Dr. Brydon Blacklaws ’12 celebrates joining the ranks of the esteemed DMAA

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SUMMER/FALL 2012 | VoxMeDAL
Honouring the past and the present

Appreciating continued support for Dal Medical School

These are exciting times at our Medical School. Not only have we seen 101 eager new graduates become members of the DMAA after an impressive grad week and convocation program on May 25, but the Convocation Awards and Scholarships Ceremony, introduced in a new format, the brainchild of our Dean, was a BIG HIT. An impressive booklet prepared by our DMAA staff outlining the history of the awards together with pictures of many esteemed former Deans, faculty members and past graduates was well received.

A Class Act! Even Dr. Len Levine ’67, probably the tallest student ever to grace the halls of our Medical School, was there to present an award for pursuing studies in family medicine. All alumni from the 50’s through to the early 90’s will also be delighted to know that our good friend Barbara Blauvelt was also present to award her very own award, The Barbara Blauvelt Cardiology Bursary. It’s always a delight to have her presence at Medical School events. She promises to be at our Annual Gala Dinner in October.

Dr. John Steeves, Assistant Dean and the alumnus who is in charge of the new campus for DalMed in St. John, N.B., reports great progress with the program there. John also serves on our Board and updates us regularly on these very successful activities. A real plus for our Medical School.

I want to thank, on behalf of all alumni, three of our colleagues who have just stepped down after long and distinguished service to the DMAA. Alf Ben ’73, Vonda Hayes ’71 and Margaret Casey ’68 know that we really do appreciate all you have done for your alma mater.

I would ask that you seriously consider attending our Annual Gala Dinner to be held on October 18, 2012 at Pier 21 on the Halifax Waterfront (see page 16 for details). We will be honouring these three named above together with our special DMAA Award recipients for: Alumnus of the Year, Honourary Alumnus, Family Physician of the Year, and Young Alumnus of the Year. Details are seen in the following pages. We are especially honoured this year to have the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Honourable Darrell Dexter, as our guest speaker. This will be a special night; don’t miss it.

Your ongoing support for Dal Medical School is greatly appreciated. Keep it up! Your monetary gifts for our many activities, which assist both undergrad students and residents pursuing research, serve an ongoing need. Details in making such contributions are outlined in following articles.

I would love to hear from you regarding future endeavours you would like DMAA to consider. Contact me at medical.alumni@dal.ca or call (902) 494-8800.

Good health to all!
Keeping alumni connected

The DMAA continues to work on exciting ways to stay in touch

By Joanne Webber
DMAA Executive Director

The Annual General Meeting was held on June 11, 2012, and I am pleased to announce that it was a very successful year for the DMAA. Through volunteer commitments, the DMAA Board continues to seek innovative ways to strengthen relationships, support its alma mater and the goals of the Medical School. Through your generous alumni donations, we were able to uphold our many traditions to our students and future alumni. We are proud to report the following accomplishments:

- Presented $25,000 to the Dalhousie Medical Aboriginal and African Nova Scotian Rural Community Bursary
- $10,000 support for the Dalhousie Medical Student Society to support student projects
- $2,000 support for two Resident Research Prizes
- Medical Alumni hosted an informative luncheon at the DMAA Student Orientation
- Supported Convocation 2012. Prepared graduation packs and sponsored the following awards: three Gold Ds, nine Silver Ds, the Silver Shovel Award, and the Resident Teacher Award.
- Hosted medical alumni receptions in Toronto and Ottawa in November
- The DMAA Awards Gala Dinner 2012 was based on a goodwill event and ended with a surplus
- The DMAA continues to operate as a registered non-profit society, self-governed by Dalhousie Medical Graduates; offering unique resources and services, including full-service reunion planning, class and alumni profiles, and publishing VoxMeDAL.

This level of support could not be achieved without the commitment and loyalty of our Dalhousie Medical Graduates. Thank you for your continued support.

As we embark on new projects at the DMAA, we have many exciting new initiatives in progress. Among our significant upcoming projects are class profiles (see page 14) in which classes develop their own identity. For example, MD Class 1970 initiated “Euphoria,” MD Class 1972 was the first class to start in the Tupper Building. The DMAA wants to capture this important history. Please contact us so we can develop your class profile.

One of our most prestigious upcoming projects is the digital kiosk system, an interactive system that will capture the digital memories of our graduates, bringing life and meaning to many traditions and events held by Dalhousie Medical School (see page 15). We are in the early planning stages of this project, and encourage your support and involvement.

In one of our upcoming projects, I will be undertaking a study to enhance alumni engagement. The Dalhousie Medical School has a very distinct culture, with many communicating they feel a strong sense of loyalty and obligation to give back to their alma mater for providing them with a lifetime of friends and successful careers in medicine. Research indicates that a student’s level of involvement can influence their level of participation as they become alumni. With this in mind, please share your significant memories, anecdotes and experiences from your time spent at Dalhousie Medical School by answering the following question: How do you think your experience at Dalhousie medicine has shaped your life and career? How do you see yourself supporting the students and the school?

Share your Dalhousie Medical School experience!

We value your input and would love to hear from you!

Share your stories by phone at (902) 494-2218, by email at j.webber@dal.ca or by mail: Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association 1st Floor, Sir Charles Tupper Building Room 1-C1, 5859 University Avenue P.O. Box 15000 Halifax, NS B3H 4R2 Canada
News from the Faculty of Medicine

Celebrating the Class of 2012, a new curriculum and continued learning

By Dr. Tom Marrie '70 Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2012 and thanks to all those who helped make this day happen for them: parents, significant others and friends. No one makes it through medical school without a lot of support.

You will learn a lot about the Class of 2012 as you read this issue of VoxMeDAL. Dalhousie Medical Alumni staff have worked hard all year to prepare biographical sketches on the many awards that graduating students receive in the name of various members of our alumni both past and present. The awards ceremony was a huge success. Theatre B was filled to overflowing; we will need a new venue next year. Dr. Stewart’s daughter, Moira, presented the gold medal to Dr. Jason MacDonald. Dr. Hatcher’s grandchildren presented the award in his name and many more family members presented awards. Next year you will have to come and see for yourselves. A special thank you to Dr. Monty MacMillan ’62, who came to all the events and gave a special address to the graduating class. Monty exemplifies our alumni, and 50 years after graduation he is still very much involved with his medical school. Special thanks also to our President, Dr. Reid. Having him on the stage during convocation was special for our graduates. The risk of thanking a few people is that you miss many, but for me it was special to see Dr. Ed Rafuse attend the award ceremony.

We are almost through the second year of our new curriculum. It has gone extremely well, but there are still lots of tweaks that need to be made here and there. The amount of anatomy that we teach and how we teach it continues to evolve. Indeed the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology is in the process of changing its name to the Department of Neurosciences. The direction that I have received from Faculty Council is to make sure that we never lose sight of the significance of anatomy teaching in our medical school. We are exploring different options such as a Division of Anatomy. We will expand on this in a subsequent issue.

The next phase of curriculum renewal is the clerkship. Dr. Karen Mann has chaired a clerkship review committee and that report will be available soon. We are pleased to have recruited Dr. Simon Field to the newly created position of Assistant Dean UGME, Clerkship. We are confident Dr. Field in this new role will lead improvements in our clerkship and enhanced relationship with our hospital partners. The clerkship renewal, enhanced leadership and innovation such as our pilot of a Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship in Miramichi in 2012–13 will ensure our curriculum is innovative in serving the needs of our students and our communities.

Recognizing the ongoing and future importance of reasoning and decision making in healthcare, Dr. Pat Croskerry, a world-renowned leader in the field of critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and patient safety has been recruited to lead the Critical Thinking Program in the Division of Medical Education. Dr. Croskerry leads a group at the Faculty of Medicine focused on cutting-edge developments in the science of decision-making and how that may influence diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making and medical education in those areas. What the Critical Thinking Program will do is increase the emphasis on critical thinking during medical undergraduate and postgraduate training such that it will become a defining characteristic and lifelong skill of the Dalhousie graduate.

With all of these changes to the curriculum it is time for me to become a student and see what it really is like. In November I am going to become a medical student. I will attend classes, tutorials, clinical-skills sessions and do the homework. In a future issue of VoxMeDAL I will give you a report.

In line with what colleagues at other Canadian medical schools are doing, we’ve established an education council. The council is chaired by Dr. Preston Smith, and to reflect this new role, his title has been changed to Senior Associate Dean, Education reporting to the Dean on the work of the education portfolios across the continuum of medical education. This council, modeled after those at UBC, the University of Alberta, McMaster, and Queen’s, will be comprised of representatives from UGME, PGME, CME, DMNB, DME and other key groups. The education council will encourage better collaboration across our education portfolios. As proven at other medical schools across Canada, education councils provide a forum for strategic and tactical planning, information sharing, and operational decision-making with regards to all education-related activities and initiatives. The information gathered through the council will direct our education resources such as the expertise within the Division of Medical Education and the Learning Resource Center enabling effective and innovative curriculum design.

In February, I had the pleasure of attending a dinner that Tom Murphy '76 and Glenda Goodine '77 hosted at their home in Houston together with other medical school alumni living in the Houston area. I enjoyed having the opportunity to mix with alumni and to hear their views on many topics. In addition to the Houston event, Larry ’65 and Sharyn (’65 Nursing) Harris hosted a
luncheon at their home in Naples, Florida in March. Preston Smith, Senior Associate Dean, spoke to an enthusiastic group of alumni who either live permanently in Florida or are seasonal residents. You can find photos and more details in this issue of VoxMeDAL on page 44.

Since my last message, we have reached the $8 million mark in our goal to establish a $10 million fund to provide financial assistance to deserving students in need. We want to make sure that the brightest minds are in the classroom from all parts of our society.

As part of our communities outreach program, in February I travelled together with Preston Smith to Yarmouth, N.S. to meet with local physicians and community and business leaders in order to listen to their healthcare concerns and share information about the medical school. The warm reception we received and the productive dialog bodes well for future synergies. We plan to do the same in other Maritime communities.

Medical schools should not only consider the needs of the communities that they serve, but also deliver their services based on socially and culturally acceptable criteria. In support of this mandate, the Faculty of Medicine has formalized a Social Accountability Committee, which will contribute to this strategic direction. The committee will actively engage marginalized and vulnerable populations through participation with the Aboriginal Health Sciences Initiative, African Nova Scotian Advisory Committee, Global Health Office and community representation. (See page 26.)

Dr. Reid, Joanne, Paulette and Kim have set a goal of 350 alumni for our Gala in October. I want you to show them that they have aimed too low. The alumnus who purchases ticket number 400 will get a special gift.

Let me end by asking for your help. The only way we will know if all the changes we have made to the MD program are the right ones are by doing research. DMAA has had a project for over 10 years now. That project is to raise money for a Chair in Medical Education Research. Such a Chair requires at least $3 million and we are about 25 per cent of the way there. Can we get there by this time next year? “Yes We Can,” but only with your help.
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Photos: Picture BC
Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb. —Sir Winston Churchill (1874–1965)

Our second year at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB), while very different from the first, has proven to be just as exhilarating, and challenging as the inaugural one! Continuous change has become our cultural norm. In May, at our first-ever DMNB retreat, we had the opportunity to reflect on the past two years and look forward to the challenges of the next two. Dr. David Snadden, the founding Dean of the UBC Northern program, joined us by video conference to talk about what to expect in planning for the next two years when the entire undergraduate curriculum will be fully implemented. The ideas from faculty and staff were then used to develop our DMNB strategic plan. This will be part of the Faculty of Medicine’s continuously renewed larger plan “The Way Forward.”

We celebrated the success of the first-year class with the “traditional” end of exams lunch (hosted by Dr. Keith Wilson at his home), just before they left for their rural week placements across New Brunswick. At a second-year class, on-site, post-exam barbecue, students were able to express their goodbyes to each other, staff and faculty as they moved into their new world of clinically-based training distributed across New Brunswick and for some, in the rest of the Maritimes, too. We took the opportunity to unveil a plaque (“Leading the Way and Leaving their Mark”) to recognize their historically special roles as individuals and as charter DMNB class. The class of 2016 is waiting in the wings to begin their careers as student physicians in September while leaving their own marks as they travel their own path.

Several significant donations were publically announced by Lynn Irving, Chair of the DMNB Medical Research Campaign. Critical support for the Occupational Research Chair, equipping our labs and supporting our student and faculty researchers is no longer a dream, but a reality! A new PhD Educator and research assistant will join our Chair in Occupational Medicine in developing programming across the continuum of medical education from first-year medical students to physicians in practice in the Maritimes. Please see page 24.

Our two new biomedical researchers have been working closely with the DMNB Assistant Dean of Research, Dr. Tony Reiman to finalize their equipment purchases to ensure what they need is in place for their cardiovascular-focused, biomedical research. The Faculty Search Committee has been struck to identify two more basic scientists to join the initial research group.

While we know we will never get to the end of the journey down this “ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path” as described by Britain’s most famous “bulldog” leader, it has been a glorious climb to date.

A plaque was unveiled (“Leading the Way and Leaving their Mark”) to recognize their historically special roles as individuals and as charter DMNB class.

For more information about DMNB, surf to newbrunswick.medicine.dal.ca. Contact Dr. Steeves at john.steeves@dal.ca or (506) 636-6000.
Toast to class of 2012
fifty years later

When I was asked to toast the Class of 2012 on their graduation, I was so excited it required almost five seconds to say YES. I want to thank Dean Marrie for this wonderful exciting evening he bestowed on me.

When I looked out from the podium at the multitudes in the audience, I felt so honoured to be able to transmit to the graduates some basic medical principles, which I had learned from Dr. C.L., my father. I was very humbled by the experience.

Thank you to all the office staff, as well, for this remarkable day in my life.

Thanks,

Dr. Monty Macmillan ’62

Meaningful experience

I am happy to write and tell Dalhousie Medical Alumni about my great experience attending the Dalhousie Medical School’s 2012 Spring Convocation. It was a singular honour to be invited to present the C.B. Stewart Gold Medal, named after my late father, to Dr. Jason MacDonald. I had the privilege of meeting Jason at the Dean’s office for a teatime gathering including Jason’s parents and representatives of the Medical School, an event full of laughter, grace and stories about Jason and C.B. Stewart. Jason, an impressive and inspirational young man, is a worthy recipient of the medal. As well, the event following Convocation sponsored by DMAA, during which many named awards were presented by family members to happy graduates, was a stellar idea and well conducted. It was truly meaningful for me, as a family member, to return to Dalhousie and participate.

Many thanks to all.

Moira Stewart, Ph.D.
Distinguished University Professor, Western University
Department of Family Medicine
Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Congratulations

Dear Ms. Webber,

I’ve just read the latest issue of spring 2012 VoxMeDAL for the second time, this time more thoroughly and completely. Congratulations on an informative look at our alumni and activities. It must have taken a huge amount of time to access, and, more impressively, coordinate the material.

Thanks,

Dr. Dave Janigan ’57

Dr. Nigel Rusted 1907–2012

Dr. Nigel Rusted M.D. ’33, Dalhousie Medical School’s oldest alumnus, passed away from complications after a fall at age 104. Known by his peers as an innovative surgeon and academic leader in St. John’s, NL, Dr. Rusted became the first medical officer on the MV Lady Anderson, a 100-foot yacht that provided medical care to over 11,000 patients in 80 different communities along the Newfoundland coast. He was paid the grand sum of $200 per year. Dr. Rusted did further study in Toronto, at the Mayo Clinic, the Johns Hopkins Hospital and other centers, before becoming a well-respected surgeon and teacher at Memorial University. His book, “It’s Devil Deep Down There,” was an account of his time providing surgery to the people in the outports he visited by boat. Dr. Nigel Rusted was inducted into the Order of Newfoundland and the Order of Canada. In 2004, the Memorial Medical School initiated a Nigel Rusted Lecture in his honour.

Professor Emeritus T. J. Jock Murray, OC, ONS, MD, FRCP, FAAN, MACP, FRCP, FCAHS, (hon MCFP, LLD, DSc, D.Litt, D.FA)
Dear alumni,

As you will read in this Special Edition issue of VoxMedAL, Convocation 2012 was a tremendous success, with many thanks to you, our alumni. Your presence truly adds meaning to our events, strengthening the rich and traditional history of Dalhousie Medical School. With that being said, Dr. Dan Reid ’70 and I would like to personally invite you to attend our upcoming events, as we are certain your participation will make a significant impact.

Please join us as we welcome our new medical students to the Tupper at Student Orientation, on August 29, 2012. We would also like to extend our invitation to the 54th annual DMAA Alumni Awards & Fall Reunion, to be held on October 18, 2012 at the Canadian Immigration Museum at Pier 21, Halifax. We will be celebrating the outstanding achievements of our four award recipients: Dr. David Dodick ’90 as Alumnus of the Year; Dr. Jean Gray ’67 as Honorary President, Dr. Michael Perley ’80 as Family Physician of the Year, and Dr. Duncan Webster ’01 as Young Alumnus of the Year. Dr. Reid and I will be calling your class presidents personally to encourage each class member to join us in this celebration!

Please contact the DMAA office at medical.alumni@dal.ca or call (902) 494-8800 to RSVP to these events. Don’t forget to update your e-mail information.

You could be missing out on important updates!

Please update your contact details so we can keep in touch.

Are you missing out on valuable updates? Have you moved? Knowledge of your current status is important to us and can be important to you. Many alumni have been suggested for special awards, positions, or assignments based on information in our files and others have been called upon to represent Dalhousie at official functions. Alumni often ask us to find lost friends.

To protect your information, Dalhousie enforces a strict privacy policy.

Phone: (902) 494-2071 (Alumni Relations)  
Toll-free 1-800-565-9969 (Alumni Relations)  
Email: alumni.records@dal.ca  
Online: https://alumniapps.dal.ca/alumniupdate/alumniupdateform.php

RECONNECT WITH US...

Mail: Dalhousie University  
External Relations, Macdonald Building  
PO BOX 15000, Halifax NS  
B3H 4R2 Canada  
Or scan QR code with your smartphone

Supporting DMAA student projects

Hello Ms Webber,  
Thank you for your interest in helping us to support the DMAA Student Projects.  
I would like to establish a Special Interest Group (SIG) for the study of Integrative Medicine at Dalhousie Medical School.  
Dr. Donald C Brown ’59 and I would like to encourage the formation of a Special Interest Group through the DMAA for the Dalhousie medical students and residents focusing on Integrative Medicine including complementary medicine and nutrition studies. Integrative Medicine is a healing-oriented discipline in medicine that takes into account the whole person (body, mind and spirit) as well as all aspects of lifestyle.

This field has been popularized by the work of Andrew Weil M.D. who is the Founder and Director of the Arizona Center lor integrative Medicine (AzCIM) at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson, AZ, where he is also a Clinical Professor of Medicine.

Integrative Medicine emphasizes the therapeutic relationship and makes use of all appropriate conventional and alternative therapies to facilitate the body’s innate healing response. It recognizes that good medicine is based on good science and scientific inquiry.

Integrative Medicine promotes wellness and the prevention of illness and includes techniques such as meditation, acupuncture and medical hypnotherapy as well as lifestyle and nutritional counseling.

I believe that this group could start as a journal or book club that meets once a month to discuss articles and literature reviewing evidence for all aspects of Integrative Medicine practices. Many of the journals and books will be provided by our grants to the Kellogg Health Sciences Library so that there will be no cost for this literature to the members of the group.

In the future, I would encourage the group to invite visiting speakers who are working in this field to present seminars or lectures on their field of interest that would be open to all students and faculty members at Dalhousie and provide additional exposure to the opportunities of Integrative Medicine.

We will continue to provide financial support for this Special Interest Group through the DMAA each year and look forward to cooperating with you on this project.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Sincerely,

Vic Bustard, Dal ’59
You, our alumni, drive the content of VoxMeDAL

Join in on the conversation... Dalhousie Medical alumni were asked to indicate topics of interest they would like featured in future editions of VoxMeDAL. Thank you for your feedback; here are some of the themes that you, our alumni readers, have expressed.

**International Recognition & Research**

Advances for Dalhousie Medical School

- “Bullet summaries of high profile research initiatives, successful grants, published manuscripts in journals with high citation indices and other notable accomplishments- Where Dalhousie Medical School shines on a national & international stage.”
- “Links between Dalhousie Medical School and advances in medicine.”
- “I would like to hear more about the medical research going on at Dal.”
- “More focus on what Dal Medicine does in the various fields of medicine, both in patient care and research.”

- “Profiles on alumni who have made a contribution to the wider world and/or away from the Maritimes.”
- “VoxMeDal does not report on alumni who are not in the Maritimes; it only reports on the ones within the immediate surroundings.”
- “Doctors in the military, past and present, reserve and active force.”
- “Coverage of alumni who had done international medical charity work.”

**Issues Facing Nova Scotia & Rural Healthcare**

- “VoxMeDal does not address the problems with health care in Nova Scotia, for example, the fact that a large proportion of rural residents have no doctor.”
- “Rural medicine from the perspective of students.”
- “How to be a political advocate for patients- the intersection between law and medicine.”
- “We need more on mental health and more on medical systems in general- ie. We need to talk about what we have that works and how to make it better (example: Emergency room patient flow.”
- “How alumni are dealing with the changes in primary care, EMR controversies and how it affects the practice of medicine.”

**Personal & Professional Achievements of Alumni**

- “Where are they now?”
- “I like to see obits, updates on moves and appointments, retirements, etc.... helps me keep up!”
- “My favourite part is reading about classmates (and those from other classes that I know) and not just their accomplishments as doctors but about personal accomplishments.”
- “Lifestyle issues: Different practice arrangements to accommodate various life demands. With the growing number of physicians who are working and juggling childcare, eldercare, single parenthood, I wonder if there are “mentors” who can help me ‘do it better’. “
- “Bring back the column about births, deaths, marriages, etc.”

**Alumni Donations**

- “I’d like to see how alumni donations are directly benefiting the medical school ie. Show accountability for alumni donations.”

**CME Updates**

- “Upcoming CME events.”
- “CME calendar for an entire/half year.”

**Advances in Dalhousie Medical Curriculum**

- “Student focussed topics- what they learn, how they learn, and how they are assessed.”
- “Impact of technology on medicine and learning.”
- “Trends in medical education across Canada.”
- “Current curriculum changes ie. How we are adapting the curriculum to meet the needs of tomorrows’ practitioners and patients.”

**Personal & Professional Achievements of Faraway Alumni**

- “Include updates on physicians outside of the city including their personal and professional pursuits.”
Looking for a new view? Don’t miss the opportunities of 2012.

Contact me to discuss market possibilities in more detail!

Ernie Buote, FRI
902-499-3041
ernieb@domus.ns.ca
www.domusrealty.ca
Graduate pipes in class of 2012 with DMAA march

Dr. Brydon Blacklaws’12, wrote this lively piping tune and poem to celebrate the coming of Dalhousie Medicine Class of 2012 and its graduation. He wrote this tune as a gift upon joining the ranks of the esteemed Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association, which he played as he piped in the class at this year’s convocation gala.

“As colours run through a tartan, so the music of the bagpipes has been woven into the cloth of my life. Taught by my father, for me the rich hum of the drones acknowledges occasion. A reveille in the morning, the joy of a wedding, the flourish of a parade, the mourning of a funeral, and the celebration of a graduation, when the pipes play, something has come.”

DMAA welcomes our newest alumni! MD Class of 2012

Class Gift: Newly furnished seating area to the Learning Resource Centre

Social, inclusive and close-knit, are all words that describe Dalhousie MD Class of 2012; a class that is none other than proud to become part of Dalhousie Medicine’s accomplished alumni family. Among the graduates of Class of 2012 are talented painters, artists, athletes and musicians, an eclectic collection of students who reflect the diverse and well-rounded talent of this class.

Over the course of their Dalhousie experience, the class has developed a strong relationship with the staff at the Learning Resource Centre, and credits the staff as being a fundamental part of their education and training as physicians. As a token of their appreciation and gratitude, Class of 2012 donated a newly furnished seating area to the Learning Resource Centre as their class gift, and awarded Wanda White, a staff member of the LRC, as Honorary Class Member 2012.

From their involvement with “MERGE,” a group that focuses on environmental issues, to “MERCI,” an initiative that sends medical equipment to developing countries, the class has already demonstrated their commitment to serving others through both their professional careers and individual community involvement.

Among their fondest memories are Med Ball, Convocation, Grad week and the class trip to Jamaica, Euphoria, and many other events that have been long-time traditions at Dalhousie University. In 2010, with an intricate tribal dance scene, Class of 2012 were pronounced winners of Euphoria, a reflection of a memorable bonding experience and the class’s contagious class spirit.

Over this memorable journey that began long ago, Class of 2012 has overcome countless obstacles and hurdles as a class, and feels lucky to have met such wonderful people.
A meaningful collection of alumni history captured within a digital world

The Dalhousie Medical Alumni have a great sense of loyalty to the Dalhousie Medical School and a strong bond within their class. In order to preserve the history and the impact of each graduate as they embark on their medical journey, the DMAA would like to establish a digital kiosk system. The digital kiosk system would be located in the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building Link, and would facilitate digital access to class photos by searching the year of graduation, or by searching the physician’s name. Not only would this interactive system capture the memories of our graduates, but it also would bring life and meaning to class photos, class reunions, convocation, gala, and other special events that are held by the Dalhousie Medical School.

The DMAA is in the early planning stages of this project, and we require feedback and support from our alumni in order to make this project come to life. To find out more information about this project or to provide your support, please reach us by phone at 902-494-4816 or email at j.webber@dal.ca.

The DMAA welcomes new DMSS President for 2012-2013

Luke Richardson ‘15 is proud to be joining us as the new president of the DMSS for 2012-2013. Prior to joining Dalhousie Medicine, Luke has completed a BScH and a Masters in Public Health while working in a wide variety of other capacities, including policy development, health promotion, and community outreach. With the support from the DMAA, Luke plans to join the DMSS in its quest to provide a supportive environment for the student body, which will facilitate continued excellence in academia, community engagement, and health advocacy.

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DMAA Award Gala Dinner & Fall Reunion Homecoming 2012

Join us as we celebrate excellence in Dalhousie medicine

Dr. David Dodick ‘90
Alumnus of the Year for his work in neurology at the Mayo Clinic and for his extensive publications and research.

Dr. Jean Gray ’67
Honorary President For her outstanding contributions to the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University and for her internationally recognized work in clinical pharmacology.

Dr. Michael Perley ’80
Family Physician of the Year In recognition for his work in rural and aboriginal primary care.

Dr. Duncan Webster ’01
Young Alumnus of the Year For his innovative work in infectious disease.

First Name: _________________________________________
Last Name: _________________________________________
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Medical advances in neurosurgery DMAA tour

By Janice Hudson

Dalhousie is becoming an international leader in developing neurosurgical simulations. Dr. David Clarke, interim head of Neurosurgery, performed the world’s first virtual brain surgery in 2009, removing a tumour from a patient using a neurological simulation system called the NeuroTouch. “The simulator is the most advanced medical simulator of any type in the world today,” says Clarke. “From a clinical point of view, it provides a virtual reality environment where one can practise the surgery before actually going in and doing the surgery.”

Over the past three years, Clarke has been developing the technology in collaboration with the National Research Council (NRC), which provided funding for clinical sites across the country. Restricted to neurosurgery, the trials have focused on primary brain tumours, meningiomas and pituitary tumours. “It really was a national effort that provided the engineering expertise, the computer science expertise and the tissue elasticity and properties expertise,” Clarke says. “At Dalhousie, we’ve been leading its clinical application. I’ve done that with Ryan D’Arcy, our lead from the imaging point of view with the NRC institute that’s imbedded in our hospital.”

The NeuroTouch simulator gets its high-quality, anatomical detail from MRI imaging. “It has to look like the real thing, which is not a simple thing from an engineering/computer science point of view,” says Clarke. “It also must feel like the real thing, so the haptic feedback, or the sense of touching things and moving things when you are operating, is very important.”

... continued on page 18

Cardiac CT—A powerful evolving cardiac imaging tool

The last few years have seen a revolution in cardiac imaging. Even 10 years ago attempting to use CT to image small moving structures, such as coronary arteries, would have been a futile exercise. However, technological advances in scanner speed, spatial resolution, and scan coverage have resulted in CT having the ability to “freeze” heart motion. This has opened the field of cardiac imaging to CT and has enabled three-dimensional non-invasive assessment of cardiac and coronary anatomy, meaning that selected patients no longer need to undergo coronary angiography in the cath lab. This is great for the patients who are spared an invasive procedure and is good for our stressed healthcare system, replacing a one-day admission procedure with a short outpatient visit. Even those who use the technology on a regular basis are still amazed at how far it’s come.

“When my colleagues and I first used the new Definition FLASH CT scanner we were astounded at how good it was,” says Dr. Alan Brydie, associate head of CDHA department of Diagnostic Imaging and assistant professor of radiology at Dalhousie. “It does everything it said it was going to do and more. It’s been a fantastic acquisition.” The latest scanner, which was acquired a year ago, is faster than previous scanners, partly because it uses two tubes rather than one.

“The idea of putting two tubes in is pretty far out. And it’s really effective. Rather than having one tube rotate 180 degrees to get the information, because you have two tubes, you only need it to rotate 90 degrees to get the information,” says Dr.

... continued on page 19
The simulator offers unique benefits to patients, allowing surgeons to customize operating techniques for better patient outcomes. “If we see a patient in the clinic that we’re going to operate on, we can input that data into the simulator and then not only talk about it in a general way but actually do the virtual reality surgery on that patient’s brain and these are the things we found,” Clarke says. “That may figure into the discussion on the risks and benefits of surgery.”

The technology is also bringing exciting opportunities for resident training. “For over 100 years, we’ve trained residents in surgery by an apprenticeship model,” says Clarke. “That model has served well over the years but there are certain pressures that will make that difficult to keep doing the same way.”

He thinks the NeuroTouch will offer residents an alternative to conventional training in the operating room. “It’s expensive to train residents because operating-room time is so restricted and valuable,” he says. “The technology is enabling us to do this in another environment where simulation will have an important role to play.”

With that in mind, Clarke is spearheading a neurosurgery rookie camp for residents this July. “The idea is to take all of the residents starting neurosurgery into an intensive learning environment and help them with acquiring skills,” he says. “It is another avenue for us to use simulation technology in training. The latest NeuroTouch simulator is being shipped from Montreal for this occasion.”

In time, Dr. Clarke also sees the simulator playing a key role in evaluating surgical expertise. “There never has been an objective way to regularly measure a surgeon’s technical skills,” he says. “This will provide a truly revolutionary way of assessing surgical skills.

For now, the technology already has global appeal. Recently, the NRC sent NeuroTouch units to China and to the U.S. for clinical trials. “The basic simulators are being put into clinical environments for trials,” says Clarke. “One of the challenges is how to deal with this kind of technology. It’s one thing to say we can develop it. The other is to say where it’s going to be useful and how it’s going to be useful. We need to look at the role simulation will play so it’s used most effectively.”

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Brydie, “so it’s twice as fast, from an image acquisition point of view.”

But the primary benefit, of course, is to the patient. Dr. Brydie says with the new scanner, the imaging procedure is about as invasive as an IV.

“We are now able to image patients non-invasively. When we are in the cath lab we need to make a hole in the artery and pass catheters all the way up to the heart. We then inject dye into the heart and down the coronary arteries. Now we can get all that information from injecting into a vein at the time of the CT scan,” Dr. Brydie explains. “That moves it from an invasive procedure that has a 1 in 1000 mortality rate and great implications for hospital resources to an out-patient procedure where the patients come up, get a needle in the vein and turn around and go home when we’re done it. It’s far less traumatic for them. It is not the right test for all patients, but for those who fit the appropriate criteria it is a great option.”

The CT scanner currently at the radiology department in the Halifax Infirmary is used not only on cardiac patients, but it also serves other patients, including those who came though the emergency room. The scanner will complete 50 to 60 scans a day.

The second generation of cardiac capable CT scanners has arrived and the focus across all manufactures has turned to reducing radiation dose. Fueled by cardiac CT, this increased dose awareness and the resulting drive to minimize radiation dose will benefit patients undergoing every type of CT examination. Dr. Brydie says the dose used for cardiac CT in the current scanner is as low as one-tenth of the lowest dose used in previous scanners and the doses keep getting lower as the technology advances. Only weeks ago, an upgrade to the scanner reduced the radiation dose even further, this time by another one-third across the board, a result Dr. Brydie calls “phenomenal.”

“We are now able to look at patients’ coronary arteries without taking them to the cath lab at a dose that is equivalent or lower than the dose they would get in a cath lab. It’s less than the background radiation they’d get from living in Canada for a year. In fact, it’s about a third of the background dose they’d get,” Dr. Brydie explains.

The cardiac imaging section of the Dalhousie University Department of Radiology has been at the forefront of this imaging revolution at the national level. Members have co-authored the national guidelines for Cardiac CT, and the national training standards in cardiac CT, which are the first collaborative cross-specialty Cardiac CT training standards to be published worldwide.

Dr. Brydie will present a pictorial review of the exciting developments in this rapidly evolving subspecialty field.

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Class of 1957—55th Reunion
Class of 1957, Dr. Doug Brown would like to invite you to your 55th class reunion held at the Fall Reunion and Awards Gala Dinner. “We really want to see you all!” –Dr. Doug Brown ‘57
October 18, 2012 at Pier 21, Halifax
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Class of 1962—50th Reunion
“Looking forward to seeing all of you at our 50th reunion. Hope we all recognize each other after 50 years!” –Dr. Mike Mackinnon’62
DMAA Fall Reunion
October 18, 2012 - Pier 21, Halifax
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Class of 1964—Reunion
Class of 1964, Drs. Edward George & Neville Russell invite classmates to join the Fall Reunion and Awards Gala Dinner.
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Class of 1965—47th Reunion
Class of 1965, we hope that everyone had a wonderful time in Naples, Florida for your class reunion. We are looking forward to having you attend the Fall Reunion & Awards Gala Dinner.
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Class of 1967—45th Reunion
“Class of 1967, please celebrate and reunite with each other at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, from September 20-23, 2012. I hope to see you there.” –Dr. Ted Luther
We also invite you to support your fellow classmate, Dr. Jean Gray’67 on her recent appointment of DMAA Honorary President at the Fall Reunion and Awards Gala Dinner.
October 18, 2012, Pier 21, Halifax
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Class of 1972—40th Reunion
We hope that the class of 1972 had a wonderful time at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck, Nova Scotia for your 40th class reunion. We are looking forward to having you attend the Fall Reunion and Awards Gala Dinner.
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Class of 1977—35th Reunion
Celebrating reunion in Fox Harbour, Wallace, Nova Scotia from September 21-23, 2012. Please attend the DMAA Awards Gala Dinner following your reunion.

The DMAA offers expertise in reunion planning, contact us for help!
The DMAA specializes in reunion planning and is committed to making your reunion event as successful and memorable as possible. We can provide you with current class lists, can track class responses, post class activities, and can even set your class up on Facebook. We also collect registration fees and distribute payments to venues to ensure that everything is taken care of.

Contact the DMAA office at medical.alumni@dal.ca or call 902-494-8800
Website: http://alumni.medicine.dal.ca
Class of 1982—30th Reunion
Class of 1982, please celebrate and reunite with each other at the Fairmont Southampton in Bermuda, from September 29-October 1, 2012.
DMAA | T: 902-494-8800
E: medical.alumni@dal.ca
REUNION REPRESENTATIVE
Dr. Rob Tremaine '82
E: rob.tremaine@ns.sympatico.ca

Class of 1987—25th Reunion
“Class of 1987, thank you for attending our 25th class reunion in Crowbush, PEI, on August 3-5, 2012. I hope that everyone had a great time!”
–Dr. Bob Abraham '87
Please attend the DMAA Awards Gala Dinner following your reunion.
October 18, 2012, Pier 21, Halifax
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E: medical.alumni@dal.ca
REUNION REPRESENTATIVE
Dr. Bob Abraham '87

Class of 1992—20th Reunion
“Class of 1992, I wish to invite my fellow classmates to attend the Fall Reunion and Awards Gala Dinner.” –Dr. Martha Arab '92
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REUNION REPRESENTATIVES
Dr. Martha Arab '92
Dr. Mia Simpson ’92

Class of 1997—15th Reunion
Class of 1997, please join your classmates at your 15th reunion to be held at the Fall Reunion and Awards Gala Dinner.
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REUNION REPRESENTATIVE
Dr. Jane Brooks ’97

Class of 2002—10th Reunion
Come join us for your 10th reunion at the Fall Reunion and Awards Gala Dinner.
October 18, 2012, Pier 21, Halifax
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REUNION REPRESENTATIVES
Dr. Linda Miscovitch '02
Dr. Mark Nicholson'02

Class of 2007—5th Reunion
Class of 2007, join your fellow alumni at the Fall Reunion and Awards Gala Dinner.
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REUNION REPRESENTATIVES
Dr. Joseph McDonald ’07

Class of ’62 has a terrific reunion

The class of Dal Med ’72 had a terrific and memorable 40th reunion in Baddeck, Cape Breton over the July 1st weekend. We had a great turnout with 42 class members, and 72 people in total, including family members. As the first medical class to start in the Tupper Building in 1967, we reminisced about our early years together as young and naive medical students.

We had a full schedule of activities with lectures from class members, enjoyed a perfect afternoon of sailing on the Bras d’Or Lakes, and appreciated a welcome from Dean Tom Marrie. People came from as far away as Alberta, BC, Ohio, and Florida. Once everyone was together the strong class spirit was felt by everyone. As this 40th was so successful everyone wants a decision on the next reunion. The main issue is how soon can we all get together again.

Dr. Ian MacDonald ’72

Dalhousie CME: providing high quality CME to physicians of the Maritimes!

By Dr. Connie LeBlanc

The office of Continuing Medical Education is pleased to offer support to alumni in providing CME class reunions. Including educational sessions in these events not only serves to enhance attendance, but also informs the class of emergent leaders, showcases Dalhousie Medical School’s expertise and makes some costs tax deductible. Our office needs to be involved from the outset to provide accreditation for both the RCPSC and the CFPC, and there is some cost involved. The return may be several times the investment! An overview of accreditation requirements can be found at the Program Planners tab on our website: cme.medicine.dal.ca, and inquiries about both accreditation and meeting management can be directed to Eileen MacDougall at 902.494.1996, m.e.macdougall@dal.ca.
Dalhousie alumni named first Simmons Cancer Institute Endowed Chair

Dr. Thomas Robbins ’74 is the first recipient of the Simmons Cancer Institute Endowed Chair of Excellence in Oncology at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

We would like to send out our sincere congratulations to one of our alumni, Dr. K. Thomas Robbins, Dalhousie M.D. Class of ’74 (post-internship), on his recent bestowment as the first recipient of the Simmons Cancer Institute Endowed Chair of Excellence in Oncology at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. As chair, Dr. Robbins was awarded a $2 million endowment that will release $80,000 per year to further oncology research in the field.

Dr. K. Thomas Robbins, professor of surgery, joined Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 2003 as chair, Division of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. In 2004, Dr. Robbins was appointed director of the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU and prior to joining SIU, held chair positions at the University of Tennessee and the University of Florida. He also held faculty positions at the University of California at San Diego, the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and the University of Texas at Houston.

A native of Newfoundland, Dr. K. Thomas Robbins still remains attached to his birthplace even though he has not lived in the province for over 30 years. Dr. Robbins first recognized the need for ENT specialists after working as a general practitioner in Stephenville: “I realized I wasn’t satisfied being a general practitioner,” he said. “You really had to spread yourself out. I was wanting to be more focused.”

Dr. Robbins has pioneered the treatment of advanced head and neck cancer through his research on the novel application of intra-arterial chemotherapy combined with radiation therapy. “It turned out to be a very effective way to treat head and neck cancer, and avoid major surgeries,” said Robbins. Chemotherapy treatment goes directly into the tumour bed through a catheter, while the rest of the body is given a neutralizing agent. This allows the tumour to be hit with five to 10 times more chemo, while avoiding the damage to the rest of the body, he said. Roughly 80-90 per cent of advanced head and neck cancers were in complete remission after this procedure.

Dr. Robbins has gained international recognition for his work, and has led the efforts to develop a comprehensive cancer program in service to downstate Illinois. Throughout his distinguished career, he has authored more than 200 scientific publications, edited several books, and has served on several editorial boards. Dr. Robbins and his wife, Dr. Gayle Woodson, have four children and three grand children. Together they have led an outreach project at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center to support the development of an ear, nose and throat (ENT) training program in Tanzania, Africa.

Adapted from an article published in The Western Star, June 11, 2012.
Six months before graduating from high school, Dr. Doug Brown, M.D. class of 1957, learned an early lesson about the importance of giving back from his Sydney Academy principal, G.G. Campbell. After doing the legwork to find a couple of bursaries, two for Dalhousie University, Dr. Doug Brown was able to fund his university education through the selfless generosity of his dear principal. “He was the kind of guy who could find bursaries to fit particular students, enough to get into university,” says Dr. Brown.

After the passing of his father, Dr. Doug Brown was touched by a further act of unexpected kindness when a group of anonymous men in the community, who knew his father, had gathered a sum of money which would help Dr. Brown and his brother pay for university. He never knew the names of those generous donors until a few years ago. This random act of paying it forward was an early lesson in the importance of giving back, one that would continue throughout Dr. Brown’s dedication to repaying kindness to others in need.

Fueled by his passion for making a difference, Dr. Doug Brown eventually went onto specialize in pediatric orthopedics, spending most of his career at the children’s hospital in a small rural community. In his own efforts of giving back, Dr. Brown has met a number of people who have inspired him, one being Dr. John Wickwire, M.D. Dalhousie 1927. After performing a much needed knee surgery on Dr. Doug Brown as a child, Dr. John Wickwire called upon his former patient after fifty years for help with his own knee problems— a repayment of his kindness. “I thought the circle has closed,” Dr. Brown says.

Dr. Brown now gives his time to two missions in the city, his own church and through athletic organizations. He credits much of his community involvement to practicing in a small community: “When we went to med school, you had the idea that any doctor who was in a small community was going to be involved in community affairs. You would most likely be on the school board, probably become a councilor, might be assistant mayor. That’s just how it worked in a small town.”

But in all the ways in which he gives back, Dr. Brown says that sometimes paying it forward can be a small gesture of kindness, like talking with someone to help bring them up from a low point. “You hear about the concept of paying back. Maybe that’s what you should be thinking about when you’re making donations,” he says. “Everyone has a story, some kind of story that influences what they do when it comes to giving.”

But being kind is a gift that gives both to the giver and to the receiver. When we commit an act of kindness for others, whether it is big or small, it is only a matter of time before that same kindness comes back to us in some way.
A boost for occupational medicine

PotashCorp’s $500,000 donation helps Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick focus on specialized health education

With its state-of-the-art training facility, Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB) has already changed the regional landscape by enabling students from New Brunswick to attend medical school in their home province. Now, with a newly announced $500,000 gift from PotashCorp, the Saint John campus of Dalhousie Medical School is poised to make a significant contribution to research in the specialty of occupational medicine.

“One of the key determinants of the health of Maritimers is directly related to their employment and working conditions,” says John Steeves, Associate Dean, Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick. “The Research Chair in Occupational Medicine, to which the PotashCorp donation is targeted, will focus on improved worker health, and safe, timely return to work through best medical practices. The Chair will be an enabler for the development of effective workplace policies through education, research and support.”

As Steeves points out, the new Chair in Occupational Medicine – the only one of its kind in Canada – will help put the province of New Brunswick on the map as a leader in medicine. “We have an unprecedented opportunity to make New Brunswick a centre of excellence in occupational health research and education. Private-sector investment like the one from PotashCorp helps us achieve our common goal of improving the health outcomes of our Maritime communities.”

According to Stewart Brown, General Manager of PotashCorp New Brunswick, the decision to support DMNB’s efforts was an easy one. “At PotashCorp we know that quality of life in our local communities depends on access to quality healthcare,” he says. “DMNB is a world-class facility right here in New Brunswick and a great testament to the collaboration that exists among Dalhousie University, the government of New Brunswick, the University of New Brunswick and other key stakeholders. You’d be hard pressed not to be impressed by what has been achieved here and we’re proud to be a part of it.”

The dangers of taking the “high” road

Increased collision risk, skill impairment

You may have come across someone claiming they can drive just fine after marijuana use. But new Dal research suggests that if you’re the sober passenger in that scenario, you should really ask for the keys.

Dr. Mark Asbridge, associate professor in Dalhousie Medical School’s Department of Community Health & Epidemiology, completed a systematic review and meta-analysis of nine studies to determine if cannabis use increases the risk of a motor vehicle collision (MVC).

His review, consisting of a total sample of 49,411 people, found that drivers who consume cannabis within three hours of driving are nearly twice as likely to cause an MVC as those who aren’t under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Dr. Asbridge’s findings were published last week in the British Medical Journal.

“This is the first review looking at observational studies concerned with the risk of vehicle collision after the recent consumption of cannabis,” says Dr. Asbridge, who also has an appointment in the Dalhousie/Capital Health Department of Emergency Medicine.

“This research clearly demonstrates that recent cannabis consumption impairs the skills necessary for safe driving and increases collision risk.”
All MVCs involved in the study took place on a public road and involved one or more moving vehicles such as cars, vans, sports utility vehicles, trucks, buses and motorcycles. Cannabis use was identified through blood samples or direct self-report.

**RATES OF CANNABIS USE HIGH AMONG YOUNG DRIVERS**

Rates of driving under the influence of cannabis have increased in Canada in recent years, with about four per cent of adult drivers reporting use prior to getting behind the wheel. The rate among youth and young adult drivers is higher, with between 14 and 21 per cent reporting that they have driven after using the substance.

“This research supports existing policies, in Canada and abroad, that prohibit driving under the influence of cannabis,” says Dr. Asbridge. “While public health efforts aimed at drinking and driving have been highly successful, greater attention needs to be directed to cannabis and other substances that may affect safe driving performance.”

Cannabis is the most widely used illicit substance globally, and recent statistics have shown a significant increase in use across the world.

Between 2000 and 2007, cannabis was the second most commonly found drug among fatally injured drivers in Canada. A 2010 roadside survey in British Columbia showed that 5.8 per cent of the 2,442 drivers stopped had cannabis in their systems.
Diversity as a priority for Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine

Having a diverse physician workforce is a critical component in making health care available to those who need it most. The lack of diversity of medical students, coupled with ineffective cultural competency education, continues to produce training and treatment environments that are biased, intolerant and contributory to health disparities. Dalhousie’s Faculty of Medicine has prioritized diversity by establishing a Social Accountability Committee to oversee community engagement initiatives as well as focusing on our local populations. In 2010, the Aboriginal Health Sciences Initiative was established at Dalhousie University with the mandate to increase the number of aboriginal students admitted to, and graduating from the health sciences (FoM, Dentistry & FHP).

In 2011, the Nova Scotia African Advisory Committee was established and immediately partnered with Division of Medical Education to host Dr. Will Ross, Associate Dean of Diversity for Washington University as the 35th Paul Cudmore Memorial Lecturer. During Dr. Ross’s visit to Dalhousie University in May 2012, the Faculty of Medicine partnered with Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC) and the Black Cultural Centre to host an evening. This evening event highlighted leadership in the African Nova Scotian community with Dr. David Haase and Dr. Chadwick Williams also sharing their journey to medicine.

The community event was part of a planning process that highlighted the beginning collaborations between the Faculty of Medicine and the African Nova Scotian community.

Nova Scotia releases Physician Resource Plan

May 9th was an important milestone for health care in Nova Scotia with the release of the province’s Physician Resource Plan by Health and Wellness Minister Maureen MacDonald.

The Physician Resource Plan was prepared by Social Sector Metrics and Health Intelligence Inc., and identifies several ways to improve planning and management of the physician workforce to better serve the needs of Nova Scotians. It’s part of the government’s commitment to provide better care sooner by improving access to doctors, nurses, and other health-care professionals, especially in smaller communities.

Key recommendations include changing the mix and distribution of physicians over time by making more strategic decisions when recruiting and replacing them, and influencing and managing the future supply of physicians over the next 10 years. The province also released its action plan on May 9, Shaping our Physician Workforce, which was informed by the Physician Resource Plan. Key goals include providing Nova Scotians with timely access to a primary care team that includes a family doctor and other care providers as well as access to core specialty services at the local or regional level.

Dalhousie Medical School supported the study and welcomed the opportunity to participate as a member of the Provincial Project Advisory Committee which included Social Sector Metrics, senior representatives from the Department of Health and Wellness, the district health authorities, IWK Health Centre, Doctors Nova Scotia, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine, and the College of Physicians and
Surgeons of Nova Scotia, and Doctors Nova Scotia.

With its focus on physician training and supply, the report and the action plan will have important implications for the future of the medical school’s education programs and strategic direction. Before its release, the medical school and the Government of Nova Scotia did not have a physician resource plan to help guide decisions regarding the number of medical school seats and the specialty allocation of residency training programs.

“This is the first step in a 10-year plan,” says Dr. Preston Smith, senior associate dean of education. “This information is important because it will allow us—the medical school, our teaching hospitals and the province—to better match physician training and supply with the health care needs of Nova Scotians.”

The Physician Resource Plan was prepared by Social Sector Metrics and Health Intelligence Inc., and identifies several ways to improve planning and management of the physician workforce to better serve the needs of Nova Scotians.

The medical school has begun its analysis of the Physician Resource Plan and the government’s action plan with preliminary discussions with clinical department heads and medical students. Informing students of the province’s workforce requirements will be integral to future career counselling efforts by the medical school.

“The plan will also help our medical students as they plan their future careers; they will know what positions are available and where they are available,” said Dr. Tom Marrie, Dalhousie Medical School’s dean. “An important element of this plan is a statistical model which can be used to update the plan as new information becomes available—in other words, it is a living document that is responsive to the physician resource needs of the province.”

For more information on physician resource planning, visit: www.gov.ns.ca/health/shapingPhysicianWorkforce
Dal study sheds new light on pandemic flu virus

By Allison Gerrard

A Dalhousie Medical School study has shed new light on how the influenza A virus—the virus responsible for flu pandemics—infects the body and makes people sick.

Through previous infection or vaccination, our immune systems recognize influenza viruses and limit their ability to cause infection. Because influenza changes every year, our immune systems are constantly being challenged to recognize new strains. For this reason, flu vaccines need to be reformulated annually.

Our bodies also have a first line of defence known as innate immunity; it doesn’t depend on training from previous infection or vaccination to fend off the flu. Innate immune defences allow our cells to recognize when they are infected with influenza viruses and activate antiviral programs that try to stop the viruses from multiplying and spreading to nearby cells.

Researchers in Dr. Craig McCormick’s laboratory have discovered a new aspect of the body’s innate defences against infection. They’ve shown that this defence involves the creation of structures inside the cell that trap viruses and prevent them from multiplying. These traps are called stress granules. The research team found that influenza is very good at preventing these stress granule traps from forming, meaning flu infection can take hold more easily than some other infections.

“Our study is the first to examine the relationship between influenza virus infection and stress granules, and clearly shows that the virus has evolved multiple different ways to counter our stress granule-based defences,” explains Dr. Denys Khaperskyy.

The researchers also found that a specific influenza virus protein called NS1 is what’s responsible for preventing stress granules from forming and protecting the cell. When NS1 was disabled, the researchers observed that the influenza virus could no longer stop stress granules from forming; the cell was able to trap the virus and keep the infection from progressing.

“Our work suggests that stress granules may be harnessed to control influenza virus infection. We’re now searching for ways to bypass the effects of the NS1 protein and prompt the cells to unleash the stress granule defences to limit influenza virus replication,” says Dr. Craig McCormick, principal investigator and assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology.

“By better understanding how influenza interacts with our cells, we can start to look at how we can use this information to generate new treatment or prevention strategies,” says Dr. Todd Hatchette, associate professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and director of Virology and Immunology at the QEII Health Sciences Centre. “Our work clearly demonstrates the complexity of influenza virus infection and highlights the need to continue basic efforts to understand what makes it such a successful virus in terms of infecting our bodies.”

The research team’s work was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, and findings were recently published in the Journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

Dr. Denys Khaperskyy, post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology

“By better understanding how influenza interacts with our cells, we can start to look at how we can use this information to generate new treatment or prevention strategies... Our work clearly demonstrates the complexity of influenza virus infection and highlights the need to continue basic efforts to understand what makes it such a successful virus in terms of infecting our bodies.”
Dal researchers develop new class of antibiotic to fight drug-resistant superbugs

A Halifax biomedical company lead by Dalhousie Medical School researchers has received $100,000 to further its work fighting drug-resistant bacterial infections commonly known as superbugs.

DeNovaMed Inc. has developed a new suite of antibiotics, and this money will help the company bring the drugs to market.

“Superbugs are resistant to almost every antibiotic. And in some cases, there are bacteria out there resistant to every antibiotic we currently have,” says Dr. Chris McMaster, DeNovaMed’s CEO and a professor in the departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Pediatrics. “That’s because we haven’t had a new class of antibiotic in over 30 years.”

Through mutations or other changes in their genetic material, bacteria can evade antibiotics and become drug-resistant.

In their Drug Discovery Lab located at the IWK Health Centre, DeNovaMed researchers used computer-aided drug design to develop new classes of compounds that work differently than all current antibiotics. The new antibiotics shut off bacterial membrane synthesis, whereas current antibiotics shut down other essential processes such as DNA, RNA, or protein synthesis.

New drugs are needed as more and more bacteria threaten the effectiveness of current antibiotics.

“At the present time, these bacteria kill—in North America and Europe—50,000 people a year because we’ve got no way to treat them anymore,” says McMaster. “Our plan is to enter a phase one clinical trial in early 2014.”

DeNovaMed Inc. was incorporated in 2006 by Drs. McMaster, David Byers and Don Weaver. It placed first out of 142 applicants for the $100,000 Innovacorp i3 funding prize.

By Allison Gerrard

Dr. Chris McMaster
The DMAA is proud to sponsor this long-standing tradition of our Gold & Silver Ds. Recipients are selected by the DMSS Committee on the basis of class participation, activity with the DMSS, sports involvement, outstanding class spirit and leadership or involvement that is not part of formal class positions.

Congratulations to 2012 DMAA Gold and Silver Ds

**Gold D recipients** from L to R:
Drs. David Carver, Stephanie Veldhuyzen Van Zanten and Nicholas Costain.

**Silver D recipients** from L to R:
Drs. Haralambos Lavranos, Jenna Creaser, Brent MacLellan, Elise Graham, Rosalind Ashton, Adam Harris, Melissa Keith, Emily MacInnes & Tristan Dumbarton

**Honourable Mentions:** Drs. Kristin Greenlaw, Coleman Black and Jeffrey Campbell

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**Dr. C.B. Stewart Gold Medal**

**Graduation with Distinction**

L to R: Drs. Elizabeth Allen, Joshua Gillis, Thera Gouzoules, Jason MacDonald, Lyndsey MacDonald, Brent MacLellan, Craig Morton, Aliya Kelly, & Michael Stevens

**Resident Teacher**

**Silver Shovel Award**

L to R: Drs. Peter Green ’95, David Carver ’12, Stephanie Veldhuyzen Van Zanten ’12

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Dr. Jason MacDonald ’12

Dr. Peter Green ’95
Alumni families

The DMAA is proud to welcome our newest alumni families

“I am proud to be the sixth consecutive generation of doctors in my family. It’s an honour to follow in my father’s footsteps at Dalhousie and continue a family tradition that began in England with my great, great, great grandfather.”

Dr. Mark Robertson ’12 with father Dr. Scott Robertson ’88

Dr. Meghan Bebbington ’12 with mother Dr. Patricia Beresford ’76

Dr. William Best ’12 with brother Dr. Robert Best ’08

Dr. Jennifer Leighton ’12 with parents Dr. Margaret Leighton ’77 and Dr. Ross Leighton ’79

Dr. Elizabeth Allan ’12 with sister Dr. Stephanie Thompson ’06

Dr. Jenna Creaser ’12 with sister Dr. Kimberley Creaser ’05

Dr. Daniel Smith ’12 with father Dr. David Smith ’74
Welcoming our new alumni families to medicine

An honours graduate of Acadia University, Dr. Luke Reynolds ’12, came to Dalhousie University in 2005 after graduating with his undergraduate degree in kinesiology. Initially, Dr. Reynolds sought to pursue physiology research, but his passion for scientific research soon became the flame that ignited his medical career at Dalhousie University: “After participating in clinical research, I realized that it was the clinical aspect of my work that I enjoyed the most; being around people and learning about the pathology and treatment of disease.” Dr. Reynolds, whose father is a pharmacist, receives tremendous support from his parents in his career choice: “I think that they have enjoyed seeing me through my many stages of education and continue to help me along the way.” Dr. Reynolds plans to head to Ottawa, where he will complete his residency in urology at the University of Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. Sean Bennett ’12 first began his medical career at Dalhousie University, where he completed a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and Master’s degree in Adapted Physical Activity. Physiology and anatomy in his first year of university, sparked a keen interest in medicine, and demonstrated to him his ability to perform well academically while being provided with the opportunity to work with people and affect their lives positively. Dr. Bennett receives great support from his family and joins his sister, a registered massage therapist in Ontario, to the healthcare profession: “We are the first members of the family to be in the healthcare field. All of our cousins are in various, diverse fields such as journalism, culinary, international development, and geography, so it makes for an interesting and eclectic group at the holidays.” Dr. Bennett plans to return home to the University of Ottawa, Ontario, where he will complete his residency in general surgery.

L to R: Tracy Reynolds (sister), Dr. Luke Reynolds ’12, Janice Reynolds (mother), Mark Reynolds (father)

L to R: Dr. Sean Bennett ’12, Heather Bennett (mother), Wayne Bennett (father)

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FACULTY OF MEDICINE

CONVOCATION AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

It is with great honor to present the rich and traditional history of Dalhousie Medical School in this Special Edition issue of VoxMeDal, 2012. Among the DMAA’s recent accomplishments, is the Convocation Awards Ceremony—a celebration of the special bond between our medical alumni and our most recent graduates, M.D. Class of 2012. It was a very special day. The Convocation Awards Ceremony was celebrated by faculty members, alumni families and friends, some of whom travelled from Georgia, Ottawa, and Toronto to name a few. Not only did this celebration mark the significant accomplishments and outstanding determination of our medical graduates, but it also marked the beginning of new friendships within our Dalhousie Medical School community. We would like to offer a special thank you to the alumni, family, and friends for joining us; your presence had a positive and meaningful impact on our graduates.

DR. C.B. STEWART UNIVERSITY MEDAL IN MEDICINE
M.D. DALHOUSSIE 1938
Awarded annually, on graduation, to the student standing highest in the regular medical course provided that he or she has reached the high standard set by the faculty for that purpose.
Dr. C.B. Stewart O.C., M.D., a well respected epidemiologist and public health researcher, graduated from the medical class of 1938 at Dalhousie University. He accompanied Sir Frederick Banting on a survey of research at Canadian medical schools which led to the formation of the Medical Council of Canada. Dr. Stewart became a professor of epidemiology at Dalhousie University, and was appointed Dean of Medicine in 1954. During his time as Dean, Dr. Stewart led the efforts to have the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building constructed as the Province of Nova Scotia’s Centennial Project.
Dr. Stewart served as a member of the National Research Council and vice-president of health sciences. He also served with the RCAF and the Rotary Club and was a member of both the Board Commissioners at the Victoria General Hospital and the IWK Children’s Hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Recipient: Dr. Jason MacDonald ’12

DR. ROBERT C. DICKSON PRIZE IN MEDICINE
Awarded to the student, who has had the highest standing in all examinations in medicine throughout the four-year course.
Dr. Robert C. Dickson graduated from the University of Toronto’s medical school with the Cody Silver Medal. Trained in internal medicine, he was a gastroenterologist with an international reputation, and was a leader of medicine in Canada. He was one of the initial members of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology and was appointed Master of the American College of Physicians. In addition, Dr. Dickson was elected to the Council of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and won the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Duncan Graham Award. In his personal time, Dr. Dickson was dedicated to the CMcS Committee on Medical Education, the Glascott Royal Commission on Government Organization, the Grenfell Mission, and the Goll Royal Commission on Health Services.
At Dalhousie Medical School, Dr. Dickson developed the Outpost Nursing Program and served as professor and department head of medicine. Recipient: Dr. Joshua Gillis ’12

DR. W. H. HATTIE PRIZE IN MEDICINE
Awarded to the student who has reached the highest standing in medicine upon graduation.
William Harold Hattie was born in Pictou County, Nova Scotia. He took his M.D. and C.M. degrees from McGill University, and was later appointed Nova Scotia’s first provincial bacteriologist. He was in charge of the newly established provincial diagnostic laboratory at the Victoria General Hospital, and later served as superintendent of the Nova Scotia Hospital. His affiliation with Dalhousie Medical School began in 1898 when he was appointed professor of mental diseases and hygiene prior to serving as Assistant Dean of Medicine.
This award was established by the Faculty of Medicine in his memory. Recipient: Dr. Matthew Bligh ’12

ANDREW JAMES COWIE M.D. MEMORIAL AWARD
Awarded to the student having the highest standing in obstetrics in fourth-year, providing his or her standing in other subjects is sufficiently high to justify an award.
Dr. Andrew James Cowie is known for his ground breaking medical achievements in Canada. After attending the University of King’s College in 1856 for a year, Dr. Cowie enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania’s medical school. On one of his many trips to England, Dr. Cowie returned with a microscope and became one of the first physicians in Halifax to use a microscope for medical work. He returned to Halifax and opened his first medical practice on the corner of Sackville and Hollis street, before sharing a practice with several of Halifax’s well-known doctors, including DeWolf, Hume, Woodill and Charles Tupper.
To commemorate his achievements, his aunt and daughter, Mary Florence, founded the Andrew James Cowie M.D. Memorial Award. Recipient: Dr. Jillian DiPenta ’12
DR. S.G. BURKE FULLERTON AWARD
M.D. DALHOUSIE 1952

Awarded to the student in fourth-year who has shown the greatest promise and potential for family medicine.

Dr. S.G. Burke Fullerton was a respected physician and is widely recognized for his contributions to continuing education programs in family medicine. Today, family medicine is a recognized specialty among all medical schools in Canada. In addition, Dr. Fullerton is known for his leadership in the inauguration of the Preceptorship Program in family medicine, which enables medical students to sample the life of family doctors during their family medicine rotations. He was president of the Nova Scotia Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and in 1978, was director of the Preceptorship Program at the Dalhousie Department of Family Medicine.

This award was established by the Nova Scotia Chapter of the College of Family Physicians upon Dr. Fullerton's retirement from the Department of Family Medicine. **Recipient: Dr. Shoan Kale '12**

THE ALBERT A. SCHWARTZ PRIZE IN ORTHOPEDICS
M.D. DALHOUSIE 1940

Awarded to the graduating medical student who has demonstrated aptitude and excellence in orthopedics.

Dr. Albert A. Schwartz practiced orthopedics in Edison, New Jersey, before retiring in 1996. He was past chief of orthopedics at the Perth Amboy General Hospital, and the JFK Medical Center, and had been chief of orthopedics surgery at the Roosevelt Hospital in Edison, New Jersey. Dr. Schwartz was a doctor for the Crippled Children's Elks Committee in Perth Amboy, for approximately 35 years and also ran the clinic for poliomyelitis for many years. He was elected to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and was Diplomat of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery.

In addition to those achievements noted above, Dr. Schwartz was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the International College of Surgeons, while also serving as a member of multiple medical associations including the New Jersey Orthopedic Society and the American Geriatric Society. He received the Golden Merit Award from the Medical Society of New Jersey for 50 years of service. **Recipient: Dr. David Wilson '12**

THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA, DR. ALLAN D. COHEN MEMORIAL PRIZE IN NEPHROLOGY
M.D. DALHOUSIE 1968

Awarded annually to the member of the graduating class who has shown the greatest aptitude in clinical nephrology during his or her medical education.

The Dr. Allan Cohen Memorial Prize was established in 1995 to honour the late Dr. Allan Cohen, a distinguished member of Dalhousie Medical School, for his significant contributions to both medical education and to The Kidney Foundation of Canada. Dr. Cohen was a well-respected physician and teacher, whose commitment to the health field went beyond the hospital and the classroom. He was an active member in a number of health-related organizations and causes, and served on several committees, local and national medical organizations, and subspecialty societies. Dr. Cohen is remembered by his colleagues as a fine physician, educator, and scientist, who brought a special and significant presence to each one of his many roles. **Recipient: Dr. Nilanjana Datta '12**

DR. CARL PEARLMAN PRIZE IN UROLOGY
M.D. DALHOUSIE 1937

Awarded to the student in fourth-year judged by the Department of Urology as having the greatest aptitude and interest in urology.

Dr. Carl Pearlman completed his Bachelor of Science degree at New York University before heading for Halifax and Dalhousie Medical School, where, upon graduation, he was awarded the Dr. W.H. Hattie Prize for highest standing in medicine. After completing urological specialty training, Dr. Pearlman spent many years as clinical professor of urology at the University of California. He was chairman of the first expansion fund for St. Joseph Hospital, chief of staff at both the Santa Ana Community Hospital and the former Orange County General Hospital, Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Diplomat of the American Board of Urology, and Professor Emeritus in clinical urology at the University of California.

Dr. Pearlman contributed numerous articles to medical literature, and, in 1984, was honoured with the Physician of the Year award by the Orange County Medical Association. **Recipient: Dr. Nicholas Costain '12**

DR. JOHN F. BLACK PRIZE

Awarded to the student on completion of the fourth-year who reaches the highest standing in surgery.

Dr. John Ferguson Black was one of Nova Scotia's leading practitioners of his time and was particularly known as a surgeon. He received his early education at the University of King's College before receiving his M.D. at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York in 1868. Dr. Black was professor of surgery at the Halifax Medical College, attending surgeon at the Victoria General Hospital, consulting surgeon to the Halifax Dispensary and member of the Provincial Medical Board. In addition, he was a member of the British Medical Association Branch, and of the Halifax County Medical Society.

This award was established by the Department of Surgery in his memory. **Recipient: Dr. Carrie Goodine '12**
**DR. LEONARD, KAY & SIMON LEVINE SCHOLARSHIP**

**M.D. DALHOUSIE 1967**

Awarded to the fourth-year medical student who is pursuing studies in family medicine. The recipients are to be selected on the basis of academic excellence.

Dr. Leonard Levine completed his M.D. at Dalhousie University in 1967, receiving a Gold D upon graduation. After graduate school, he moved from Moncton to Toronto and became a missionary, which enabled him to travel the world and pick up holistic medical remedies to offer his patients. Dr. Levine was asked to join the Department of Medicine in Toronto, before becoming president of the Holistic Medical Society. Dr. Levine incorporates a wide range of remedies into his practice, including homeopathy, acupuncture, diet, vitamin supplements and assorted stress reduction techniques. He currently resides in Ottawa, where he continues to practice holistic medicine.

**Recipients:** Dr. Cliona O’Brien ’12, Dr. Kailee Sutherland ’12, Dr. Jillian DiPenta ’12

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**DR. LEO HOROWITZ PRIZE IN DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY**

**M.D. DALHOUSIE 1938**

Awarded to the student who has shown the greatest interest and greatest degree of inclination towards the study of radiology, either through performance or marks during his or her undergraduate experience.

Dr. Leo Horowitz graduated from Dalhousie University Medical School in 1938. He practiced family medicine for a number of years before pursuing specialty training and practice in diagnostic radiology and radiation therapy in Jersey City. In 1988, Dr. Horowitz received the Golden Merit Award from the Medical Society of New Jersey for 50 years of distinguished service as a practicing physician in the state.

A staunch supporter of Dalhousie Medical School, Dr. Horowitz established this award in order to spark interest in the field of diagnostic radiology. **Recipient: Dr. Matthew Bligh ’12**

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**DR. J.C. WICKWIRE PRIZE**

**M.D. DALHOUSIE 1927**

Awarded to the graduate student who has displayed the highest competence in patient contact over the four-year course.

As one of four boys, all of whom graduated from Dalhousie University, Dr. John Cox Wickwire was taught the value of a good education from a young age. Graduating from Dalhousie Medical School in 1927, Dr. Wickwire went on to set up a practice in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, where he was a noted physician and community leader.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Wickwire served in a variety of professional and civic posts including the MLA town council, president of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia, president of the Public Health Association of Nova Scotia, president of the Board of Maritime Medical Care and president of the Lunenburg-Queens Medical Society. Dr. Wickwire received the Queen Elizabeth 25th Anniversary Medal, and recognition by Queens County for 50 years of hard work and outstanding service, as well as the Nova Scotia Community Service Award, and an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Dalhousie University.

**Recipient: Dr. Elise Graham ’12**

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**DR. R.O. JONES PRIZE IN PSYCHIATRY**

Awarded to the graduate who has achieved the highest standing in psychiatry for the four years in medical school.

Dr. R.O. Jones had a prominent medical career in Canada as president of the inaugurated Canadian Medical Association and as one of the first trained psychiatrists in private practice east of Quebec. Dr. Jones was able to obtain the first ECT machine in the region, which would allow for enhanced treatment for chronic depression, thereby advancing psychiatry, both within the medical profession and with the civic authorities.

In 1948, Dr. Jones began to collaborate on a graduate program for psychiatry at Dalhousie University. That program is known today as the Department of Psychiatry. This award is to honour the memory of Dr. R.O. Jones and his many contributions to Dalhousie Psychiatry. **Recipient: Dr. Aliya Kelly ’12**

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**DR. LAWRENCE MAX GREEN MEMORIAL AWARD**

**M.D. DALHOUSIE 1967**

Awarded to the student who, during his or her clerkship in obstetrics and gynecology, has best displayed the characteristics of compassion and clinical competence.

Dr. Lawrence Green graduated from Dalhousie Medical School in 1967 and spent his first two years after graduation at a remote U.S. Navy base in North Western Maine. He then did an obstetrics-gynecology residency at Maimonides in New York City, before joining a clinic in Brooklyn. **Recipient: Dr. Nicholas Costain ’12**
THE DR. RAM SINGARI BOODOOSINGH MEMORIAL PRIZE
M.D. DALHOUSSIE 1963
Awarded to the graduating student in the Faculty of Medicine who, with clinical skill and a sense of humour, most brings “art” to the practice of medicine.
A graduate of the Class of 1963, Dr. Ram BoodooSingh was always conscious of his responsibility as a role model for younger colleagues. He sought to maintain high ethical standards in his practice and showed great leadership at the Highland View Regional Hospital in Amherst, Nova Scotia, where he was chief of family medicine for more than 20 years.
Respected for his fine intellect and upright character, Dr. BoodooSingh was renowned among classmates, colleagues and patients for his ability to quote from the classics in poetry and prose, and loved for his quick wit and matchless sense of humour. **Recipient:**
Dr. Brydon Blacklaws '12

THE DR. N.N. ISA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Awarded to the undergraduate medical student who excels during his or her core rotation in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Saint John, New Brunswick location.
Dr. N.N. Isa was a professor of obstetrics & gynecology at both Dalhousie University and Memorial University. He and the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology members at the Saint John Regional Hospital, initiated the Clerkship Core Training Program in affiliation with Dalhousie University in 1999.
This award is to encourage the rotating clinical clerks to excel in the specialty of obstetrics & gynecology, and to encourage students to consider New Brunswick as a desirable place for their future practice. **Recipient:** Dr. Jenna Creaser '12

THE MICHAEL BROTHERS PRIZE IN NEUROSCIENCES
M.D. DALHOUSSIE 1980
Awarded to the graduating medical student who has demonstrated an aptitude in neurosciences.
Dr. Michael Brothers attended St. Francis Xavier University for undergraduate studies, where an experimental psychology course sparked a keen interest in the brain and in neurosciences. In 1976, Dr. Brothers attended Dalhousie University Medical School, where he met his wife, Cathy Shea (M.D. Dalhousie 1980). After pursuing neurosurgery residency training in Toronto, he returned to Dalhousie University for completion of a radiology residency (1986).
When Dr. Brothers died in 1996, he was an associate professor and director of the Interventional Neuroradiology Program at Duke University in North Carolina. This award was established to celebrate his life and tremendous contributions to neuroscience. **Recipient:** Dr. Aaron Robichaud '12

DR. GRAHAM GWYN MEMORIAL PRIZE IN NEUROLOGY
Awarded to the fourth-year student who expresses interest and achieves excellence in neurology. The recipient must be recommended by the clinicians involved in teaching and supervising the student.
Dr. Graham Gwyn was active in research and administration as professor and head of the Department of Anatomy. In recognition of his skills and qualities as a dedicated teacher, he was named Professor of the Year in 1985 and 1987 by the second-year medical class.
This award is established by the Department of Anatomy to keep the legacy of Dr. Graham Gwyn alive at Dalhousie Medical School. **Recipient:** Dr. Jennifer Percy '12

DR. JOHN M. EMBIL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES
M.D. DALHOUSSIE 1989
This award is to stimulate and encourage interest and excellence in clinical infectious diseases and to be awarded to the student graduating from their fourth-year of study with the Dalhousie Medical School. It also recognizes the commitment and enthusiasm of an undergraduate medical student in the field of clinical infectious diseases.
Dr. John M. Embil graduated Dalhousie Medical School in 1989 and pursued additional training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the University of Manitoba. He is currently the director of the Infection Prevention and Control Program for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the Health Sciences Centre, and sits on a number of Public Health Agency of Canada committees. Dr. Embil has published nearly 150 peer-reviewed publications, demonstrating his passion and commitment to the field of internal medicine and the subspecialty of infectious diseases. **Recipient:** Dr. Coleman Black '12
THE DR. MARK J. COHEN PRIZE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

Selection for this award is based on the student who, in the opinion of the Division of Ophthalmology, shows the most promise to be an outstanding clinician. The recipient shall be the highest ranked student pursuing ophthalmology, as per criteria of the resident selection committee that interviews ophthalmology applicants.

Dr. Mark J. Cohen entered medical school knowing that he wanted to become an eye surgeon. At that time, it seemed to him that medical school offered minimal exposure to the specialty of ophthalmology and he was determined to change that thinking around.

“Ophthalmology is a challenging and difficult specialty to be accepted into. You are one among some of the hardest working and most talented medical students in the country being able to pursue a career in this field.” — Dr. Mark J. Cohen.

Recipient: Dr. William Best ’12

THE EMERSON AMOS MOFFITT RESEARCH PRIZE FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN ANESTHESIA

M.D. DALHOUSIE 1951

Awarded to the graduating student who has completed a research project in anesthesia which was considered meritorious.

Dr. Emerson Moffitt served in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy as a pilot during World War II before attending the University of New Brunswick. In 1951, he graduated from Dalhousie Medical School and went into general practice in North Sydney. Dr. Moffitt began to contribute to the emerging field of open heart surgery in the early stages of his career, and later became one of the true pioneers in the discipline of cardiac anesthesia.

In 1972, Dr. Moffitt returned to Dalhousie Medical School as head of the anesthesia department, before serving as Associate Dean of clinical affairs. Recipient: Dr. Sam Searle ’12

HUNTER HUMANITIES AWARD

M.D. DALHOUSIE 1957

Awarded to the senior student who has successfully completed all of the requirements for the degree of Doctor in Medicine, and who has made an outstanding contribution in the area of medical humanities, demonstrating the humanistic qualities of caring and compassion in his or her care of patients.

The student who receives this award has to be both smart and kind. Kindness is not something that can be taught in school, it has to be a part of who you are. This award should reinforce to the recipient that he or she is doing the right thing in treating the patient as a human being and not just as the next person in their office.

“I started the Humanities Award because I wanted the medical students of Dalhousie University to always be thinking of the patient and put them first. It makes a difference to the patient when they feel as though you have their best interest in mind and a high motivation to make them better.” — Dr. Mary Hunter

Recipient: Dr. Brydon Blacklaws ’12

THE DR. ROBERT F. SCHARF AWARD IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Awarded to the graduating student who has demonstrated an outstanding combination of clinical ability, motivation, and professionalism in emergency medicine throughout the undergraduate program.

An honours graduate of Neudorf High School and a distinguished graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Robert Scharf completed his medical degree at McGill University, coming to Halifax in the 1960s. Dr. Scharf was a pioneer in emergency medicine in Canada. He became the first head of the emergency department at the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax, and organized the first clinical courses for emergency attendants in Nova Scotia. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in general surgery, and served as chairman for the New Brunswick Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Dr. Scharf was a true gentleman and an outstanding doctor and teacher. Upon retirement, he was presented with a Certificate of Honour by the city of Saint John, New Brunswick for services rendered. Recipient: Dr. Jason Emsley ’12

BARBARA BLAUVELT CARDIOLOGY BURSARY

An annual award for the fourth-year student who has been judged by the Division of Cardiology to have shown the greatest interest and degree of inclination towards the study of cardiology.

Miss Barbara Blauvelt was a valued employee at Dalhousie University for 45 years (1947–1992). Barbara Blauvelt held the title of a senior administrative officer and Assistant to the Dean in the Faculty of Medicine until 1981, when she took on the role of executive secretary of the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association. She retired from the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association in 1992, however, she continues to maintain a strong relationship with the DMAA and its members. Recipient: Dr. Nicole Delaney ’12
DMRF DR. J. DONALD HATCHER AWARD FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH
Awarded to the fourth-year medical student, who at graduation is considered to have carried out the most meritorious and significant research project during the undergraduate program, including summer electives.

This award is made annually in memory of Dean J. Donald Hatcher who served as the Dalhousie Dean of Medicine from 1976 to 1985. A professor of physiology and biophysics, Dean Hatcher initiated the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation and his many academic accolades were an indication of his lifelong interest in education and research. Dean J. Donald Hatcher was a recipient of Her Majesty the Queen's 25th Anniversary Medal and the Outstanding Service Award. He was appointed Dean Emeritus at Dalhousie in 1990.

Recipient: Dr. David Wilson '12

DR. I. M. SZULER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE INTERNAL MEDICINE
PGM DALHOBUSIE 1979
This award recognizes a student who, during his or her third-year clerkship MTU rotation in internal medicine, best displays the personal and academic qualities of compassion, and high moral and ethical standards. This individual will be highly respected by peers, nursing staff, teachers and patients in addition to demonstrating satisfactory academic criteria.

A graduate of the University of Alberta, Dr. Irene Szuler completed her internship and residency at Dalhousie University. She was a highly respected specialist in internal medicine and received many awards for her excellence as a clinician and teacher. As a member of the N.S. Provincial Medical Board, Dr. Szuler was responsible for drafting a new Medical Act which modernized the regulation of the practice of medicine in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Szuler's community involvements included the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program for Post-Myocardial Infarction Patients (YMCA). She also served as board member of the Halifax Grammar School in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Recipient: Dr. Jordan Green '12

THE DR. JUAN A. EMBIL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH
Awarded to the graduating student, who has completed the best research project in infectious diseases during his or her four years of study at Dalhousie University.

Dr. Embil received his early education in Havana, Cuba and was a distinguished scientist, teacher, physician and author. Versatility was the distinguishing characteristic of his study and research in the field of infectious diseases and medical microbiology. A gifted clinical investigator, Dr. Embil enjoyed a long and meaningful research and teaching career at Dalhousie's Faculties of Dentistry and Medicine, where he was professor of microbiology, community health, parasitology, pediatrics, and tropical diseases and epidemiology, as well as oral microbiology. In addition to his activities within the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Embil was actively involved in stimulating creative scientific thinking amongst undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate trainees in medicine and the basic sciences. Recipient: Dr. Glenn Patriquin '12

THE MRS. LOURDES I. EMBIL AWARD FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
Awarded for clinical research in cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, cardiovascular pharmacology, physiology or other fields associated with clinical cardiology.

Lourdes was born in Cuba and immigrated to Canada in 1961 with her husband, Dr. Juan A. Embil. She was always actively involved in supporting her husband’s career and she developed an appreciation for the value of clinical research in medicine thanks in large part to his involvement in the Faculty of Medicine. Lourdes was diagnosed with coronary artery disease, and as an acknowledgement of the expertise of all the practitioners involved in her care, she founded the Lourdes I. Embil Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research. The purpose of this award is to stimulate excellence in research among undergraduate students in the field of cardiovascular science. Recipient: Un-Awarded in 2012

THE DR. CLARA OLDING PRIZE
M.D. DALHOBUSIE 1896
Awarded to the graduating student achieving the highest standing in the clinical years.

Dr. Mary Clara Olding was born on a farm in Woodburn, Pictou County. In 1896, she graduated with her M.D. from Dalhousie University and was the third woman to do so at that time. Upon graduation, she established a medical practice in Saint John, New Brunswick where she practiced from 1896-1903. She married Dr. Arthur M. Hebb (M.D. Dalhousie 1889) and had four children, all of whom attended Dalhousie University. Six of her descendants graduated from the Dalhousie Medical School.

The Dr. Clara Olding Prize was established in her memory by her husband, and has since been added to by her family. Recipient: Dr. Jillian DiPenta '12
DR. FRANK G. MACK PRIZE IN UROLOGY
Awarded to the student showing excellence in care of urological patients.

Dr. Frank G. Mack was born in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, and graduated with a B.A. (1910) from Dalhousie University. He later pursued medicine at the University of Toronto, and continued his education with postgraduate work at the Toronto General Hospital and the Montreal General Hospital. Like many urological doctors of that era, he had an interest in dermatology—an interest that he maintained throughout his professional career in medicine. In 1917, Dr. Mack returned to Halifax as staff of the Victoria General Hospital and was assigned a special ward for patients with venereal diseases. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Canada, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and president of the Halifax Medical Society.

This award was established by the Department of Urology in honour of his service as head of that department. 
Recipient: Dr. Elizabeth Amos ’12

DR. JOHN W. MERRITT PRIZE
M.D. DALHOUSIE 1928
Awarded to the student in fourth-year, who has attained the highest standing in surgery over the four years of the medical course.

Dr. John Merritt graduated from Dalhousie in 1928 and was top of his class. He qualified as a Fellow of three major colleges of surgery: the Royal College in Canada, the American College and the International College. In addition to maintaining one of the busiest general practices in Halifax, Dr. Merritt was a surgeon at the Victoria General Hospital, the Children’s Hospital (IWK Grace) and the Halifax Infirmary. He eventually became chief of surgery at two of these hospitals and was appointed assistant professor of surgery at Dalhousie Medical School.

Dr. Merritt became known as a pediatric surgeon before pediatric surgery was recognized as a separate entity. In both Canada and Nova Scotia, he pioneered procedures such as management of congenital abnormalities, revolutionizing this specialty of medicine. This award was established by his wife and family to honour Dr. Merritt’s significant contributions to medicine. 
Recipient: Dr. Sean Bennett ’12

DMRF DR. RICHARD B. GOLDBLOOM AWARD IN PEDIATRICS
This award is to be given annually to a graduating medical student “who shows the most outstanding combination and balance of scientific medical knowledge, clinical skill and sensitivity to the social and emotional needs of children and their families.”

Dr. Richard Goldbloom graduated from McGill University with a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1949. He came to Halifax in 1967 as the first physician-in-chief and director of research at the IWK Hospital for Children. The IWK Health Centre now has a facility named in his honour: the Dr. Richard B. Goldbloom Research and Clinical Care Pavilion.

Dr. Goldbloom received the Lederle Medical Faculty Award, and was later appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. He is the founder and honorary president of “Read to Me!” and of the Halifax-Dartmouth Waterfront Development Corporation. Dr. Goldbloom became a professor and department head of pediatrics at Dalhousie University, before being appointed Chancellor of Dalhousie in 2001.

Recipient: Dr. Jordan Green ’12

DALHOUSIE MEDICAL SCHOOL
Dalhousie University’s Faculty of Medicine was founded in 1868. The Dalhousie Medical School’s primary research and teaching facility is the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, which is named after the first president of the Canadian Medical Association, Sir Charles Tupper. Dalhousie Medical School is the largest health research facility in Atlantic Canada, facilitating leading health research and humanity in medicine.

DALHOUSIE MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association (DMAA) was formed in 1957 and provides resources which support class reunions, awards, scholarships and bursaries, funding for student projects and other educational opportunities. The DMAA office is the central base for alumni and friends to reconnect with the Dalhousie Medical School. The success of the DMAA is a direct result of alumni involvement and loyalty to their beloved medical school.
Congratulations to members of our medical school and alumni community who have received awards recently...

**AWARDS**

The Quill & Stethoscope Awards celebrating writing and medicine was held on Friday April 27, 2012 at Westin Nova Scotia. The Davis Writing Prize was awarded to Dr. Sarah Fraser ’14 with honourable mentions each to: Dr. Karim Mukhida ’10, Anesthesia Resident; and Dr. Carolyn Reardon ’15.

The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) presented the 2012 Diversity Award to Dr. Franklin H. Sim ’65, during an awards ceremony at its 2012 Annual Meeting. The Diversity Award recognizes members of the Academy who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding commitment to making orthopedics more representative of, and accessible to, diverse patient populations.

Dr. Joanne Gusella, lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry and adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology, was recently awarded an IWK Stars Ambassador Award for contributing to a song called “Every Step of the Way” inspired by a child’s experience of receiving care at the IWK.

Paul Briggs has been selected as a recipient of a 2012 Dalhousie University Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award, given jointly by the Vice-President Academic and Provost and the Vice-President Student Services.

Canadian Pharmacists Association awarded Dr. David Gardner, Professor with the Department of Psychiatry (with joint appointment to Pharmacy) with their Pharmacist of the Year Award.

< Dr. Nicholas Costain ’12 was the recipient of a Dalhousie Student Impact Certificate of Distinction.

< This year Dr. Wendy Stewart (Pediatrics/ DME) received the Archibald Gold-Headed Cane Award in the Medical Humanities as the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine recipient and Dr. Rajender Parkash ’72 (Medicine) was the recipient from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.

> Drs Christine Chambers ’96 and Sherry Stewart were just acknowledged as being in the Top 10 most productive women clinical psychology professors in Canadian psychology departments. Dr. Patrick McGrath was identified as one of the top 10 most productive men professors. This is in addition to him recently being acknowledged as the top publishing researcher in psychology in Canada by the Globe and Mail.
Dr. Donald Lalonde (Surgery – NB) has been named 2011-2012 Chairman of The American Board of Plastic Surgery; 2011-2012 President Elect American Association of Hand Surgery and 2012-2013 President of the American Association of Hand Surgery.

Dr. Camille Hancock-Friesen (Surgery) received the Women of Excellence Award from the Cornwallis Canadian Progress Club.

Dr. Geoff Williams (Medicine) was awarded Professor of the Year by Class of 2014.

Dr. Michael Wadden ’95 (Family Medicine) was awarded the Community-Based Physician Leader/Innovator Award by the Canadian Medical Association.

David Gardner PharmD, Department of Psychiatry, moderated a panel discussion at the Canadian Agency of Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Symposium (April 16) in Ottawa. The title of the panel discussion was Innovations in Therapeutic Continuing Education Knowledge Translation. David represented Dalhousie’s Katie Program, which will serve as a platform for answering the question, “should this information change by practice?”

Dr. Lara Hazelton ’94, associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry, has been awarded a 2012 Royal College Fellowship for Studies in Medical Education to support her Masters research on teaching professionalism.

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RESEARCH AWARDS

Dr. Don Weaver ’86 (Medicine) was awarded the 2011 Dr. Jonas Salk Award, presented by Sanofi Pasteur and the March of Dimes Canada, for his groundbreaking work in disease modifying drugs aimed at treating and eventually curing Alzheimer’s disease and epilepsy.

Dr. Kishore Pasumarthi (Pharmacology) has been selected as this year’s Dr. Gregory Ferrier Award recipient in recognition of having the highest rated Grant-in-Aid funded by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia.

Dr. Roy Duncan (Microbiology & Immunology) and Dr. Alan Fine (Physiology & Biophysics) have been awarded a Dalhousie University Research Professorship for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017.

Dr. Allana Munro ’09, resident in the Department of Anesthesia, won first prize in the resident’s research competition at the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) annual general meeting, May 2–5. Her project, titled “Sublingual Microcirculation of Pregnant and Non-pregnant Women,” earned top honours.

Congratulations to Dr. Jill Chorney ’01 (Anaesthesia) on receiving the “Emerging Professional of Distinction” award at the 9th annual Discovery Awards for Science and Technology Gala and the Early Career Scientist Practitioner Award from the Canadian Psychological Association.

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DMAA Resident Research Awards

Resident Research Day is an annual event in which our residents are able to present their research findings and have an opportunity to meet one another during a day that is dedicated to advances and opportunities in medical research. Recipients each standing between Dr. Guy Brisseau ’89 and Dr. Bob Bortolussi, respectively.

Best Oral Presentation in Basic Science Research
Philippe Magown (Neurosurgery)
Restoration of motor functions by embryonic stem cell derived motoneurons in a murine model of acute and chronic deervation.

Best Oral Presentation in Clinical Research
Sanjog Kalra (Cardiology – Adult)
Use of a Cardiac Electrocardiography and Transthoracic Echocardiography Database to Redefine ECG Criteria for Left Ventricular Hypertrophy (The CREATED-LVH Study).

Phi Chi Chapter Celebrates Their First Alumni Banquet in Many Years

Dalhousie’s Phi Chi Chapter re-connects and celebrates with alumni members from the past 82 years at the Phi Chi Alumni Banquet, the first of its kind since the Phi Chi Fraternity re-opened its doors at Dalhousie last February. With its rich history at Dalhousie Medical School, Phi Chi is now 50 members strong and includes over 1,000 alumni members.

Doctors’ Electronic Bookshelf offers new opportunities to access information

By Katie Mallam

The Electronic Bookshelf at www.doctorsNS.com offers services and resources, including access to journals and a librarian, free of charge to members of Doctors Nova Scotia.

The Electronic Bookshelf will focus most of its resources on family practice physicians. Both information and services for members in rural areas will be increased.

“When practicing medicine in the community, separate from a university and perhaps even outside a hospital, sources of health information can seem more limited,” explained Pat Lee, the Electronic Bookshelf librarian.

Doctors Nova Scotia members use the Electronic Bookshelf to access resources such as journals from MDConsult, the American Medical Association, and EBSCO’s Medline with full text. Textbooks from MDConsult, drug information from e-CPS and Micromedex, evidence-based information from Cochrane Library, and clinical practice guidelines are also among the resources available.

Through Ms. Lee’s expertise, Doctors Nova Scotia offers information searches, develops a short list of results with abstracts or full-text articles, offers search strategy planning, provides training with information resources, and finds medical information through other resources.

For more information, contact:
Pat Lee, Librarian
Toll Free: 1-866-890-5563
pat.lee@doctorsns.com
www.doctorsNS.com
Casino Nova Scotia is a unique waterfront destination with an atmosphere of fun and creativity that allows you to tailor your meeting or activity for a memorable experience.

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Contact Roxanne Bentley for more information
rbentley@casinonovascotia.com

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**Alumni event in Texas**

**Houston:**
This February, Dean Marrie ’70 visited Houston, meeting with alumni at a dinner hosted at the home of Glenda Goodine (MD ’77) and Tom Murphy (MD ’76).

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**Alumni event in Florida**

**Naples, Florida:**
In March, Dr. Preston Smith ’81, Senior Associate Dean visited Naples for a meeting with alumni at a luncheon hosted at the home of Larry (MD ’65) and Sharyn (Nursing ’65) Harris.

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**Convocation Awards**

Dr. Leonard Levine ’67 returned to the medical school for the first time since his graduation to present the Dr. Leonard, Kay & Simon Levine Scholarship with Dr. Greg Archibald to recipients, Drs. Cliona O’Brien ’12, Kailee Sutherland ’12, and Jillian DiPenta ’12.

Ms. Barbara Blauvelt presenting her award, the Barbara Blauvelt Cardiology Bursary to recipient, Dr. Nicole Delaney ’12.

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**Class ’65 reunion**

Dr. Larry Harris and Sharyn hosted a highly successful 47th anniversary reunion for the 1965 Class in Naples, Florida. Highlights included nature cruises, superb beach and pool, lunch cruise of Naples Bay, and fine dining. Four days ended with a memorable dinner/music at Harrises, with dancing and singing by Drs. Acker, Gillis and Shaw.

— Dr. Tony Measham ’65

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**You’re invited to attend Career Days**

**Date:** November 1–3, 2012
Help provide students with the support in making confident career choices.
Please contact: Office of Student Affairs, 902-494-1874 or visit studentaffairs.medicine.dal.ca/careers
The DMAA acknowledges the passing of our prestigious alumni with sincere sympathy and gratitude for their contributions to medicine. If you know of anyone to note in this section, contact the DMAA by mail or email medical.alumni@dal.ca

Dr. Ronald W. Beazley '65
Passed away on March 29, 2012

Dr. Barbara Lynn Crosby '82
Passed away on July 15, 2012

Dr. John F. DeBow '72
Passed away on June 20, 2012

Dr. James Dunne '64
Passed away on November 23, 2011

Dr. Alan R. Grant '63
Passed away on October 10, 2011

Dr. James Howie Haldane (Faculty)
Passed away on July 21, 2012

Dr. Martin W. B. Hogan '65
Passed away on April 19, 2012

Dr. Mohan O. Iype '73
Passed away on February 14, 2012

Dr. Donald Bruce Keddy '51
Passed away on March 10, 2012

Dr. Wilfred Leith '42
Passed away on November 22, 2011

Dr. Joseph Mossey '71
Passed away on January 11, 2012

Dr. Manh Luu Nguyen '84
Passed away on April 4, 2012

Dr. Barbara Robinson-Watson '47
Passed away on April 29, 2012

Dr. Nigel Francis Rusted '33
Passed away on March 18, 2012

Dr. Edmond Ryan '60
Passed away on March 2, 2012

Dr. Pius Manning Sigworth '48
Passed away on December 25, 2011

Dr. James B. Squire '41
Passed away on February 12, 2012

Dr. Harold P. Stewart '45
Passed away on September 29, 2008

Dr. Walter Sylvanis Totten '54
Passed away on October 18, 2011

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Dr. Ekow Barnes, Amdocs Physician

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Dr. Scott MacDonald, 
EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN

We met with Wendy to start making inroads on our student loan debt. She asked lots of questions, gave us a plan and a team with an accountant and lawyer; which not only has us saving more and paying down our debt faster, but has also saved us over $30,000 in taxes in the first year.

Dr. Mark Blanchard, 
FAMILY PHYSICIAN

Wendy is so much more than a financial advisor – she is a great resource! She and her team have an extensive network that ensures our needs are taken care of. She has helped us with keeping our debt in check, our cash flow top-of-mind, and our insurances in order.

Wendy is always quick to respond and understands our issues!

Dr. Monique MacFarlane Conrad, 
PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION RESIDENT

DR. DAVID CONRAD, 
HEMATOPATHOLOGY RESIDENT

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