

Celebrating 40 YEARS

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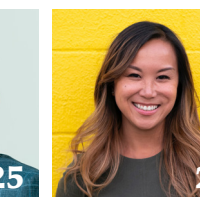
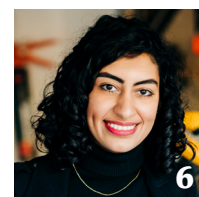
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KPU 40 YEARS ON: FROM PORTABLES TO FIVE CAMPUSES

Our beginnings were inauspicious, to say the least.

We have been delving into the KPU archives to look back at the milestones of the past 40 years and while I generally prefer to look forward, it's hard not to marvel at how far this institution has come in four decades.

Here are some fun facts to consider:



April 1, 1981 was the official date of the “split” from Douglas College and the formation of Kwantlen College. (The cover of the college newsletter at the time trumpeted: “Kwantlen cuts itself free!”)



Kwantlen continued to operate out of Douglas College facilities in Richmond, Surrey and Langley. Total employees, according to that year's annual report: 439. Annual budget: \$11,720,000. For perspective, in 2019-20, KPU had 1,556 employees and an annual operating budget of \$225 million.



By 1982, the budget had grown to \$13,260,000 and the move was on into leased facilities south of the Fraser River: Surrey campus (portable buildings) – 65,098 square feet; Newton campus (converted warehouse) – 50,231 square feet; Richmond campus (converted warehouse) – 60,323 square feet.



Consider that we now have five purpose-built campuses with a total of 1,265,492 square feet. Ironically, we have sometimes thought we will soon need to lease some warehouse space, proving, I suppose, that everything old really is new again.



In 1984, tuition fees increased to \$21/credit. There was an academic fee of \$17 and a Student Society fee of \$4.



In 1984-85, computerized record-keeping began, winter graduation was introduced and increased funding created the Employment Alternatives for Women course.



In the annual report from the same academic year, the vice president academic reported: “Kwantlen College has given high priority to the use of computers as a tool in all our programs and the advantages are proving to be everything we expected. Demands by students are increasing each month and semester. We plan to add word processing to our writing and composition courses in Fall 1985.”



However, the shift to the computer age was not complete. The 1985-86 student handbook advised that “typewriters, more typing rooms in the library (were) open for use.”



Enrollment grew to 4,400 students for that fall semester. (We enrolled 13,869 students for the Fall 2020 semester.)



The late 1980s saw rapid change for Kwantlen: In 1988-89, construction started on the new Surrey campus and land was purchased for the Richmond campus. In 1989-90, educational planning for a new permanent Langley campus was underway.

And so Kwantlen began to put down real roots in the region it serves. The Surrey campus opened in 1990, followed by Richmond in 1992 and Langley in 1993. We became Kwantlen University College in 1995, and the Surrey campus was expanded in 1998. (Trivia question: A time capsule was buried as part of the expansion project. Do you know where it is?)

In 2005, construction began on Phase 3 of the Surrey campus and shovels were in the ground in Cloverdale as building began for what was then known as the Cloverdale Trades and Technology Centre (now KPU Tech). That campus opened in 2007.

In 2008, we became Kwantlen Polytechnic University and in 2010, the Gathering Place (originally known as the Aboriginal Gathering Place) opened at our Surrey campus. In 2019, we opened our fifth campus, KPU Civic Plaza, in the heart of downtown Surrey.

There is, of course, much more to this university than the buildings in which we learn and work, and our campuses, which have become important hubs in each of the communities we serve.

We acknowledge that we undertake our work as a polytechnic university on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, and we thank them for sharing their land and resources with us.

We thank the Kwantlen First Nation for agreeing to share their name with us. “Kwantlen” means “Tireless Runner,” and we strive each and every day to honour our name by being tireless in our pursuit of knowledge.

While Kwantlen's beginnings may have been humble, the drive to have a post-secondary institution south of the Fraser was strong. This community demanded a post-secondary institution of its own and to this day, our community connections are integral to everything we do.

KPU truly is a place where thought meets action, and nowhere is that more apparent than in the communities we serve. These are the communities where you, our alumni, make a difference each and every day: in the workplace, in your neighbourhoods, as volunteers and change-makers, thought leaders and philanthropists.

When we celebrate KPU, we celebrate you.

Thank you for staying connected.

Alan Davis

Dr. Alan Davis
President and Vice-Chancellor





DURRAH ALSAIF A VISUAL FORM

Vancouver commuters travelling through the Stadium-Chinatown SkyTrain station in 2018 were treated to a series of Durrah Alsaif's photographs featuring the artist wrapped in more and more hijabs in each consecutive image. The scarves piled up in a colourful, absurdist swirl around her head, an installation the CBC labelled as "eye catching."

Qimash, as it was called, was part of the Capture Photography Festival, and was something of a high point for Durrah, only a year out of her studies at the time, as tens of thousands of commuters saw her work each day.

Since graduating from KPU in 2017 with a bachelor of fine arts, her interdisciplinary work – encompassing photography, videography and sculpture, among others – has been featured in galleries across the country. Most recently, she was shortlisted for the Figureworks 2019 Award and was part of the *Figureworks* exhibition in Ottawa. In 2017, she was selected as runner-up for the second annual Philip B. Lind Emerging Artist Prize and in 2018, the Surrey Art Gallery awarded her the Second Place 3D Works & Fibre Arts Award.

It's an impressive resume for someone who had initially come to KPU for business.

"I didn't like it at all," she recalls. "I tried nearly every business course, but then took some art classes and that was it. I knew that's what I wanted to do."

In the fine arts department, she found a community of like-minded students as well as small class sizes that provided direct connection with the instructors, which is of particular importance for budding artists.

"KPU offers a hands-on education. I think that benefits every student," she says.

"It's also a tight-knit community – everyone's supportive of each other. Everyone helps each other in that program, especially if you're passionate about what you're doing. If you're in that circle, you really benefit from it."

THE TIRELESS VOLUNTEER



DAVID DRYDEN

KPUAA BOARD MEMBER AND CHAIR

When David Dryden came to KPU on an athletic scholarship, he didn't know what to expect, but says it turned out to be the best decision he ever made.

"You're not just a number at KPU, you're actually a name," he says. "The faculty knows who you are and they support you. It was exactly what I needed. It was a better learning environment for me and I'm grateful that I was able to go through it."

Today, David is entering his seventh year as a certified financial planner with IG Wealth Management, a job he's deeply passionate about, and one he landed after graduating with a bachelor of business administration degree in entrepreneurial leadership. He gives much of the credit to KPU's School of Business for teaching him how the private sector works and what success can look like.

"I learned a lot about building networks and building connections, which combined with my personal interest in finance and investing, led me to where I am today," he says.

Hard work, of course, was crucial. He spent six years as a KPU student, volunteering constantly during that time, including with the President's Ambassadorial Team, Student Leadership Conference committee, Career Day and the university's marketing department. All of this has culminated with him serving as the current chair of the KPU Alumni Association board.

"My role with the Alumni Association actually started because of my passion to give back to KPU, because I felt that I received so much from them that I had to give back," he says.

Christina Jakopin enrolled in KPU's public relations diploma program "on a whim," but knew on her first day of class she'd made the right decision.

"If I'm being honest, I feel like the program really related to my day-to-day a lot more relevantly than any other schooling that I had done," she says. "I had an opportunity through that program to test out all different kinds of things that I'm still doing today in my career."

She graduated in 2010 and is now the senior communications lead for internal, executive and CEO communications at TransLink. In that role, she leads all communications to TransLink's more than 8,000 employees and supports the CEO and other executives on internal and external communications. Each day is different, whether she's planning monthly "coffee chats" with the CEO or helping write a speech.

Christina says her education at KPU prepared her to take on whatever comes her way.

"I think that it's just so relatable to the work that I'm doing today," she says. "I learned a lot of really great skills, and I was able to diversify my skillset through that program and given a lot of opportunity to learn new things and to try new things."

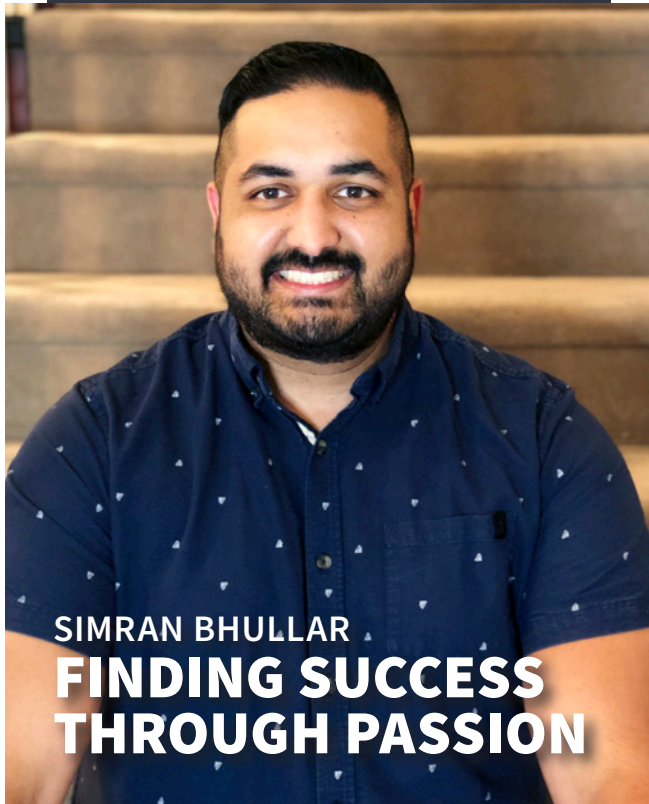
Christina says the most valuable skill she learned through the program was collaboration, as being part of a small cohort that worked closely as a team is very much like a real-life working environment.

"I really feel like my experience at KPU gave me a really solid foundation for my career and where I'm at right now. I wouldn't have been able to do it if I didn't learn the skills that I learned in that program."



**CHRISTINA
JAKOPIN**

**A FIT
FROM
DAY
ONE**



SIMRAN BHULLAR
FINDING SUCCESS
THROUGH PASSION

Simran Bhullar's "aha" moment came at an event in L.A. in which motivational speaker Tony Robbins asked the audience what change they wanted to see in their lives.

"During that moment, we were supposed to close our eyes," remembers Simran. "I realized I wanted to help companies implement changes by utilizing my values. I believe in accountability, transparency and making vital changes with company cultures, leaders and when finding the right team members. I also wanted a better work-life balance so I decided to start my own company."

Simran founded InThink Human Resources, which provides companies with HR consulting, recruitment and leadership coaching, offering customized solutions to help clients reach their full potential.

A graduate of KPU's bachelor of business administration in human resources management program and business management diploma program, Simran discovered his passion for HR during his undergraduate studies. He credits his instructor and current entrepreneurial leadership department chair Carlos Calao with inspiring him.

"You saw the dedication he had for his work," says Simran. "If I could emulate his passion in my career then I knew I would be successful. The teachers had such great practical experience. That was one of the best things KPU had to offer."

Simran went on to complete his MBA from the Australian Institute of Business with specialization in human resources. He worked in the HR industry for several years, eventually becoming a vice president for In Suits Marketing before leaving to start InThink Human Resources.



ANNIE CHRISTIAENS
HEART-FELT
CONNECTION

Annie Christiaens had her eye on the spot for years.

It was a retail storefront on Cloverdale's 176th Street – prime real estate in the town she grew up in and loves. She always told herself, if that space became available, she'd put a business of her own in there.

"One day, I went down to the little coffee shop next to it," she says, "and I actually watched the landlord put the 'For Lease' sign in the window. If that's not a literal sign, well..."

In 2018, she opened The Heart, a mixed use space with a trendy boutique – selling locally made clothing and bath products as well as her own line of Pier Prints coffee mugs – and a co-working space in the back, catering to local entrepreneurs like herself.

Annie, who graduated from KPU in 2015 with a certificate in business marketing, says The Heart started off as a dream – something she thought of every day. It was cultivated over years of working other jobs, paving the way for what she most cared about: creating lasting connections with community. Within a year, The Heart won The Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce Best New Business Award.

"My story is actually a lot less about what I sell and more about the conversations with all the women that I have," she says. "It's kind of just a hub for connection, really."

COVID-19 has forced the temporary closure of the co-working space, but Annie has expanded the boutique, ensuring The Heart is still a hub of local entrepreneurship.

"This place is a way to connect with like-minded people, to share about their struggles, to celebrate their wins," she says. "Because you work for yourself, you don't have a boss that says, 'You're doing a really great job.' That's all on you."

Designing beautiful spaces is only part of the picture for Ada Bonini, principal and co-founder of Bob's Your Uncle Design (BYU Design).

"Design has a purpose," says Ada. "Your expression has a purpose."

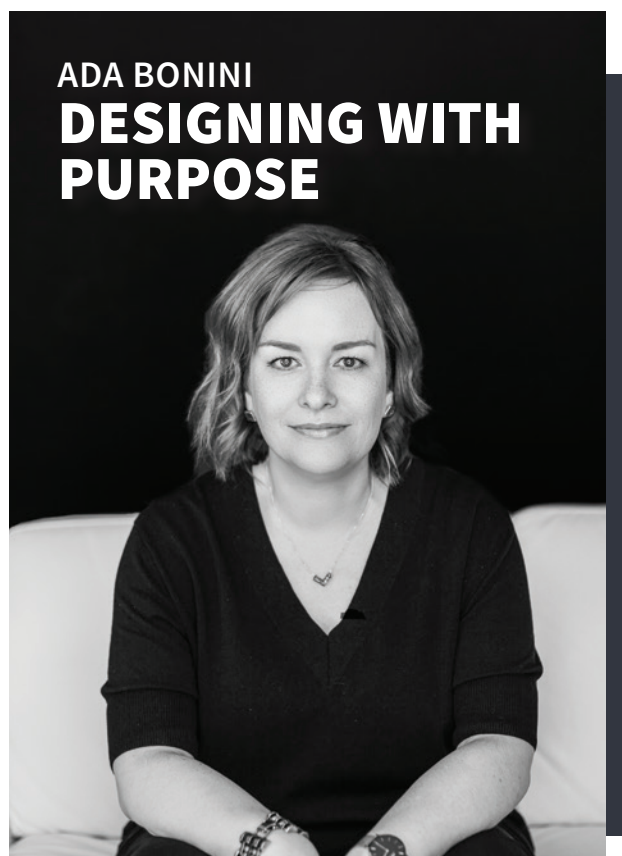
Ada would know, as in addition to running a highly successful interior design firm, she is a fellow with the Interior Designers of Canada and sits on its board of governors. She's a member of multiple local and international design associations and is an accredited LEED AP professional. One of the first graduates of KPU's bachelor of applied design program, she has also served for many years on the National Council for Interior Design Qualification examination committee.

It was at KPU that Ada met Cheryl Broadhead, her future business partner and co-founder and principal of BYU Design. Both graduated with a diploma of interior design before Ada returned to KPU to complete her degree. The two women ended up working at the same firm and in 2003 struck out on their own.

"We connected when we were in the interior design program," says Ada. "We forged a friendship. Our work ethos was aligned as well as how we look at design."

BYU Design specializes in multi-unit residential with a focus on building a concept story. Over the years its team has grown to 20 employees — and half of them are fellow KPU alumni.

"Building your team is so important to support your vision," says Ada. "I try to align with people that share our values when we hire."



ADA BONINI DESIGNING WITH PURPOSE

COMMUNITY MINDED



MICHAEL CHANG
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

Michael Chang thought he was headed to UBC after being accepted right out of high school. It seemed like the natural path for him given his two older brothers went there.

But there was something about KPU that called to him.

"Why would I go off to UBC when I could stay local in Cloverdale and continue fostering the relationships that I already had?" he asks.

Community, after all, is the most important thing to Michael. He was very involved with student life while enrolled in the accounting program, receiving KPU's Contribution to Campus Life Award and Giving Back Citizenship Award for his efforts. He remains involved in his community today, serving on the board of directors for KPU's Alumni Association and SurreyCares.

"I'm very happy with the choices that I've made in terms of staying in my hometown," says Michael, who graduated with his bachelor of business administration in accounting in 2015. "To this day, it's certainly proven to be a good decision."

Michael is currently a senior associate in Grant Thornton's advisory practice. Prior to this, Michael spent five years in industry accounting where he has served as a consultant to a fintech start up and a Los Angeles-based CPA firm, acted as the controller of a transportation company and assistant controller of an investment holding company, and was the founder/owner of a bookkeeping company.

He says KPU's approach to learning – with its small class sizes and personal interactions with faculty, alongside practical academic knowledge – helped him build the skills he needed for the job.

"I always felt like the professors actually cared about you, and I knew that I was never just a number, which is unique about the KPU experience," he says.

CHAMPIONING THE STUDENTS



MOHAMMAD KALLAS
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

Mohammad Kallas was so incensed by the B.C. government's proposal to raise university tuition fees back in 2003 that he just had to do something about it – something that would make a statement.

So alongside fellow KPU students, he chained himself to the doors of the Richmond campus and stayed there overnight in an act of protest.

"I did not want anyone to come in because I was passionate about us, as students, standing up against tuition fee hikes. It was time to let the media, students and faculty know that we have a voice that had to be heard," Mohammad says.


The episode is a dramatic example of a recurring theme of his academic career – placing the interests of students before anything else. During his time at KPU he held various roles in the Kwantlen Student Association, including speaker of council and director of academic affairs. He'd hand out flyers and free food on the first day of classes while getting to know students.

Mohammad went to both SFU (where he earned an MBA) and UBC (where he earned a BA in psychology), but he holds a special affection for KPU. He earned an associate of arts degree in criminology, followed by a postgraduate baccalaureate diploma in human resource management. Today, he's a senior HR and talent acquisition partner, but it was the years earning those degrees that were the most rewarding for him.

"For me, the appeal was the way of life," he says. "It was the feeling I got when I opened those doors, it was the feeling I got when I walked into the Kwantlen Student Union. It was that feeling of welcoming that you found that was very difficult to find anywhere else," he says.

Mohammad meets KPU alumni through his job, and he's noticed a humility among KPU graduates that's not shared by alumni of other institutions.

"You'll hear KPU students say, 'I'm motivated by the experience.' You'll rarely hear that from students at other post-secondary institutions," he says.



TIANA SHARIFI CREATING AWARENESS

An expert in the field of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, Tiana Sharifi is the founder of Sexual Exploitation Education and Consulting Services (SEE).

Tiana launched SEE in 2019 and in the short time she's been running her business, she's become the go-to expert for Vancouver media on issues of sexual exploitation of children and youth, including online predators.

"In B.C., there isn't a lot of education and prevention on the topic," says Tiana. "There's a lot of sexual exploitation that's happening in our community, but it's not out in the open or being discussed. Creating awareness is key to stopping this."

An educator and advocate, Tiana has given numerous presentations to school districts, provided in-house training to the Metro Vancouver Transit Police and updated curriculum on sexual exploitation for the Indigenous Perspectives Society. She was named a finalist in the B.C. Business Women of the Year Awards 2020 Change Maker category.

A graduate of KPU's bachelor of arts degree with a major in psychology and a minor in counselling, Tiana studied under best-selling author and clinical counsellor Dr. Deborah MacNamara, registered clinical counsellor Dr. Sarah Hickinbottom-Brawn and clinical psychologist Dr. Faith Auton-Cuff.

"All three professors in different ways had a lot of wisdom to offer beyond textbooks that was applicable in real life," says Tiana. "They went above and beyond what was required. I found that program to be exceptional."

Upon graduation, Tiana joined the Children of the Street Society as a workshop facilitator before gaining experience as a front-line worker for a number of children and family services. She re-joined the Children of the Street Society as its program director prior to launching SEE.

A VALUABLE ASSET



KELLY TRAINER
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

Kelly Trainer never planned to stay at KPU long. She expected to move on to SFU after a couple years, but like so many others, she fell in love with everything that KPU had to offer.

"I didn't realize how amazing the accounting program was until I actually attended KPU," she says. "It wasn't until I had talked to friends at SFU, UBC and the other universities in the area. Then I realized how great the program really was."

She found its emphasis on building social skills and networking particularly helpful and says instructors spent a considerable amount of time with students to prepare them for post-graduation jobs. She says problems she dealt with in third- and fourth-year classrooms were the same ones professionals deal with in the real world.

"The amount of preparation that KPU students have is much greater than we see out of a lot of other universities," she says.

Trainer graduated in December 2013 with a bachelor of business administration in accounting. Afterward, she earned her chartered professional accountant designation while articling with MNP LLP, where she now works as a manager specializing in the real estate and construction industry, with a focus on succession planning. She's also involved in the hiring of new talent and says a KPU business degree is a particularly valuable asset in the workforce today.

Trainer also serves as treasurer for the KPU Alumni Association, where she puts an emphasis on building the value of the KPU brand through its alumni.

"I'm trying to make it a university of choice without comparing to SFU and UBC – making it a first choice," she says. "KPU is a well-established university with great programs, professors and opportunities."

MODEST, YET AMBITIOUS



JAMES GRANGE
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

One could reasonably describe James Grange as ambitious.

During his time at KPU, where he graduated with a BA in criminology, James was actively involved in both the student and local community. He earned a JD from UBC's Peter A. Allard School of Law and is currently completing his MBA at SFU.

James articulated for Campbell, Burton & McMullan LLP prior to joining First West Credit Union as legal counsel. He also serves as an adjunct instructor at KPU and as a director of the KPU Alumni Association.

While his achievements are impressive, his approach has always been modest. A "total homebody," James says he attended KPU initially because it was close to home and offered small class sizes. He soon discovered those smaller class sizes allowed him to make connections with instructors who had profound and long-standing impacts on him personally and professionally.

"I felt like my professors were really invested in their students and did more than just teach," he says. "If you want to have really good relationships with your professors, that's available to you at KPU, where it may not be at a larger university."

James credits some of this to the educational philosophy at KPU but notes that students play an active role in facilitating the community feel of the school. They tend to be the type of students who are seeking something more than a traditional university experience, somewhere that personal relationships are encouraged and commonplace.

He says he's gained so much from this approach that he decided to become an adjunct instructor at KPU.

"I like helping students and helping instill confidence in them at the beginning of their journey," he says. "I want to be there for them like my professors were for me. I just felt like it was a good way to give back."

Cindy Masaro was on maternity leave with her second child when she decided to switch fields and pursue nursing.

She found a flexible learning environment at KPU that allowed her to launch an accomplished career as a nurse, a health researcher and, later, as a public health leader working on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.

“The fact that I could do it part-time, it didn't seem as daunting with these two children,” she says. “And then, when the kids were a little older, I switched to full-time. But from the very beginning it opened up those doors.”

Since graduating from KPU in 1996, Cindy has gone onto complete a PhD in nursing, worked as a research coordinator for the BC Centre for Disease Control and, nearly six years ago, accepted her current position as regional director of communicable disease control at Vancouver Coastal Health. When cases of COVID-19 began to climb in the region, Cindy led a team to respond rapidly.

“We went from a team of 11 to a team of 265,” she explains. “It was all hands on deck. We had to develop an infrastructure to deal with the case investigations and contact follow-up. In March (of last year), people were working seven days a week, extended hours, just trying to get the infrastructure in place.”

Nearing retirement, Cindy reflects on a career that from the start has allowed her to adapt so she can have the biggest impact. That, she says, started at KPU.

“KPU was very accommodating,” she says. “I remember I wanted to do part of my graduation requirements in the operating room, which was not allowed at the time. I wrote a letter to say what I wanted for my experience and my justification and rationale for it, and they actually accepted it.”



**CINDY MASARO
ON THE
FRONT LINE**

Saschie MacLean-Magbanua, founder of Formation Studio, thought the hard work was behind her. She had spent the better part of five years building toward the opening of her flagship location in Mount Pleasant, and she assumed that once it was open, the hardest part was over.

“I thought I was running a race and when we opened, we were at the finish line, but it was actually just a checkpoint for another lap,” Saschie says with a laugh.

She founded Formation in 2015 as an outlet to cope with the loss of her younger sister, who had died in a car accident a year earlier. She says she only wanted to dance to Beyoncé at that time, so she created a dance program around her songs that she thought would be just for her and her friends. But when she shared the program with other people, it connected and began to grow organically.

“Our focus is creating a space that’s judgment free, where no experience is necessary,” she says. “What we do is we help facilitate a connection with music and movement that is much more holistic than other dance programs.”

Saschie graduated from KPU with a diploma in public relations in 2012 and worked for various PR agencies before landing a dream job, of sorts, at Tourism Vancouver, handling media relations for U.S. and Mexican journalists.

She operated Formation as a side gig out of rented spaces until opening the flagship in September 2019. She transitioned to the studio full-time in the spring of 2020, deciding to focus on dance and fitness because, in the end, it has been a therapeutic outlet for both herself and her clients.

“Really being in the music, in the moment with all of those people, I think that was really cool for me,” she says.



**SASCHIE MACLEAN-MAGBANUA
FORMATIONAL
EXPERIENCE**



AYESHA KHAN FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

2020 Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient

Ayesha Khan says she was one of those KPU rabble rousers. You know the ones, staging protests and hosting events, trying to engage students on important topics of public interest, including Indigenous sovereignty, climate justice and anti-racism. Ayesha served as the director of Anti-Oppression for the Kwantlen Public Interest Research Group, an advocacy group that is now defunct. It was her mission to rally students who, she knew, maybe weren't yet willing to be mobilized.

"We really did have to kind of massage that idea of organizing for the people into the student body," Ayesha says now. "I'm not sure how well received it was, but we were building some momentum when we were there and that was really inspiring."

Those early efforts at organizing were instrumental in developing the skills she uses now as an organizer for the BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU), where she advocates for front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her passion and impressive talents as an organizer have earned her KPU's 2020 Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

The award, and her career so far, is the culmination of a young life spent doing, as she says, "activist things." From an early age, growing up in a working-class family in Surrey, she found common cause with minorities and disenfranchised people, and was compelled to do something about it.

"I noticed a gap growing up. You saw Muslims speaking about things, but you never saw Muslim women, right? You saw women speaking about things, but you never saw women of colour, right?" she says.

Inspired, she eventually pursued sociology at KPU, becoming only the third family member in five generations to complete post-secondary. She says the opportunities she experienced there were "phenomenal," and she graduated with her BA in sociology in 2017.

"My whole degree is being utilized now because the labour movement is all based on class-analysis, consciousness-raising, social theory and all those things," she says.

"I couldn't really ask for anything more. This is really what I want to be doing for the rest of my life."

A COMMUNITY FOUND



DUNCAN KEIST
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

If there was one thing Duncan Keist could depend on while at KPU it was the community, which is precisely why he believes it stands out from other institutions.

“I think KPU offers community-focused education,” he says. “Students can develop their social skills through their post post-secondary education, so we’re not only book-smart, but we know how to navigate through complex social interactions and world problems.”

Duncan says this educational approach was useful in his post-KPU career as a youth and support worker and also ultimately led him to pursue a master of arts in counselling psychology at Trinity Western University. He’s now applying to become a registered clinical counsellor and has plans to start a private practice focused on treating depression, anxiety and trauma, among other issues.

Duncan says small class sizes were particularly important as they offered a community feel and a more intimate educational experience that went beyond simply taking notes and reading from textbooks.

“It felt like my voice mattered,” he says. “It helped me to get involved in a university community instead of just going to classes and then going straight home. It was conducive to relationship building, which was and still is really important to me.”

Duncan’s extracurricular activities were just as important, and he credits his experience with the Kwantlen Student Association for helping him hone the skills and foster the sense of community necessary to counsel people in his career today.

“I was surrounded by people who really wanted to be a voice for students,” he says. “Being surrounded by people who had this caring, thoughtful, considerate sort of attitude was really impactful for me. I think it contributed to my decision to become a counsellor.”

Duncan remains connected to the university by serving on the board of the KPU Alumni Association.

GROWING LIKE CRAZY



KATHRYN LANDRIGAN
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

Kathryn Landrigan had just taken over as sales manager at Vega, one of the fastest-growing companies in Canada at the time, while also working toward her KPU business degree.

She was feeling the pressure of leading a sales team for the first time, so one day during class she told instructor Chamkaur Cheema about the situation, mentioning that she was organizing workshops for her team. Chamkaur offered to spend the day facilitating the workshops – something that has had a lasting impact on Kathryn and her perception of KPU.

“His willingness to help me – a student – while also representing the university was so impressive. He literally blocked a day out of his schedule, came to my workplace and helped me out,” she says.

For Kathryn, this showed not just the enthusiasm this one instructor had for his students, but also the uniqueness and depth of education students get at KPU, which can extend well past the classroom. She continues to be connected to the university as a director of the KPU Alumni Association.

Kathryn graduated with a bachelor’s degree in entrepreneurship and is now the chief strategy officer for Ancient Nutrition, one of the fastest-growing companies in the U.S. She credits the business program for teaching her practical and useful skills, which she still uses today.

“It really taught me how to prioritize things strategically,” she says. “The type of companies I work in are usually growing like crazy. There are always a million things to do, and there’s never enough time. I think the program really helped me focus in on the biggest, most important things.”



HAYLEY WOODIN COVERING THE GAMUT

A familiar face to many British Columbians, Hayley Woodin has been a regular presence in households across the province on Global News Morning for the past several years as a *Business in Vancouver* (BIV) contributor.

A multimedia reporter for BIV and editor of BIV Magazine, Hayley has covered the gamut of the B.C. business industry in print and online as well as through social media, radio, podcasts and broadcast TV – a role she was more than prepared for after completing her bachelor of journalism at KPU.

“The practicum and work placements I did – thanks to recommendations from KPU faculty – all helped me to deepen my understanding of journalism and the workplace,” says Hayley. “Mark Hamilton (former journalism chair and now-retired instructor) always encouraged me to seek opportunities I wasn’t sure I was ready for, and that was incredibly helpful to receive that kind of support from someone who worked as a journalist.”

While completing her program, Hayley spent six weeks undergoing conflict zone reporting training at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre and six months studying international journalism, terrorism and political Islam at the University of Central Lancashire in England. After graduation, she was recognized by KPU with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award 2016.

She reported from Southeast Asia as one of three journalists selected as 2017-18 Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada media fellows, and has covered a range of stories from tech in Silicon Valley to Canadian mining operations in Central America and their impact on rural and Indigenous communities.

Today, Hayley gives back to her alma mater as chair of KPU’s Journalism Advisory Committee. Her community work extends to serving as a board director for the White Rock Youth Ambassador Program, and she can frequently be found at local business and community events as moderator, emcee or guest speaker.

Next, Hayley is planning a dual career in journalism and law and is in the process of applying to law school.

“When I was abroad I covered stories from a legal aspect and I always thought it would be interesting to be able to tell those stories with a deeper understanding of the law,” she says. “I’m excited by the possibility of practising law while working on longer-form journalism projects.”



JORDAN BUNA A CAREER PATH MADE POSSIBLE

“What’s an ex-con going to do with a criminology degree?” asks Jordan Buna rhetorically.

The answer is to draw on his experiences as a former gang member to help at-risk youth, a career path made possible by his studies at KPU.

Jordan spent his teenage years in and out of trouble, eventually running a dial-a-dope operation until his incarceration for gun possession and drug trafficking.

Today he works in anti-gang prevention and intervention programming for youth as a substance use liaison for the Surrey School District, and as a presenter for the provincial government's Safer Schools Together program and for the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC's End Gang Life.

"We've talked to a ton of schools and a ton of kids," says Jordan. "I tell them that the decisions you make are going to dictate the direction of your life."

Jordan worked hard to walk away from his former gang life after his release from prison, sweeping floors in a garage for two years before becoming a heavy-duty mechanic. He also reapplied to the same criminology undergraduate program at KPU where he had received "F" after "F" before dropping out.

The second time, he got straight "A's." That encouraged Jordan and he actively sought out opportunities, volunteering to assist in a research project aimed at reducing youth gang involvement. He also surrounded himself with positive role models, including criminology instructor Dr. Keiron McConnell, a former sergeant with the Vancouver Police Department who knew Jordan as a gang member.

"My previous interactions with Keiron had always been on the police enforcement side of things," says Jordan. "When I first ran into Keiron at KPU, we couldn't believe each other was there. He became a mentor and we started to work together. We're really close friends."

Jordan is working towards his master's degree in counselling psychology and is also celebrating a pardon of his criminal record, which he received 10 years after serving his sentence. It was granted in recognition of his work in gang prevention, thanks in part to a letter of support from his mentor Keiron.

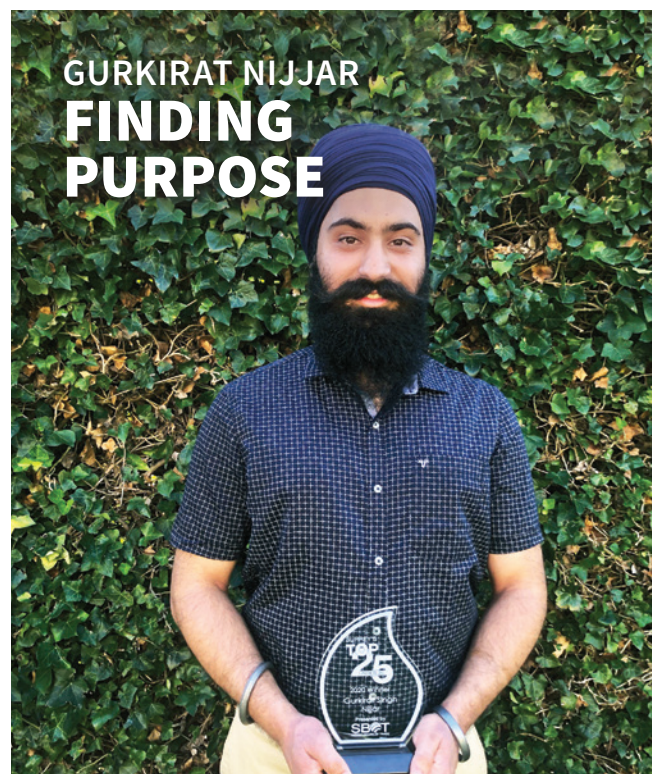
Gurkirat Nijjar was nervous about enrolling at KPU as an international student from Punjab, India, but he soon realized he had nothing to worry about.

"On my first day at KPU I didn't know anyone, and I was totally lost," he explains. "But when I entered the complex, I asked someone for help finding my class. And the guy whom I was asking, coincidentally, was my instructor and he offered to walk me to my class."

Despite his initial nerves, Gurkirat says he found a welcoming learning environment where he could pursue his passion for science in the associate degree in biology program. The hands-on lab work at KPU, he says, sparked an interest in pursuing medical school, and the kindness of his instructors and the staff in the Learning Centre inspired him to help other international students by easing their transition into higher education in a new country.

Gurkirat was recently recognized as one of Surrey's Top 25 Under 25 for his extensive volunteer work. He serves as a community outreach director of One Voice Canada, an organization that advocates, supports and creates awareness on local and global issues that affect international students, and he's a lead volunteer for South Asian Mental Health Alliance and the South Asian Health Institute. He also founded Students Overcoming Opioid Use Disorder and Addictions to create awareness of the opioid crisis and provide Naloxone training in the South Asian community.

"The reason why I want to go into medicine is because I see there is a huge gap between medical services and underprivileged populations, or populations with language barriers, such as the South Asian community," he says. "If I can make an impact in the community, I think going for medicine is the best way to do so."



A FAMILY LEGACY



AMANDA SMITH-WESTON

KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

In a way, KPU is a family institution for Amanda Smith-Weston.

She calls herself “a KPU legacy” as both her parents earned degrees from the university. Amanda has clear memories of the original campus on 140th Street in Surrey, and recalls the new one being built, as she grew up right alongside the school in those early days.

“When it was time for me to go to university, I was just like, well, you know what? This is the school I know. And I know that it accommodates people who have jobs and families, (and) I had both at the time,” she says.

She says her own kids grew up around campus while she was earning her degree in anthropology and like Amanda, they’ve spent time volunteering for the university.

After graduating in 2014, Amanda has sought out and enjoyed a number of professional and community volunteer roles, including as a heritage and museum professional, working with troubled youth and as a background performer for film and TV. She volunteers her time constantly, giving back to KPU – she’s a board member of the KPU Alumni Association – and to the wider Surrey community as often as she can, while also working these days as a self-employed social media professional.

Although her work now may not seem to be linked to her degree in anthropology, Amanda says she’s taken the ideas she learned studying the discipline and is applying them in practical ways.

“When you are in the anthropology department, they really stress the importance of not making judgements while you are observing cultural and social structures between people and within organizations,” she says. “Everything that I do, I bring that knowledge with me. How can I be helpful in this culture? What is their social structure and how can I work with them to create a lasting, positive impact?”

She says the anthropology department put a focus on networking as well as helping her and those in her cohort take the steps they needed to find work in the field.

“That department really did invest their time in me, and for that, I am very thankful. They made an effort to connect with me, to learn about me, to learn about my family,” she says.



SARAH SANGHA
PERSONAL
CARE

Sarah Sangha's mission was to save us all from stress.

She was running The Screen Girls blog at the time, interviewing musicians, fashion designers and other creatives, when she noticed that many of her interview subjects were inhibited creatively by feelings of burnout or general unwellness.

"I kept hearing that work-life balance was a challenge for them and began to see something was needed to help them de-stress," she says.

"I thought that echoed all of our busy lifestyles, so I applied that knowledge and created some products specifically for them."

Sarah used this insight to create Vellum Wellness, a genderless personal care and aromatherapy brand that launched in 2018. Since then, the company has grown 900 per cent year-over-year, and its products can be purchased through Amazon, Bed Bath & Beyond, Hudson's Bay and Walmart. Last year, Sarah was named one of BC Business's 30 Under 30.

She says this whole path began at KPU, where she started out in the journalism program, before earning a bachelor's in political science in 2012. She then graduated with a journalism degree from BCIT in 2014, all of which led to her creation of The Screen Girls and Vellum.

"(It was) a great place to have the freedom to expand your mind and explore your options," she says of her time at KPU.

In her fourth year, she took some interdisciplinary expressive arts classes, studying performance art and mindfulness. That multidisciplinary experience inspired her, and today it helps form Vellum's business philosophy.

"When you own a business, you definitely have to be knowledgeable in different fields, and so it really has helped me to take a couple of courses in different disciplines," she says. "The fact that KPU has so many different options, you can dabble and find something that really speaks to you."

If Corne Moerman had to choose one benefit he took from KPU, he says it would be meeting his wife.

"I met her there my first day of school, we took the same program," he says. "We started dating pretty shortly after that."

The story is fitting for someone whose career has been defined by family ties. Corne's father and uncle founded Sunnyside Produce in 1996, the greenhouses of which Corne says he was "born and raised in, basically."

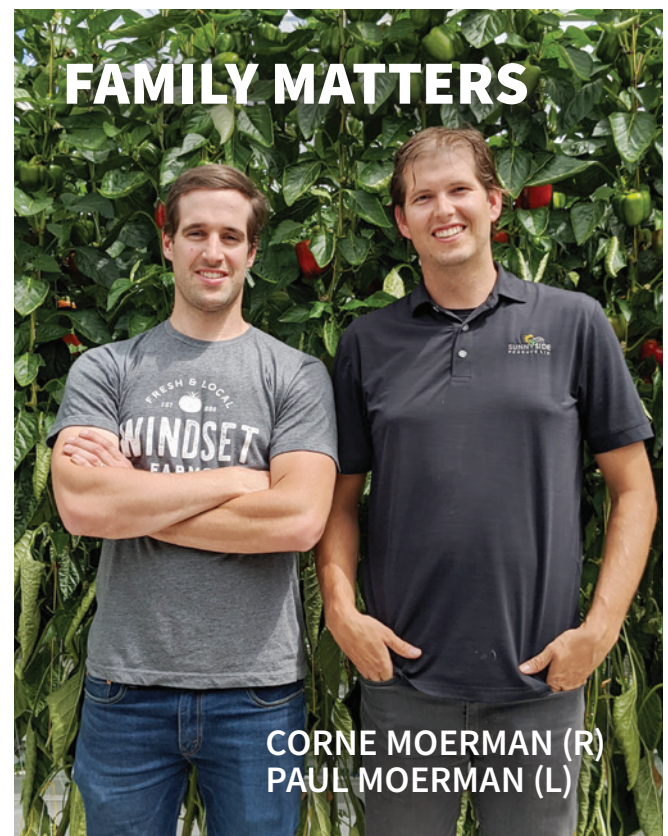
In 2008, he joined Sunnyside, along with his cousin Paul, who also attended KPU. Eventually, the two men will take over the family business, which encompasses 70 acres of greenhouses in Abbotsford, Surrey and Delta.

Corne says he could have joined the company full-time right after high school but decided to gain some experience first. He spent time working at a greenhouse in Holland before earning a diploma in horticulture technology at KPU.

"It's definitely a good school," he says. "I liked that it was a hands-on experience."

Today, Corne is overseeing a 14-acre expansion of Sunnyside's Delta operation, while also managing payroll and human resources for the company's 100-person team during peak season. He says there have been challenges lately due to COVID-19 as local workers have been difficult to find and foreign labour more difficult to hire, but overall, he says, the company is faring reasonably well.

"It's still actually a really good year for us," he says. "That's the business. We're producing food. There's always a need for food."



FAMILY MATTERS

CORNE MOERMAN (R)
PAUL MOERMAN (L)



ROXANNE CHARLES RADICAL EXPRESSION

And there it was, the 10-foot transformation figure, looming tall over all who entered the gallery. The sculpture was at once conceptual and traditionally Coast Salish. The work was the perfect synthesis of Roxanne Charles' aesthetic, and the peak of her career so far.

Roxanne is a mixed media artist and member of the Semiahmoo First Nation, whose art is as much an anthropological study as it is self-expression. She uses her work to explore spirituality, identity, urbanization and the environment, among other themes, in order to offer her own perspective of Indigenous voices in Canada.

"I'm working at elevating the voices that aren't often heard," she says. "A huge part of it for me is just inspiring youth to see the power in their voice, so they can recognize the importance of their voice."

Roxanne holds two bachelor's degrees from KPU, one in general studies and another in fine arts. She initially went to KPU to earn an education to support her two young children, but once there she found its educational model offered near boundless opportunity to explore intellectual curiosity, which has since fueled her creative work.

"It was amazing to be able to blend these different disciplines, rather than just study the fine arts," she says. "I was able to take fine arts, anthropology and education courses, and custom build the education that I wanted to see for myself."

Today, she is earning her master's in fine arts at SFU, combining her studies with graduate-level anthropology to study the lost history and knowledge of her people.

"A lot of our things were documented through visual representation, through ceremony and through oral history," she says. "I try to embrace those things in my work, rather than in Western forms of art."





ZENA MITCHELL A DEDICATED CAREER

Zena Mitchell has walked the halls of Kwantlen Polytechnic University for over 25 years.

She graduated from the marketing management diploma program before completing her undergraduate degree, a bachelor of business administration in entrepreneurial leadership, in the late 1990s.

Zena spent the practicum portion of her degree creating a marketing plan for the Kwantlen Eagles sports teams and was subsequently hired full-time by her alma mater as a marketing assistant in 1999. She has continued climbing the ranks of the academic administration and just received her 20-year service pin.

Today, Zena is KPU's registrar, recently re-appointed to the five-year term position. She also serves as the university's secretary of senate, secretary of convocation and chief returning officer.

She holds a master of applied communication from Royal Roads University, which she earned while working at KPU. She credits the variety of professional development opportunities afforded her, and the rewarding work in both the public sector and with students, as reasons why she has dedicated her entire career thus far to KPU.

"Students who we know and support, the things that they do, are remarkable, and it makes me proud to work at KPU," says Zena. "And it all culminates at convocation."

As registrar, Zena has the honour of being the marshall of convocation and leads the procession of faculty and students into and out of the ceremony, carrying KPU's ceremonial mace.

In fall 2020, KPU created a virtual convocation ceremony because of the COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings, and Zena's marshall of convocation role morphed into "narrator" for the video, allowing her to continue her connection – albeit virtually – with KPU's newest graduates.

Still, nothing measures up to the opportunity to gather together for convocation.

"It's a long journey for students and convocation is that one day we can all come together to celebrate," adds Zena. "It's a reminder of the importance of what we do."



SHERRYL & CHRIS PARSONS A MATCH MADE AT KPU

Not every marriage lends itself to a successful business partnership, but Sherryl and Chris Parsons are a rare affair when it comes to mixing business with pleasure.

"I get that a lot from my friends, 'Man, I could never work with my wife,'" laughs Chris. "But our skill sets complement each other. We're not stepping on each other's toes. I think that's why our marriage works well, it's why our friendship works well and it's why our business works well."

Owners of Rare Affairs Event Management Inc., the husband-wife duo was the recipient of the 2015 Small Business of the Year Award and the 2019 Community Impact Award – for Profit at the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce’s Celebration of Excellence Awards.

As president, Sherryl is front and centre handling logistics and working with clients to realize their event vision, while vice-president Chris works behind the scenes on everything from audio visuals to marketing and web design. He also runs their Rare Solutions division, which provides business solutions consulting.

The couple both earned their bachelor of business administration degrees in entrepreneurial leadership at KPU where they met in a first-year accounting course.

“I convinced Chris to join the rowing team,” reminisces Sherryl. “We rowed out of Fort Langley for Kwantlen in winter. It was pitch black, freezing cold and we would row with flashlights strapped to the stern at 5 a.m.”

Icy water aside, Sherryl and Chris have fond memories of their time at KPU, particularly their hometown campus of Langley. Chris volunteered with the Student Association as the Langley campus representative, and today Sherryl is chair of the KPU President’s Community Advisory Council – Langley.

Keeping it in the KPU family, the third team member of Rare Affairs is event production manager Laura Warren, who graduated with a certificate of music in 2001 and is a long-time friend of the couple. Laura and Chris both play in the band Exit 58.

Understanding events from a performance and business perspective has proven to be a winning combination for Sherryl and Chris. While the COVID-19 pandemic hit the event industry hard, Rare Affairs managed to adapt quickly, flipping events onto virtual platforms and transforming others such as the Langley Fork & Finger Festival into the Pick Up Picnic project.

“There’s a way to have events and stay safe,” says Sherryl. “It’s never a dull moment.”

Eating your dishes takes the zero waste movement to a whole new level and that’s exactly what Marissa Bergeron intended when she launched her street food business.

Marissa, who graduated from KPU with a bachelor of arts degree in general studies in 2011, is the founder and owner of Eat the Dishes, a vegan, zero waste mobile food stand that makes soups from scratch as well as hot chocolate and ice creams, all served in fresh-baked bread cups.

The secret to Marissa’s zero waste street food lies in a specialty bread machine that bakes to order each bread cup, eliminating single-use, take-out containers.

After nine years as a flight attendant where she ate street food from all around the world, Marisa saw the same problem on every continent – mountains of trash from single-use items. Seeing an opportunity, she left the airline industry and launched her business.

It was at the inaugural Kwantlen St. Winter Market on the Surrey campus in 2018 that Marissa was able to debut Eat the Dishes. The mobile food stand has since catered large events and been a staple at markets and festivals around the Lower Mainland before taking a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic to re-strategize.

In September of 2020, plant-based milk producer Earth’s Own announced Marissa as a winner of its Plant Project, an initiative that supports a shift towards plant-based eating. She will be working with Earth’s Own to expand her business over the next several months.

“We had to really think about how we’re going to do things in a post-COVID world,” says Marissa. “People still feel hesitant to go indoors when eating out, but Eat the Dishes is designed for pedestrians walking outdoors.”



“It’s important to reflect back on where you come from and KPU is one of those places,” says Joel McKay, CEO at Northern Development Initiative Trust. “Twelve years after I’ve graduated, the university has a very special place in my heart.”

Joel earned his diploma of journalism followed by a bachelor of journalism at KPU in 2009. He worked as a reporter and editor at *Business in Vancouver* until joining a regional development corporation focused on stimulating economic growth in northern British Columbia as its director of communications. His role was subsequently broadened to include regional economic research and analysis, and in 2016 he took the helm as CEO.

Under Joel’s leadership, Northern Development Initiative Trust’s capital base has nearly doubled from \$260 million to half a billion, and since he joined in 2012, the number of projects approved annually has jumped from approximately 200 to 500.

Northern Development is driven to make northern communities desirable places to live by supporting small business and community development as well as capacity building. This past year Joel and his team launched a suite of community development programs, including downtown revitalization, improving parks and playgrounds, and building recreational and cultural infrastructure.

An award-winning public relations professional and journalist, Joel was recognized by KPU with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016.

“My time at KPU — that got me ready for a very intense time in journalism, and that got me ready for a very intense time in communications, and that got me ready for leading an organization.”



A GUIDING FACTOR

Jacqueline Tarantino enrolled in KPU initially to take a criminology course that wasn’t offered at the University of Victoria, where she was completing her bachelor of arts.

Undecided on a professional path, her encounters at KPU – specifically with her instructors – ended up being a “guiding factor” in her decision to pursue a career in law.

“Having that exposure to the instructors, who had connections in the legal profession, helped me realize that was a path I wanted pursue,” she says.

After graduating from KPU with a bachelor of arts in criminology, she went on to obtain her law degree from the Peter A. Allard School of Law at UBC. For the past three years, Jacqueline has worked as in-house counsel at ICBC.

While Jacqueline credits her educational experience at KPU for providing her with unique opportunities, perhaps the most profound benefit has been the long-standing professional connections she made with her peers and faculty.

“I think having the smaller classes, they really let you develop lasting connections,” she says.

KPU, she says, is the right kind of institution for people wanting to develop themselves and explore new opportunities, a place that allows students to interact meaningfully with peers and instructors who are engaging and motivating.

“It’s a place to start developing their network, to engage in community, start fostering a sense of community themselves,” she says.

Jacqueline continues to be involved with her alma mater, serving as a board member of the KPU Alumni Association.



JACQUELINE TARANTINO
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER



BALRAJ MANN A GLOBAL CAREER

Being close to home was a big factor in Balraj Mann's decision to enroll in the first cohort of the diploma in civil engineering technology program.

"I think the reason I chose KPU was that I used to live in the city," says the 1986 grad. "Also, the small class sizes and more personal attention and relationships with the teachers really appealed to me."

Today, he has a more global outlook. As chairman and CEO of the BM Group of Companies, Balraj oversees a consortium of businesses, primarily in specialty contracting, construction and real estate development. With offices in the Lower Mainland, the United States and India – and more than 500 employees worldwide – the BM Group now has 14 companies under its brand.

Since graduating from KPU, Balraj's career has followed an upward trajectory. He started out as a consultant before rising through the ranks of an engineering company, later starting his own. After moving into the construction industry, he launched his own business and began acquiring others specializing in contracting and structure restoration.

Despite his success, Balraj still finds time to give back to the school that helped launch his career. As vice chair of the KPU Foundation, he lends his business expertise to fundraising efforts in support of KPU students.

"I think KPU is a great organization," he says. "It's affordable, it's approachable and it's small enough to care. It's a great place for people to grow their career."



Appliance repair is all about solving problems for Luke Gock. When there's a broken circuit, that's when his gears really start cranking.

"I love working through these situations," Luke says. "Your door sensor isn't working? OK, we need to trace the circuit, trace the components, the wiring diagrams and find out what's amiss."

Luke graduated with a certificate in appliance servicing in 2015, but actually had a head start on his career path as a child. His father was a refrigeration technician, and Luke would often follow his dad on the job, serving as an assistant of sorts.

He'd considered going into policing, but ultimately decided on appliance repair, in part based on the strength of the KPU program's sterling reputation. While attending the program, he found shop work to be extremely rewarding, given his disposition for technical problem solving.

"Once we were unleashed in the shop, that's where the fun really began," he says. "We got hands-on experience on all the appliances – the dishwashers, ovens, refrigerators, sealed system work and then further got to test our troubleshooting skills."

Miele Canada hired Luke right out of school and within three years promoted him to B.C. regional service manager, where he serves now, managing eight technicians across the province. He says the program was essential in teaching him the skills needed to succeed so early in his career, and sees the same situation happening with other recent grads.

"There's nothing quite like the appliance servicing program from KPU," Luke says. "My colleagues out East are actually quite jealous when they learned how thorough the classes were. They struggle to find a comparison. I have easy access to a quality crop of potential hires, whereas they have to really, really look around."

When Stuart Chase looks back on his career so far, the friendships he's developed stand out the most.

In particular, he thinks of an unofficial scotch club he took part in with four of his fellow KPU journalism students, who'd use these cheeky tasting sessions to blow off a little steam after long and often hectic days in class. It's been 14 years since they all graduated from the applied journalism program (Stuart with a minor in public relations), but he's remained friends with each of them.

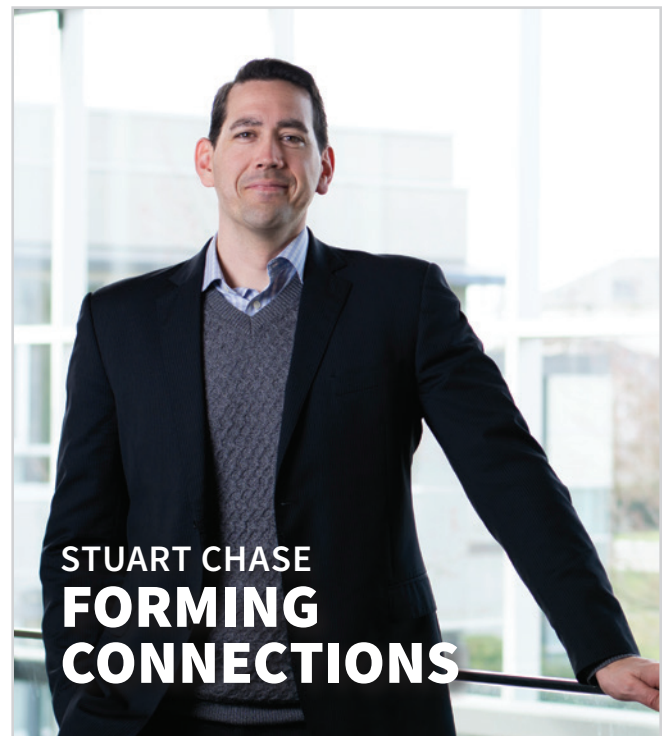
"KPU really helped to bond friendship beyond just a professional level. I think that was really valuable," he says.

Stuart's ability to connect with people has served him well in his current role as director of marketing and communications for Make-A-Wish BC & Yukon. And while he never pursued journalism professionally, he says the skills he learned in the program have been fundamental to how he does his job today.

"Thinking like a journalist, with the toolkit that I developed through KPU, was incredibly helpful in attracting media attention through my own writing," he says. "Being able to create a press release that is journalistic in nature and can grab an editor has been very useful."

He says the program was structured like an actual newsroom and public relations environment, with short deadlines on assignments based on real-world examples. Small class sizes meant every student received individual attention from instructors, who were experienced media and communications professionals that kept pace with the industry in real time.

"By the time I came out of that program, I had all the confidence in the world that I was going to be able to handle whatever was going to be coming my way," he says.



DESTINY AND DIVERSITY



FATIMA ZAIDI
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

Fatima Zaidi's first day at KPU was also her most memorable. She recalls walking the halls of the Surrey campus, feeling the weight of possibility and opportunity.

"It's a powerful moment because you don't know what you don't know," she says now. "Sometimes that can propel you to seeing things that you wouldn't otherwise see."

What she eventually found was community and meaning through student activism while earning her BA in criminology. She served as a board director of the Kwantlen Student Association for three years and was also a peer mentor, a new student orientation leader and the first recipient of the Eagle Spirit Award.

After graduating in 2017, she founded Project Instigate, which mentors students and business owners who want to make positive impacts on their communities. She's also a motivational speaker, including at TEDx, giving talks that address diversity, equity and social change.

However, it was at university that she found her voice, and that's why she gives back today as a director of the KPU Alumni Association.

Fatima initially attended KPU because it was affordable and close to home, but as a young institution she also found massive potential for students willing to take advantage of it.

"KPU offers a huge opportunity for students to be able to shape their own educational experiences, to shape their university into what they would like it to be," she says.

"The sense of autonomy that students have at KPU – because it's a growing university – is unparalleled to any other university that I know of, where you're part of creating the foundation and the structure for what it will be 10, 20, 30, even 100 years down the road."



ANDREA WOO BREAKING NEWS

2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient

Andrea Woo wrote a story in 2003 for the *Chronicle*, KPU's only student paper at that time, about the opening of Insite, North America's first legal, supervised injection site. She spent a day in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, interviewing drug users and activists, making connections with people a world away from what she knew as an 18-year-old journalism student.

"People sat with me on the stoop, telling me about their lives. Some of their stories were heartbreaking," Andrea says. "I remember being fascinated with everything that I learned that day and feeling excited to put that story together."

She had no idea that when she did, she'd be writing about some of these same people nearly 20 years later. But she is, as a reporter for the *Globe and Mail*, mostly focusing on substance use, mental health, drug policy and, lately, how it intersects with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrea's reporting has earned her seven journalism awards, including a 2017 Canadian Association of Journalists award for her reporting on Canada's fentanyl crisis.

"It sounds corny," she says, "but it's a really fulfilling feeling when something that you have put your heart into results in some sort of tangible change that helps better a situation for someone. I don't know what more you could ask for in a career."

Her reporting also earned her another kind of accolade last year: KPU's 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Andrea graduated from KPU with a bachelor's degree in applied journalism in 2006, after which she wrote about hip-hop for numerous music publications in Canada and the U.S. She was interviewing for a job at Seattle's *The Stranger* when the *Vancouver Sun* hired her first. She moved over to the *Globe and Mail* in 2012.

She says the KPU journalism program equipped her with "a foundation of very practical knowledge" from supportive faculty members who worked in and understood the publishing industry. She says the instructors were essential in helping her navigate the sink-or-swim reality of daily news journalism.

"A prospective student taking journalism at KPU now probably has no idea just how good and respected the current instructors are," she says. "These people are the best at what they do. That's not hyperbole."

F̈OCUSED ON DESIGN



KATHIE-LEE OLSON
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

Kathie-Lee Olson had no idea what she was getting herself into.

She applied to the Wilson School of Design because it was the only interior design program on the West Coast at the time that offered a bachelor's degree. Only after she applied did she realize she was in the running for one of the top design schools in the country.

It's something she laughs about now. "It was only in the washroom five minutes before the interview that someone told me, 'Oh yeah, only 20 people get in.' And I'm like, 'Oh crap, I didn't know that!'"

Kathie-Lee did get in, of course, and after graduation launched the successful design company, F̈ocused Interiors. She credits her experience at KPU with setting her up for success, noting that, unlike larger institutions, the university prioritizes practical skills and experiences for its students.

"People who graduate from KPU have a drive and true passion for what they do, I think," she says. "There's a level of authenticity that you get out of KPU grads."

F̈ocused Interiors conceptualizes, designs and digitally represents interior and exterior spaces. This innovative approach earned Kathie-Lee two awards early on: the KPU Coast Capital Savings Youth Entrepreneurship Award and the Surrey Board of Trade's Young Innovator Award in 2017. She also was a finalist for both the Surrey Board of Trade's New Business of the Year and Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards.

The business takes up the bulk of her time, but she also serves as a board member of the KPU Alumni Association. She helps mentor interior design students when she can, and serves as a guest reviewer to many of the program's studio presentations.

"If I can give any insight and impart any knowledge for these students, so they don't have to go through the same hurdles I did while learning the profession, then I'm always happy to make the time for that," she says.

SERVING WITH DISTINCTION



GABBY GILL
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

Nobody knew about KPU.

Gabby Gill remembers representing the university at the APEX Business-IT Global Case Challenge, an annual event hosted by Singapore Management University that attracts institutions from all over the world. KPU had only recently been invited to competitions of this stature and Gabby knew there was an opportunity to showcase what the university had to offer.

So, when Gabby and his teammates came away as the top North American team, he knew they had just helped KPU establish a global presence.

"We beat out all these schools in the U.S.," he says, "but for me personally, beating SFU and UBC was very gratifying. And that helped, I think, put KPU on the map."

It was a high-water mark for Gabby, who graduated KPU in the fall of 2015 with distinction in the bachelor of business administration accounting program, and an academic career laden with activist and volunteer activities.

Now working as an analyst for the corporate finance team at the Corix Group of Companies, he also serves on the board of the KPU Alumni Association.

He says KPU business graduates have distinct advantages over those from other institutions, the biggest being that programs are structured to include both theory as well as practical experience through case studies.

"KPU does a good job of pushing students and showing us the benefits of getting in front of employers while you're still studying," he says. "So by the time you graduate, you either already have an offer or you've been in the market long enough to see what kind of things you might want to do."

CHASING THE DREAM



CORINNE TALIUNAS
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

Corinne Taliunas has her dream job as a senior litigation lawyer, but if truth be told, that may never have materialized had it not been for *CSI*.

Corinne went to KPU to major in criminology because she liked the hit CBS TV series, but had no clear idea what her career would be. One day, criminology instructor Reg Harris taught a lesson on the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and that's when something clicked for Corinne.

"It was a basic class on how the justice system works and I absolutely fell in love with the *charter*," she says. "I knew right then that I wanted to get into law and defend people's rights."

"It's not at all what I'm doing now," laughs the lawyer who specializes in insurance defence, "but that's how I got into it and I don't regret that at all."

She graduated in 2007 as part of the first cohort of students with a bachelor's degree in criminology offered by KPU. She went on to Queen's University and says she found virtually no difference in the quality of education between the two schools.

Corinne maintains KPU's small class size and connections to community gave her a leg up in her career.

"I think KPU does give a bit of an advantage when you're looking for an employee who is connected to the community," she says. "I think you do want somebody who's connected to the community that you're hiring in because that's really all that we have in the end."

A POINT OF PRIDE



RYAN KEIGHER
KPUAA BOARD MEMBER

KPU is a special place for Ryan Keigher. He was the first member of his family – grandparents, parents, uncles, cousins – to graduate with a degree from any university.

The fact he earned that degree at KPU means he holds a deep appreciation for the university that perhaps others don't share. For that reason, he gets "annoyed" when fellow alumni don't take an appropriate amount of pride when discussing their alma mater.

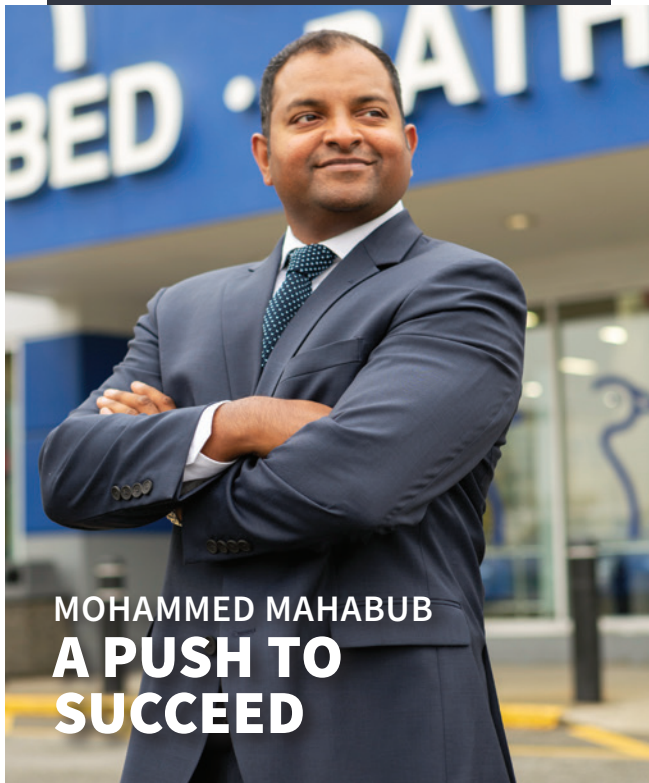
"One of my pet peeves is when I talk to someone about where they're going to school and they say, 'Oh, just KPU,'" he says. "I always try and correct them and say, 'You're not *just* at KPU, you're at a university and a good one at that. And good for you.'"

Ryan graduated with a bachelor of business administration in entrepreneurial leadership in 2012 and now works as a commercial account manager for Coast Capital. At KPU, Ryan earned a hands-on education, where he could bounce ideas off peers in ways that fostered collaboration rather than competition. He calls it "co-opetition" – a hallmark of a KPU education in many ways.

Since graduation, he spent three years as chair of the KPU Alumni Association board of directors, where he worked to improve KPU's image and reputation among alumni who are in the workforce and serve as de facto ambassadors for the school.

"I guess my vision is for people to no longer view KPU as '*just* KPU' or *just* a steppingstone to SFU or UBC. I want them to see that KPU is and was a great viable option," he says.

"When you graduate from KPU, you're proud of graduating from KPU."



MOHAMMED MAHABUB A PUSH TO SUCCEED

Mohammed Mahabub was working his day job as a grocery clerk at Save-On Foods when he ran into David Sale, one of his former KPU accounting instructors. They chatted a bit, as they usually did when they crossed paths, with David needling Mohammed for not utilizing the skills he had learned in the classroom.

It's a moment Mohammed hasn't forgotten, 26 years after graduating with his diploma in accounting.

"It was a good kick in the butt," Mohammed says. "He believed in me more than I think I believed in myself at the time."

Mohammed went on to earn his CGA designation and, today, is chief financial officer for Jysk, the furniture and home décor company whose sales have doubled in the 10 years he's held the position.

The experience, he says, has been great professionally, and can be traced back to a KPU faculty member who pushed students to succeed. Mohammed says the interaction with his instructors was the most beneficial aspect of an overall positive educational experience.

"I just thought the instructors really cared about the students. Anytime you wanted to talk to them about any challenges or issues, they were there to support you," he says.

Mohammed sits on the KPU's board of governors today, which he says is a way to give back to the university that helped foster his success.

"Back then, I thought I was just getting a diploma," he says. "Looking back now all these years later, KPU gave me a career, and a life as well."



BOBBIE WINDATT SET UP FOR SUCCESS

Bobbie Windatt's career has always pointed her toward New York City.

She made the move to the Big Apple in 2017 to work for a global golf apparel brand, and when she arrived, she found exactly what she'd been looking for when she decided to pursue public relations as a career path.

"New York City is the media capital of North America, if not the world," she says. "That was what my ideal of PR is and was, and I think that over the years I've been building up to coming here. It's been four years now since I made the move and it's definitely been a career milestone."

Bobbie graduated from KPU with a diploma in public relations in 2011. Today, she's vice president of marketing and business development for 5W Public Relations, an NYC-based firm that has over 300 clients spanning real estate, technology, lifestyle, travel and beyond. In her role, she manages the agency's reputation, as well as all marketing and new business initiatives.

"It's an interesting position because of the hybrid skillset it requires. Throughout my career I have been a jack-of-all-trades in all aspects of marketing and PR, which has been excellent in preparing me for this role."

She has KPU to thank for that, as she says the PR program's approach to hands-on learning and simulation of real-world work environments was fundamental in teaching her the skills needed for the job. When she left the program, she was completely comfortable taking on whatever came her way.

"KPU gave me the confidence to go into my first job confident I could work in PR from day one," she says. "Everything that we learned in our classes was transferable to real life scenarios."

THERE ARE PERKS TO BEING KPU ALUMNI!

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- » Artona Group photography – KPU's official photographer available at convocation



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alumni.kpu.ca/perks

AOK: ALUMNI OF KPU



ADRIANA PETTY
CERT '18 MARKETING

Adriana's marketing and graphic design career began in the international trade industry almost eight years ago. Working full-time and studying part-time, she simultaneously worked her way to a marketing management certificate from KPU and most recently an associate certificate in graphic design with distinction from BCIT. Having reached her goal of amalgamating her fields of study to become a marketing and graphic design powerhouse, Adriana spearheads her employer's internal/external marketing, education program, external speaking engagements and more while providing support to the graphics team as marketing coordinator and assistant graphic designer.

In 2015, Adriana joined the marketing and events committee for the American Chamber of Commerce – Pacific Chapter, where she volunteers her time at events from inception to take-down. A creative at heart, Adriana loves challenging herself, and thus she's consistently known for growing her multi-disciplined training, responsibilities and expanding her knowledge.



EMILIE BRAATEN
BA '18 CRIMINOLOGY

Since graduating from KPU with a BA in criminology with honours, Emilie completed a certificate in legal administrative studies and is now a full-time legal assistant for the City of Abbotsford while also pursuing a paralegal degree. Emilie was recently diagnosed with lupus but she's still following her dreams and she says she couldn't have got this far without the amazing instructors at KPU.



ARJUN GUPTA
DIP '19 ACCOUNTING

Arjun got an offer letter to become assistant sales manager at PPG Architectural Coatings right after graduating, and then after just eight months, was promoted to store sales manager. Arjun achieved this by applying all the practical and theoretical knowledge he learned at KPU in his work and personal life. Arjun cannot wait to come back for his degree next year.



ALEXIS DOSERRO
BBA '20 ACCOUNTING

More than a year before graduating, Alexis secured a position with MNP. She has been working full-time since graduating and is currently going through the CPA program. Alexis has been practising yoga almost daily to maintain a healthy work-life balance. The transition from KPU to MNP has been seamless, and she is grateful for the journey so far.



JAMES GIFFORD
DIP '95 MUSIC

James became the director of Fairleigh Dickinson University Press in 2017 and was promoted to full professor in 2018. He was given the Faculty Award for Excellence in Research in 2019 and granted sabbatical leave for research for the 2019–2020 academic year. In 2017, James was also a visiting professor at l'Université Toulouse – Jean Jaurès.



Mariam volunteered at a women's and children's hospital for the homeless who suffer from drug addiction and mental illness in Kabul during 2019. She trained their local social workers, counsellors and psychologists in the 12-step program and held the first-ever meeting in Kabul for women suffering from substance abuse.

In July 2020, Mariam was humbled and honoured to win a Canadian Courage to Come Back Award. She is committed to making a difference in the lives of the people she left behind in her home country of Afghanistan.

SHOOGOFA (MARIAM) NASRRI
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS '17 GENERAL STUDIES



BRANDON HARVIE
DIP '16 COMPUTER
INFO SYSTEMS &
BBA '19 MARKETING

Starting as marketing assistant, Brandon has been working for Herband Gummies since the beginning of the year. Herband is based in Richmond and is Canada's largest gummy manufacturer, making everything from vitamins for all ages, to beauty/fitness gummies and clean candy. Herband prides itself on being inclusive as its products are vegan, sugar-free, free from major allergens and more.

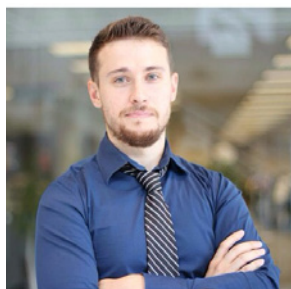
A recent marketing graduate, Brandon has been working for Herband Gummies since the beginning of the year. Herband is based in Richmond and is Canada's largest gummy manufacturer, making everything from vitamins for all ages, to beauty/fitness gummies and clean candy. Herband prides itself on being inclusive as its products are vegan, sugar-free, free from major allergens and more.



GURLEEN DHIAL
BA '15 CRIMINOLOGY

and is currently completing her family mediation certification through the Justice Institute of B.C. to provide services in family law. Gurleen has a master's of education in counselling from Thompson Rivers University.

Gurleen is a registered clinical counsellor working as the online practitioner for the Centre for Response-Based Practice where she specializes in working with the BIPOC population, as social justice is the cornerstone of her practice. Gurleen provides anti-racism training and has presented both nationally and internationally. She has been working with victims of violence for over eight years



KONSTANTIN RABINOVICH
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS '15
ECONOMICS

Facing challenges during one's formative years can often limit an individual's progress as an adult, but in spite of experiencing immigration from two countries by age six, poverty, neglect, trauma and foster care, Konstantin has resolved to never let his past define him. Since graduating from KPU, Konstantin was accepted into SFU's economics program and was hired months before completing his final semester. He's now working for a local start-up developing systems solutions for large energy trading firms in the U.S. and Canada.

For the past few years, while juggling school and work, Konstantin has been active in creating art and illustrations for three university student-run newspapers: The Peak, The Runner and The Ubyssy. He's been published numerous times and is eager to continue developing this passion.

Without the skills, lessons and guidance Konstantin received from the incredible instructors and peers at KPU, he says he would never have dreamed of being where he is at this point of his life. Every day Konstantin wakes up with excitement and zeal at what the future holds for him and his family.



DAPHNE WOO
DIP '95 FASHION DESIGN
& TECHNOLOGY

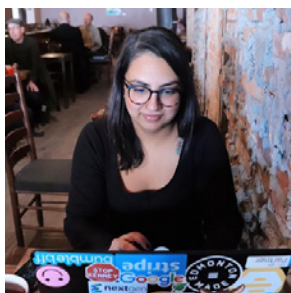
Daphne gained industry experience after graduation, first at Mr. Jax/Koret and then at Street Sport Mfg. It was at this mid-sized technical outerwear company where she developed close relationships with suppliers, customers and colleagues, while being exposed to invaluable factory experience.

That ended when Daphne moved to the Netherlands to follow her heart, and a complete lifestyle change was created. There she worked in sportswear development at Nike EHQ and at Asics, but it was also in the Netherlands that her business, Amacata, was born. However, a return to Vancouver after a decade living abroad led Daphne to Lululemon.

In 2016, Daphne left the corporate world as she realized her career choices, although invaluable, never really aligned with her authentic values. She took part in a social venture program through Groundswell Community and became reignited with a truer identity. Amacata Design Concepts was rekindled to spread awareness towards slow fashion alternatives and (re)connectedness to nature to alter society's reliance on mass consumerism. As a natural dye artist and slow fashion advocate, she promotes a cultural shift toward slowing down life's pace, thus supporting socially- and environmentally-conscious living.

Ameet runs an online marketing agency that specializes in pay per click advertising. Her company now operates in Edmonton, Alberta and is the only niche PPC agency in the city.

AMEET KHABRA
DIP '12 MARKETING
MANAGEMENT



After graduating from KPU with his diploma in accounting, Bryan moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and is in the process of publishing a fiction novel.

BRYAN BELLEC
DIP '13 ACCOUNTING





RACHELLE LOUDEN
BA '17 CRIMINOLOGY

Rachelle is finishing her master's in criminology at Simon Fraser University, where she is researching technology-facilitated political crimes for her thesis, and is also working as a researcher with the International CyberCrime Research Centre. Rachelle has worked on a variety of projects throughout her master's degree, including one on disinformation warfare, as well as a quantitative analysis of the gang policing strategies in B.C.



LELAND HARPER
BA '10 PHILOSOPHY

Since graduating in 2010, Leland has gone on to complete his studies and is now a professor of philosophy and interim director of the Ethnic and Gender Studies Institute at Siena Heights University. Leland launched his first book, *Multiverse Deism: Shifting Perspectives of God and the World*, released by Lexington Books in May of 2020, and is moving forward with other projects that address connections between race, semantics and justice.



HARSHPREET SAINI
DIP '19 COMPUTER
INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Harshpreet Saini, Dip '19 Computer Information Systems Harshpreet was able to secure a job as an IT analyst within the week he finished his diploma as his experience at KPU provided both the hands-on and knowledge skills he needed. Harshpreet then started taking evening classes at KPU, while working full-time toward his degree in information technology with a specialization in networking and security. He hopes to continue to advance in his chosen field.



MINA SAHOTA
DIP '01 MARKETING
MANAGEMENT &
BBA '08 HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

Mina has enjoyed a lively career in the public sector through HR roles in healthcare, municipal government and K-12 education. Mina is currently wrapping up graduate work at Royal Roads University where she's been busy studying leadership. She's proud to be a KPU alumna and loves opportunities to support KPU students in their education and careers.



SHANNEN ZATURECKY
DIP '07 BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION &
BBA '11 HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

Shannen has had a successful HR career with the City of Vancouver since graduating. Hired as an associate with the compensation and benefits team, she used her degree in HR to support classification reviews and liaise with many unions. In 2016, Shannen completed an MBA with honours and leveraged that into an HR consultant role focusing on strategic initiatives and employee engagement.

Shannen has demonstrated the importance of employee engagement to the city's most senior leaders and generated significant praise for her work enhancing learning and development, sustainable commuting opportunities and the future of work. Most notably, she developed and implemented a work-from-home program that resulted in a 12 per cent increase in employee engagement along with financial savings for the organization. The city is now rolling out the program Shannen developed to more (very excited) staff and capitalizing on that flexibility to improve the work environment for everyone.



AMRITA BHOGAL
DIP '15 BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT &
BA '18 HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

Amrita is a leader of people and culture at Sunrise Kitchens, which has received the Wood Manufacturing Council's Innovation in Human Resources Award. Amrita is recognized for leading change within her own organization of 115 people.

She is passionate to share her experiences and learning outcomes with various organizations and is working to complete a tool that will help measure organization health for members of the Canadian

Kitchen Cabinet Association. She is also an advocate for people and culture and spreads the message through numerous presentations industry wide.

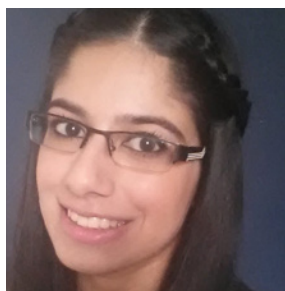
Amrita is enthusiastic about providing learning and development opportunities within her team and works to bring co-op and practicum students from KPU, BCIT and UBC. She has been a mentor and client to 12 KPU practicum students over the past two years and continues to open her doors to provide learning opportunities for her community.



MAHHUM WALI
DIP '10 BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT & BBA HUMAN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT '13

frequently gives back to the community by guest speaking in HR/MBA classrooms, attending industry and HR best practice seminars/roundtables and has mentored young HR professionals.

While Mahhum was pursuing her degree at KPU she landed an HR co-op placement at Tetra Tech, after which she stayed on as a full-time employee. Mahhum then moved internationally to grow her career, working with several large multi-national firms, including cereal giant Kellogg's, leading global skin care brand Nivea and Eucerin, where she now works as a commercial HR business partner looking after Middle East and North African regions.



PARABJOT SINGH
BA '16 ENGLISH

the Youth Award for students studying Punjabi in B.C. schools. Parabjot is an executive member with PLEA (Punjabi Language Education Association), co-organizing International Mother Language Day each year.

After graduation Parabjot enrolled in the teacher education program at UBC and is now teaching Punjabi and career education at the secondary level in the Surrey School District. In late 2019, Parabjot published her first bilingual storybook, Chewie, the Budgie, in Punjabi and English. Parabjot has been actively involved with the Dhahan Prize, an internationally acclaimed award for Punjabi writers, including co-organizing



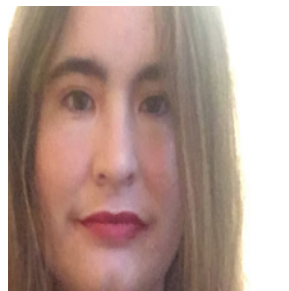
KRISTY MELNYCHUK
CERT '19 HEALTH
CARE ASSISTANT

Since graduating from the health care assistant program, Kristy has been working full-time for Fraser Health as an acute health care assistant, currently at Surrey Memorial Hospital. She says it has been an amazing and rewarding opportunity to see those around her grow, get better and strive towards their health goals.



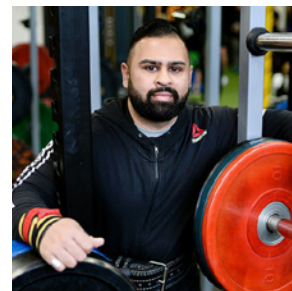
LUTHFI DHOFIER
BA '12 HISTORY AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Luthfi, who went on to complete his master's of public policy and global affairs at UBC, started his own NGO called Global Water Rights. He worked as a policy researcher at the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute and is currently working as a government consultant at Urban Systems Ltd.



SAMANTHA MERZ
DIP '16 PUBLIC
RELATIONS

Samantha has been a freelance writer for Prizm Media Inc. and Valnet Inc., while also being a published poet. She works as an administrative assistant at the University of British Columbia, while enjoying singing with the Vivaldi Chamber Choir and playing badminton.



SUMEET SHARMA
BA '13 CRIMINOLOGY

Employed by BC Corrections, Sumeet also competes in powerlifting competitions where he has won five medals, three of which are gold, including one for Team Canada at the North American Powerlifting Championships in Panama City. Sumeet has also started to give back to the community by volunteering to train youth in the Lower Mainland.



CHRISTINE MONTINOLA
BA '19 PSYCHOLOGY

While completing her BA in psychology with a minor in counselling, Christine worked in the community as a behaviour interventionist as well as in a residential program as a childcare counsellor. She volunteered in Bali for four weeks teaching and learning about mental health practices before coming back to work as a family enhancement counsellor with Options Community Services. Christine has recently taken on a new position as a child case worker with the B.C. public service where she supports children and adolescents with complex trauma and implements behaviour management strategies within a multi-disciplinary team.

Christine will be pursuing her master's in counselling psychology in the hopes of having her own private practice and to be in the community exploring other areas of psychology such as education, forensics and the clinical field.

THANK YOU KPU ALUMNI

The KPU Foundation launched KPU's first Giving Tuesday Campaign in 2020, culminating in \$81,157 raised. The KPU community, including strong representation from alumni, came together to build and renew resources for student emergency grants and bursaries to help out our students hit hard by the pandemic. Some of the highlights from #GivingTuesday, December 1, 2020, include:

- » Challenge Champion, The KPU Alumni Association, launched their own signature endowment in support of student bursaries, community-service awards and scholarships by offering to match up to \$25,000 donated by alumni to build the new endowment. A total of \$7,160 was contributed by alumni on Giving Tuesday in response.
- » The BC Association of Broadcasters donated \$10,000 for five \$2,000 student bursaries for KPU journalism students.
- » The Kwantlen Student Association pledged \$5,000 to establish the KSA Giving Tuesday Student Award.
- » KPU Foundation board member and Professor Emeritus Chamkaur Cheema became our second Challenge Champion with his own commitment to match KPU ENTR alumni who donated that day

bringing in a total of \$3,900 (including his matching dollars).

- » KPU staff member Sherri Magson pledged \$10,000 to build an endowment in memory of her father to support students in the Environmental Protection Program, which will be matched by the KPU Family Campaign.

The KPU Foundation thanks the KPU Alumni Association for their leadership and vision in establishing their new endowment at KPU supporting students, and for their continued commitment to building the fund into the future, including an additional pledge of \$25,000, matching \$5,000 in new alumni donations each year for the next five years.

If you are able to help us build the Alumni Endowment to support a growing number of student awards, please visit give.kpu.ca and make your donation today. Your gift qualifies you for a charitable tax receipt.

Mark your calendar – Giving Tuesday 2021 is on Tuesday, November 30th. Let's build our momentum and raise even more in 2021 to support deserving KPU students!

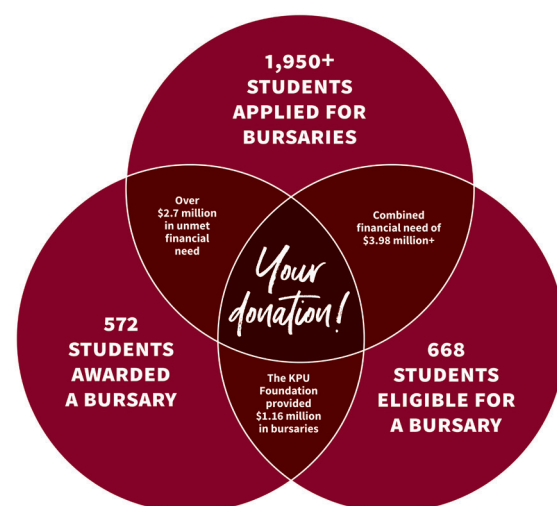
Thank you!

**Giving
TUESDAY**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
NOVEMBER 30, 2021**



www.givingtuesday.ca



*Figures provided are based on 2019. Visit give.kpu.ca/givingtuesday for details

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE KPU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND THE KPU FOUNDATION RUNS DEEP



KELLY FINLAY
CHAIR OF THE KPU FOUNDATION

It would be hard to imagine two other external organizations that advocate more for KPU and its students than the KPU Alumni Association and the KPU Foundation.

Last fall, the KPU Foundation held its annual general meeting and welcomed two new directors. Vikram Bubber, a KPU alumnus from the school of business and a previous director of the KPU Alumni Association, joined the foundation board along with long-standing and retired school of business faculty member and Professor Emeritus, Chamkaur Cheema.

The KPU Foundation also formed a new executive, appointing KPU alumna Kelly Finlay as chair and KPU alumnus Balraj Mann as vice-chair.

Clearly, the connection between KPU's alumni community and the KPU Foundation runs deep. A further look shows Christine Brodie, Peter Podovnikoff and Bill Wright, three honorary degree recipients who are members of the alumni community, serving on the foundation board. In fact, of the 12 directors that make up the KPU Foundation board of directors, six are KPU alumni.

The KPU Foundation's purpose is to raise much-needed funds to support scholarships, bursaries and awards for KPU students in pursuit of a quality education. The KPU Foundation is grateful to have directors who can provide the perspective of KPU students because of their status as KPU alumni. Who can be more understanding of the needs of KPU students than KPU alumni?

MEET THE KPUAA TEAM



KPU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019 – 2020

Back row (L-R):

Gabby Gill, Mohammad Kallas, Kathryn Landrigan, Duncan Keist, Amanda Smith-Weston, Michael Chang, Corinne Taliunas, James Grange, Kelly Trainer

Front Row (L-R):




Fatima Zaidi, David Dryden, Kathie-Lee Olson, Nancy Armitage, Ryan Keigher (former past chair), Jacqueline Tarantino, Vikram Bubber

ALUMNI CHAPTERS

Alumni chapters are a way to stay connected with your special group of former classmates, meet new people and be involved with KPU in a way that is meaningful to you. Chapters can organize events and activities that promote the interests of your particular group of alumni. The KPU Alumni Association is pleased to provide seed funding, and the KPU Alumni Affairs office is there to provide support for new alumni chapters. If this interests you, be sure to check out the Chapter Handbook at alumni.kpu.ca/chapters or contact the Alumni Affairs office at alumni@kpu.ca or call 604.599.3137.

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep in touch with what's happening at KPU and with our active alumni

-  Tweet with us @kpualumni
-  Like us on Facebook at KPU Alumni
-  Join our growing community of KPU Alumni on LinkedIn

MESSAGE FROM THE KPUAA CHAIR

Dear KPU Alumni,

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and the many challenges it brought with it, has caused us to re-align our priorities. Much of our work used to be conducted in-person, but now must unfold differently. In response to COVID-19, we have remained nimble in our alumni engagement efforts.

More now than ever, we recognize the importance of supporting our future alumni as they navigate these challenging times. With this in mind, the KPUAA created a \$50,000 endowment for KPU students in need. We gave an initial donation of \$25,000 in 2020 plus \$5,000 pledged annually for the next five years.

This endowment will allow us to match any gift made by our alumni dollar-for-dollar, which means our pledged gift of \$50,000 could be matched to grow to a total of \$100,000. We are thrilled to be able to support students this way through the KPU Foundation and we hope you will consider making a gift to your alma mater.

Despite COVID-19, I'm pleased to report that much progress has taken place this past year in our efforts to create a solid foundation for alumni engagement – albeit virtually. We are excited to announce a mobile app for alumni benefits and privileges – Alumni PERKS. Visit alumni.kpu.ca/perks

In January, we also launched the KPU alumni career mentorship and networking platform from Ten Thousand Coffees called KPU Connects. We hope you will take advantage of this virtual way to connect and share. You can find more details on how to get involved on page 43 of this magazine or here: alumni.kpu.ca/TenKC

We continue to support new alumni chapters. The Human Resources Management Alumni Chapter continues to find ways to engage alumni and offer professional development opportunities virtually.

This past year I was also pleased to serve as chair of the chancellor selection committee as Dr. George Melville's long and effective tenure of six years as KPU's chancellor came to an end. KPU and the Alumni Association were delighted to welcome Kim Baird to this position at the chancellor's virtual installation ceremony last October.

We are also excited to be celebrating KPU's 40th anniversary this year. In celebration, we've selected 40 alumni whose varied and unique contributions to our community are spotlighted in this issue of the magazine. We hope you enjoy reading their stories.

If you have any questions about the many benefits of being KPU alumni don't hesitate to reach out to the Alumni Affairs office and if you want to share your story for the next issue of the magazine, I encourage you to connect with us at alumni@kpu.ca.

All my best,

David Dryden



David Dryden (BBA '13)
Chair, KPUAA



2020 FUTURE ALUMNI AWARD **EMILY HAUGEN**

Each year KPU and the KPU Alumni Association recognize a student who, while maintaining a good academic standing, is also making impactful contributions to KPU and the external community. In 2020, we were pleased to honour Emily Haugen with the Future Alumni Award.

While working at the Fraser Northwest division of Family Practice, a non-profit organization, Emily maintained top grades toward her BBA in marketing management. Emily has an extensive resume of volunteer work both at KPU and in the community, giving back locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally. Emily is an active member of multiple communities, always eager to create change and have a lasting impact.

DISTINGUISHED *Alumni* **AWARDS**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



KPU alumni are everywhere, doing amazing things, and since 2007, the KPUAA and KPU have been recognizing these exceptional individuals.

If you know of someone who has enhanced the reputation of the university, or made a contribution through their outstanding professional, business or industry endeavours or through public, community or volunteer service, you are encouraged to nominate them now!

> alumni.kpu.ca/awards

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604.599.3030 or study@kpu.ca