While there are various rooms in the Ban Righ Centre where students go to study quietly, there is one room in particular, in the northeast corner of the 2nd floor that is especially cozy; this room is known as Maureen’s Room. Formerly her office, the room is named after Maureen Ewan, who was once the Centre’s resident advisor and study skills tutor. Mrs. Ewan, through her many contributions, has supported the academic and non-academic success of mature woman students for over thirty years.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Mrs. Ewan to chat with her about her position at the Centre in the 1970s. Supporting students through the processes of researching and writing essays, Mrs. Ewan held one-on-one sessions with students pursuing formal education while juggling life and family responsibilities. Her goal was to improve student academic writing and communication skills through the provision of her time and editing services. Following the completion of her own studies, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Mrs. Ewan and her husband Dr. George Ewan moved to Canada, and finally to Kingston, in the 1960s. Dr. Ewan began his career in the Physics Department at Queen’s and Mrs. Ewan looked for work on campus. Having worked for several years as a social worker, Mrs. Ewan thought she would be well-suited to provide writing support for students and applied at the Centre where she began work soon after.

Mrs. Ewan notes that, during her time at the Centre, students enrolled in formal education with future goals in mind, and she believes that this motivation for learning may not necessarily equate to one actually engaging with the material in a way that sticks. She comments that this may have been one of the reasons why students required her assistance. According to Mrs. Ewan, different motivations for engaging in academia can impact one’s academic successes in different ways. Mrs. Ewan also

The Ban Righ Foundation will celebrate Queen’s 175th with an award for women

The Ban Righ Foundation looks forward to hosting a celebration of women on October 18, 2016 to coincide with the Queen’s 175th celebrations. A new award (yet to be officially named) will be presented to a woman who makes a positive difference. Medallions were created by goldsmith Cindy Johnson (website: cindyj.ca), and sponsored by a friend of the Ban Righ Centre, Faye Ransom (Executive Director, Gift Planning, Queen’s). Stay tuned everyone!
indicates that students would schedule time to speak with her about the particulars of an essay they were writing, but would then identify several other areas of concern during a meeting. Whether related to their studies or family life, these issues influenced a student’s academic abilities and there was relatively little alternative support on campus at the time. Moreover, Mrs. Ewan remarks that it was considered acceptable to go for study support, but not necessarily for personal counselling.

In the contemporary on-campus environment, services like Student Academic Success Services (better known as SASS) are available to support the academic accomplishments of all Queen’s students. Susan Korba, Director of SASS, a division of Student Affairs, states that SASS is designed to help students prosper and thrive academically. Comprised of Learning Strategies and the Writing Centre, these units provide one-on-one advising sessions, handouts, larger group sessions as well as peer support to enhance learning and improve writing respectively (SASS 2015). In operation in this iteration since 2012 (the Writing Centre has been around since 1986), SASS services are well-used and are often called upon by people across campus; Korba indicates that there is more partnering around campus in an effort to better support students. This is far different from the student support available during Mrs. Ewan’s time. The additional compartmentalization of student services at Queen’s means that people wear “fewer hats” than they used to. Korba notes that it seems that more women are returning to formal education to complete a graduate degree, and compliments the School of Graduate Studies’ Expanding Horizons program for providing additional supports for these students.

According to Mrs. Ewan, the Ban Righ Centre was one of the only support services available for mature women students on campus when she was a staff member. Although there is currently no direct tutoring support provided by the Ban Righ Centre, the Centre’s Student Advisors Gamila Abdalla and Lisa Webb, and Director Carole Morrison support students in navigating and accessing the academic and non-academic services on campus, including the Centre’s own advising and financial supports. This occurs both on-site and via the telephone or email for distance education students. For more than forty years, in fact, the Ban Righ Centre has supported the continuing formal and informal education of undergraduate, graduate and professional women students, particularly those who have experienced a break from their studies and those with dependents. The goals of the Ban Righ Centre and SASS are to make students feel confident in their abilities to pursue their education.

Special thanks to Maureen Ewan and Susan Korba for making the time to share their stories and information with me; this article would not have been possible without you.

Did you miss a noon hour talk?
Many BRC talks are posted on our YouTube channel.
To see our selection of talks, visit: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_BvqW817bM7puqSElj2m1A

The Ban Righ Foundation welcomes two new board members: Alison Infante and Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant.
**Student Spotlight** by Lindsay Rodgers, evaluation assistant

We are excited to share the first of many student profiles in which we highlight the research of a graduate student at Queen’s. For our inaugural spotlight, we are sharing the work of Meaghan Frauts, a Cultural Studies PhD student. Meaghan focuses on resilience and resistance, and how these two concepts, despite the way they are often read as distinct categories, overlap. Meaghan describes this as focusing on the ‘messiness’ of human experience. She notes that we are increasingly being called upon to be resilient—“to ensure that we can endure crises and shocks,” whether political, economic, or environmental. Meaghan historicizes and (re) politicizes the concept of resilience. She argues that, “resilience is caught in a double bind: it can account for the way that people secure themselves against hegemonic regimes, and at the same time enforce those regimes.” For example, Meaghan studies an NGO in Jamaica; the NGO uses theatre and interactive games to talk about gender issues. Budget constraints and general austerity within Jamaica mean that this NGO is not receiving sufficient funding. It is resisting austerity measures by refusing to let go of their methodology. At the same time, they are exercising resilience because by continuing to afford and use theatre, the employees are not paying themselves, thus enacting self-exploitation. This is the thrust of Meaghan’s work: paying attention to the complex ways people exercise both resilience and resistance on the terrain of cultural production. Thank you, Meaghan, for sharing your work with the Ban Righ Centre!

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Save the Date

**Spring Celebration**

April 30, 2016

All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there!

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**Congratulations** on your retirement, Dr. Roberta Lamb! The Ban Righ Centre staff thanks Dr. Lamb for facilitating meditation groups here in the Centre over the past several years. In keeping with her typical generosity, when Dr. Lamb was asked what gift she would like for her retirement, she suggested that anyone who wished to buy a gift could make a donation in her name to the Ban Righ Centre. What a thoughtful and kind thing to do! Thank you.
A message of thanks from the Director, Carole Morrison

What do spaces on campus say to students, staff and faculty? How are people marginalized or entitled by the spaces they inhabit? These questions are never far from my thoughts as I enter the beautiful old house on Queen’s campus, the former home of Dean Caroline McNeill (first Dean of Women) and her husband Vice-Principal William McNeill. I remember a letter from former Ban Righ Foundation board co-chair, Ellen Merrin, which states emphatically that mature women students at Queen’s deserve to have an up-to-date kitchen space to use for their lunches, one that helps them feel at home. Ellen felt so strongly that in 1995, she engaged board members and supporters, and together they raised funds to create a new kitchen. It was with these thoughts in mind that we proposed the renovation of the basement via a letter to an anonymous but confirmed Queen’s University donor. The donor responded with incredible generosity and we are turning a tired basement into two charming, calming study rooms. We added a washer and dryer to the utility area so that the Centre could keep all kitchen linens, curtains, throws and pillows clean and fresh. Thank you very much to this anonymous donor for turning barely useable spaces into practical, comfortable, thought-provoking study spaces. The winter weather is on its way but inside the Ban Righ Centre is a warm space dedicated to women, a space that reveals the deep commitment that our donors have to them and their education. In this space, students support one another and feel a tremendous sense of belonging.

We ask students to sign in and identify the reason(s) for their visits.

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BRC Services Accessed

As we enthusiastically prepared for changes in the basement and talked with other supporters about them, we learned that another friend of the Centre, Janice Sutton, wanted to contribute to the upgrade of the house so that women students would feel welcome and valued. Together we decided that the front foyer and the Ban Righ Centre’s second floor bathroom were the areas most in need of attention. Janice made a gift to improve both areas. Thank you, Janice.

Our donors are sending a message to mature women students: you are important and you are welcome here!

Visit our website: http://banrighcentre.queensu.ca