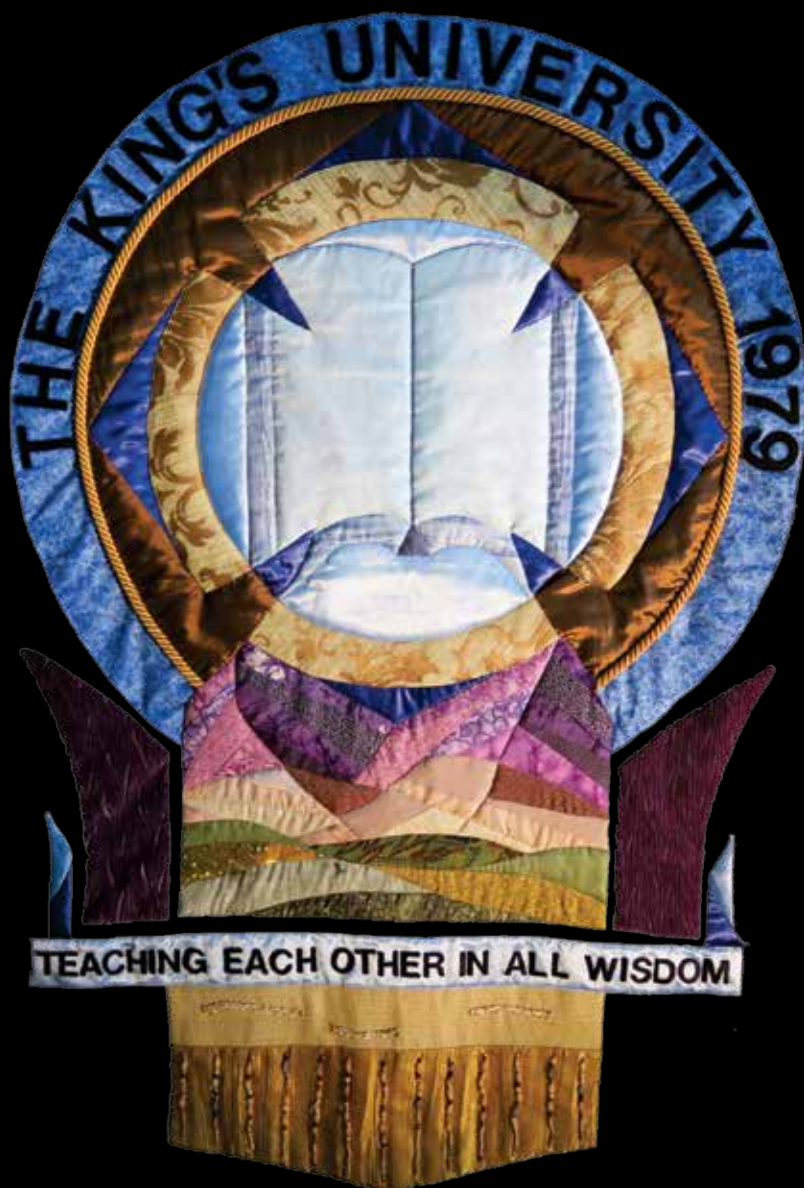


THE KING'S

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE KING'S UNIVERSITY / FALL 2017

CONNECTION

Teaching & Engaging in Research



IN THIS ISSUE

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

MEET THE KING'S U PUP! A NEW ADDITION TO STUDENT SERVICES

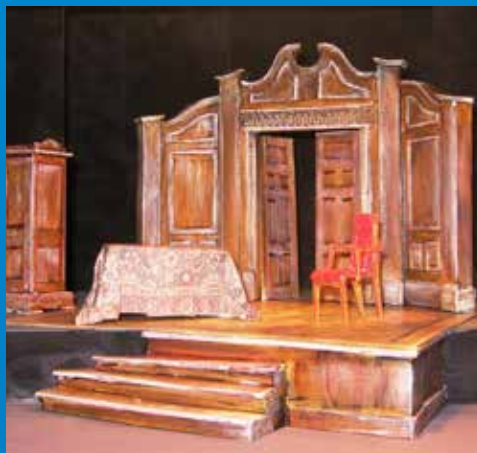
DISCOVERING WILDLIFE IN THE BEAVER HILLS

TREE-PLANTING PROF TAKES THE LEAD IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



THE
KING'S
UNIVERSITY

UPCOMING EVENTS



THE KING'S UNIVERSITY
DRAMA PROGRAM PRESENTS
**TARTUFFE
BY MOLIERE**

KING'S CAMPUS ROOM N102

PERFORMANCES

November 16: 7:30 p.m.
November 17: 3:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
November 18, 7:30 p.m.
November 19, 2:00 p.m.



**BENJAMIN BUTTERFIELD
AND KAPPELLA KYRIE**

November 15: 7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church



**THE KING'S CHRISTMAS
CRAFT SALE**

November 18: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
The King's University Campus

SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES?
**ANNUAL
CAREER FAIR**

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY ATRIUM

January 18: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

King's will host representatives from
local and national employers. Come by
and make some connections!



FRANK HO

January 20: 7:00-10:30 p.m.
The King's University
Nicholas B. Knoppers Hall

SAVE THE DATE!
**SPRING
CONVOCATION**
APRIL 28, 2018

NOMINATE NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

MEMBERS* CAN NOMINATE CANDIDATES TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVES ON THE KING'S UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

For 2018, we are seeking representatives from central B.C., Edmonton, and central Alberta. There is a specific need for a candidate with financial expertise and/or professional accounting designation.

We will also receive nominations from other areas for future vacancies. For nomination forms call: **(780) 465-3500 (ext. 8002)** or email: **judy.wach@kingsu.ca**. **Nominations close on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.**

**A member of The King's University is considered to be any person who endorses the Statement of Faith and Mission Statement of the University, and who has made a financial contribution during the past two full calendar years ending December 31, 2017.*

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Please send alumni updates and address changes to:

Alumni Relations
9125 - 50 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T6B 2H3
or call: 780.465.8318
alumni@kingsu.ca

Direct comments regarding articles to:

Director of University Relations

Sonya Jongsma Knauss
780.465.3500 ext 8017
sonya.jongsmaknauss@kingsu.ca



Cover

Designed by Evelyn Martin,
The King's University seal is a symbol of Christian research, scholarship, and instruction. This representation of the seal hangs in the entryway to King's and was constructed by Coby Benoit and Irene Vanderkloet.



“And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” Rev. 22:2

One of the things that I love about The King’s University is its outward facing mission—the idea that we, both as a community and as individuals, have something to contribute to the full flourishing of our families, communities, and society. That we are not here for ourselves, but that we have a greater part to play in God’s epic story. Our university 2017-18 theme is to “pursue a better world.”

At King’s, we believe that each person was created with unique gifts and talents that the world desperately needs. Frederick Buechner once said, “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” We seek, as a learning community, to help students understand and unfold their gifts

so that they are best prepared to flourish in all aspects of their lives.

The King’s University exists to provide university education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King.

I am incredibly proud and hopeful about the scholarly work our students and faculty engage in together. Our faculty are prolific in their fields of study and are deeply invested in their students.

I hope you enjoy the stories that have been curated for you in this edition of Connection. From the perspective of an insider to higher education, both in terms

of my own study and institutional experience, The King’s University undergraduate experience with research and scholarship is unique. King’s has involved undergraduates in research from its inception in 1979.

A King’s education better prepares students to engage the world’s deep hunger and are set up well for a lifetime of meaningful work, graduate studies—if they so choose that path—and community engagement. 🙌

DR. MELANIE J. HUMPHREYS

KING'S SEES RECORD-BREAKING ENROLMENT IN 2017



King's set another record for enrolment this fall, with a 3.5% increase from last year. The King's student body consists of 820 students.

"Our students continue to recognize King's for its caring community and excellence in teaching and research," said Allen Verbeek, Associate VP Enrolment Management and Registrar. "Each of these prepare students for a future of significance and positive impact in the world."

Verbeek acknowledges that students sharing their experience at King's makes a large difference to King's continued growth. "Our students and alumni continue to spread the word about the wonderful King's community, and that word of mouth continues to pay dividends for a generation that wants to not only prepare for strong careers but to be meaningfully equipped to change their world."

Growth areas include the well-respected Education After-Degree program, which saw a leap this fall from 40 to 71 incoming students. Biology, with its many opportunities for student-faculty research, also saw 10 new enrolments. Institutionally, the natural and social sciences (notably biology and psychology) make up 48% of enrolled students.

President Dr. Melanie Humphreys commented on the record growth by saying, "Many people—King's community, students, staff, faculty, alumni, and supporters—put time and effort into recruiting new students. That's definitely something to celebrate!" 🏰

KING'S AND ICS TO BEGIN AFFILIATE DISCUSSION

For years, there has been talk about affiliating two Canadian institutions in the Reformed tradition: The Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) and The King's University. King's and ICS signed a Memorandum of Understanding on September 30 at the Board of Governor's twice-yearly meeting at King's.

"It's been a long process getting to where we're at, which is the very beginning," said King's President Dr. Melanie Humphreys. "ICS operates under a Legislative Act in Ontario and we operate under an Act in Alberta, and it's important that we maintain both of these."

The two institutions have a vision for accomplishing something bigger than either can accomplish on their own—a Canadian Christian

university in the Reformed tradition offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees. The initial scope of discussion includes the development of conjoint degrees, a financial agreement, and a study of governance structures that may need to happen in order to give full effect and meaning to an affiliation. This would also contribute to King's vision for a centre for Christian thought and action, a goal in the university's strategic plan, Shared Vision 2020.

Outgoing ICS President Dr. Doug Blomberg initiated conversations some time ago to bring the two institutions together and affirms he is "deeply grateful for this outcome."

"Our institutions align ideologically quite well, and it's very exciting to envision what our

affiliation could become, including imagining how it might extend our shared mission in Christian higher education," said Dr. Ronald Kuipers, new provost at ICS.

"We have a lot of questions to answer and work to do in figuring out what will allow us both to benefit and build capacity," said Humphreys. "This is just the beginning of exploring what we can do to advance both our missions program-matically."

In the upcoming year, King's and ICS will set timelines and processes in motion to be able to realize this vision. 🏰

This article is being jointly published in both Connection and Perspectives magazines.

EDMONTON OILERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDS NEW ATHLETICS AWARDS



The King's University's Eagles Athletics program has three new scholarships, thanks to The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation (EOCF). The Oilers Foundation focuses on programs that support education, health, and wellness for youth.

Eagles Athletics programs have a similar focus: King's student-athletes embrace King's mandate of "community and learning for service" and are

given opportunities to grow holistically in mind, body, and spirit while becoming valued teammates and leaders in their community.

"We encourage our student-athletes to live healthy, balanced lives that include being involved in leadership, and giving back to their community," said Athletics Director Grace Scott. "The EOCF scholarships enable us to award a number of our student-athletes who have shown diligence in these various areas, and for this we are truly grateful."

The EOCF made a gift of \$27,000 to fund scholarships for King's student-athletes over a period of

three years. Each scholarship, worth \$1,500, is given to one male and one female student-athlete each year.

Award recipients for the 2017-18 academic year are Alex Velsink (soccer), Anna Janzen (volleyball), and Marta Burchett (basketball), as well as Chris Graham (volleyball), Kagen Kieftenbeld (volleyball), and Patrick Barayuga (soccer). Congratulations to these hard working student-athletes!

The King's University thanks The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation for its support. 🏰



DOES THE CHURCH MATTER?

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CONFERENCE EXPLORES THE LEGACY OF THE REFORMATION

BY SONYA JONGSMA KNAUSS

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation seems an apt time to ask the question, “does the church matter?” That question—and the legacy of the Reformation—was the focus of the two-day Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) Conference, a free public conference held twice a year at The King’s University.

“It’s important for us to ask, as a community, the questions that students are asking about the role of faith in contemporary life,” said IS Conference Director Rebecca Warren. “The overall goal of the conference was to help students and others make connections to the past, interrogate

the present, and dream about ways we can shape the future.”

It did just that, according to several students in attendance. Third-year psychology major Kezia Wright says this was one of the best IS conferences she’s been to.



Dr. Richard Mouw

REFORMING THE CHURCH AS A FORCE OF LOVE

DR. RICHARD MOUW HEADLINES CONFERENCE

BY JANET VLIEG-PAQUETTE

Storytelling is a powerful tool for making an effective point. Ask anyone on The King’s University campus who listened to Dr. Richard Mouw, featured speaker at the Interdisciplinary Studies Conference in late September.

The distinguished philosophy professor and president-emeritus of Fuller Theological Seminary enthralled audiences with his stories, drawn from more than five decades of teaching, writing, speeches, interfaith dialogue, debate, and travel to all corners of the globe. Like other speakers at the conference, he stayed true to the theme Does the Church Matter? But Dr.

Mouw’s gift for a good story had his listeners laughing as often as they were moved to other reactions.

The conference September 20 to 21 also heard from the Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, and Dr. Brad S. Gregory, history professor at the University of Notre Dame and author of *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society*. To mark 500 years since the Reformation, the conference explored its legacy and its challenges for the 21st century. How should Christians in a multicultural society relate to people of different beliefs?

King's students are required to attend the conferences for the first three years of their education at The King's University.

“We as a church body need to think about how we change with the culture.”

“It’s a really relevant topic,” Wright said. “We as a church body need to think about how we change with the culture. In the past, a church building has been really important. I feel like now it’s more about going out into the community and asking ‘what does it mean to be the body of Christ in our communities instead of hidden away in a church building?’”

Wright appreciated all of the speakers, but she especially enjoyed the opening address from the Rt. Rev. Bishop Jane Alexander, who also spoke in a breakout session about her work with the city to help end poverty in Edmonton. She reminded conference-goers that it’s important to “get rid of that imaginary

divide some people place between our faith and our life.”

Dr. Brad Gregory, Dorothy G. Griffin Professor of Early Modern European History at the University of Notre Dame, opened the second day of the conference with a broad overview of the Reformation and the political and theological forces at work. He emphasized the importance of understanding the broader historical context of the Reformation and the changes it unintentionally set in motion in the world.

Ben Lien, a fourth-year King’s student in the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry program, says a key take-away from the conference was a strong reminder about how much we are shaped by the cultural influences around us. “The world went from the church as the main influencer to science and technology,” Lien said, reflecting on “The More We Know, The Less We See,” a breakout session led by two King’s professors. “It made me realize how much technology shapes the way we think and see the world—and how important it is for me as a Christian to think about what’s shaping me.”

Conference topics included the challenges of navigating a hyperpluralistic world, the things in the church that might need reforming, and the role young adults have in shaping the future of our common life. Speakers also examined the relationship between religious identity and political power, addressing questions about how people of different beliefs should relate in a multicultural society.

Dr. Richard Mouw, President Emeritus of Fuller Theological Seminary, spoke on both days of the conference, offering many delightful stories as he took on challenging topics. He also left conference-goers with some hopeful words.

“Christian higher education is a way of beholding,” Mouw said in a talk about how Christians can be true to their beliefs while being gracious and civil to those who see things differently. “We need to engage in the practice of serious Christian learning in such a way that we become more faithful and effective beholders of what the world is all about and God’s purposes at work in the world.” 🙏

“We’re living in a world where interfaith relationships are very real,” Dr. Mouw said in an evening lecture that drew a full house of King’s faculty and local supporters. “We need to find new ways to think of other religions.”

In a one-hour speech entitled “Reformations Keep Happening: 21st Century Challenges and Opportunities,” Dr. Mouw pointed to issues that persist in sowing dissent among Christians, like race, gender equality, sexuality, national politics, and human rights.

“Jesus is going to make all things new,” he said. “I can’t tell you how we’re going to get there, but we have to keep moving forward, we’ve got to keep reforming.”

That hopeful note characterized each part of Dr. Mouw’s address. The author of 19 books, who calls himself a traditionalist, said he is seeing signs in recent years

of a global reality rooted in a new sense of identity, one that rejects fundamentalism and looks to ecumenism.

“Through the blood of Jesus Christ, God is putting together a new kind of community,” Dr. Mouw said.

Pointing to the Apostle John’s vision in Revelation 7:9-10, he called for a spiritual reformation of the church. “We need a reformation of empathy and compassion and a sense of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ from every tribe and nation of the earth.”

He recalled an experience six years ago on a trip to North Korea with the owner of the Forever 21 retail chain to bring assistance to villages devastated by landslides. At a Presbyterian church service, they were moved to hear the choir sing the hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

“It struck me: ‘I’m not a tourist here. I’m with my brothers and sisters in Christ.’ The body of Christ has members in North Korea, in the United States, and in Canada.”

Taking questions from the floor after his address, Dr. Mouw was asked how far ecumenism can go in the interest of unity.

“I don’t know how far it will go, but I’m grateful for how far it’s gone so far. We’ve made some great strides,” he said, noting the positive force of Pope Francis. “It may be that the ultimate unity is on the last page. But we’re doing more things together out of a spirit of love and it will be well in the end.”

He said Christian institutions like The King’s University have a vital role in fostering interfaith relationships and building community. In 1979, Dr. Mouw was the commencement speaker at King’s first convocation. 🙏



Students take a doodling study break during a stressful exam study period.

KING'S RECEIVES \$225,000 FOR MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

MONEY FROM GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA IS PART OF \$2.6 MILLION FOR EDMONTON-AREA UNIVERSITIES

BY SONYA JONGSMA KNAUSS

The King's University is taking a new approach to mental health this year with a campaign called "Join the Resilience." The university-wide effort is a collaboration between students, Student Life, the campus pastor, and faculty. It will benefit from an additional \$75,000 per year over the next three years from the Government of Alberta, announced by Alberta Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt in September.

"We plan to use the funds to create a community wellness coordinator position and to hire an additional counsellor who will be available to students some evenings," said Vice President Student Life and Dean of Students Dr. Michael Ferber.

Ferber has noticed more students seeking help for mental health issues in recent years, including students who struggle with suicidal ideation. It's a trend across the country and province: More than 90 percent of students in Alberta who participated in a 2016 National College Health Assessment survey reported feeling overwhelmed, and more than 13 percent said they had considered suicide.

"We have a suicide protocol that we follow if we become aware of a student who is thinking about that," Ferber said. "All student leaders are trained in QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer), and quite a

few staff trained in ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), which is a higher level of training. They help students struggling with suicidal ideation come up with a plan and some hope."

"We hope to foster an abundant community comprised of students, staff, and faculty practicing self-care and participating in honest and vulnerable relationships of trust."

– Dr. Michael Ferber, Vice President Student Life & Dean of Students

Overseeing such training and programs is one responsibility of the new community wellness coordinator. That person will help centralize, coordinate, and communicate with students about the programs and events King's provides to support students' mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual wellness. The coordinator will also take over and expand the peer support program, which is currently run by counsellor Zachary Berg.

Berg usually has a waitlist to see students; the addition of a wellness coordinator means he will be able to counsel more students.

"Just in the past year, we've had a huge increase in the number of students who are accessing mental health resources,"

Berg says. He attributes that partly to the university's work to communicate with students about help that is available and to the lowering of stigmas regarding mental illness.

Centering prayer, life coaching, free counselling, wellness groups, monthly sessions tackling challenging topics—all of these are part of this year's "Join the Resilience" initiative.

"People need to be able to enter into community life; if I'm enshrouded in anxiety, I can't participate in community," Ferber says. "Some people also need help with basic principles of self-organization and self-management. This initiative is aiming to cover all of that."

"We hope to foster an abundant community comprised of students, staff, and faculty practicing self-care and participating in honest and vulnerable relationships of trust. In this way, we hope to fulfill our mission statement to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life." 🙏

Q&A WITH THE HUMANS OF THE KING'S U PUP

SHAY AND ALISON EXNER TALK ABOUT LIFE WITH INDY, THE KING'S UNIVERSITY PUP

BY LINDSAY ECKERT

Q: Hi, Alison! Introduce us to your role.

I'm the Residence Life Coordinator. I cover everything from administrative residence application to crisis management in the rez and disciplinary stuff. This is my and Shay's (Alison's husband) fourth year living in the tower, which is where the first-year students live as well.

Q: Whose idea was it to get a dog that would live on campus?

It was Shay's. I put in the request to Dr. Mike Ferber. Mike and I were talking about self care, and we thought the dog would help now and into the future. So we

on the impact of having animals in the community. We talked to other residence directors on why other institutions have animals. They've seen that students are more willing to engage with those rez directors, that the animal is a bridge for the student to start a conversation—they can connect with the dog and then have a way to talk about what they need.

Animals have a therapeutic opportunity. There is so much research into the therapeutic benefits of animals. It's encouraging how something so small can make such a meaningful impact.

but for the most part he's been more outgoing. We've been working to socialize him, and he's getting lots of attention. He even took part in Colour Me King's! He's truly the King's dog now.

Q: What is Indie's favourite treat?

We give him carrots and zucchini—which he loves and are really good for dogs—from my plot in the King's community garden beside the apartments.

Q: What is the most common question students ask you?

A lot of students ask if they can take him for a walk.

Q: Why did you name him Indy?

We thought a lot about this. I read that a dog should have a two syllable name with a vowel at the end. We were going to name him Tango, Whiskey...but then it's a dry campus (she laughs). There's a cute little inside joke to Indy's name. The joke in Indiana Jones is that Indy (the protagonist) is "Indiana junior," but he's not named after his father. He's named after their dog. We've had a few people say we need to get him an Indiana Jones hat and dress him up for Halloween.

Q: Can you book time with Indy or do students just catch him around campus?

There's nothing official booked yet. He's going to be at pretty much any event that's outside.

Students and others are very free to approach him when he's around. I've even had students pull their vehicle over when we're walking him in the community to come pet him.

Indy has his own hashtag: #Kingsupup. Catch more pictures of him on the The King's Residence Instagram account! 🐕



This sweet face greets students, staff, and faculty at King's and is the first approved campus pet.

started researching hypo-allergenic dog breeds.

Q: What breed is Indy? How old is he?

A golden doodle! He's three-quarters poodle. He was born in April 2017.

Q: Is Indy the first campus dog at King's?

He's the first approved pet. He lives with me and Shay in our apartment in the tower.

Q: What is Indy's purpose on campus?

He is our pet, but we did a lot of research

I've also noticed having Indy has brought me out into the community more. Students will engage with us when we're out for a walk. In my off time, I'm in the campus spaces more than living in my apartment.

Q: How long has Indy been at King's?

We brought him to King's in June this year.

Q: How is he doing so far with students back on campus?

We think he loves it. It's been a little tiring,

FARMING WITH FAITH

SUSTAINABLE GROWING IN KENYA

BY LINDSAY ECKERT

Academic research, protecting biodiversity, and a trip to Africa proved the perfect blend of unmissable opportunities for two King's students this summer.

Kendra Hutchison and Erin Greidanus, both in their final year of the Environmental Studies program, applied for an internship under Dr. Harry Spaling to travel to Kenya as research assistants. The project? Determine how sustainable conservation agriculture, otherwise known as Farming God's Way, is in Kenya. The goal of this method is to produce healthier soil and more crops resistant to climate change at lower cost, ideal elements for small rural subsistence farmers. These results are what Kendra and Erin were tasked to research.

The students travelled to Tigania West, Kenya, and met with local contacts and farmers. Rather than go straight to the research, they decided to do something a little more person-centered instead. "Dr. Spaling places a lot of value on getting to know people before you collect information. Many times researchers come and people never hear back," Kendra said. "We usually had tea for an hour, then moved into the interview." It was important to Spaling and the students that they not only



King's students Kendra and Erin worked with Kenyan farmers on Farming God's Way research.

gather information, but give something back to the people hosting them.

This approach built relationships with the Kenyan farmers as Kendra and Erin led open-ended interviews to understand the farmers' perspectives on how Farming God's Way was working for them. Both students were excited to report that their findings were extremely encouraging. "They have enough harvest to feed their families, then sell the surplus for school fees and other things. Everyone was saying things like that," Erin said.

Farming God's Way emphasizes using natural mulch, crop rotation, and no tillage. As a result, the land grows more fertile, produces more crops each year, and protects the naturally occurring biodiversity that contributes to the overall health of the land. This also benefits the family as small

farms can produce enough to feed their family and sell the excess.

Though the farmers might not understand the exact science of the changes taking place in their farmland, they could see the difference and measure the change in their own terms. They eagerly pointed out how their soil is darker, wetter, and that earth worms had come back. "A few farmers would take a handful of soil—usually the soil is mostly dust—and would form a ball of it in their hand. They know it's getting better; they can look at it," said Kendra.

One of the most important things both Kendra and Erin drove home was that faith is a key part of the program. "It was really a lot of the faith influence that helped the farmers to adopt the practice," Kendra said. "It's a totally new way of farming, and it's hard to change cultural perspective. Having the faith link, and saying it was God's way, was really important to adopting the practice." Kendra explained that many of the farmers told her they would not have stuck with the program if it had not been rooted in faith in God.

Erin and Kendra ended their time in Kenya by creating a newsletter with their findings. They gave the newsletter to the farmers, who were excited to have their work documented. Now back at King's, they're writing a report on their findings for Spaling's analysis. Next year, Spaling aims to publish a paper on Farming God's Way to create more robust literature on the potential of sustainable, climate-smart agriculture. 🙌

KING'S UNIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

Dr. Harry Spaling became involved "in a previous life (before becoming an academic)" for several reasons.

- ▶ Spaling worked for World Renew as a community agriculturalist in a remote area of Sierra Leone, where he integrated faith teaching into his agriculture program.
- ▶ He contributed a chapter titled "Enabling creation's praise—lessons in agricultural stewardship from Africa" to a book titled Biblical Holism and Agriculture.
- ▶ He completed several environmental assessments of agricultural programs for Christian development non-governmental organizations around the world.
- ▶ Spaling conducted an environmental analysis of a federally-funded conservation agriculture program being implemented by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. This analysis included a visit to a Farming God's Way project. Spaling selected this project as a research site.

A photograph of Wendy Vanderwel, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling and wearing a white lab coat. She is standing in a laboratory setting with shelves of boxes and equipment in the background.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE: WENDY VANDERWEL

BIOLOGY LAB INSTRUCTOR & COORDINATOR
BY SONYA JONGSMA KNAUSS

Wendy Vanderwel came to King's in 1986 as a sessional instructor, becoming a part-time lab instructor in 1994 and a full-time instructor in 1998. She retired this fall after working with her successor, King's alumna Catherine Welke.

What drew you to King's?

I didn't know much about King's in 1986. We were new to Edmonton, had two little kids, and I had just been accepted into the soprano section of Pro Coro, a professional chamber choir, and I wanted to do something with my biology training. I had experience as a wildlife biologist and lab instructor at two universities, so when I heard King's wanted someone to teach botany labs two afternoons a week, it seemed ideal. I had no background in Christian education, so I didn't really understand Christian higher education until I started working at King's. In hindsight I would say it's God that drew me to King's.

What are some highlights of your work?

I've had many occasions in the lab with students where they have that "aha!" moment and you see them get excited about science and the natural world. It's so gratifying as a teacher to experience that with students—to see them mature and grow into responsible Christian citizens. You know that they're going to go out and strive to make the world a better place.

Interdisciplinary Studies conferences really stand out. They make King's so unique—I can't think of another university that does this. Classes are cancelled for two days and students get to hear prominent speakers on really current topics.

As a singer, I had opportunities here that I would never have had anywhere else, like performing at anniversary celebrations with the stellar musicians in the King's music department.

Other highlights are the three-day annual ecology field trips. We would go to Cypress Hills or the Adams River, more recently Crowsnest Pass. I've gone on 22 of those since 1994, only missed one year. Being in charge of the gear and the food for 30-40 people who are sleeping in tents is a daunting task but well worth it! For some students it is almost a life-changing experience. Now we tend to use Bible camps with cabins—we thought we'd died and gone to heaven the first time we experienced that!

The way we teach biology here is within a Biblical context. It's a beautiful thing to hear the professors expound on that. In particular, I remember at the end of a Crowsnest trip, Prof. Vern Peters did a paraphrase of Psalm 104, drawing in the experiences that the students had on the trip, and it was very moving and powerful.

I feel so blessed to work with the people I have worked with. It's a real collegial atmosphere. It's not about egos and prestige; we're all working together with the same goal.

What will you do next?

The list keeps getting longer! If I do all these things I'm thinking of doing, I'm going to want to come back to work just to rest! I do want to join some environmental action groups. I'm looking forward to

having more time to just get outside and to do more birding and botanizing.

Musically, I want to learn piano. After all these years I've never had piano lessons, just voice lessons. My husband and I want to study Spanish and travel places where I can practice. I'll look for volunteer opportunities and projects around the house. It will be nice to be available to my three grown children.

What are your hopes for King's?

My biggest prayer for King's is that it never loses its Christian identity and its mission, that it continues to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ the Servant-King. That is what keeps King's vibrant, and everything else kind of hangs off of that. If we lose that, we will devolve into just another private university. My experience here has been that it remains vibrant.

King's has been a real revelation to me, coming from a secular background. Here, in the science department, I've learned that not only is it possible to do good science in a Christian context, but that science actually thrives in a Christian context. It's been a beautiful thing to see.

I also really want King's to continue its culture of interdisciplinarity. It's so unique among universities to have musicians, physicists, theologians all sitting around the same table having meaningful discussions about the future of this enterprise that we're part of. There's a lot of collegiality, the sense that we're all in this together and all using our different gifts to bring about Christ's kingdom. 🙌

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY REPRESENTED TEAM ALBERTA AT CANADA GAMES

The King's University Eagles volleyball player and student-athlete Brendan Vanderlinde represented Team Alberta at the 2017 Canada Games. Vanderlinde competed in the U20 beach volleyball tournament.

Vanderlinde and volleyball partner Matt Saly competed their way through a three-way tie to become the first-ranked team to enter semi-finals. Team Alberta placed fourth in the final standings.

Vanderlinde previously played volleyball competitively as a high school student at Strathcona Christian Academy in Sherwood Park. 🏆



Vanderlinde putting up a block versus team B.C. in round robin action.

CCAA SELECTS KING'S FOR FEMALE APPRENTICE COACH PROGRAM

The Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) selected The King's University alumna and current Education After-Degree student Keri Alcorn as one of only 13 apprentices across Canada in its Female Apprentice Coach Program for the 2017-18 season.

Alcorn, who was a stellar player and volleyball team captain for the King's Eagles as a student, will now get a chance to learn how to coach players as she is mentored by her former volleyball coach, King's Athletics Director Grace Scott.

"Keri's passion for volleyball, her work ethic, and her positive and encouraging attitude—as well as her desire to keep improving and learning the game—were key components in helping lead our team to the CCAA National Championship

during her first year at King's," Scott said. Alcorn worked just as hard on defence as she did on offence, Scott says, and "without a doubt, Keri is one of the most talented all-around players I have ever coached."

The CCAA program provides funding to partner an apprentice coach with a mentor to develop new female coaches in CCAA sports of basketball, volleyball, soccer, badminton, and cross-country running. This partnership gives student athletes hands-on leadership experience as a new coach, an opportunity for professional development, and lays a foundation for a coaching career.

Alcorn sees coaching as a good fit with her aspirations to be a teacher and to mentor young women. "I think it is powerful for



Keri Alcorn, 2017-18 CCAA awardee

young athletes—especially females—to have a strong mentor they can look up to and connect with relationally. Until coming to King's, I had been coached solely by men. I look forward to coaching with the CCAA women's apprentice program and being mentored by Coach Scott." 🏆

RECORD NUMBER EARN NATIONAL SCHOLAR AWARDS

The Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) announced its National Scholar Award recipients for 2016-17, and 27 students from The King's University are on the list. This is the highest number of honourees from King's in the university's history.

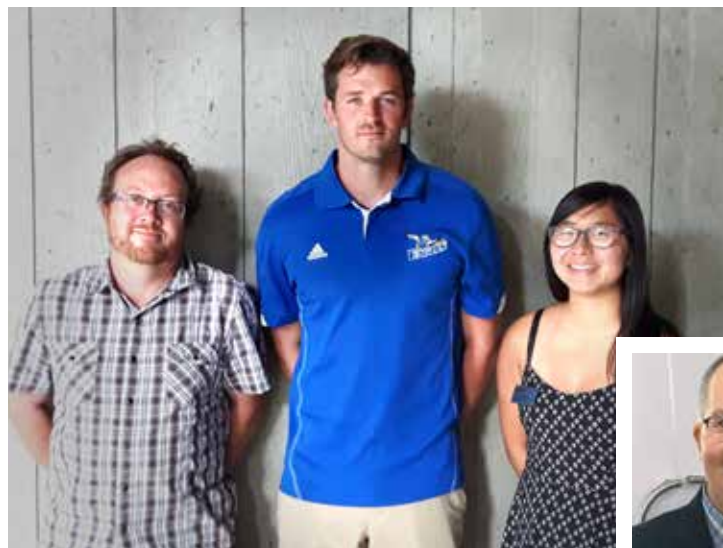
"We are very excited to see this list of students grow every year!" said Athletics Director Grace Scott. "It is important to us that our teams not only strive to perform well athletically, but that our students expand their career opportunities once they graduate by excelling academically."

The National Scholar Award recognizes the outstanding academic accomplishments of CCAA student-athletes. To be recognized, a student-athlete must achieve honours standing at their institution.

The King's University Eagles recipients include the following:

- ▶ Madeline Klootwyk, *Women's Basketball*
- ▶ Amy Whitesell, *Women's Basketball*
- ▶ Joshua Borzel, *Badminton*
- ▶ Annika Jacobsson, *Badminton*
- ▶ Adam Vanderschee, *Badminton*
- ▶ Ryleigh Vanderschee, *Badminton*
- ▶ David Freund, *Men's Soccer*
- ▶ Wesley McNutt, *Men's Soccer*
- ▶ Aaron Steenhof, *Men's Soccer*
- ▶ Tyler Struyk, *Men's Soccer*
- ▶ Gregory Vander Vinne, *Men's Soccer*
- ▶ Kimberly De Jager, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Lauren Hilton, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Dani Kieftenbeld, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Rachel Messelink, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Taylor Noble, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Janaya Slack, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Emilie Toews, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Alicia Van Boven, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Alexandra Velsink, *Women's Soccer*
- ▶ Kristofer Ames, *Men's Volleyball*
- ▶ Maahew Clayton, *Men's Volleyball*
- ▶ Eli Nanninga, *Men's Volleyball*
- ▶ Aubry Poulin, *Men's Volleyball*
- ▶ Caitlin Buist, *Women's Volleyball*
- ▶ Jordan Fillion, *Women's Volleyball*
- ▶ Bailey Koebel, *Women's Volleyball*

NEW COACHES IN THE KING'S ATHLETICS PROGRAM



Pictured, left to right: Sandle, Van Driel, Douglass, Anstice.



The King's University announced Brian Anstice as the new head coach of the Women's Basketball team for the 2017-18 season. Brian is passionate about basketball and comes with a wealth of experience in coaching basketball and football. He is the founder of Full Court Girls Basketball Camps and has won numerous coaching and community awards, including Alberta Community Sport Administrator of the Year—Basketball, Pride of Strathcona County Award, Edmonton Youth Basketball Volunteer of the Year, Edmonton Metro High School Division 2 Coach of the Year, and Edmonton Basketball Officials Association's "Love of the Game" award.

Athletics Director Grace Scott says she is excited to have Brian join the coaching staff at King's and is "looking forward to the contributions that he no doubt will make to the development of our program."

Todd Van Driel and Dr. Mark Sandle are new head coaches for the 2017-18 soccer season. Van Driel is acting head coach of

the men's soccer team, and Sandle is head coach for the women's soccer team.

Van Driel was previously an assistant coach for the men's team and goalkeeper coach for both soccer programs. Van Driel uses his experience as a player to foster a level of intensity, comradery, work ethic, and approachability with his team.

Dr. Sandle began his coaching career in England and came to King's to teach history in 2009. Sandle hopes to help his players reflect on themselves and develop, not just as players, but as people, both individually and as teammates.

Abigail Douglass is the new athletics and recreation coordinator and is a recent King's Bachelor of Commerce graduate. She was actively involved with the King's Athletics Department as student game day manager and was president of The King's University Students' Association for two years, as well as vice president of events for the Leder Students' Association. 🏰



Edmonton high school students worked on a marketing campaign for the airport as part of an “Intro to Business” dual credit course this summer.



RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Leder School of Business puts a heavy emphasis on applied learning. “We’re practitioners of business,” said Ryan Young, Dean of the Leder School of Business. Putting knowledge into practice is an essential part of The King’s University business program, and students have ample opportunity to test their skills.

EVEN BEFORE STUDENTS ATTEND . . .

This summer, Leder ran a dual-credit high school program that encouraged high school students to enroll in post-secondary courses to earn both high school and post-secondary credits.

The summer course “Intro to Business” ran in July and involved 15 students from high schools around Edmonton. The students were given a case study for the Edmonton International Airport to create a marketing campaign that would drive European and Chinese business to the airport and into the city. Students presented their ideas to a panel of judges representing the airport and the city, and the top team was awarded a cash prize.

Leder also offers a case competition for high school students. It is a one-day event

planned for the spring, and in the past has attracted around 100 students from Edmonton-area schools. This year, the focus will be on the United Nations Climate Change Conference happening in Edmonton. Leder is partnering with event organizers to offer a current issue for students: How do cities address climate change?

Young said, “One of the big challenges is that there are solutions available—micro homes, LRT transit—but not everyone is willing to pay for them. How do you target consumers and make them want to invest in green, low carbon living?” Students will build a case out of this challenging question and present their solutions to business and community leaders acting as their panel of judges.

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY

Leder and the Politics-History-Economics program are inviting politicians representing political parties across Alberta to discuss how politics, business, and faith interact. Invited guests include Katherine O’Neill (former president of the PC Party), Greg Clark (leader of the Alberta Party), Annie McKittrick (NDP MLA), and Derek Fildebrandt (United Conservative MLA).

Leder students are hosting a welcome for representatives from the new medical marijuana facility across the street from The King’s University. The facility, called Canopy Growth, will take part in a lunch-and-learn with students, discussing the industry’s opportunities and challenges.

APPLIED RESEARCH

King’s business students also tackle internal case competitions. This year, they will be working in teams to create a marketing plan for a vacation resort in Sandpoint, Idaho, to draw more customers from the Canadian market. Ryan Young and the resort’s leadership designed this live case in partnership, giving students a real scenario to test their skills on. The students must construct a marketing plan for the resort using the four P’s of marketing (price, promotion, product, and place), along with concrete details on how the resort can implement the plan. They will then present their case to a panel of judges. The top three teams’ hard work will pay off in the grand prize: a getaway during reading week to the resort. 🏰



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**Placed in a regular grid within
Cooking Lake-Blackfoot, motion-
activated cameras caught 250,000
images of wildlife, fodder for
research sure to be shaped by the
passions of students to come.**





The Beaver Hills, an expansive area of hilly terrain left behind by retreating glaciers, gained international status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2016. As is typical of biosphere reserves, the Beaver Hills balances biodiversity conservation with sustainable development.

DISCOVERING WILDLIFE IN THE BEAVER HILLS

FACULTY AND STUDENT RESEARCHERS EXPLORE ALBERTA'S ECOSYSTEMS

BY CHERYL MAHAFFY

The dozen in-progress research studies listed on Dr. Darcy Visscher's office whiteboard reflect an ecologist's delight in uncovering how we as humans shape the behaviour of the wolves, elk, coyotes, porcupines, ducks, and other species around us—and what we might do to mitigate any harm. Given that bent, perhaps it's no surprise that he is equally pleased when students help shape his research as assistant professor of biology at King's, teasing out unexpected findings while broadening their understanding of what a career in science might entail.

BE THERE WOLVES?

A conversation in 2014 with Phil Walker, then a senior research student concerned about the management of naturally recolonizing wolves in the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife, and Provincial Recreation Area, led to research with Alberta Environment and Parks that has since expanded beyond wolves to involve multiple species in the Beaver Hills.

Less than an hour's drive east of King's, the Beaver Hills is an intriguing ecosystem rooted in rubble left behind by retreating glaciers. Recently named a UNESCO

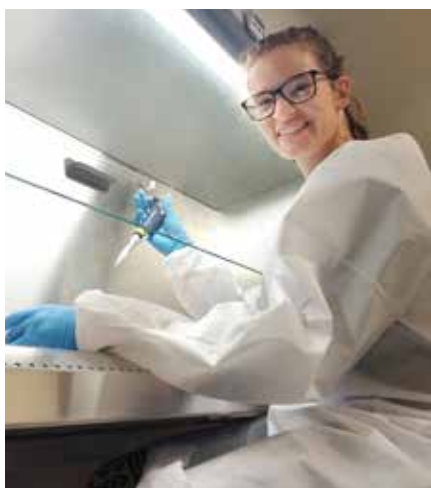
Biosphere Reserve, it encompasses both the urban centre of Sherwood Park and protected areas such as Elk Island National Park and Cooking Lake-Blackfoot, plus numerous industries, acreages, and farms. In 2014, farmers using the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot grazing reserve sounded an alarm that wolves were killing their cattle. The province agreed to reduce the pack, a controversial move. Still, the exact number of wolves in the region remained unclear.

Walker dedicated two summers plus his senior research project to the search for



For more about Beaver Hills research, see the blog at wolvesofbeaverhills.wordpress.com and photos at www.instagram.com/wolvesofbeaverhills

“We’re starting to understand the system a little bit, and yet we’re just scratching the surface.”



Emily Toews parlayed her senior research project on fecal parasites into graduate work at the University of Calgary with Dr. Alessandro Massolo who, as she says, “literally wrote the book on parasites.”

wolves in and around Cooking Lake-Blackfoot. Besides gathering samples of hair and scat (feces), he spent significant time positioning and repositioning 18 motion-activated cameras and later analyzing the resulting images. The data gave evidence of far fewer wolves than farmers feared, helping to forestall future culls. “There are so few wolves now that they don’t need managing,” Dr. Visscher says.

But for an ecologist driven to investigate how animals and humans engage in the dance of life on a mutual landscape, many questions remain in the Beaver Hills, an island of Boreal Forest habitat surrounded by Aspen Parkland. And so the research has broadened to a “whole ecosystem approach,” with an evolving group of students helping to build a

storehouse of non-invasive samples—mostly photos, hair, and scat.

FECAL MATTERS

Dr. Visscher was pondering what questions the fecal samples might answer when biology student Emilie Toews expressed interest in research related to her dream of becoming a veterinarian. Together, they chose to focus on *Echinococcus*. Ranked among the world’s most dangerous food-borne parasites by the World Health Organization (WHO), *Echinococcus* are zoonotic, meaning they can (and do) transmit from animals to humans. During her final year at King’s, Emilie analyzed 27 samples of wolf and coyote scat using fecal flotation—creating solutions that allowed *Echinococcus* eggs to float to the top and then



Known for his love of two-wheeled transport, Dr. Darcy Visscher (left) combines work and pleasure when he takes to the trails on his fat bike to monitor research in the Beaver Hills. Student researcher Phil Walker (right) joins Dr. Visscher on his excursion.

identifying the eggs under a microscope. She found signs of the parasite in 18% of the samples.

Upon graduation this spring, Emilie prepared another 150 samples to carry

to the University of Calgary, where she is beginning a Master's program funded in part by the Alberta Conservation Association, which also supported her research at King's. Using a molecular technique called Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR),

she will more definitively quantify the prevalence of the parasite in the samples. As a next step, she plans to collect and analyze fecal and blood samples from dogs walked in the Beaver Hills, as dogs can pick up the parasite through

MAKING DATA DO DOUBLE DUTY

Are wildlife friendly fences around the Wainwright Dunes Ecological Reserve doing their job? That's the question Alberta Environment and Parks asked Dr. Darcy Visscher to answer in 2014 using images taken along fence lines by motion-activated cameras.

By probing deeper, Dr. Visscher and research student Ian MacLeod used the images not only to confirm the value of wildlife friendly fences (see Summer 2014 Connection), but to provide an illuminating glimpse into how animals in the area shield themselves from being hunted. The resulting paper appears in the March 2017

Wildlife Society Bulletin, with MacLeod among the co-authors.

"Parks was most interested in the question of the fence, but we asked, 'What other data could we easily collect from these photos?'" recalls Ian MacLeod, who painstakingly coded over 400,000 images of animals crossing fences that summer. "We said, 'Let's record the direction of travel.' By just ticking off one more box for each image, we had another dataset."

Definite patterns emerged: Elk in particular would use the reserve as a refuge during the day, then cross the fence and

spend sunset to sunrise foraging in farmers' fields. In hunting season and when the moon was shining bright, they'd abbreviate their stay in the fields.

The study helped to illuminate a core strand of Dr. Visscher's research: how animals trade off foraging reward and predation risk. It also illustrates how creative data analysis can add to scholarly knowledge while also fulfilling funders' needs. "Students may not reach that point by themselves," Dr. Visscher muses, "but together we can tweak it a little bit and answer not only the question we're being funded for but interesting questions on the side as well." 🏰

contact with infected feces and pass it to humans. (Message to dog owners: deworm them quite frequently, especially if they spend time where wildlife roam or have a habit of chasing rodents.)

After working for a time in a veterinary clinic, Emilie no longer dreams of being a vet. Instead, she is combining two favourite yet disparate topics, the tiny world of microbiology and the expansive array of wild animals, into a career she didn't even know about before attending King's.

OPENING DOORS

Similarly, Dr. Visscher's research in the Beaver Hills is opening unexpected doors in a unique corner of creation. "This little project has gotten legs," he says. "It has

given me a real sense of place—a context in which to work. We're starting to understand the system a little bit, and yet we're just scratching the surface." A contract with Ducks Unlimited, for example, enabled the team to analyze wet spots reintroduced in areas previously drained for farming. While in the field, they also gathered grass samples to study whether wet spots benefit grazing animals by encouraging moisture to permeate up nearby slopes, adding to the storehouse for future analysis.

Meanwhile, the number of motion-activated cameras in the Beaver Hills more than doubled to 37 this past summer (20 owned by King's and 17 contributed by Alberta Environment and Parks). Placed in a regular grid within Cooking

Lake-Blackfoot, the cameras caught 250,000 images since June, fodder for research sure to be shaped by the passions of students to come.

The images provide intriguing glimpses of wildlife in their human-shaped element: two moose fighting through a fence, a coyote trotting along a road with a mouthful of rodent, a regal wolf caught in the camera's flash, an elk giving birth. "It really reminds you that places just a half hour away from here have some wildness still," Dr. Visscher says. "It's refreshing to know that our ability to protect those places in whatever form is working. Now, how can we keep it working? Twenty years from now, will students be able to take pictures of cougars and wolves and lynx?" 🦋

PURPOSE-BUILT SOFTWARE SEPARATES THE WILDLIFE FROM THE GRASS

Take one computing science mind. Add an ecologist with a data challenge. Inject biology students on summer research assignment. The result: a software program that is greatly speeding analysis of motion activated camera images by separating photos of moving wildlife from photos of waving grasses and flitting shadows. A summary of the work has just been accepted for publication by the international journal *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*.

The motion activated cameras used in Dr. Darcy Visscher's research, first along fences in the Wainwright Dunes Ecological Reserve and now in the Beaver Hills, take images in bursts of three. Prolonged motion (such as cows exploring the fence) can result in as many as 99 images from one event alone. The Wainwright research involved 480,000 images over multiple years, each requiring analysis.

"It's a data problem," Dr. Visscher says, understating the case. Taking advantage of King's interdisciplinary focus, he invited computing science assistant professor Dr. Michael

Janzen to create a shortcut. Dr. Janzen pulled in biology student Kaitlyn Visser to test early versions of the program, and later computing science student Ashley Ritter to further refine the code.

The resulting software clusters images taken in close sequence into sets and then runs those sets through various techniques to minimize unimportant differences and highlight large shapes that shift in position from frame to frame. The latter images—the ones most likely to contain animals in motion—automatically drop into folders for manual review. A recent upgrade discards all but one best image from each selected set, further reducing the time spent in manual review.

Dr. Janzen recalls the painstaking work that went into separating unimportant background from animals jumping fences—and the jubilation students expressed when trial and error started paying off. "The normal case is easy," he says. "It's the abnormal one that we spend all our time on." Besides needing to know how both humans and computers think, there's the fact that these



This motion-activated camera captures hundreds of images per day.

subjects are animals, he observes: "Humans don't lick the camera."

To test the accuracy of this semi-automated system, the team compared software-generated results against manually classified data. "We were able to throw out 90% of images while keeping at least 90% of the animals," Dr. Janzen says. He expects even better results as he draws on other aspects of his training, including work in artificial intelligence, to refine the program.

Developed with funding from Alberta Environment and Parks and later the Alberta Conservation Association, the software is freely available on the King's webspace at <http://cs.kingsu.ca/~mjanzen/CameraTrap-Software.html>. 🦋

TREE-PLANTING PROF TAKES THE LEAD IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAITH-BASED GROUPS SEEN BY SCIENTISTS AS NEW CONSERVATION ALLIES

BY JANET VLIEG-PAQUETTE

Who knew that a crooked pine tree growing in the cracks of Alberta's foothills would prove to be the perfect metaphor for The King's University?

Dr. Vern Peters smiles and shakes his head when he thinks of the past summer, his tenth with the limber pine conservation project. For four summers, he and King's biology students have gone on field trips to southwestern Alberta to plant

seedlings. But this summer his travelling companions represented the broader King's community.

"It was really rich," he says, recalling a two-day bus tour in June with about 20 King's supporters. Joined by fellow Biology Professor Dr. John Wood, the group travelled to the Crowsnest Pass to see first-hand how the endangered limber pine is being restored.



PHOTO: MELANIE HUMPHREYS

The limber pine is a particularly important tree in the southern Alberta ecosystem.

PLANTING LIMBER PINE SEEDLINGS 'AN ACT OF FAITH'

King's supporter Janet Kwantes anticipated a fascinating tour of the Crowsnest Pass in June and brought along a companion, a student visiting Alberta for 10 weeks from Amman, Jordan.

Yasmeen Al Far is a fourth-year veterinary student who was awarded an externship at Park Veterinary Centre in Sherwood Park, a clinic owned by Dr. Louis Kwantes.

Janet, who was a King's biology student in the '80s and an organic chemistry lab instructor in the '90s, had three goals in inviting Yasmeen on the tour: "To introduce her to the beauty of our province, to facilitate friendship with an intelligent, fun-loving, committed Christian community, and to expand her learning from animal diagnoses and care to a broader consideration of the intimate relationship of animal-environment-human-faith."

Kwantes and her protegee were astounded by what they saw in the Porcupine Hills region of southern Alberta: "Its variety of grasses, wildflowers, tree and bird species, and rugged terrain (not to mention insects — thank you, Dr. Wood)."

Tour participants focused on the responsibilities of Christian stewardship. Kwantes

says she was reminded "of the interdependency and intimacy of all levels of flora and fauna, and that included us, as co-creators, co-workers in tending to God's world.

"Dr. Peters' work with the limber pine is not in isolation. I learned how the presence of limber pine not only is essential to erosion prevention along prairie coolies and river banks, but also a significant food source for the Clark's nutcracker, squirrels, and bears—facilitating productivity and longevity and vitality.

"Slow-growing (taking about 50 years to produce initial cones), the planting of limber pine is certainly an act of faith. Not only is Dr. Peters helping the reforestation of Southern Alberta, he is also setting a stage for future generations to engage in environmental stewardship and protection.

"The integration of faith-in-action, as demonstrated in Dr. Peters' passion in his research, is as sensitive, respectful, and honouring as his paraphrase of Psalm 104."

Did the veterinary student enjoy the two-day tour? "She was awestruck," reports Kwantes, "filled with questions, and very thankful for such an informative and formative trip!" 🌲

"That was the part of the trip that was a nice surprise for me, hearing hearing stories from our guests and supporters about their personal investment to enable King's to get started. We had people who have been volunteering much of their personal time to create the kind of institution that has given voice to these kinds of ideas," Peters said.

These kinds of ideas include the stewardship of creation and how believers work in community to protect and renew the natural world that God has ordained.

Judging by the comments of those on the tour (see sidebar on page 25), the struggle to restore the lowly limber pine, which has been on the province's endangered species list since 2009, truly captured the imagination of everyone on the bus trip. Participants were fascinated by the limber pine's role in the lives of birds, animals, and spring flooding in the foothills.

"You never find a straight, well-growing tree," says Peters. "They have this wind-swept, enigmatic appearance on these rough, inhospitable ridges in Southern Alberta. So it's more symbolic of the ability to weather hard times and kind of respond to that in how you grow, never to form something that would have immediate economic value, but that has incredible wildlife value."

The successful tour on June 24 to 25 with a group of King's supporters served to amplify the vital role ordinary citizens can play in conservation and in the restoration of imbalances in nature.

"Our greatest resource is the people," Peters says. "There's something transformational here that goes beyond this particular project, so it's been a vehicle to involve people in the broader mission of King's."

With a background in forest ecology and fire management with the government, Peters began to teach conservation ecology at King's 12 years ago. It wasn't long before he began engaging students in



PHOTO: SHANNON TUININGA

The King's tour explored the area around Crowsnest Pass with tour guides from The King's University biology faculty.

“There’s something transformational here . . . it’s been a vehicle to involve people in the broader mission of King’s.”

the implications of declining tree species. Something about the limber pine resonated with students, inspiring their undergrad research and leading at least one to continue it at higher levels.

“It’s an extremely interesting species because large seed production events can attract seed dispersers, like the Clark’s nutcracker bird,” he says. “It was one of these examples that shows the wisdom of God in creation.”

“He can design a bird to plant the tree that feeds the squirrel and sustains the bear. It is just a story of a web of interactions that is engaging and has a lot of unanswered questions and is timely in the province.”

The flooding in High River in 2013 helped highlight the need for higher-elevation trees, like the limber pine, to slow down the deluges of spring melt onto mountain communities.

“We were able to see what the relevance of this is to me, not just to the parks I like to visit,” Peters recalled. “So that animated a fair bit of our tree-planting work. If I engage by planting a tree, I stabilize the soils that will reduce the runoff. We can do something that is meaningful in this place.”

The tree-planting expeditions now also include students from Immanuel Christian School in Lethbridge. A report on their activities in 2015 and 2016 shows impressive numbers: one summer 45

Grade 9 students planted 200 seedlings produced in the King’s greenhouse; the next, 45 Grade 10 students planted 1,000 seedlings.

Planting limber pine seedlings is painstaking and hard work, often demanding planters wedge a shovel into cracks in the rocks. If one-third of the seedlings survive after two years, “that’s your measure of success, pretty well your best-case scenario,” says Peters.

“How do we labour at something where it seems our efforts are small, and the challenges are great?”

Peters points to the seed metaphor, familiar in Bible stories. “How do we



PHOTO: SHANNON TUININGA

King's Professors Dr. Vern Peters and Dr. John Wood at a bird sanctuary just outside Red Deer, en route to Crownest Pass on a tour this summer.

model that small actions can amount to something that can animate a community and gain traction, and yet address a societal need? It's powerful."

He takes heart from the biblical account of Noah's ark, where a bird is a symbol of hope. Clark's nutcracker helps keep hope alive in the ongoing struggle to restore the limber pine.

"If we can ensure that we have enough trees just to keep them in our landscape, then those trees that do take root will provide the seeds that these birds will distribute and ensure the limber pine's survival."

Peters and his groups of students began planting seedlings four years ago before any provincial funds were dedicated to the actual recovery work. In 2014, the government initiated a five-year recovery plan for the limber pine, a move that comes with funding, but the limber pine is one of 50 species listed.

While Peters regularly consults with government scientists, he knows that public funds will never cover all of the work that needs to be done.

"This is an initiative that arises out of who we are and what we value at King's. We realized we can still be engaging communities and raising awareness in advance of efforts to get larger-scale buy-in. We are modelling a way in which we as people who live in these landscapes value this and could potentially respond to these issues, to show our commitment, that we don't rely solely on the government."

The reality in 2017 is that King's is attracting government grants for field trips and impressing scientists with the level of community engagement in its conservation work.

"It's a timely issue," Peters says. "How do we as scientists talk about our engagement with people most affected by our research? Do we actually create ownership? That's our hope."

Larger scientific organizations are now recognizing that scientists benefit from partnering with faith-based groups in order to accomplish conservation goals; public funding is never enough. Peters had presented before meetings of the Society of Conservation Biology on how to engage faith communities to do science-based work.

In September, Peters accepted an invitation to address a conference of the White Bark Pine Ecosystem Foundation in Jasper, the first time this international organization has ever held a conference in Alberta.

"We have a perspective on engagement that is informative to the highest levels of science," Peters says. "There's something about our community and the way we envision scholarship that calls us into expression and engagement. It allows the teaching and the research to fit together with our sense of service. It becomes an expression of just trying to be faithful. 🙏"

VOICES FROM THE BUS: ENTHUSIASM FOR THE LIMBER PINE

The limber pine's struggle to weather ongoing environmental threats is a serious concern. So you wouldn't expect a bus tour of limber pine reforestation areas in the foothills to be fun.

But fun it was, for approximately 20 King's supporters who travelled with biology professors Dr. Vern Peters and Dr. John Wood for two days in June.

Ask former King's board chair Bill Diepeveen, who rode the bus June 23 to 24 with his wife Winnie.

"I was excited to go on the tour. It was wonderful to see the sites where Vern is working and how he has involved the Lethbridge school and local ranchers. I did not realize how small the seedlings

were that were being planted, or the thin soil that they grow in. It is wonderful to see how King's is playing a leading role in working to re-establish the limber pine in Alberta. It is critical work."

Diepeveen first caught a glimpse of this passion eight years ago when he was on the King's Senate.

"Vern made a presentation in support of his sabbatical request. I was absolutely struck by the linkage between the limber pine, the Clark's nutcracker, and the bear. How they were all linked and how the nutcracker buries the pinecone on a south exposure as a food source in

the winter and how the ones they don't eat become a high energy food for the bears coming out of hibernation and how the remainder reproduce seedlings. I continue to be amazed at the wonder of creation."

While no plans have been made yet for another field trip with King's donors, the Diepeveens are ready to go again.

"The trip was an awesome experience of learning (who knew that the slough at the SE corner of Gasoline Alley in Red Deer is such a fantastic bird habitat) as well as camaraderie on the bus. I can't wait to see where the next tour is headed."



Participants surveyed after the limber pine trip express their enthusiasm for the event:

"The love for the province, the land and the people demonstrated by Wood and Peters was touching. It put King's in a very positive light."

"It has been such a great learning experience of God's beautiful creation."

"An opportunity to create intimate respect for creation and the chance to connect with like-minded friends and to make new ones."

"It was educational, yet fun."

"Accommodations were fantastic, and I felt truly connected to nature."

"Good to experience how King's staff integrate faith and learning with their students. Students can see God's handiwork through these field trips."

"Make it an annual event!"

"It's important to reflect on our stewardship and worship as Christians. This was helpful and builds community."

"Renewed appreciation for what King's profs are working on and their commitment to convey love and care of creation to others."

"A real highlight and a great experience! Opportunity to meet other King's supporters, awesome comradery, well-organized, and a trip I would highly recommend for anyone who cares about and wants to experience King's."

"A truly awesome experience. Loved it all. My heart overflows."

"The field trip was a wonderful opportunity to see a part of our beautiful province through the eyes of researchers who have devoted their lives to serving God by caring for his creation. They obviously love their work and were able to share some of that knowledge and enthusiasm with us in a practical and engaging way."

TEACHERS SHAPING TEACHERS

NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENT-TEACHERS A FAST-GROWING SUCCESS

BY LINDSAY ECKERT

The King's University Education program welcomed over 35 principals, teachers, and administrators to campus to connect with King's second-year education students on Friday, September 29.

The buzzing crowd gathered snacks and hot coffee before joining each other at grouped tables. The eager smiles and shared conversation between recently met teachers and teachers-to-be filled the room with shared purpose. Before the workshop started, projected on the front wall was the African proverb, "If you want to travel fast, walk alone. If you want to travel far, walk together," alluding to the workshop's focus: mentorship.

Bernice Stieva, assistant professor of education who led the development of the workshop, surveyed the room with quiet joy as the participants introduced themselves and launched into shared experiences. Then Jana Haveman, manager of field services in education at King's, opened the day by saying, "It was a bit over a year and a half ago when Bernice and I started talking about the importance of mentorship. We believe that great mentors shape great teachers."

The project began a little over a year ago during the winter semester when many King's education students are on their practicum and education faculty are involved in practicum supervision. Bernice, as one of the practicum supervisors, found herself in similar conversations and observations with teachers and principals across schools. The perpetual question was this: How do we equip pre-service teachers to thrive in their practicum and into their teaching careers?

This sparked conversation between Jana, Bernice, and two principal colleagues, and the initial idea for a pilot project focused on mentorship began to take shape. They proposed a series of two half-day workshops



The late-September workshop will be followed by an additional gathering in November.

where second-year education students, classroom teachers/mentors, principals, and faculty practicum supervisors would explore the facets of mentorship. The hope was that everyone involved in the mentoring relationship would be better equipped to mentor or be mentored during practicum placements and as new teachers transitioned into the profession.

The idea quickly spread through King's education faculty and beyond. With support and participation from teachers, principals, and leadership in the HR department of Edmonton Public Schools, the first workshop sessions were held in the fall of 2016.

Bernice reflected on their first run-through. "Many of the guests were impressed by the honest and insightful contributions from the education students. Two teachers from Florence Hallock School were so inspired they began a mentoring pilot at their school and invited us to join them!" Teachers and principals began contacting Bernice asking if they could attend and bring a colleague. "The response was so positive and encouraging," Bernice said.

A year later, you wouldn't have guessed from the packed room that this is only the second time this workshop has been offered. And interest is growing.

Last year, the Edmonton Public School Human Relations Department embraced the idea and covered the cost of substitute teachers so that several Edmonton Public teachers could attend. This year, the scope of the project expanded to invite more school districts as well as several independent Christian schools.

Bernice commented, "We're so grateful for the support and participation of all these educational professionals. Their expertise and knowledge is invaluable, and we simply couldn't run this project without them!" This idea has also spread to additional professional development opportunities within various school districts, as well as workshops for in-service teachers and administrators at several Christian teachers' conventions.

Bernice is excited to see the workshops continue and grow. "We hope to further explore the significance and strength of mentoring as a signature pedagogy during pre-service preparation, but also as new teachers transition into the profession. We hope that by spending these mornings together, all members in the mentoring triad will better understand each other's perspectives and be better equipped for the mentoring process. We hope everyone will ask, what can we learn from each other? How can we travel farther together?" 🙌



Each artisan signs their initials on the shoes they hand craft.

STORI: ETHICALLY MADE. PERSONALLY SIGNED.

BY LINDSAY ECKERT

Alumnus Kevin Visser (BCom '13) and his wife Fernanda are out to create products with a conscience. The couple founded their company, Stori, in Mexico in early 2017 with powerful core values: to empower communities, value producers, and promote sustainability. Stori's focus is producing ethical traditional Mexican leather sandals called huaraches.

The women who make the sandals are known as tejadoras and part of a generations-long trade. Historically, they were not paid fair wages for their skills, and Stori plans to change that.


Visser believes in the importance of considering the social and environmental impacts of business practices and that consumers care about the people and processes behind their products.

"Our goals," Visser said, "are to showcase this traditional Mexican artisanal skill,

offer our customers a quality product, and triple the current wage of our artisans. Our respect for the people and traditions behind our products continually drives us to find new ways to connect our customers with the tejadoras behind their shoes."

Each pair of sandals is hand-signed by the artisan, and Visser hopes that Stori will make people feel good about the shoes they wear as well as the story behind them.

While Visser has dreams of expanding Stori's vision, the core continues to be supporting local artisans. "I want Stori to be a company that says a shoe is not just a shoe, not just a thing; it's somebody's craft, somebody's story."

If you want to know more, check out their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/STORIGlobal 



Kevin and Fernanda Visser

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Congratulations to Karin (BA '11) and Travis Weiss (BCom '11) on the new addition to their family: Seth Albert, born May 15.



Photo: Fish Griwkowsky

LISA MARTIN (BA '00)

When I started my degree at King's (more than 20 years ago), I was an intellectually curious young person who had grown up inside of Christian fundamentalism. I found my way to King's because I was drawn by the offer of academically rigorous yet faith-based inquiry. For me, King's was a deeply hospitable place to explore which of my inherited beliefs I wanted to retain, and which I wanted to let go, in the light of deeper inquiry.

My new collection of poetry, *Believing* is not the same as *Being Saved* (University of Alberta Press, 2017), is an extension of that work I did as a student of philosophy

and literature during my time at King's. The poems in this book seek the kind of lyric truth that lives in paradox, in the dwelling together of seeming opposites—such as life and death, love and loss, faith and doubt, joy and sorrow.

My time at King's was deeply intellectually and personally formative. King's is a special place, where many people are committed to social and environmental justice and to the search for meaning. Find those people and learn from them and with them. Nevermind program requirements or degree timelines, what do you most urgently want to understand about the world, and yourselves, and the people around you, while you are here? 🙌



Renae Van Wyk (BA '16, BEd '18) and Zach Geisterfer (BCom '17) were engaged April 1 and excitedly wait for their wedding on June 9, 2018.



Alyssa Rab (BA '14) completed graduate studies in master of science in athletic therapy at the National University of Medical Sciences.



Kaili Chernuka (BA '12) and William Tse were married on July 1.



Congratulations to Jordan (BMus '04) and Tamara Van Biert on the birth of Emily Grace on September 14.



Sydney (née Mantel, BA '17) and Joshua Van Doesburg (BEd '16) welcomed Jackson Gerrit May 25.



Brenna Hansen (BSc '15) and Rory Mitchell were married August 6.



Reuben Bestman (BSc '06) cycled his way across Canada, from sea to sea, raising money towards ending poverty.



Mckenzie Oliver (BSc '17) was accepted into graduate school for chemistry at the University of Alberta.



Amelia (née Wiens, BA '16) and Daniel (BA '11) vanHoffen are pleased to announce the birth of Morley Margaret, born February 23, weighing 6lbs.



Sarah McFayden (BCom '18) was accepted into law school at the University of Alberta.



Sharon (née Van Strylar, BA '07) and Greg Thalen are pleased to announce the birth of Olivia Lynn on August 26.



Erika (née Snip, BA '10) and Adam Pappas celebrated their wedding on August 12.



Dylan Johnston (BSc '17) was accepted to the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis Tennessee.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Congratulations to Michelle Nederlof (née Lukkien, BA '89) for being recognized as B.C. School Sports Female Coach of the Year.



CARLENE GROEN (BSC '10)

Who would have thought that working 10 hours a week shelving books at the King's library would lead me to work as a reference librarian in the Department of Science and Technology at the Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan? My job is to help students and faculty to find and evaluate science information from books, articles, movies, audio, maps, and data. I then help turn that information into new knowledge by aiding the communication of science through publishing, conference posters, presentations, and more.

I directly correlate my desire to work internationally from the experience I gained at

King's through the Honduras Water Project and an Environmental Studies internship in Costa Rica. I also attribute my entering the education field to the King's culture of openness to exploring new ideas and the many conversations with faculty and my fellow classmates on topics of community development, democracy, and freedom of information.

I pursued these ideas more through a part-time online Master's of Information in community informatics while working at a library in Qatar, studying how libraries can use information and technology for community development. Starting in September, I will begin a Master's of Environmental Practice. 🏰



Congratulations to Andrew (BSc '16) and Lisa Fox (née Niewenhuis, BEd '17) who tied the knot on July 1.



Kristofer Ames (BA '17) was accepted to UNBC for a masters in counselling.



John Edward Vanderveen (BA'09) participated in the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Long Course World Championship on August 27, 2017.



Heather (née deBoon, BSc '14) and Marcel (BEd '15) Wassink welcomed baby Audrey Christine to the family on August 31.

LEGACY GIFT WILL INSPIRE FUTURE STUDENTS



Durk and Janny De Jong

Durk and Janny DeJong are clear about their motivation for planning a gift for King's through their estate: "We are so enthusiastic about the results we see in students who attend King's that we plan to set up a scholarship to create an incentive for new students to enroll in King's."

The DeJongs were among the earliest supporters when King's was still just an idea. Since then Durk has served on the King's Board and Foundation.

Through their involvement with King's and connections to students and alumni they see first-hand how students become equipped, though our Christian learning community, to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world.

They are so inspired by King's mission that, beyond their ongoing generous donations, they have arranged a major gift through their estate. When they pass away, their legacy gift will create an endowment that will fund scholarships to encourage future generations to attend.

Durk and Janny's work ethic and commitment to a faithful God served as a foundation for making this gift possible. Durk moved to Canada after World War II and worked on a sugar beet farm near Iron Springs, Alberta, for four years. He then moved to Calgary where he earned a degree in accounting and subsequently established an accounting and insurance firm. He married Janny Van't Land in 1956 and they had four children.

Durk has had many successes in real estate development, construction, and other ventures. Now retired, he still walks or buses to work every day, at least for a few hours, to do paperwork and engage with the team and the local business community.

The DeJong legacy will be a lasting blessing to King's students for years to come. 🙏

King's coordinated with Durk, his professional advisors, and Christian Stewardship Services (CSS) to arrange the unique aspects of this gift. Establishing a gift in your Will can be quite simple. King's is happy to work with donors, their advisors, and/or partners like CSS according to donors' wishes.

For information on leaving a gift in your will contact:

Kathy MacFarlane, MA, CFRE

Phone: 780-465-8352

Cell: 403-634-5963

kathy.macfarlane@kingsu.ca



"To be a community of friends of The King's University that impacts the future of the university and its learners through active engagement and loyal financial support."

The King's University Foundation, formed in 1985, continues to forge an exciting new path for the future, thanks to the work of its Strategic Planning Committee led by Jim Joosse. Other members include Dr. Henk Van Andel, Joy Mon-sma, and John Kolk. The committee was formed by Foundation directors in the fall of 2016 and was scheduled to make its report and recommendations, as well as tabling a new five-year plan, to Foundation members at their October 21 Annual General Meeting held at King's.

For the immediate future, the Foundation's Board of Directors have approved a budget of \$267,000 with the funding to be given to two causes at King's. \$150,000 will go towards the cost of a campaign

feasibility phase for the proposed Centre for Excellence in Science. The second amount of \$30,000 will go toward new scholarships to further support students coming to King's in the fall of 2018.

The new five-year plan proposes that the Foundation hire a new executive director in 2018 for up to half-time. The plan also has ambitious goals for membership growth and fund raising, an increased focus on scholarships and bursaries, and helping with any major King's campaigns. It also envisions a more active membership that will involve others in events and activities to support the university and its students. Legacy giving through wills and bequests will also be encouraged.

To ensure a continued positive working relationship with The King's University, its leadership, and its Development staff, the Foundation also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the university outlining how the relationship will be nurtured and managed through regular, open communication, and role clarification. The Foundation will continue to receive administrative and financial support services from King's staff, at a nominal fee.

Foundation members have directly contributed more than \$2 million toward the causes and needs of King's over the years, such as the Secondary Education Program, creation of an Alumni Relations function, and funding the Campus Master Plan. 🙏



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