What Will be Your Legacy at Bishop’s?

Our decision to make Bishop’s University part of our estate plan was very easy. We met 43 years ago at Bishop’s, and it holds a special place in our hearts. Mary also has family history with Bishop’s that goes back to the 1870s with multiple generations of Scotts attending the school.

In my 36 years in the financial services industry, I have met many individuals and families that have not made a will. Often when they have made a will, it lacks a plan and is not updated on a regular basis. We all want to leave a legacy for our families, but we can do so much more. We can mitigate our exposure to taxes and champion causes we support.

If you retain a connection to Bishop’s, it may be because you have established some lifelong friendships. Or you may have some great memories on the field of play or of watching those on the field of play. Perhaps you had a special professor who ignited a lifelong passion in a topic you love. Regardless of how that connection was established, Bishop’s is part of you.

Whether you graduated recently or long ago, make a will, keep it up to date and consider Bishop’s as part of your legacy.”

—Mary Scott ’80 & John Nadeau ’80

Remembering Bishop’s in your Will is an excellent way to create a lasting legacy. A gift in your Will, big or small, is a gift to future students... for generations to come.

Thank you for considering an estate gift to Bishop’s University!

For a confidential discussion on how you can have a lasting impact on Bishop’s students, please contact:

Bruce Stevenson ’76, Estate Giving and Donor Relations
bruce.stevenson@ubishops.ca • Tel: 819-822-9600, ext. 2264 • Toll-free: 1-866-822-5210
Are you receiving our email messages? Update your contact information so you don’t miss out.
Please write to us at alumni@ubishops.ca and check your junk/spam mail folder.
UPDATE ON KWIGW8MNA

In February 2022, we issued a call for tenders for the construction of Kwigw8mna that was to begin this summer.

Our internal and external professionals had estimated the construction costs would be approximately $6 million.

Unfortunately, at the bid deadline on May 4, 2022, we received only one bid and it was for $11.9 million.

At that price, the cost per square metre would be $10,000. By comparison, the cost per square metre for the new residence that is currently being built is $3,000.

In discussions with other universities and the Quebec government, we learned that many institutional construction projects are facing similar budgetary overruns.

Pent up demand, supply chain bottlenecks, and increases in the costs of labour and materials have all contributed to the dramatic rise in construction costs.

After discussion with the Board of Governors’ Oversight Committee and with the unanimous support of the Stakeholders Committee, it was decided not to go forward with the project. We have regrouped and are reviewing our options in the face of the current circumstances. Our hope is that conditions will improve and that it will make sense to issue a new call for tenders early in 2023.

The Kwigw8mna project remains of critical importance for Bishop’s, and Principal Goldbloom has advised the Board of Governors that, subject to consultation and agreement with the Kwigw8mna project’s Steering Committee and the Stakeholder Group, he will not recommend going ahead with any other major new construction projects until the construction of Kwigw8mna is underway.

The Principal and Isabelle Goyette, Vice-Principal Finance and Administration, have met with senior officials of the Ministère de l’Enseignement supérieur about the possibility of securing further funding for Kwigw8mna. We also hope to secure additional philanthropic contributions in support of the project.

We are deeply disappointed about the delay in proceeding with the construction of Kwigw8mna. Nonetheless, we are determined to ensure the project will proceed as soon as possible and we are confident that it will.
FINAL WISHES

In Memory of Jordan Slaman ’22

If life had gone as planned, Jordan Slaman ’22 would have graduated from Bishop’s in Business and Computer Science in 2015. But he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer. The prognosis and survival rates were cause for optimism, but nevertheless he had to interrupt his studies to undergo treatment.

Once the treatment was complete and apparently successful, he moved to Vancouver and pursued a career in information technology, culminating as a senior software engineer for Lululemon. Life was good and the future was bright.

But his cancer returned, and the prognosis this time was terminal.

In July, Jordan’s wife Krista contacted me to ask whether BU would grant him his degree, on a compassionate basis. A special meeting of the degree committee was convened, and there was unanimous approval to grant her request. So, we sent Jordan’s framed degree to Krista by messenger, in order for his friends from Bishop’s to present it to him as a surprise. But the real surprise was yet to come.

Jordan made contact with the Forward Foundation, a charity that provides young adults, who have life-limiting illnesses, with opportunities to make meaningful experiences of connection. Jordan’s wish was to show Krista where he attended high school and university, and the Forward Foundation kindly agreed to make this possible.

On August 19, 2022, Jordan and Krista returned to campus with their friends Daniel O’Connor ’15 and Miriam Emrlys for a special graduation ceremony at Griffin Alumni House, with the following on hand to celebrate Jordan’s academic accomplishments: Dr. Layashi Bentabet, Chair, Department of Computer Science; Professor Reena Atanasiadis, Dean, Williams School of Business; Hans Rouleau ’97, Registrar; and Dr. Nelly Khouzzam, former Chair of the Department of Computer Science.

After the ceremony, Alumni Relations Coordinator Sterling Mawhinney ’88 and I took our guests on a tour of campus, stopping by Jordan’s favorite old haunts like the IT Help Desk and Paterson Hall. Following their visit, Krista wrote: “Jordan had been feeling listless and like there was nothing else to look forward to, while his condition worsened, and being able to see these formative places and walk (roll?) down memory lane gave him such life and such a sense of completion. I hadn’t seen him so animated and so joyful in quite some time. I’m eternally grateful for the things I learned about him on the way, the stories I got to hear for the first (or second, or third) time as we toured and reminisced, and the happiness that he felt as he accomplished this bucket list goal.”

Jordan passed away in Krista’s arms on the morning of September 21, 2022. He was 30. Apparently, he smiled and made jokes until his final hours.

I dedicate this issue of the Bishop’s Alumni Magazine to Jordan and Krista. Witnessing Jordan’s love for Bishop’s was a highlight of my career. I will never forget this experience, or them. Everything else seems inconsequential in comparison.

—Jacqueline Scott ’90
Associate Vice-Principal, Advancement
VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF BISHOP’S

There is a rich legacy of volunteerism in my family that was exemplified by my grandmothers. My maternal grandmother, Esther, was involved early on in what became Planned Parenthood, and my paternal grandmother, Annie, was the founder and first president of the Women’s Auxiliary of the Jewish General Hospital. My parents followed in their footsteps and were highly engaged community volunteers throughout their lives.

Margaret Mead once said: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Volunteering with a group of people in support of an organization with a public purpose can make a significant and enduring impact on our world.

From my own experience, volunteering benefits the volunteer as much as it benefits the community or cause. You have an opportunity to develop a sense of your own values and value, to build a network of like-minded people and to acquire skills that will stand you in good stead both personally and professionally.

In this issue you will read about Bishop’s graduates who give of their time – to Bishop’s and to their communities. They are part of a tradition and culture of volunteerism that is flourishing at all levels of our University. They are an inspiration to all of us.

We’ve been exceptionally fortunate in the quality of our Board members who have given their time and talent to the University. I hope that they appreciate the profound impact they have made and that they feel enriched by the experience.

Bishop’s success is significantly dependent on the engagement of its graduates. Alumni and friends provide mentorship to recent graduates through programs like JUMP, and they provide guidance and leadership in raising funds. So much of what Bishop’s does is made possible by the donations we receive. The B.E.S.T. Project Fund for experiential learning, the Chancellor’s Excellence Scholarships, the Donald Lecture Series, Kwigw8mna, the educational farm and the AUS Football Travel Fund are just a few examples of the many initiatives made possible by volunteers and generous donors.

I have been particularly impressed by our current generation of students and their volunteer engagement within the University and in the local community. The fashion show, which every year raises money for great causes such as supporting refugees who study at Bishop’s, is a good example. The list of student-driven volunteer causes on our campus is long and varied.

Our faculty and staff also go above and beyond in multiple ways. A professor teaching a course on a pro bono basis is a volunteer. A staff member helping with the refugee garage sale is a volunteer. Our staff and faculty who lead our Centraide campaign are volunteers.

When volunteers from different walks of life join together in common cause, great things can happen. The University is thriving today, in large measure because of our dedicated volunteers. Bishop’s wouldn’t be Bishop’s without them and we are very grateful to them.

—Michael Goldbloom, C.M.
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
—Margaret Mead
TALKING MATTERS

Everyone, at some point in their life, will be touched by the diseases of dementia and Alzheimer’s. They shall either fall victim to the disease, or find themselves as caregiver and witness to the slow decline of cognitive functions with someone they love.

It is this decline in cognitive function that is the basis for a groundbreaking play, or knowledge mobilization project, which had its world premiere at the Turner Studio Theatre in May 2022.

Differing from other movies and plays that have dealt with this topic, Talking Matters sets out to teach and inform audiences in the new treatment called languaging. The central premise is that patients with early onset dementia have the ability to recall “lost” vocabulary. The technique requires patience and a willingness to spend time with the patient. The play strives to enable caregivers to practice this technique which has been shown to empower patients with their rediscovered vocabulary.

The project was the result of a collaboration between the Bishop’s Drama and Psychology departments, and the two playwrights, Marina Engelking and Merrill Swain. Ms. Engelking is a published author who has turned her sights towards playwriting, and Ms. Swain is a professor emeritus from the University of Toronto whose specialty is second language acquisition and more recently, language as a tool to combat mild cognitive deficiencies.

The play was directed by Wade Lynch, a professor in the Drama Department, who collaborated with Dr. Heather Lawford from the Psychology Department, to present this new knowledge mobilization project.

Performing in the play were Bishop’s drama students Sophie Kaplan and Alessia Hatch ’22, along with Professor Mary Harvey from the Drama Department and Sterling Mawhinney ’88 from the Advancement Office.

The play was performed twice at the Turner Studio Theatre and again at the Grace Village, a retirement home located in Huntingville, QC. The Grace Village performance was particularly inspiring as the audience was made up of care workers, volunteers, and the families of patients in the “memory ward,” many of whom commented they preferred the information presented in play form rather than in written documentation.

The hope is, this project will gain notice from other municipalities and organizations who would benefit from the information and techniques presented in this production.
RESEARCH MATTERS

PROFESSOR GENNER LLANES-ORTIZ IS NAMED CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN DIGITAL INDIGENEITIES

As Assistant Sociology Professor Genner Llanes-Ortiz explains, digital technology has democratized communications and given the potential to anyone or any group to become their own broadcaster and communicator. “That has a profound impact on us all, but it provides a number of opportunities for Indigenous peoples,” he points out.

In June of this year, Dr. Llanes-Ortiz was appointed Canada Research Chair in Digital Indigeneities at Bishop’s. He is studying the role of digital media to preserve and promote Indigenous histories and languages, as well as sharing Indigenous knowledge with people around the world. The word Indigeneities, hard as it is to say and decode, is derived from the adjective Indigenous and the term makes sense once you make that connection.

“It refers to the study of how Indigenous people are transforming their own identities, according to their own principles and through multiple ways of being Indigenous,” Dr. Llanes-Ortiz explains. “Indigenous identities are in constant transformation. So that means they are contemporary, they are diverse and they are rich, something that is often not recognized by the general population who may still be clinging onto outdated stereotypes of what it means to be Indigenous.”

According to Dr. Llanes-Ortiz, he often hears from Indigenous students how their identities are questioned by different people because they don’t correspond to those same old, sometimes even offensive, stereotypes. “Non-Indigenous people want to see that image they have in their heads about Indigenous people,” he observes.

In his role as Canada Research Chair, Dr. Genner Llanes-Ortiz will be focusing on how Indigenous peoples in Canada, Mexico and Guatemala develop and use digital technologies to reclaim, protect and stimulate their cultural and language heritage. This initiative will be the first to bridge Indigenous researchers and activist networks from Latin America with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada to analyze and showcase the ways Indigenous peoples are using technological advancements to sustain and cultivate their identities, knowledge, life ways, languages, and traditions.

“Digital media adaptation and its possibilities to support Indigenous cultural and language revitalization are currently discussed by Indigenous scholars in North America, but relevant examples and academic contributions from Indigenous Latin America are still missing in these discussions,” he points out. “Conversations between North America and Latin America have been limited by their different colonial languages, as well as by how differently Indigenous peoples express and protect their knowledge and identities. As an Indigenous Maya researcher and now holder of a Canada Research Chair, I hope to facilitate these important conversations and build bridges across these different contexts.”

Dr. Llanes-Ortiz adds: “Digital communications technology makes it possible for Indigenous people to create their own representations of what it means to be Indigenous today and share that with other Indigenous communities and the world at large. That is exciting to participate in, and it is equally interesting to research in dialogue with the Indigenous people leading that important work.”
Earlier this year, Bishop’s hosted the largest Convocation weekend in the University’s history. After participating in virtual graduation ceremonies due to the pandemic, the Classes of 2020 and 2021 returned to campus on Saturday, June 4 for an opportunity to walk across the stage. Members of the Class of 2022 were celebrated on the morning and afternoon of Sunday, June 5.

Our graduates are leaving the University not only with a strong base of knowledge in their field of study, but also with the skills that will allow them to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

The sense of pride was evident on their faces, as well as on those of their families and friends who came to support them.

Congratulations to the Classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 and welcome to the BU Alumni Association!

Honorary Degree Recipients
The degree of Doctor of Civil Law honoris causa was bestowed to Louis Garneau, Founding President of Louis Garneau Sport; Christy Clark, Former Premier of British Columbia; Glenn Lowry, Director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City; Sophie d’Amours, Rector of Université Laval; Esi Edugyan, Author; and Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh, Scientist, clinician, and COVID-19 specialist. Each congratulated the new graduates and shared memorable words of advice for the future.

Professor Emeritus
Dr. Brian Jenkins became Bishop’s inaugural Distinguished Professor Emeritus, recognizing his career as a professor, an administrator, and a scholar of the British Isles and transatlantic world. His contributions both to his field of research and on the Bishop’s campus, through his tenure in the History department, on Senate, and as Dean of the Humanities, made strides in our educational offerings that continue to bring lustre to the University. He has been, and continues to be, a model in the academic world and a shining light of Bishop’s history.

Dr. Jasmeen Sidhu Receives the 2022 William and Nancy Turner Teaching Award
The William and Nancy Turner Teaching Award is Bishop’s highest teaching award. It is presented to a professor who, in the eyes of their students and the award’s selection committee, has made an outstanding contribution to the Bishop’s community both in and out of the classroom. In 2022, that professor was Dr. Jasmeen Sidhu of the Psychology Department.

Dr. Sidhu joined Bishop’s in 2019, when she immediately made a mark on her students and earned the newly created Rising Star Award for Pedagogical Innovation. Cornerstones of her teaching include using students as partners, helping them achieve greatness, and most importantly, igniting passion in her subject. Graduating student Sherif Yussef ‘22 introduced her, stating, “She makes learning a fun task, blending new teaching techniques with well-established pedagogical theories in order to present a stunning and highly efficient educational experience.”

Dr. Sidhu has been beloved by her students since she set foot on campus. Youseff recounts his experience nominating Dr. Sidhu, saying: “A couple of my friends and I decided to nominate her and sent a brief email to around 50 of her students asking for a few letters of endorsement.

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We expected to get just about three or four short letters. Instead, we got over forty long essays about how Jasmeen is not only an amazing teacher but a formidable human being as well. We actually had to leave out about 80% of the letters in order to adhere to the page count limit for the nomination.” This account speaks to the remarkable impact she has on students and the Bishop’s community, part of what makes her so deserving of this recognition.

The 2020 and 2021 winners, Dr. Avril Aitken of the School of Education and Dr. Heather Lawford of the Department of Psychology respectively, were also celebrated over the weekend. They were profiled on page 30 of the Spring 2021 edition of the Bishop’s Alumni Magazine.

Alumnus of the Year – Mark Saykaly ’72
Convocation Weekend 2022 also marked the return of the Chancellor’s Dinner. We welcomed 720 and 660 graduates and their families and friends on Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4 respectively at the Centre de foires in Sherbrooke.

On Saturday, Mark Saykaly ’72 was recognized as the 2022 Alumnus of the Year. This award recognizes a distinguished graduate who has marked the Bishop’s community with their continued involvement after their graduation. The winner’s longstanding commitment to the University is honoured through this award, standing as a token of gratitude and recognition from the alumni community.

As a student, Mark was involved in the student council and played on the soccer and tennis teams. After leaving Bishop’s, Mark went on to enjoy a long and successful career in the garment industry, rising to President of his family’s business.

But his involvement did not end at graduation: Mark has volunteered with BU for years, namely through his service as a Director of the Bishop’s Foundation and his work with alumni living in the Asia-Pacific region. There, he hosted reunions in places such as Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Kuala Lumpur before transitioning into the online sphere at the onset of the pandemic. Mark also served Bishop’s students by helping raise funds both for Mandarin courses and to support the Chinese Students Association.

Mark’s continued contributions to Bishop’s both on campus and abroad have made him the perfect candidate for this award. We thank him for his engagement with the Bishop’s community and congratulate him on this well-deserved honour.

The 2021 Alumnus of the Year, Bob Egan ’80, was celebrated at the June 3 dinner. Bob was profiled on page 31 of the Fall 2021 edition of the Bishop’s Alumni Magazine.

Young Alumna of the Year – Felicity Burns ’17
The Chancellor’s Dinner on Saturday also afforded us the opportunity to honour the 2022 Young Alumna of the Year. This award recognizes a graduate of the past five years who continues to embody the Bishop’s spirit and has made significant contributions to their field either through personal achievement or community service.

Such is the case for Felicity Burns ’17, who graduated with a B.A. in Educational Studies and a minor in Sports Studies, and again in 2018 with a B.Ed. After Bishop’s, she continued her studies at McGill University with an M.A. in Education and Society.

Felicity teaches using values acquired at Bishop’s, namely the desire to instill curiosity, confidence, and responsibility in the classroom. She is beloved by her...
students for her engaging and innovative teaching approaches, and always strives to meet the needs of individual students regardless of how they may differ from the group’s.

She has worked at Bishop’s College School as Learning Strategist and Individual Education Plan Manager. She is presently a research assistant at Bishop’s on a project studying children with chronic pain, and is teaching a class in the School of Education. She has also helped organize walks in support of Orange Shirt Day and the Climate March.

Overall, Felicity has been an active and involved member of her communities with a pronounced interest in children’s well-being. The combination of her academic, professional, and volunteer accomplishments makes her a fitting recipient for this award.

The 2021 Young Alumna of the Year, Aliosha “Allie” Hurry ’19, was also celebrated at the dinner where a video in which she provided words of encouragement was played. She was profiled on page 31 of the Fall 2021 edition of the Bishop’s Alumni Magazine.

Words of Wisdom from our Honorands

Louis Garneau, Founding President of Louis Garneau Sport

“In my first race, I almost finished last, but I was happy because I didn’t come in last. I found that race after race, if I worked hard, if I had discipline, I would start to have better results week after week and year after year. […] I realized that if you train more than your neighbour, if you have more perseverance and resilience than your teammate, that gives results. […] I won 150 races, but I lost 500. Don’t think that you’re going to win every race; it’s impossible. One day will be very nice, and one day will be very bad, but it’s important to never give up in anything you’re going to do. […] Life is difficult at times; it’s trial and error, mistakes, crash, come back. Never giving up is the most important thing, and you will survive anything.”

Christy Clark, Former Premier of British Columbia

“You have so much potential ahead of you to change the world around you, to change this country, if you choose to use it. And it is your time now to do great things, to cure diseases, to invent technology that will stop climate change, to write beautiful music that the world will hear and love, to create jobs and wealth through creating businesses across the country. Rich, honoured, celebrated, and loved. I know that that is what all of the people who are here today want for you. And so do I. And more than that, I hope that each one of you, when you go out to make your dream happen, sees yourself as one part of a billion-piece puzzle that is part of making the world better, because we’re going to need you.”

Glenn Lowry, Director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City

“If there is one thing we have learned in the last two years, it is the need to be resilient, flexible, and above all, empathetic. Resilient, because life will throw any number of obstacles in our way, but they can be overcome if we put our minds to it. […] Flexible, because we have all learned in the last two years that almost nothing works out as expected. […] And empathetic, because at times of extreme stress, we must never forget the ability to feel for others. To recognize someone else’s pain, joy, or anxiety is to create the bond that makes us human. […] As you leave the privileged space of Bishop’s, the companionship of your friends, the warmth of the community here, and the beauty of the Eastern Townships, think about how fortunate you have been despite the difficulties of these last two years. Use that remarkable education you have been given here to make a little bit of change for the good every day. You’ll be surprised at how much you can change over time.”

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Sophie D’Amours, Rector of Université Laval

“Keep dreaming about the world of tomorrow, but above all, build it, making it happen. [...] Things don’t change on their own. To build a far more inclusive and greener society, we must appeal to the collectivity. And it is your turn. Personally, despite the magnitude of the challenge up front, I sleep very well at night, because I know you’re there. I know you’re here in front of us today getting this diploma. Like all the generations that preceded you, yours will leave its mark. You will know how to find the answers to the challenges of your time. Over the next few years, you will be faced with doing business as usual or challenging the status quo. It is up to you to chart the course for future generations. So, through this journey have fun, be happy and resilient, bet on yourself and your talent. Please trust yourself. I wish you a marvelous journey.”

Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh, Scientist, Clinician, and COVID-19 Specialist

“Your cohort, more than any others, deserves to be lauded. What usually bonds us, creates our networks, builds the adults we will be, was not allowed. Nevertheless, you pulled through and are graduating today. I want to congratulate you for being so perseverant, for putting up with everything that was asked of you, and for putting your community before yourselves. For those who may have struggled more than others, you deserve all my respect. I had it easy and realized only later how much work ethic is a core of one’s success. Talent is nothing without work. [...] For those of you who know exactly where you’re heading and may even have a career plan, kudos. For the others who feel that they’re soaring like a kite, catching one wind current after the other, [...] just make sure you remain curious, that you never take anything for granted, and invest [in] yourselves. I hope to meet you someday, somewhere, and hear what you have solved, created, written, or dreamed about. Tomorrow is yours. I wish you fun and luck.”

Esi Edugyan, Author

“Our failures in life, those moments when we flop up and stub our toes, are actually our greatest blessings. They are some of the few times when we will be humbled enough to recognize that we need to change. They force us to push in different directions, to evolve, to open ourselves to new answers. [...] I would urge you: make room for new experiences, for wonderful new encounters, for everyday beauty. But also make room for the possibility of sometimes getting it wrong, for those are the moments that will transform you. Shine a light on your limits and challenge yourselves to get beyond them, because our limits can only change with our awareness of them. Success is not the opposite of failure, but the act of being awake in failure, of processing what went wrong, of trying harder, of doing better. I want to congratulate you again on your first day of opening yourselves to every path, especially those least expected.”

Words of Wisdom from our Valedictorians

Natalie Nguyen ’22, B.B.A. Concentration General Stream, Cooperative Education, French Minor

“What did Bishop’s teach me? Not just how to graph supply and demand, conjugate verbs, and present in front of a board of directors. Bishop’s taught me how to live. Live with passion to follow my pursuits; live with the courage to face adversity; live with balance, valuing social and academic achievements equally; live with empathy, creating welcoming environments wherever I go; and perhaps the biggest lesson of my storyline is how to live with failure.” She concluded that “when you define your own success, you will always be accomplished.”

Antoun Shahin ’22 – B.Sc. Major in Computer Science

“[Coming here as a refugee, moving to a country in a language in which I was not fluent], I was afraid because Bishop’s chose me – I didn’t choose Bishop’s – for which I was, I am, and I will forever be grateful. [Because I received overwhelming support and kindness from my new community...] I want my classmates to remember your
feelings the first time you entered the quad, or the first time you entered a class. You probably thought you were coming here just to get an academic degree, make friends, and leave. But can you imagine how lucky we are to have a community that did not allow us to leave with only the piece of paper we’re going to get today? How amazing is it to leave here with more than we expected when we entered? [...] Here, on this land, with a starting point on this campus, the impossible is possible, and anything you can dream about might turn into reality, and that dream might come true at any age, because Bishop’s is the land of opportunities.”

Class of 2021 Valedictorians Sabrina-Binta Koné and Sally Cunningham (both of whom have written for previous issues of the Bishop’s Alumni Magazine) were able to deliver a joint version of their speeches in person to their graduating class.

Sabrina: “Like many of you, a few months prior to graduating, I started thinking about what I wanted to do next. I debated: should I travel for six months? Should I pursue a master’s degree? Do I enter the workforce? And while all of these questions continuously popped in my head, one thing I knew for sure was that what ever I did choose had to have a little bit of Bishop’s in it. [...] All these experiences were parts of BU that shaped me, and naturally, I wanted to take them with me into my next chapter. And while I did find a role that I love, I quickly realized that finding something that replicates Bishop’s to a tee was going to be a never-ending chase. The harsh reality is that we probably won’t find another Bishop’s again. But the silver lining is knowing that there are elements of BU everywhere we go, because BU isn’t just a place, BU is a fire within us.”

Sally: “We know what Bishop’s meant to us – still means to us – as we all came back today to prove. [...] Wherever we may be in our lives now, we will never truly graduate. We carry our hope, our empathy, and our resilience through everything we do because we are Bishop’s. Whether your purple spirit manifests as a call to excellence, to quiet contemplation, or a network of lifelong friends, a part of Bishop’s belongs to you now. You are marked by it. May we as a class commemorate that the serendipity of our time at Bishop’s has ended and may we as individuals celebrate as we strike out into the world beyond our bubble. As we stand here today, for the second time victorious, let us look back with fondness on our time together and rush into our glorious futures. It’s time.”

Noah Jepson ’20 was also finally able to deliver his address in person to his graduating class.

“Everyone making the trip out here this weekend is making this ceremony as special as it would have been two years ago, and that’s something that we really have to thank the BU community for. [...] To the class of 2020, we’re here for a good time, not a long time; we’re pretending to be students for just one more weekend. And each and every one of you is each other’s most important piece of the BU experience. If you look to your left and you look to your right, you’ll most likely see a friend, perhaps an old bog mate that you’ve lost connection with, or maybe a friend that just lives a little too far away. But at the end of the day, here at Bishop’s, we’re just a small, purple family. And as a role model of mine told me, in a family, you don’t need to like each other, but you sure freaking love them. And I love you all.”

A special thank you to Bishop’s staff and faculty who worked so hard to make this memorable weekend possible!
Bishop’s is a family affair for many Bishop’s graduates who celebrated bleeding purple from one generation to another.
ALUMNI “WELCOME HOME” EVENTS

Another tradition back by popular demand, the Bishop’s Alumni Association hosted “Welcome Home” events shortly after Convocation Weekend. The goal was to help recent graduates transition into the alumni family by introducing them to the network of Bishop’s graduates in their area. After years of cancelled events and virtual reunions, these were appreciated by alumni of all ages. Thanks to the efforts of Alex Cook ’13 (President of the Alumni Association), Katie Leclair ’13 (former Ottawa Chapter Lead), Amelia Krallis ’21 and Dan Bohinc ’94 (our new Montreal Chapter Co-Leads), Carolyn Gagnon ’16 (Toronto Chapter Lead), and Jacob Gerlofs ’19 (Vancouver Chapter Lead), “Welcome Home” events were hosted in four cities drawing over 200 registrants. (Please note that unfortunately, a photo of the Toronto event is not available.)
ON THE ROAD AGAIN — PART ONE

When one thinks of the summer in Canada, among the first images to come to mind is that of a lakeside cottage or perhaps something bigger...the ocean. Sandy beaches, rugged coastlines, friendly people and a spirit of fun. This was the setting for the Bishop’s Advancement Office tour of receptions through the Maritime provinces. Alumni Relations Coordinator Sterling Mawhinney ’88 played host at the four receptions.

The tour kicked off in Moncton, NB, at the Tide and Boar Bistro. Several local alumni along with Dr. Michael Teed (Williams School of Business) enjoyed an evening of food and drink while sharing experiences and stories from their time at Bishop’s. It was a fine beginning to the tour.

The next stop was on the waterfront in Charlottetown, PEI, at the beautiful Salt & Sol Restaurant at the Royal Charlottetown Yacht Club. Special thanks go out to Stephen Cudmore ’88 for helping with the arrangements for the evening. The group had a beautiful corner of the patio overlooking Charlottetown harbour. The food, drinks and stories flowed as alumni from three different decades shared their experiences, and Sterling updated the group on campus news.

The next stop was on the waterfront in Charlottetown, PEI, at the beautiful Salt & Sol Restaurant at the Royal Charlottetown Yacht Club. Special thanks go out to Stephen Cudmore ’88 for helping with the arrangements for the evening. The group had a beautiful corner of the patio overlooking Charlottetown harbour. The food, drinks and stories flowed as alumni from three different decades shared their experiences, and Sterling updated the group on campus news.

The tour next touched down in Halifax, or to be more precise, Dartmouth, where the largest number of alumni on the tour gathered on the patio at New Scotland Brewery.
on a perfect July evening. Alumni from 1967 through to newly minted graduates of 2022 enjoyed appetizers and beverages brewed on site at the lovely venue. Thanks to Mike Mills ’01 for making the connection with the owners. Sterling brought this group up-to-date on campus news such as the increase in counselling services available to students and the Community Cupboard (food bank) initiative.

The last stop on the tour was Saint John, NB. Unfortunately, the turnout was small but a good time was had at Hopscotch Whisky Bar. Hopefully numbers will improve when next we return to Saint John.

The post-pandemic need for Bishop’s alumni and friends to reconnect, at every stop along the way, was never more evident and we look forward to making these receptions annual events in the regions.
#GaiterNation NEWS

The start of the school year has brought a level of excitement to the Bishop’s Athletics and Recreation department that it hasn’t seen in a long time. Despite COVID-19 still looming, it was clear the Fall 2022 seasons were going to happen; the anticipation was unmistakable.

From the time the calendar hit August and student-athletes and coaches returned to Lennoxville, the energy levels were through the roof. Student-athletes were ready, coaches were ready, our staff was ready. Most important, #GaiterNation was ready!

With the return of training camps came several important off-the-playing surface initiatives for our student-athletes. Already this year, our student-athletes:

- Completed a BU Skillz Workshop with Academic Success Coach Mike Andrews ’16
- Attended an event in Centennial hosted by the Anti-Racism and Discrimination Committee (ARDC), led by senior soccer player Kyra Simons
- Took part in Active Bystander Training
- Prepared for the start of the academic school year and the fall sports season

In addition, the 2022-2023 Student-Athlete Leadership Council was formed and has already met three times.

Moreover, many student-athletes participated actively in the Truth and Reconciliation Week leading into the Orange Shirt Day walk on September 30.

John H. Price Sports & Recreation Centre

The big news coming out of the John H. Price Sports and Recreation Centre is the opening of the newly renovated pool. Despite a delay in getting the slides, the pool opened in July with Day Camp being the first users of this beautifully renovated space. The slides are expected in December to complete the $5.3 million project.

Day Camp was once again wildly successful. It sold out in four minutes when online registration opened to the public in the Spring. Led by Ryan Smith, a team of counsellors provided eight weeks of summer programming to local youth between the ages of 5 to 12.

Swim lessons, recreational programming, and intramurals have all returned with many eager participants this fall.
Old Lennoxville Golf & Ski
The Old Lennoxville Golf and Ski Course had another busy summer. With both the women’s league and men’s Calcutta accepting the maximum number of participants, the historic nine-hole course was a popular destination for golfers. As the golf season ends, ski programming will soon be unveiled for another exciting winter of activity.

Quick Hits
- The men’s golf team recently completed their Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) season in 2nd place, their best finish since the current format was adopted. They have qualified for Nationals in the spring of 2023.
- Men’s rugby player, Jack Shaw, was selected in the 2nd round (18th overall) in the Major League Rugby Draft in August.
- Women’s soccer player, Paige Robert, earned a MilkUp Future Leader Award, Ontario Soccer’s highest level of recognition.
- We are trending once again to have over 100 Academic All-Canadians and Academic All-Stars.
- The 1988, 1990 and 1994 OQIFC Championship Football teams were inducted into the Wall of Distinction at Homecoming – see page 29.
- Dianna Ros was hired as Women’s Basketball Head Coach.
- Unfortunately, the Bishop’s Football Gaiters lost the AUS semifinal game at home against the Mount Allison Mounties in early November.

After a two-year hiatus, the Athletics Department hosted the Annual Gaiter Classic Golf Tournament at Dufferin Heights Golf Club in June. The event raised over $30,000 for financial awards and bursaries for student-athletes and other top priorities. Pictured below is the winning foursome: Ryan Smith, Andrew Blanchard ’90, Kimball Smith ’85 and Tim Dooley ’84.
Dr. Vicki Chartrand, a professor in the Sociology Department at Bishop’s, has been working for over 20 years on justice matters, intent on correcting the routinized and structural violence that she has witnessed all too often when working with communities involved in the criminal justice system, including people in prison. She set out to abolish the harmful systems of domination that undergird our justice systems, favouring instead collaborative and community-led approaches to justice.

Dr. Chartrand’s research rests on three principal pillars. The first examines carceral politics, meaning the ways in which we contain and control people. This pillar for her is mostly in reference to the prison system, with a particular focus on historical links between colonialization and the continued targeting and imprisonment of mostly racialized, Black, and Indigenous people.

The second pillar is devoted to collaborative methodologies, ensuring reciprocity in her research that is mutually beneficial. This approach includes offering resources and support instead of merely extracting knowledge for the benefit of her own research. Simply put, this involves first talking to the people that she is talking about so that she can work alongside them, amplifying their voices.

The third pillar is orientation towards justice as a collective concern with the aim of cultivating and connecting people and communities. The current criminal justice system operates within an adversarial model that tends to individualize conflicts and social problems and segregate people from each other and life sustaining supports and resources. Concerns around safety and accountability are central to justice and should not diminish an individual or shared solutions and well-being. The focus is to ensure that justice and accountability improve people’s life circumstances, build communities, and provide opportunities for people to learn, grow, and create.

To this end, Dr. Chartrand works closely with Indigenous family and community members of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+) people. Throughout her work, she has collected over 500 Indigenous-based grassroots initiatives that not only show the vast resource, skill and strength that already exist in Indigenous communities but also reflect the many facets of what justice is and needs such as advocacy, caring, educating, healing, honouring, mourning, keeping each other safe and supporting each other among many others.

She gives the example of Gladys Radek, one of her main collaborators, whose community-building endeavours have comprised of five national walks across Canada since the disappearance of her niece, Tamara Chipman, in 2005. While raising awareness for MMIWG2S+ people, Ms. Radek collects the names and images, remembering hundreds of women’s stories and connecting families as she passes from town to town keeping the stories and memories of the women alive. According to Dr. Chartrand, the act of remembering is an important anchor in the face of a justice system that is designed to forget.
Though the outputs of Dr. Chartrand’s research take many forms, one has materialized through the Centre for Justice Exchange, a group of students and academics who share resources and offer support to those most in need. The Centre grew from Dr. Chartrand’s collaborative methodologies as she mobilized her students to correspond with prisoners, learning first-hand accounts of what happens inside prisons. The outcome of even small gestures like writing cards and letters can have a great impact on those in prison, some who write back expressing gratitude to the volunteers for sending the only Christmas card they received that year. In addition, the Centre for Justice Exchange can offer socio-legal information – not advice – that has, in the past, favourably changed outcomes of prisoners’ cases and circumstances. Often, people in prison simply do not know what recourse or resources they have access to.

While Dr. Chartrand does this work pro bono, for students, opportunities to gain course credit are offered through the Justice Clinic internship program with the Centre for Justice Exchange. Important to the Centre is the volunteer’s degree of commitment because the work the students put in contributes to support and resources upon which people’s lives depend.

If Dr. Chartrand’s research has made one thing clear, it’s that our current justice model doesn’t work. Addressing the challenges of the 21st century, she believes, lies in building communities of support that are not punitive. If this work depends on building communities, it must be supported by the communities in which we live.

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BISHOP’S CHEMICAL BONDS: FORMER STUDENTS CONNECT FOR CONFERENCE

Despite being separated by decades, miles, and more, our alumni community has an indelible glue: Bishop’s University. For many, this has been a source of attraction over the years, pulling together alumni with otherwise unrelated lives and experiences. Such was the case for Deborah Nicoll-Griffith ’81 and Grace Belzil ’21, both former Chemistry students at Bishop’s. Their university adventures separated by a neat 40 years, the pair nevertheless managed to connect through BU.

The relationship occurred by chance through Deborah’s involvement in the Canadian branch of the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI Canada). The SCI aims in their words to “further the application of chemistry and related sciences for the public benefit” through both events and publications. It has a long history of recognizing and advancing scientific achievements, notably through the SCI Canada Awards which celebrate Canadian professionals and students in the chemical industry.

It was the SCI Canada Awards that drew Deborah and Grace together, with Deborah sitting on the Nominations Committee and Grace a winner of the Student Merit Award. As a nominator, Deborah was charged with assembling a panel on sustainability in a low-carbon economy, and she turned to Bishop’s for help. Deborah was then put in contact with Grace, who agreed to join the panel.

From there, Grace began working on her presentation and despite it being a topic unfamiliar to her, she crafted a vibrant presentation on a facet that interested her: the health benefits of a low-carbon economy. With a mother in the medical field and an Honours degree in Organic Chemistry from Bishop’s, Grace found a vantage point from which she could speak with interest and confidence.

Throughout the preparation period, Grace and Deborah met on ZOOM calls to discuss the panel presentation, Deborah acting as an advocate and sounding board for Grace. As a more seasoned professional, Deborah offered herself as a resource to Grace, answering questions and helping her prepare for her presentation. She allowed her to vocalize her thoughts, challenged her with questions, and encouraged her not to be intimidated by other panelists. In the end, Grace delivered a memorable and highly praised presentation which Deborah described as a “breath of fresh air,” offering an insightful perspective on a rarely discussed topic in the low-carbon discussion.

In a discipline where mentorship opportunities are harder to come by, especially for women, connections like these provide invaluable chances for personal growth and professional support. For Deborah, it was important to offer Grace “an opportunity for luck to happen,” putting her in the path of other students and professionals in her field through SCI Canada. For seasoned professionals looking to pay it forward or fledgling alumni wanting to spread their wings, bonding through Bishop’s and its alumni network has proven a vital means of making connections.

MEET PETER NEAL ’89, THE CONNECTOR

Peter Neal has a big heart.

The 1989 Bishop’s grad, entrepreneur and philanthropist started what was to become Neal Brothers Foods in 1988, making croutons out of his mother’s kitchen, selling them out of his convertible, while he and his brother Chris were still students.

The key to their more than 30-year success story has been providing accessible snack choices using quality ingredients and making for a better-for-you snack option, their website says. The Neal Brothers Foods product line ranges from sauces, salad dressings, dips, corn chips, salsa and even de-alcoholised beer, and they are plant-based, dairy-free, gluten-free, GMO-free and more.

But quality products and striking packaging aside, Peter credits the brothers’ philanthropic initiatives and commitment to doing good and giving back as being good for business too. “There was an opportunity to do
good, market in a non-traditional way, and have that as reflective of who we were. Doing good has been woven into the very fabric of our business,” he says.

On the 30th anniversary of Neal Brothers Foods, the brothers embarked on what they called their 30 Acts of Goodness to thank customers, employees, and partners for 30 amazing years together. They, and their team, visited communities and charity events across the country to hand out Neal Brothers snacks, and they made special visits to honour employees and their retail clients over the years.

“My brother and I had great role models in our parents who were very civic- and community-minded,” Peter says. “I’m an empath and that’s what has made me the socially-minded person I am. I connect with people, and I connect people with each other. I make a strong effort to be involved with young people especially.”

Supporting mental health has been an important focus of Peter’s philanthropic life. He’s especially connected to the Pine River Institute and helped them raise the half a million dollars they needed to build Neal Hall.

The Pine River Institute works with youth struggling with addiction to get their lives, relationships, and futures back on track. There’s a special bond with that organization because Peter and his family turned to Pine River to get help for his own daughter, and he credits the Institute with saving her life.

When Peter says he’s a connector, he’s not talking through his hat.

He recently met with Olympic medallist Silken Laumann to talk about the Pine River Institute and Unsinkable, the not-for-profit organization she founded that supports mental, physical, social and spiritual health.

He has also become involved and sits on the advisory board of The Family Navigation Project at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. There, a team of navigators assesses the needs of youth and their families and then matches them with the resources best suited to helping them deal with their mental health and addiction issues.

Peter is candid about his own mental health struggles, and in a somewhat ironic twist he turned to the Family Navigation Project to get help for himself. In 2019-2020, he suffered a major depression, and there he received the diagnosis and therapy he needed. “I got myself back,” he says. “Men are especially reticent to ask for and get help. If I have one message to people, it’s ‘if you need help, ask for help, get help and don’t stop asking for the right help for you until you get it.’”

Good guys don’t finish last in life or in business. Peter Neal is living proof of it.

MILLER’S MANTRA ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For Sandra Miller ’90, John F. Kennedy’s biblical paraphrase “To whom much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48) are words to live by.

“We’re living in such strange times,” the London, Ontario, resident says. “Social media, the pandemic, divisiveness, political upheaval, you name it. It’s disturbing. There are so many people really struggling. Reconnecting with people by simple acts of kindness, volunteering, seeking out and providing joy and relief to others doesn’t cost anything and helps give meaning to your life.”

Sandra’s advice to others? Find your passions and identify an opportunity to give, whether it’s coaching soccer, becoming a volunteer caregiver, joining the board of a not-for-profit or taking out an elderly neighbour’s trash can.

Continues on next page —
She takes her own advice to heart and has been doing so for years.

After graduation, Sandra worked for some years. She then got a master's degree in library sciences and went on to work in government libraries and in health care. She retired more than ten years ago, which freed her up to get involved in her community and a number of volunteer activities.

She has served on the board of the Architectural Conservancy Ontario, an organization based in Toronto with branches across the province. “I volunteered with our local branch and then joined the board,” Sandra explains. “Architecture has always been a passion of mine. We organized fundraising events, awareness events and membership drives, and advocated for threatened heritage properties. It was all part of our responsibilities as board members. I oversaw communication and social media.” She still follows the organization and is engaged as a member who cares about conserving and maintaining our architectural and cultural heritage and who volunteers on occasion.

That led to her becoming involved with the new community association for her neighbourhood. She sits on the executive and helps with social media, event planning, and engaging with the City councillor and staff on related community issues.

But volunteering for Sandra didn’t begin after retirement or even when she became an adult. Giving back was a value inculcated early in her childhood. “My first foray into volunteering would have been when I was a Brownie, and helping my mother as a young girl at the church tea, setting up tables and serving. Over the years, I was on the high school grad committee. I also co-chaired the Bishop’s grad committee one year.”

“Those are the formal things I’ve done and am doing,” Sandra says. “We hear a lot about volunteerism and ways to get engaged. But there are lots of little things that people can do that constitute meaningful ways of giving back that aren’t related to an official organization or a cause. Helping out is what volunteerism means to me. You see a need and you offer to help. There are so many occasions to lend a hand.”

“It all comes down to the Golden Rule,” Sandra concludes. “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

IN THE BUSINESS OF STUDENT SUCCESS

A particularly strong facet of the Bishop’s education is owed to continued involvement from alumni. Whether offering guest lectures, mentorship, or networking opportunities, alumni share knowledge from their Bishop’s experiences supplemented with their professional expertise to help current students navigate their time at Bishop’s and beyond. Such has been the case with Tyler Jensen “TJ” Smith ’19.

As a student, TJ was an active member of the Williams School of Business (WSB). Seeking productive ways to fill his time, TJ wrangled a team of his friends to participate in a case competition with him. When the team won, it propelled TJ’s involvement in the WSB and lead him to more case competitions, the BU Commerce Society (BUCS), SEED, and more.

The importance of supporting one another and participating in one’s community crystallized in TJ’s mind through these experiences, especially his leadership role in BUCS. He says: “When you’re in a position where people look to you, thinking this person must be good at this thing, maybe they can help me out, I take that very seriously. It’s a huge honour and privilege to be in a position where you can offer help. From that place, I try to lift everybody else up. I think we all do better when everybody is being lifted.” TJ witnessed the fruits of this philosophy as a student, notably through increased participation in BUCS and interest in leadership from the students who followed him. TJ spent his years at Bishop’s leading by example.
Through his involvement on campus, TJ also gleaned the value of the Bishop's alumni network, which helped him get his professional start with PwC Canada. He found that other BU alumni generally recognize the caliber of Bishop's graduates, understanding the leadership opportunities and social skills that students imbibe during their time on campus. TJ’s involvement connected him with many professors and alumni he might not otherwise have met, which turned into mentorship relationships and a professional network, all invested in his success.

Having benefited from alumni connections both as a student and after graduation, TJ wanted to pay it forward to the current generation of Bishop’s students. As such, he has continued to be involved in the WSB. Most notably, TJ returned as a JDCC 2021 Case Competition coach, his insider knowledge helping students secure the WSB’s first ever gold medal in the accounting category. One participant, Rebecca Willis ’22, explains the benefit of having TJ as a coach, saying, “TJ was instrumental in our JDCC accounting team victory; it simply would not have happened without his guidance, patience, and experience. TJ not only helped us better understand accounting concepts and apply them to case competitions but he also took the time to teach us concepts beyond what was taught in the classroom.”

For TJ, volunteering at Bishop’s is a no-brainer. He is eager to participate in the systems that he benefitted from, perpetuating the Bishop's he attended and enjoyed. Furthermore, he asserts the great sense of satisfaction that comes from seeing one’s experience support others – a satisfaction that is amplified when your contributions lead to successes like victories in the case competitions.

Fortunately, Bishop’s hasn’t seen the last of TJ. In addition to coaching case competitions, TJ will be teaching an accounting course in the Winter 2023 semester where he hopes to engage his network and help students build theirs. “I am not exceptional,” TJ asserts, speaking to the willingness to help he has always experienced from alumni.

GIVE BACK WHAT WAS GIVEN TO YOU

Antoun Shahin ’22 has long been a prominent figure in the Bishop’s community, most recently being selected as Valedictorian for the class of 2022. Whether working at the IT Help Desk, cheering on Gaiters at sporting events, or welcoming refugee students to Canada, he was a friendly face to many on campus. His penchant for volunteering thus comes as no surprise to those who know him and his careful attention to the needs of others.

At Bishop’s, Antoun’s experience as a refugee student from Syria spurred him to join World University Service of Canada (WUSC), the organization that brought him to Canada in collaboration with Bishop’s. Antoun was motivated to give others the same supportive welcome he had experienced from WUSC. Having benefitted from this service himself, he gave valuable insight into areas where the group could improve. For instance, his experience being unable to participate in conversation – or even understand what was being said – on the ride from the airport into Sherbrooke helped WUSC realize a gap in their support network. The group now ensures that refugees are greeted at the airport by someone who speaks their language and can assuage their immediate concerns.

But Antoun’s volunteerism began long before his arrival in Canada. Growing up, he watched his brother gain...
confidence and skills through the boy scouts and decided to enroll as well. Antoun eventually rose in the ranks and became a scout leader, invested in helping children develop the same responsibility, independence, respect for all, and confidence that he did as a scout.

Now, working at Deloitte in Montreal, Antoun continues to participate in volunteer and fundraising activities. For instance, he recently participated in a company-wide bicycle tour of Montreal to raise funds for a children’s hospital in the city. He notes of this experience how volunteering acts as an equalizer, stating, “One of the people that was biking with me is a partner in the company, and I’m just starting out, so there are seven to nine positions between us and over ten years of experience. But that day, we were wearing the same athletic clothes, hanging around, eating together, working, and volunteering together. There is no one above anyone else when you volunteer.”

This, Antoun notes, is one of the many benefits of volunteerism. Through such involvement, Antoun has built a network; he finds it necessary to get involved in his community despite the inherent fear of starting something new or feeling awkward in an unfamiliar group, because that is “how the puzzle pieces come together.” This further led him to get involved with the Bishop’s Alumni Association, where he aims to provide the same support he got to other students.

In addition to gaining a network, volunteerism bolstered Antoun’s communication and presentation skills, leadership capacities, empathy, and most importantly, his ability to give without limits. It’s a selfless tradeoff: “Sometimes you donate the $25 you would have spent on coffee that month, because it could probably make a make a difference to someone’s life,” he says.

To Antoun, volunteering isn’t so much about what you give, but the fact that you are giving. To be a volunteer is to leverage your resources, time, or skills for the benefit of others. Antoun even notes rooting for the Gaiters at-home games as a form of volunteerism: your support and positive cheers can help the players achieve success. With such an open-ended view on helping others, we should all be able to find an area wherein to freely offer our efforts and become volunteers ourselves.
A COMMUNITY-MINDED HALL OF FAMER

Bishop's alumni continue to achieve remarkable accomplishments in every field of endeavor. Most recently, Don Mills ’71 was inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame for Maritime business leaders at a special event at the Halifax Convention Centre on November 3, 2022.

Don is a former pollster who founded his Halifax-based firm in 1978 as a then 29-year-old. For 40 years, it operated nationally as Corporate Research Associates until he sold the firm in 2018.

“When I was notified of my selection for induction, the first person I thought about was my father, Cliff Mills. He was my inspiration for many things I have been able to achieve in life. My mother Ella, as well, but my dad had a very hard and difficult upbringing and he managed to raise seven kids, who became good citizens and productive people. I thought my dad would be very proud.”

Don was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and graduated from Bishop’s in 1971 with a B.B.A. (Marketing major) degree. There he met his wife of 47 years, Liz Curry Mills ’72. He later went on to further his education earning an MBA from Dalhousie University in 1974.

Mills currently describes himself as “repurposed, not retired.” Now in his early 70s, he is adept with social media with 5,000 followers on his Twitter page. He is a columnist and a podcaster. He is also co-owner of CABCO, a communications infrastructure company, along with his brother Jim and his son Michael ’00, who acts as the company’s CEO.

Don believes that anyone thinking of starting a business must really love what they do. “It is very difficult, and many people do not have instant success. It takes a tremendous amount of hard work, motivation, and long hours to make something a success.”

“I have always lived by the motto, ‘be better today than yesterday, better tomorrow than today.’ It takes the constant pursuit of being better,” he said.

He stressed that embracing technological workplace changes is critical to long-term business success.

Don’s career-long aim has been to spur on more regional headquartered firms in Atlantic Canada. The Atlantic business community “is a very tight, interconnected community overall. There is a great sense of duty in almost every business leader I know, to share their knowledge to help other people to be successful.”

Even though most national polling firms are based in Toronto and Ottawa, Don elected to sell Corporate Research Associates to his then top three executives to keep the business in Atlantic Canada.

Mills believes another key element in his career success is being involved in the community, sitting on the boards of nearly two dozen non-profit and charity organizations including Dalhousie University, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, the Halifax International Airport Authority, the IWK Foundation, the Halifax Partnership, and the Arthritis Society.

And he is quick to give credit to all the people he has worked with throughout his career and those close to him, especially his wife, Liz, for “her support, counsel and keeping me grounded.”

About his undergraduate years, Don reflects, “The liberal arts education provided to me by Bishop’s was foundational to any success I may have achieved by broadening my understanding of the world around me and giving a better basis to live my life.”

Finally, Don credits his parents for his civic-minded attitude. “They were very involved in the community when I was growing up. My mother volunteered with the Catholic Women’s League for 35 years while my dad coached track and field and raised money for sports.”

In the end, life in Halifax has been a win-win relationship for both Don and his community – a model of partnership and of success. And Bishop’s is proud to count Don Mills among our very best.

Excerpts from: TheMacdonaldNotebook.ca, Halifax, NS
WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS NURTURES EMERGING WELLNESS CENTRE IN AYER’S CLIFF

For decades, residents of the small towns and villages of the Eastern Townships have scrambled to find health professionals and family doctors. The ever-crowded emergency rooms or medical clinics have been the less-than-satisfactory go-to options. Recognizing this need, the Centre de santé de la Vallée Massawippi (CSVM) opened as a co-operative health centre in Ayer’s Cliff in April 2015 to give residents of the area access to doctors and nurses for primary care.

With preventative health care at its core, the CSVM opened its Wellness Centre in November 2019. The pandemic precipitated the need for a marketing plan and a pricing strategy, for both the health centre and the newly created illness-prevention centre. Enter the Bishop’s University Williams School of Business.

Dian Cohen DCL ’10, the driving force behind the Massawippi Valley Health Centre, contacted Reena Atanasiadis, Dean of the Williams School of Business to see if the School of Business could help. A mutually beneficial partnership quickly took shape as an experiential learning opportunity on campus.

Senior students in all concentrations of the Business program were invited to collaborate with the CSVM to create a report on the centre, including a history of health services in the Massawippi Valley, an analysis of the region, a description of the CSVM, and finally a series of recommendations to enhance the Wellness Centre’s program offerings, pricing of services and online and offline marketing strategies.

Over the course of six weeks, the students met with Cohen and Judy Hopps BA ’69, a member of the Foundation Board that helps fund the health centre, to present their research and receive feedback. The incremental and collaborative process ensured the work being done was productive; it allowed the students to fine-tune their reports based on feedback from the clients. Hopps says, “the time spent with students provided them guidance throughout the consultations and allowed the Health Centre to offer input as to their priorities.”

The partnership proved to be such a success that the Foundation again solicited Bishop’s when it wanted to know how much of an economic impact this small rural facility had on the area. This time, Dean Atanasiadis put them in touch with the Economics Department. The Chair of the department, Dr. Marianne Vigneault selected a team to work independently with Hopps and Cohen for more than six weeks and then to present their report. Cohen commented: “This was a partnership made in heaven. We needed to know if we were having any impact in the community and where the gaps were. The Bishop’s students worked through the techniques to find the answers. The data they developed and reported on continues to be extremely valuable as the Centre grows and becomes even more visible.”

Experiential learning opportunities equate to Bishop’s strengths. Experiential learning shifts the learning design from being teacher-centred to one that is less structured and requires students to cooperate and learn from one another through direct experiences tied to real world problems. Hugh Godman ’21, one of the Economic Impact team members recalled: “Working on the Massawippi Valley Health Centre project gave me a glimpse of what empirical research looks like. Our team gauged the benefit of the health centre as perceived by a variety of stakeholders. It was satisfying to work on a project that could offer useful insights to an organization.”

The local community offers Bishop’s students the opportunity to connect the material they are studying to real businesses in the real world. Says Hopps, “This is a fabulous way to give students the opportunity to take the initiative, make decisions and be accountable for the results. I hope more non-profits in the area explore the opportunity to partner with Bishop’s through experiential learning. Turning to the University with projects of interest can produce stellar results and provides great benefit to students, partner organizations, and the community alike.”
A HOMECOMING LIKE DAYS OF OLD

We are back!!! This was the theme and sentiment at Homecoming Weekend 2022. After one cancelled Homecoming (2020) and a modified Homecoming (2021), our alumni and friends were ready for a great time, and a great time they had.

The weekend kicked off on Thursday night with a special event at Centennial Theatre featuring Cameron Hughes ’96, known by many from his early years at Bishop’s as “Melonhead.” Cameron has become a global entertainer, hired by professional and amateur sports teams to “ignite” the crowds. He has worked with the Montreal Just for Laughs Festival, the U.S. Open, and the Las Vegas Golden Knights, to name but a few. The evening featured stories and advice from Cameron and eight other Bishop’s graduates to an audience of students and returning alumni. After the event, guests continued the discussions at The Gait. The event was co-hosted by the Students Representative Council and the Advancement Office. During the evening, tuition for one semester was awarded, by draw, to one lucky student. (See photo next page.)

Thursday evening also saw the women’s soccer team and men’s lacrosse team in action. Unfortunately, victory was not to be in either contest.

Friday was a busy day on campus, as most alumni began arriving for the weekend. It was also the annual Orange Shirt Day Walk, organized by Bishop’s, with participation from the college, university, and local communities, along with local elementary and high schools. Students’ Representative Council President, Camilla Rizzi, was among several members of our community to speak before the walk. Academic activities were suspended for the day in order for the Bishop’s community to learn about and to reflect on the history of residential schools. The walk ended with participants spelling out ‘Every Child Matters’ on Coulter Field before hearing closing remarks from the organizers.

Continues on next page →
The afternoon also saw alumni engage in competition with the return of the Jeff Cannon Memorial Golf Tournament. The tournament raised over $10,000 for the awarding of two entrance scholarships and a year-end prize for a lucky graduating student, while also providing financial support for the Bishop’s golf team. A beautiful afternoon was enjoyed by a sold-out field of golfers.

Friday evening saw the women’s and men’s rugby teams in action. The women came up against a very strong Laval team while the men lost a heartbreaker in the final minutes versus École de technologie supérieure.
The final event on Friday was the reunion for the classes of 1999–2001. The “Gait Takeover” featured a photo booth, a favourite DJ from that era, and good times had by all that turned out.

On Saturday, the Advancement Office held its annual pancake breakfast. Featuring a new recipe and our very own pancake chef par excellence, Database Coordinator Lorna Ruemper ’11, the office turned out almost 500 pancakes over two hours. The cheerleading team was a tremendous support, helping with the set-up and tear down while also playing host to the many alumni who stopped by for pancakes, blueberry sauce and, of course, Quebec maple syrup.

The morning also saw the induction of the 1988, 1990 and 1994 O.Q.I.F.C. Championship football teams to the Wall of Distinction as part of Homecoming festivities. Director of Athletics Matt McBrine ’96 welcomed the former athletes and former head coach Ian Breck during the ceremony at the Mitchell Gymnasium. A barbecue lunch on the TD Terrace followed. The teams were then bag piped onto Coulter Field to be introduced to the crowd prior to the kickoff, adding just another level of pomp and ceremony to the day.

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Matt McBrine ’96, Tom Allen ’69, Ian Breck, Al Matheson ’88, Trevor Lovig ’96, Ray Bernard ’92, and Principal Michael Goldbloom
While the football teams were being feted, other alumni gathered in the parking lot for the annual tailgating tradition. Alumni and friends wandered the parking lot, meeting up with old friends and making new ones while enjoying culinary treats of many sorts.

To add to the festivity of the day, the Gaiter football team came out victorious defeating the Mount Allison Mounties by a score of 19-6.

The final event of the weekend was the post-game reception hosted by the Advancement Office at The Gait. Guests were treated to the rocking sounds of Shane Murphy and his band. Chants of “10 more songs” rang through The Gait when Shane finally left the stage. Who knows, maybe he’ll be back for Homecoming 2023!

It felt great to come together on a beautiful fall weekend to celebrate our alma mater. By all accounts this was among the best Homecomings in quite a few years. Raise a Toast to continued better days!
Fall in Canada is a multi-layered season of colour, temperature change, stews, and the crackling sounds of logs burning in fireplaces across the country. It also provided the Advancement Office with the opportunity to see the tapestry that is the western region of Canada, with a stop in Ottawa on the way home, followed by a get-together for Townships alumni and friends a couple of weeks later.

First Stop: Victoria
Principal Michael Goldbloom travelled west accompanied by Jacquie Scott ‘90 and Sterling Mawhinney ’88 from the Advancement Office. The tour was launched in beautiful Victoria, BC, at the Uplands Golf Club. Graciously hosted by the Hon. Roy J. Cullen ’65 and his wife Ethne, guests were treated to an appetizer buffet and refreshments while listening to the presentation by Principal Goldbloom detailing news from the campus, ranging from infrastructure improvements to the state of enrollment and other pertinent subjects. Most in attendance had not been back to campus in several years, and the pleasant reactions to photos of the renovated Library and Learning Commons and the Sports Complex were spontaneous, in each city where the slides were shown.

Onwards to Vancouver
On a day replete with sunshine, the travelling party was treated to the beautiful coastline while travelling from Victoria to Vancouver. It is definitely a must do for any traveler visiting the area.

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The day in Vancouver included meals with area alumni, followed by a reception that evening at the Museum of Vancouver in Kitsilano. Guests were again treated to fine canapes, refreshments, and a presentation by Principal Goldbloom. Of particular note on this evening was the wide range of decades represented, with graduates ranging from the mid-1950s all the way up to 2022. Thanks to Dr. Ross Paul ’64 and his wife Jane Brindley for their hosting the event.

Last Stop: Calgary
The final Western stop on the tour was Calgary, AB. Once again, lunches were scheduled with local alumni before the evening reception. Calgary had the greatest turnout, which bodes well for the return of the Calgary alumni chapter. A wonderful evening at the Glencoe Club was made possible by Justice Brian Stevenson ’61.

Football in the Nation’s Capital
The last stop on the tour for Sterling and Jacquie was in Ottawa. This provided a fine finale to the week as over seventy-five alumni attended the Ottawa Redblacks football game versus the Montreal Alouettes. The guests watched the game from the Lower Log Cabin and judging by the response, this could very well become an annual event for the Chapter.

Back Home in the Townships
The final alumni event in October was held at Taverne Alexandre in Sherbrooke, where approximately 25 graduates and friends living in the region joined members of the Advancement team to reminisce, the first opportunity since the pandemic began. Thanks to Graham Moodie ’69, former President of the Alumni Association and current Chapter Head, for securing this historic Sherbrooke venue.

Thanks to all the alumni who joined us. If you missed out hearing about any of these gatherings, please take a moment to confirm and update your contact information at: https://alumni.ubishops.ca/address-update/
On May 1, 2022, sixty years to the day after her graduation, Dr. Sydney Price-Sparling ’62 hosted a reunion at her home in Victoria, BC.

Robert Lee ’65 and his wife, Young-Hae Lee, caught up with Jacquie Scott ’90 in Ottawa in May. (below)

Peter Munzar ’67 and Butch Staples ’67, former Gaiter basketball greats, are still playing but with a much smaller ball these days. Photo (below) by Barrie Hall ’70, taken at their recent 55th team reunion.

Members of the 1967 Gaiters Championship Basketball Team and significant others met at Niagara-on-the-Lake on September 9 and 10, 2022 to celebrate their 55th Reunion. A weekend of camaraderie included golf, fine dining, and much storytelling.

Don Mills ’71 was inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame in November. Please refer to the profile of Don on page 25.

Honorable Colonel David W. Rothschild ’71 was the Reviewing Officer for the 159th Annual Review of the Bishop’s College School No. 2 Cadet Corps and shared inspiring words with the cadets. Will Mitchell ’68 also participated with much enthusiasm.

On August 9, 2022, Sonya Bardati ’77 rollerbladed 350 kms from Port Hardy, BC to Parksville, BC on a Guinness Book World Class Challenge.
Darryl Braunmiller ‘93 returned for Homecoming 2022. He is pictured below with his son, Benjamin, maybe a Gaiter someday.

Darryl ’93 and Benjamin Braunmiller

Dixon Kenner ‘82, after ten years as Shared Services Canada’s first Director of Security Architecture, the federal department running the Government of Canada’s IT infrastructure, has moved over to be the new Director of Cyber Security Oversight. Dixon is now also a crew chief and a director at the Tunison Foundation that operates Placid Lassie, an aircraft that flew during D-Day.

Richard Burelle ’86 and his family stopped by Griffin House over the summer. Sterling Mawhinney ’88 and Bruce Stevenson ’76 were on hand to welcome them.

Merike Reiman ’88, Dr. Shannon Gadbois ’88, Claudia (Da Prat) Firhoj ’88, and Astrid (Baumann) Facette ’88 were back on campus in August and enjoyed a tour of the new facilities and a weekend reminiscing in the beautiful countryside of the Eastern Townships.

A group of BU graduates from the 1990s met this summer in the Okanagan Valley for a reunion. They visited wineries and enjoyed the spectacular scenery of the BC interior. (See photo above.)

Nadia Martel ’90 has joined the Board of Directors of Evol. Evol is an organization whose mission is to contribute directly to the creation, growth and acquisition of diversified and inclusive businesses that generate positive impacts aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

BU graduates from the 1990s – Vanessa Gray ’93, Mireille Moors ’92, Shahauna Siddiqui ’92, Janine Brisbois ’93, Angela Kertland ’94, Clare Cashman ’91, Cathy Provan ’95, Gillian Donvito ’92, and Alison Jarvis ’92.

From left: (front) Bruce Stevenson ’76, Kathleen Provost, and Richard Burelle ’86; (back) Samantha Burelle, Sterling Mawhinney ’88, and Louis Burelle

Merike Reiman ’88, Dr. Shannon Gadbois ’88, Claudia (Da Prat) Firhoj ’88, and Astrid (Baumann) Facette ’88
Sixteen Bishop's alumni met in Chicago in April 2022. (See above)

Johnny Reid '98, DCL ’13 returned to Lennoxville from Tennessee in October for a solo performance at Centennial Theatre, where he had the chance to reconnect with the borough, and community, that helped launch his music career and thrust him into country music stardom. His last trip was back in 2013 when the University granted him an honorary degree.

Rebecca Elisabeth Hincke ’10 has released a vegan cookbook called “The Vegan Pasta Cookbook.”


James Craig Pereira
Anna Clark ’11 and Matthew Pereira ’11 welcomed James Craig Pereira on January 3, 2022.

Michael Mykolyshyn ’12 and Audrey Daoust welcomed Evelyne Alice Mykolyshyn on August 31, 2022.

Friends of BU Marian & Gary Tessier (Parents of Jeremy Tessier ’98), Andrew Carter ’01, Paul Lue Pann ’97, and Trevor Lovig ’96

Marian & Gary Tessier (Parents of Jeremy Tessier ’98), Andrew Carter ’01, Paul Lue Pann ’97, and Trevor Lovig ’96 connected after a high school football game in Ontario.

Evelyn Alice Mykolyshyn
Jodie Ann Clark ’18 married Philippe Paupe ’19 in Montreal on March 26, 2022. The ceremony was held at the Le Mount Stephen with a small group of their close friends and family in attendance, COVID-19 obliging. Jodie and Phil met in their accounting class during their first year at Bishop’s. From the very beginning, they had countless dates at Pizzaville and drives to the McDonald’s drive through. Thanks to Phil, Jodie who came to Bishop’s from New Hampshire, stayed in Quebec to live and work with her flame. They are now living in their new home in Sainte-Sophie, QC, with their cat Margot (who also went to Bishop’s) and their dog Mable. Jodie and Phil are eager to come back to the campus where they first met.

It is with fondness and sorrow that we remember the following alumni and friends. (Compiled from information sent to the Advancement Office before November 15, 2022.)

ALUMNI

Major General John J. Dunn ’50, CMM, CD, on August 30, 2022. Father of Robert Dunn ’76 and Nina.

Dr. Donald Lawrence ’53 on August 28, 2022. Father of Christopher Lawrence ’84, grandfather of Theo Thompson ’16, and uncle of Cary Lawrence ’86.

Jean Meakin ’54 on August 13, 2022.

Carl Jackson ’56 on August 8, 2022. Father of Barry Jackson ’87.

Graham Jackson ’57 on August 31, 2022. Husband of Sue Jackson ’55 and father of Leon Jackson ’89.

The Rev. Courtenay Lethbridge ’57 on April 15, 2022.

Richard Fletcher ’57 on September 15, 2022. His daughter Katherine wrote: “He was orphaned when he was 17, and always said that Bishop’s became his home. Thank you for giving him a great start – he had a good life.”

John Desmarais ’58 on May 8, 2022.

Anabelle Kirkland ’58 on October 5, 2022.

Dr. Frederick Davis ’59 on April 30, 2022.

Laurie Hart ’59 on October 7, 2022. Uncle of Charles Orchieson ’94 and brother-in-law to William MacDonald ’73.


Steven Trew ’66 on October 7, 2022. Husband of Janie Trew ’65. Steve was a student teaching supervisor at Bishop’s University for 19 years.

Jean McMorran ’67 on September 22, 2022. Sister of Sydney ’Bud’ McMorran ’60 and Jane Paterson ’63 and aunt of Lea McMorran ’88 and Tracy Ludig ’88.

Dale Smith ’70 on May 10, 2022. Father of Stephanie Smith ’93 and Melissa Smith ’95.

Perry Beaton ’72 on August 27, 2022. Brother of Mirian Carver ’67 and uncle to Andrew Keitner ’75.

Anne Ross ’72 on August 19, 2022. Sister of Grant MacIver ’75.

Ronald Haddon ’77 on May 10, 2022. Father of Sarah Haddon ’01.

Peter Thorburn ’83 on August 4, 2022. Son of Irene Thorburn ’51 and brother of Joanne Towers ’84.

Jordan Slaman ’22 on September 21, 2022. Should you have any favourite memories of Jordan you would like us to share with his family, please write to us at alumni@ubishops.ca.

FRIENDS


Sheila Goldbloom on July 3, 2022. Mother of Michael Goldbloom C.M., Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

Judy Johnston on October 2, 2022. Wife of Philip Johnston ’59, former President of Bishop’s Corporation and volunteer for both the Leading the Way and Learning for Life Capital Campaigns.

Marjorie Retzleff on June 10, 2022. Wife of Dr. Garry Retzleff, retired Professor of English.

Robert Salesse on September 23, 2022. He was a former Chief Engineer at Bishop’s.

Dr. Lynn Thomas in June 2022. Dr. Thomas worked at the School of Education from 2000 to 2005 as a faculty member, Chair, and Director, before she joined Université de Sherbrooke.

Peter Wilson on August 28, 2022. He retired from Bishop’s as Professor of Applied Mathematics in 1988.
BISHOP’S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION WELCOMES DR. JULIE DESJARDINS

Dr. Julie Desjardins was appointed Dean of Education, effective July 1, 2022, for a five-year period. Prior to coming to Bishop’s, Dr. Desjardins was a Full Professor in the Faculty of Education at Université de Sherbrooke, where she had been employed since 2000, including 12 years as Vice Dean Academic. Before becoming Vice Dean, Dr. Desjardins was Chair of the Elementary teacher education program. In these roles, Dr. Desjardins played key leadership roles in teacher education reform at Université de Sherbrooke and in Quebec. At the national level, she was Vice-President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education, the most important scholarly association in education in Canada. Dr. Desjardins is an international expert in educational assessment and teacher education. She has received, alone or with colleagues, more than $1 million in research and educational development grants from a variety of provincial and federal agencies.

Committee members were impressed with Dr. Desjardins’ collegial, transparent and collaborative leadership style and her clear commitment to undergraduate teacher education and graduate level teacher and leadership development. Moreover, her knowledge of and experience with competency-based teacher education and the Quebec accreditation body was noted as a definite asset for her deanship. All of her referees spoke to her poise, inner confidence and strength, goal setting skills and well-rounded profile. Her work ethic and integrity were also mentioned repeatedly among her strongest qualities.

DR. ANDREW WEBSTER APPOINTED VICE-PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH

Dr. Andrew Webster was appointed Vice-Principal Academic and Research from August 1, 2022 to June 30, 2027. Dr. Webster comes to Bishop’s from his role as Executive Dean for the College of Arts, Business, Law and Social Sciences at Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia, where he is the chief academic officer for one of the University’s two colleges, comprising four Schools with nearly 200 faculty members and over 12,000 students. He holds a B.A. (History) from Harvard University and an M.Phil (International Relations) and Ph.D. (History) from the University of Cambridge. As an academic, Dr. Webster is an award-winning teacher who is deeply committed to student success and a well-published historian with an international reputation in his field.

The Committee received several very strong internal and external applications for the position. In presenting their unanimous recommendation for Dr. Webster’s appointment as the next Vice-Principal Academic and Research, the Search Committee members stated that they were impressed with Dr. Webster’s academic track record and the depth and breadth of his experience as an academic leader. The outstanding references, which spoke to his collegiality and collaborative leadership style were also highlighted in the Committee’s deliberations. Although Dr. Webster has lived in Australia for the past 18 years, his connections to the Eastern Townships were also noted as an asset.

After two rounds of virtual interviews, Dr. Webster visited the Bishop’s campus in May 2022 to meet with the Committee members, who reported on stimulating and thought-provoking conversations on a number of topics.

After nearly 18 years of service at Bishop’s, Francine Hamel retired in February 2022. She began her career in the Business Office, first working the wicket and then on to Accounts Payable for a decade. In 2014, she accepted a new role in Student Services where she worked directly with students for the next eight years. It was her infectious smile, empathetic approach, and compassionate manner that endeared her to students, faculty, and staff alike.

We wish her well in her retirement where she will have more time to enjoy her family, nature, and long walks while listening to her beloved country music. As well, Francine plans to continue with her varied volunteering commitments which include the Grace Village in Huntingville.

Dr. Claude Lacroix retired from the Department of Art History in June. He will be profiled in the next issue of the Bishop’s Alumni Magazine.
THE SILVER LINING OF A DELAYED CONVOCATION

By Casey Hébert ’21

When the pandemic struck in March 2020, the student population collectively mourned for the Class of 2020, robbed of its final moments at Bishop’s, while simultaneously looking forward to a return to class in the fall, certain this sordid virus would have vanished by then. When the pandemic raged on at the end of the summer, we bargained for normalcy as we looked ahead to our regular benchmarks: the first day of classes, Gait nights, Homecoming, and more. As it became clear the pandemic was upon us for the foreseeable future, we made compromises among the events we would forego, those we would accept to see modified, and those we simply couldn’t do without.

For me, that was graduation. Call it hope or denial, but I knew my Bishop’s journey wouldn’t end until I had crossed the stage at Convocation. Luckily, Bishop’s University indulged the classes of 2020 and 2021 with postponed ceremonies, and while my wish to cross the stage was fulfilled, its meaning shifted in the year since my studies ended.

The delay gave me a new lens through which to view Convocation, not as a ceremony that would sever me from Bishop’s but rather as a transition towards a new relationship, one in which continued participation in the Bishop’s Experience becomes a deliberate choice: the relationship between alumni and their alma mater.

Wrapped up in the year’s end – saying goodbye to friends, to our campus, to Lennoxville; trying to navigate the world without the cocoon of an institution like Bishop’s – it would have been difficult to see Convocation as anything more than another goodbye. But after having been sent out into the world and choosing to return to Bishop’s, Convocation came to bear a different significance for me.

Instead of marking a shift from “student” to “unemployed,” Convocation revoked my student identity to confer me that of “alumna,” a title I now feel prepared to wear with pride and live to the fullest. When COVID ushered an unceremonious end to my academic career, I clung to the promise of Convocation with clenched fists and white knuckles. But a year later, after having spent time in the Advancement Office learning about what it means to be a Bishop’s graduate, I could not be more thankful for our Convocation’s delay.

I am grateful that Bishop’s made this event possible, and grateful still for its late arrival. From this vantage point, I was able to enjoy Convocation for what it truly is: a celebration of academic success, a transition into a new phase in life, and an opportunity to reconnect with those who make our Bishop’s experiences so memorable. Our relationship with Bishop’s doesn’t end with graduation, or even with Convocation; we stay connected to Bishop’s forevermore as alumni.
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Photos: Nadia Rochefort '20