



SPRING CELEBRATION 2024



Photos by Kristen Ritchie

On April 24, over 100 people gathered in the elegant Elspeth Baugh Fireside Room of Ban Righ Hall to join the 14 mature women students who were honoured at this year's Ban Righ Foundation Spring Celebration.

The Spring Awards have long been part of the Ban Righ Foundation tradition, and the event is one of the highlights of the Ban Righ year. The awards were established by donors to provide financial support and encouragement to students. This year's celebration was emceed by Corinna Dally-Starna and included performances by Queen's student and local musician, Danielle Hope.

Everyone enjoyed a lively presentation by the fabulous Diane McKenzie (BNSc 1964, MPA 1992) a long-time friend and donor to the Ban Righ Centre, recounting the connected histories of Ban Righ Hall and the Ban Righ Centre. For a list of the awards and recipients from this year's event, visit our [website](#).

You can read more about the Celebration in this story published in the [Queen's Gazette](#).

BAN RIGH FOUNDATION 50th ANNIVERSARY



Fifty years ago the ribbon was cut at the Ban Righ Centre for the Continuing Education of Women.

In the early 1970's a small and mighty group of "Queen's Women" saw the value of a dedicated space and supports for mature women students returning to education. Surplus funds from the women's residences were endowed to create the Ban Righ Foundation. Over the years, through a series of directors, staff, board members, and an ever-changing student body, Ban Righ has stayed true to this vision. Countless testimonials and success stories from our students and alumnae prove that this model - a model based on meeting students where they are, on building warm and respectful relationships, and on fostering community among women from all faculties and from all stages of life - works.

This October, the Ban Righ Foundation will host a Gala in the beautiful atrium of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. Join us in celebrating 50 years of impact and in imagining the next 50 years.

Registration for the Gala will open soon. Watch your email for a notice, or check the Ban Righ Centre social media and [website](#) for details. There will be cake!



SUMMARY of 2023-24

\$198,970

Emergency Bursaries

\$20,050

Awards

\$6,400

Winter Gear Bursaries

"Ban Righ has made a huge impact on my life by supporting me during my first winters in Canada. With the financial assistance provided by Centre I was able to buy winter outfits for self and support my living in Canada. I forever will be grateful to this centre."

325

Active Students

64%

Graduate & Professional

36%

Undergraduate & Other

"I extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who contribute to providing such a nurturing environment. Your dedication to supporting others is truly commendable, and I am immensely grateful for the positive impact you've had on my life."

130

Mothers

12

Work Study Students

30%

International Students

"I was introduced to this space in this academic year and this has been a blessing to me. Not only it has helped me financially but the warmth of the space has boosted my confidence and energy levels too."

NEW BURSARIES

Financial support enhances the student learning experience by reducing pressures that detract from academics. Our bursaries are part of a wrap-around approach to student support that includes student advising, referrals, an invitation to participate in all our student programming, and, yes, soup.

Three new endowed bursaries were established by generous Ban Righ Centre donors in 2023-24. All give priority to women in STEM disciplines.

The Pamela Haslam Bursary. Established in memory of Helen Pamela (Hignett) Haslam, BNSc 1965, by her husband, George Haslam, BSc 1965. Preference given to students enrolled in degree programs in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math.

The Pound Richards Family Bursary. Established by David Pound, BSc (Eng.) 1970, MSc 1973. Preference given to students enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

The Molly Higginson Memorial Bursary. Established by friends and family in honour of Molly (Innes) Higginson. Awarded (to students) who are enrolled in degree programs in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM). Preference will be given to students enrolled in Math or Computer Science.

There is no doubt that students are grateful for the financial support. For many, the knowledge that our donors choose to support “students like me” is just as valuable.

“This bursary is not just a financial gift – it is a demonstration of your belief in my potential and your commitment to helping students like me succeed. I am deeply humbled and grateful for your support, which will undoubtedly help me navigate these tough times and emerge stronger. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your compassion and for making a meaningful difference in my life.”

IN MEMORY

As we reach the milestone of our 50th anniversary, we are sad to bid a final farewell to many of the women who were influential in the early days of the Ban Righ Centre.



Helen Mathers
1926 to 2024

Helen Mathers was the first Director of the Ban Righ Centre, serving from 1974 - 1990. Helen's approach was warm, pragmatic and encouraging. She brought humour and empathy to the Centre. Her big heart and steady hand set the Centre on its course as a vibrant welcoming and nurturing space for mature women students at Queen's; a legacy that continues to this day.

Janet Troughton wore several hats as a beloved member of the Ban Righ Centre staff for 25 years. Alumnae remember her fondly as someone who believed in them (even when they didn't believe in themselves). Her kindness and student-centred approach continue to inform our approach to student support at the Centre.



Janet Troughton
1939 - 2024



Mary Ballantyne
1932 - 2024

Mary Ballantyne was a proud Queen's alumna and the benefactor behind the Troup Ballantyne Award, established in honour of her parents. A firm believer in the power of education, Mary was always delighted by the Health Science students who were awarded this prize at our annual Spring Celebration. We were delighted to welcome her granddaughter, Queen's alumna Mara Ballantyne, to award the prize in her honour this year.

WHO WE ARE and WHAT WE DO

The Ban Righ Centre relies on a team of experienced staff to provide supports and services to mature women students at Queen's. It takes creativity, time, and dedication to stay connected with our students. We provide one-on-one student advising both in person and virtually, offer quiet study spaces, and student-centred programming.

Ban Righ Centre Staff

Susan Belyea: Director

Lisa Webb: Student Advisor & Program Planner

Taylor Cenac: Student Advisor & Program Coordinator

Nikisha Grant Ridley: BRC Assistant

Ban Righ Foundation Board of Directors 2024-25

Pam Briand
Susan Korba
Heather Carter
Taylor Cenac
Susan Belyea

Tibeb Debele
Simran Kohli
Amber Hastings Truelove
Juliane Okot Bitek
Heather Jamieson

Jade Kaloudis
Yasmine Djerbal
Thandi Nkole
Alexa LaFleche
Shannon Marginson

CHAMPIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH



For the 3rd year in a row, Lisa Webb has been named as a Superstar Champion for Mental Health.

Champions for Mental Health are nominated by students. The campaign recognizes and celebrates instructors and staff members who create supportive environments where student mental health is valued and supported.

for more information visit the Queen's **Campus Wellness** webpage.

STAYING IN TOUCH

The Ban Righ Centre is open during the summer months and welcomes visitors Monday - Thursday 9am-4pm.

 queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre

 instagram.com/banrighcentre

 fb.com/TheBanRighCentre

 youtube.com/@banrighcentre



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