



## Get to know University Councillor Alan Prendergast



ALAN S. PRENDERGAST, Class of '90 Richmond Hill, ON, IT and Classroom Support Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto. After transferring to Queen's, I studied Economics. I was an orientation leader and involved in the Science '44 Student Housing Co-op. After Queen's I worked for a defense contractor before starting at U of T in 2002 as a technician in the Physiology labs. Since that time, I have held a wide range of positions across campus including Libraries, Information Security, and a long stretch as Senior Network Administrator in UofT Central IT services, integrating administrative systems between the federated colleges. In 2022 I returned to my preferred role as IT support for the academic and administrative functions.

### 1. Why did you select Queen's University?

My brother and sister graduated from Queen's and many of my oldest and dearest friends headed to Queen's after High School, while I took a victory lap on Grade 13. I had visited campus many times over the years, starting as a young child. Queen's always felt like home. It took me some time, but I got there.

### 2. Most memorable moment as a student?

Many of those "Ah Ha!" moments when some aspect of Econometrics or Calculus just suddenly made sense after a long struggle. There are other fun memories, best left undocumented.

### 3. What is your job?

Acting IT Service Manger at The Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy - University of Toronto

### 4. What's the best career advice you've ever received?

If you are not loving your job, I mean really loving it, find something else. You can do better, and somebody else would love the job you dislike, so it's a win/win.

### 5. What's the career highlight you're most proud of?

Completing a project scheduled to take 6 months in 30 days.

### 6. How do you spend your free time?

Sailing, cycling, cooking, restoring antique tools and instruments

**7. What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?**

Like most alumni, I saw the elections in the Alumni Review, but there never seemed to be anyone that reflected my Queen's story. A few years back when I started to get more involved in the History Department, other alumni encouraged me to throw my hat in the ring.

**8. Your aspirations for being on University Council?**

To bring my rather unconventional Queen's experience to the table.

To facilitate constructive dialog between alumni and the University

To communicate the goals, needs and aspirations of the University to prospective students and alumni

**9. Anything else you would like to add/highlight?**

It's a cliché, but my life really would have been quite different if I hadn't gone to Queen's. At the very least I would not have met Cathy Rivard, my partner of 35 years.

