

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Esther Bettney

Ed'05, MEd'15

From 2006-2017, Esther worked as a teacher and school administrator in Honduras, creating an English curriculum for JK-Grade 11 and mentoring over 60 national and international teachers. Since beginning her graduate studies at Queen's and more recently as a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Esther has received various academic and professional awards, including: Queen's Annual Thesis in Education prize, TESOL International Leadership Mentoring Program, UW-Madison Global Education Hartzman Travel Award, and the UW-Madison Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Tinker Nave Research Award.

Kimberly Susan Betts (Lockhart)

MEd'15

In 2015, Kimberly co-founded "100 Kids Who Care Kingston", an organization that gives children the opportunity to learn about their community, empowers them to become advocates for organizations and issues that matter to them, teaches them to make a difference, and then enables them to see directly the impact that they can have on their city. 100 Kids Kingston exists to cultivate giving hearts and to spark a passion for community: a reflection of Kim's moral compass and deep call to action to support those who are less fortunate.

Cheryl Boughton nee MacDonald

Con.Ed.'93, PME'18

Cheryl has been a teacher since 1993 and was the Head of Elmwood School in Ottawa from 2008 to 2019. She recently accepted a new position as the Head of St. John's Kilmarnock School near Waterloo. She is also a member of various boards and organizations related to independent schools such as CIS Ontario, the eLearning Consortium Canada and the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools Standards Council and among others. She is passionate about developing leadership capacity in schools believing that "ultimately my aim is to empower everyone in my school to become leaders. When you tap into the power of 'we' rather than just 'me', you have the potential to make a truly extraordinary school."

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Peter Bowers

Ed'92, MEd'06, PhD'12

Peter is the founder of the [WordWorks Literacy Centre](#) on Wolfe Island, ON (right beside Kingston). As a Grade 4 teacher he was introduced to a linguistic understanding of English spelling using the Real Spelling method. This introduced the possibility of using scientific inquiry about the spelling-meaning link that drives English orthography as an approach to literacy instruction. This inspired him to begin his graduate research with Dr. John Kirby, testing the effect of a new instructional approach they called “structured word inquiry” (Bowers & Kirby, 2010). This and other published work, and consulting work with schools around the world lead to Peter being invited to attend the Nueva School (a three-time winner of the US Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Award) as “Visiting Scholar”.

Kristin Bridges

Ed'19

Kristin is a mentor and a teacher. She is an active volunteer with several different organizations and charities at Queen's and within the greater Kingston community. Much of the work she does is focused on providing service to help to develop literacy skills in children and at-risk youth. She has also lead several very successful fundraising and awareness campaigns. Kristin's steadfast commitment to her community has allowed her to mentor new leaders in the hope that future generations will learn to become leaders of their own and develop new, intuitive ways to continue the progression of teaching.

Michael Callan

Ed'91

Michael has worked all over the world as an educator, teaching in Japan, and Hong Kong. He has served as principal at international schools in Turkey, Abu Dhabi and Malaysia and currently serves as Head of School of the American Overseas School of Rome (AOSR) – an independent coeducational day school for students of all nationalities.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



Barbara Jane Canton nee Edwards

Ed'77, MEd'95

Since her time at Queen's, Barbara has gone on to write some 10 textbooks on the subject of Mathematics. In 1999, she arranged an internet link between schools in Cameroon, UK, and Canada (cutting edge for it's time) and in 2011 became the proud recipient of the Descartes Medal for Signal Service to Mathematics in the schools of Ontario.

Tammy Chen

Ed'08

During the pursuit of her M.Ed., Tammy had opportunity to travel to Burkina Faso as site director of the Queen's Project on Professional Development (QPID). In this project she was able to help set up a radio station and worked with street youth as part of her research. This work prompted Tammy to set up her own Charity, Bright Futures of Burkina Faso, which has supported more than 35 children and 30 women who have received loans to help support businesses that include trade, food preparation, farming, weaving and artisanal work.

Brent Debassaige

MEd'02

Brent is an Associate Professor, Director of Aboriginal Education, and Program Coordinator of the Master of Professional Education Program in the field of Aboriginal Educational Leadership at Western University. As an Anishinaabe inni and Indigenous faculty member, Brent is informed by his learning in Anishinaabe traditional knowledge environments and by the research and scholarship in the areas of Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous research methodologies, and Indigenous Education. Collectively, these sources of knowledge provide a foundation for the decolonizing, Indigenous, and critically engaged approaches used in his teaching and research.

Murray Dee

Ed'95

Murray, an elementary school teacher, developed a pilot project with his grade 6 class and Faculty professor Richard Reeve, using a pedagogical approach of inquiry learning called "Knowledge Building." Following the project, Murray and his class were invited to present on their methods and experience in the project as part of the "Inquiry@Queen's" conference. Even after 20+ years of teaching, Murray is always looking for methods that can better engage with the diversity of learners in his classroom.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Paul Dewar

Ed'94

After graduating from Queen's in 1993, Paul became an English teacher. He has since been awarded the A. Lorne Cassidy Award for his work with students with special needs. He became an active member of his union, the Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Teachers' Federation (OCETF), where he played a major role in reviving the OCETF's political action committee and in establishing the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario's Humanity Fund, which provides financial support to various charities doing work in developing countries. Paul is also an active part of several community associations and boards in Ottawa.

Greg Dick

Ed'93

Greg's goal as an educator is to make modern science more accessible for everyone and he has worked to lead change at school, board, provincial, national, and international levels. He has taught and developed courses, co-authored several text books and resources used around the world, was a guest host on TVOKids, and assisted with the production of the IMAX 3D film, Secrets of the Universe. A member of various national boards, Greg is also recipient of University of Waterloo's Distinguished Alumni Award and the Barraday Teacher of Excellence Award.

Jody DiRocco

Ed'84, MEd'05

Jody began his educational career as a teacher in 1984 and later went on to work in administrative roles such as vice principal, principal and positions for the board office including Principal of School Effectiveness, School Effectiveness Lead and Superintendent of School Effectiveness. This experience led to the role of Director of Education of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District Schoolboard, a position he just recently retired from.

Christine Doe

PhD'13

Christine is an Associate Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University. Her work in education was integral in helping set up a tutoring program in a school in Halifax for refugees and students with English as a second language. Recently, she co-edited the book, "Description, Measurement and Pedagogy of Words", which is expected to be released in Fall 2019.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Gabrielle Iakotennikonhrare Doreen

Ed'13

Upon completion of Queen's ATEP program, Gabrielle co-created and taught a rotinonshonni cultural-based curriculum for grades K-4 in Tyendinaga, Mohawk Territory. She went on to pursue the Indigenous Land-Based Masters of Education program through the University of Saskatchewan. She is a Faculty Lecturer at McGill University and continues to decolonize the Education system through her understanding of Rotinonshonni Values of Skén:nen (peace), Kasasténshera (power or unity) and Ka'nikonhrí:io (a good mind).

Mary Anne (Edgeworth) Drinkwater

Ed'78

For over 45 years Mary has been a teacher in the Limestone District School Board, taught graduate courses at the university level, and worked abroad to build a school and a community empowerment centre in Kenya. She continues to share her knowledge, skills and experiences to help inform and deepen content, knowledge dissemination, connections and relationships through academics, athletics, and community service. She inspires and serves students, teachers and administrators. In 2019, she co-edited the book, Transnational Perspectives on Democracy, Citizenship, Human Rights and Peace Education.

Michael Duncan Kehler

Ed'85

Michael is a globally-established Masculinities in Education scholar. A Research Professor, Michael has worked at Western University and at the University of Calgary. He has published several books and research papers as well as spoken for podcasts and keynote engagements, all contributing to the discussion/research intersecting masculinities, gender, equity, literacies and adolescent body image and sexualities in Health Education.

Winona Elliott-Schep

Ed'88

Winona recently retired after a long and impactful career of teaching art and photography. Though she will miss sharing her passion for the creativity and the arts with her students, she continues to be active in supporting community art initiatives and is excited to spend more time focusing on her own work.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Sue Fostaty Young

MEd, PhD'12

Sue is the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Queen's and the co-author of "Assessment and Learning: The ICE Approach" which has also been published, and widely used, in Japan. As Director of the Center, Sue has spearheaded numerous initiatives to improve the quality of teaching and learning at Queen's.

Barbara Fraser-Stiff

B.Ed'86

Barbara wrapped up an impressive career in education by moving to the position of Superintendent of Education at Limestone School Board. In 2018, she received the Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network (EOSDN) Outstanding Service Award and the Ontario Public Supervisory Officers' Association (OPSOA) Distinguished Leadership Award. She has since retired and remains passionate and active in education.

Jim Friars

Ed'87

Jim is a founder of the ECDL Foundation, also known as International Computer Driving License (ICDL). The ECDL Foundation's mission is to enable proficient use of Information and Communication Technology that empowers individuals, organisations and society, through the development, promotion, and delivery of quality certification programmes throughout the world. The ICDL certification has been delivered to more than 15 million people worldwide and has established regional centers in Rwanda, Singapore and Panama.

Scott Garbe

Ed'92

Scott has spent much of his career as an educator with The Country Day School in King City. There he has been able to combine his passions for art and theatre with humanitarian work by designing and directing over 40 meaningful and memorable school plays and musicals. Each production includes a charitable element, as he uses the opportunity to engage his students in the materials he teaches, teaching them empathy and kindness. Scott was nominated as Teacher of the Year in the Toronto Star by a student and parent.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Laurie Gashinski

Ed'07

Laurie, who works as a Teacher of the Deaf, is passionate about Deaf education rights. She places a strong emphasis on cultural and linguistic Deaf identity within her programming and collaborates with various teams and thought leaders within the Deaf community. In 2018, Laurie received Provincial Demonstration Schools' Cheryl Berry Leadership Award in Education.

Don Goodridge

Ed'70, MEd'82

Don has served as Department Head, Vice Principal, Principal, Superintendent, Director (Hamilton) and CEO of the Vancouver Board of Education. During his career he has also led at least seven innovative programs in Ontario such as Students Against Drunk Driving and Adopt a School Program. As Principal, Don was known for his full support of his staff and students, making sure that they had all of the resources or encouragement he could provide, to help them be the best that they could be.

Rosalie Griffith

Ed'99

Before becoming a Vice-Principal at A. Y. Jackson Secondary School and Northview Heights Secondary School in Toronto, Rosalie was an executive member of AHEN (African Heritage Educators' Network) and ONABSE (Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators). She taught in elementary schools, secondary schools, has been an associate teacher, an international teacher, and a seconded instructor at OISE.

Jovan Groen

Ed'06, MEd'09

While at Queen's, Jovan strengthened his passion for teaching science and became involved with planning Science Discovery Day. He continues to promote science education to this day with the Ottawa Regional and Canada-Wide Science Fairs. Jovan credits his Queen's education for his success in his current role at the University of Ottawa, where he is involved in strategic and operational leadership in the development and implementation of teaching and learning support initiatives for faculty and instructional staff.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Sheri Henderson

Ed'89

A constructivist educator, Sheri has worked in four continents for over 30 years (the last 12 years stationed in Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates). Since 1989, she has worked tirelessly in the areas of gender and cultural diversity, equity and inclusion. Sheri has been able to transform the educational experiences of college students to abandon a cultural preference for rote learning. Recently, Sheri was celebrated in UAE media as “the most famous grandmother in the UAE.”

Janette Hughes

Ed'88

Janette is currently the Canada Research Chair (Tier 2), Technology and Pedagogy at Ontario Tech University. She has collaborated on research in Canada, Finland and the UK and is currently working on an international project with the OECD. She has over 50 papers published in peer-reviewed journals, over 30 refereed conference proceedings and over 100 refereed conference presentations and is the author of *The Digital Principal*. Janette is also well known for her commitment to the infusion of social justice and equity in her teaching and research.

Marcea Ingersoll

Ed'08, MEd'10, PhD'15

Marcea has 20 years of international teaching experience, spending her career with students from 30 different nationalities over three continents. Her research and teaching work focuses on international schools and their communities, narrative inquiry, and literacy education at Canadian schools and around the globe. She is a Maritimer by birth, a teacher by profession, and a learner at heart. Marcea is currently an Associate Professor and Director of the School of Education at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, N.B.

Anita Jack-Davies

MEd'07, PhD'11

Anita is a cross-cultural expert, educator, writer, author, keynote speaker and facilitator with expertise in workplace diversity and inclusion. Throughout her career, she has held roles such as a Human Rights Advisor, Curriculum Developer, University Professor and Educational Developer. Anita also offers diversity training, expert advice on issues of race to the legal profession, and strategic diversity and equity planning for leaders and stakeholders (including a recent contract with the Faculty of Education).

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Robert Keith

Ed'89

Robert has served as a teacher and school administrator in Calgary since 1992. During this time, he has helped to develop learning partnerships with the Shaw Discovery Centre for the Salish Sea, the Royal BC Museum in Victoria and the Cowichan Bay Estuary Centre. As a member of the Canadian Network of Ocean Educators, Robert works with other educators and marine scientists to further the acceptance of Ocean Literacy as an essential curriculum for all students.

Chi Yan Lam

MEd'12, PhD'16

Chi is the evaluation coordinator for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, where he is leading provincial evaluations of employment programs serving youths and persons with disabilities. His work is complemented by his role as an evaluation scholar, contributing to many journal publications on the subject. Chi also works as an instructor as well as an advocate promoting theoretically grounded and systematic evaluative inquiry.

Grant Linney

Ed'78

With more than 45 years' experience in outdoor and environmental education in Canada, Grant is the recipient of nine teaching and environmental awards including a lifetime achievement award from the Hamilton Environmentalist of the Year committee. During his career, he also wrote and edited articles for various newspapers and journals such as the Globe & Mail and the Toronto Star.

Dave McMaster

Ed'89

During his time as an educator, Dave has been fortunate enough to be a part of some incredible and diverse learning communities. His career took off quickly with him becoming a high school principal by 31 and principal of the flagship high school in West Vancouver (one of the top public school districts in Canada) by 34. By age 40, Dave's career took him overseas and he became Head of School at the Canadian International School of Hong Kong (CDNIS) which, under his leadership, became one of the best international schools in Asia. He is currently working with the Esol Group to design, build and open a world class school in Bahrain in 2020.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Robert (Jeff) McMillan

Ed'77

For the past 40 years, Jeff has been a classroom teacher, educational consultant and college student teacher supervisor. He has been recognized for his innovative and creative programs involving experiential and project based learning. He has published articles in a professional trade journal and written two books on effective classroom practice, *Thirty Years of Mondays (Dare to Care: A Guide for New Teachers)* and *What If? Learning for the Twenty First Century*. As an elected official and civic leader, Jeff has played a leading role as trustee and Chair with the Upper Canada School Board.

James McNutt

Ed'13, MEd'16

James has earned three degrees at Queen's, including both a B.Ed and MEd here at the Faculty of Education. He lives with cerebral palsy and gets around via a motorized wheelchair. In 2015, he conducted his own audit of accessibility challenges on Queen's campus and for this work received the 2016 Steve Cutway Accessibility Award. James also won our Faculty's Annual Thesis in Education Prize in this year.

Eleanor Newman

Ed'77, MEd'81

Over her 30-year career, Eleanor has given countless workshops at Ontario Music Educators Association (OMEA) conferences. She has authored innumerable articles for magazines and journals, was the first female Director of Education and CEO with the Renfrew County District School Board (Pembroke, ON), and served as SEO of the Ontario Ministry of Education. Eleanor received the EOSDN Outstanding Service Award in 1995, where she has been the Executive Director since 2012.

Robert (Bob) Petrick

MEd'05

In 1999, Bob was presented with the Limestone District School Board's Excellence in Teaching Award. He has taken part in various research activities at Queen's and is connected to the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP) through his work with Aboriginal youth in both Toronto and Kingston.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Leta Potter

Ed'86

In the early-90's, Leta was ahead of her time in the use of technology to engage and meet the individual needs of each of her students. Her innovative practice drew the attention of IBM Canada's K-12 Education unit. She worked alongside IBM Education sharing her skills with educators across Canada. She is now a Senior Education Consultant, and has influenced, coached, and mentored thousands of Canadian teachers and district leaders, supporting them in understanding how to leverage digital resources to engage learners and enhance teaching and learning. In addition to the work with IBM, Leta has had a wide variety of experiences since graduating from Queen's: working for the Ministry of Education in Western Samoa building training programs for new and experienced teachers; teaching grades K to 8 as well as Reading Recovery with the Toronto District School Board; and, Executive Director of Teach For America, New York, where she designed and implemented innovative professional development programs for 200 new teachers a year. She has her Master's of Education from Harvard and is a published author.

Virginia Puddicombe

Ed'85, MEd'05

Virginia has educated high school students on gender studies, history and social justice for 20 years. She currently leads Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Institute's (KCVI) Gender Sexuality Alliance which helps her school community support LGBTQ+ students by providing positive and safe spaces.

James Raffan

Ed'78, MEd'83

James is a true interdisciplinarian and tireless advocate for experiential/expeditionary learning, particularly in outdoor education. He has more than 40 years of teaching, writing, speaking, expedition and program innovation experience and has served in several NGOs. His work has been recognized with many honours, not least Canada's highest award for service and citizenship. In 2012 he received the Inuinnaqtun name Aiuituk, meaning "teacher, mentor and the one who gets things done," from a group of youth from Kugluktuk, NU. He is driven to practise what he preaches, "You are never learning anything in the fat comfortable middle of what you know."

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



Hannah Ramsay

Con.Ed.'17

Hannah currently works as a tutor and student advisor at Queen's. Though she began a Masters in Chemistry with the intention of it helping her in a teaching career, she fell in love with research and was accepted into the highly competitive PhD/MD program at Queen's. She hopes to use the skills acquired in the MD/PhD program to teach future resident and medical students how to be better doctors.

Stephanie Roy

Ed'98

Stephanie is the Executive Director of Kenjgewin Teg, an Aboriginal-owned and controlled post-secondary institution. At Kenjgewin Teg, the Anishinabek worldview is a part of not only the teaching model but also the learning systems. Stephanie brings her knowledge of Indigenous education to her work as an Adjunct Professor at Queen's University.

Gurjit Sandhu

Ed'01

Gurjit is a Surgical Education Scientist and Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Michigan. Before moving to U of M, she served as the Educational Developer for Postgraduate Medical Education right here at Queen's University. Her work focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning, specifically looking at intraoperative trust, professional education, teaching methods and assessment.

John Senisi

PhD'06

John is an artist, teacher, and community activist teaching Visual Arts and Photography at St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School in Vaughan, Ontario. In 2017, he received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence for his efforts to connect his students' work with their community. John is renowned for encouraging students' ideas and collaboration.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Stephanie Simpson

Ed'97, MEd'10

Stephanie Simpson has been a member of the Human Rights Office at Queen's University since 1996, and was most recently appointed as the Associate Vice Principal (Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion). In this role, Stephanie leads the Human Rights and Equity Office and plays a key role in fostering both competence and legislative compliance around matters such as inclusivity, diversity, accessibility, human rights, and equity on Queen's campus. Stephanie has also supported inclusivity and equity efforts in the Kingston community through her roles with the Black Inmates and Friends group; her consultation and education services efforts with organizations such as Interval House, Limestone District School Board and Kingston General Hospital; and her role on the Kingston Immigration Partnership Operations Committee where she represents Queen's.

Stephen Sliwa

MEd'03

Stephen has over 30 years' experience in public education, where he started as a classroom teacher and moved on to work for the Ministry of Education and as a Superintendent of Education (Renfrew County & Ottawa-Carleton), focusing on Indigenous education and classroom technology program development. He currently serves as Director of Education/CEO for the Upper Canada District School Board. Since 1998 he has also served as adjunct faculty and instructor with the Teacher Education Program at the Faculty of Education here at Queen's as well as with the Aboriginal Teacher's Education Program at the University of Ottawa.

Deb St. Amant

Ed'82

Retirement from teaching in 2012 has not stopped Deb from being an active part of the educational community. In 2014 she authored a guide for teacher candidates, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success. She continues to work in education and the Kingston communities at large, offering teaching circles, healing circles, ceremonies, and cultural teachings to connect traditional Indigenous practices with current education. Deb currently serves as Elder in Residence here at the Queen's Faculty of Education.

Top 50 Influential Alumni in 50 Years



FACULTY OF
EDUCATION

Madeliene Tarasick

Ed'75, MEd'80

In 2003, Madeliene co-founded the Kingston Chapter of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, to support education for Afghan girls and women and to create awareness of the plight of Afghans to the Canadian public. She also served as national president for 8 years, working on an international level. She is a recipient of two major awards: the YMCA Peace Medallion and the Champion for Education in Afghanistan Award. Her career as an educator spanned 33 years in various roles, including principal, superintendent, Aboriginal Education consultant and instructor in the Eastern Ontario Supervisory Officer Qualification program. Both Madeliene's professional and personal lives have been driven by a passion for public education – in Canada, the path to productive, fulfilled lives, and in Afghanistan, also the critical path to peace and prosperity.

Mona Walrond

Ed'78

Coming Soon