



INITIATIVE
CAMPAIGN

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**Principal's Written Report
Queen's University Senate
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AUCC

- I recently attended the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada's spring membership meeting in Winnipeg. Nearly 60 university presidents attended the meeting, the goal of which was to discuss a number of important issues affecting post-secondary education, including how to ensure our graduates' readiness for an increasingly complex world, contributing to a diverse and globally-connected Canada, and better serving our Aboriginal students. The keynote address, delivered by Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo (a recent Queen's honorary doctorate recipient), emphasized the collaboration between universities and First Nations communities, and applauded the post-secondary sector's increasing efforts to enhance access and support success for Aboriginal students. I also co-chaired a session on linking domestic and international student mobility to Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017.

Strategic Mandate Agreement

- We are getting very close to signing our Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) with the provincial government (at the time of my writing this, however, we don't yet know when the finalized document will be available). This nearly two-year process has allowed us to differentiate ourselves as "the balanced academy in the Ontario university system", an approach I outlined in my 2010 essay *Where next?* I want to acknowledge the many people who have worked hard over the last 18 months to get us to this point, including the staff in the Provost's Office, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs, the Executive Director of Planning and Budgeting, and of course, Provost Harrison. As well, Vice-Principal Liss and his staff provided input to the SMA on local, national and international research engagement and partnership, plus the metrics that will guide our contributions to jobs, innovation, economic development and research prominence.

Awards and Honours:

- The first Queen's National Scholars have been named and will take up their positions at Queen's this summer as part of a newly reinstated program. **Avena Ross**, Queen's National Scholar in chemical biology and medicinal chemistry with a research specialty in peptide biosynthesis. **Armand Garent Ruffo**, Queen's National Scholar in Indigenous literatures and languages, is a poet, playwright, writer and scholar current based at Carleton University. **Awet Weldemichael**,

Queen's National Scholar in African history, was born in Eritrea and grew up in a Sudanese refugee camp. He comes to Queen's from the University of Kentucky. Those appointed under the QNS program have clearly demonstrated their abilities to provide rich and rewarding learning experiences to students, as well as to develop innovative research programs that align with our priorities. First established in 1985, the QNS program will fund 10 new positions when fully implemented.

- **Dr. Lynda Colgan**, Associate Professor of Elementary Mathematics Education, Graduate Faculty, and Director of the Queen's Outreach Centre, Chair of the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee, as well as a Senator, has won the Partners in Research National Mathematics Ambassador Award. The honour recognizes Canadians making outstanding contributions in the field of Mathematics. Dr. Colgan's research has focused on supporting early career mathematics teachers and on involving parents as partners in math teaching and learning.
- Four students were recognized in March for their contributions to Queen's and the local community through a new awards program. **Sean Doherty** and **Roopa Suppiah** received the inaugural Peer Leadership Awards for their dedication to peer-to-peer assistance, education and outreach. **Tian Lu** and **Amanda Tracey** are the first recipients of the Brian Yealland Community Leadership Award, named in honour of the former Queen's Chaplain.
- PhD student **Mike Best** (clinical psychology) will represent Queen's at the Ontario 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition at McMaster University on April 24. He beat out 10 of his fellow graduate students to advance to the final round after a succinct presentation of his research on the biases toward schizophrenia.

Advancement Report:

- Donations to the Initiative Campaign now total \$406.6 million against the \$500 million goal, not including the recent \$10 million gift to support the revitalization of Richardson Stadium. At \$64.2 million, we have now surpassed our fiscal goal of \$60 million. Recent gifts include \$1.1 million to support the Queen's Innovation Commons and \$1.1 million to support graduate fellowships in the Faculty of Arts and Science, initiatives that will improve the student experience in our planning processes. We also received gifts of \$250K towards the Commerce 1989 Award, and just over \$220K to support the Medical School Excellence Fund.

Other business:

- I would like to acknowledge the intense efforts of our student government leaders in the AMS and SGPS as they prepare to make room for their successors. They have worked hard over the past year on sometimes challenging issues, all while listening to their fellow students, working with many levels of administration and keeping up with their academic work. Congratulations to all.