John Vanderveen (BA’09) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child. Their beautiful daughter, Ada Bree, was born August 2.

Only the very best for Edmonton Christian School! These community builders are proud King’s alumni. Left to right: Anthony Middel (BA’13 & BEd’15), Rachel Middel (née DeJong, BA’13 & BEd’15), Deborah Veldhuisen (née VanGeest, BA’12 & BEd’14), Elizabeth Neudorf (BA’12 & BEd’15), Latasha Hazlett (née Smith, BA’12 & BEd’14), and Erin Hollingsworth (née Monsma, BA’12 & BEd’15).



Andrew Fox (BSc’16) was recognized for his leadership, Christian commitment and service to the King’s community as the most recent recipient of the Derrick Timmermans Memorial Award.



Joshua Gilker (BSc’16) and Miriam Lietz (BSc’17) captured their incredible wedding memories with the talented help of Witty Sandle Photography.



King’s professors Darcy Visscher (BSc’00) and Leah Martin-Visscher (BSc’99) were blessed with a new addition to their family earlier this year. Maia and Violet are so proud of their little brother Niko.



# TRIAL BY FIRE A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

BY JANET PAQUETTE

When graduates pack up and leave The King's University, they go with prayers of family and supporters in their hearts to meet the challenges of the future.

Those prayers for strength, wisdom and protection were answered on May 3 for Erica (BEd '11) and Ronald (BEd '10) Vanden Pol. The young couple, teachers at Fort McMurray Christian School, were part of a mass evacuation of the 80,000 residents of this northern Alberta city. They arrived safely in Edmonton after an exhausting eight-hour drive to escape a rapidly advancing forest fire.

They were among the last to leave the school in the late afternoon, volunteering to stay until the last students had been safely restored to their parents. Unlike most of the teachers at the 200-student school, the Vanden Pols didn't have to leave early to connect with other family. With Erica eight months pregnant, their baby was safely tucked away, allowing the couple to join the exodus from school in their Ford Fusion, which fortuitously had a full tank of gas. They were confident their house would be OK, since the fire by all accounts didn't appear to be threatening the Stone Creek neighbourhood.

The experiences of that day and the weeks following were "life-changing," says Erica. "It was fairly surreal; we just took it one day at a time," she recalls.

Ronald looks back and sees so many positives despite the challenges: how well-organized the emergency response was, at the school and in Fort McMurray; how the evacuees were quickly met with help from the city, province, and the insurance companies; how family and

friends surrounded them with support.

On May 5, an all-day free event at West Edmonton Mall's Water Park for Fort McMurray evacuees enabled the couple to meet with others from their home church of Evergreen CRC. It was good to be with their church family on that day, Erica recalls, because she and Ronald learned their house had been totally destroyed in the fire,

On the following Sunday, Trinity CRC in Edmonton hosted a service and potluck lunch for Fort McMurray evacuees. Erica estimates about 80 per cent of their Evergreen congregation was there.

"With both of us coming from faith backgrounds, it meant so much to know the amount of prayer we received from people we've never even met," she says.

The life-changing events of those first weeks didn't stop with the fire and the temporary resettlement at Ronald's mom's home in Edmonton. On June 1, Erica gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Reuben, at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women, part of the Royal Alexandra Hospital where Erica's aunt is a nurse.

The cloud of losing their home definitely came with a silver lining for the couple, Ronald points out. Instead of being in Fort McMurray with a new baby, they were in Edmonton, near their hometowns of Lacombe and Red Deer. "The opportunity to be with family this summer was just excellent. They got to hang out with us and with Reuben and really get to know him."

In August, Ronald and Erica and little Reuben moved back to Fort McMurray, into the same building the young couple lived in before buying their first house in

2012. Noting the struggles of others who have lost their homes, trying to make do in temporary housing with four or five kids, Ronald calls the destruction of their house "very inconvenient, but something we can live with."

Erica is on maternity leave from her Grade 3 teaching job, while Ronald is back teaching Grade 6. They have a builder lined up to rebuild their home but insurance backlogs may mean construction delays into 2017 or even 2018.

"There are things in the house that can't be replaced, things that meant a lot to me are gone, but we are all fine," says Erica. "We've made it through this and we now know we can make it through anything," says Ronald, laughing.

Aug. 28 was a very special day in the life of this young family, as Reuben was baptized in Evergreen CRC by Rev. George Holthof, the congregation's retired pastor. Reuben was one of three evacuee babies baptized that Sunday.

Ronald and Erica praise the readiness of the King's community to help them in any way: "We were contacted right away by the alumni coordinator," says Erica, noting several couples in their church are King's alumni. "We definitely felt the support from the King's community."

The Christian school and its families are welcoming a return to routine as the first months of school unfold. And that's a good thing, says Ronald, who says staff remains alert to signs of adjustment issues among students.

"Our faith, our family support, all made such a difference to us," says Erica in reflecting on the upheaval of recent months, "And Reuben was a wonderful distraction, of course." 🙏

# STUDENT-ATHLETES BENEFIT FROM VOLLEYBALL LEGACY

About 13 years ago Jonathan Elzinga started on a journey, transitioning from a small Christian high school to The King's University. For six years he tossed his backpack into his car and made the short daily commute from Sherwood Park to The King's University, where he graduated with Bachelor of Arts ('07) and Bachelor of Education ('09) degrees.

Elzinga says his four years playing volleyball were instrumental to his personal development at King's. His skill contributed to the team's best showing in 2005 when they won an Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference bronze medal. He credits scholarships for making his King's education possible.

"I was fortunate to receive athletic scholarship money to help with the cost of tuition at King's, and donor scholarships continue to help attract top talent to the athletic programs today," says Elzinga.

Fast forward to 2016, and Elzinga is an assistant principal and a men's volleyball coach at his alma mater, Strathcona Christian Academy.

"Both my studies and my involvement in the volleyball program were instrumental in developing my character, leadership skills and spiritual maturity, and I am incredibly thankful that I chose King's," he says. "King's helped me get to where I am today."

He believes so strongly in the King's mission and its athletics program that he encourages his students to attend King's.

"I am thrilled that two of my Grade 12 graduating players are following in my footsteps with the same 'short daily commute' from Sherwood Park to King's," he notes. Owen Leeder and Brendan Vanderlinde joined the men's volleyball team at King's for the



From left : Phil Dixon, Brendan Vanderlinde, Owen Leeder, Jonathan Elzinga

2016/2017 season. Both have been involved with the Team Alberta program and were 2016 National Club Champions. Leeder and Vanderlinde celebrated raising the "Holy Grail" as the top club team in the country in Saskatoon this past May.

Elzinga is excited that his former Grade 12 coach, Phil Dixon, is coaching them at King's. "My players get a chance to play under my former coach, who had such an impact on my own life as a young man. I always appreciated how Phil mentored me both on and off the court. He challenged me to be a better volleyball player and a stronger Christian."

Donor support for athletic scholarships and program needs are so valuable in attracting high level players to King's.

It is not just about sports. Through the athletics program, King's trains student-athletes to use their gifts and abilities in sports to honour God and serve others. Through striving for excellence on and off the court, students develop leadership and life skills and build relationships with coaches, teammates and competitors. Coaches have an incredible opportunity to help student-athletes

discover who they are in Christ and how to develop their God given talents.

Athletics is particularly instrumental in developing a person's character, leadership capacity and involvement in the community. Donor support is vital to attracting mission-fit student-athletes to King's to build future Christian leaders, and a strong and vibrant athletics program helps strengthen the profile of The King's University. 🙏

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# TWO UNIVERSITIES OFFER THE SAME DEGREE

## WHAT MAKES THE KING'S DIFFERENCE?

BY SHANNON TUINGA

Conveying the value of a King's experience can be difficult to explain to prospective students, but it's clear to alumni like Scott and Christine Ellis, who both have other post-secondary experiences. In fact, they have been so inspired by King's unique value that they have chosen to leave a gift in their will to The King's University.

In making that decision, they note that "as graduates of both King's and other post-secondary schools, we know firsthand the King's difference. King's students wrestle with questions that many other university students only touch on. This unique advantage of a King's education leads to a more thoughtful engagement with the world, and more robust critical thinking skills."

Christine completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 2000 at King's and went on to study medicine at the University of Alberta. She is currently a rural family physician in Rimbey, Alberta, and provides full-scope care, from delivering babies to palliative care and everything in between.

While at King's, Christine was involved beyond the classroom, serving as the Students' Association Vice President External and President. This commitment continued when she served on the King's Board of Governors from 2008-2014.

Reflecting on these experiences, she notes that "I have often said that I didn't fully appreciate what I got at King's when I was a student, but bookending my medical education with King's made me realize the importance of the type of Christian education King's provides—the type that helps you integrate faith into your career and every aspect of your life."



King's Alumni Christine (BSc '00) and Scott (BA '15) Ellis

Scott followed a different path. He completed the Chemical Engineering technologists program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in 2001 and worked in the oilfield industry before moving on to King's, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics, History and Economics in 2015. He is currently attending law school at the University of Calgary. Based on his time at King's, he knows that "King's offers an important counter-narrative to the assumption that the greatest good is more stuff. King's gives students a safe place to test and question the prevailing answers to life's questions, while at the same time teaching and embodying a Christian worldview."

They offer this advice to current students: "Take advantage of the unique opportunity that King's offers to wrestle

with life's perennial questions because there will come a time when you'll ask, 'Why am I doing this?' but you'll likely be too busy to search for the answer."

King's has had a significant and profound influence on Scott and Christine and they believe that planned giving is an important extension of their regular giving. They know first-hand how the generous financial contributions King's donors made in the past enhanced and shaped their experiences. Now they want to do their part in enhancing the King's experience for future generations.

For more information on leaving a gift in your will for The King's University, please contact Kathy MacFarlane, Associate Director of Development, by telephone at 780-465-8352 or by email at [kathy.macfarlane@kingsu.ca](mailto:kathy.macfarlane@kingsu.ca). 🇺🇸

“**King's offers an important counter-narrative to the assumption that the greatest good is more stuff. King's gives students a safe place to test and question the prevailing answers to life's questions, while at the same time teaching and embodying a Christian worldview.**”

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