

ACADIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT



Photo credit: Andrew Tolson

2022-2023



ACADIA
ALUMNI

Acadia University is located in Mi'kma'ki

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Agenda for the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 13, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Matthew Rios ('14), Presiding

1. Welcome – M. Rios
2. Approval of Agenda (Page 3)
3. Approval of Minutes of AGM of May 7, 2022 (Page 4)
4. Greetings from President Dr. P. Ricketts
5. Annual Report – M. Rios/O. Proudfoot
6. Treasurer's Report – S. Zhang (Page 15)
7. Proposed Amendments to the Alumni Association's Constitution – J. Aucoin (Page 19)
8. Nominating Committee Report – M. Rios (Page 20)
9. Acknowledgement of Retiring Board Members – M. Rios
10. New Business
11. Closing Remarks – M. Rios
12. Adjournment

Minutes for the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 07, 2022
9:30 a.m. Hybrid Meeting
Wu Welcome Centre, Alumni Hall, 512 Main Street, Wolfville, NS

1. Welcome - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Donalda MacBeath. D. MacBeath noted we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

D. MacBeath noted she is joined by the Officers and Directors of the Acadia Alumni Association and by members of the Alumni Office staff. She welcomed Acadia University President, Dr. Peter Ricketts; Interim Vice-President for Advancement, Nancy Handrigan; Executive Director of Alumni Affairs, Oonagh Proudfoot; and Chancellor of Acadia University, Dr. Bruce Galloway.

Registrants were provided with a copy of the Acadia Alumni Association's Annual Report, inclusive of the agenda, minutes of the 2021 AGM and various reports that will be referenced throughout the meeting. Quorum was established with 35 participants in attendance. Participants joined from all over Canada and internationally. D. MacBeath informed participants that the meeting was being recorded and will be uploaded to the Acadia Alumni website following the meeting.

2. Technology Use for Meeting

A brief technology overview was provided to those in attendance.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Moved by David Davidson, seconded by Kelton Thomason that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of AGM of May 8, 2021

Motion: Moved by Jeff Aucoin, seconded by Heather Hickman that the minutes of May 8, 2021 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

5. Greetings from President Ricketts

D. MacBeath thanked Dr. Ricketts for joining the meeting and invited him to address the group. Dr. Ricketts welcomed attendees to the meeting, the first in-person AGM in three years, and the first in-person convocation weekend in three years. Dr. Ricketts thanked the Alumni Association and the Alumni Board, particularly D. MacBeath, who has led the Alumni Association as the Board President throughout a very challenging time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Acadia is in a strong position to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. From a human perspective, the University is in a fragile position following a four-week faculty strike on campus. The University community will have to work hard to recover from the impact and to rebuild trust and faith in the institution. Dr. Ricketts thanked the Alumni Association for its ongoing support. Dr. Ricketts acknowledged the strength of the student population throughout the challenges they've faced this year. Dr. Ricketts thanked Dr. Bruce Galloway for his support and the support of the Board of Governors.

Dr. Ricketts noted there are many issues and challenges that University needs to address, and he thanked the Alumni Association for its advocacy in the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and anti-racism

efforts. He thanked the Association for its leadership and reimagining of career services for students on campus, and in student recruitment.

Dr. Ricketts noted the University is delighted to hire a new Director of Athletics this year, Brian Finniss. He congratulated the Athletics Department on achieving 150 academic All-Canadians, which is 53% of the student-athlete population.

6. 2021-2022 Annual Report

D. MacBeath shared the highlights of the 2021-2022 Annual Report, as circulated. Key accomplishments include student recruitment efforts, Alumni Affairs and alumni programming, Class of 2021 gift for graduates, as well as \$10,000 in immediate funding to the Acadia Students' Union and Student Services to provide support to students during the faculty strike in February.

O. Proudfoot shared the highlights of the 2021-2022 Annual Report, as circulated. Several highlights include the new Alumni Book Club, the continuation of the virtual events series; a return to in-person events in Atlantic Canada; hosting the U SPORTS University Cup national hockey championship in March; support of the career services initiative; and support for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion initiatives.

7. Treasurer's Report

Tammy Walker shared the highlights of the 2021-2022 Financial Report, as circulated. The Association remains in a healthy financial position, concluding the year with total assets of \$1.8 million.

Motion: Moved by Bruce Galloway, seconded by Kyle Power that the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2022 be approved as circulated. Carried.

8. Questions

Members present were provided an opportunity to ask questions from the floor. No further questions were received from the floor.

9. Nominating Committee Report

R. Conrod reviewed the report of the Nominating Committee, as circulated. The Nominating Committee remains committed to the diversity of the Alumni Board and the Alumni nominations to the Acadia University Board of Governors. The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors established a skills matrix over the past year in order to work toward a well-rounded and diverse Board of Directors. The Board also issued an expression of interest to the alumni community and received a number of expressions of interest.

The outgoing members were thanked for their service. The Nominations Committee proposed the following members for appointment to the Acadia Alumni Board of Directors:

- Barb Anderson ('77)
- Paul Black ('00)
- Ron Malcolm ('82, '83)
- Véronique Russell ('16)
- Olivia Shive ('21)
- Sophia Blanchard ('23) (Ex-Officio)

Candidate profiles were available in the handout material. A call for further nominations was made two times. With no nominations from the floor, nominations to the Acadia Alumni Board of Directors were closed.

Motion: Moved by Ryan Conrod, Seconded by Tammy Walker that nominations close. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Matt Rios, seconded by Moira MacLean that the slate of Officers and Directors proposed by the Nominating Committee be appointed to the Associated Alumni of Acadia University Board of Directors. Carried.

10. Closing Remarks

Matt Rios provided closing comments for the 2021-2022 AGM. M. Rios thanked the outgoing Board members, Hilary Arenburg Gobien ('12), David Davidson ('81), Tiffany James ('14), and Tammy Walker ('92) for their service and welcomed the newly elected Directors. M Rios recognized and thanked R. Conrod, who has completed his term as Past-President of the Alumni Association. Finally, M. Rios thanked D. MacBeath, who has completed her term as President of the Alumni Association. M. Rios closed the meeting by thanking those in attendance.

11. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 pm (Atlantic Time).

Motion: Moved by Ted Upshaw, seconded by Leah McNally that the 2022 Acadia Alumni Annual General Meeting be adjourned. Carried.

2022-2023 Board of Directors

Executive Officers

Matthew Rios ('14)	2022 - 2024	President
Donalda MacBeath ('75)	2022 - 2023	Past-President
Christine Luckasavitch ('11)	2022 - 2024	Vice-President
Sam Zhang ('05)	2022 - 2024	Treasurer
Stephanie Reid ('05)	2022 - 2024	Secretary

Directors

Barb Anderson ('77)	2022 - 2024
Jeff Aucoin ('96)	2021 - 2023
Paul Black ('00)	2022 - 2024
Carol D'Amelio ('72)	2021 - 2023
Allison Dean ('14)	2021 - 2023
Heather Hickman ('77)	2021 - 2023
Natalie Irwin ('01)	2022 - 2024
Moira MacLean ('85)	2021 - 2023
Ron Malcolm ('82, '83)	2022 - 2024
Leah McNally ('07)	2022 - 2024
Kyle Power ('13)	2021 - 2023
Véronique Russell ('16)	2022 - 2024
Olivia Shive ('21)	2022 - 2024
Kelton Thomason ('07, '10)	2022 - 2024
Ted Upshaw ('80)	2021 - 2023

Ex-Officio

Sophia Blanchard ('23)	2022 - 2024
Kierstyn Palmer ('22)	2021 - 2023

Office of Advancement Event Schedule

Registered: Showing as blank did not require a registration

Attended: Showing as blank did not have a guest list

Flickr Views: Showing as blank does not have a photo gallery

YouTube Views: Showing as blank were either a private meeting or published on a different platform

Local Event Series	Registered	Attended	Flickr Views
AGM and Board Retreat	57	35	Recording Views: 78
Honorary Doctorate Luncheon	40	36	
40 th Annual Golf Tournament	123	123	682
Sports Pre-Game Pep Rallies (28 events from Sept-March)			
Welcome Week Town Event		150	
Welcome Week Trivia & Movie		75	
Alumni Association Board Meeting – Sept. 2022		19	
Donor Luncheon	20 Invited	12	
Dr. Fred Gilbert Speaker Series - Dr. Pörtner	117	50	18
Homecoming Alumni and Student Campfire Singalong		46	2120 (All HOCO events)
Homecoming Alumni Reunion Reception	41	36	
Homecoming 1970 Basketball Reunion Reception	42	39	
Homecoming Exit 10		86	
Homecoming Backyard BBQ		350	
Homecoming Best of the Brunch		10	
Homecoming Alumni Reunion Class Meetings		13	
Homecoming Women & Men's 10th Basketball Reunion Reception	44	40	174
Alumni Association Board Meeting – Dec. 2022		20	
Remembrance Day Ceremony		300	83
Chancellor's Reception	89	82	569
Holiday Carol Sing and Skate		75	185
Tully Tea (Virtual)	94	57	
Alumni Association Board Meeting – Feb. 2023		17	
BMO Dinner & Lecture - Bill Morneau	105	95	80



Bermuda Alumni Gathering



Alumni Awards Dinner (Halifax)

Global Event Series	Registered	Attended	Flickr Views
Toronto Pub Night	25	16	365
St. John's Alumni Gathering	18	14	224
London, England Alumni Gathering	23	12	410
Calgary Alumni Gathering	43	27	469
Victoria Alumni Gathering	24	13	207
Vancouver Alumni Gathering	42	18	208
Montreal Alumni Dinner	25	23	399
Ottawa Alumni Gathering	35	26	525
Halifax Holiday Reception	80	61	384
Bahamas Alumni Gathering	54	31	309
Hong Kong Alumni Gathering	16	16	191
Kuala Lumpur Alumni Gathering	27	24	243
Singapore Alumni Gathering	25	19	210
AUS Women's Basketball Championship (Halifax)		45	
Toronto Business Breakfast	44	35	174
Bermuda Alumni Gathering	37	23	446
USPORTS Men's Basketball (Cape Breton)		3	
Florida Alumni Gathering	19	18	324
Yarmouth Alumni Gathering	30	23	293
Edmonton Alumni Gathering	23	17	280
Winnipeg Alumni Gathering	18	12	
New Glasgow Alumni Gathering	20	16	
Fredericton Alumni Gathering	20	18	181
Acadia Alumni Awards Dinner (Halifax)	235	220	352



Edmonton Alumni Gathering



Kuala Lumpur Alumni Gathering

Virtual Event Series	Registered	Attended	YouTube Views
“Let’s Get Moving” – Celebrating National Physiotherapy Month	6	5	57
Exploring Sustainable Tourism in Nova Scotia	24	16	81
Think Before You Click: Cybersecurity Awareness	10	6	
Exploring Food Insecurity at Acadia	20	6	
In the Shadow of the Pandemic: Intimate Partner Violence During the COVID-19 Outbreak	27	16	
“There’s Something in the Water” Documentary Discussion	10	4	
Women in Sport	58	41	
Paint Night	21	11	

For access to the virtual event library from the past year, click [HERE](#)

Acadia Alumni Book Club Series	Registered	Attended
Book Club Meeting - Book 2: Fish and Dicks: Case Files from the Digby Neck and Islands Fish-Gutting Service and Detective Agency by Jim Prime ('69, '71) and Ben Robicheau	50	8
Book Club Meeting - Book 3: Two Crows Sorrow by Laura Churchill-Duke ('98)	58	6
Book Club Meeting - Book 4: Double Shot of Scotch by Peter Cleveland ('72)	65	7

Communications Update

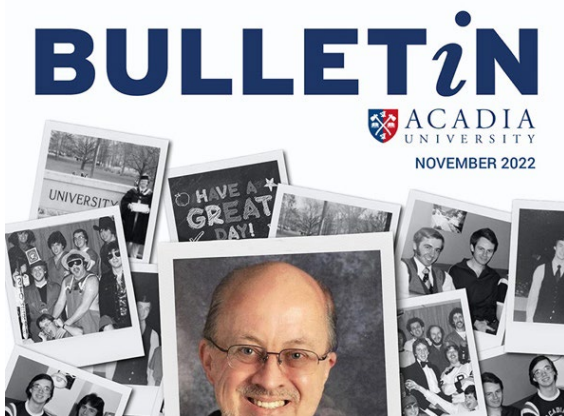
Bulletin



Spring 2022

The spring edition of the *Bulletin* was delivered on June 9, 2022 to all-alumni for whom we have current e-mail addresses.

As of August, 2022, we had 33,330 page visits for this edition: 46% of our audience view the magazine on a desktop; 47% on mobile; and 7% on tablet.



Fall 2022

The fall edition of the *Bulletin* was delivered on time and on budget November 8, 2022 to all-alumni for whom we have current e-mail addresses.

As of January 10, 2023, the edition had received 32,677 page views: 55.5% of our audience had viewed the magazine on a desktop; 36.6% on mobile; and 7.9% on tablet.

It's worth noting that the fall 2022 edition earned a silver award in the 'e-Publication' category in this year's 38th

Annual Educational Advertising Awards competition. Over 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 United States and numerous foreign countries.

The spring 2023 *Bulletin* is currently in production, shining a light on Acadia's GOLD alumni by introducing the concept of Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) and what they mean to the University and our alumni family, and also showcasing a new GOLD Council and its role in connecting with those who are GOLD.

With that in mind, the theme for this edition is: *Health, healing and transformation inform GOLD alumni efforts and initiatives.*

This edition will be delivered on time and on budget in early June to all alumni for whom we have current e-mail addresses.

E-Newsletter

From April 2022 to March 2023, the Advancement Office delivered 11 editions of the Alumni e-Newsletter, one each month other than August. The average industry open rate for e-Newsletters is generally around 17%. This publication during the prescribed time period had a 43.5% open rate, an increase of nearly 2% on average since the last report.

In the same time period, the office delivered a total of 76 e-blast messages to either all-alumni or targeted audiences to further support our level of outreach and engagement.

Support of the Development Office continues, creating feature material, delivering donor letters and appeals electronically; and with communications partners across campus to express and amplify the Acadia experience on all channels.

Social Platform Stats (year-over-year)

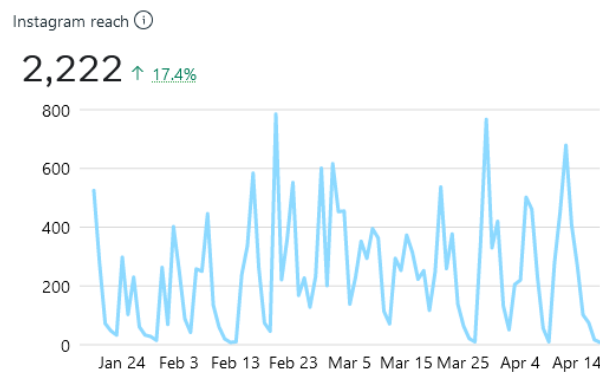
LinkedIn

As of April 19, 2023, the University's LinkedIn page, where Advancement also shares content, had 29,922 followers. This represents an increase of approximately 2,240 followers in one year. The audience on this channel is very engaged. In the last 365 days, there were 21,906 page views and 13,700 unique visitors.

Also in the last 365 days, there were 800,495 organic post impressions (an impression refers to the number of times content is viewed/displayed. This type of calculation measures engagement on a per-view/display basis.).

Instagram

The page currently has 1,298 followers: 149 new followers in a year – a 12.17% increase – and a total of 658 posts. We have had great success after integrating the Linktree feature, which allows our followers to access links directly from our Instagram profile. Our reach has increased by 17.4% during the prescribed time period.



Twitter

The alumni Twitter feed showed an increase of 51 followers, from 753 to 804, and the number of tweets increased from 1,901 to 2,326, garnering a total of 1,714 likes.



Acadia Alumni @acadia_alumni · Jan 12

@AcadiaU welcomes inaugural Jarislowsky Chair in Trust and Political Leadership. Award-winning researcher Alex Marland joins Acadia as part of a national collaboration across five Canadian universities. Learn more: bit.ly/3ZuXV24



10 14 43 62.7K

Top tweet: Alex Marland/Jarislowsky Chair appointment (62,182 impressions)

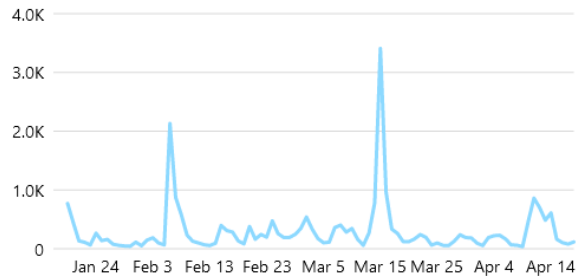
Facebook

As of April 19, 2023, the alumni Facebook group page had a membership of 7,871 followers, an increase of 748 followers over last year. The page showcased 403 posts, with 417,551 views in one year

The official fan page had 1,481 followers and reach was up by 36.4%. We also repurposed content on the Acadia main Facebook page, which has more than 28,000 followers, amplifying our reach tremendously.

Facebook Page reach ⓘ

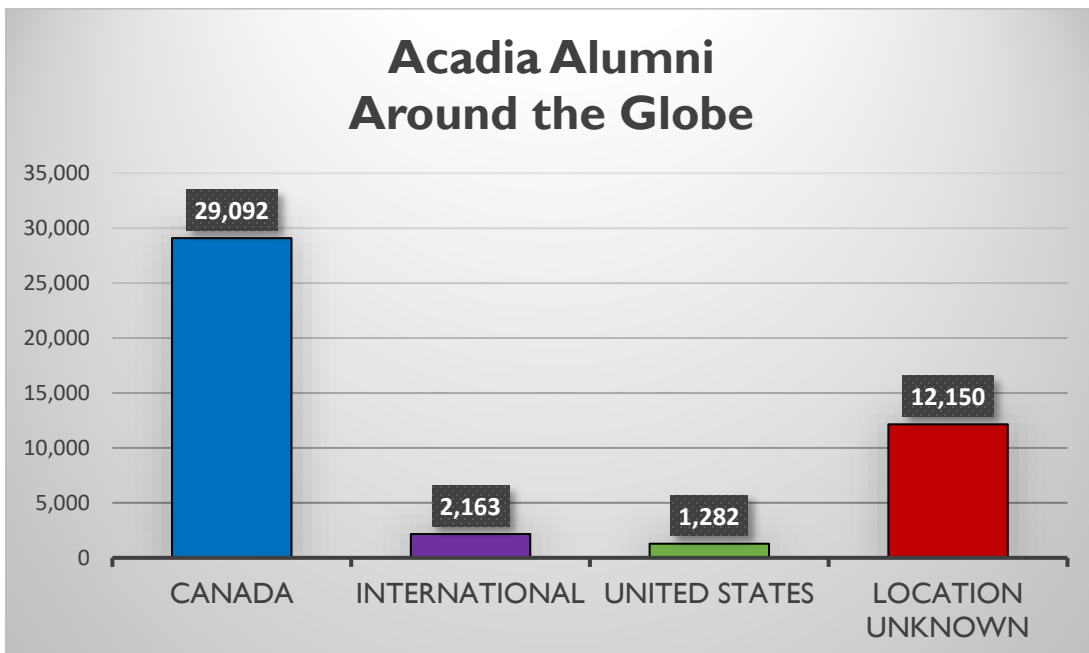
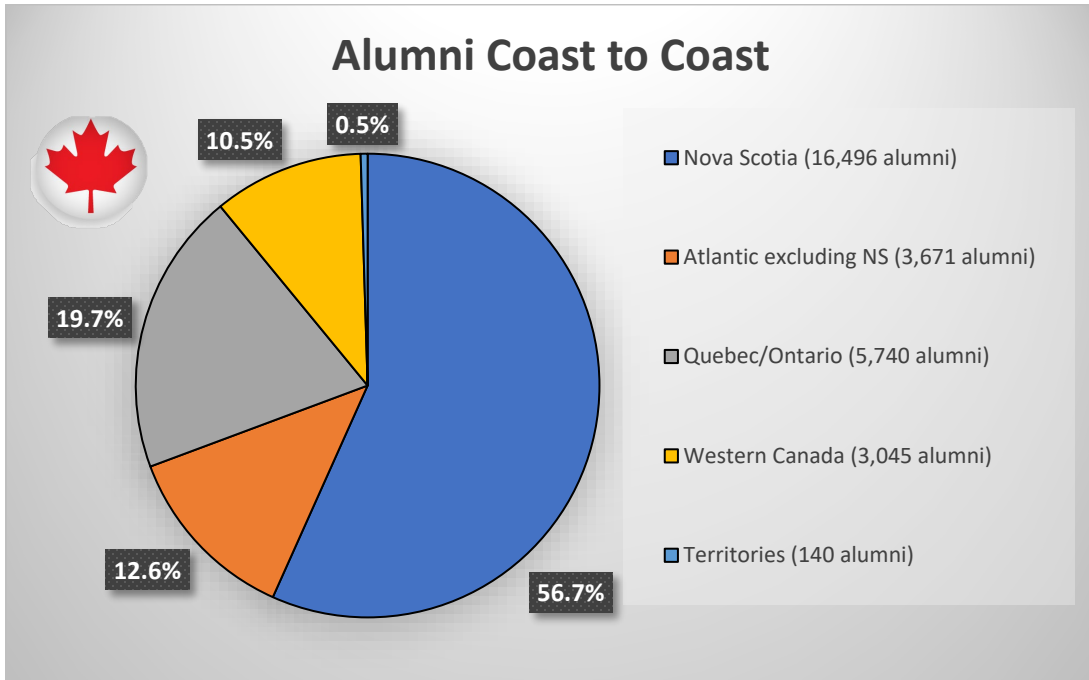
12,162 ↑ 36.4%



Alumni Records

Maintaining accurate alumni records is an important function of the Alumni Affairs Office as it enables us to communicate effectively with our alumni worldwide.

Currently, we have a total of 44,687 living alumni as of March 31, 2023. This includes those for whom we do not have contact information (inactive alumni). The total number of active alumni is 32,537.



Treasurer's Report

The 2023 fiscal financial result again highlights the strength and resilience of our Association as we delivered a balanced and disciplined approach to promote Acadia and deliver alumni programs to local and global communities. Our affinity partnership programs saw revenue increase 8.2% over the 2022 fiscal year to \$234,204 and total receipts grew 9.0% to \$313,567. The overall net receipt stood at \$5,134. Throughout the year, Alumni Association committees were constantly evaluating our programs and spending to match our new vision and mission. Some of the budgeted items did not get spent, partially due to the recovery from the global pandemic. The Association is committed to increasing our program commitment at a reasonable level in the coming years. Pending the disbursement of our remaining qualified campaign commitments, our \$1.5 million commitment to Campaign for Acadia has been fulfilled. Please see the enclosed financials.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for their guidance and input.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Zhang ('05)
Treasurer, Acadia Alumni Association

Acadia Alumni Association
Unaudited Receipts & Disbursements
For the Period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

	Projected	Actual	Variance	2021-2022 Restated
RECEIPTS				
Affinity Revenue	\$ 200,000	\$ 234,204	\$ 34,204	\$ 216,475
Alumni Fund	30,000	51,748	21,748	52,856
Alumni Events	-	8,934	8,934	-
Short-Term Interest	15,000	18,681	3,681	18,221
Total Receipts	\$ 245,000	\$ 313,567	\$ 68,567	\$ 287,552
DISBURSEMENTS				
<i>Athletics</i>				
Academic All Canadian Awards Reception	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Annual Fundraising Event	3,500	-	3,500	3,500
Athletic Reunions	1,000	1,000	-	-
Female Athlete Awards	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Hockey Honour Roll	2,000	-	2,000	-
Signage	2,500	2,500	-	2,500
Varsity Sport Special Initiatives	7,000	7,000	-	7,000
	\$ 28,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 25,000
<i>Other</i>				
Acadia Students' Union	\$ 5,800	\$ 6,500	\$ (700)	\$ 2,500
Award Committee Initiatives	10,000	6,544	3,456	4,241
Board Initiatives	5,000	-	5,000	1,750
Board Meetings and Director's Travel	6,000	9,473	(3,473)	2,181
Bruce Phinney Memorial Scholarship	2,500	12,500	(10,000)	-
Career Services Initiative	150,000	179,612	(29,612)	-
D&O Insurance	750	792	(42)	754
Director's Fund	2,000	817	1,183	-
Discretionary Disbursements	15,000	23,707	(8,707)	37,068
Events Committee Initiatives	15,000	2,478	12,522	-
Fred Gilbert Speaker Series	5,000	1,200	3,800	-
Grad Class	10,000	7,114	2,886	-
Homecoming Weekend	5,000	5,000	-	4,000
Off-campus Events	11,250	-	11,250	-
President's Fund	10,000	-	10,000	1,980
Recruitment	10,000	-	10,000	20,000
Scholarships	6,000	8,000	(2,000)	4,000
Staffing Commitment	14,309	14,196	113	2,016
Sunday Music in the Garden	8,000	8,000	-	8,000
Young Alumni Committee Initiatives	5,000	-	5,000	-
	\$ 296,609	\$ 285,933	\$ 10,676	\$ 88,490
Total Disbursements	\$ 324,609	\$ 308,433	\$ 16,176	\$ 113,490
NET RECEIPTS	\$ (79,609)	\$ 5,134	\$ 84,743	\$ 174,062

**Acadia Alumni Association
Balance Sheet
As at March 31**

	Unaudited 2023	Restated Unaudited 2022
Assets		
AAAU/Acadia Joint Account	\$ 92,682	\$ 78,148
Affinity Fund	1,335,315	1,348,832
Constance Hayward Fund	234,163	231,723
Carr Fund	47,236	46,743
General Fund (Alumni Hall)	65,136	64,458
Toronto Fund	16,097	15,930
Vesta Magee Fund	32,513	32,174
Total Assets	\$ 1,823,142	\$ 1,818,008
Committed Funds		
<i>Athletics Proposal</i>		
Academic All-Canadian Awards Banquet	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000
Annual Fundraising Event	7,000	3,500
Athletics Reunion Events	2,000	1,000
Female Athlete Awards	20,000	10,000
Hockey Honour Roll event	4,000	2,000
Signage Production for Sports Venues	5,000	2,500
Varsity Sport Special Initiatives	14,000	7,000
	\$ 56,000	\$ 28,000
<i>Other</i>		
Acadia Students' Union	\$ 15,600	\$ 9,100
Award Committee Initiatives	-	10,000
Bruce Phinney Memorial Scholarship	2,500	15,000
Campaign for Acadia ¹	-	108,952
Career Services Initiative	170,388	350,000
Fred Gilbert Speaker Series	-	5,000
President's Fund	-	10,000
Recruitment	-	10,000
Scholarships	6,000	6,000
Staffing Commitment	15,490	14,309
Sunday Music in the Garden	8,000	8,000
Young Alumni Committee Initiatives	-	5,000
	\$ 217,978	\$ 551,361
Total Committed Funds	\$ 273,978	\$ 579,361
Uncommitted Funds	\$ 1,549,164	\$ 1,238,647

¹ The Acadia Alumni announced a \$1.5 million commitment to Campaign for Acadia during its Alumni Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Halifax on May 23, 2019. The commitment is reduced annually by qualified campaign disbursements and commitments.

Affinity Partnerships

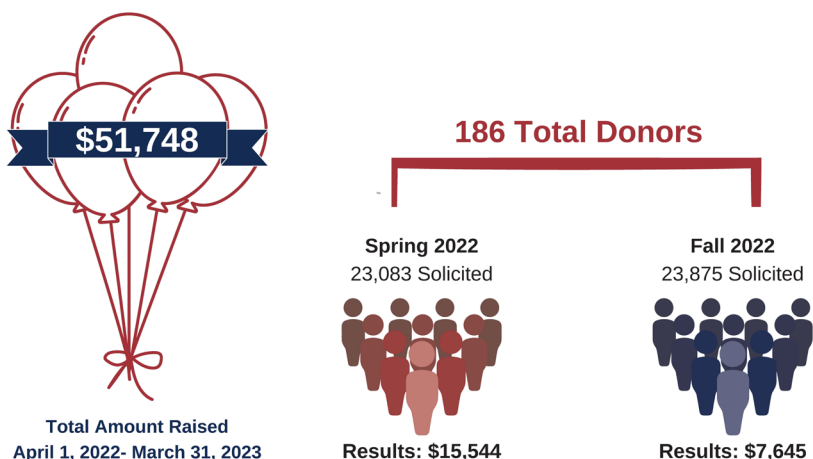
The Acadia Alumni Association continues to have a healthy, successful, and long-standing relationship with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex (home and car insurance). The number of alumni benefitting from the relationship with Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc. (health and life insurance) continues to increase. These affinity partnerships provide significant financial gains for the Association, but, more importantly, offer our alumni community great rates, benefits and services.

Revenue since April 1, 2022:

	TD Insurance	\$ 196,143.00
		
		\$35,000.64
		
		\$ 3,060.86
Total Affinity Revenue:		\$ 234,204.50

Annual Fund

Alumni Fund At-a-glance
April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023



The total raised for the Alumni Fund in 2023 fiscal was \$51,748 with \$23,189 through direct mail and e-mail solicitations and the remainder unsolicited or ongoing pledges. In the spring, the Alumni Fund appeal was sent to 23,083 alumni and in the fall, 23,875 alumni and friends received the request for donations which included the Alumni Fund option. The total number of donors was 186.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

In accordance with **Article 21** of the Constitution of the Associated Alumni of Acadia University, the Board of Directors provided notice of proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Association by email on February 10, 2023. The Board of Directors of the Association unanimously approved the proposed amendments at the February 4, 2023 meeting of the Board.

[VIEW](#) proposed amendments.

Proposed 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Executive Officers

Matthew Rios ('14)	2022 - 2024	President
Christine Luckasavitch ('11)	2022 - 2024	Vice-President
Sam Zhang ('05)	2022 - 2024	Treasurer
Stephanie Reid ('05)	2022 - 2024	Secretary

Directors

Barb Anderson ('77)	2022 - 2024
Paul Black ('00)	2022 - 2024
Allison Dean ('14)	2023 - 2025
Emma Duinker ('12)	2023 - 2025
Natalie Irwin ('01)	2022 - 2024
Moira MacLean ('85)	2023 - 2025
Ron Malcolm ('82, '83)	2022 - 2024
Leah McNally ('07)	2022 - 2024
Kierstyn Palmer ('22)	2023 - 2025
Véronique Russell ('16)	2022 - 2024
Matthew Saunders ('09)	2023 - 2025
Olivia Shive ('21)	2022 - 2024
Shaq Smith ('16)	2023 - 2025
Kelton Thomason ('07, '10)	2022 - 2024
Payton Wood ('18)	2023 - 2025

Ex-Officio

Sophia Blanchard ('23)	2022 - 2024
Emily Patterson ('24)	2023 - 2025

Nominee Biographies



Emma Duinker ('12) grew up in Cambridge, Nova Scotia, not far from her Alma Mater, Acadia University. Emma's academic path led her to Acadia University in 2007 to complete a BSc in Nutrition. As a varsity basketball athlete, she finished her career as a 5-time academic all-Canadian, 2nd team all (CIS), earned numerous conference and university awards, and won the Haley Medal which is awarded to "the female graduating student who has made the most outstanding contribution to varsity athletics, other extracurricular activities and scholarship." Emma later attended the University of Windsor where she earned her master's degree in Sport Management. While studying in Windsor, Emma was an assistant coach with the 5-time National Championship women's basketball team and held one year as the interim head coach in 2018.

During the time between Emma's academic ventures, she pursued a career as a professional athlete, playing basketball for three years in Germany in the first and second Bundesliga. Emma had numerous successes including winning a league championship with the Osnabruck Panthers.

After completing her master's degree, Emma joined the North American basketball company, PGC Basketball as a Basketball Development Coordinator. Her passion for youth sport development has taken her all over North America through her work with PGC and has recently landed her a position as Operations Manager with Basketball Nova Scotia.

Emma currently lives in Halifax with her husband Gabriel, and children, Akine and Mia.



Kierstyn Palmer ('22) grew up in the small town of Summerside, Prince Edward Island. She graduated from Acadia with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2022. Kierstyn was an active volunteer with the S.M.I.L.E. program, the Wolfville Farmers' Market, and the Valley Regional Hospital. She found her place within the Acadia community as a representative of the Biology Society, Vice-President of the Pre-Health Society, and takes great pride in holding the role of Life President of the Class of 2022. In her spare time, she loves to stay active and get outdoors - whether it be going the gym, playing pick-up basketball, or doing yoga.

Kierstyn has recently made the move from coast to coast and now calls Kelowna, BC home. She is currently in the first year of her master's degree in Health and Exercise Science, where she is researching the effects of exercise on pain in people with spinal cord injury at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. She is excited to be continuing her studies and is enjoying the thrill of living in a new city so far. In the future, she plans to keep drawing from her love for science and get her medical degree. It is her second year serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors as an ex-officio member, a position she found great value in holding as a student and now young alumni. She feels extreme gratitude for her experiences on the Board thus far and is honoured to be nominated as a full-time Board Director.



Born and raised in the islands of the Bahamas, **Matthew Saunders ('09)** moved to Canada in 2005 to begin university at Acadia. It was his first time living outside the Bahamas, but he instantly fell in love with Wolfville and had an amazing university experience, doing everything from serving as a Residence Assistant (RA) in Chase Court to DJing at the Axe. In 2009, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics and Statistics with Business) and moved to Halifax to begin his career in finance. He would later earn his Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Project Management Professional (PMP) and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt designations. Currently, Matthew works as a Director of

Finance Change, leading continuous improvement programs and finance technology implementation projects.

In recent years, after realizing the immense value of representation and belonging, Matthew has become actively involved with DEI initiatives in his professional and personal life. He helped launch the Black Employee Resource Group at his workplace serving as chair from 2021-2023. This group worked to raise knowledge and awareness, positively impact the African Nova Scotian community, and eliminate barriers for black employees and prospective employees. Since February 2023, serving as President, Mathew has led the launch of the Bahamian Association of Nova Scotia, whose vision is to "Establish & elevate the presence, impact and culture of the Bahamas in Nova Scotia." Outside of work and volunteering, Matthew is a new dad who enjoys spending time with his family & friends, travelling, volleyball and golf.



Shaq Smith ('16) is a digital marketing consultant who graduated from Acadia University with a Business degree. With a keen interest in technology and marketing, he honed his skills in digital marketing and has since become a sought-after consultant in the industry.

Shaq's success is not limited to his professional accomplishments. He has also made a significant impact in the community by leading various social causes and initiatives. Shaq's community engagement has helped him build strong relationships with people from all walks of life.

Shaq has helped many businesses grow and succeed in the digital space. He understands the importance of building relationships and takes a human-centric approach in his work. Shaq's ability to connect with people, combined with his technical skills, has earned him a reputation as a trusted consultant in his community and beyond.



Payton Wood ('18) is originally from Brantford, Ontario. She was proud to be the second generation in her family to graduate from Acadia, receiving her Bachelor of Business Administration in 2018. During her time at Acadia, Payton was involved with the Acadia S.M.I.L.E. program and had the opportunity to help establish the Acadia Students' Union Food Cupboard - the first student-run emergency food resource on Acadia's campus.

After graduating from Acadia, Payton attended the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University where she received her Juris Doctorate in 2021. Deciding to put down permanent roots in Nova Scotia, she now works as a lawyer at the law firm of McInnes Cooper in Halifax. Payton primarily practices in the area of real property, assisting clients with residential and commercial transactions, commercial financing and condominium matters.

In her free time, Payton can be found running, cycling, and forever cheering for the Toronto Maple Leafs.



The elected Grad Class Life President of 2024 is **Emily Patterson**, a Nova Scotian who began her academic journey at Acadia University in 2020 to pursue a Business degree at the esteemed F.C. Manning School of Business. Throughout her tenure as an Acadia student, Emily has exhibited a strong commitment to community service. In her second year, she actively participated in the Acadia Business Society as a representative and contributed to various events and weekly meetings. In her third year, she became involved with the Investment Council, competing in the prestigious annual Venture Capital Investment Competition held at Saint Mary's University. Additionally, Emily dedicated her time every Tuesday morning to volunteer with the S.M.I.L.E program, demonstrating her passion for giving back to the community.

Presently, Emily is leading the effort to establish a Women in Business Society with her female peers, aimed at providing networking, mentorship, and professional development opportunities to empower female students to succeed in their future careers. Following graduation, Emily aspires to attend law school and specialize in corporate law. When she's not engrossed in academic pursuits and extracurricular activities, Emily loves spending time outdoors, reading, or socializing with friends. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow," a motto that Emily fully embraces.

Appointees to the Board of Governors

The Acadia Alumni Association appoints 12 people to the University's Board of Governors. These volunteers lend significant and valuable experience and expertise to the University, its leadership and members of the Acadia community.

The Alumni Association Vice-President (appointed in their second year), President (for their two-year term) and Past-President (for their one-year term) hold two of the 12 appointments to the Board of Governors at any given time. Matthew Rios ('14) and Christine Luckasavitch ('11) currently fulfill these roles. The ten remaining appointees include:

Clive Anderson ('89)
Charles Coll ('84)
Henry Demone ('76), Board Chair
Bert Frizzell ('72)
Shanna Lespere ('89, '90)

Stuart MacLean ('83)
Tracey McGillivray ('87/'15)
Pam Mood ('82)
Martin Suter ('88)
Lana Wood ('82)

THANK YOU TO THE RETIRING DIRECTORS



ACADIA ALUMNI

The Acadia Alumni Association and Acadia University
would like to thank the following retiring
Board Members for their dedication and service:

Jeff Aucoin ('96)

Carol D'Amelio ('72)

Heather Hickman ('77)

Donalda MacBeath ('75)

Kyle Power ('13)

Ted Upshaw ('80)