



### A CELEBRATION 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING



photos by Josh Sauer Photography

On the evening of October 24, 2024, the Ban Righ Foundation celebrated our 50-year anniversary. The evening commemorated the history of the Ban Righ Centre, and the vision and determination of the Queen's women who founded it in 1974.

The Gala was held in the atrium of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. Our emcee, alumna Crystal Jardine-Garvey, guided a full house of guests through a jam-packed itinerary. The evening included a performance by alumni and jazz singer, Chantal Thompson, alumni testimonials, and a "Where are they now?" slide show highlighting the successes of some of our inspiring alumni. There was a screening of the 50th anniversary video produced by Jung-Ah Kim for the occasion, and longtime friend of the Ban Righ Centre, writer Elizabeth Green, reprised her poem *Tapestry* which she originally penned in honour of the Ban Righ Centre in 2017.

After the formalities, guests were invited to mingle and check out the *Who is She?* wall, which included a collection of tributes about inspiring women in our community, and to raise a glass to the history and the future of the Ban Righ Foundation. To learn more about Ban Righ Centre history, read the tributes, and to see more pictures from the Gala, visit our website at [www.queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre](http://www.queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre)

## BURSARY FEATURE

### The Pound & Richards Family Ban Righ Bursary

The pathway to my establishment of the Pound and Richards family bursaries was shaped by three profound influences.

Firstly, a theme had been woven into the fabric of my family. My mother's two brothers were Queen's Engineers. My paternal grandfather was also a Queen's Engineer, as were two of his brothers. It was not a surprise when I chose to become an engineer... and that it was to be Queen's where I would go to have my brain schooled in the "discipline of engineering."



Secondly, I faced a financial hurdle during my sophomore year (1968). Although comfortably ensconced in Brockington House, my finances would be depleted before the end of the school year. Since appealing to my parents was not an option, I enquired at the Registrar's office about financial aid. My need was acknowledged and I received a \$125 bursary. A tiny sum by today's standards, but a god send to me, and my angst was relieved.

The third influence, a very personal one, developed during the 1980's. A remarkable woman, Betty, and I encountered one another – she a burgeoning feminist scholar and me, a male with an "engineering brain". Our time together forever enlightened my life and fostered my sensitivity to the challenges that many women face. It was at this time that I first made contributions to the Ban Righ Centre.



**Jean (Richards) Pound**  
*David Pound's Mother*

The Pound and Richards family was small. When only my mother and I remained, we agreed to have reciprocal wills – each would leave their estate to the other ... and the last would leave everything to Queen's.

Following the passing of my mother, I set out to endow two bursaries based upon financial need – offspring of my personal financial aid experience.

The first bursary is for undergraduate engineering students – the establishment of a legacy in honour of my Queen's engineering forebears.

The second bursary is for students under the auspices of the Queen's Ban Righ Centre, my preference being in the areas of STEM. This commitment was a personal desire of mine, the seed having been sown during my time with Betty, and is made in recognition and support of the challenges, which I am only able to imagine, in a woman's resumption of her education as a mature student or with a family. I am blessed to be in a position to assist.

David Pound  
B.Sc '70; M.Sc '73

# LOOKING BACK AT FALL EVENTS

## Legacy Event

On September 16, the BRC held a Legacy Event in which we dedicated a tree in honour of the founders and supporters of the Ban Righ Foundation.



Sabrina Masud - PhD candidate in English and Ban Righ student - read a piece that she wrote for the occasion.

Nancy Butler - BRC Alumnae, former board member, and Gender Studies professor - read "The Founding Vision" by Joanne Page. Both can be found on our website.

photos by Mikayla Sebesta

## Fall Feast

In late November, Ban Righ Centre Staff, student staff, and board members prepared a holiday lunch to share with our students. Our lounge was full of lively conversation and new experiences for some students who hadn't tasted some of the "traditional" Canadian holiday foods.

The menu included roast chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, green beans, and some sweet treats.



## Winter Bazaar

The Winter Bazaar is a highly anticipated event for our student-mothers every year. On December 12th we held our 9th Annual Winter Bazaar where the kids get to "shop" for gifts for their families (everything costs 25¢ - and we provide the quarters!) while the parents have an opportunity to visit with each other upstairs. Board members help at the wrapping station, and we all join together for a feast. This year we added games to the night which were a big hit.



## WOMEN OF BAN RIGH

**Alex McDonald**

**MSc Candidate Translational Medicine**

Growing up as an equestrian, synchronized swimmer, and eager student, I quickly learned that effort doesn't always equal outcome. Despite my best efforts, I was never the fastest, the smartest, or the best. Watching others seemingly glide past me with less effort was tough. These experiences during my formative years taught me resilience and empathy, shaping how I interact with colleagues, clients, community members, and friends.



After graduating from the University of Guelph in 2007, I worked at a school for children with disabilities in Peru. Those children taught me more in weeks than I had learned in four years of studying psychology. I discovered the power of human connection, and that meaningful change doesn't happen in isolation. These lessons deepened my commitment to supporting individuals with complex needs. Returning to Canada, I was driven to help these individuals live optimally and experience connection. I trained in Applied Behaviour Analysis for a year and then spent many years working in mental health with individuals and families facing complex challenges.

Meeting my partner, whose military career meant moving across Canada and the world, I embraced our shared goal of contributing to positive change. I continued my work with people, offering support groups for parents of children with complexities. In 2018, when our youngest child was diagnosed with a neurological disorder, the courage and resilience I had seen in my clients over the past decade became my own. Posted to Belgium, far from family and friends, I realized our family needed something intangible to thrive. I began studying neuroscience, and as I learned more about the brain and health outcomes, my past experiences started to make sense.

Now, I study acquired genetic changes in the blood system and their relation to neurodegeneration and Alzheimer's Disease. I also work as a TA with fourth year students who are making important decisions about next steps, and with individuals with Alzheimer's in our Kingston community. My research allows me to contribute meaningfully while preserving emotional energy for my three children and wonderful partner. Though I may not be the best or win many awards, often losing to individuals half my age, I know I am where I need to be.

Being part of the Ban Righ community has been invaluable to me as a student, mother, and community member. Here, I am valued for my uniqueness, care, and heart, rather than my impact factor or prestige. The BRC has supported my goal to promote Gender and Queer Science at Queen's and provides a space for all people. I have learned to embrace my complex, imperfect self in my research and life. Finally, I am ready to tackle the next years of my life, continuing my goal of leaving the world a little better than I found it—a true challenge in these times, but one I feel hopeful to achieve with my community.

## HAPPENING AT THE CENTRE

### Gift from a BRC Alum



*Director Susan Belyea poses with rug*

**Caitlin Gallupe, MA Art Conservation '24,** created a hooked rug for the Ban Righ Centre in honour of our 50th anniversary.

She designed it to represent one of her favourite soups that we served at the Centre - Ash Reshteh (a Persian noodle soup) - and the design depicts the ingredients included in the dish. The rug was made from recycled materials including donated clothes and a burlap coffee sack. She dyed some of the colours using natural dyes including turmeric and purple lichen.

Caitlin insists we “don’t be too precious about it”. It’s hard not to treat this as the beautiful treasure it is!

## SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Spring Celebration

The Ban Righ Foundation 2025 Spring Awards Celebration will be held on **Saturday April 26th at 2pm** in Grant Hall. Join us in celebrating the achievements and determination of mature women students at Queen’s. Everyone is welcome.



For more information, and updates about the Celebration, please visit [queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre](https://queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre)

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### The Molly Higginson Memorial Award



Our fall fundraising campaign featured a matching opportunity for donors who contributed to the Molly Higginson Memorial Award, with each dollar donated matched by the family.

Molly Higginson (1944-2023) was a Queen's Math '66 graduate, a successful software developer, and a cherished leader and supporter of the Ban Righ community. As Board Chair, she guided the Foundation through some of its most pivotal years. Molly's commitment to the continuing education of women lives on through the bursary in her name, which provides

critical emergency financial assistance to mature women students pursuing degrees in math, computing, and other STEM fields.

Molly was beloved by many, and the campaign was tremendously successful. It will make a big difference to students who will receive this award. Thank you to all donors who made gifts - large or small - to the campaign.

## Donate to the Ban Righ Centre

The Ban Righ Centre welcomes your donations throughout the year.

Gifts to [Ban Righ Centre Programs and Services](#) help us provide the high quality programming and supports that so many students benefit from.

Everything we offer - from our daily soup lunch, the Spring Awards Celebration, Writing Studio, Front Lawn Concerts, and other social and academic programs - support students in their Queen's journey and help to build a community of peers.

[Give Now](#)

**Wondering what kind of difference you can make?** For the third year in a row, this fall we were able to provide small, but timely, bursaries to our students with dependent children to help with the cost of outfitting their families for winter. Thanks to the generosity of Claude Chapdelaine, the Larry Gibson Estate, Queen's School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, and gifts from several other donors, we were able to provide \$7700 to 24 students & 46 children.

*"I was telling a friend I don't have a winter coat, I was out all afternoon and I froze waiting for buses and walking the kids home and I was freezing...thank you very very much."*

**Did you know? This year donations made until Feb 28 can count as 2024 donations!**

## STAFF CHANGES

### Lisa Webb Retires



I am forever grateful to have been invited on the journey of so many exceptional, inspiring and courageous women. I will hold all of the challenges, perspectives, shared vulnerabilities, strategies and victories close to my heart always and will draw on them regularly on my own journey.

I have so many of you to thank for helping me learn and grow and strive to be my best self as you all are doing. I marvel at your courage in pursuing your passions, sometimes against unbelievable odds, including self-doubt and

extreme financial burden in order to work towards your dreams and goals and often, your important contributions. You have been the absolute best and most inspiring role-models for your peers, your children, friends and family....and for me!

It has been an immense privilege, pleasure, and honour to be part of such a unique, long-standing (50 years!), caring, and close-knit community. I wish all of you the very best that life has to offer. Take good care.

### Lisa Webb Commemorative Bursary

Established in 2023 by Dr. Jo-Ellen Worden, BNSc 2013, and her daughter, Deborah-Lynn, to honour Lisa Webb, a dedicated and compassionate student advisor at the Ban Righ Centre at Queen's University. Awarded on the basis of financial need to mature women students registered in any Faculty or School. Preference will be given to students enrolled in a degree program in Nursing, Physical Therapy, Health Sciences, Medicine, or Law.

## Welcome to the Ban Righ Family, Lubna Rahman

I joined the Ban Righ Centre as a Student Advisor and Program Planner in December 2024, and I'm grateful to be part of such a warm and welcoming community. My professional background is in program facilitation and student support, with a focus on immigration advising for international students. I've worked at several higher education institutions around Canada, and I recognize that these spaces are not always equally accessible for everyone. In my work, I'm passionate about advocating for and supporting equity efforts in higher education, ensuring that we can continue to shape educational institutions in a way that works for all, by addressing barriers and taking a holistic approach to student advising.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time on the water in a kayak or paddle board, reading historic fiction, and crafting. If you're interested, I'd love to meet with you at the Ban Righ Centre and look forward to connecting!



## 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

Taylor Cenac: Student Advisor & Program Coordinator

Lubna Rahman: Student Advisor & Program Planner

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



*Board of Directors - 50th Anniversary Gala  
photo by Josh Sauer Photography*

## STAYING IN TOUCH

There are many ways to find out what is going on at the Ban Righ Centre. We regularly post about upcoming events on Facebook, Instagram, and our website. If you are in Kingston, we welcome visitors to the Centre.

 [queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre](https://queensu.ca/ban-righ-centre)

 [instagram.com/banrighcentre](https://instagram.com/banrighcentre)

 [fb.com/TheBanRighCentre](https://fb.com/TheBanRighCentre)

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1974-2024

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