

# CONNECTION



CANADA 150

## CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY

TACKLING 'GENEROUS CITIZENSHIP' AT THE I.S. CONFERENCE | STUDENT LIFE AT KING'S: CREATING COMMUNITY | SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND NURTURING FAITH | EAGLES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### SPRING CHOIR CONCERTS

**West End Christian Reformed Church**  
10015 149 St. NW  
March 31, 7:30 pm

**New Life Christian Reformed Church**  
35270 Delair Road, Abbotsford, BC  
May 3, 7 PM

**Fleetwood Christian Reformed Church**  
9165 - 160 Street, Surrey, BC  
May 5, 7 PM

Tickets available at The King's University Bookstore, at the door, or at [the kingsu.eventbrite.ca](http://the kingsu.eventbrite.ca)



### GRADUATION CONVOCATION CEREMONY

**APRIL 29, 2:00 PM MILLWOODS ASSEMBLY**  
2225 66 ST NW



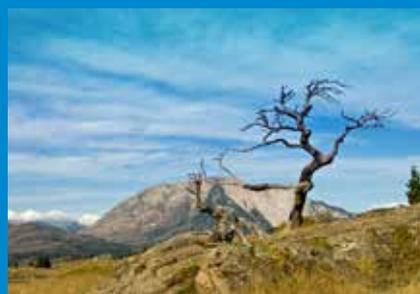
### EAGLES SUMMER YOUTH SOCCER CAMPS

**JULY 10-14, 2017 AND JULY 17-21**  
REGISTRATION AND INFO AT [KINGSU.CA/CAMPS](http://KINGSU.CA/CAMPS)



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**MARCH 25, 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM**  
THE KING'S UNIVERSITY



**JUNE 24-25**

### SOUTHERN ALBERTA AND CROWSNEST PASS FIELD TRIP

REGISTRATION AND INFO AT [KINGSU.CA/FIELDTRIP](http://KINGSU.CA/FIELDTRIP)

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## Cover

Student Interdisciplinary Studies Conference panel student participants, from left to right: Cara Peacock, Yestin Montalbo, and Grace Bigazi. The students spoke at the end of the first day of the conference, sharing their experiences as minority and international students at King's.



Above: President Humphreys at Universities Canada My Canada Conference in Ottawa.  
Right: President Humphreys with students Erin Vandeborn and Abby Douglass at Parliament.

## WHAT WILL CANADA LOOK LIKE IN 2067?

Longevity runs in the family. I had a special relationship with my grandmother, Wyn. She lived with us for many of my formative years and passed away at the grand age of 99. She helped me buy my first car, a really cool, lowered to the weeds, baby blue roll top '67 Volkswagen Beetle. And in return I took her to her appointments, to church, and picked up a few personal items that she needed. I am often struck with all that changed in her lifetime.

Recently two students and I had the opportunity to attend Converge 2017, a Universities Canada event in Ottawa. Young Canadian leaders had the opportunity to engage with accomplished leaders and thinkers from universities, business, government, and communities to talk about creating a better future for all Canadians.

What would a better future look like for all Canadians?

The King's University mission statement refers to bringing renewal and reconciliation to **every walk of life**. How might we live into this more fully? Our conversations at Converge 2017 centered around three questions: How will the power of pluralism help shape the future of our country? How do we advance reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples? How do we drive innovation led by creative, nimble, and globally engaged citizens?

I couldn't be more proud of the way our students contributed at this event. We represented King's well! Our students and alumni are prepared to engage with difficult questions across widely ranging perspectives and beliefs. More than ever, we need young people who

are equipped to stay at the table, to be a faithful presence, and to work for what our vision statement refers to as a **more humane, just, and sustainable world**. We need young Christian leaders to engage the culture around them because of their faith, not in spite of it.

I am encouraged when I look at our King's community and see the way we are engaging in the world. It gives me hope for the future of our country and our university.

What will Canada look like in 2067? If I am fortunate enough to have inherited my grandmother's longevity, I will still be here to see it. 

DR. MELANIE J. HUMPHREYS



*The Ocean Lady brought Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka to Canada, where they were detained.*

## EXPLORING THE MEANING OF 'GENEROUS CITIZENSHIP'

### WINTER INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CONFERENCE EXAMINES CANADA AT 150 YEARS AFTER CONFEDERATION

BY JANET PAQUETTE

As if we needed proof that The King's University provides students with venues to think hard, often in new and different ways. The proof was there for anyone walking into the gym in January during the two-day Interdisciplinary Studies Conference.

Under the banner "Glorious and Free," the theme challenging students was "Generous Citizenship for the Next 150." This milestone in Canada's history will be celebrated with events across the country, particularly on July 1, but the IS Conference demanded serious reflection. What does it mean to be a Canadian? How have recent newcomers experienced a country that takes pride in being generous?

As is traditional with King's I.S. conferences, the public is invited to attend the sessions, so the familiar faces of long-

time King's supporters joined those of students in giving rapt attention to the moving stories of refugees and those who work with refugees.

On the conference's opening day, former refugee Maran Nagarasa, now a Canadian resident and journalist, shared his painful experience as one of 76 Tamils from Sri Lanka who arrived on the West Coast in 2009 aboard the Ocean Lady. A student panel included Grace Bigazi, first-year student whose own refugee story is a testimony to God's grace in unbelievably trying circumstances.

With a philosophical and more scholarly analysis of citizenship on the second day, keynote addresses by theologian Dr. William Cavanaugh of DePaul University and philosopher Dr. Ronald Kuipers of the Institute for Christian Studies set the bar high for students. What is

the role of the church and the Christian community in a liberal democracy? How do Christians promote the Gospel in a country where the state has assumed the task of caring for the poor and suffering? How can we hold the state accountable to the cause of social justice?

Breakout sessions allowed students and other attendees to explore citizenship in more informal classroom settings. Nine seminars covered the history of immigration in Canada; political advocacy in the Trump era; the church and the refugee crisis; religious freedom and pluralism; inmates as citizens; trauma among immigrants and refugees; employment bias as a barrier to newcomers; Romero House, a Toronto refugee support centre; and a showing of the documentary film *19 Days*, which follows several refugee families during their first 19 days in Canada.

A one-woman play, *Anatolia Speaks*, offered a dramatic presentation of the immigrant story during the evening portion of the I.S. Conference. Written and directed by local playwright Kenneth Brown, the powerful monologue pulled the audience in through the endearing humour and accents of a Bosnian newcomer. Portrayed by Edmonton actress Candice Fiorentino, Anatolia tells her story in 1999 to her ESL class, how a Canadian peacekeeper four years earlier had inspired her to escape her war-torn homeland and make a new home in Canada. Initially funny and self-deprecating, Anatolia peels back the layers to reveal a traumatic tale of horror and personal loss in the Bosnian conflict.

Those kinds of intense stories, whether dramatized on stage or shared with a gym full of King's folk, brought home the challenge of living out generous citizenship. The task of helping the most vulnerable, of creating a more just and fair society, is the responsibility of every citizen.

As Dr. Kuipers told his audience, "The conversation about what this country is and what it might become should never end. Canada 150 is a time to reflect on that." 🇨🇦



Dr. Ronald Kuipers, Dr. Doug Harink, and Dr. William Cavanaugh wrapped up the conference.

## SPEAKING UP FOR REFUGEES

BY JANET PAQUETTE

When Grace Bigazi started at The King's University in September, her biggest worry was her student loan delay. The political studies student used scholarship funds from her Red Deer, Alberta, high school for the first month and tried to adjust to a new environment.

"I felt better when the loan came through. I could be a student and not worry. I got my feet on the ground and started to do normal stuff, like go to basketball games, panic about mid-terms, like everyone else," she recalls with a smile.

It wasn't until the Interdisciplinary Studies Conference in mid-January that Grace decided to speak up about the life she led for 18 years leading up to her enrolment at King's. When she first read the email from Rebecca Warren about the conference's theme. Grace had an "ah-ha" moment and contacted Warren, the interim director of Interdisciplinary Studies.

From their first conversation, Warren was impressed by how passionate and articulate Grace was about refugees and newcomers to Canada. Grace worked with two friends to form a student panel to lead discussion on the first day of the conference.

Refugees were the focus of the first day, under the banner of the conference title: "Glorious and Free?! Generous Citizenship for the Next 150." The students on the panel that closed the day's activities spoke about their experiences and made a pitch for an online petition to waive transportation loans for government-sponsored refugees.

"I was thrilled to make a space in the conference for these students to share their thoughts and experiences," Warren says of Grace and students YJ Montalbo and Cara Peacock, who spoke from international student and First Nations perspectives. "During the panel, they all responded with insight, clarity, and even humour at times."

Warren hopes the student effort will help other students "see that the issues we discuss are not only out there, but also right here in our midst. One of the best outcomes for me of the whole conference was having other students approach me afterwards with ideas they have for future contributions."

Grace and her family came to Canada



Keynote speaker Dr. William Cavanaugh

### A PLACE TO STAND

BY JANET PAQUETTE

With the I.S. Conference starting just days before the inauguration of a new U.S. president, politics loomed large in this two-day study of Canadian citizenship. It seemed inevitable. The polarizing identity of Donald Trump sharpened the divide between right and left as conference attendees examined the task of Christians in 21st-century democracy.

With students coming to King's from across Canada and distant points around the globe,

political experiences and perspectives are bound to be diverse. How then to absorb and integrate what learned scholars are offering from the podium? Keynote speakers Dr. William Cavanaugh of Duke University in North Carolina and Dr. Ronald Kuipers of the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto drew on the work of the world's preeminent theologians and philosophers to point to the active role faith communities must assume in public life.

"We are witnessing new forms of being together; it's quite an opportunity for us," said Dr. Kuipers in describing recent interaction



*King's students, including Bigazi (second from right), join I.S. director Rebecca Warren (right) to talk about their experiences.*

in June 2015 as government-sponsored refugees, having been on the move in four African countries since the first months of Grace's infancy in Congo. But Grace didn't share her story with new friends at King's, although a few staff and faculty were aware of her refugee history.

"I think I did a good job of blending in as a student. I didn't want to change the way people treated me; I didn't want their pity," she says. "The first time people actually approached me about my story was after the IS conference. They came up to me and said 'Oh, I had no idea.'"

On a personal level, she has some qualms about identifying herself so closely with the refugee issue. "Now I feel like I represent a brand. That's weird. I'm still Grace."

over common concerns among religious communities, human rights groups and government bodies.

The scholars cautioned Christians to be alert that churches and faith groups not be relegated to the fringes of political life. They called for continuing discussion among Christians, thus making a conscious effort to grow together in meeting the needs of society's most vulnerable, and seeking to discover God's will for justice in society.

Opportunities to ask questions and express political views fuelled lively discussions

Still, Grace felt compelled to shed her one-of-the-crowd persona to advocate on behalf of other refugees. "The difference between me and other refugees is that I speak English. It's a blessing, really. They go through so much, and I know what it's like to be them."

While her education during seven years in English-speaking Tanzania and four years in Kenya helped her language skills, the lack of transcripts and permanent residency status made registering at King's a paperwork nightmare.

"The administration was so gracious about everything, but the system couldn't identify my situation," Grace says, recalling the phone calls back and forth between King's and her high school. She credits the efforts of administrators with sorting out the mess.

In four years, she can apply for Canadian citizenship, after years of seeing "alien" or "asylum seeker" or "stateless person" written on her ID cards. Grace wants to use her degree to help those still in Congo, including her grandparents and other relatives.

"I try to follow the politics there. God says nothing is broken beyond repair. It's just so broken, it's like where would I begin?"

Grace is determined to gain the tools she needs during her four years at King's

in several of the breakout sessions that followed the keynote addresses. Political science professor Dr. John Hiemstra led a session entitled "Political Advocacy in an Age of Trump and Brexit: Lessons from the Faith Tradition of Citizens for Public Justice." Students and community visitors filled every desk and square meter of floor space.

Referring to the "Make America Great Again" slogan, Dr. Hiemstra said, "The nature of ideology reduces norms and values to afterthoughts, rather than starting points." Values like justice and fairness were set aside by voters in order to achieve the

and to discover what God is calling her to do with her life. In the fall, she hopes to be joined at King's by her sister, Alice, who is graduating from high school in June.

The fact King's is faith-based is important to her family. "It's God's grace, honestly," Grace says of her family's new life in Red Deer where her mom, dad, and five siblings attend CrossRoads Church, an Evangelical Missionary congregation. "Lots of people that I left behind are still trying to get here."

Response from students to Grace and the student panel's endorsement of waiving transportation loans for refugees was mixed. "There are people who are against it. It was expected. I wasn't going out there to convince everyone. There were an even greater number of people who were very responsive. They asked how they could help; they signed the petition."

She ponders over the question posed in some of the negative reactions she encountered: "Why is this Canada's problem?" For Grace, the answer to that was the most powerful message of the IS conference.

The conference underscored her sense of Canada's identity. "It's beautiful, how you can have all these people here from all over, immigrants, Canadians, refugees, and we can all be friends." 🇺🇸

goal of electing Trump, he observed.

Where do Christians stand in a deeply divided arena of public discourse when listening appears to be a lost courtesy? We are called to "cultivate a generous citizenship," said Dr. Hiemstra, where we do not demonize opponents but treat them as neighbours with mutual respect. Public advocacy works when we engage in dialogue, affirm normative values and build bridges.

"We should expect to see God's grace and spirit in others, even in those we don't agree with," Dr. Hiemstra said. 🇺🇸



Many in the community, including Dr. John Hiemstra (above right), attended the two-day event.

## WELCOME THE STRANGER

BY JANET PAQUETTE

Students crowded into the gym with their paper, pens, and laptops, poised to listen to what they needed to hear to complete the assignment for the I.S. Conference. Two days of focus on Canadian citizenship in the country's 150th year turned out to be more than an exchange of information, however. The stories of human suffering that came from the podium as the conference opened took direct aim at their hearts.

Learning of the obstacles refugees faced in trying to find a safe haven in the West challenged students not to take their country's

sterling human rights reputation at face value. Jennifer McIntyre, director of Romero House in Toronto, shared her experiences of advocating for newly arrived refugees. She talked about Ahmed, a teenager from Aleppo, Syria, whose family fled to Egypt and then the United States. When Ahmed tried to cross the border into Canada, he was deemed ineligible due to a 2005 agreement between Canada and the United States known as the Safe Third Country agreement. The boy was placed in a holding cell and remained there for three years. When Romero House lawyers got involved, Ahmed's plight drew the attention of the immigration minister and he was accepted as a refugee on humanitarian grounds.

"We as Canadians were patting ourselves on

the back for receiving 30,000 Syrian refugees, but meanwhile a 16-year-old was being held in isolation in a refugee holding centre," McIntyre told the conference.

Students learned that not everyone is welcome to find refuge in Canada and that it's extremely difficult to apply for a visa when you have no documentation. It's even more impossible when you arrive on Canada's shores in a boat and are deemed a criminal until you can prove otherwise, McIntyre said, pointing to the government's detention of Tamil refugees in 2009.

"Our asylum program is more open than most; Canada is a leader in humanitarian work. But we do have a bit of an angel complex," she cautioned. "We should be looking carefully at ourselves, screening ourselves for the values of tolerance and welcoming."

Dena Nicolai, chaplain and refugee support mobilizer with the Christian Reformed Churches of Metro Vancouver, challenged students to think about their own role in the current refugee crisis, to remember that Christ was himself a refugee who walked with needy, displaced people.

"What does it mean to welcome these refugees in the fullness of their identity? And to lament when we have failed?" she asked.

In a later breakout session, Nicolai was able to share the experiences of Vancouver-area churches with members of local churches who are ramping up their support for refugee resettlement. 



## FOUNDATION PREPARES TO ENTER A NEW ERA

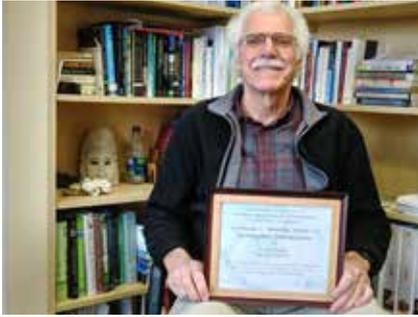
The King's University Foundation is in the midst of a strategic planning process to enable members to build on its success in funding and fronting campaigns that have raised millions of dollars for various buildings, programs, and projects at King's. The foundation has been largely reactive in recent years and is looking to take a more proactive approach. A strategic planning committee, led by former King's foundation chair Jim Joosse, was launched last fall, and is asking:

- ▶ What role does the foundation play in attracting new supporters?
- ▶ Why should donors give to the King's foundation rather than directly to King's?
- ▶ What is the relationship between the foundation and the university?
- ▶ How can the foundation most effectively carry out its mandate—to support the university and its students?
- ▶ How should the foundation's work be administered and resourced?
- ▶ What should the foundation look like in 10 years, and how do we get there?

The committee reviewed relevant literature, done a historical review, surveyed foundation members, and looked at other foundation models. It also met with King's President Dr. Melanie Humphreys and with King's development leadership to discuss its role and its relationship with the university.

Recommendations will be brought to the April meeting of the Foundation Board, then to the Foundation membership at their Annual General Meeting in September.

Foundation members have donated more than \$240,000 toward the \$300,000 cost of the campus master plan. 



## SPALING HONOURED

**D**r. Harry Spaling, founder of the Environmental Studies Program at The King's University, received the

William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction from the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) at its annual awards banquet March 4, 2017. Dr. Spaling's academic work has centred on international development and conservation agriculture in Kenya.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Geography Dr. Joanne Moyer wrote in Dr. Spaling's nomination: "Many undergrad and graduate students have joined him in Kenya, researching and working within rural communities,

coming back inspired and passionate about international development."

Dr. Spaling has been published in journals such as *Environmental Assessment, Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal, Development in Practice, EIA Review, Conservation and Society*, and others.

The William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction recognizes lifetime contributions to the discipline of geography, and is named after a long-time member of the Department of Geography at the University of Alberta.



## KING'S STUDENTS CREATE CLIMATE CHANGE LEARNING MATERIALS

**S**tudents working with the Kings Centre for Visualization of Science (KCVS) have created educational materials related to climate change, and in February, a comprehensive set of interactive materials were endorsed by the Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network (CLEAN). CLEAN endorsement means that a second, rigorous review by scientists and educators has led to selection of these resources for listing in the CLEAN collection.

KCVS receives funding from organizations such as Canada's Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council to

develop high quality, peer-reviewed educational materials, according to KCVS co-director Dr. Brian Martin. KCVS employs five to seven students per year, mostly in chemistry and computing science from King's.

"The May through August work with KCVS gives students high-quality research experience and tangible results that influence the way the next generation of students discovers their love of science," Dr. Martin said.

*Learn more at [www.kcvs.ca](http://www.kcvs.ca) and [www.explainingclimatechange.ca](http://www.explainingclimatechange.ca)*



## KING'S GOES VIRAL!

**A**fter an unusually high percentage of students became ill in January, The King's University invited Alberta

Health Services to assess the situation and ask for guidance. AHS declared an illness outbreak in residence and gave guidelines for the university to follow to reduce the risk of continued illnesses.

Most of the measures were already in place, but student life and facilities staff put in extra time monitoring illnesses, wiping down common areas hourly, and making sure students knew how to avoid spreading illness. The University developed a tracking system to get daily numbers on students who were ill. Initially, almost half of students in residence had reported some type of illness,

whether cold, flu, or gastrointestinal illness. Because athletics events that weekend were closed to spectators, a television news crew learned of the outbreak and came to interview students and staff about the situation.

AHS deemed King's efforts "excellent," and followed up daily until illness was below "outbreak" level. After seven days, AHS declared the outbreak over, when fewer than 10% of those in residence had symptoms. The short duration of the outbreak was a testament to extraordinary efforts by King's staff and students, AHS told King's.

## CANADA 150 INSPIRED LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS



**I**n honour of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation, The King's University is offering up to 150 new \$5,000 Inspired Learning Scholarships. They will be awarded to Canadian students who demonstrate strong academic and

leadership skills, and applications will require a nomination from a high school guidance counsellor, teacher, pastor, or community leader.

*Details at [www.kingsu.ca/Canada150](http://www.kingsu.ca/Canada150)*

# RETIREMENT TRIBUTES

## ROY BERKENBOSCH

*Micah Centre and Interdisciplinary Studies Director; Professor of Theology King's student in 1979; returned as campus pastor and dean of students in 1995*

### What drew you to King's?

I was working as an engineer downtown and I was casting about for something more fulfilling, more aligned with my sense of vocation. So I started taking classes at King's. There were 60 or 70 students here that first year. I really fell in love with what King's was trying to do: to be both deeply Christian and deeply engaged in culture. Those were really formative years for me.

After King's, many of us went on to Calvin so we could get a degree (King's initially did not offer four-year degrees). I also studied at seminary after which we went to Bangladesh to work with World Renew. Hank Van Andel approached me in 1995 with an invitation to be the campus minister and dean of students at King's. We were Canadians living in Michigan with two adopted Bangladeshi girls, and we couldn't get citizenship for them there so we couldn't travel. The opportunity to come to King's was both timely and a wish come true. I was going through some letters I'd sent to my family when we were in Bangladesh. In the letters I talked about how I'd love to have a position at King's someday. It was hard to leave the church I was serving, but my family was keen on getting back to Alberta, where our roots were.

### Highlights

The highlights of my time here are really the people. There are so many people I care deeply about. We had a lot of fun in Student Life, but I can't necessarily tell those stories. Matt Day, one of the res directors, and I would often play good cop bad cop and we caught students in some really strange predicaments. I kept a guitar in my office, and often there was a line outside the office creating good



Learn more about I.S. conferences and the Micah Centre online at

[WWW.KINGSU.CA/IS-CONFERENCE](http://WWW.KINGSU.CA/IS-CONFERENCE)

*At Larche in Mymensingh Bangladesh during King's 2014 Discovery Tour*

energy. It was pretty dynamic in those days, as it still is today.

I have really enjoyed teaching and giving shape to the Interdisciplinary Studies program. We brought all kinds of great people in over the years. The Just Worship Conferences and Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear also stand out for me. I.S. hasn't always been equally appreciated by students, but I feel we've assembled a pretty impressive archive of conferences. Who wouldn't take a course with all of these great people? I'm pretty proud of the legacy and history of the I.S. conference; they played an important role in getting our community involved with Omar Khadr, the TRC and other important issues.

### Is it hard to hand it over?

Nope. They were a lot of work! In the early days Dan Van Heyst and I would assemble the stage late into the night before. I'm happy to leave it in Rebecca Warren's capable hands. And of course the Micah Centre, which in a way grew right out of the I.S. conferences. The conferences gave King's a certain profile that was appealing to members of our constituency. They inspired Clarence and Jenny Visser, who came to me and said, "we made trips to Sierra Leone and Haiti and they were life changing for us. We want to help support programs to enable young people to have those experiences earlier, when they can do something about it." So they gave us some seed money, and we launched the Micah Centre.

### What will you do next?

Reconfigure the program offerings at the Micah Centre. I'm proposing a "justice semester" where students would come out of the regular curriculum for a full semester and take a variety of experiential and off-campus courses. It would include the three-week Quest Mexico course, exposure to inner city realities, engagement with First Nations communities, things like that. My hope is for the Micah Centre to be fully funded and to be sustainable, with a full-time director.

### What are your hopes for King's?

Sometimes people characterize King's as a place too liberal for conservatives and too conservative for liberals, which I always thought was maybe our unique calling. We take our theological and confessional statements seriously. We hold them in very high regard. But that means we're free to live without fear! I want King's never to lose sight of that. I call it dancing on a rock: There's lots of freedom, creativity, flexibility. You're dancing on something really firm and solid. Because I think that's the only way we can really make a difference in culture. That's our mission.

I also think King's is underutilized by the faith community. We have so much to offer the Canadian church in terms of leadership and engagement. We talked about this at the last IS conference, faithful citizenship. King's is well positioned to be a thoughtful resource for the churches. 🇳🇵

## DR. JOHN WOOD

Dean of Faculty of Natural Sciences  
Professor, Biology and Environmental Studies  
At King's since 1989

### What drew you to King's?

The reason I'm at King's is because my pastor told me, "we need men like you in the ministry." He encouraged me to go to our denominational college. He thought I was going to train for the pastorate, and so did I. But there I discovered that I was actually called to the vocation of Christian higher education. That is key to what we are doing at King's. There's a reason faculty show up here! That sense of call to this work.

In the spring of 1989 I had been teaching at Simpson College in San Francisco after finishing my PhD at Berkeley. There were only two ecology positions that year in Christian universities. One I wouldn't have hired myself for—they wanted a physiologist, not an ecologist—but King's was looking for someone to complete the three profs needed to be able to offer a BSc in biology.

One of the reasons we came, and one of the reasons we stayed, is that the board and the faculty said "this is what we intend to do—we intend to be engaged in scholarship. We are not just a teaching institution, but we also engage in research and scholarship." They couldn't give you extra money, but they did give you time for research, and a community of active scholars. And they said "let's see what you can do."

There are many Christian universities where teaching is your primary occupation, and if you do research that would be nice. Here research is more than an aspiration. It's a contractual obligation. So we've built a community of scholars and my goodness that is rich!

### What are some highlights from your time here?

Someone once told me, "You always have an opportunity in academia to build a career, but rarely do you have an opportunity to establish an institution." That's what we had. A unique opportunity. You get to write the first things: the processes, the practices, the traditions.

And we were conscious that that's what we were doing. We look at King's and say "that's our publication record, too." And it's a good record.

Another highlight was building the ecology program. We all laughed when I came because the ecology equipment at King's consisted of one small dip net and a minnow trap. It was a complete beginning from nothing. Which is quite remarkable. Today, you walk in the building and we have an established and respected university program.

I've supervised about 130 to 150 student research projects over the years. It's a long list. When you think of the time you spend working with and shaping young people—and in research projects you work closely with students—you really sense the impact on their lives. That's certainly been a highlight.

At the end of my career, being the dean of the natural sciences faculty has been a highlight. Today we have a young faculty in the natural sciences. So your primary work is in helping them establish their careers. That's been a real privilege, a real thrill.

Along with the jackrabbit research, I've worked with Heather Looy on global food security around eating insects and the North American aversion to eating insects. And, yes, I've eaten them. Some are good, some are not. Just like fish—some I like and some I don't. This is a

very active field right now because of the recognition that we need to bring all types of food into the marketplace, that you can't leave things off the table.

### What will you do next?

It is hard to leave. This is a fun place to be and I really enjoy my colleagues. What will I do in retirement? I've been doing administration for six years—so I have a backlog of research to write up and publish. My wife Cathy and I have decided to stay here in Edmonton—grandchildren have a way of doing that. We like it here. But I probably won't be chasing jackrabbits at midnight very much anymore.

Another reason for staying in Edmonton is that I want to be around an academic community. I can do that by staying close to the community here. I'm also staying active on several different boards of directors of organizations of higher education.

### What are your hopes for King's?

I want to see us continue to thrive. I'd like to see us develop new programming in vital areas of social need. We're a slow and steady institution. Not flashy, but steady, and solid, as we build high-quality programs. My greatest hope is to see that more widely acknowledged and recognized. Your reputation is not what you say about yourself; it's what others say about you. The feedback I hear from people is that we have a solid reputation in higher education. 🇺🇸

*John Wood in the office he's occupied for 25 years*



*Dr. Wood's research on white-tailed jackrabbits was covered extensively by Edmonton media in late 2016. To learn more about his work, go to*

[WWW.KINGSU.CA/RESEARCH](http://WWW.KINGSU.CA/RESEARCH)

## ATHLETICS

### ACAC AWARDS

The King's University Eagles earned a record number of ACAC awards this year, bringing home 10 ACAC All Conference awards across three sports on top of a Coach of the Year award. Congratulations Eagles!

### BASKETBALL

#### Women's All Conference North Division

Marta Burchett (second team)

#### Men's All Conference North Division

Mitch Burnett (second team)

### VOLLEYBALL

#### Women's North Division

Keri Alcorn  
Sydney Warchola  
Brittany Wells

#### Men's North Division

Kristofer Ames  
Brendan Vanderlinde  
Levi Wolthuis

#### Men's North Division Coach of the Year

Phil Dixon

### SOCCER

#### Women's North Division

Emilie Toews

#### Men's North Division

David Freund



# FUTSAL COMES TO KING'S

The King's University is in its first year of competition in futsal in the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC), which offers a new opportunity for Eagles student-athletes to compete almost year-round.

"ACAC took the requirements down by half in terms of financial commitment, which made it more feasible for universities to participate," says men's coach Matthew Oosterhuis ('01), who also coaches men's soccer in the fall. "Futsal has been really good for the team, because in addition to each person going their own way to play indoor club soccer in the off-season, they get to keep playing together, and hopefully more chemistry develops for the team long-term."

The Eagles men's futsal team hasn't had an easy time getting exhibition games this year, Oosterhuis says, because it's a fairly new sport in Canada for adult teams. But he says that is likely to change soon, thanks to the fact that the Canadian Soccer Association and the Alberta Soccer Association are "really promoting futsal" as a good way to develop young soccer players.

The women's futsal team at King's is competing in the University of Alberta Pandas futsal league, which plays every Tuesday evening.

Because the opportunity to play futsal came in after last year's budget had been set, Oosterhuis says students on both teams are self-funding and raising money to participate in the new sport at King's U themselves. He believes it is a commitment that will pay off as players continue to develop their skills, even though it is a separate and unique sport, with different skill sets from outdoor soccer.

"Futsal is played indoors but isn't 'indoor soccer' as most people understand



*Men's Soccer Coach Matthew Oosterhuis now coaches men's futsal at King's as well.*

'indoor soccer' to be in Edmonton. Futsal is better," Oosterhuis says. "There are five players on each side – a keeper and four players, and they switch on the fly. It's without boards; a different ball, different rules." He says the smaller team in futsal makes for a more exciting practice environment, as players compete for fewer spots on the floor.

Futsal requires more problem solving than indoor soccer, Oosterhuis says, since you can't bank the ball off the walls. "To get out of tight situations, players need to develop their thinking and technical ability and speed of play. Plus with only four on four, they touch the ball and are involved more often."

The game also requires some different thinking from coaches. To prepare for his new role, Oosterhuis took a 12-hour futsal coaching course from the NCAA in the United States, since the Canadian Soccer Association does not yet offer an official course.

"For me, it's a great way to keep players engaged during the winter," Oosterhuis says. He looks forward to seeing how the opportunity to play futsal impacts the soccer teams next fall. 🏆

# PHIL DIXON NAMED 2016-17 ACAC MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COACH OF THE YEAR

**A**t the Men's Volleyball Conference Championship Banquet hosted by Red Deer College in February, the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) announced Phil Dixon, head coach of The King's University Eagles men's volleyball team, as Coach of the Year for the ACAC north division.

"We are so proud of the progress this team has made in the last few years," said King's Athletic Director Grace Scott. "Phil is a tremendous asset to our program not only because of his coaching expertise, but also his emphasis on building character and leadership."

Scott noted that in the last three years, the men finished fourth in the north, then third, and now second this season.

The Eagles have consistently held a Top 15 national ranking since November, finishing the league schedule with their highest national ranking of the season, at 11th.

In Dixon's third season with the King's Eagles, he has significantly built into an already successful program. Originally an engineer, he felt God's call toward coaching where he could be actively involved in teaching and mentoring young men.

Having coached volleyball for over 20 years, Phil wanted to take his passion for coaching to the next level. In the past two years, Phil has coached with the U16 Alberta Provincial Men's Team and was part of the coaching staff for



*Men's Volleyball Coach Phil Dixon is in his third season with the King's Eagles.*

the Team Canada Selects, the Top 40 U16/U17 prospects in the country. His desire to pursue excellence has not only made him a successful volleyball coach, but also an influential leader and role model. 🏆

*The King's Eagles completed the season with a 16-8 win/loss record, finishing league play in second place for the North division. They finished in fifth in the provincial tournament this year.*





Marissa Hall in an Amerstam tram station

## WHAT MAKES UP A KING'S WEEK? ONE STUDENT TELLS HER STORY

**N**ot even a week into January, I packed my bags and took off for Holland for a three-credit business course through the Leder School of Business, focused on cross-cultural business and the European perspective on world crises.

Afterward, I spent a few days in Paris. Paris is a city close to my heart because last summer, I lived there and had an internship as a short-term missionary with a social-justice focused organization that does community development in impoverished areas.

One reason I love King's is the similarity between the heart of the Politics-History-Economics program and the goals of the organization I worked for in Paris.

My heart is set on returning to that little community and jumping into the good work that's already being done there. Every day at King's I can see how our community is preparing my heart for the next, whether it be through chapels and small groups or social justice clubs and classes that refuse to give students easy answers.

It was my transition back to King's from the other side of the world that revealed to me that King's is so much more than a community preparing me for my future; it's also my second home. Home is a place where the people who love you are, and where your heart feels at rest.

So here is a look at everything that happens in a fairly typical week at King's, a

small university on the other side of the country from where I grew up, which is home to me.

### **SUNDAY**

My week starts on Sunday, a day of rest. I grab a ride with a friend to church, do some light reading, watch a movie or paint my nails. King's has repeatedly stressed the importance of self-care to me, and this is the day I do that.

My best friend lives down the hall. This is one of the joys of living in residence and one of the pains for my residence assistant (RA). I say that because my friend and I are competitive, and we express that through card games. Sundays are also card-playing days, with the oc-



*Marissa, second from the left, joins friend in the 7:01 study lounge.*

casual guest appearance of my RA to break up fights over whether I stacked the deck or tell us to be quiet when it's past 11 p.m. and we're arguing about who cheated. Later we might head to Room 5:01 to watch cartoons.

### **MONDAY**

Mondays are days of meetings. Meeting with commuter friends I don't see when I am buried under blankets, decks of cards, and assigned reading over the weekend. Staff meetings with Admissions where I work, the place that first taught me how fun a professional office environment can be when you're working with the right people. Mondays are also the perfect day to meet with friends.

My first Monday back after studying abroad, I had coffee with a dear friend who is in her last year at King's and just talked about life. Encounters like this—

getting coffee with someone I look up to—make me grateful that I belong to a small community. It's easy to run across and get to know people with completely different schedules and still build friendships with them.

### **TUESDAY**

Tuesdays I appreciate my extra 30 minutes of sleep. Lectures start at 9:30 instead of 9, which makes a surprising difference in my mood. Well-rested, I float into the day. I meet friends in the café and eat a mouth-wateringly good breakfast wrap, walk with friends to class, and spend the rest of the day absorbed in lectures. Whether theology or economics, I don't think I could ever get tired of hearing from someone who is passionate about what they teach.

After class, every other week, I have instructional time with the rest of the Honduras Water Project team. The Hon-

duras Water Project is a service-learning field course in development, and it's an absolutely incredible opportunity. This May for three weeks, I and the rest of the team will get to apply what we've learned in the classroom by digging ditches to provide people in Honduras with clean running water.

### **WEDNESDAY**

The middle of the week is a day of running around. Wednesdays I have office hours at both of my on-campus jobs. I spend a couple hours in Admissions answering calls from prospective students, sharing my excitement about King's with people who will be joining the community that means so much to me. The next set of office hours is in Alumni Relations, where I mail out invitations to campus events, along with whatever other tasks my supervisors give me.

Working in the same building where I



*Paris is where Marissa hopes to work after graduation.*

live and go to school isn't just convenient; it also helps tie me more closely into community. I know people I wouldn't have met, or known so personally, without my work. I love that when I go to the registrar or down the hallway, I'm not just connecting faces to emails, but I'm running into friends whose stories are a highlight of my day.

When I'm not at work, I'm taking a break to go to chapel at 11. My favourite is when it's being led by staff at King's that I consider friends. After chapel, I stop by the café for the campuswide phenomenon that is Roger's butter chicken. It just wouldn't be a Wednesday without it.

At the end of the day, after homework and reading, I head to 8:57, the worship night in the Level Coffee House. If I'm really stressed out I just come for the singing. There's something pretty amazing about being led in worship by peers.

#### **THURSDAY**

Following Wednesday is a real monster of a day. This semester I have a lab, which stretches out my day and gives me a new appreciation for my friends in a BSci program. Fortunately, I love my major. I don't mind sitting for a three-hour lecture on ending poverty, because it's likely to address the questions constantly in my head.

I spend Thursday from 9:30 to 5 totally absorbed in deeper learning, and at the end I am totally drained but grinning from ear to ear. Three-hour lectures also give you opportunities to care for people. During a particularly draining lab, I used my 10-minute break to buy mini-eggs in the café for the people around me in class. I may not be able to end poverty or tackle the larger issues discussed in my public life class, but I can make a small difference with my extra meal plan dollars, and hey, everybody needs to start somewhere.

#### **FRIDAY**

Fridays are grocery days, when I bundle up with a friend who's also running low on study snacks and venture down the street to the Capilano shopping plaza. Walks down the street tend to be one of my favourite parts of the week. The fresh air, good conversation, and warm reward of Timmies when we finally reach the plaza is hard to beat. With a coffee in hand we stop by the pet store for some much needed time with the fuzzy creatures up for adoption. It isn't until after playing with the animals that the grocery shopping actually begins.

After the walks it's back to homework, hanging out with friends, and preparing for a weekend of sleeping and paper writing.

#### **SATURDAY**

Saturday the whip is cracked (sort of). On days without commitments, Saturday becomes an opportunity to sleep in, watch cartoons, and write the papers I was putting off. Saturday events are some of the most interesting, whether a volunteer opportunity with the King's Ambassadors, a study group with friends, a unique date idea that takes advantage of the quirks the Edmonton area has to offer, working open house as a tour guide, or doing the RA practical interview, as I did recently.

The idea that I could take on a position at King's that makes a difference in so many lives amazes me. I appreciate the RAs in my life right now—not because they're student life staff, but because they're my friends and genuinely care about me. Every person on student life staff, including the student leaders, contribute to the amazing sense of community that King's is famous for.

So that's my typical week, void of all the extra things that pop up and don't fit on a weekly schedule like spontaneous Slurpee runs, all nighters with friends to finish papers, 6:01 drop ins to start a card game or sneak a handful of whatever snack is on the counter, planning epic pranks on unsuspecting friends who never lock their door in residence, and of course the King's-wide events that happen irregularly like choir performances, dances in the Level, open mic night, cookie decorating competitions, and the bi-annual puppy room.

From researching the history of German politics to walking to the nearest pet store to play with a kitten, a typical week at King's not only challenges me to grow but it also puts my heart at rest. My future may be in Paris, but right now I'm at home at 9125 50 Street in Edmonton, and that's something I'm more than okay with. 🇨🇦

*Marissa Hall is a first-year student from Southern Ontario majoring in Politics-History-Economics, with a minor in business administration. She also plans to complete the Micah Certificate.*



*King's student Sydney Maki has established a school with 600 students in Uganda.*



## KING'S COMMUNITY

# A SOURCE OF SUPPORT

BY JANET PAQUETTE

Living on campus has shown Sydney Maki how amazing the King's University community really is. And that's high praise, especially coming from a 20-year-old who founded her own non-profit organization to educate children in Uganda.

The King's University first captured her imagination when she was a high school student travelling from Terrace, B.C. with her family to visit her brother on campus. Reegin Maki is a fourth-year business student and captain of the men's basketball team.

By the time Sydney registered to begin her first year at King's in September 2016, she had already been to Uganda for two working visits, lasting three months and six months. Her organization, Ekitangaala Ministries, had already

managed to sponsor a school with 600 students and 20 staff. An article about Sydney in the local Terrace newspaper attracted more help and continuing financial support from the community and from area churches.

But Sydney's time in Uganda convinced her she needed an education to better equip her to continue her volunteer work. "I just wanted to get an education so that I could start working here and bring skills there (to Uganda) to help people."

Sydney enrolled in psychology, inspired by her foster child in Uganda who suffers from a developmental disorder. She found immediate support from fellow students, many of whom had done mission trips themselves. Some students were eager to sponsor a child

through Ekitangaala's program. Sydney discovered a student in her Bible study who is from Uganda, from a district near the village where Ekitangaala's school is located.

In January Sydney decided to switch gears to a hands-on medical lab assistant program, one that isn't available at King's. Despite the fact the six-month course requires Sydney to attend NAIT, she was approved to continue her stay at the King's campus residence and maintain her connections with her friends. Sydney hopes to volunteer in a medical lab in Uganda.

"King's was better than I expected. It's been amazing. I developed a new community. I'm sad already to think of leaving here." 🙌

STUDENT SERVICES

# SEEKING EMERGENCE

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY



*Student life leadership team 2016-2017*

## NO LONGER INVISIBLE: THE COMMUTER MAJORITY

“I call them the invisible majority.” That’s Witty Sandle, student leadership and service coordinator, reflecting on the group that forms one of her major responsibilities: King’s students who live off campus.

Upon joining the King’s staff in 2010, Sandle accepted the challenge of making that majority more visible—and more at home on campus. Now the two-thirds of King’s students who live elsewhere have a program of their own, plus a name for who they are: commuters. That’s significant, Sandle says. “There’s something powerful about being recognized as a discrete group with its own particular needs and issues.”

The commuter program does not aim to

recreate the residence experience, Sandle says. “Commuter students, especially those living at home, have those outside links and don’t have the same needs. So our community building is around fostering connections. It’s about giving our commuters a sense of place, an identity, easy ways to be involved.”

Realizing that most commuters go home after attending classes, and that many are busy with family responsibilities, Sandle and her team of five commuter program assistants (CPAs) offer drop-in daytime events, including a free monthly breakfast, “Bible study musings” with Campus Pastor Tim Wood, and informal gatherings. In addition, CPAs host coffee hours in Sandle’s office, and Sandle offers a coffee time every

Friday noon for mature students, most of whom commute.

Every interaction holds promise. Commuter Program Assistant Zayal Sirdar recalls how scattered hallway conversations with a struggling newcomer prompted him to become a student leader the following year. As the two participated side-by-side in the suicide prevention training that’s essential for all student leaders, he turned to her and said, “All those times you passed me in the hall helped me be where I am today.” I realized how the smallest act of kindness can boost someone’s attitude and help them along their journey. That’s why I love leadership. I have the ability to reach out to people when nobody else will.” 

**W**alk into the office of Dr. Michael Ferber, vice president for student life and dean of students, and you'll find a colour-full white board detailing the purpose behind his team's work of nurturing and supporting students.

At the top, perhaps reflecting his roots in environmental studies, are metaphors for the levels of influence intended, from atoms (individual care) to water molecules (interpersonal bonds) to stream (the King's community) to river (the surrounding society). It all boils down to this, he says: equipping graduates to foster "renewal and reconciliation in all walks of life."

Preparing students to bring renewal and reconciliation is central to the King's mission, Dr. Ferber notes. "People who read that might go, 'Come on, can we really do that?' Well, I'm actually crazy enough to think we can. And I think we do that through how we live in relationship as honest and vulnerable individuals, and how that scales up in community." Just as something miraculous called "emergence" happens when molecules bond to form life, he adds, so communities have the potential to be more than the sum of their parts.

Residence Director Alison Exner sees emergence in action each year as students arrive on campus and bonds form. "We're trying to break down walls really fast and build relationships really fast, so that even in the first few days, everyone has someone they feel like they can sit with in cafeteria and class," she says. In later years, some of those same students become the residence assistants who live among their peers, offering friendship, listening ears, and links to whatever resources a student may need.

Student Leadership and Service Coordinator Witty Sandle sees emergence as student leaders grow, whether their focus is ministry, mentorship, service, governance, bonding, listening, academic support, or some combination of those roles. "It's cool to see students gaining confidence, making new relationships, feeling part of the life of the community through their leadership," she says. "They're really our frontline staff."

Student Counsellor Zachary Berg sees emergence as he counsels students stymied by angst. "We plot a course together, like Google maps, and eventually they don't need the map anymore," he says. "When they discover how they

"In terms of creation, in terms of society, the world desperately, desperately needs renewal and reconciliation. And this is who we say we are. I would ask the broader community to be in prayer for us and encourage us and support us as we wrestle with how best to do this well, so that we are true to our calling."

**Dr. Michael Ferber**  
**Vice President, Student Life**

can thrive, you see the change. Being able to guide them through that is very rewarding."

Such work is made more urgent by realities that snake across the bottom of Dr. Ferber's whiteboard. Including a culture characterized by self-destructive behaviours, exploitive relationships, a culture of fear. Across North America, those ways of being are infecting campus life, causing record rates of anxiety, depression, assault, and suicide. A recent study found 62 per cent of Alberta's post-secondary students struggling with intense anxiety, 42 per cent to the point where they had periods of being unable to function. Not only that, Dr. Ferber says, but "suicide has entered the list of options they'll likely consider."

“*Knowing you can help students with their problems, whether as small as logging onto King's email or as big as mental health, is very humbling. I love going up and meeting people and having a reason to talk.*”

**Zayal Sirdar**

*Commuter Program Assistant*



You may know her as "Anne" in the King's production of *Diary of Anne Frank*. What you might not know is Zayal Sirdar commutes nearly an hour to campus from her home in Spruce Grove. In her second year on the commuter team, Sirdar is a paid program assistant. She coordinates volunteers and publicizes the program through social media and the campus newspaper. A psychology major with a drama minor, she hopes to combine theology with drama therapy. The stage still beckons.

King's is not immune. In fact, the parade of students in crisis at his office door is fueling Dr. Ferber's desire to hone the whiteboard model in the hope of serving students more impactfully, informed by such streams of research as abundant communities and spiritual formation.

"This model comes out of the context of trying to help students walk through the challenges they meet—as students and as individuals and as friends and as lovers and all these other things they're dealing with in life," he says. "That's the stuff that keeps me up at night."

Berg worries as well. For the first time, he has a waiting list of students seeking counseling. Perhaps it's partly due to a

recent "Elephant in the" campaign that raised awareness about mental health; if so, that's great, he says, "but there's just one of me. We have to be more creative in how we respond."

Given tight budgets, King's is taking low-cost steps to expand its capacity to give everyone who needs it a place to turn for help. A peer support program is piloting this term, making two fourth-year psychology students available as listening ears and, where needed, a first step toward finding more help.

The Student Association has obtained a grant to hire a mental health coordinator and take other preventative steps. Berg hopes to launch group sessions

"We're all onions. To be able to peel back the layers and see what students are at the centre and develop a sense of who they are and a sense of purpose—that's why I love doing this."

**Zachary Berg**  
Student Counsellor

dedicated to wellness, grief, and other topics students may suggest.

King's is strengthening ties to other avenues of support, including the Christian agency Cornerstone Counseling, where Berg also works. Taylor Seminary student Val Martens is on campus two days a week as part of her training as

## WHEN HOME IS FAR AWAY: INTERNATIONAL BUDDIES



*International Team from left to right: Nardos Negussie, Erin Prodgers, YJ Montalbo, Regina Afable (Coordinator of Intercultural Student Programs), Charmaine Chinyemba*

Nardos Yared hails from Ethiopia, where kinship flourishes over tiny cups of thick, sweet coffee, freshly roasted and ground. During her first few months on campus, homesick for her close-knit homeland, imagine her joy at sharing multiple coffees with senior student Regina Afable, who hails from the Philippines. "Unless you talk to someone about it," Yared says, "you feel like you're the only one missing home so much."

Although Yared didn't know it at first, Afable was an International Student Assistant (ISA) whose assignment included walking with Yared through the vagaries of life in Canada,

including currencies, transit, shopping, and cuisine. Over coffee and other outings, they became fast friends.

Afable has since graduated and become coordinator of international student programs at King's. This year, she hired Yared as one of four ISAs. Now it's Yared's turn to buddy up with a handful of incoming students from afar and help them feel at home.

Besides offering initial orientation and continuing friendship, the student assistants organize gatherings and events, including some in partnership with their counterparts

"I've only been homesick once, and I got to go home shortly after. For international students, it can be years. I like being able to help them be more at home here."

**Erin Prodgers**  
International Student Assistant

in the commuter program. The largest, a campus-wide Globe Aware Week, culminates in a potluck and dance party featuring some of the many cultures represented by King's 56 international students. "Having something that tastes and smells familiar is really comforting," Yared says. "I miss enjera." 🇪🇹

*Living less than three hours from campus in Kitscoty, Alberta, third-year student Erin Prodgers brings an asset to campus that's much in demand: a car. With transit service to campus less than ideal (despite persistent advocacy), she has become one of King's go-to chauffeurs. She also served as a King's ambassador for a year, supporting staff at community and student events. Now, as a buddy to students from places such as the Netherlands, Zimbabwe and the United States, she enjoys seeing the world—and King's—through their eyes.*

spiritual mentor and life coach to female students, filling a need made evident several years ago, when Bob Foo began doing the same with males.

What's not needed, Dr. Ferber believes, is a ramping up of the extensive menu of activities available on campus. "At most universities, the idea is that if you provide enough activities, it will detract students from drinking and other unwanted behaviours. But you just end up creating more anxiety for students who already have way too much to do. I believe we need to focus on spiritual formation. Even students who aren't necessarily Christian can benefit from grappling with practices of self-care and

Sabbath-keeping and mindfulness and compassion."

The fact that King's attracts a mosaic of cultures, faith perspectives, gender identities, and abilities adds to the potential for the emergence of a more dynamic whole, Dr. Ferber adds. "Diversity is a problem if you're only concerned about your own people, but not if you approach people of other faiths and backgrounds in honest and vulnerable ways. As Stephen Covey puts it, seek first to understand, then to be understood."

While his whiteboard model has yet to solidify, Dr. Ferber is convinced that the

emergence it envisions is core to this university's future. "King's could very easily become just another great university that kicks out great, intelligent students who do phenomenal research. But that's not our mission," he says. "This co-curricular side becomes fundamental to the kind of students we're sending out into the world. Because if we can practice renewal and reconciliation with ourselves and our God and as a university, then we'll naturally graduate students equipped to do the same." 

## LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

How do you define success? To Kristin Lemke and Kristin Janzen in their job-shared role as student success coordinators, success is a level playing field for students with disabilities.

Together, "the Kristins" coordinate support for students who meet The King's University entrance requirements but need accommodations due to such challenges as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, hearing loss, reduced mobility, anxiety, or depression. Many need extra time and/or a quiet space to write exams; others benefit from such supports as shared notes, e-books, or consultation with an academic strategist.

Such accommodations are mandated by Alberta Human Rights Commission for students with documented disabilities and funded by the Alberta government. More importantly, the support gives students with disabilities equal opportunity to reach their created (and creative) potential. "We're here to support students," Lemke says, "but we also want to give them the confidence to advocate for what they need."

About 50 students are receiving accommodations this year, a five-fold increase in the decade since Lemke joined Student Life. (Another three students with developmental disabilities are supported by staff from Inclusion Alberta to attend classes and participate in academic life.) Even so, the percentage of King's students with accommodations is lower than the norm, Lemke says. "Maybe it's because professors here support our students in class, so accommodation happens naturally; if so, that's great. Whether or not accommodations happen through our office, I care that they happen."

In fact, the more disability services blend into the fabric of life at King's, the better, staff say. The e-books used by students with dyslexia, for example, could benefit all students, especially those with auditory learning styles. That's the philosophy behind emerging plans to create an Academic Enrichment Centre at King's that would serve all students, including those needing accommodations.

"It comes out of the theory of Universal Design," says Dr. Michael Ferber, who leads the Student Life team. "Make it good for everybody, and then you don't have to work as hard to make it good for the exceptions."

"The students I work with are even brighter than you might imagine, yet it is so difficult for them to be successful. University shouldn't be just for a certain type of person. If you have intelligence, you should be able to get a degree."

**Dr. Genevieve Johnson**  
**Academic Strategist**

Some King's students are able to consult with Dr. Genevieve Johnson to plot out their plans for academic success. A few receive funding to see Dr. Johnson a few hours a week as part of their disability accommodation; others are funded by King's for a single consultation to help get their studies on track.

"Many of the students are making really good progress with that little bit of extra support," says Johnson, who holds a doctorate in educational psychology. Ideally, the service would be more widely available, she adds. "I do feel that many students just need that leg up, that little bit of a push to get themselves organized." 

“  
We’re encouraged to build into each other’s lives. Not just me into them but them into me. And as iron sharpens iron, it’s making me a better leader on campus.”

**Josh Ayer**  
Residence Assistant



*Resident Assistant Josh Ayer offers a listening ear and a cup of coffee to students on his floor in residence.*

## RESIDENCE LIFE

# PRACTICING NEIGHBOURLINESS

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

Students who come to the King’s University intending to prepare for life by attending classes may be surprised to discover that simply living on campus offers an education of its own. An education in being neighbourly. King’s alumna Alison Exner discovered as much several years ago as a student; now, as residence life coordinator, she is living on campus again—this time supporting others as they learn.

Exner compares the first year in residence, when most students share two-person rooms in the central tower, to living with an entire floor of new family members. From the day they arrive on campus, students are drawn into activities that, while often featuring fun and food, share the serious intent of turning strangers into kin who encourage each other in their common aim of learning. “It’s amazing how they support each other,” Exner says.

In subsequent years, resident students typically move into suites in the tower and finally into apartments across the

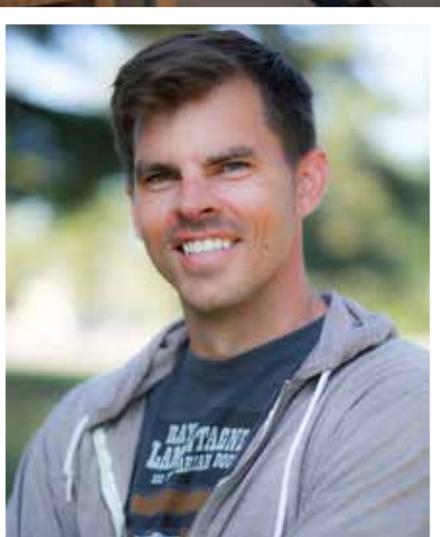
street, living in more intimate “families” of six while learning to be good neighbours with the people down the hall. The hospitality they practice shapes their interactions with neighbours for years to come: Will I invite people over for a meal? Shovel someone’s walk? Help a neighbour in distress? “So many students do those things naturally here because they’re in community,” Exner says.

While a student at King’s, Exner worked as a resident assistant and knew in her gut that students fare better when engaged in community. Now, through graduate studies at Geneva College, she is gleaning evidence to back that up. Students who participate in community (including those in clubs and campus jobs) are statistically more likely to complete their homework and learn more in class. Those who step into leadership roles not only build impressive resumes and have the satisfaction of mentoring others, but learn more deeply themselves. That includes the residence assistants on each floor who serve as

Exner’s frontline of care.

Like other residence assistants, second-year student Josh Ayer lives on the floor he’s responsible for, close at hand when students want to bend his ear. He takes time to go for coffee and forge bonds with his charges, so that when needs arise or trouble brews they come to him. In addition, he’s responsible to plan events for the floor and for “601,” the lounge on the sixth floor of the tower. Also a campus security guard, Josh says his campus jobs are making it affordable for him to stay at King’s—but that he’d want to foster community (or as he terms it, peaceful unity) even if he weren’t paid. “We’re not just a bunch of random people here. We all have unique things that make us who we are, but we can all come together and make this an extraordinary experience.”

“Our work really does support student academic learning,” Exner says. “And King’s is not here just to pump out graduates. We’re about students being the best they can—about deep learning.” 🙌



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION CREATING A SAFE PLACE FOR CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

It's 7:30 on a weekday morning, campus is just beginning to stir, and Bob Foo is walking the halls, sending up prayers for those who will soon be working behind this door and that. It's a sign of the generosity of spirit and deep conviction with which he tackles his role as spiritual mentor and life coach at the King's University.

Foo is part of a small but ardent subset of the Student Life team, a group dedicated to fostering students' spiritual formation. Fortunately for everyone,

this group does not fly solo. As Campus Minister Tim Wood points out, graduating students participating in recent interviews most often credited the broader community, and particularly caring faculty, for encouraging them to grow spiritually. "It's really through relationships with other people that spiritual formation is happening on this campus," he says.

That's exactly as Wood would have it. Although spiritual formation is often seen as an individual activity, he views it as an equally communal and even political act. "Politics is about how we order our lives together, and Christianity has so much to say about that; we are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of God before any national political party," Wood says. "How do we use the gifts

we have on campus, faculty and staff, to encourage spirituality that's very communal and involves more people at a deeper level?" It's a question he continues to wrestle with.

Meanwhile, Wood is busy coordinating and leading opportunities to be spiritually engaged, including morning prayers, a weekly noon Bible study, twice weekly worship services, and retreats. In fact, he admits to being caught up in the epidemic of busyness that has infected so many students on campus. In that context, he's excited to see growing interest in the more contemplative spiritual disciplines such as silent retreats and Sabbath rest, which offer practice in saying no to frenetic living. "What I'm learning is to put energy behind what is attracting energy," he says.

**“ I love this age group. They haven't set their path for life and opportunities are wide open. A lot of adults are in a place where they are trying to justify decisions they've made, but students are asking, 'What is my life going to be about?' We give them a safe place to ask those questions. ”**

**Tim Wood**  
Campus Minister

“That means following where God is leading.”

Student assistants play significant roles in spiritual life on campus, from worship teams who plan and lead chapels to ministry assistants who walk alongside residence students and athletes. Among the latter is Colborne Kemna, ministry assistant serving a floor of residence. “Our job description is a bit loose because Tim wants us to do things we’re passionate about and enjoy,” he says. Besides leading Bible studies, preparing messages for worship and hosting intimate dinners for faculty, the assignment is “just to be a good Christian friend and help guide people through.”

Numerous student ministry leaders who have gone on to related work testify to the significance of their roles at King’s. “After our years at seminary, it is still the lessons learned as part of the worship formation team at King’s that influence the congregation I serve,” reflects Michael Anderson, pastor at Faith River Christian Fellowship in Saskatoon.

Bob Foo and his counterpart, Val Martens, are also integral to King’s students’ spiritual growth. Foo is in his seventh year as spiritual mentor and life coach to the young men; Martens is doing a residency as part of her training at Taylor Seminary, and mentors women.

A member of Calvary Baptist, Foo is on campus nearly fulltime, seeking out and discipling men desiring to grow in faith and/or life skills. In addition, he hosts after-church gatherings in his home featuring lunch, Bible study, prayer, and a hearty helping of mutual accountability. After a 32-year career with the Edmonton Public School Board, he believes mentoring youth outscores golf by a long shot as a worthy retirement project.

Drawing on experience in the special education classroom, where students’ starting points vary widely, Foo meets each young man where he’s at—and then challenges him to grow. Kemna experienced Foo’s mentorship (and rising expectations) as he practised leading Bible studies on his way to becoming a ministry assistant. “In the university



“*I want to see Romans 12:2 happen for these guys—transformation. I want them to mature into men of character and integrity who become disciple makers as they go out into the world.*”

**Bob Foo**  
Spiritual Mentor and Life Coach

“*Keep the student’s spiritual lives a priority. As emerging adults, they’re asking questions and looking for answers. It’s a prime time to speak into their lives.*”

**Val Martens**  
Spiritual Mentor and Life Coach



setting, I think you have to be careful not to limit yourself to a mono-generational context,” he says. “Bob gives me a completely different perspective than most of the other people I’m surrounded by.”

Foo says he is motivated by significant mentors in his own life, including three who guided him as a young Christian at the University of Alberta. “In II Timothy 2:2, Paul writes to Timothy, ‘What you have heard from me through many witnesses, entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.’ I feel I have a biblical commitment to now be part of the next generation of disciple makers.”

For this year at least, Val Martens is “Bob Foo for women.” On campus two days a week, she offers a mix of individual Bible study, spiritual direction, and group discussion to female students. Her full schedule underscores the hunger for a safe place to explore things that are hard to tell anyone else. “I love hearing how God is working in their lives,” she says. “And I’m really encouraged by that whole age group and how they are seeking God.”

Both Foo and Martens also serve as life coaches, helping students sort through career options, personal finances, relationships, and study skills. “If they’re not believers, I’ll help them all I can,”



*Student Henri Van Den Berg is a science major who assists with sports ministry.*

“  
***It’s a really powerful thing for me to truly know  
the people in the community I’m present in.***”

**Henri Van Den Berg**  
*Sports Ministry Assistant*

Foo says. “But if they are, I ask, ‘Where does your faith interact with those issues? Let’s put a plan in place to move forward.’”

Students also turn to Wood as they wrestle with gnarly questions of spirituality and life, including issues raised in classrooms and in conversation with people of other faiths. “I try to be a safe place for students to explore those questions, but I don’t just want them to feel better,” Wood says. “I want the bigger vision of following Jesus and loving the things that Jesus loves to expose some of the idols they’re tending to worship—and shape them in such a way that faith is not just a piece of their

life but the lens through which they get to navigate the world.”

Every Friday at noon, an evolving group of King’s athletes gathers to encourage and challenge each other in their faith. It’s part of a student-led sports ministry begun several years ago in recognition of the fact that athletes have unique needs and are often busy when other groups meet. This year’s sports ministry assistant is Henri Van Den Berg, a science major who also champions the fledgling King’s rugby club. It’s a role that returns as much as he gives, he says. “It has allowed me to dive a bit deeper into what I really believe and how I justify my belief.”

When questions arise, such as how to read scripture when science “wants to pull another way,” Van Den Berg is confident of a sounding board on campus. “I really like the open manner in which King’s integrates faith with our education,” he says. “It doesn’t come from a judgment point of view but rather from our mandate in Scripture to love. I strongly believe that we should first love the people of our world rather than judging and pushing them away.” 🙌



Top: Geraldine (VanWeelden) Klootwyk, education practicum, 1981

Left: Madeline Klootwyk, 2017



## KING'S THEN & NOW

It's an exciting time in the history of King's when alumni send their children to study at their alma mater. From students to alumni to parents, the legacy of Christian higher education is passed to the next generation.

Geraldine Klootwyk (née VanWeelden) attended The King's College part-time in 1981, also studying French at the Faculté St. Jean. As King's did not offer its own degrees, Ger intended to transfer to the University of Alberta to become a teacher. Now in her 16th year of teaching at Gateway Christian School in Red Deer, she remembers campus as "a comfortable place, a close community" where she enjoyed helping Mrs. Knoppers make grilled cheese in the cafeteria.

Ger's daughter Maddie Klootwyk is now a King's student planning to graduate in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. After two years at Red Deer College, Maddie joined good friend and teammate Amy Whitesell on the King's Eagles Basketball team. Parents Gord and Ger support their children's decisions about where to study but Maddie recalls King's

came up in conversation a lot—even with an offer to cover half of her tuition.

As her parents come up from Red Deer to catch as many games as possible, Maddie feels the love and support of her family but appreciates the independence of living on her own. When asked if alumni parents look for more opportunities to revisit their old stomping grounds, Maddie said that is certainly the case among some friends with "parents sleeping on the floor of their kid's dorm room every other weekend."

Since 1981, its welcoming atmosphere and close-knit community continues to define the King's campus. The relationships formed between students and professors are worth their weight in gold. Ger hopes that her daughter will take advantage of every moment, challenge herself to step out of her comfort zone and maintain those relationships.

Thinking about her fellow alumni, "I didn't stay in touch as much, but I hope Maddie will," says Ger. Her only regret is not committing to full-time studies and taking more classes with Russell Savage, Alyce Oosterhuis, and Bob Bruinsma. 🏰

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# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



## ERIC KAMPHOF (BA'99)

I studied Philosophy from 1994 to 1999, attending King's for love of philosophy, but it was never really a career decision. Neither is bikes for that matter. I do it because I love it, or because there is a small voice that makes me feel called, or compelled, and I try to listen. King's helped me articulate a sense of stewardship, an idea that I was brought up with and still very much continue to articulate. I suppose selling bikes as transportation rather than just sport could be part of that. Then again, it could just be my Dutch ancestry, or both!

I operate Curbside Cycle in Toronto, where we focus on city bikes, folding bikes, and cargo bikes. I also started Fourth Floor Distribution, a wholesale company where we sell the same items to bicycle retailers across North America. On top of this, I own a small consulting company that works with Simcoe Bicycles, a bicycle brand I started about four years ago and recently sold.

In choosing King's, I wanted a place where I could explore the wild spaces outside of the Christian Reformed Church but to do so without watering down my sense of faith. I am convinced there is nothing safe about education.

Unlike so many institutions that seek to preserve safety over learning, I felt King's venture into these wild places and return to its supporters a deepened theological wisdom that takes seriously the command to love one's neighbour. To me, that's special. These days I feel the wild spaces concern race, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic disparity, political populism, and environmental catastrophe. I'm thankful King's puts itself into these conversations.

Near the end of my King's tenure I discovered postmodern philosophy and it felt wild and full of possibility. Dr. Jeff Dudiak had just arrived at King's. My friend Michael De Moor and I asked Jeff if he would lead a reading course and he obliged. That intimate encounter with a text and a group of readers was a remarkable experience. For me, King's really engaged with its students, and I suspect this is part of a much larger engagement, too.

My advice to incoming students would be to consider King's a place that lets you ask a lot of questions. Sometimes it will throw you an answer you don't like, and you can question that too. I really believe that if you seek you will find, and that all that is required is a sense of humility and curiosity. 🇳🇱



Teresa (née Nauta, BA'05) and Reuben Bestman (BSc'06) along with big sisters Tianna and Kaydence are celebrating the blessing of renewed health for their future King's student, little Riley Hendrik, born October 21, 2016.



King's students enrolled in Communication and Counselling Skills last semester had the privilege of learning from Registered Psychologist Everett (E.J.) Vroon (BA'95).



Caleb De Jong (BA'13) is pleased to announce the completion of a Master's Degree in Religious Studies from McMaster University (Fall 2015) and his marriage to Miriam De Cock October 9, 2016.

**KATELYNN  
MADILL-THOMSEN  
(BSC'15)**

In 2008 I chose to study Chemistry at King's because I wanted to learn at a smaller university. My learning style is to ask a lot of questions, discuss topics, and learn hands-on. I wanted to know the theory behind scientific instruments and then actually use them! The labs were bright and cheerful, the staff are lovely, and the professors genuinely care about the learning outcomes and long term success of their students. It was definitely the right choice. I can honestly say I had a wonderful time while completing my undergraduate degree at King's.

As a student, I initially spent a lot of time in the library but started getting more involved with the Commuter Student Program. I gained so many close friends through commuter events—friendships I still have. I specifically remember my first barn dance. I was invited last minute and spontaneously decided to go. I've always been glad that I did! Witty and the commuter program made such a difference to my overall experience at King's that I applied as a Commuter Program Assistant my last year.

I've recently entered graduate studies for a Master of Science in Medicine at the University of Alberta. My project focuses on molecular studies and inflammation using microarrays. I eventually plan to switch to a Ph.D. program and pursue a career in research, either in the private sector or in healthcare.

My time at King's made me more confident in my learning abilities, more outgoing, more determined, more assertive, and changed my original career path entirely. I would not have thought to apply for graduate school or go into a research-based career if I had not been encouraged to do so by my academic advisors. I'm so grateful to them for seeing potential in me and pointing it out! 🙌



*Katelynn Madill-Thomsen with her husband Benjamin Thomsen (BA'13).*



Jordan Seitz (BCom'11) celebrated five years as a REALTOR® with Re/Max Elite and enjoys mentoring talented students from the Leder School of Business.



Becky Graw (BA'09) and Michael Mackey officially tied the knot on December 17 in Edmonton, AB.



Ethan Vanderleek (BA'13) was ordained last fall to serve as Campus Chaplain at Kwantlen Polytechnic University through his employment at Fleetwood Christian Reformed Church in Surrey, BC.



Planning to attend King's as part of the Class of 2039, Samantha is following in the footsteps of proud parents Stephanie (née Clarke, BA'13) and Buddy Morris (BSc'12). To receive your own free King's onesie, visit [kingsu.ca/alumni](http://kingsu.ca/alumni).



Glen Van Brummelen ('83), who also was a faculty member in mathematics at King's, went on to become a founding faculty member of Quest University in Squamish, British Columbia.

He has recently been honoured as a 3M National Teaching Fellow for 2017 by 3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.



It's an exciting new year for Irene and Albert Mugihi (BA'09) as they celebrated their wedding on January 7 in Uganda.

Lewis Kelly (BA'10) recently started his own company called Mercury Communications. His services include writing, copy editing, and social media. Check out his company at [www.mercury.business](http://www.mercury.business)



Since completing her Master's degree in Environment and Sustainability, Jenna Zee (BSc'08) continues at the University of Saskatchewan as project manager, researching the effects of integrated vegetation management on power line rights-of-way in northern Saskatchewan.



Jacy Richardson (BA'14, BEd'16) explores her creative side with unique quilts and accessories for children. Check out her company, Olive Lane Handmade, on Instagram and Etsy.



Jesse Nakano (BCom'18) launched Friendly Media Production, the company behind promoting the Class of 2016's Green Wall crowdfunding campaign. Watch their video at [www.gofundme.com/kingsgreenwall](http://www.gofundme.com/kingsgreenwall).



Sarah Kirby with her son, Jace Kirby.

**SARAH KIRBY (NÉE LINFIELD, BSC'13)**

Being from a small town, I wanted to go to a university with small class sizes and quality education. When I went on a tour of Kings the bright, friendly atmosphere and artwork around the school made me feel it was meant to be.

Since completing my Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 2013, I have been working from home as an artist. I do fantasy-inspired paintings as well as custom portrait commissions and I love it! I am using what I learned at King's about myself, the world, and God every

day. Through long chats with professors, I began to look inward at what would make me the happiest career-wise. With their help, I began to accept for myself that it is okay to take a risk and to pursue what I love.

Art is a profession that quite a few people see as just a hobby and not a successful career choice, which is why I think it took me so long to decide to go for it. One of the best pieces of advice a professor gave me was that there is something that I love to do, that someone else either hates doing, or is incapable of doing it, and will pay me to do that thing. If it wasn't for the professors taking the time to get to know

me personally and giving me advice, I would probably be doing something that makes me miserable for eight hours a day!

Looking back, I would have spent more time participating in campus events. I tended to stay in my apartment, doing homework and studying all day long. I wish I would have taken more time to do social things while at King's.

To current students, I'd say don't be scared about going to your professors for help during their office hours. It can save you hours of trying to figure it out on your own. This is one of the great advantages of going to King's over a large university! 🙌



Vicki (née Biel, BSC'11) and Josh Noble (BA'10) proudly announced the birth of their first child, Elliot Isaiah, on February 2, 2017.



Ann Vriend (née Bruinsma, '97) was recently handed the Toronto Blues Society's annual Cobalt Prize for her song "All That I Can" (Aporia Records), a soulful gospel tune.



Miranda Visser (née Heslop, '04) uncovered some hidden gems—photos from her days at King's. Submit your contributions and favourite memories to [alumni@kingsu.ca](mailto:alumni@kingsu.ca).

# SIMPLE STEPS TO BEQUEST GIVING

BY KATHY MACFARLANE

The King's University is blessed by generous donors who have left a legacy gift in their Will or plan to do so. Often people ask how they can make arrangements that will allow their passion for God's work at King's to live on. Here are some answers:

## HOW CAN I LEAVE A GIFT TO KING'S IN MY WILL?

It's easier than you think. If you already have a Will, it might be as simple as a phone call or short visit to your lawyer to add a charitable bequest to King's. Professional advisors encourage those without a Will to ensure their wishes are documented concerning guardians for dependent children, division of assets, end-of-life decisions, and support for charities.

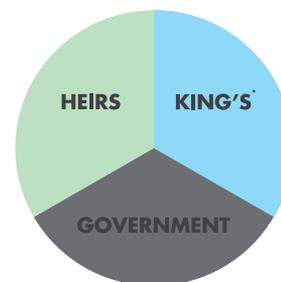
## IF I LEAVE A GIFT IN MY WILL, I'M CONCERNED THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR MY LOVED ONES.

We all want to make sure our loved ones are cared for. With planning, you may be able to support your loved ones and make a gift to King's. Often an estate will owe taxes to government. By leaving a gift to King's, the resulting tax receipt will offset some of those taxes leaving funds intact for heirs.

## WHAT KIND OF GIFTS CAN I LEAVE IN MY WILL?

Three common options include leaving specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the residue of your estate (amount left after gifts to heirs and other obligations are met).

*In the end, your wealth could go to any of these three. Choose your two favourites.*



*\*A bequest to King's can reduce taxes owed on your passing, leaving the rest of your estate for your loved ones.*

## CAN I CHOOSE HOW MY FUTURE GIFT WILL BE USED?

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**For more info contact** Kathy MacFarlane, MA, CFRE  
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