

ALUMNI ANCHOR

2019 | 2020



ART, SCIENCE, AND CARE

Celebrating Dalhousie Dentistry
at Homecoming 2018

+ Putting
the 'special'
in the Special
Olympics

Odyssey to
the east

Dr. Leigha Rock
prepares for a
new role

Arrabelle
MacKenzie

100 years since our
first female dentistry
student graduated

The new
group practice

A more cooperative
way of teaching
and learning



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On our cover: Dr. Richard Florizone, president of Dalhousie University, and Dr. Ben Davis, dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, cut the ribbon on the newly renovated and named Dr. William Murphy Dental Clinic on September 28, 2018, during Dalhousie University's 200th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend.

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ALUMNI ANCHOR



Dean's message

The 2018-19 academic year was a special one for both the Faculty of Dentistry and Dalhousie University. The university marked its 200th anniversary in 2018 with a full year of great events and we were pleased to add to the year of celebrations.

At Homecoming in September, more than 800 staff, students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the Faculty participated in three days of events, including the opening and naming of the newly renovated Dr. William Murphy Dental Clinic, our annual White Coat ceremony, a full day of continuing education courses, and a lively Dentistry Celebration Dinner, at which we presented four Outstanding Alumni Awards. Former dean Dr. Bill MacInnis delivered the JD McLean lecture and we were delighted to confer an honorary doctorate on Dr. Peter Cooney, Canada's first chief dental officer.

We were thrilled so many of you could share in the celebrations. Please remember you can have a tour of our new clinic at any time. Simply contact alumni officer Melanie Bremner (melanie.bremner@dal.ca) and let her know when you would like to visit. It's always a pleasure to show alumni around our stunning new clinic.

2019 is another significant year for the Faculty of Dentistry as we mark the 100th anniversary of the graduation of our first female student, Arrabelle MacKenzie. This year we welcomed her granddaughters to convocation events and were able to award a bursary in her name to Hannah MacDonald from Cape Breton, who is going into her second year of dentistry studies.

This autumn will also mark the 50th anniversary of our OMFS program. Dr. Frank Lovely was the first OMFS program director and Dr. David Precious, the Faculty's 11th dean, was the program's first resident. Watch out for details about celebrating this milestone.

We were able to celebrate again in April when we named our sim lab the dentalcorp Simulation Lab in recognition of dentalcorp's generous gift. Nobel Biocare's gift of a cone



DANNY ABRIEL

beam computed tomography (CBCT) machine, software, and implant fixtures has also enriched our students' learning and enables us to offer CE courses in this area of growing importance for us. We are extremely grateful to all our supporters.

This year we were pleased to announce a new collaboration between the School of Dental Hygiene and Phoenix Youth, a group that supports young adults at risk. We also had many opportunities throughout the year to welcome groups of young people to our clinic—PLANS and Indigenous Health camps, STEMfest, I Am Potential, Day of Active Learning—to work with our students and gain insights into what it's like to be an oral health care provider.

Working to foster positive relationships between individuals with disabilities and oral health care professionals was an important theme for the year. Our students hosted the annual Sharing Smiles Day event in April and in August, Dr. Tracy Doyle took a team of 40 volunteers, students, faculty, staff, and friends to Antigonish to provide dental screenings and oral health education to the athletes at the national Special Olympics. Faculty volunteers are continuing to support the biannual provincial Special Olympics.

It was a great pleasure for me to speak with so many of you at alumni events at PDC, ODA, and other gatherings. Looking ahead,

we've got another busy year of alumni events taking place in cities across Canada (please see the list on page 10). Those of you who had the opportunity to hear Dr. Danny Boyd, one of our biomaterials professors, speak at PDC and ODA know that one of our next big projects is the creation of the Biomaterials Innovation Centre. Our activities in this area will be further strengthened by the appointment of our first Tier II Canada Research Chair over the coming months (see page 6.)

This year we said goodbye to five retiring faculty members: Drs. Tom Boran, Gorman Doyle, Mark Knechtel, Carl McDermott, and Prof. Cara Tax. We recently welcomed Drs. Mohamed Gebriel and Tom Steeves to the Department of Dental Clinical Sciences and look forward to the arrival of Dr. Leigha Rock as our new director of the School of Dental Hygiene in September.

In a few short weeks it will be Homecoming time again. Please join us for our White Coat Ceremony, the JD McLean lecture, a full day of CE, and a Live@5 get-together. We look forward to chatting with you then and at alumni events across the country this year.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Davis
Dean, Faculty of Dentistry



Life is sweet

for Dr. Sachin Seth

There was much excitement in the Faculty of Dentistry and beyond last autumn as we followed the progress of Dr. Sachin Seth (DDS'00) on CBC's Great Canadian Baking Show (GCBS). Week after week we were transfixed by his breath-taking and hunger-inducing creations and his unflappable demeanour even under pressure. In between filming episodes in Toronto, he was busily creating the group practice model that went live in the clinic last September (see page 11).

In the final reckoning, Dr. Seth was one of three finalists who competed for the top prize, but not the overall winner. He says his dentistry training gave him a keen eye for detail, a methodical approach, and a willingness to take on a challenge, all of which prepared him well for GCBS. One thing is certain: Dr. Seth is our star baker! †

First Oral Health Fair a great success

A group of dental hygiene students and faculty volunteers created, organized, and worked at the Oral Health Fair at the Discovery Centre in April.

Nearly 200 children and caregivers participated in the event, which was aimed at creating an exciting and friendly environment in which to learn about oral health care. As they arrived at the Discovery Centre, visitors were given a 'passport' as an incentive to visit five different oral health tables.

At each table, they learned about nutrition, brushing, flossing, and received educational information. Prizes were given (kindly provided by Colgate and the CDHNS) to those who completed their passport. Watch out for the Oral Health Fair again next year. †



Dentistry Alumni Committee update

This past year was an eventful one for alumni activities. 2018 marked the 200th Anniversary of Dalhousie University and our Faculty rose to the occasion with a busy program of events.

DAC chair Lee Erickson hosted the biannual Dentistry Celebration Dinner on September 29, 2018, which was attended by nearly 200 alumni, faculty members, staff, and friends. At the event, four deserving recipients were presented with the Outstanding Alumni Award: Susan Keating-Bekkers, Tom Boran, Carol Anne

Murdoch-Kinch, and Rick Raftus.

The proceeds of the Celebration Dinner were donated to the Oral Health Rehabilitation Fund. Started by Susan Keating-Bekkers, this fund provides life-changing oral rehabilitation for patients who cannot afford dentures.

The total donation was \$3,000. Thank you to everyone who supported this great cause with us.

All members of the DAC executive have renewed for another two-year term: Lee Erickson, chair; Denise Zwicker, vice-chair; and Shauna Hachey, secretary.

The committee looks forward to welcoming three new members of the DAC this September: Charanpal Ahluwalia (DDS '07) and two new student representatives, Megan Hynes and Mohammed Alshateel.

We encourage you to join us for Homecoming 2019 on September 28, 2019 at the Dentistry Building. The event includes a Continuing Education Day and an Alumni Live @ 5 event immediately afterward in the Cavity (3rd floor student lounge). †

Developments in biomaterials



Dr. Danny Boyd, a biomaterials scientist in the Faculty of Dentistry, spoke passionately about “unleashing the power of glass to address some of the most pressing challenges in human healthcare” at the Alumni Days Open Dialogue panel discussion in May. He also delivered a similar message at alumni gatherings at PDC and ODA earlier in the spring.

“There are 2.61 billion people on the planet with untreated dental caries,” he said, “and 621 million of them are children. Glass can be used to kill the bacteria that cause caries.”

Different formulations of glass can also be used to treat the pain of osteoarthritis, cause cancer cells to “self-destruct”, and help to regenerate teeth. The research Dr. Boyd does currently takes place in a lab on the fourth floor of the Dentistry Building. But plans are taking shape to create a new, bigger, and well-equipped Biomaterials Innovation Centre that would enable the biomaterials team to take innovations beyond the proof of concept stage. Watch out for more information in the coming months. †

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR

The Faculty of Dentistry has been awarded its first ever Tier II Canada Research Chair (CRC). This CIHR CRC in functional polymeric biomaterials will allow the Faculty to recruit an emerging scholar with expertise in developing polymer-based medical/dental devices. It will also complement and build upon the Faculty’s existing research strengths in biomaterials and biomedical devices. It’s expected the successful candidate will join the Faculty in 2020-21. †



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Day of Active Learning and Alumni Days

The Faculty of Dentistry opened its doors to visitors on June 1. Families from around Halifax came to visit Carleton Campus and learn more about health and wellness. The day was shared with Alumni Days, which drew Dal alumni back to campus for celebration events and open houses.

Dentistry hosted 75 visitors, all of whom enjoyed a tour of the new clinic and the simulation lab. Student volunteers demonstrated various techniques and procedures and held a 'teddy bear clinic' on children's stuffies. The Dal mascots also made an appearance and had their teeth checked. ⚡



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Opportunities created through **Class Giving Projects** are invaluable and enhance the student experience.

From scholarships and bursaries, to various initiatives that classes are passionate to support, Class Giving Projects are an incredible way to celebrate your pride in Dalhousie while making a difference.

For more information, please contact Caroline at caroline.simpson@dal.ca



Lindsay James awarded ADEA scholarship

Lindsay James (DDS'19) was presented with one of 12 ADEA/GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Preventive Dentistry Scholarships at the 2019 ADEA Annual Session and Exhibition in Chicago in March.

She was the only student from a Canadian university to receive a scholarship. The other 11 awards were presented to students from American universities, including Tufts, Harvard, and Columbia. James is currently working toward a paediatric GPR at Dal/IWK. †

Dr. Sura Hadad wins Aurum Award

Dr. Sura Hadad (DDS'03) was one of this year's four inaugural Dalhousie Aurum Award winners.

The Aurum Awards build on the legacy of the Dalhousie Alumni Awards and recognize the “innovators and visionaries who are making a difference in their communities and around the world.”

Dr. Hadad is certainly making a difference. From providing free dental care to Syrian refugees at her clinic and donating toothbrushes, to helping to build a dormitory for a girls' college in Kenya and creating a scholarship for DDS Qualifying Program students, she is always looking for new ways to give back.

“Whoever needs help, I just go for it,” Dr. Hadad says. “It could be one person, or it could be many. I don't have any criteria. If there is someone out there in need, I'm there.” †



MARY DIONNE Exceptional in every way

A passion for oral health care, a commitment to outreach, and an organizer extraordinaire – DH2 student Mary Dionne (DDH'19) was a worthy recipient of this year's Faculty Leadership Impact Award. She received her award in March at the 8th Annual Dal Student Impact Awards ceremony.

Dionne served as president of her second-year dental hygiene class and was student representative for the Canadian Dental Hygiene Association. She also served on many committees and volunteered with HOPES and other outreach organizations.

As her nominator said, “Mary is exceptional in every way. Her personal commitment to her patients, classmates, faculty, and to the field of dental hygiene makes her a very well-respected member of her class and an excellent representative of her Faculty.” †



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HOMECOMING 2019



Contact your classmates and join us for the Faculty of Dentistry Homecoming, September 28, 2019

The day will start with a full program of continuing education in the Dentistry Building and end with a Homecoming edition of Live @ 5 in the Cavity (3rd floor student lounge).

2019–2020 Continuing Education Schedule

28 September 2019

CE Day, Homecoming

Dr. Danny Boyd, Dr. Richard Price
Halifax, NS

19 October 2019

Oral pathology update

Dr. Peter Chauvin
Halifax, NS

19 October 2019

Oral radiology update

Dr. Ernest Lam
Acadia University, Wolfville, NS

26 October 2019

Prosthodontics in the 21st century

Dr. Effie Habsha
UNB, Saint John, NB

2 November 2019

Dental photography simplified (lecture and hands-on)

Dr. Robert Loney
Halifax, NS

16 November 2019

Dental care for persons with intellectual disabilities and other special health care needs

Drs. Tracy Doyle, Evan Shaw,
Daniel Albert, Heather Carr
Halifax, NS

23 November 2019

The cannabis craze: Dealing with reality

Nadine Wentzell
Geo Centre, St. John's, NL

7 December 2019

Disinfection of the root canal system: What is new? (lecture and hands-on)

Dr. Bettina Basrani
Halifax, NS

21-23 February 2020

Small field of view cone beam computed tomography for dentistry: Applications and interpretation

Dr. Curtis Gregoire
Halifax, NS

17 April 2020

Medical emergencies

Dr. Chris Lee, Dr. Laurel Murphy,
Dr. Curtis Gregoire, Darryl Chickness,
Sue Murphy
Halifax, NS

18-19 April 2020

Oral sedation and nitrous oxide sedation for the dentist

Drs. Curtis Gregoire and Chris Lee
Halifax, NS

25 April 2020

Pediatric airways

Drs. Tracy Doyle and Liane Johnson
Halifax, NS

More courses to be added—be sure to check our website at: dal.ca/dentistry/cde

Upcoming alumni events

JD McLean Lecture 2019

Wednesday, September 25, 2019
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

McInnes Room, Student Union Building

White Coat Ceremony

Thursday, September 26, 2019
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

McInnes Room, Student Union Building

Dr. Harold Brogan Memorial Golf Classic

Saturday, September 28, 2019
Glenn Arbor Golf Course

Homecoming CE Day 2019

Saturday, September 28, 2019
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Halifax, N.S.

Homecoming Live @ 5

Saturday, September 28, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Dentistry Building

Alumni Reception

Friday, October 25, 2019
Saint John, NB

Alumni Reception

Friday, November 15, 2019
Fredericton, NB

Alumni Reception

Friday, November 22, 2019
St. John's, NL

Dentistry Winter Ball

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Alumni Reception

Thursday, February 6, 2020
Ottawa, ON

Pacific Dental Conference Alumni Social

Thursday, March 5, 2020
Vancouver, BC

50th Anniversary Table Clinics

March 27, 2020
Halifax, NS

Dentistry Outstanding Alumni Award

Nomination deadline
April 1, 2020

Alumni Reception

April 2020
Edmonton, AB

Alumni Reception

April 2020
Calgary, AB

Ontario Dental Association

ASM Alumni Social
Thursday, May 7, 2020
Toronto, ON

Alumni Reception

Friday, May 22, 2020
Victoria, BC

The new group practice—a welcome addition

The eagerly awaited group practice came into operation in the Faculty dental clinic at the end of last August, bringing dentistry and dental hygiene students, faculty, and dental assistants together to care for patients in a more collaborative “real life” practice setting.

The objective was to move from a focus on discipline-based clinics to a practice model that is more focused on patient needs. Students gain expertise in all aspects of oral health care and then have the opportunity to apply that knowledge in a setting that more closely mirrors private practice. At the same time, patients benefit from faster care from a consistent group of oral health providers.

Dr. Sachin Seth, director of group practice, says that students really enjoy the new clinic arrangement.

“They are learning to work together and to multi-task, and they are getting exposure to what a professional dental setting is like. Faculty members are finding that they are able to work more closely with students and provide better patient care.”

HOW IT WORKS

There are four group practices, each with 16 chairs. Students from the DDS4 and DDH2 classes are assigned to one of the group practices, each of which has a leader: Drs. Clare Champoux, Rick Raftus, Frances Tompkins, and Daryl West. Prof. Shauna Hachey heads up the dental hygiene clinical program with support from Profs. Karen Reid, Rob Sampson, and Alma Wade.

DDS4 and DDH2 students work in the practice most days, with DDS1, DDS2, DDS3, and DH1 students rotating through at different times. DDS3 students also continue to learn the different disciplines within oral health care. One dental assistant is assigned to each group practice.

There are chairs reserved at each group practice that act as a “specialist dentist’s” office. Students are able to book patients requiring more complex treatment in these chairs and complete the treatment under the guidance of a specialist.

Faculty members pre-screen patients at screening clinics before term begins to select around 500 patients who are then divided among the four group practices and the third-year students who continue to learn the different disciplines in focused blocks.

THE STORY SO FAR

By all accounts, the first year has been a success, with a few little hiccups at the start.

Dr. Seth admits that treating patients was slower to begin with while everyone learned how to “manage patients in a new way”. But as everyone got used to the new way of working, the teams found they were providing better patient care and becoming more productive.

“It was the Prosthodontic Olympics effect,” says Dr. Seth. “It took a bit of practice, but we got things moving along nicely.”

Some policies and protocols were developed “on the fly”, admits Dr. Seth. But any problems that arose were resolved within the first few weeks of the group practice opening and faculty members “got into the groove of a new and invigorating way of teaching.”

Prof. Karen Reid, who supervises dental hygiene students in the group practice, says that it’s a more congenial and cooperative way of teaching and learning.

Dr. Clare Champoux, one of the group practice leaders, says “Students are able to see patients over multiple appointments within a relatively short period of time to deal with treatments like root canals and post crowns.

“It’s a more efficient way of working for the student and the patient. Students are able to see how the steps connect and work with one instructor throughout the whole treatment. Before, students might have to work with multiple instructors on larger cases and instructors could be asked to sign-off on someone else’s work.”

She also speaks highly of the way dentistry and dental hygiene students work together now. “Before, the dentistry and dental hygiene students worked side-by-side, not together. Now the dentistry students coordinate with dental hygiene students on managing the patient base and planning care. It’s more reliable.”

Lindsay James (DDS’19) agrees. “I love it. To have a consistent instructor across a case is much easier for us as students. If you have different instructors supervising a case, you sometimes ending up taking a zigzag path. Our cluster meetings at the start of each clinic really help us to keep on top of everything. I also appreciate the opportunity to work with specialists on complicated cases and, importantly, to know when to refer. If I have one caveat, it’s that our instructor was rushed off her feet.”

Katherine Curry (DDS’19) also speaks highly of the change. “Because there are no discipline-based blocks for DDS4, anything the patient needs, the students in the group practice provide, like we will do in private practice. Co-managing patients with dental hygiene students was also a great experience for us all. We really cared for patients as a team. Two thumbs up!”

It’s been a great start for the new group practice. But Dr. Seth isn’t finished. “We’re going to polish the model,” he says. “It’s going to get better.” †



NICK PEARCE



Katherine Curry is preparing to practise in the challenging field of oral and maxillofacial surgery

KATHERINE CURRY

Preparing for a life in OMFS dentistry

By Cheryl Bell

Katherine Curry (DDS'19) says that as soon as her hand touched the drill, she knew dentistry was the right choice of profession for her. What she didn't know then was that a challenging surgical specialty—embarked upon by relatively few women—would beckon.

Katherine's path could easily have taken a different turn. Her father, Dr. Phillip Curry, is an alumnus of Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine and a practising ear, nose, and throat doctor in the family's home town of

Sydney, Nova Scotia. Katherine's sister graduated from Dal as a doctor one day before Katherine received her diploma on the stage of the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Katherine herself studied neuroscience at Dal—a first degree that many aspiring medical students take—prior to starting her studies in the Faculty of Dentistry.

But dentistry also intrigued her and Katherine had a couple of friends who were already studying dentistry who gave her insights into the

“I’ve really had a unique experience through Dal and the VG hospital. I’ve been able to see a tremendous amount and I’ve had a lot of encouragement and guidance.”

program. And as someone who enjoys painting and drawing, the “art” side of dentistry also had a strong appeal. She chose dentistry.

Katherine admits Dal has “been home for me for a while”. But that doesn’t mean she didn’t scan the horizon for the best place to pursue her dentistry studies. “I looked at other universities and was offered a place elsewhere,” she says, “but I realized that Dal offers the best clinical program. You are hands on early in the program, which does a lot for your competence and confidence. And the faculty members here go above and beyond to teach us.”

Receiving her Doctor of Dentistry degree on May 28 was just another step on what is becoming a much longer journey for Katherine. On June 1, she became the first student to embark on a new internship in oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) at the Victoria General (VG) Hospital. Working under the direction of Dr. Jean-Charles Doucet, an OMFS surgeon who also teaches in the Dal Faculty of Dentistry, her goal is to gain more knowledge and experience before applying to one of Canada’s five English-speaking OMFS programs, of which Dal is one.

THE CHALLENGE OF OMFS

If becoming a dentist is like a 10k run—an undergraduate degree followed by four years of dentistry studies—becoming an oral and maxillofacial surgeon is a full marathon: candidates must graduate with a DDS degree and then complete an OMFS residency, which may include medical school. It’s a commitment of at least a further four to six years.

Although women make up at least half of the graduating classes at most dental schools in the US, only about 15 per cent of the students in OMFS training programs are women.

Katherine started to realize that OMFS could be in her future during her second year of DDS studies. “I really enjoyed restorative work, particularly crowns, and our second-year course on systemic pathology appealed to me. I also discovered that I have a great interest in anaesthesia.”

TESTING THE WATER

Once the idea took hold, Katherine seized every opportunity to gain both knowledge and experience in the field of OMFS. In the summer after her second year, she carried out research at the VG Hospital with Dr. JC Doucet and OMFS resident Dr. Matthew Fay on steroid dosing in Canada, particularly after orthognathic surgery.

“I was able to shadow the surgeons in the clinic, observe procedures, and gain a real sense of the scope of practice for an OMFS surgeon. That research also gave me the material for my third-year Table Clinic poster and confirmed my interest in exploring a career in OMFS.”

The quest to learn all she could about the OMFS specialty began in earnest. After her third-year exams, instead of enjoying a well-deserved break before the start of summer clinic, Katherine headed to Western

University to take advantage of a one-week externship. It enabled her to work with OMFS surgeons (some of whom were Dal dentistry alumni), observe the work of the clinics, and gain exposure to the program.

After the summer clinic—again, with no break—she spent two weeks on another externship at the University of Toronto, dividing her time between Mount Sinai and Sunnybrook Hospitals.

“This was really good experience for me. I was able to work with first-year residents in the cadaver lab and learn the necessary techniques. I was also able to observe trauma surgery. It really solidified my interest in this area.”

In addition to the externships, Katherine also sent an abstract on her research to the Canadian Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Association for its annual meeting in Montreal in May 2018. To her delight, she was chosen to give a 10-minute poster presentation—the only dental student to be selected.

It was the same story for the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon conference in October 2018. At both events she “saw as much as I could. I went to talks, events, and spoke with OMFS surgeons. It was all getting more and more interesting for me.”

In her final year of dentistry school, Katherine was able to pursue an OMFS elective. It enabled her to spend one afternoon a week at the VG, sitting in on patient consultations, watching procedures in the operating room, and gaining more understanding and knowledge.

“I’ve really had a unique experience through Dal and the VG hospital,” she says. “I’ve been able to see a tremendous amount and I’ve had a lot of encouragement and guidance.”

FUELED BY PASSION

Katherine appreciates the reasons why the number of women in OMFS is comparatively low. “It can be a tricky career if you want a family and a balance between work and life. Being on call is part of the job. But I believe you can manage to do anything if you are passionate about it.”

And Katherine is certainly passionate about the career she has worked so hard to learn about and understand.

When asked what appeals to her about oral and maxillofacial surgery, Katherine says it’s the high level of technique and finesse required, combined with the impact an OMFS surgeon can have on people’s lives.

“It could be helping someone with their appearance, such as correcting a cleft lip, or helping someone to function better, for example to be able to chew properly. Then there are car crashes and other traumas which give you the chance to help someone look like themselves again. If you want to do extra training, you can learn more about oral cancer and pathology. You can pursue different specialist avenues or stay more general. I expect my interest will evolve as I learn more.”

It’s a formula that has helped Katherine figure out her next step so far. ♣



EMILY BURKE, DANIAL SHIRVANI, AND RYAN TILLEY

The life of a military dentist

Ryan, Emily, and Dan are proud to serve their country as military dentists.

By Cheryl Bell

For Dan, it was the prospect of graduating without a large line of credit to repay. Ryan liked the idea of “not being a poor student”. For Emily, the generous maternity leave was the draw.

All three dentistry students applied to join the Canadian military for pragmatic reasons. What they learned along the way is that they are proud to serve their country and to be part of “something bigger than yourself”.

Each year, the Canadian Armed Forces recruits a handful of students from across Canada into the Royal Canadian Dental Corps. Potential recruits write the CFAT, an aptitude test that assesses verbal skills, spatial ability, and problem solving. They must also demonstrate teamwork and leadership potential during the interview process.

All Dental Officer Training Program (DOTP) recruits start off as second lieutenants. When they receive their dental licence, they are

promoted to captain—the highest-ranking junior officer. Military dentists can attain the rank of major or higher through excellence, leadership, and specialty training.

THE DECISION TO APPLY

Thanks to having family members in the military, Ryan Tilley was familiar with how it works. He decided to apply in his first year of dentistry school. “I liked the prospect of not being hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt when I finished studying. But there was more to it than that. It was also a chance to develop my skills, with opportunities for travel as well.”

Emily Burke and Danial Shirvani applied after the recruiter came to the Faculty of Dentistry and were enrolled at the beginning of their second year. “It was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made,” says Dan. “I have guaranteed employment, great support, competitive pay,

and opportunities to specialize in the future. We are well looked after.”

Emily likes that she has a job right away. “I don’t have to worry about building a patient family like I would in private practice and I can spend some time honing my skills.”

They all say that juggling their lives as dentistry students and members of the military was not difficult. “Being a student comes first,” says Ryan. “The military really wants you to focus on your studies and do your best at school.”

“The University Liaison Office works to minimize stress for us,” adds Dan. “The military is investing in us and our education is their priority.”

THE TRUTH ABOUT BASIC TRAINING

Basic training takes place during the summer. Because he signed up a year earlier, Ryan has completed both parts of basic training,

which is currently split into a seven and an eight-week course. Dan and Emily have the first part under their belts and will complete the second course this summer at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec.

Emily, Dan, and Ryan claim that basic training is not as grueling as it is portrayed in the movies. It's a mixture of classroom work, physical training, outdoor activities, and leadership training.

"You learn about rules and policies, attention to detail, how to take apart and use a rifle, and how to address your superiors," explains Dan. "It's a mixture of classroom work, exams, drills and physical fitness—running and circuit training. You make lots of friends who will become your patients."

"You don't have to be the strongest or the tallest to get through it," says Ryan. "And you don't have to worry about not being fit. Anyone can do it with the right attitude. The thing to remember is that basic training is not what the rest of your military career will be."

After basic training, the remainder of the summer was spent in the Dental Unit of the Stadacona base doing on-the-job training. "It's like a normal summer job," says Ryan.

Dan, Emily, and Ryan agree that the military promotes good work-life balance, with a sense of community in the clinics. There are opportunities for group activities, sports, relaxation, and fitness.

Dan believes that his military training helped him to be a better dentistry student. "The military really trains you to be organized and to pay attention to detail. It helped me to stay on top of my work and to pay attention to the little things that can turn into big things. I learned to pay more attention to punctuality and scheduling, to set reminders in my calendar, and waste less time. It helped to improve my efficiency."

FIRST POSTINGS: THE WORK BEGINS

In April, they received their first postings. Dan will head to the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, and Ryan and Emily will remain in Halifax at Stadacona. They all received their first choice and, while there are no guarantees, they will likely remain in this first posting for around three or four years before being receiving a new posting. Deployment to a war zone is a possibility for the future, but they would be stationed on a base, serving base personnel and local citizens. "It would be like being a visitor in a dangerous country," says Emily.

Now that they are qualified, work at their respective bases starts pretty much straight away. They will spend their time in clinics working with dental specialists, technicians, and dental hygienists to provide care to their colleagues. New recruits might join up needing remedial work, while other members on the base may need

"It was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I have guaranteed employment, great support, competitive pay, and opportunities to specialize in the future."

prosthetic care or restorative work. They will provide the full range of dental care.

There are opportunities for career development, to learn from people on the job, and to undergo specialist training. There is even the option to spend time in private practice to ease the transition out of the military, should they choose to do so.

FUTURE PLANS

After being in university for eight to nine years, Emily and Ryan don't plan to leap into further studies right away and will concentrate on general dentistry for now. Dan is pretty sure he wants to specialize and will likely start with an Advanced General Dentistry qualification.

DOTP recruits are obliged to serve

between three and four years with the military, depending on how many years of study have been covered. But neither Emily, Dan, nor Ryan are planning to jump ship as soon as their time is up.

"I don't have a pre-conceived notion of what I'll do," says Ryan. "I've enjoyed my time on the base so far. It's a nice work environment."

"I'm keeping all the doors open," says Emily. Dan is "98% sure" he will stay.

For all of them, there is a sense of achievement in being able to serve. "It's easy to take for granted what we have here in Canada," says Ryan. "Our freedom and equality are something to cherish. We can help by being military dentists." ⚡



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MARILYN HARRIS

When your job bites back

By Cheryl Bell

Marilyn Harris (DDH'07, BDH'19) had it all: a job she loved, a husband and young daughter, her parents living nearby, and a bucolic life in Seven Mile Bay, PEI, where she and her family enjoy a lovely view of Confederation Bridge. And then a workplace injury changed everything.

When several surgeries couldn't give her back her old life, Marilyn decided to change her life.

HOW THE TROUBLE STARTED

Marilyn had been working at Kensington Dental Clinic for seven years when she noticed that she was having trouble with her hands. She was experiencing pain, numbness, and tingling in her arms and hands. She sometimes dropped instruments.

"I didn't notice what was happening at first," says Marilyn, "but it had a cumulative impact. When I went to see my doctor, I was diagnosed with bilateral severe carpal tunnel syndrome."

Marilyn had surgeries on both hands. These were followed by surgeries for the De Quervain's tenosynovitis (inflammation of the tendons) in her wrists. She had three different surgeons: two in Prince Edward Island and one in Nova Scotia.

The surgeries improved Marilyn's condition, but she was left with numbness in her thumb and she didn't recover her full pinch and grip strength. It was at this point Marilyn realized she would not be able to continue to work as a dental hygienist.

THE RETURN TO UNIVERSITY AND THE BDH PROGRAM

With a mixture of excitement and trepidation, she applied to return to the Faculty of Dentistry to study for a bachelor of dental hygiene (BDH). "I thought it could open up doors to a master's degree or help me branch out in other directions," says Marilyn.

She was accepted into the program and then came the really tough step. Marilyn had to

move to Halifax, spend long stretches away from her family, and learn how to manage her time in a whole new way. Many weekends would be spent travelling back and forth to PEI.

Marilyn's husband, Nick, and seven-year-old daughter Sadie stayed in PEI when Marilyn made the move to Halifax. She credits their support, and the backup from her parents, with enabling her to return to university.

At age 34, Marilyn joined a class of nine BDH students, six of whom were newly graduated from the diploma program. It was daunting to begin with.

Whereas the dental hygiene diploma program focuses on oral health education and acquiring and perfecting basic skills in dental hygiene, the bachelor program is more about research, participating in different outreach clinics—schools, hospitals, disadvantaged youth—and teaching.

The year was one of "personal growth and learning" for Marilyn. It was also challenging being apart from her family. "I felt like I wasn't contributing at home," she says. Plus, she missed key events in her daughter's life, like the first day of school, dance classes, report cards, or a tough day.

Support from home, fellow students, and faculty at Dalhousie helped her to keep going.

DISCOVERING WHAT MATTERED

When she began to dive deeper into her program, things started to come together for Marilyn. As part of Teaching Methodologies and Practicum with Prof. Denise Zwicker, Marilyn had an opportunity to give a presentation on a topic of interest. She chose occupational injuries.

Marilyn approached Karen Joudrey, an instructor in the School of Occupational Therapy at Dal who specializes in disability management, and asked if she would be willing to collaborate. She was. Together they co-taught a first-year class on the importance of awareness, prevention, good body mechanics, and gave the students some stretching exercises aimed at preventing injuries.



"I don't think people understand how physical the job is and its impact on your body," says Marilyn. "My experiences made me much more interested in injury prevention and disability management."

After her teaching experience, Marilyn talked to Prof. Zwicker and Karen Joudrey about forming a collaboration between the Schools of Occupational Therapy and Dental Hygiene. As a result, occupational therapy (OT) students with the @WORK project (formerly WorkSAFE@Dal) observed first-year dental hygiene students caring for patients in the clinic and made recommendations for improving postures and clinic work spaces.

"I'm proud of this work," says Marilyn, "and



Marilyn shows her daughter Sadie some of the equipment used in the simulation lab.

I hope it will continue to grow and reduce the number of injuries for others.”

Marilyn also had the opportunity to explore her interest in workplace injuries in an applied research course, taught by Dr. Martha Smith Brilliant. For this course, Marilyn and fellow classmate Savanna Sentner created a two-part research project: a survey on musculoskeletal injuries among dental hygienists that was distributed by the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA), and an interview with accredited dental hygiene schools about how they teach ergonomics and injury prevention. Marilyn and Savanna’s research paper, which contains several recommendations, will be presented at the CDHA’s national conference

in St. John’s, NL, October 3-5, 2019, and is being submitted to the Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene to be considered for publication.

If it had not been for her injury, Marilyn admits that she would have been satisfied to continue working as a dental hygienist and not pursue the bachelor’s degree.

“When I was young and healthy, I didn’t see the bachelor program as important. I didn’t really plan for my future. In my case, it was an injury that made me reassess my career, but it could be something else. The BDH program gives you a lot more flexibility and I really enjoyed my year. I’ve become the program’s biggest promoter!”

LOOKING AHEAD

Marilyn isn’t sure what the future holds for her. At the moment, she is working with Health PEI as part of the Wellness and Safety team. She is also taking an online course in disability management with Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences.

“I’m very passionate about doing something in the area of workplace injuries and disability management and to help others to be proactive and prevent injuries. I never imagined that I could be injured doing my job, but it can happen.” ♡



HOMECOMING 2018

PHOTOS BY BRUCE BOTTOMLEY AND NICK PEARCE

A time to reflect, to celebrate, to say thank you, and to look forward

The centrepiece of Homecoming 2018 in September was the reopening of the newly renovated and newly named dental clinic, but that was far from the whole story.

Over three days we also welcomed a new class of students to the oral health profession at our annual White Coat ceremony, conferred a special 200th

anniversary honorary doctorate on Dr. Peter Cooney, welcomed nearly 300 alumni back to campus, made speeches, gave clinic tours, provided a full day of continuing education classes (all taught by alumni), and gave awards to four outstanding alumni at the Dentistry Celebration Dinner while Profound

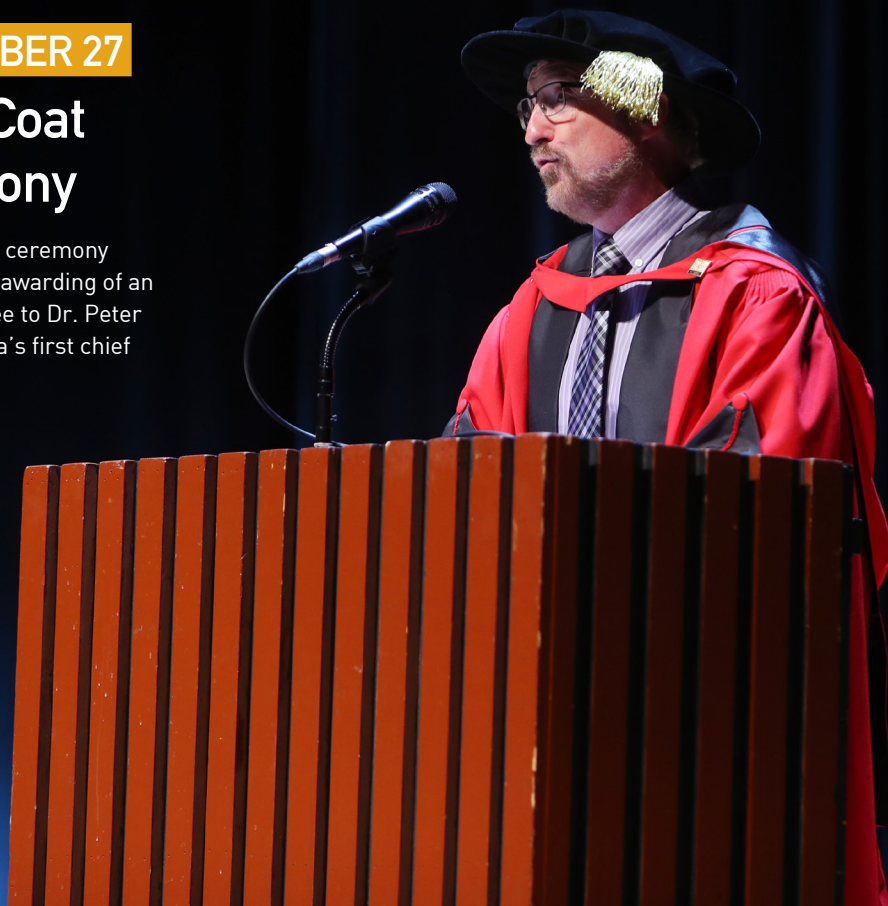
Anesthesia rocked the hall at Pier 21. And, of course, there were bagpipes.

Here is the story of Homecoming 2018 in photographs and quotes. Thanks to everyone from the Faculty who joined us for the celebration or who followed our story from afar.

SEPTEMBER 27

White Coat Ceremony

The White Coat ceremony began with the awarding of an honorary degree to Dr. Peter Cooney, Canada's first chief dental officer.



◀ “As future ambassadors of the dentistry and hygiene professions, I would ask you to think about those less fortunate folks who will need care from you in future years.

Being a dentist or a hygienist really means you will have a decent standard of living and, as dentists, we do not want for too much. But doing well does not mean we cannot also do good.”

—Dr. Peter Cooney

The importance of professionalism

“You’re not treating teeth; you’re not just treating a dentition or the oral structures. No, you’re treating an entire patient, an individual, a human being. You are clinicians, you are professionals.”

Ayman Awad (DDS'19), Mary Dionne (DDH'19), Kellie Zelmer (DDS'19)



SEPTEMBER 28

Official opening of the Dr. William Murphy Dental Clinic

➔ *“Providing excellent care to our patients and training our students to be capable and compassionate dentists and dental hygienists is the very heart of what this Faculty is all about. The Clinic Renewal Project enables us to remain true to our mission of providing oral health care and an improved quality of life through education, research, and service to the community. Because of it, we can treat more patients, provide enhanced care, and perform new procedures.”*

“We are extremely proud and delighted to name our new clinic the Dr. William Murphy Dental Clinic, in honour of a very generous gift from the J&W Murphy Foundation. It is both poignant and special that we are able to make this announcement on the second anniversary of Dr. Murphy’s death, September 28.”

–Dr. Ben Davis, dean of the Faculty of Dentistry



⤴ *“It is a testament to his pride of profession, and to his particular pride in being a Dalhousie dental school graduate that this is the only space he agreed, during his lifetime, would bear his name. He was so honoured. And we are grateful for the opportunity to remember Dr. William Murphy—Dad—in this way.”*

–Lisa Murphy

➔ *“I love the fact dentistry blends art, science, and care. As a result of the clinic renovations, all those aspects of our learning have been improved. The labs and clinics are equipped with the latest equipment, the chairs are modern, lighting and accessibility are better, and the group practice model is enabling us to work in a way that will prepare us well for life in private practice.”*

–Lexi McLean (DDS’19)

After the official opening, students conducted tours of the new clinic.

⤵ *“I would like to thank all the donors, alumni, and friends of the Faculty of Dentistry who believed in the vision of a radically new clinic and helped to make it happen. As students who have experienced both the ‘before’ and the ‘after’, Lexi and I can say that this beautiful renovation has greatly enhanced our quality of learning and will continue to do so for dental students of the future. Thank you all.”*

–Kristen Gamache (BDH’19)



↓ “The Faculty of Dentistry has come a long way since its first clinic opened in the Forrest Building in 1908 with just six chairs and \$400 worth of donated dental supplies. Today, the clinic has evolved into a large, start-of-the-art dental facility. We are setting a new standard of excellence in oral health education in Canada. This is something we can all feel proud of.”

–Dr. Richard Florizone
president of Dalhousie University, 2013-2018



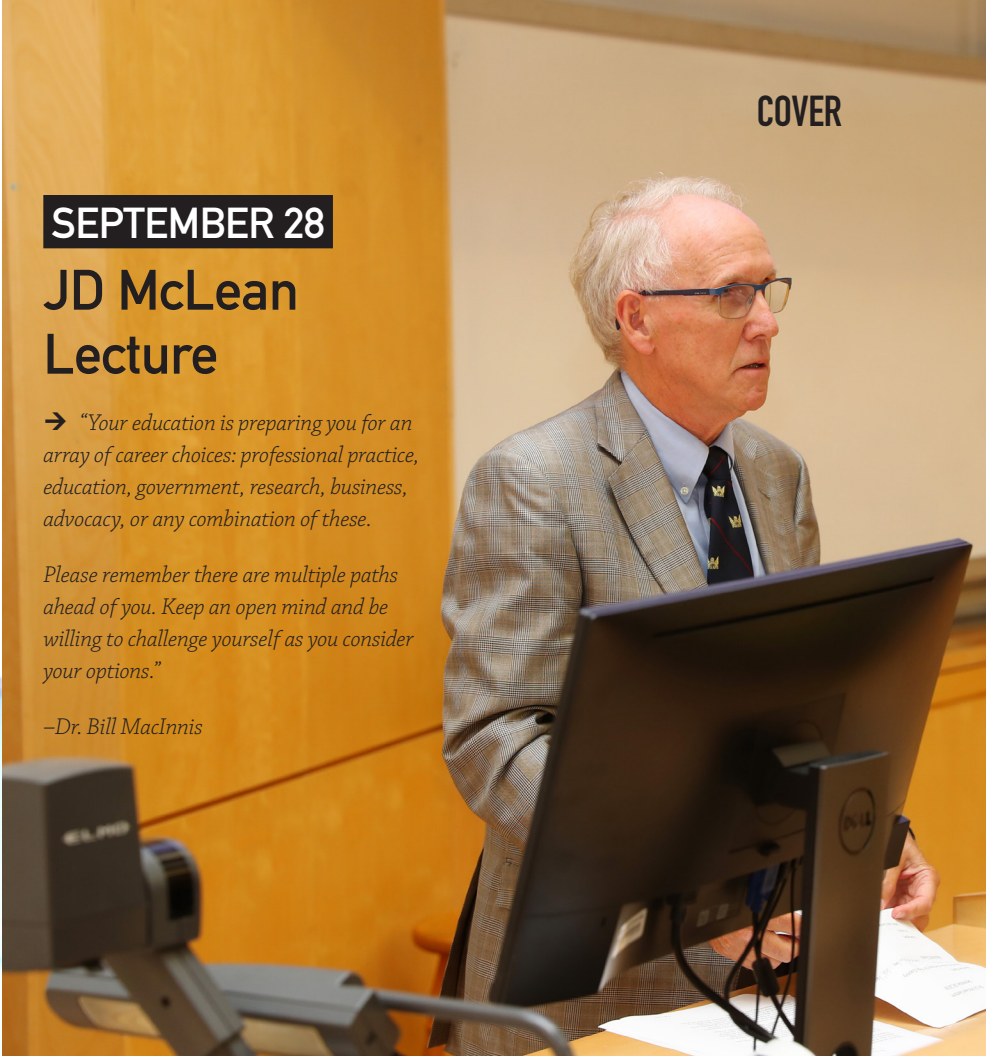
SEPTEMBER 28

JD McLean Lecture

→ “Your education is preparing you for an array of career choices: professional practice, education, government, research, business, advocacy, or any combination of these.

Please remember there are multiple paths ahead of you. Keep an open mind and be willing to challenge yourself as you consider your options.”

–Dr. Bill MacInnis



↓ Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the Faculty of Dentistry are piped from the Dentistry Building up to Ondaatje Hall in the Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building for the JD McLean lecture.



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SEPTEMBER 29

The Dentistry Celebration Dinner

The Dentistry Celebration Dinner and Outstanding Alumni Award presentations took place at Pier 21. Everyone loved the music, provided by the excellent student band Profound Anesthesia.



Outstanding Alumni Awards were presented to Susan Keating-Bekkers (DDH'91) and Drs. Tom Boran (DDS'78), Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch ('85) and Rick Raftus (DDS'86).



↑ “We have a history of 110 years of providing excellence in oral health education, service to our communities, including exceptional outreach initiatives, and dedication to our profession in organized dentistry and dental hygiene. We have produced leaders and trail blazers in all three areas. This is what makes Dalhousie so well recognized and respected.”

–Dr. Tom Boran



↑ “I have spent my career in dental education, and I can say with certainty that dental schools today are still trying to implement new ways of teaching and learning that we experienced here at Dal as students in the 1980s. Dal Dentistry was so far ahead of its time, and continues to lead. I cannot put into words how very much this award means to me.”

–Dr. Carol Ann Murdoch-Kinch



↑ “The Dalhousie dental outreach programs positively impact hundreds of people every year. The patients benefit and the students master their skills, while making a difference. And after 200 years, Dalhousie can stand proud, by showing community leadership...I invite you to support one of the many oral health outreach initiatives we have, to ensure their sustainability.”

–Susan Keating-Bekkers



← “Alumni can, and do, have a significant effect on the educational experience that students receive.

They do this by donating their time, talent, and treasure. And today there is no better example than our new clinic.”

—Dr. Rick Raftus

“I’m continually amazed by the outreach work of our faculty, staff, and students and the support from donors that makes it possible. As you may know, all proceeds from this event are going to the Oral Health Care Rehabilitation Fund.”

—Dr. Lee Erickson, DAC chair

SEPTEMBER 29

CE Day

CE Day began with a plenary session and panel discussion on the role of dentists in the opioid crisis. Other sessions included dental care for children with autism spectrum disorder, communicating with limited English proficiency patients, oral manifestations of systemic diseases, care of patients with cleft lip and palate, facial trauma, interpreting CBCT and clinical pharmacology, and current practice in dental hygiene. Support from our sponsors and a great team of volunteers helped to make this day possible. †

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The **experts** behind a great smile

Odyssey to the east

Dr. Leigha Rock prepares for a new role

By Cheryl Bell

Lifelong British Columbia resident Dr. Leigha Rock first saw the Maritimes in May 2019 when she was in Halifax for an interview at the Faculty of Dentistry. By the time of her second visit in June, she had sold her house in Vancouver and was busily house-hunting in between meetings and lunches.

Rock takes up her new role as director of the School of Dental Hygiene on September 1. Between now and then, she will complete her post-doc work at BC Cancer and move from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic.

Such an epic move conjures up visions of Homeric heroes battling sea monsters, but Rock's academic and professional life began on a much more human level.

FINDING A DIRECTION

Raised in Terrace, BC (population 15,000), bordering the Alaska Panhandle, Rock wanted to be a teacher when she was young and often lined up her stuffed animals for lessons. In high school she discovered a love for biology, anatomy, and physiology.

"I knew then that I wanted to be a health care professional," she says.

She applied to the University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, and the University of British Columbia, planning to study medicine. All three universities accepted her. She turned all three of them down.

"I was too scared to go," she says. "Terrace is an 18-hour drive from Vancouver and for me at that age, Vancouver was an intangible place where bad things happen."

"My work is merging pathology, molecular biology, and stats into one."

Concerned about her options for the year ahead, Rock's parents suggested she study dental hygiene at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George, a community college nine hours away by bus. It was here that Rock took her prerequisite year of science and then the two-year dental hygiene diploma. She graduated and moved to Vancouver, the big, scary city, and worked as a dental hygienist for almost 20 years.

"It was the perfect job," Rock says. "But somewhere along the line I had the feeling it wasn't quite enough. I wanted to get a degree, mainly for my own sense of self-fulfillment."

FROM DENTAL HYGIENE TO CRANIOFACIAL SCIENCES

Rock discovered she could study part-time at UBC and continue to practise dental hygiene. Her first course in the bachelor of dental sciences (BDSc) program was oral epidemiology, a statistics and research design-intensive course that looms menacingly over many students.

"I loved it," Rock says. "I rediscovered how much I love math. I also discovered I have a real aptitude for statistics and my professors encouraged me to think about graduate studies. Well, that was like fertilizer for me."

Rock's next step was to enroll concurrently in undergraduate and graduate courses in molecular biology and biochemistry at UBC and Simon Fraser University.

"It was tough, with 40 hours a week of reading on top of my courses, but I really wanted a solid foundation in basic science so I was equipped to do lab-based research."

She began work on an MSc in craniofacial sciences in the Faculty of Dentistry at UBC and the first year of her master's work impressed the right people and she was fast-tracked to a doctorate program. Her thesis work on the risk predictors for oral pre-



Dr. Leigha Rock, the new director of the School of Dental Hygiene

cancerous lesions won not only a UBC doctoral fellowship, but a CIHR doctoral award as well.

At the end of her doctorate, Rock embarked on a post-doctoral fellowship at BC Cancer. Her work there took her into a slightly new realm of molecular biomarkers and genomics and built on her passion for pathology and statistics.

"My work is merging pathology, molecular biology, and stats into one. I'm learning how to do bioinformatics for genomics, which produces a deluge of data."

FIRST STEPS AT DAL

Rock's immediate plans on taking up her new role involve plenty of listening, seeing existing projects through to completion, and exploring how to build on the research momentum that is alive and well in the School of Dental Hygiene. She is impressed by the collegiality of the Faculty and the respect colleagues have for each other's work.

However, Rock's next big project is the move, with her husband and two children, to Nova Scotia. She says she has already fallen in love with Halifax and the friendliness of the people.

There may be no sea monsters here, but there are, of course, the delights of a Maritime winter to come. ♣

It's never too late: Cara Tax's unfolding career

By Melanie Bremner

In Cara Tax's eyes, there is a solution to every problem if you reflect on it carefully. "One thing I have learned with aging is patience; we all need to be more patient. We must allow things to happen and move forward with even strides."



It's with patience and even strides that Tax moves forward into retirement, after a successful 44-year career that didn't unfold quite as she planned. "When I first went into dental hygiene in the early 1970s, I wanted a quick job I could do for five years before I turned my attention to having a family."

Soon after graduating with a Diploma in Dental Hygiene from the University of Manitoba, Tax began teaching. The profession looked much different than the one we know today. Then, gloves and masks were not commonplace. Dental hygienists were required to wear clinic uniforms consisting of skirts and white sneakers and sit in a strict 7 o'clock position while treating patients.

Tax says she has seen many positive changes in the profession since then. "I think for some time dentistry and dental hygiene were at odds with one another and now I see that we are collectively breaking down those silos in the interest of more collaborative care for our patients."

Tax was recently instrumental in the implementation of the group practice model for Faculty of Dentistry students this past September.

"Over the years, opportunities have come to me because I was continually open to new experiences," she says. This sentiment has guided how she approaches new challenges.

One such challenge included making the decision to return to school in 2005 at the age of 50 to complete a master's degree in education.

"I've always felt that one part of my life was

left unfulfilled." Tax says. "It was one of the best things I've done." Her decision was very much in line with one of her favourite phrases, it's never too late. And it was not too late in 2018 when she was appointed director of the School of Dental Hygiene.

Professor Tax, as she's known to her students, has made many significant contributions to the School and the Faculty, including introducing a teaching methodologies course to inspire students

to become instructors and integrating outreach opportunities more closely into the curriculum to improve learning opportunities while supporting underserved communities.

Tax's career may not have taken the path she initially expected, but it's one that will have a lasting impact on her many students and the Faculty of Dentistry at Dalhousie for many years to come. ⚡

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Arrabelle MacKenzie

Our first female dentistry graduate

By Deanna Foster

In May 1919, Arrabelle MacKenzie became the first woman to graduate with a doctor of dental surgery degree from Dalhousie University. One hundred years on, the Faculty of Dentistry celebrated this achievement with MacKenzie's granddaughters, Barbara Sibbald and Catherine Blake, who travelled to Halifax to celebrate our graduates of 2019 and to meet Hannah MacDonald, the first recipient of the Arrabelle MacKenzie MacCallum bursary.

A CAPE BRETON BEGINNING

Born on March 22, 1895, MacKenzie was one of 12 siblings who grew up on the MacKenzie farm in Victoria County, Cape Breton. She and her older sister Emelyn were particularly close and developed a friendship that would last all their lives. When she was 11, MacKenzie stepped on a rusty nail and the wound became badly infected. A travelling doctor made the decision to remove the leg to save her life. A wooden leg was made for MacKenzie to wear when she recovered.

MacKenzie attended the Nyanza School, a small one-room schoolhouse, followed by the Sydney Academy for one year where she completed Grade 11. She then taught for a year at a school in the Canadian prairies.

In the summer of 1914, as war was breaking out in Europe, MacKenzie returned to Nova Scotia and joined her sister at Dalhousie University.

In the early 1900s, the Dalhousie campus consisted of the Forrest Building and all students attended classes there. MacKenzie quickly developed a reputation for speaking her mind and sharing her opinions with her classmates. Both she and Emelyn excelled at their studies and in 1918 MacKenzie became the student vice-president.

The same year, the Dalhousie Gazette reported that she "left the Arts class to take up the profession of Dentistry. Ambitious and persevering and well equipped mentally, Arabella (sic) is a success in the prosthetic laboratory. Arabella (sic) has decided opinions and the courage of her convictions."

MacKenzie walked across the stage in 1919 as the first female student in Nova Scotia to receive a degree in dentistry, just a year after Emelyn became the first female to graduate from law school at Dalhousie. A celebration dinner was held for all graduating students. A spirited writer for the Gazette commented on Arrabelle's achievement.

"The point of satisfaction and saturation reached, everything toastable was toasted and speeches called for...No less eloquently did Miss Arrabelle MacKenzie expound the delights of Dentistry, so that class-'19 became possessed with an intense desire to pull teeth."

But her education was not over. In the summer of 1919, MacKenzie traveled to Boston to study at the Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children where she learned more about paediatric dentistry and preventive care. She brought back what she learned to Halifax and the Massachusetts-Halifax Health Commission where she worked.



Arrabelle MacKenzie at work on a young patient on the Stadacona naval base.

The Health Commission opened on March 1, 1920 to help those in the North End community after the Halifax Explosion. The location was the old Admiralty house on the Stadacona naval base. MacKenzie directed the pre-school dental clinic where the children received "prophylactic and remedial work; and in addition, instruction in dental hygiene and nutrition is given to them and to the expectant mother. The good results of this service—the first organized in Canada—are increasingly visible in the teeth of the entering school children."

By the third year, MacKenzie was handling 8,000 appointments a year. The clinic's philosophy of preventive care and education improved the lives of community members and MacKenzie's educational approach fitted with the mandate of the Health Clinic, one of the slogans of which was "A sanitary mouth with good oral habit is at 6 as likely to remain a clean, healthy mouth at 60."

While MacKenzie was working at the clinic, a naval ship arrived at the Halifax dockyards on August 13, 1921 with Dr. Archie McCallum on board. He reported for assignment in Halifax and was given command of a sick bay on the base. It was on the base that McCallum met MacKenzie and they quickly fell for one another. After a four-month stint at sea later that year, McCallum returned to Halifax in April 1922 and connected with MacKenzie again. They picked up where they left off and were married on October 3, 1922.

The Dalhousie Gazette noted a "wedding of particular interest to



Wedding Day, October 3, 1922,
St. Matthews Church, Barrington Street.



Arrabelle MacKenzie's Dalhousie
University graduation photo, courtesy of
Catherine Blake and Barbara Sibbald.



Dr. Ben Davis and DDS1 student Hannah MacDonald welcomed
Arrabelle MacKenzie's granddaughters, Catherine Blake and
Barbara Sibbald, to Dalhousie University.

NICK PEARCE

Dalhousieans...Dr. Mackenzie, a graduate from Dentistry, was the first lady graduate in dentistry. Since graduating she has attained a very great professional distinction. Dr. McCallum is a surgeon at the Dockyard, and has made many friends since residence here."

McCallum and MacKenzie remained in Halifax for another two years. His contract with the Navy ended in 1924 and they moved to Toronto. She left the clinic on August 15, 1924, having dealt with more than 16,000 appointments during her tenure there. Another female dentist, Dr. Roberta Forbes (DDS'24), took her place as the full-time paedodontist until the clinic closed in 1928.

In Toronto, the couple established a clinic in their home for both medical and dental needs. Their only child, Barbara Jane MacKenzie McCallum, was born on May 20, 1925.

THE MAKING OF A SCHOOL DENTIST

World War II displaced the McCallum household when Archie was called to service, and the family moved to Ottawa. In 1944, MacKenzie was employed by the Ottawa Collegial Institute Board as a high school dentist for six low-income high schools. She took her instruments and sterilizer equipment with her to the schools where she looked after students in grades 9 to 12.

MacKenzie was known "with affection rather than terror by the boys and girls she treated," and was well loved by her patients. "Children... whose parents are in the low income brackets now have many fillings, extractions, cleaning, treatment, and advice free of charge." Many of the patients in the schools she saw had never been to a dentist before.

"MacKenzie was known with affection rather than terror by the boys and girls she treated."

The couple retired in 1952. Both had worked all their lives in careers they were passionate about. Ten years after retirement, McCallum developed terminal cancer and died on June 12, 1962.

MacKenzie died at age 91 on March 28, 1984. She was beloved by her family, friends, and all the young lives she had touched through her love of dentistry. A service was held in Toronto and her ashes were buried in Cape Breton.

Emelyn MacKenzie left a bequest to Dalhousie to develop two bursaries in the MacKenzie name: one in her name for a law student, and one in Arrabelle's name for a dentistry student. There was one stipulation: the applicants had to be from Victoria County, Cape Breton.

AN INSPIRING LEGACY

In the spring of 2019, the Arrabelle MacKenzie bursary was awarded 100 years after she graduated Dalhousie. First-year student Hannah MacDonald, the recipient of the bursary, said: "I have received other scholarships and bursaries during my time at school and university, but none has touched me so much as this one. I find Arrabelle inspiring." †



Left to right: Shadi Alzahrani (head and neck fellow), David Han (dental student), Justine Moe, Andrew Baker (OMFS resident)

The making of a mentor

Justine Moe advocates for women in oral and maxillofacial surgery

By Suzanne Rent

Dr. Justine Moe (DDS'09) grew up in Edmonton and became interested in dentistry in Grade 3 when her orthodontist offered her some of his orthodontic tools to take to school for a career day. That one gesture was the first of many examples of mentorship Moe has had in her career.

“I thought dentistry was fascinating,” she says.

Moe now practises oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Michigan, after 13 years of dentistry, specialty training, residencies, and fellowships. She specializes in the treatment of head and neck cancers, which represent about six per cent of all cancers.

Moe says oral and maxillofacial surgeons are involved in every step in caring for the patients with head and neck cancer, from initial treatment and surgery, to radiation, chemotherapy, dental rehabilitation, and dental implants.

“There is a lot involved in their care,” Moe says of her patients. “We walk with these patients through their full journey with cancer.”

She’s also leading the way for women in a field. While women make up about 50 per cent of students in dentistry, only about 15 per cent of

oral surgery residents and just eight per cent of board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeons in the United States are female. Moe is also one of fewer than five female oral surgeons in the United States who are trained in head and neck oncologic and microvascular surgery.

This past March, she was the lead organizer of the second annual Women in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Symposium, which was sponsored by the University of Michigan Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) and the university’s School of Dentistry.

There were about 150 attendees from Canada, the United States, Mexico, Europe, and Asia, and a wide range of speakers who talked on topics such as mentoring, work-life balance, leadership, conflict management, and more. The lack of women mentors in oral maxillofacial surgery is significant, Moe says. Even though she has had many inspiring male mentors, she says a female mentor can make a difference because you’re connecting with someone going through similar life experiences.

“The symposium is an opportunity for women to come together

and find colleagues and mentors they may not otherwise meet, and to talk openly about topics that affect female surgeons specifically,” she says. “Going through dental school and residency training, it’s common to not have a mentor who looks like you in the profession. Oral and maxillofacial surgery has a way to go in terms of gender parity. However, the greater issue is of diversity of thought, and not just gender. This means different ways of approaching problems and different ways of communicating. A different perspective makes for better education and better patient care.”

Moe says the symposium inspired the creation of an international network of women in OMS that includes forums where women can continue to discuss topics specific to women working in OMS.

“These networks have ties with the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), Women in OMS Special Interest Group (SIG), and the Resident Organization of AAOMS (ROAAOMS), which allow for greater representation and community,” Moe says.

At the University of Michigan, Moe says she has a great team practising that diversity in an initiative called The Michigan Promise. The goal is to promote an environment of inclusivity and support individual physicians of diverse backgrounds toward excellence.

“The University of Michigan is very receptive to diversity, new ideas, and new perspectives,” she says. “This philosophy is ingrained in our department and the dental school. It’s part of the university as a whole.”

Oral maxillofacial surgery has the reputation of being a challenging field, requiring intense, long-term commitment. And there is some truth in that.

After Dalhousie, Moe attended Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. She did internships at Emory and the University of California-Los Angeles. Then she went on to complete her residency in OMFS at Emory University, followed by a fellowship in head and neck oncologic and microvascular surgery at the University of Michigan.

Despite its rigours, Moe says oral surgeons can have a proper work-life balance. The training for a career in oral maxillofacial surgery can certainly be challenging, but Moe says it’s ultimately a rewarding career with the ability to tailor your practice to your preferences.

“Oral and maxillofacial surgeons practise both dentistry and medicine every day,” Moe says. “We have multiple skillsets and perspectives unique to the specialty. It’s a great career; very rewarding and fulfilling.”

Her orthodontist may have been her first mentor, but Moe says she’s had plenty of mentors in her career, particularly at Dal’s Faculty of Dentistry, including Drs. David Precious, Archie Morrison, Frank Lovely, Reg Goodday, Chad Robertson, and Ben Davis in OMFS.

It was because of them that she became interested in pursuing oral and maxillofacial surgery. She says she was drawn to oral surgery after watching them perform complex and technically challenging surgeries that had a significant impact on their patients.

“It was the first surgery I saw,” Moe says. “I remember being so impressed by their surgical adeptness, their ability to anticipate, prevent, and treat surgical complications, their ability to manage medically compromised patients and, most of all, their humility and kindness toward their patients and everyone in the care team, including hospital staff, residents, and dental students.”

Moe decided to go to Dalhousie for dentistry because she heard it was a wonderful school and had one of the most prominent programs in the country. She remembers the collegiality of the Faculty and the work the



Dr. Justine Moe

school did in the community.

“They were people who wanted to be there and who wanted to make an impact on students,” Moe says of the faculty. “They were inspiring.”

She says she appreciated the kindness of the people in Halifax and took in the local culture and music with her classmates.

“That was one of the best times of my life,” she says.

Moe is still in touch with many of her classmates from Dalhousie Dentistry and has worked with other Dal graduates throughout her career.

“I’m pretty proud of Dalhousie and what comes out of there,” Moe says.

Next year, Moe will once again be involved in the Women in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Symposium, to be held at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University in Boston. In her career, she says she’s looking forward to pursuing more clinical activities, research, and teaching. And she’s also expecting her first child this year.

Moe is also a mentor for women in dentistry, particularly in the challenging field of OMFS. She is one of only a few female academics in the oral and maxillofacial faculty at the University of Michigan, where she is currently mentoring several students, including those involved in research projects that address the gender disparity in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Moe mentors female and male oral and maxillofacial residents and dental students at the University of Michigan. She’s also a mentor to female dental students who are interested in pursuing OMFS and undergraduate students, both male and female, who are interested in dentistry and OMFS.

“As a mentor, I try to be patient and respectful, but also promote open education and embrace open discussion,” she says. “I think there are a lot of ways to be an effective mentor. It’s an ongoing and rewarding process.” †

Annual Giving Report

The Faculty of Dentistry is extremely grateful for the generosity of our alumni, friends, and organizations that support our Faculty and Dalhousie University. The following is a list acknowledging those who have made financial contributions between April 2018 and March 2019. We sincerely appreciate your support. We would also like to thank our donors who requested to remain anonymous.

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Graham Conrad
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Chris Petropolis
Donald Stewart
Jeff Williams

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Daniel McKenna
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1975

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1977

Susan Matheson

1978

Marilyn Cummings
Jeannette Laba
Wendy Swinemar Wilkins

1979

Lois McLean

1980

Wanda Fedora

1981

Ann MacDonald
Norma MacIntyre

1985

Kim Haslam
Laura Leadbetter-Fuoco

1986

Michele M. Chiovelli
Lesley Des Noyers

1987

Vicky Garland
Sara Harding
Corinna Recker

1990

Stacey Walsh

1991

Angela Hynes
Janice Irving
Susan Keating-Bekkers
Monica Robinson

1992

Joanne Clark

1993

Jennifer Bower
Heather Sutherland

1994

Wendy Lynch

1997

Keri Robinson-Payne

1998

Karen Reid

1999

Andrea McAllister

2001

Stacy Barrett
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2006

Sarah Gillis

2007

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HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Joseph Stasiuk, DDS'62
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Joseph Trainor, DDS'56

If you would like to honour the memory of someone noted on this list by donating to the Gifts and Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact Victoria Hamilton at 902.494.6170 or victoria.hamilton@dal.ca, or donate online at www.giving.dal.ca/dentistry.

DID YOU KNOW?

The group practice clinic is a cornerstone of our Clinic Renewal Project. If you would like to join alumni and friends who have chosen to name cubicles and be part of the transformation, please contact Victoria Hamilton at 902.494.6170 or victoria.hamilton@dal.ca for more information.

dentalcorp Simulation Lab



The dentalcorp Simulation Clinic was officially named on April 24, 2019.

Newly named dentalcorp Simulation Lab

A training ground for oral health care professionals

The Faculty of Dentistry's simulation lab was officially named on April 24, 2019 in recognition of a \$1 million gift from Canada's leading network of dental clinics, dentalcorp. Four executives from dentalcorp were present for the naming, including CEO and founder Graham Rosenberg.

As Dr. Ben Davis, dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, made the announcement, the dentalcorp Simulation Lab was teeming with scrubs-clad second-year dentistry students industriously practising for a competency assessment the next day, tangible proof of the importance of the lab to the Faculty.

"The dentalcorp Simulation Lab is an important training ground for both young dentists and dental hygienists," said Dr. Davis. "It is here they receive their initial training and are exposed to the techniques they will need throughout their careers. It's where they hone their clinical skills before working on real patients. Its importance cannot be underestimated."

The simulation lab provides bright, modern, and technologically sophisticated spaces for up to 50 students to learn and practise essential

practical skills, including crown preparation, rubber dam placement, impression taking, and provisional restorations. It's also the setting for the annual Prosthodontic Olympics, during which second-year dentistry students compete in five events that test their skills and speed.

Second-year dentistry student Moe Alshateel spoke of the many hours he has spent in the lab during his first two years of dentistry studies, developing his hand skills in drilling, perio examinations, and debridement, and learning to work closely with his classmates as a result.

"This lab has witnessed so much sweat, blood, and tears both of joy and frustration," he said. "The lab was our playground, giving us the ability to experience what it feels like to be a dentist."

Mary Dionne, a second-year dental hygiene student who graduated in May, also spoke of the great variety of skills she and her classmates learned in the lab, from infection control to angulation.

"When we first set foot in this sim lab, I think all of us were terrified. I know I did not

know what to expect. But this lab helped to build the essential skills needed to transition into the clinic and begin treating real patients."

Both students expressed their gratitude to dentalcorp for supporting the lab, which, as Moe said is "very important to us".

"Our organization is dedicated to continuous learning and giving back to the industry," said Rosenberg. "We are privileged to partner with the Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry, a world-class academic institution that shares our commitment to advancing the field of dentistry through continued research and innovation. We are honoured to support the next generation of dentists and eager to see what they will accomplish."

"dentalcorp's four pillars—integrity, innovation, collaboration, and excellence—are foundational to our Faculty in that they guide our teaching, research, clinical care, and professional conduct," said Dr. Davis. "The dentalcorp Simulation Lab will help us to continue to prepare dentists and dental hygienists for the future so that they are both skilled and professional." †

Dean's List

Congratulations to our alumni, faculty, and staff who continue to receive awards and recognition for their work and contribute to the fields of dentistry and dental hygiene. If you have any news items or story ideas to share, please send them to alumni.dentistry@dal.ca.

ALUMNI



Dr. Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch (DDS'85) was appointed the dean of the Indiana University School of Dentistry.

She took up her position on July 1, 2019 and is the first female dean in the 140-year history of the school.



Dr. Joanne Thomas (DDS '89) was installed as the NSDA president for the coming year at the NSDA AGM in June.

Dr. Sura Haddad (DDS '03) received the NSDA's Community Service Award in June 2019.

Dr. Terrie Logue (DDS '85) received the NSDA's Dr. P.S. Christie Award for Distinguished Service in June 2019.



David Babin (DDS '99) and **Stephanie Babin** (Jamieson) (DDH '97) are wrapping up a year-long journey around the world with their

three children: Haydn (14), Reece (12), and Chase (9.) They visited more than 50 countries on six continents, made countless memories, and inspired all those who followed along with them.



Dr. Joy Carmichael (DDS '02) was installed as the New Brunswick Dental Society President in June 2019.



Dr. Jack Gerrow (Professor Emeritus, LLD 2018) received the Order of Canada in July 2019 in Quebec City for his contribution to a better Canada.

Dr. Graham Conrad (DDS'85) received the DSDA's Award of Excellence in June 2019.

Dr. Lynne Moyles (DDS'88) received the NSDA's T.D. Ingham Volunteer Award in June 2019.

Dr. Maureen Andrea (DDS'91) received the NSDA's Award of Excellence in June 2019.



This year we lost two of our oldest alumni. **Dr. Max Greenberg** (DDS'40) died on April 24, 2019, a month shy of his 107th birthday, and **Dr. Leonard**

Goldberg (DDS'41) died on May 7, 2019. Dr. Ben Davis attended his 100th birthday celebrations in November 2018.

FACULTY



Dr. Tracy Doyle was presented with the CDA Health Promotion Award on April 12 in Ottawa. She was the youngest person to receive an award and the only female recipient.



Dr. Sachin Seth received the W.W. Wood Award for Excellence in Dental Education from the class of 2019.



Dr. Gorman Doyle received the Dr. Gorman Doyle Award from the DDS class of 2019. This award is presented to a full-time clinical instructor who has contributed most to student education in clinical dentistry.

Dr. Wayne Maillet received the Part-Time Clinical Instructor Award from the DDS class of 2019. This award is presented to the part-time instructor who has contributed most to student education in clinical dentistry.

Dr. Frances Tompkins received the Student Life and Community Improvement Award from the DDS class of 2019. This award is presented annually to a faculty or staff member who has shown an effort to improve the dental school experience inside and/or outside of regular clinical activities.

STAFF

Bruce Friis received the Dr. Wayne Garland Award from the DDS class of 2019. This award is presented annually to a faculty or staff member for outstanding dedication and commitment to providing a quality pre-clinical education.



Janice Ruppert received the 2019 Gladys Littler Award, which was presented during the Dalhousie Legacy Awards, on June 19.

Elaine Johnson and **Jo-Anne Roski** were recognized for their 35 years of service to Dalhousie at the Milestone Reception on June 19.



Victoria Hamilton received the Don Pamerter Friend of Dentistry Award at the NSDA AGM in June.

Putting the 'special' in the Special Olympics



Playing host to the National Special Olympics (SO) in Antigonish, July 31 to August 4, was a first for Nova Scotia. It was also a “transformative” and “life-changing” new experience for a volunteer team from Dalhousie University’s Faculty of Dentistry who were there as part of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program.

Paediatric dentistry professor and Healthy Smiles clinical director Dr. Tracy Doyle recruited more than 40 dentistry and dental hygiene faculty, staff, alumni, and students to spend some of the hottest days of the summer in a room at the Schwartz School of Business at St. Francis Xavier University.

Their job was to carry out oral health screenings, make mouthguards for the athletes who needed them, provide fluoride treatments, offer oral health care education, and send every athlete away with a goody bag of oral health supplies. Other Healthy Athletes teams from Dalhousie provided vision, audiology, and podiatry checks.

“Individuals with intellectual and physical challenges have a lot of unmet health needs,” says Dr. Doyle.

SEEING THE IMPACT OF DENTAL CARE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Over the course of the four days of the games, more than 1000 athletes with autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual disabilities passed through the Healthy Smiles room. They arrived in ones and twos, usually with their coaches. And then whole teams descended, galvanizing every available volunteer into action. In one afternoon alone, over 300 athletes were seen.

For the volunteers, it was an opportunity to witness at first hand the impact of dental health care coverage across the country.

Dental hygiene professor Teanne MacCallum says, “Every province has different coverage and we know that hygiene is expensive. We saw an athlete from New Brunswick who came in with an abscess and a decayed tooth and he said he didn’t have the money to have it looked after. We were able to reach out to one of our alumni in New Brunswick and ask him to help.”

The volunteer team found that the athletes were generally well looked after in terms of cavities and decay, but the level of hygiene was concerning.

“What we are seeing are some dietary concerns,” says dental hygiene professor Shauna Hachey, “particularly the consumption of pop, juice, and sports drinks.”

The difficulty of access to care was a common refrain. “Some parents

don’t acknowledge that there is a problem with their children’s teeth,” says assistant dean of academics Dr. Debora Matthews. “The coaches told us stories of some athletes who have never seen a dentist.”

In fact, the coaches were often instrumental in getting care for the athletes. “We saw two brothers who play basketball in Halifax,” says DDS4 student Lindsay James. “It was their coach who noticed how bad their teeth were.”

For some, it was fear that kept them away. DDS4 student Mitch Hanna says that “some athletes had seen a dentist earlier in their lives and had a bad experience. It’s great that they’ve been able to come back and have a fun experience.”

DDS4 student Myriam Ferron says that patience paid off with some of the athletes who were reluctant to have their teeth checked. “We could often find someone in the room they clicked with better. We had one athlete who didn’t want to open his mouth for anyone, but he would for Matt Brown.”

FOSTERING STUDENTS WHO WANT TO GIVE BACK

Some of the volunteers had had prior experience of working with special needs patients through initiatives like Dalhousie BEAM (Because Everyone’s Ability Matters) and Sharing Smiles Day. As a result, students like Myriam Ferron know already that they want to “be one of those dentists with the confidence and experience to help these patients. I want to give back.”

For others, however, it was a completely new experience. DDS4 student Mahdis Maleki says, “It was the first time I had contact with people with special needs. I didn’t know what to expect. It was definitely a good experience, very fulfilling, and one of the best volunteer community service experiences I’ve had. I will try to do this every year. I’m very grateful to Dr. Doyle.”

Dr. Heather Carr (DDS’88) is an alumna and the NSDA representative on the CDA board. She is also chair of the National Coordinating Group on Access to Care. She says that “volunteering at the Special Olympics Special Smiles clinic was one of the most rewarding days of my career. I have so much respect for the SO volunteers and athletes and I was incredibly impressed with Dr. Tracy Doyle and her entire team. The experience was valuable to me. CDA is currently gathering information for a possible project on access to care for persons with special health care needs.”

“It was an amazing opportunity,” says Shauna Hachey. “We all feel appreciated and the experience has brought us great joy.” †



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