

IMPACT

Working together at Royal Roads University

SPRING 2019 IN THIS ISSUE

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Free

Philanthropic Planning Guide

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MEET DR. PHILIP STEENKAMP

Our new president on the transformative power of education

From tutoring fellow university students to acting as BC's deputy minister of advanced education, the transformative power of education has been a recurring theme in President Philip Steenkamp's life.

He started his career in education in Durban, South Africa, tutoring mature students at the University of Natal, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons).

"These students were working and taking classes part time and just needed some extra support," says Steenkamp, who assumed Royal Roads University's top job Jan. 2. "In most instances they were also raising families and yet they found the time to come back to school."

While completing a Master of Arts and a PhD in History at Queen's University, Steenkamp tutored students incarcerated in several federal institutions.



President Philip Steenkamp assumed Royal Roads University's top job January 2019.

With more than two decades of senior leadership experience in the post-secondary and public sectors, Steenkamp says it's a privilege to lead the university he has long admired.

"I was always intrigued by Royal Roads' model," Steenkamp says, referring to its demand-driven and applied learning approach.

He says the impact of new technologies on the labour market means mid-career professionals increasingly have to reinvent themselves to remain competitive in a changing labour landscape.

Royal Roads is well positioned to provide students with the skills they need to thrive in this emerging economy.

"Royal Roads was cutting edge when it launched and it has evolved and it has remained incredibly responsive to societal needs. I really do think Royal Roads is the university of the future."

Given the challenges and opportunities ahead, Steenkamp says collaboration—with donors, the university community, West Shore community, government and community stakeholders, and Indigenous communities—is essential. ■



President Steenkamp chats with Roberta Mason, Associate Vice-President, Student and Academic Services.

"I met some of the most incredible people under those circumstances—incredibly bright and curious and dedicated," he says.

"No matter where you are in life or what hand life has dealt you, that deep appreciation for the power and the importance of education has always stuck with me."

Since then, Steenkamp held roles in multiple provincial ministries in BC and Ontario and served as vice-president of external relations at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia.

INVESTMENTS THAT MATTER

Student awards change lives and the world.

Since joining Royal Roads, I've heard countless stories of students not only transforming their own lives, but also their communities because of donor awards. Some are managing significant personal and family responsibilities. They wouldn't have this opportunity without financial support.

Donor awards allow them to make real change like support healthy soils for urban agriculture, incorporate climate change adaptation into our everyday lives and contribute to sustainable peace around the world.

As an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, we give people the skills they need to make change at home and abroad.

When they succeed, we all benefit.

— President Philip Steenkamp

ALUMNI PROFILE

Family time

Alumni donor Lolly de Jonge shares how her parents—and her kids—have shaped her decision to give to Royal Roads.



Laura de Jonge (centre) on graduation day with her parents, Métis elder George Goulet and Terry Goulet.

A box of fruit goes a long way. That's what Laura (Lolly) de Jonge learned twenty years ago, watching her parents hand out oranges to people on the street. As one of the many ways they routinely gave back, their actions instilled philanthropy as a family value for generations to come.

“Charitable giving is not about how much you make or where you're working. It's a consciousness.”

Following the 2008 financial crisis, de Jonge saw a sharp rise in donation requests. Overwhelmed by so many people in need, she and her husband Michael decided to set out a strategic approach for giving that involved their whole family.

“At a Sunday dinner we sat down with our kids and asked: ‘As a family, who do we want to give money to?’” says de Jonge. “Each of us had to think about

what was personally important, our values, what's meaningful. It was a lively debate. Through the process, we found agreement around specific topics.”

Having personally faced academic challenges, education is a priority for de Jonge. As a “high school dropout” wanting to enter university later in life, she had to challenge entrance requirements. Perseverance paid off: in 2008, she graduated from Royal Roads University with a Master of Arts in Environment and Management.

Although her education was funded by her employer, she recognizes the difficulties. “When speaking with a colleague who had to pay for everything out of pocket, I saw the sacrifice,” says de Jonge. “I realized that by providing financial support, I could help make life easier for someone.”

She and her family put thought into action by establishing the Laura and Michael de Jonge Bursary, an annual award for a student who demonstrates financial need and leadership ability. The 2018 recipient was Master of Science in Environment and Management student Michelle Corsi.

“The award really helped me in terms of recognition and validation of my work,” says Corsi. “At The Marine Mammal Center, the world's largest marine mammal teaching hospital, I'm stepping into a bigger leadership role, training people around the world.”

For de Jonge, a letter from Corsi confirmed the power of giving back. “Michelle let us know how her research touches other people's



Michelle Corsi

lives,” she says. “This tells us that the scholarship lets us affect future generations in a special way. And that the decision our family made 10 years ago continues to bear fruit.”

STUDENT PROFILE: EJ TREMBLAY

Filmmaker reinvents himself



For almost 20 years, EJ Tremblay’s office was in one of two places—in front of the camera or behind it.

As an actor, director and assistant director, Tremblay has worked on the set of films like *The Weight of Water*, a French-American mystery thriller and *Bailey’s Mistake*, a Walt Disney film starring Linda Hamilton.

“Art and creativity were early, natural components of my identity,” he says.

But after two decades in film, EJ left the industry he loved.

“You can’t see, you can’t work,” he says.

It was his friends who noticed first.

“I would chase seagulls instead of fly balls,” says the former university football and rugby player. “My friends wouldn’t drive with me.”

Tremblay started seeing specialists about 10 years ago but they couldn’t tell him what caused his vision loss.

His condition, which causes a blind spot in about one-third of his field of vision, is still undiagnosed.

“I don’t see a big vacant spot. My brain fills it in based on my memory so I see wonderfully. It’s just not reality,” he says. “Blindness doesn’t lend itself to visual art. So I had to reinvent myself.”

Tremblay registered in the Graduate Certificate in Executive Coaching program. Supported by a \$500 Graham Dickson Leadership and Learning Award, he completed his program in 2014.

“One-on-one coaching is almost synonymous with directing. As an actor, you want to feel authentic—that the performance is yours ... I think that is what stimulates people being coached. They go ‘oh, I figured it out.’ So it tends to resonate longer or they remember it.”

Tremblay coaches diverse clients including National Hockey League coaches, an infectious disease doctor in

New Brunswick and executives from the David Suzuki Foundation.

“I fell in love with team coaching,” he says, adding that his clients pilot their own journey. Like a co-pilot, he’s says he’s just there to support their ride.

As a current student in the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program, Tremblay is specializing in coaching, communications and education.

For his major project, he’s planning to produce an informative documentary about adaptive skills and resilience through sharing his and others’ stories.

“When I lost my vision, I thought my life as I knew it was over,” he says.

“But in accepting this challenge, I want to help people find the courage to make changes that impact their lives in positive ways.”

FREE PHILANTHROPIC PLANNING GUIDE

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We all give to causes we care about. A personal philanthropic plan will help you to identify your charitable goals, support your financial planning and even help you decide which charities would make good philanthropic partners. It can help others understand your priorities and help you to understand the impact of your giving, now and in the future.

To request your free copy, email advancement@royalroads.ca or call **1.866.207.0080**