Celebrating 70 Years

In 2018, Dalhousie University celebrates 200 years. This year also marks 70 years of research excellence, innovative discoveries, and alumni successes within the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience.

Throughout the time period of January 2018 – December 2018, the department will capitalize on Dalhousie’s 200th anniversary celebrations to promote and align our 70th anniversary milestone.

We envision our milestone event as an opportunity to communicate with our internal audiences, and optimistically garnish enough excitement among our team to accomplish the common goal of holding a successful series of events in 2018.

We recognize that our current faculty have significant and long-lasting relationships with our past and current graduates – we see value in learning more about these relationships and profiling them during 2018 planning and throughout the event celebrations.

At this stage in planning we are focused on establishing the dates and plans for our five celebratory milestone events, and aligning these with Dalhousie’s 200th themed events. Stay tuned!

dal.ca/psychandneuro/celebrating70

SAVE THE DATE!

70th signature events in 2018

March 9 | Hebb Lecture
Topic: Neural mechanisms of age-dependent memory loss. Depends on where you look.
Presenter: Dr. Carol Barnes (University of Arizona Tucson)

March 10 | Hebb Workshop
Topic: Using Hebb’s Ideas to Plan for the Future of our Discipline

May 8-9 | Science Atlantic - UG Psychology Conference

July 1-3 | History of Psychology & Neuroscience Symposium

August 9 | 1st Peter Jusczyk Memorial Lecture
Presenter: by Dr. Janet Werker.
Note: This will take place the night before the Maritime Developmental Psychology Conference

September 28 | Terry Anders Memorial Lecture
Presenter: Richard Brown

October | Undergraduate Awards Day Lecture
Presenter: Heather Schellinck
Welcome to another academic year!
It was a busy summer as a number of our graduate students defended and have moved on to other positions. I want to welcome our 16 (8 clinical, 4 neuroscience, 4 experimental) new graduate students. This is one of our biggest classes and we are excited to have you with us. As well, as all of you know, Alicia Eakins has taken over the position held by Nancy Gibbons for many years. We were sad to say goodbye to Nancy, but Alicia is settling in very nicely. If you haven’t done so already, stop by and introduce yourself.

Following on from the half-day discussion session we held in May, I have worked with a number of individuals in the department to refine a new vision for our department. I will present a draft at the next staff meeting on September 19. Also, at this staff meeting, the Dean will present a new strategic vision for the Faculty of Science. I know that the Dean’s office is excited about sharing this initiative and getting feedback from us, so I hope to see many faculty members at the meeting.

We have started working on the unit review. The self-study is due November 1 and Suzanne will be in touch about what we need from each of you. The self-study presents the opportunity for us to not only put together pertinent departmental statistics, but also to reflect upon this information. As we move forward with a new vision for the department that will instruct hiring priorities, this exercise will no doubt prove useful.

Preparations for Dalhousie’s 200th and Psychology & Neuroscience’s 70th anniversary celebrations are well under way with Ray Klein at the helm. Details about planned events will be released soon.

Don’t forget that the former student study centre on the 4th floor is now a faculty/staff break room so feel free to use it as such. We are waiting on furniture for the new study centre, but it is open for students at this time.

As always, we have a number of reasons to celebrate as a department and I encourage you to browse this issue of the Mailroom Door to read more about them. I look forward to all of us having a productive term.

Cheers,
Tara
Welcome our new 2017-2018 graduate students

STUDENT
T-Jay Anderson
Elizabeth Armstrong
Jasmine Aziz
Yvonne Brandelli
Chris DeWolfe
Richard Drake
Lydia Muyingo
Elizabeth O’Leary
Matthew Orr
Victoria Patterson
Megan Rossi
Alexandra Ryken
Flint Schwartz
Aaron Shephard
Jack Solomon
Toni Spinella

PROGRAM
Clinical
Neuroscience
Clinical
Clinical
Clinical
Experimental
Clinical
Neuroscience
Experimental
Clinical
Experimental
Clinical
Neuroscience

SUPERVISOR(S)
Fisher
Perrot
Eskes
Chambers
Stewart/Watt
Eskes
Stewart/Sherry
Perrot
Corkum
Uher/Pencer
Rosen
Deacon
Bombay/Stewart
Barrett
Boe
Barrett

HOMETOWN
MSVU - Nova Scotia
UNB - New Brunswick
UofA - Alberta
UofC - Alberta
UNB - New Brunswick
SMU - Nova Scotia
UofO - Ontario
Dal - Nova Scotia
SMU - Nova Scotia
SMU - Nova Scotia
UofT - Ontario
Huron Coll - Ontario
UofM - Manitoba
UNB - New Brunswick
Dal - Nova Scotia
Carleton - Ontario

CONGRATULATIONS
Kudos to our current and incoming graduate students who have received new scholarships for 2017-2018:

CIHR
Masters | Richard Drake
Doctoral | Christiane Whitehouse

NSERC
Doctoral | RJ Redden
Kiera O’Neil
Jill King

Killam-1
Richard Drake
Jasmine Aziz
T-Jay Anderson

Killam-2
Sara Bartel
RJ Redden

SSHRC
Doctoral | Kathleen Merwin

NSHRF
Victoria Patterson
Meghan Rossi
Chris DeWolfe

Dr. Mabel E. Goudge Scholarship in Psychology
Alexandra Ryken

Maritime Spor Support Unit Scholarship
Yvonne Brandelli
Maria Glowacka
Loriann Williams
Jason Isaacs
Erin Dempsey

Arthritis Society Scholarship
Yvonne Brandelli

IWK Graduate Scholarship
Loriann Williams

2017 Undergraduate Award Winners

Dr. WK Honig Prize:
Mariam Elgendi, Lola Leving, Madelaine Robertson, J Alyssa Shadbolt

Lilyan E. White Prize in Psychology: Adam Pomeroy

Lilyan E. White Prize in Neuroscience: Shawna Dexter

Brimer Scholarship:
Co-winners Nikita Crowell and Hannah MacNeil

Frances L. Stewart Prize:
Sana Rehan

David and Ruth Hubel Undergraduate Neuroscience Award: Maddie Fawley

3-Minute Thesis Competition
Hera Schlagintweit was a finalist, winning the first heat of the ten heats, from March 1st FGS
Faculty Achievements

**CIHR Project Grant**
Kevin Duffy, Donald Mitchell, & Nathan Crowder

“Investigation of a new approach for treatment of deprivation-induced vision impairment”

This grant was one of only 13 CIHR Project grants awarded in Atlantic Canada!

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**2017 CAPHC Award for Individual Leadership:**
Dr. Christine Chambers

Christine was recognized at their annual conference on October 24, 2017 in Montreal

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**NSERC’s Discovery Grants**
Dr. Tamara Franklin
Dr. Aaron Newman
Dr. Tracy Taylor-Helmick

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**CPA Junior Career Scientist Award for the Health Psychology Section:**
Natalie Rosen

KUDOS

Student/Postdoc Achievements

- Perri Tutelman was awarded the Colleen Elliot Award for Excellence in Cancer Research by the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation in February of 2017. Perri won the 2017 Brian Dufton Memorial prize awarded by the Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia for outstanding graduate achievement in psychology.

- PhD student, Yvonne Brandelli, was awarded an Arthritis Society PhD Salary Award and an Award from the Maritime SPOR Support Unit. Kristen Higgins was also awarded a salary award from the MSSU (which will start in the spring)

- Meghan Schinkel was awarded the International Symposium on Pediatric Pain Trainee Poster Prize (2017)

- Ralph Redden received:
  - NSERC Alexander Graham Bell CAN Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral)
  - Killam Predoctoral Scholarship (Level 2)
  - Certificate of Academic Excellence: Master’s Thesis Award - CPA
  - Certificate of Teaching Excellence - Council of Canadian Departments of Psychology
  - Graduate Student Presentation Award - International Meeting of Psychonomic Society

- Colin McCormick won a Certificate of Academic Excellence: Honour’s Thesis Award from the CPA.

- Austin Hurst won a Frank Sobey Undergraduate Scholarship from King’s

- Tamara Sorenson Duncan, PDF, co-supervised with Isabel Smith, receives an IWK Postdoctoral Award.

- Kyle Levesque, in his new role as PDF. Congratulations on a successful PhD defense.

- Alex Ryken, Masters in Experimental Psychology. Congratulations on receiving the Dr. Mabel E. Goudge scholarship.

- Richard Drake, Elizabeth Armstrong, Jasmine Aziz and T-Jay Anderso on receiving the D.O. Hebb Memorial Prize.

- Rebecca Tucker for receiving an award from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Concordia to participate in “the Projected Futures: Experimental Science Journalism Studies Summer School”, part of Concordia’s 2017 International Graduate Summer and Field Schools.

- A belated congratulations to our NSERC USRAs -thank you for all your hard work over the summer months: Nikita Crowell, Abby Howard-Gosse, and Sana Rehan. Also to Emma Cameron who received an Atlantic Innovation Fund summer studentship.
IN THE NEWS

Parents, Clinicians have Limited Options to Alleviate Pain of Needles for Babies
The Globe and Mail

Dr. Christine Chambers, a clinical psychologist with The Centre for Pediatric Pain Research in Halifax, says that pain from needles can cause trauma that shapes a child’s perception of health care in the future.

Children’s pain has, for too long, not been taken seriously and that even minor “routine” pain such as that of needles should not be taken for granted because it causes trauma that shapes kids’ perception of health care for their whole lives.

Read More

#ItDoesn’tHavetoHurt
CIHR Celebrating Health Research Storybook

Dr. Christine Chambers is featured in CIHR’s Celebrating Health Research storybook. The campaign highlights life-changing research happening in Canada – presented by researchers and patients in their own words.

Read More

Thoughts on Flu Vaccination
The Globe and Mail | Opinions

1. Some protection from the flu is better than none at all
Read More

2. Now, more than ever, we need a national vaccination plan
Read More

What Sea Squirts Can Tell Us About the Brain
Dal News

Dal postdoc Kerianne Ryan is conducting research at the forefront of the emerging and controversial field of connectomics, which aims to map the brain’s “wiring.”

“We were mapping a brain, at a very detailed level and in a comprehensive way, to gain insight into how brains work and might have evolved,” says Dr. Ryan, currently studying in the Laboratory of Invertebrate Neurobiology headed by Ian Meinertzhagen in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience. “It’s a new way to look at the central nervous system.”

Read More

Department of Psychology & Neuroscience
news & events

Dalhousie Psychologist Warns of Strain Felt by Perfectionist Students

Dr. Simon Sherry, who has done extensive research on perfectionism, weighs in

Read More

NSERC Discovery Awards Support Psych/Neuro Visionaries

57 Total Dalhousie researchers are recipients of $8 Million in funding from the NSERC Discovery Grants

Read More

Talking About Sex & Well-Being

Sexual Health Researcher, Dr. Natalie Rosen is featured on CIHR’s Canada 150 Storybook initiative.

Read More

Celebrate the Next Generation of Scientists

Profiling exceptional students who represent a small portion of this year’s amazing Science grads.

Read More

Marking a Milestone

Nancy Gibbons is one of just two recipients this year who served 45 years of service at Dalhousie.

Read More
Chambers Lab


Book Chapter:


Deacon Lab


PUBLICATIONS

Klein Lab


Klein, R. M. (2016) What cognitive processes are likely to be exercised by bilingualism and does this exercise lead to extra-linguistic cognitive benefits?, Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism, 6(5), 549-564.


PRESENTATIONS


Klein Lab
Hassan, T., Christie, J., & Klein, R. M. (2016, November). Global and local activation of the oculomotor system by arrays of uninformative peripheral visual stimuli. Paper presented at the 57th Annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society (Boston, USA)


Klein, R. M. (2016, September) Applying the scientific method to answer questions about drawing education. Presented by RM Klein on behalf of the team at the NSCAD University Drawing Laboratory at NSCAD University Research Day (Halifax, Canada)

Klein, R. M. (2016, April) Eye movement control and covert attention: Embodied or disembodied cognition. A workshop on Oculomotor Readiness and Covert Attention (An EPS-sponsored workshop, Durham, UK)

McCormick, C., Redden, R., Lawrence, M., & Klein, R. (2017, June) On the time-course of cued temporal attention. Presented at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (Regina, Canada)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

After 45 years of exceptional service, we say farewell to past Administrator of the Psychology and Neuroscience department, Nancy Gibbons, and welcome Alicia Eakins.

Administrator—Alicia Eakins
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LSC 3256

Also, we extend a warm welcome to Andrea West, our new Animal Care Technician.