Over the past 42 years, the Ban Righ Centre has benefitted from thousands of hours of volunteer service from the Board of Directors. Board members spend time, energy, and talent helping to ensure the Ban Righ Centre continues to provide excellent support for women returning to education after an interruption.

The group pictured above represents one half of the Ban Righ Foundation Board of Directors for 2015-16. All members are keen to promote safety, wellness, equity and inclusivity. This year the Foundation received news about a gift from a very generous benefactor which is enabling them to initiate two new awards, shining the light on two particularly inspiring women at a public celebration. Inspiring women. Those two words convey just what the Ban Righ Foundation is all about. A great many inspiring women have walked through the front door at 32 Bader Lane, students, staff members, faculty mentors, community members, volunteers and Queen’s alumnae. Now on the occasion of Queen’s University’s 175th anniversary these two awards create the opportunity to recognize the contributions of women who excel and inspire.

The Ban Righ Foundation will celebrate Queen’s University’s 175th anniversary with two new awards for women

From left to right Bhavana Varma, Nancy Butler, Johanne Myles, Susan Wilcox, Xin Sun, Erin Clow (back row) and Sylvie Charlebois.

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Please join us

Tuesday, October 18, 2016
7:30-10:00 pm
Isabel Bader Centre
for the Performing Arts

http://banrighcentre.queensu.ca/brf-inspiring-women-an-evening-at-the-isabel/

Ban Righ Foundation
Board Members 2016-17

Gamila Abdalla
Gurveer Bains
Cara Brandon
Nancy Butler
Sylvie Charlebois
Erin Clow (Co-chair)
Melanie Cote
Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant
Alison Infante
Julie McLachlan (Co-chair)
Carole Morrison
Johanne Myles
Xin Sun
Bhavana Varma
Lisa Webb
These students were recognized at the Ban Righ Foundation’s annual Spring Celebration on April 30, 2016, for the strength, character and determination they show in juggling multiple roles and persisting in their studies.

Congratulations to every one!
From top left to bottom right: Leila Teymouri, Melissa Stire, Kaziwa Salih Dylan, Cortney Willard, Valeria Li, Nicole Thomson, Olesya Opur, Jennifer Sloan, Morning Star Tom, Reshma Nuri, Zoya Islam, Dilan Okcuoglu, Jodie Gervais, and Kathleen Skyvington (photo not shown).

The complexities of faculty-student mentorship by Rebecca Pero

At the Ban Righ Centre, regular faculty-student mentoring sessions have proven very useful for the Centre’s female visitors. These informal sessions consist of female faculty members making themselves available to answer student questions over a bowl of soup during the noon hour. The Ban Righ Centre actively supports undergraduate, graduate and professional female students returning to post-secondary education after an absence and/or with children. In light of the fact that women in academic positions are underrepresented, sometimes the result of the additional

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Lisa Webb, Student Advisor & Program Planner
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Gamila Abdalla, Student Advisor
(613) 533-6000 ext. 78119
Student Spotlight by Dilan Okcuoglu, Ph.D. Candidate.

Drawing on Kurds’ local experiences and narratives of war with a special focus on the expropriation of their land and property at the Turkish-Iranian and Turkish-Iraqi borderlands, my research focuses on legal and political representations of territory and territoriality in rethinking about the relationship between violence and democratization. Between 2013 and 2014, I conducted 12-months ethnographic fieldwork in the cities of Van and Hakkari as well as surrounding villages and towns located along Turkey’s Kurdish borderlands. During the field research, I spoke both Kurdish and Turkish with more than 100 male and female participants, including villagers, farmers, NGO employees, lawyers and party members. I am currently writing my chapters and I would like to disseminate the findings of my research with the local and international community through academic publications.

Responsibilities that women are expected to manage (e.g., household tasks and family care), opportunities to guide female academics early in their careers is significant. Mentorship is a strategy proven to address underrepresentation and exclusion, “a strategy for helping achieve greater parity for women.” The act of mentorship provides female academics with models of valuable behaviours. According to Rose, Rukstalis and Schuckit (2005, 344), “mentors are role models who also act as guides for students’ personal and professional development over time.”

At the same time the Ban Righ Centre acknowledges the extra effort that mentors make on behalf of their less experienced counterparts. Time for teaching, research, service, and time for self and family are all important for mentors too.

The Centre understands that every woman, whether she is a professor, business or community leader must carefully consider what she is able to contribute outside of her usual career expectations. Mentoring is shown to be valuable and is worthy of celebration. Included in that celebration is an acknowledgement that the extra time that these women make for students comes from somewhere else. Thank you mentors for prioritising students!

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

References

To those Ban Righ Foundation board members leaving the Foundation board this year, thank you for all your fantastic work and support. We will miss you Gurveer Bains, Kathy Burke, Claire Hooker, Kisa Iqbal, Nathalie Soini and Susan Wilcox.
In our last newsletter, we highlighted the Women of the Class of Science ‘81 who began contributing toward a bursary for mature women students who are pursuing science and engineering courses. These wonderful supporters have encouraged friends and classmates to continue giving and the Women of the Class of Science ‘81 Bursary has now grown and can be endowed so that the funds are held in perpetuity and the interest is used to support students who have financial need.