

Fall, 2022

KC



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President's Message

Thank you to everyone who made it to our first Alumni Weekend since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. I know there were many others who wished they had been able to attend, but due to circumstances beyond their control they were not able to make the journey. One of the stories I had heard was about the alumnus who had their flights booked, hotel arrangements made and transportation in place, but had to cancel the week before because they tested positive for COVID-19. They were absolutely disappointed they had to cancel their trip.

Throughout the weekend, it was wonderful to see people getting together to reminisce about their time at Kingsway. The stories they shared and all the "catching up" they were able to do made the weekend a positive experience for those who were able to participate. It was great for me to be drawn into some of these conversations so I could hear first-hand how these people viewed Kingsway's impact on their lives.

For me, the most moving event of the weekend was the Sabbath morning worship service where Wintley Phipps shared his testimony. For him, attending Kingsway turned into the pivotal moment that set the course for his life of service. As a young man

coming to Kingsway, not really looking for that personal relationship with God, it was on this campus that his Heavenly Father reached out and touched him in a very personal way, calling him to serve his Creator. His story is exemplary of what Christian Education is all about, whether it is here at Kingsway, or at any of the Seventh-day Adventist schools operating across Canada or around the world. It is on these campuses that our students have the opportunity to meet their Lord and Saviour, and choose a life-long path that will see them following Him while being a blessing to those around them.

Thank you for your continued support of Kingsway College in particular, and Seventh-day Adventist education in general. All of your stories of how God has led you to where you are today are important, as are the lives you have touched in His name. We are so happy to be able to continue this fine tradition as each year we are able to work with the students, just like you, to help students today to meet Jesus and assist them in finding their calling and vocation for their futures.

God Bless, keep safe and stay well.

R. Lee Richards
President
Kingsway College



*Lee Richards
President, Kingsway College*

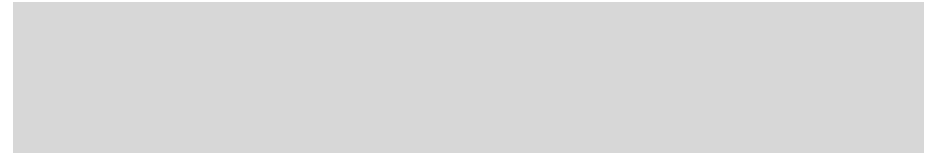
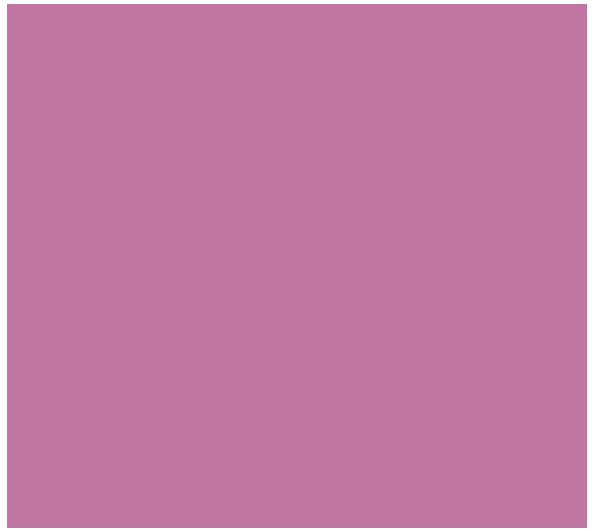
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potluck





alumni banquet



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SAVE THE DATE

FUND DINNER 2023
FEBRUARY 12

PREVIEW WEEKEND

APRIL 28-30
2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.KINGSWAY.COLLEGE/PREVIEWWEEKEND

California

CHAPTER MEETING

MARCH, 2022



Alumni of the Year

Fred Biesenthal grew up on the edge of the Kingsway campus, where his father, Clarence, taught Industrial Education and Driver's Ed. Fred's first twelve years of school were at Kingsway, initially at the Family Studies building (the elementary school until the 1970's) and then high school, where he excelled in science and practical mechanics—his passion for cars started early. He earned an engineering degree at Walla Walla College, then a master's degree at McMaster University, before working for SNC Lavalin on projects that took him across Canada and around the world, including a major infrastructure development that saw him stationed in Indonesia for several years.



Ibi (Igracki) Biesenthal's route to Kingsway was a little longer than Fred's. She was born in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia (now part of Serbia). The country was communist, and the family's liberties were constrained. Ibi's parents, Veronika and Paul, applied for permission to travel, which was granted for the parents and their youngest daughter, Erika. But Ibi and her sister, Veronika, had to stay behind with their grandmother as "insurance" that the parents would return. When her parents didn't return, Ibi, then 13, underwent interrogation by the police—Ibi developed her resolute spirit for justice at an early age. Smuggled across borders in a snowy December, Ibi and Veronika reunited with their waiting family and then immediately traveled to Canada. Paul and Veronika settled in Oshawa so their daughters could attend Kingsway College. After graduating in 1970, Ibi joined her father in his business.



When Fred and Ibi married, they moved to Indonesia. But Fred's dad became ill, Ibi's dad missed her support at the business, and Ibi had more spare time than she wanted, so they moved home to Oshawa. They purchased the Igracki family tool and die business, PI Tool, which they have run successfully for over 35 years. If you are counting, that means Ibi has built this thriving company for over 45 years. Two sons, Daniel in 1987 and Erik in 1988—now both successful engineers in British Columbia—completed their family.

For decades, Fred and Ibi have been steadfast supporters of Kingsway College and active members of the Oshawa community. They have served on advisory boards, sponsored students, and generously donated funds, equipment and expertise. For their unwavering commitment to Adventist education, Kingsway College is proud to honour Fred and Ibi Biesenthal as this year's Alumni of the Year.

Lifetime Achievement Award

GARY & GWEN FORD

Gary attended Kingsway for grades 9-12 as a dorm student and Gwen a day student for grades 10 -12. The most memorable event in both Gary & Gwens life at Kingsway was meeting each other. Gary & Gwen met in their Sophomore year and married in their Senior year and both graduated in 1966, 56 years ago.

Kingsway College had a two year College program back in the 60's. Gwen and Gary both attended their first year of College at Kingsway, but then decided to expand their family and had their daughter, so they stopped attending college and focused on their family and setting up their business. They lived on campus in a mobile home (almost exactly where this complex is today) for the next couple of years then moved to a new home that Gary built for his expanding family. It was here in the new garage that the stair factory began.

Gary & Gwen had four children and all four attended Kingsway College.

During their high school years, one of the jobs that they held was driving special needs students to school. Gary would drive a large station wagon from the Kingsway Campus with Gwen in the car as an Aide to the students. They would drive their route around Oshawa to the children's homes and pick the students up and drop them off at their special needs school that was located on the other side of town. After the children had finished their school day, Gwen and Gary would pick the kids up from the school and drive the route delivering the students to their own homes again. Kind and patient care for each of the students was evident, however it also required a firm hand to keep all of the kids safe and secure. It was a very challenging job but was also a very fulfilling experience helping these kids and their families, a trend that continues to this day for both Gary & Gwen.

In grade 12 Gwen was SA president and Gary vice-president. Organizing school events in this leadership role was not always easy for the very shy Gwen.. One of these events was a Fund-raising walk for a school bus – sponsors were secured for the 30 mile walk and \$3,500.00 was raised.

Gary & Gwen worked with Mrs. Violet Hall, supporting a young orphaned Korean Student named Dok Yol, through the World Vision organization. Gary organized a chocolate bar campaign that raised funds to support Dok Yol in his orphanage, these funds were sent to Korea each year at Christmas.

Gary has always been a man on a mission, from the time he was very young Gary has had to work hard whether it was a paper route, participating in SA events later as a firefighter or running a successful business he was always able to carve out time for the bagpipes. Playing the pipes at a talent show as a student at Kingsway or on parade in Canada or Europe, Gary's love of the bagpipes continue to this day.

We are all products of our environment and for Gary & Gwen the Kingsway environment changed their lives and by extension they both have changed the lives of many young men and women that have attended Kingsway College. While students at Kingsway it was always difficult to know where the next tuition payment of \$20 was going to come from, many months a particular teacher made those payments so they both could continue their education.

The generous convictions held by Gary and Gwen were taught to their kids at an early age. During lunch and

recess you could see some of the Ford children walking across Townline to rake Mrs. Hall's leaves.

The Stair Factory, as stated earlier, started in their home garage, after a little while it moved onto the Kingsway College Campus into what was previously the old Bakery located off the loop beside the valley across from the old gym. Once located on the campus, the Stair Factory offered employment to KC students; they hired five to six students each year to work ½ days during the school year, as well as full time opportunities during the summer if they wanted to continue working those months. Not only did this business help support the school in rental income, it also afforded students to pay their tuition and continue their education at Kingsway College.

The Stair Factory grew and expanded to their current location on the East end of the Loma Linda building. After 50 years of operation, serving Durham region as a well respected business and helping hundreds of students with employment and scholarships through the annually funded Stair Factory Scholarship Fund, Gary & Gwen has made the difficult decision to cease operations in 2022!

They taught their four children that you don't do things for recognition or praise, God expects you to do things because it is the right thing to do. They believed that the right thing to do is to always share opportunities and blessings that you have been given whenever the need arrived.

Gwen and Gary opened their home to students to visit or stay on home leave weekends or summer break when kids couldn't get home for those weekends or summer months but didn't want to be lonely in the near empty dorms during those off school times. There have been many students that have found lodging in their home for as short a time as a weekend or others for months at a time year after year. One of those students became like children to them one in particular was Brian Hampson who the Ford kids consider a bonus sibling and some of their grandchildren refer to him as Uncle Brian.

Gwen's most memorable mentor was Violet Hall. She was a Geography Teacher who was a lovely individual who took extreme interest in her students and would do anything she could to make sure that you gained insight into what you needed to learn. She would even privately tutor a student or anything else to help you succeed.

Gary's most memorable mentor was Welton Ingram. He was a Science teacher who was very intelligent. He made the subjects interesting and would go into concepts of the information.

Gwen and Gary took Kingsway's motto of Service not Fame to heart and that is why they helped support people around them. They did this both financially and by opening their house to anyone who needed a place to stay. They also did this by teaching people a basic trade that they could use to support themselves.

By living this motto they ended up with a bonus son Brian Hampson who became an unofficial part of the family, but very much an official part of their hearts. There were other students who also lived with them over the years. They also helped families that moved into the country and gave them a place to work and helped them with housing.

I just want to thank Jenny Ford, their daughter for helping me with the information I am telling you today about the parents she so loves and is so proud of.



Lifetime Achievement Award

HANNU & KAREN HALMINEN

When asked to help me with some information about her parents, Lisa stated, "I think one of the first things my parents would say, about receiving a "Lifetime Achievement Award", is that "We're not old enough for a lifetime achievement award.... we're not finished yet! That's for old people!" "

When I called Lisa for some information on her parents it was clear that less was going to be more when it comes to talking about Karen & Hannu, later I received this email from Lisa:

Hi Greg, I'm still working on some notes re: my dad, and I do think he's uncomfortable being in the spotlight, and think he would appreciate brief comments as he is a man of little words. :)

I called several other people that know Karen & Hannu well and I received the same response, less is more, so I will try to honor that.

From the first time I met Karen & Hannu it was clear that they were the kind of people that were blessed to a blessing to others and over the years I have seen only a fraction of the people that have benefited from their generosity. Kingsway College has been on the receiving end of many of those blessings.

Genetically introverts from Finland, Karen and Hannu Halminen do not like being in the spotlight, that is until you start talking to

Hannu about flying, bicycling, the weather, gardening or about his family.

Whether it's giving the thrill of a warbird flight or providing professional advice/guidance to a variety of boards, he does so to give back to the community that welcomed his family when they immigrated to Canada in the 1950s. Some might not know that he originally intended to go to medical school after graduating from Andrews University in 1971, but after not getting into Loma Linda University, he started a construction business with his father and brother. Karen graduated from Kingsway, then the Branson School of Nursing. Lisa and Lori joined the scene in 1973.

Organizations which the Halminen family and associated businesses have supported includes but is not limited to Kingsway College, Andrews University, Lakeridge HealthCare/Bowmanville Hospital Foundation, various aviation organizations such as the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum and EAA's Young Eagles program; any school their granddaughters have attended; Feed the Need food bank; Habitat ReStore; and many more. Both have served on umpteen school and church boards throughout the decades. And of course, behind every successful man, is a woman providing untold support behind the scenes...AND behind every successful woman is a man providing untold support behind the scenes...one of their friends told me that they are the couple that was always meant to be!

Like the Biesenthals and Fords, there is so much I would love to share with the world on how much Karen & Hannu have done for students, families and Kingsway College in general over the past 50+ years, however "Service not Fame" is as much their motto in life as it is the motto of Kingsway College.

Lisa told me that a Bible verse that is a suitable description of how their family has lived is Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

Karen and Hannu on behalf of Kingsway College please accept this Lifetime Achievement Award and with the greatest of appreciation for all you both have done for our school.



IN MEMORIAM



Elvin Rossen

July 8, 1945 - August 9, 2022 (age 77)

Elvin Rossen passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, August 9th, 2022. He is survived by his beloved wife of 32 years, Elizabeth Rossen; his four children: Niels, Matthias, Mark, and Naomi Bol; eight grandchildren; his sisters: Elsie Westhouse, Greta Kutzner, and Adele Dahlberg; his extended family and the family of Elizabeth Rossen.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the many wonderful staff members of the Heritage Green Nursing Home who gave so much care and love to Elvin during the last five years of his life.

Elvin will be known for his great love of music and for his sincere dedication and work in the ministry. Elvin was born in St. Catharines, Ontario, on July 8th, 1945, to parents Peter Rossen and Esther Rossen (Anderson). Following his graduation from Oshawa Missionary College, Elvin went on to receive a degree in music from Atlantic Union College. Elvin furthered his studies in Bogenhofen and Vienna, Austria. Upon returning to Canada, Elvin dedicated his life to the ministry. After working as an assistant pastor in Oshawa, Ontario, Elvin conducted missionary work in Mexico and Belize. Following their marriage in 1990, Elvin and Elizabeth ministered in several churches in Ontario, including Kendalwood Church in Whitby, Sault Saint Marie, Iron Bridge Church, Owen Sound, Harriston, and Hanover.



Stewart Shankel

October 3, 1931 - September 29, 2022 (age 91)

Stewart Shankel, an alumnus of OMC/Kingsway College, was born October 3, 1931, and passed away in Riverside, California on September 29, 2022. Sadly missed by his relatives and friends

Anne Alethea (Connelly) Bissell

September 29, 1938 ~ July 11, 2022 (age 83)

Anne Alethea Connelly-Bissell was born in Croydon, near London England to Cyril and Vera Connelly on September 29, 1938. During World War II, which broke out in Europe the next year, Anne was evacuated twice to northern England with her mother and younger brother. At one point, the home in which she was living received serious damage from a bomb, and it was necessary for her mother and younger children to move to another location.

In 1948, some three years after the war ended, Anne's father left for Canada to find work and a home in Ottawa. The following year Anne immigrated to Canada with her mother and younger brother Cyril. She attended schools in Ottawa until her last year of high school, then finished the last year at what is now Kingsway College in Oshawa. In the fall of 1957 she enrolled as an education major at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. While there, she met and later married her husband Ron in June, 1960.

Over the next few years, Anne gave birth to four children. After the youngest started school, she worked for several years as a secretary-receptionist for the Better Living Center in Germantown, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. She spent several summers teaching swimming and serving as head lifeguard at church summer camps. In 1979 the family moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba where Anne worked for about four years as a Secretary-Receptionist for Park Manor Personal Care Home. Returning to Andrews University with Ron while he pursued further studies, she worked for about two years as a secretary to the head of the Physical Education Department. A year after coming back to Canada in 1985 when Ron was invited to teach at what is now Burman University, Anne became the secretary-receptionist for Parkview Adventist Academy and served in that position for ten years. She then left Canada again in 1996, this time to work in the Philippines for eight years as the thesis and dissertation editor at the graduate school Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies located near Manila. When Anne officially retired in 2004, she again returned to Canada to live in Lacombe, but continued to work on as a volunteer. Between 2004 and 2019 when the first wave of Covid arrived, she made eleven trips to Thailand, spending two or three winter months each time as a volunteer in various capacities including assisting the food service manager and tutoring students who were in the process of learning English while Ron taught classes there.

Anne was predeceased by her parents Cyril and Vera Connelly; her sister Joan (McVarish); and her three brothers David, Michael, and Cyril. She is survived by her husband Ron; her cousin and adopted sister Valerie (Tander); her brother Cyril's wife, Lynn; her children Kay Graca (Pedro), Ronald Mark (Michele), Kirsten Palipane (Erroll), and Geoffrey (Rebecca); nine grandsons; two granddaughters; one great-grandson; several unofficially "adopted" children and grandchildren who call her "Mom" or "Grandma"; and many friends.





SAVE THE DATE
Alumni
Homecoming

MAY 26 - 28, 2023

Honoured Classes

1953 / 1963 / 1973 / 1983 / 1993 / 1998 / 2003 / 2013