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Cover

"Waiting has become that rare thing in today's world: a universal state of being that we all share."

Waiting, at times frustrating or downright unenjoyable, is an unavoidable part of every life. To wait well is to be still, to find and share the goodness of each moment, and to know that God's restoration of creation continues even in the face of human powerlessness.



Message from the President

Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD! – Psalms 27: 14 NKJV

In any ordinary year, I take heart in the memories and stories of God's incredible faithfulness to The King's University. This has been no ordinary year! The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have been formidable. And yet, God is faithful!

Waiting can have the connotation of being stuck. You will see from the pages of this edition of *Connection* that this year has been anything but. We pressed even more deeply into our mission and vision as we adapted how to go about teaching and learning together. We launched new programs and welcomed new people. We cared for one another as we adjusted to changing health and safety protocols and the fatigue of dealing with a prolonged global health crisis.

In the midst of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, our attention was captured by the murder of George Floyd – images of the kind of racial violence that has been perpetrated against Black and Indigenous communities for years. We committed, as a university, to educate ourselves about racism, to listen and conduct a review of policy and practice in order to become a consciously anti-racist institution. We reaffirmed our commitment to cultivating a safe inclusive environment of mutual respect, where all may belong and flourish.

I am of good courage as we look to the future.

Dr. Melanie Humphreys



KING'S HIRES EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION CONSULTANT

This fall, King's welcomed Osayi Ogieva in the role of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Consultant. This position, funded through a federal grant, will help the university to grow as a community. With eight years of experience in EDI, Osayi is a Certified Inclusion Professional and holds a B.Sc. in Microbiology and Masters of Public Health.



DR. KRIS OOMS ASSUMES ROLE OF INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

In August, The King's University was pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Kristopher Ooms to the position of Interim Vice President of Academics and Research. Over the past twelve years, Dr. Ooms has served the university in various capacities including as a researcher, Professor of Chemistry, and Dean of Natural Sciences.





Witty Sandle (left), career and vocational counselling, and Dr. Tetyana Khramova, job search and internship advisor.

CENTRE FOR CAREER AND CALLING OPENS FOR STUDENTS

This fall marked the launch of King's Centre for Career and Calling. The centre is aimed at assisting students and alumni in career discernment and exploring pathways toward employment, professional programs, and graduate studies.

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FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

King's is proud to celebrate with faculty members who published new books this year. 2020 saw the publication of Resurrecting Justice by theology professor Dr. Douglas Harink, Practicing Transcendence by psychology professor Dr. Chris Peet, and Re-forming History, co-authored by history professors Dr. Mark Sandle and Dr. William Van Arragon.



ONE LIFE, FIVE CALLINGS

The King's University collaborated with B.C. Christian Reformed Churches this winter on a public lecture series entitled "One Life, Five Callings." The free five-part series features lectures from King's professors on faith formation, global mission, mercy and justice, servant leadership, and gospel proclamation and worship.



Vice President of Finance and Operations, Ralph Troschke, as King's virtual banquet emcee.

OVER \$36,000 RAISED IN SUPPORT OF AFFORDABLE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AT KING'S

An estimated 200 members of the university community joined together for the annual Harvest Banquet and Silent Auction in November. The event, held online over video chat, raised \$36,000 in support of student scholarships.



25 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT KING'S

2020 marked the 25th aniversary of the Environmental Studies (ENVS) program. Launched in 1997, ENVS was the university's first 4-year major.

With numerous field learning experiencies and a required internship component, the ENVS program continues to inspire and equip students to harmonize their passion and love for the environment with pursuits in other fields. The program has seen hundreds of graduates go on to careers in sustainability, business, the natural sciences, and many other callings.



ONLINE PUBLIC COURSES AND LECTURES LAUNCHED

The university launched a professional development and continuing education initiative this fall in the form of new online public access courses. Courses ranged from Popular Music to Paul's Epistles and Theology as well as various business and political science courses. With between ten and twenty courses listed per semester, the initiative has seen strong uptake from communities across Western Canada.

This year also saw the introduction of public lectures given by faculty experts from all corners of the university. These lectures make lifelong learning with King's more accessible than ever. The first ten lectures are available to watch on King's YouTube channel and range between 40–90 minutes in length. To date, the project has explored topics related to the coronavirus, social justice, and education.

or mathematical biology.



New Interdisciplinary Science (I.Sci) program approved by Alberta government

September 2021 will see the introduction of a new program at King's — Interdisciplinary Science. Approved by the Government of Alberta last fall, this flexible 4-year Bachelor of Science major will allow students to specialize in any of King's existing science concentrations in addition to new B.Sc. concentrations in kinesiology, psychology, and mathematics. The make up of the I.Sci program will allow students to focus on collaborations between disciplines, such as chemical biology, computational chemistry,

I.Sci has been designed to help students think critically about problems from diverse scientific perspectives and is particularly geared toward graduates looking to pursue professional programs in the clinical health sciences—such as medicine,

optometry, and nursing—and those looking to enter the workforce directly after graduation. The program also allows aspiring science teachers to easily complete teachable majors and minors within the course of their degree prior to entering the after-degree program in education.

"The I.Sci program is a fantastic addition to our science offerings. It provides new flexibility in the sciences, letting students combine perspectives from two or more scientific disciplines to find new insights and build new connections," remarks I.Sci program director, Dr. Rem Kooistra. "The program serves a wide set of interests in the sciences and sets up a variety of future career paths. It deepens King's commitment to equip students to be agents of change in the world."

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Building community, apart

Innovative thinking builds learning community in a time of distance

BY LINDSAY ECKERT

HAT DO YOU do when a culture of community is faced with the demands of isolation? King's got creative.

"That's the approach we took the whole year," said Megan Viens, Dean of Students. "How can we be creative and still do what we do?"

When COVID-19 demanded limited to no in-person contact, students and employees faced the daunting task of maintaining high standards of education and community while ensuring safe practices at every turn. It provided a chance for innovation.

"Surely we can do something different," encouraged President Dr. Melanie Humphreys last spring. "What can we do that would be beneficial to students? We hear that students and instructors value in-person contact, mentoring, and engagement. How can we do that while keeping everyone safe?"

It was evident that King's needed to find new ways to support students to thrive. This led to developing new models of education and making strategic updates in IT to keep the community connected.

Dr. Humphreys proposed a hybrid classroom model where students could physically attend classes in appropriately distanced settings or virtually via Zoom depending on their circumstances and preferences.

There was also an intentional renewal of outdoor spaces for safe social and physical activity. New fire pits, outdoor seating,

patio heaters, and a warmly litice skating rink have seen a lot of use from students—especially those living in residence.

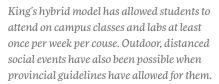
That's not to say COVID-19 hasn't proved challenging.

Adrian Bajaro, president of the Students' Association and third-year student says that endlessly staring at Zoom lectures can feel isolating.

"Online classes are both good and bad,"
Bajaro explained. "It's great you can stay
home if you need to. That said, when
online attendance spikes, class participation goes down. The temptation is to get
distracted instead of engaging"

What students and staff have noticed above all this year is a culture of caring.











"These improvements are the first steps in an extensive three-year IT strategic plan which is being fast-tracked to meet the requirements of COVID-19 and the changing world it is bringing."

Viens checks in with students regularly. Tim Wood, King's campus minister, reaches out to students who are self-isolating to ensure they have a full meal or hot coffee and are keeping in good spirits.

"The hardest factor is we're all weary students, staff, faculty. But we want to stay passionate, to come alongside students and understand what they need in this time."

Bajaro said that professors have been sympathetic to the difficulties of the year. "Crises bring people together," Bajaro noted. "You see that in how profs and students are more understanding of each other. There's a sense of community and solidarity."

Bajaro added that students have stood up to this year's challenges admirably. "It's a display of the tenacity of the students and staff to fight for the best education experience possible. It would have been easy for the university to say everything was online but they decided to take the extra step of maintaining

in-person experiences where safe and possible. Students have recognized these efforts and really appreciate them."

To ensure students had the safety, connection, and community required to thrive in their courses this year, King's increased IT funding by 42 percent. This covered the installation of video conferencing equipment, new wiring in classrooms, dedicated workstations to run online lectures, increased network bandwidth, and a range of new virtual education tools including a complete overhaul of its course delivery platform, Moodle.

"Having a hybrid model has been crucial," says Chief Information Officer, Becky McCaffrey. "For students who prefer to be in the classroom, it's safely offered to them. For students who are more comfortable learning online, they have an option that replicates the in-class experience as best as possible."

"King's is committed to mentoring and equipping our students to bring renewal," Allen Verbeek, Associate Vice President Academic Services & Registrar, stated. "Maintaining our high standards for course delivery, student-to-faculty, and student-to-support connection would not have been possible were it not for these investments and the extraordinary efforts of a committed IT team."

The improvements are the first step in an extensive three-year IT strategic plan which is being fast-tracked to meet the requirements of COVID-19 and the changing world it is bringing.

Crossroad, King's student information system, is slated for replacement next year. The university will also swap-out close to 20 disparate platforms with a single ERP (enterprise resource planning software) which will allow for new efficiencies and streamlined administrative functions in order to redeploy resources to better serve students in other ways.

"Our goal is to make things as seamless for students as possible," McCaffrey said. "Each investment is ultimately focused on improving King's directly or indirectly."

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ING'S computing science program came to fruition from humble beginnings. "When I came to King's in 2010, the department was in flux; the program was small and needed attention," says Dr. Andrew Tappenden, Associate Professor and Dean of Natural Science. Newly-hired professors were launched into an abrupt start with a clean slate, a chance to completely rework the curriculum into one that equips students for future careers and engages them in discovering the world God created.

"Our grads get good jobs!" notes Dr.
Michael Janzen, Assistant Professor of
Computing Science. The program has
developed a strong reputation for equipping graduates in their fields. "Employers
want our computing science students,"
Janzen adds; "There are not enough graduates to keep up with demand."

Dr. Tappenden emphasizes that computing science at King's is not only about a career path, however. It's about passion for the subject and for uncovering more about the complexities of the world. "Computing science is no more the study of computers than astronomy is the study of the telescope," he explains. "Computers are the tools we use to study God's creation. It's about understanding the world through a different lens."

"Computing Science is no more the study of computers than astronomy is the study of the telescope . . . "

Beyond career preparation, the program asks students to consider their relationship with technology through courses like Perspectives in Computing Science. This course involves no programming and instead focuses on lectures and discussion designed to encourage reflection on the use and orientation of technology. How much do you use technology and why? How has engagement with technology changed? What does the future hold?'

"Students learn about God's creation through these tools we've created that can do incredible things," says Tappenden, "Zoom and video calls don't come close to normal life, and we all mourn the loss of [in-person] interactions, but we have realized recently how much we rely on computers and the role computing science has in overcoming global challenges. Computing Science is not about the medium, it's about the things it can enable."

Students are welcomed and encouraged to speak with their professors, an element of King's culture that Dr. Janzen appreciates. "I have to go outside King's to really realize why I enjoy it here so much," he says. The integration of faith

through chapel and prayer can be easily taken for granted until they are missed elsewhere, at conferences or in other academic settings. "It makes you realize that we have something different." The sense of community extends beyond the student-teacher relationship: "Faculty and staff enjoy working with each other," Janzen observes. "I take that for granted because that's how a place should be."

"At King's you don't have to choose between doing God's work and going to university," Tappenden adds. "There are people who don't know that they have the choice to do both, to go somewhere that honours both your spiritual and disciplinary convictions. I'm blessed to work in a department that honours identity, curiosity about the world, and the ways God has wired people with different interests."

For Dr. Tappenden, the holistic approach he finds at King's is the cornerstone of teaching computing science. "Everywhere you look, you are using some sort of system," he concludes. "We are preparing students for careers, but in a way that says jobs, skills, interest, and faith convictions all matter."

Behind the exhibits

Second-year history student tells indigenous stories through well-curated galleries

BY NIKOLAS VANDER KOOY

HAT GOES INTO creating the hundred word plaques you read at a museum? Second-year History student, Isaiah Wiltzen, found out there is a lot more to it than you might first think.

Isaiah belongs to the Athabasca-Chipewyan First Nation. He moved from Nova Scotia to the small town of Fort Smith, NWT (population 2,500) with his family when he was in the fourth grade, his father having deep roots in the area.

During the summer break, Isaiah interned at the local museum in Fort Smith. Despite its size and isolation—the nearest community is a three-hour drive away—Fort Smith's museum, the Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre, houses the largest collection of traditional First Nations and Métis artifacts in the Northwest Territories and is lauded as a top collection of "northern native and early white settlement artifacts in Canada."

Toward the end of August, the museum lost its curator amidst plans to renovate its lower galleries. Isaiah asked the museum manager how he might be able to help move the project forward. Soon after, he and two other employees were tasked with curating the exhibit from an initial concept to a professional final product.

With an extensive collection of artifacts containing everything from ancient arrowheads and bows, to Qulliq—traditional oil-based heaters—there was plenty of material to work with, but a narrative was required to bring it together. Isaiah and his team landed on developing an exhibit conveying indigenous relationship with the land in the early European contact era.

The exhibit, entitled "The Land Provides," contains a wide variety of stories and artifacts from the Dené, Métis, and Inuvialuit peoples — three groups who have



A diorama on the Dené, part of the "The Land Provides" gallery curated by 2nd year history student, Isaiah Wiltzen, at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre.

historically called the Thebacha region (northern Alberta and southern NWT) home. The themes of the exhibit cover the techniques developed in response to the challenges of hunting and gathering.

Wiltzen shares one of the more interesting strategies he came across in the course of his extensive research:

In early winter, when black bears began their hibernation, Dené hunters would find a bear cave and quietly hide at the exit while others made as much noise as possible. When the startled bear emerged from its den, hunters would jump down on top of it, armed with stone clubs.

"I can't imagine how terrifying that would be," he laughs.

With full creative freedom came a deep-felt responsibility to get things right.
Wiltzen and his peers spent endless hours poring over available literature and source material. Wiltzen credits the work he's done in his first years of his history program with preparing him to research properly and write effectively.

"I've learned what actually goes into an exhibit. You don't realize the amount of work that goes into each detail. I have way more appreciation for how galleries are created and the people behind them."



Beethoven project unites singers across the world

BY EMILY FAUCHER

AST DECEMBER marked the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. To celebrate, The King's University Community Chorus is partnering with the choirs at Concordia University of Edmonton and the University of Victoria to pursue a "Beethoven Project." This project unites over 200 singers every three weeks for online rehearsals of Beethoven's ninth symphony. In addition to the work of Dr. Melanie Turgeon (King's), Dr. Joy Berg (Concordia), and Dr. Elizabeth MacIsaac (Victoria), online rehearsals include diverse presentations from expert singers, vocal coaches, musicologists, conductors, and other professionals from across the world.

"The connection between The King's University, Concordia, and the University of Victoria exposes us to a huge range of musical expertise and talented additional voices," says Ruth Vander Woude, a singer participating as a member of both King's and Concordia's community choirs. "I also appreciate the inclusion of informational sessions on singing techniques, lectures on Ukrainian and Scandinavian traditions, and specific information about the ninth symphony itself."

At the project's inception the hope was to perform live this spring but participants are now preparing for a virtual performance of a section of the fourth movement. To produce a high-quality 'performance', recordings of each singer will be layered by a sound technician to create a virtual chorus.

"I've been so appreciative of the immense amount of energy Melanie has dedicated to our small group this year," says Cheryl Mahaffy, an alto with The King's Alumni & Community Chorus. "Some singers have chosen not to be involved this year and it would be understandable if Melanie had chosen to give this year a miss as well. Instead, she has arranged a diverse menu of singing, listening, and learning."

"You have to be so adaptable this year," says Dr. Turgeon, "but the possibilities are endless. The Beethoven Project has opened up new ways of thinking for music faculty at every university."

Many guests have participated while navigating the challenges of time zone differences, singing and teaching with project participants at odd hours, and out of the kindness of their hearts.

"A highlight for me is the invited guests who provide expert insight about various choral music topics," says Norm Hill, who has been singing with King's Community Chorus since its beginning. "This is valuable for me as an untrained musician."

The choice to open project participation to the Community Chorus at King's was very intentional, Turgeon notes. Beethoven's ninth is "such a beast to sing and it demands significant endurance." The Community Chorus is open to singers of all levels, and the piece requires vocal maturity, but the group was looking for a challenge.

The 2020-21 academic year has demanded much patience and creativity from the music department. "This year requires a different thought process when it comes to structuring music instruction," notes Turgeon. Thanks to her hard work, singers



Left: 'Duck bill' singing masks allow section leaders to rehearse safely. Above: Dr. Melanie Turgeon, director of King's choral groups, conducts an international group of choristers from a pop-up recording studio in Knoppers Hall.

"You have to be so adaptable this year but the possibilities are endless. The Beethoven Project has opened up new ways of thinking for music faculty at every university."

have been able to gather in person, when provincial guidelines have allowed for it. For the Community Chorus, this looks like hundreds of singers joining from home with a quartet leading vocals on-campus. "The rehearsals have gone exceptionally well," Turgeon says, a note of excitement in her voice, "We're really enjoying it."

"Truthfully, I did not expect any choral activities to be available this year," Hill admits. "The making of choral music is the closest thing I have to a team sport in my recently retired life, especially during the pandemic. I appreciate the opportunity provided by King's music department, Melanie, and all the others."

New names for choral groups reflect dedication

Community Chorus

Alumni & Community Chorus

Concert Choir

King's Cantorum

Chamber Choir

King's Chamber Singers

The King's University is pleased to introduce new names for its performing choirs. These changes reflect the high level of dedication and hard work choristers pour into their performances and add prestige and character to much-deserving groups of committed musicians.

A new name for King's Community Chorus was needed to more precisely represent the changing composition of this group. The new name also reflects a strong desire to see continued alumni engagement and participation with this chorus and the music program moving forward.

Year after year, the university enjoys professionalism and joy embodied by its choirs. With these new names, the university honours those with a passion for choral music at King's.

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What have you waited a long time for? What are you still waiting for? Who are you still waiting for?

I have been thinking about waiting for quite some time now.

This has, in part, been prompted by living through this pandemic. We are, all of us, waiting. Waiting for a vaccine. Waiting for a test result. Waiting to see people again. Waiting to travel. Waiting for "normal life" to return. Waiting for anxiety and dread to disappear. Waiting for the package to arrive. We wait for other things, too, in non-pandemic times. Waiting for that text message. Waiting for that phone call from the doctor. Waiting. Waiting. Waiting.

Waiting has become that rare thing in today's world: a universal state of being that we all share (even though of course the type, intensity, and duration of the waiting is felt very differently in different communities). I too am waiting for this pandemic to subside. I am longing for the return of face-to-face teaching. There is one exception, though — I have given up waiting for the England soccer team to win the World Cup again. I will die long before that ever happens.

This personal waiting time has intersected neatly with my professional activities. The research for my latest book — about the experiences and emotions of humans living and dying in WW2 — has given me pause to consider what waiting must have felt like for everyone who lived in those times. How did people feel living through the war? As I comb through the diaries and the stories, I am struck by the words that I read, and by the emotions that lie behind them. The constant gnawing fear. The grief and the despair. The love and the hate. The loss. The anger and the sadness. I have become preoccupied with some of the more everyday feelings that people had. The stoicism. The living through a protracted global conflict. The fragile hopes. And waiting falls into this category. For central to the experiences of WW2 was the act of waiting.

The war was very different from our pandemic times, of course, and we should be careful of drawing parallels with our current predicament. But, having said that, there are, I believe, some things that might resonate with us if we listen carefully to their voices. What can we learn about how to wait well from the people who lived through these times?

There were different types of waiting in WW2. Much of the waiting was episodic, intense, replete with dread and fear: the combatants who were waiting to go into battle; the civilians waiting for the drone of the engines to pass overhead — unsure if it was their turn to be bombed; the prisoners waiting for their punishment to begin. Eric Lomax relates a terrible story of waiting. POW punishments could last for hours, sometimes days. As one person was being slowly physically degraded or killed, the others waited their turn. Would it be them? The waiting was interminable. Time disappeared. You were frozen in an intense moment, driven to the edge of insanity:

"There was nothing we could do about it now; we stood there knowing it was coming . . . We stood there for 12 hours with our back to that hut. The nerves and flesh of the back become terribly sensitive and vulnerable when turned to an enemy. At any moment I expected to feel a rifle-butt on my spine, a bayonet thrust between my shoulder-blades. All we heard was their talk, the occasional rough laughter. The intense heat of the sun, the irritation of flies and mosquitoes feeding on sweat, itching skin, the painful contraction of eyes against the light and even the fear of violent death has been superseded, by the evening, by the even more powerful sensation of a burning thirst... the gang came back out at night. My special friend Morton Mackay was called forward. I was next in line... The moments while I was waiting my turn were the worst of my life. The expectation is indescribable; a childhood story of Protestant martyrs watching friends die in agony on the rack flashed through my mind. To have to witness the torture of others and see the preparations for the attack on one's own body is a punishment in itself, especially when there is no escape. The experience is the beginning of a form of insanity."

But there was also a much slower, seemingly endless form of waiting that people in WW2 experienced: everyday waiting. People had to wait in line. People had to wait for water supplies to be restored.

Combatants spent so much time just waiting to move. Prisoners and internees lived in an almost perpetual state of waiting: waiting to be liberated. Waiting for the hunger to subside. Waiting for something to quench their thirst. Waiting to die. Of all the forms of waiting experienced in WW2, probably the one that speaks most directly to us is the waiting generated by the deep uncertainty of wartime. When will it end? When will we see our loved ones again? Will we see our loved ones again? Will I survive?

Tragically, much of the waiting of wartime went on long after the war was over. This Belorussian woman reflects on the emptiness of waiting for her lover to return:

"I look out the window, it's as if he's sitting there ..Sometimes in the evening something seems to be there...I'm already old, but I always see him young. The way he was when he left. If I dream of him he's always young. And I'm young too...The women all got death notices, but I got a scrap of paper - "Missing in Action." Written in blue ink. For the first 10 years I waited for him every day. I wait for him even now. As long as we live we can hope

The waiting here is endless, unrequited. The woman waits. And waits. And waits. It stretches out before her. That tiny phrase — "missing in action" — is both a fragment of hope and a nagging torment. With both uncertainty and possibility, each day brings both hope and despair as the waiting continues. The war is over but the waiting—the waiting is never over.

One of my favourite WW2 poems is called "Wait for me" by Konstantin Simonov. There is a line towards the end—"You alone knew how to wait"—that has given me pause to reflect upon the "how" of waiting. How do we wait well? What does it mean to wait well? How do we remain hopeful in the face of deep abiding uncertainty and fear? Those who learnt to wait well came over time to know the following

James Stockdale was imprisoned for seven years during the Vietnam War. He experienced torture, deprivation, and uncertainty. How did he survive? He says that he was able to survive because he

forced himself to acknowledge the terrible reality that he was now living in. He remarks that those who were optimists did not fare well:

"... they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart ... This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be. I lived on a day-to-day basis...."

To wait well means to live on a day-to-day basis. To face and accept the reality of the situation we are in every day. We must recognize the pain and the stress, the despair and the longing, that we are all experiencing. But the key is not to allow this acceptance to move us into passivity or a spiral of despair. Instead we should ask ourselves: what then shall we do today given where we are at? Faith that we will get through this has to go hand-in-hand with the acceptance each day of the reality we are living through. It takes patience and discipline to focus on the day that stands before us.

Secondly, to wait well is to wait "with" as well as to wait "for". Just waiting "for" something or someone stretches out the time in front of us and forces our attention onto a not yet realized future. This is natural of course, but it can be problematic because we do not see what is directly around us. Instead of waiting for - or perhaps as well as waiting for—this to be over, we should wait with intention. Don't pass up the opportunity to find life in each moment. We don't know how long this season will be. The temptation is to spend it perpetually longing for it to be over. But simple practices and rhythms can help us. Be a good friend. Be a good neighbour. Do your work well. Connect with your loved ones. Perpetual longing might also mean we miss a new way of being in the world that is emerging slowly in this waiting time.

Thirdly, hope. Hope disappears quickly and comes back slowly. Despair works in the



"Faith that we will get through this has to go hand-in-hand with the acceptance each day of the reality we are living through. It takes patience and discipline to focus on the day that stands before us."

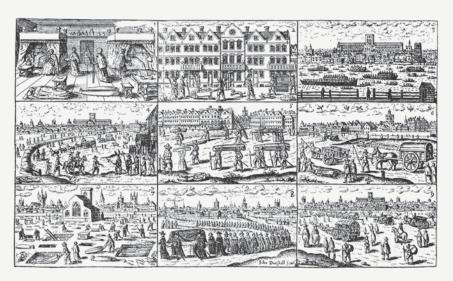
other direction. So how do we find hope in a time of waiting? It is important to recognize that hope is different from optimism. Hope, according to Vaclav Havel, is not optimizm, which expects things to turn out well, but is rooted in the conviction that there is good in the world worth working for. Waiting with hope means doing the work of gathering the fragments of hope we find around us each day. Where are the fragments of hope, the glimmers of light? Find them. Keep them close.

Fourthly, to wait well is to recognize our powerlessness and our lack of control. In WW2 millions were put into positions of powerlessness by forces outside of their control. This is an important reminder, particularly for those of us who are fortunate enough to be wealthy, educated, and privileged in today's world. Billions of people around our world today live lives at the mercy of markets, climate, and the arbitrary actions of others. They are almost totally powerless. Waiting can remind us of the lives of others and deepen our sense of empathy. To wait well requires an acceptance of our lack of control and an acknowledgement that one of

the great illusions of modern life is that many of us "control" our lives. Instead, in recognizing our relative powerlessness, we can focus on the everyday virtues of solidarity, empathy, patience, and perseverance.

Finally, waiting well can help us to rethink our understanding of time. Waiting for something to be over can lead us into a way of thinking that we are 'wasting' time and that when the waiting is over we will be able to resume our 'normal' lives. This leads us to see time as a resource to be consumed, rather than a gift to be enjoyed. We might just want to give pause to dream of another, better world than the 'normal' we were in before this happened. The war caused people to dream of a better world and to take steps to realize that. Maybe, as we wait, we can allow ourselves to dream a little too.

We are all waiting and longing for this time to be over of course, just as the people in WW2 waited and longed for the conflict to end. As we do so, let us learn to wait well, and to work for the good that there is in our world.



Pandemics past

How crises have inspired courage, selflessness, and compassion

BY DR. CAROLINE LIEFFERS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

PIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS are terrifying events. They shake up any easy understanding of dominion over nature or the social order. We are made to wait, to acknowledge that time is not our own. And in their mystery and ferocity, pandemics and epidemics press us to ask fundamental questions: How do we deal with the unknown? What are we willing to sacrifice? How do we reckon with our own mortality? The mortality of strangers? How should we love one another?

There is much evidence that pandemics can bring out the worst in people, amplifying fear, xenophobia, and selfishness in the guise of self-protection. Jewish people experienced egregious violence in Europe during the Black Death, while the Chinese population was scapegoated during the San Francisco plague of 1900. People experiencing poverty, without access to good housing, nutrition, and health care, also suffered disproportionately in many epidemics, and they were all too often blamed for their illnesses. We can find sobering parallels in our own society, and there is much to grieve. But pandemics past offer hopeful lessons, too. In them, we might appreciate the resilience of community, the importance of the collective, and the beauty of courage and selflessness. And we might be inspired to act.

Milan experienced a wave of plague in the 1570s, and the city was put under a general quarantine. But Cardinal Carlo Borromeo, knowing the importance of worship and civic connection, arranged for parish bells to ring seven times each day as a call to prayer. As musicologist Remi Chiu has noted, one group of people would chant litanies or supplications from their doors or windows, and another group would sing in response. Milan's nearly 300,000 voices rose together in song. A commentator compared the ambiance to a cloister of religious brothers and sisters, or perhaps heavenly Jerusalem itself. Even in isolation, people nurtured one another's faith.

Pandemics and epidemics have also helped people see the need for unity and charity. Commentators in the early twentieth century sometimes talked about "the socialism of the microbe." Disease did not necessarily respect wealth and privilege, and some working-class activists were able to get funding for improved housing and sanitation by arguing that illness in their communities put everyone at risk. Similarly, during the 1918 flu epidemic, Canada recognized that its patchwork of private health care providers and under-resourced local health boards was not up the task of protecting the nation. The federal Department of Health was

established in 1919 to help coordinate collective response to disease. Wellness is a shared project.

Courage and selflessness, too, are recurring themes in the history of epidemics and pandemics. In 1954, around 1.8 million children participated in the trial of Jonas Salk's polio vaccine, receiving a "Polio Pioneer" card and badge for their efforts. This spirit of altruism is also famously remembered by Salk's response to the question, "Who owns the patent on this vaccine?" He answered, "Well, the people, I would say. There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?" The remarkable terror of polio inspired an equally remarkable magnanimity.

Pandemics and epidemics cut deep into a society. You could say they dissect it, showing us its bones and sinews, its vulnerabilities and prejudices, its political, economic, and spiritual priorities. The strengths and weaknesses of its moral bonds. Today, we might reflect on our own communities, the importance of the collective, and the courage and selflessness of those who work to keep us well. And from this place of hope, we might be guided to our next acts, and ensure that COVID-19 is remembered for the ways that it compelled us to be better.



Making space, being saved

Recognizing God's abundance in uncertain times

BY JONATHAN NICOLAI-DEKONING, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MICAH CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT

N HER RECENT BOOK Opening Israel's Scriptures, scholar Ellen Davis notes that the Hebrew word for salvation is rooted in notions of 'making space.' In the ancient Hebrew imagination, to 'save' is to make space for another. Tellingly, salvation's opposite in ancient Hebrew is distress, which is literally to 'be constricted.'

During this long season of lockdowns, quarantines, and self-isolation, we are easily led to distress. How often have we felt constricted, penned up, fenced in — not just by the four walls around us, but by our feelings of anxiety and despair, that we or our neighbours may not make it to the far side of this pandemic?

How do we move from feeling 'fenced in' to salvation, from distress to

spaciousness? How do we make space for others? How do we allow others—and our Creator—to make space for us?

Throughout the pandemic, a common Celtic prayer with deep biblical roots has given me pause: 'Who God possesseth in nothing is wanting; alone God sufficeth.'

There is a beautiful simplicity to this prayer: those who are held by the triune God of love may live lives of simple abundance, of 'enough' — wanting nothing beyond what is necessary, giving to others, thanking the Giver for the given life. While many of us shelter in place, while vulnerable sisters and brothers around the world and down our street feel the sharpest edges of the pandemic's force, this prayer is a reminder that the God of

love still holds us and can make space for us to flourish.

Early Celtic Christians witnessed this wisdom. Many of the communities that gave rise to the tradition of Celtic prayer were subsistence farmers and labourers in Scotland and Ireland who asked God to 'number their days' as they found shelter in the simple abundance of God's ordinary gifts of life and love. In times of scarcity and of plenty, their work and prayer cultivated a sense that an abundant God had given them enough to live deeply and wisely, despite very difficult lives.

That witness — echoed in the lives of subsistence farmers and labourers around the world today — is a reminder of the profound simplicity of biblical wisdom:

the given life is enough. We can draw on the spirit of the God who gives generously, deeply, surprisingly—to turn from ourselves and toward others. In my better moments, the pandemic has been an invitation to return to this simplicity and practicality in pursuit of a more just world.

For me, this strange season has not been an opportunity to start a new exercise regime or learn another sourdough starter recipe (though there has been time for that as well). It has been an invitation to remember that—even in complicated and uncertain times—'who God possesseth in nothing is wanting'. This is not easy to recognize in a world marked so profoundly by the power of savage global capitalism that constantly prompts us to see others'

social media posts and advertisements as invitations to want something else, something more, something better.

So I've tried to ask myself some questions that help me move away from a pervasive fear of scarcity and toward a sense that the God of abundance has given me enough:

Can I live more simply, even now, to make space for generosity toward others? Can this season help me in this?

Can I live within limits to better live in solidarity with others? Can this season help me do this?

Can I live well with myself, resisting the pull to compare my life to others and so avoid

the logic that underpins the worst impulses of our culture?

Sometimes I can answer yes to those questions but often my answer is 'sort of' or 'no, not really.' I know that answering 'no' is a path to diminishing myself and others.

We do not have time — now, in this pandemic season, or afterwards — for those things that diminish us. But, to misquote Stanley Hauerwas, God-in-Christ has given us all the time we need to make space for others and allow others to make space for us. We have been given all the time we need to resist distress and embrace the spaciousness of Christ's salvation.

May we use our time well. 날

Our connection to the land

AE MADGE is a fifth-year sociology student with a minor in English from Leduc, Alberta. Rae recently took the Literature and the Environment course taught by English professor Dr. Elizabeth Willson Gordon. These poems come from a class project that encouraged students to spend time in thoughtful reflection with natural environments inside the city.

THE EVIDENCE

The beach is peppered, wholly,
In fire pit debris and stones in their glory.
A history of who was here, and who stayed.
If a rock could tell me its story
Would I listen fully?
Would I be patient enough to hold on to
The details of billions of years of servitude
Of compaction, heat, and pressure,
To develop the necessary elements all together
Just so I could look upon a rock in awe for a moment,
Then toss it away back into the river without even holding it?
As if it hadn't spent millions of waves
Aching toward the surface.
Could I bare even one beach's worth of tales
If to know just one intimately would indict me?



IMPLANTED BRIDGES

What good is a bridge?
For humans, passage, mobility.
Making things far away closer.
Making land the stakeholder of our ease.
There are peoples who travelled by horse-back,
Single file through the trees.
An impact no wider than one man.
But this bridge, it bulldozes through valley
The width of four lanes and more,
Slicing deep into the sides of her hills.
Implanting itself without checking if it matches her tissues.
How long will it take for her to overtake it?
How deep are the claws of its grasp?
How loved is the land by creator?
How many generations before it forgets?



Playing the long game

Planting the seed of conservation and watching it grow

BY NIKOLAS VANDER KOOY

TERN PETERS grew up in Winnipeg and when he was 12, his family moved to a property along the banks of the Assiniboine River. As a young boy, his passion for conservation emerged out of a desire for adventure. He loved to canoe, explore the banks of the river, and above all, fish! His parents, as most practical parents would be wont to do, insisted their twelve-year-old lad knew to clean any fish he kept. This small request turned Peters into a "catch and release" fisherman. It got him thinking intentionally about his role in conserving the environment.

As an aspiring wildlife biologist, Peters entered a Bachelor of Science program in ecology at the University of Manitoba. In time, his love and experience for exploring nature afforded him opportunities to work with senior graduate students on fire ecology projects – their research sites being located along the undisturbed remote waters of northern Manitoba and accessible only with the guidance of an experienced canoeist. Peters himself conducted his own senior thesis on urban biodiversity using his family home on the Assiniboine as one of 15 properties included in the course of his field research.

Although Peters' first passion as an emerging professional was wildlife conservation, opportunities in plant and forest ecology presented themselves more readily. Amongst other things, he pursued



Professor of Biology, Dr. Vern Peters, at age 12 holding a fish caught at his family home along the Assiniboine River in Winnipeg, MB.

employment with Ducks Unlimited Canada, working to restore natural grasslands on agricultural properties throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

While working on his Ph.D. from the University of Alberta, Peters gained valuable experience in the forest industry, applying findings from his research to the development of more sustainable forest management techniques and practices. He then landed his dream job as a fire researcher with the Canadian Forest Service. In that role, Peters observed patterns of fire behaviour all over Canada and explored various implications of climate change.

Though he was well on his way toward building an impressive resumé as a researcher, Peters had a feeling that it was all in preparation for a larger calling yet to

"I really had a passion for environmental education, specifically amongst Christian communities, in thinking about elevating our commitment to stewardship of creation," states Peters.

He had known about King's for the better part of his life, having had several childhood friends travel from Winnipeg to Edmonton to pursue an education there.





Observing bird activity and monitoring acoustic recording devices, Landslide Lake Trail, Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve, Alberta (2020).

As a graduate student at the U of A, Peters had also been invited to a conference at King's exploring the role of Christians in creation care.

"I filed King's away in my memory until, one day, I became aware that a position was open here."

Since starting at King's in 2005, Dr. Peters has conducted an extended research project with various annual summer field research focuses on the decline of the limber and white bark pines.

Unmitigated, the disappearance of these endangered high-altitude trees will affect many of the places Canadians love to live, visit, and vacation in each year. These two pines alone directly support over 35 species of vertebrates—the most charismatic of which is the grizzly bear. Indirectly, they support hundreds more. Should these pines be left to diminish, or vanish, the effects would be devastating.

Peters points out that the large mammal wildlife that visitors have come to expect and enjoy in Alberta's mountain parks would certainly be detrimentally affected, but the effects on humans would be greater. For instance, after the 2013 Calgary and High River, Alberta floods, the restoration of the limber and white

bark trees were noted as being critical in preventing and deterring similar disasters in the future.

Dr. Peters' research on these trees at King's started as a summer survey on seed production with a student worker back in 2007. In 2013, as a complement to his research, Peters began running active small-scale conservation and restoration projects with groups of friends and members from his home church in Edmonton. Ever since, Peters has engaged in annual summer restoration and monitoring projects with his students and faith-based community groups from across Alberta.

Summer 2020 was as close to business as usual as possible for Peters. As in previous years, Peters and a student researcher drove out to a designated research site—though in separate vehicles to maintain distancing—in the ongoing attempt to fill in knowledge gaps on the disappearance and recovery of these species.

This summer's project was a third study on the relationship between fire and the regeneration of the pines along the northern edge of Banff National Park. The two launched a series of treks across landslides and snowfields, climbing over 2000 meters in a five hour period, to reach the high elevation field sites. The pair replaced memory cards and batteries in various audio recorders and monitored

patterns of bird behaviour to gauge the importance of alpine avian activity in post-fire tree regeneration. Some of the trips were completed in long 17 hour days, others involved overnight stays high up in the mountains.

"There is an incredible story here in terms of how people live in this province and how they can delight in God's nature and his wisdom in the creation."

"What's interesting is that the Clark's nutcracker, both collects and plants the seeds of these pines. Those it forgets about are the only ones that germinate. It's a wonderful story of a bird with a very specific function and a highly important pathway for natural regeneration."

It has taken over thirteen years to get to this point, but the cumulative efforts by Peters and his partners are paying off.

The research is being directly used by the province and industry to inform investment and maximize efforts to restore these two important species to more sustainable numbers. A number of recovery actions have been put in place such as the monitoring of cone crops for seed collections, protection of seed trees from

red squirrels, using fire as a recovery tool for the whitebark pine, and minimizing cattle trampling in rangelands.

While the full impact of the —restoration work won't be seen for several decades or more, there have been more immediate returns on these efforts. Summer research projects on private cattle ranches have uncovered fascinating intersections between protecting natural woodlands and increased range efficiency due to enhanced shelter forests. Landowners have also gained new tools and data to advocate for the agricultural activities that happen on their land and the ecological viability of their properties, for example, in regard to proposed transmission lines and sewer treatment plants.

Another immediate payoff of Peters' work has been conservation education and inspiration. Each year, entire classes of King's students have had opportunities to get involved in data-collection and analysis—real-world experiences that provide exposure to industry best practices. Peters' small-scale community tree planting and restoration projects have also grown in scale. Today Peters regularly takes high school classes into the field on tree planting excursions, teaching them about conservation concerns, the work that's being done to mitigate these issues,

and hopefully instilling a love for nature and a desire to protect it in the process. In time, many of those Peters has partnered with will think more critically about their relationship with the environment. More than a few have already gone on to post-secondary programs and careers related to conservation.

"Christ taught from the creation by taking people out into the field. In bringing students to important natural sites and the people and landowners we are working with, we're telling the parable of the pine. There is an incredible story here in terms of how people live in this province and how they can delight in God's nature and his wisdom in the creation. We are declaring God's good works."

This spring, Dr. Peters' research and conservation efforts are poised to pivot a lot closer to home. Peters will be heading up a grasslands restoration project right on King's campus. Natural prairie grasslands are some of the most threatened ecosystems in Canada, largely due to their easy conversion to agriculture and other purposes. When complete, King's prairie installation will allow natural science faculty to further develop additional education, research, and conservation related

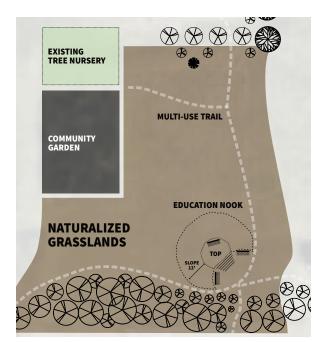
Students from Immanuel Christian High in Lethbridge planting limber pine seedlings.

courses and opportunities for students. The installation will also provide a new site for skill set development in grasslands and seismic line restoration work – applicable and employable skills on the Canadian prairies and oilfields.

"While we're restricted with travelling offsite due to COVID-19, we have the perfect opportunity to push forward a new grasslands feature on campus. This will allow us to engage more regularly with conservation-related activities as well as wildlife monitoring, plant restoration techniques, and more," explains Peters.

"The goal of the project is to develop a one acre prairie that is resistant to change over time and which will permanently retain the character of a grassland through strong establishment of species we plant there. Sod will be removed this May and piled to create berms. There are also plans for a trail system to connect the grassland with the existing woodland swale, soccer pitch, and future naturalized coniferous areas. If all goes well, a specially selected seed mix of native species will be planted this fall."

The grassland installation will diversify the types of natural areas available to students on campus and expand the property's naturalized areas by about 35 percent. Seed mix trials will be run out of King's campus greenhouse and students will propagate wildflower plugs to be added to select areas of the grasslands installation for student research, monitoring, and testing purposes in future years.



When complete, King's naturalized grasslands will feature restored prairie grasses and wild flowers, raised berms, comfortable seating areas, and multipe test plots for student lab work and courses on conservation and ecological restoration.

English professor recieves research chair designation

International initiative to preserve, build upon, the histories of lesser-known figures in 20th-century book publication

BY EMILY FAUCHER

R. ELIZABETH WILLSON GORDON was in the air, travelling home from a trip to Iceland when she received confirmation of her Canada Research Chair (CRC) position in modernist literature and print culture.

Under normal conditions, Dr. Willson Gordon's research affords plenty of travel opportunities between Canada, the United States, and Europe. This is because her work happens alongside a global community of colleagues that spans nine time zones. Her research is focused on the Modernist Archives Publishing Project (MAPP), a digital archive of early twentieth-century publishing history. The Canada Research Chair position will allow Willson Gordon to dedicate more time to this project.

MAPP seeks to give full histories, not just to the already-famous authors of the book world, but to celebrate the value of obscure lives and show the collaborative nature of twentieth-century book production. It provides free access to this data so researchers can easily access information on genealogy, publishing data, and more.

The MAPP team recently received a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the United Kingdom. Worth about £300,000, the grant will help the MAPP team build connections between institutions and researchers, partner with new organizations, enhance digital

resources, generate new scholarship, and host public workshops and events.

The increased funding will also allow MAPP to form new partnerships with museums to create online exhibits with remote access to relevant collections. The MAPP website will be redesigned and relaunched as the team considers how best to organize and represent the thousands of items in their database and the surprising new discoveries they contain about what was popular and what sold.

Much of this work relies on the efforts of hired student researchers.



Dr. Elizabeth Willson Gordon

MAPP seeks to give full histories, not just to the already-famous authors of the book world, but to celebrate the value of obscure lives and show the collaborate nature of twentieth-century book production.

At King's, students have written many of the biographies published on the MAPP website, presented their research at a conference in England, been published in book collections, and had opportunities to work with other student research assistants from around the world.

Most student researchers at King's are English students, but the hope is to invite more computing science students into the project in the near future. King's students have the opportunity to work alongside students from other institutions across the globe who bring other skills and expertise ranging across library sciences, digital humanities, and design.

Willson Gordon attributes the success of MAPP to collaboration between friends. "It is a project that began organically. I would not be in the same place I am today without my wonderful colleagues and friends," she says. "King's has been so supportive of my research. Not every small liberal arts university would have been."

King's welcomes new deans in three departments

The King's University is pleased to welcome three new professors into leadership roles at the university. Hear from each new dean on some of their hopes and plans for advancing and continuing the good work coming out of their respective areas. King's is blessed with leaders who are committed to Christian university education.



ANDREW TAPPENDEN, DEAN OF NATURAL SCIENCES

"The sciences are always tackling big picture things head on. We challenge ourselves, our students, and our communities to think broadly and deeply about global challenges and their solutions. At King's, this is done with the hope we have as Christians that everything is in God's hands. It's a different kind of hope: not one that ignores science, but one that understands science as part of God's restorative plan.

I am looking forward to servant-leadership and helping professors and students be as successful as they can be. For me, that's what it means to live a good life: not in service to money or academic ideal, but in service to the King and to each other."



JOHN MUELLER, DEAN OF BUSINESS

"The greatest business schools in the world focus on developing and using case studies. Local studies resonate with students and engage with the community; they're the management education equivalent of a science lab. I would like to see the Leder School of Business (LSB) develop more case studies with a focus on Albertan, prairie, and Western Canadian businesses, as well as female and indigenous leaders. I would also like to see LSB develop a Bachelor of Public Administration program and become a Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) signatory. PRME was started by the UN to get universities to integrate global social responsibility into their curriculums. It is important to engage and dedicate King's to this purpose; it gives us accountability and reaffirms our mission."



HENRY ALGERA, DEAN OF EDUCATION

"K-12 teaching and learning during COVID-19 has emphasized the need to prepare teachers to engage students in more complex ways. We still need to equip our future teachers for success, but their instructional "toolbox" has shifted in ways that require us to make proactive changes. As we begin to reimagine schooling and learning for a post-pandemic Canada, it is important that our department keep this in mind while emphasizing our fundamental values for human flourishing as a faith-based program.

I am excited to build on the strong reputation of King's B.Ed. program in the province. I look forward to engaging in conversations on how we can further develop and broaden our program as we work to advance King's mission. It is important that we continue to engage, equip, and empower our teacher graduates to be transformative educators wherever they serve."

ALUMNI UPDATES







Oleiuru Anozie



Jennifer Berkenbosch, James Vriend and family

ALUMNI AWARDS

The 2020 alumni achievement award recipients were announced at this year's online Harvest Banquet and Silent Auction. Alana (B.Mus '08) and Reuben Mahaffy (B.Sc, B.Ed '11) received the Accomplished Young Alumni Award for their work with students in elementary music and secondary science, respectively. King's Servant Leader Award was presented to Olejuru Anozie (B.A. Psychology '19) for her work with non-profit healthcare organizations and efforts in anti-racism advocacy. Finally, King's Distinguished Alumni Award was awarded to Jennifer Berkenbosch and James Vriend (B.A. Social Science '06) for their sustained efforts in food sustainability with their startup venture, Sundog Organic Farm.

IN MEMORIAM

Francis Ruiter, 1929-2021

Francis came to King's as a mature student in his fifties and was one of the first four students to graduate with a bachelor's degree in 1987. Francis saw this history degree as one of his proudest achievements. Following his graduation, Francis served on King's Board of Governors from 1988-1991 and for over 30 years he and his wife, Grace, were faithful supporters. Their lifetime of giving culminated with a legacy gift to the university, presented in 2014.

Jasper, 1927-2018 and Tineke "Tina" Dooge, 1932-2019

The Dooges came to Canada from the Netherlands and were faithful supporters of King's since 2001. Jasper and Tina were both devoted to serving their church communities and supporting Christian education in Alberta. Their legacy is one of charity and King's is one of seven organizations to receive a transformational gift from their estate. King's plans to honour the Dooges by using their generous gift to help fund scholarships.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GIVE TO THE KING'S UNIVERSITY?

Contact us or visit us online! Whether you want to give a one-time gift, set up a monthly gift, or find out how to include King's in your estate planning, our development team can help.

Inspired to give? Use the QR code to access our donation page directly and thank you for supporting transformative Christian education at King's.

The King's University Development Office

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We look forward to seeing you!







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