

King's Herald

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Artist rendering of exterior of
Darryl J. King Student Life Centre

Kevin Van Lierop



Written by Kaleigh Rodgers

As a native Londoner, Kevin Van Lierop, BA '04 (History) is dedicated to fostering citizen engagement and promoting development in his hometown. After graduating from King's, he spent a year in Paris and was inspired by the abundant level of cultural engagement in the city. This trip became the impetus for Van Lierop to make his community at home a better place.

He has volunteered for a lengthy list of community driven projects, including acting as a director for the London Short Film Showcase Board, a social media documentarian for LOLAfest, a co-organizer for Hack the Vote, and a member of the City of London Community Engagement Task Force. Van Lierop is also an active member of the Emerging Leaders London Community Network, and the Pillar Non-Profit Network via the UnLondon Digital Media Association where he is a member and director of the Board.

Van Lierop views his many projects as non-traditional community development. He is continually searching for ways to fill the gaps left by traditional efforts, which he feels to be unresponsive at times. He enjoys the challenge to take on projects to affect change with limited resources, and emphasizes that a positive attitude and willingness to make personal connections locally goes a long way.

Van Lierop continued his education with a Diploma in Geographical Information Systems and Urban Planning at Fanshawe College, and also completed his Bachelor of Education at Althouse College. Van Lierop believes that all aspects of his education were important building blocks that help him every day with critical thinking and communicating with diverse groups of people.

Professionally, Van Lierop has had a varied career notably holding positions as a research associate at Western University, and a cross-appointed faculty member at Fanshawe College. Currently, Van Lierop is open to new opportunities in the community development sector.

His most recent community project is the creation of a 'Block Party in a Box' kit, an endeavor that was funded through an Awesome London grant. The kit, which is currently in production, will encourage Londoners to get to know their neighbors, a small gesture which Van Lierop believes is the key to all innovation.

Using his creativity to identify venues for community improvement, Van Lierop is quite literally helping Londoners to think outside the box to build a stronger city.

Paul Wilton

Written by Kaleigh Rodgers

As a young man living with hemophilia, Paul Wilton, BA '07 (Political Science) was fortunate to be surrounded by mentors who proved that it is possible to live a good life in spite of the challenges of the disease. While some would simply take comfort in this message, Wilton responded by stepping out to be an advocate himself.

Today, Wilton holds numerous volunteer positions with local, national and international hemophilia organizations. He is vice-president of the Canadian Hemophilia Society, president of Hemophilia Ontario, and also sits on the World Federation of Hemophilia Blood Safety Supply and Availability Committee. In these roles, he acts as a leader and spokesperson for those whose lives rely on safe and reliable sources of blood and blood products. During his vacation time, Wilton often volunteers at Pinecrest Adventures, a summer camp that provides the necessary support for children with hemophilia.

While completing his undergraduate studies, Wilton demonstrated his commitment to the King's community as a soph, assistant soph, head soph, and member of the King's University College Students' Council. As a student who wasn't involved in his own orientation week, Wilton took special care as an upper-year mentor to identify students who were struggling to fit in. He found his time as a soph to be highly rewarding and valued the opportunity to help students transition smoothly into university life.

After graduating in 2007, Wilton was hired as a liaison officer at King's. He felt this role to be a natural fit as he was already spreading the word about his experience at the University. Wilton has held several liaison positions at King's and Western in the past six years, and earned his Bachelor of Education at Althouse in 2011. He is currently an admissions and liaison officer at King's. In his field, he enjoys the opportunity to coach students through challenging academic decisions.

In addition to his professional and volunteer commitments, Wilton takes a keen interest in municipal politics. He notably spearheaded a petition against the development of Reservoir Hill, a natural and historic site in West London.

Finding hope in adversity through the support of his mentors, Wilton is now a role model for youth and families affected by hemophilia. Wilton continues to offer support to many students at King's to ensure that they enjoy the caring community that he feels offered him so much.



PHOTO: Claus Andersen