



ABLAZE

FALL 2022

One for the Record Books

26th Annual Golf Classic

FEATURED STORIES:

- *Meet Our Alumni - Neil Horner*
- *Dr. Allen Lee - Interim VP for Academic Affairs*
- *"Strongest Knees I Know" - Rev. Dr. Kenneth Gorveatte*
- *Ally McCracken - First Generation Kingswood Student*
- *When Kingswood is a World Away*

 **KINGSWOOD**
UNIVERSITY

A Word from the President



Not long ago one of our staff pointed out that more than a third of Kingswood students are the first in their family to obtain a college degree. This means these students are taking on challenges altogether new to their family's experience. Moving from home, living in

a residence hall, and making a big financial investment are daunting steps, but especially without a parent able to offer first-hand experience.

In some cases, first generation students face resistance from family. They may even feel guilt or anxiety about making the decision to go to college, and embarrassment, as if they don't really belong on campus.

Our high graduation rate—well above industry norms—proves that Kingswood provides all our students with the personal support they need to succeed, including our first-generation students. That's the value of being a small school with a very caring staff.

It's important to help these students succeed. A college diploma increases the confidence and competence that allows graduates to succeed in other areas of life. Their diploma makes it more likely their own children will attend college.

The evidence is clear that a college education increases one's lifetime earning potential. As Christians, we see a greater benefit: being well-prepared to be fully employed wherever God calls. And the church benefits as well by having well-trained clergy and marketplace ministers with the knowledge and skills to lead like Jesus.

At Kingswood, we honor the courage of these students and their parents and are committed to helping them succeed in university and life. In this issue you'll meet some of our wonderful first-generation students and alumni, such as Neil Horner and his siblings. They were able to attend Bethany Bible College thanks to the sacrificial commitment of their parents.

You'll also meet Ally McCracken, a first-generation student from Prince Edward Island. I was blessed to hear her story, and I know you will be too.

We also have other exciting developments to share with you. This fall we have the highest percentage of international students in the history of the school, many of them also first-generation collegians. You'll meet these students and hear more of their stories.

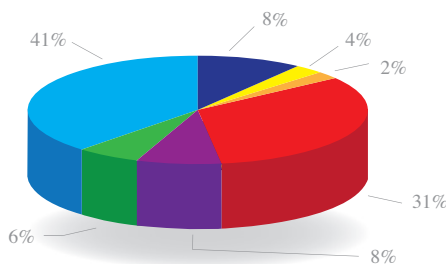
The inspired leadership of Kings Church, led by Kingswood alumnus, Pastor Brent Ingersoll, has led to a new partnership between the church and Kingswood known as Kings Academy, a church-based ministry apprenticeship program. Read on to learn more about this cutting-edge program.

Helping first-generation students succeed, welcoming international students, and innovative church partnerships could not happen without the support and prayers of friends like you. As you read this newsletter, I hope you sense our gratitude. 🙏

Rev. Stephen J. Lennox, Ph.D.
Kingswood University President

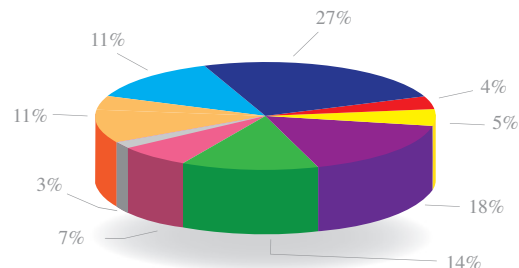
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022



OPERATING REVENUE

- Tuition** ● \$1,321,084
- Student Residence Services** ● \$341,441
- Student Food Services** ● \$269,215
- Wesleyan Church Grant** ● \$1,760,111
- Donations** ● \$359,847
- Auxiliary Income** ● \$159,241
- Other Income** ● \$88,972



OPERATING EXPENDITURES

- Academic Services** ● \$1,154,954
- Student Life** ● \$184,928
- Scholarships & Financial Aid** ● \$218,309
- Food & Residence Services** ● \$756,989
- Advancement & Enrolment** ● \$589,150
- Finance/Administration** ● \$482,662
- Plant Operations** ● \$483,298
- Debt Service** ● \$140,386
- Other** ● \$299,170

Meet Our Alumni:

Neil Horner, First Generation Alum



Tell us about yourself, Neil, your background, time at Bethany, family, current work, etc.

I grew up on the family farm near Shawville, Quebec with my parents, Hugh and Norma Horner, and five older sisters (yes, you read that right)! Dawn McCutcheon, Pattie Patriquin, Nancy DeMerchant, Janyce Arnill, and Susan Thomas all attended Bethany as well.

My wife, Heidi (Norton) and I met at BBC and have been married for 22 years, during which time I've served on staff at Woodstock Wesleyan Church. Heidi is the executive director at the Valley Family Resource Centre here in Woodstock. We have 2 amazing daughters, Ella (18) & Eden (15).

The past 4 years, I have also been working as a financial coach, helping people experience "hope for today and freedom for tomorrow" in their finances. God has been using our own personal struggles from our earlier years to open up this opportunity to help others who are struggling with their finances. I offer practical help for getting out of debt, preparing for the future, while teaching good, biblical wisdom for money management.

I understand you and your siblings were the first generation in your family to go to college. How did this come about and what difference has it made in your immediate and extended family?

I owe so much to my upbringing. My parents didn't have a four-year degree, but they were professionals at loving God and loving others. Those words are written on their tombstone because it's what they did so well.

After my 5 sisters each spent time at BBC, it just seemed natural that I would consider at least a year. The difference it made in my life is hard to put into words. I was challenged to grow in my walk with God, I met Heidi there (truly God's greatest gift to me), made lifelong friends who I still love to this day, and prepared for a career I'm now 22 years deep in.

According to my sister, Nancy, the impact of Bethany on her life is hard to measure. She speaks of it as a grounding foundation and a launching pad for deep, personal, spiritual growth and an opportunity for experiences she wouldn't have had otherwise.

My sister, Pattie, also values her time at Bethany for the friends she made there and for her experiences. She also recognizes that because she went to a Christian college, it made it natural for her own kids to go too.

How did your Bethany education prepare you for your ministry?

I would say the biggest things that it did for me were first, to help me develop a heart for knowing God more. This is the foundation for all the others. Second, it helped me grow in character through accountability and discipling relationships and to establish personal spiritual disciplines. Third, I gained ministry experience through worship leadership at BBC chapels, youth and worship ministry in local churches (Shout out to Penobsquis United Baptist!), summer ministry team assignments at youth camps all around North America, leading worship, counselling, speaking, etc. These are things I may never have stepped into if I had not experienced Christian higher education.

What are your insights on Christian higher education?

It's a good thing. It teaches you how to think bigger about life, about God, about the church, about your beliefs and the beliefs of others. There is just so much to know, and so much you don't know. I was amazed at the depth of knowledge of my professors and others whose work I had to read while there. As a kid who grew up in the church, I had basic beliefs I accepted as true and right. It was important for me to affirm those beliefs with greater understanding, or to have them challenged, stretched, or even undone sometimes. This was a good and safe place for these things to happen. Reading articles on the internet doesn't qualify as Christian higher education; you can end up affirming beliefs that are just plain wacky, while challenging or undoing ones that are fundamental and true! That is neither good nor safe.

What is your advice for Kingswood students?

Simple: love God, make good friends, give yourself to ministry service in this context to figure out who you are...and as much as possible - AVOID STUDENT LOANS. Be creative in how you pay for school; look for every scholarship imaginable, take side jobs as you are in school, save your summer job money, etc. I'd rather have four hard years with some sacrifices that set me up for freedom in the future than four easy years living off a student loan that takes 10+ years to pay back.

Oh, and a bonus: Apply yourself, and have lots of fun, but recognize that you're living in a bubble for a few years. There will be lots more to learn once you exit that bubble.

Thanks, Neil, for your thoughts. 🙌

One for the Record Books

Kingswood's 26th Annual Golf Classic



On September 9th, under beautiful skies and surrounded by the rolling hills and fall colors at the Sussex Golf and Curling Club, Kingswood's Golf Classic raised over \$65,000 - the highest ever!

The Golf Classic is one of the best ways to raise funds for student scholarships. These can make the difference between a student being able to attend and remain at Kingswood.

That was the message shared by students during the banquet that followed the tournament. Two who received Golf Classic scholarships from a previous year, Hannah Bink and Tanton Schnider, spoke on the difference these scholarships made.

Hannah is a second-year student from New Hampshire in the Praxis program. She spent her fall break doing hands-on ministry in New York City. Because of her scholarship, she had the funds to participate in this life-changing ministry trip.

A second-year pastoral ministry student, Tanton shared how his drive from his home in Wisconsin to Sussex took all he had for cash, leaving him with no money for the semester. When he arrived on campus and realized he had received the golf scholarship, it confirmed his decision to attend Kingswood.

Skill isn't required to participate in the golf tournament, but there was plenty of skill on display. The City Auto team of Mark Muscroft, Mike Swift, Kevin Bernard, and James Carpenter-Tonning won first place with a score of 61.

Three golfers scored a hole-in-one in the President's Putting Competition, but one golfer had a higher goal in mind. Nathan Perry wanted

his team to raise the most money so they could name the top scholarship.

Nathan accomplished his goal. The team from Saint John First, John Crozier, Jim Irvine, Quinton Saunders, and Nathan, raised over \$6,800. Nathan raised over \$5,000 personally, making him the top individual fundraiser for this year's Classic and the highest individual fundraiser ever.

Nathan, who just turned 14, announced that the top scholarship would be named in memory of his grandmother, Margo "Go Go" Perry. Margo passed away unexpectedly last year.

The next highest team came very close. Margaret Crothers, Natasha Hazen, Dave McCrea and Linda McGuigan raised \$6,705. They named their scholarship in memory of three long-time golfers, Don Moffett, Hugh Hogg, and Dave Benson. These three used to play on a team with Tony Benson, now Tournament Marshall. Tony continues to fundraise for the team, allowing his former teammates to be remembered and students' lives to be blessed.

The "Browns Flat Putters," Russell Hall, Terry Hurd, Walter Long, and Gary Churchill raised \$4,449. They named their scholarship in memory of Rev. Dr. Ken Gorveatte who served in ministry both at Kingswood and in the local church.

Other tournament awards consisted of Saint John First receiving the Church Trophy for having the most teams (4) and raising over \$8,000 for the Golf Classic. Nathan Perry was the top fundraiser, with Linda McGuigan (\$1,760) and Walter Long (\$1,564) receiving second and third place honours as individual fundraisers.

Next year's Golf Classic will be held on Friday, September 8, 2023. Mark your calendar now and make plans to join us then. 🍷



Dr. Allen Lee

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs



Tell us about your journey to Kingswood and your role here over the past 19 years.

I went directly into youth ministry when I graduated from university, but within three years, I knew I needed counselling training I didn't receive in my undergrad. I stepped out of youth

ministry and into a graduate level counselling psychology program. The plan was to step back into youth ministry after earning my master's degree, but the doors kept closing. In the meantime, I started working in a psychiatric department in a hospital. After ten years in various roles, I called Kingswood University to see if they had a counselling centre. They were just launching a counselling program, and after a year-long conversation with Art Maxwell, I joined the KU team as the Christian Counselling Program Director and Professor in 2003.

After completing my PhD, I started the research to develop a counselling centre for the university. In 2019, the Kingswood University Counselling Centre was officially launched and added to my portfolio of responsibility. A clinical understanding of whatever topic one is working with is important, and this substantially added to what I could offer to the university. It's important to me to have a practitioner-teacher approach, and my work with students and community members keeps me current with my skills while I am teaching my students about those same skills.

Why did you say "yes" to the role of Interim VP for Academic Affairs?

David Drury talks about ministering in your sweet spot. I felt I

reached that sweet spot in my faculty role, and what I was doing was exactly what I was supposed to be doing. I could see God directing my path to KU and positioning me in this place of contentment, but He had more for me.

The offer for VPAA was completely unexpected but easy to accept, because I believe in the value of what we are doing and being able to pitch in that way. I really enjoy it. It's very different, but it has added to everything I've been doing, and everything I've been doing has added to it. It's like wearing bifocals. Initially it feels like you're looking through two different lenses, and then you realize you're looking at the same thing, only with greater clarity.


What has surprised you about the role?

I had no idea what the VPAA role encompassed. You only see a bit of what is happening, not all the paddling underneath. This new role hasn't changed what I was already doing, relationally, but it has broadened the opportunity and created more avenues to have meaningful conversations with students.

Anyone watching you would say you've taken full ownership, rather than the status quo that interim leadership often takes. Why is that?

I'm not here just to take up the space, but to fill it in a way that will last beyond whatever time I'm in this position. I'm after creative ideas that will develop our community in ways that line up with our mission statement. Spiritual formation is a huge priority in this year and in this time, as well as academics and practical experience. I'm looking for innovative ways to do what we do – better, longer, and more effectively.

What is your hope for Kingswood?

I am hoping for longevity and effectiveness; an ever-increasing development of what we do now, only better. Ultimately, my hope is to spread the influence of Christ through the training and preparation of more and more people in more and more places. 

"Strongest Knees I Know"

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Gorveatte




In the annual ordination service of the Atlantic District at Beulah Camp in Browns Flat, NB this past July, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Gorveatte was recognized for 60 years of ordained ministry.

Just months after receiving that honour, Ken received a far greater reward, His Master's "well-done, good and faithful servant." Ken passed away on September 22nd.

Ken was known for his daily faithfulness in prayer and Scripture reading through his years. Joel, one of Ken's sons, conveyed a cherished memory, "Every morning Dad would open his Bible and then he would get down on his knees to pray. And he was

a devoted walker, pounding the pavement every day that he could. So between the amount of time he spent praying on them and walking on them, Dad had the strongest knees I know!"

At Kingswood University, then Bethany Bible College, Ken graduated from High School in 1954, from the Bible program in 1958, and with a BA in Religion in 1978, a first generation college student. Ken served as high school principal, assistant to the president and director of Student Ministries. Ken's Kingswood legacy continued with his children, Mark, Joel, and Ruth who attended Kingswood. Mark served as Kingswood's President from 2010-2015 and several of Ken's grandchildren including Paul, John, Josiah, Joel Jeffrey, and Jordan attended Kingswood. 

Interview with Ally McCracken

First Generation Kingswood Student



Tell us a bit about yourself.

My parents came to Christ when I was four, so I attended church my whole life. In 2015, our family moved from Ontario to PEI, and I struggled with a lot of that move. I ended up walking away from the church for about three years, but God had plans for me, and Kingswood ended up being a big part of that.

What drew you to Kingswood?

I was planning to be a forensic anthropologist and was accepted to several universities for Fall 2020. A friend was attending Kingswood, and I was looking on the website. I thought I was filling out an information request form but accidentally filled out an application form. Zach Painter, my enrolment counsellor, called and asked if I would like to finish my application, and I told him I wasn't interested. A bit later, I was at a youth rally on the Island, and I knew God was calling me to go to Kingswood. I didn't want to work in a church or do missions, and I wasn't really following God, but I knew beyond a doubt it was Him telling me to come here. Zach was at that same rally, and before the weekend was over, he helped me complete my application and take the next step.

A few weeks into my first semester I rededicated my life to God, but still wasn't sure why I was at KU. I remember thinking, "What am I doing?" But by the end of the first year, I knew I was here for the Christian Counselling program, and it all made sense.

It sounds like your parents were supportive of you attending university.

My parents wanted me to have some form of post-secondary education to make sure I would have good job prospects. It didn't have to be university, but I needed to do something. They were very happy when I decided on Kingswood, because they knew a Bible College would be good for me, and they were right.

Adjusting to university life can bring some surprising challenges. What were some you've encountered?

To start with, what to expect was a bit intimidating. I reached out to a few people who had been to KU to ask questions and get some tips. The orientation at the start of the semester was very helpful in understanding what I could expect and what was expected of me.

Another big one was that my parents couldn't help me with anything I was doing in my courses, like writing a paper or completing assignments. As soon as I left home, I was on my own. I'd tell them about my assignments, and they'd be interested, but they couldn't help me figure out how to write a 10-page. I used the Student Success Centre as support and a lot of the other students in my classes were helpful.

I was also surprised at how easy it was to disconnect from my family while living here. Life is busy, and I'm surrounded by people who are sharing it with me. There is a lot less accountability to keep in touch with my parents. When I go home, I forget that I need to fill them in on what has been happening in my life the past couple of months. They aren't as involved as they used to be in my day to day, which has been harder on them.

What advice would you have for other first-generation students who might be considering attending Kingswood?


For someone resistant to coming to KU, just do it. God broke me in such a way that it blessed me ten-fold down the road. It would have been such a shame if I hadn't gone just because of my stubbornness.

Also, don't be ashamed to ask for help. I spent four years learning about math and science in high school, preparing for forensic anthropology, but others spent four years preparing for ministry and the classes we're taking here. I felt like I was behind many of my peers and needed to do some catch up. Take advantage of the opportunities on campus to get up to speed. It's okay if this is the first time that you're hearing about some of the concepts being taught in class. That was me, and I found the help I needed.

What are your plans for the future?

My current plans are to finish the 4-year degree in Christian Counselling and then earn a Master's in Clinical Psychology. My goal is to become a correctional counsellor for women and juveniles.

That is quite a departure from Forensic Anthropology. Was that a hard adjustment to make?

Not at all. God made it clear He still wants me to work in criminal justice, but He wants me to work with the living, not the dead. 

Cutting Edge Partnership

Church-University Partnership for Ministry Preparation


In September, Kings Church launched their Ministry Apprenticeship Program (MAP) to prepare leaders for service at multiple levels at one of their five campuses across the Canadian Maritimes, or at their online campus. Twenty-six students, ranging in age from 20-70, began studying across several locations in a combination of lecture, hands-on skills training, and mentorship over one or two years.

The MAP is a partnership between Kings Church and Kingswood University, leveraging the ministry experience of church staff and the academic innovation of the university. Kings Church identified dozens of characteristics and learning outcomes for their students, and Kingswood custom-designed a curriculum to meet those needs. Through a combination of coursework, ministry experience coaching, and long-term mentoring, students will complete academic, skills-based, and character-shaping activities to prepare them for a lifetime of ministry.

The first two modules are "Know God" and "Know Life with the Holy Spirit." The first covers introductory theological concepts

with an adjunct Kingswood University instructor, Rev. Karen Tucker of New York, and the second is a course instructed by Pastor Anthony Moore of Kings Church. The two modules have been intentionally paired to balance theological and practical topics.

Several staff members at Kings are scheduled to share instructing and supervising duties. In addition to Kingswood campus-based faculty and adjunct faculty, students have the support of Kingswood's online advisor, access to Kingswood's academic support services and online library resources for research.

Not only are graduates of the program prepared for ministry at the local church level, but candidates will have satisfied the academic requirements for licensure in The Wesleyan Church. Combining class-based, competency-based, and assessment-based approaches, the MAP delivers affordable, church-based education and meets the academic standards of The Wesleyan Church. 

When Kingswood is a World Away

This year we are celebrating the largest group of international students on campus, with students from China, Hong Kong, Albania, Norway, Uganda, Haiti, and Mexico. Chandra Friedman, herself an immigrant from India, serves as Kingswood's International Student Liaison, helping these students adjust to life in Canada. For her, profound value is found in the richness that the KU community experiences from their presence on campus. "We can celebrate our differences and add each other's perspective to our own to expand how we understand God. God is moving in our world, and these students bring the stories to us to show us that."



Meet Steven Atim


Growing up in Northern Uganda, Steven's father had one dream for him – to attend university in North America. In August, his father's dream came true as Steven boarded a plane for the first time and embarked on a two-day journey to Canada.

One night at 2am, after searching through dozens of schools online, Steven found Kingswood. As he started reading, he had complete peace that this was where God

wanted him to go. He started the application process in 2018, but between delays with visa approval and Covid restrictions for international travel, it took him four years to get to Canada.

Steven's life experience is far from that of a typical KU student. From an early age, he came to understand security was a luxury he could not count on when rebels came through his village and many lives were lost. Steven's father taught him that prayer and fasting were essential faith practices, and that is how he faces any challenge before him.

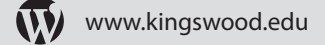
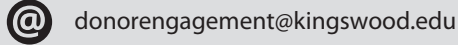
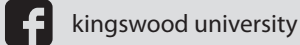
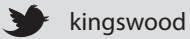
Steven expected to be ignored when he arrived as a foreign student and was prepared to spend his four years without connections with others. Instead, he speaks with awe about how welcoming the community is, how everyone is so friendly and helpful, genuinely happy to meet him, hear his story, and learn about his country. Despite everything being different, especially the food, his only real challenge has been the cold!

Steven's plan is to return to Uganda when he graduates. There are many pastors in Uganda, but they are not trained. Many cannot even read the Scriptures they teach from, sharing common knowledge rather than theological truth from their study of the Word. His goal is to return educated in how to study the Scriptures and communicate biblical truth so he can teach others to do the same. 

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION



FALL 2022



Experience
WOW!

\$3,495 per person
based on double occupancy (Canadian funds)

All inclusive ten day (11 night) tour from Halifax, Nova Scotia and return.

Early Bird Discount:
Register by March 1, 2023 to save \$100 per person.

For more information or to register:
www.kingswoodtours.com

Or contact: **Debbie Benson**, Tour Coordinator
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 **Kingswood Vision Tours | 2023**
NEWFOUNDLAND
June 16 - 26