Dean’s welcome

By Dr. Jure Gantar

Welcome to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at Dalhousie! By deciding to join us, you have indicated that you want to expand the power of your mind. In other words, you are telling us that you are interested in understanding and changing our world and not just in fitting into it.

We can certainly help you achieve this goal. When you study languages, humanities, social sciences, and the performing arts, you learn how to analyze, argue, and to support your views. By the time you complete your degree, you will realize that the foundation of all new knowledge is disagreement and that critical thinking also requires the use of imagination. We will help you find connections between entirely unrelated matters and discover sense in random facts. A number of our programs offer classes abroad where you will be able to experience first-hand the global significance of what you heard in the classroom. You might travel to Cuba to learn about international development or to the Czech Republic where you will be immersed in baroque culture.

FASS is a place where knowledge is forever reinvented and where professors learn just as much from their students as the students do from their professors. Because of this, we will do our best to engage you in the lives of our academic units from the first week of classes.

Our learning communities extend far outside the lecture hall: the Classics Department organizes the Pythian Games; the students in the Spanish and Latin American Studies host La Velada; and the Fountain School of Performing Arts brings music and theatre performances to our campus and our surrounding communities. You will be encouraged to work with advocacy groups, participate in student societies, and perhaps even to write for the campus newspaper.

Arts education is a wonderful opportunity to explore what truly matters in a manner that suits you. The great variety of courses offered by our programs ensures that you will learn your skills in subjects you enjoy while the flexibility of our majors and minors will further broaden your knowledge. Since arts education is by definition interdisciplinary, being able to combine a foreign language and a discipline such as History, Political Science, or Gender and Women's Studies will give you an inherent advantage over a narrower approach. Likewise, the chance to complement your study of English with a minor in Philosophy will provide you with a unique angle on a number of questions that would otherwise remain unclear.

The world today is increasingly complex. We know much more about each other than we used to, but this only makes our responsibility for its future greater. What better way to prepare for this challenge than by trying to understand ourselves and our society. Let the adventure begin!

Sincerely,
Jure Gantar
Dean (Acting), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

dal.ca/fass
We want to hear from you!
Please send all comments, suggestions, ideas or inquiries to fass@dal.ca
Through the eyes of a first-year student
By Kati George-Jim

Hey there, Tiger!

Welcome to Dalhousie: your new home, new school, and new life. About a year ago I was working a full-time job, enjoying my summer, and gearing up to start university - I’m sure many of you are now doing the same. I moved over six thousand kilometres to attend Dal, from Victoria B.C., and I can confidently say I made the right choice. I am currently pursuing a double major in Political Science and IDS (International Development Studies).

When I was thinking about my post-secondary education, I knew that I wanted an adventure. I had never been to Halifax before and Dal had everything I was searching for. I started to feel the excitement and nervousness that comes with living in an unfamiliar place the closer I came to landing in Halifax. Once I arrived at Howe Hall I was greeted by my Resident Assistant. They made me feel comfortable and welcome, along with giving me a few pointers on how to get around. Soon after taking a couple breaths, I dropped my things and made my way to the O-Week events. Living in residence is exactly how you make it; you can meet amazing people, you can participate in ResLife events or house councils, and most importantly you can learn to be independent.

Independence is a continuous theme throughout university. You are in control of what your future education will look like. I enjoyed, or perhaps even loved, all of the courses that I took in my first year. It is important to remember that classes are not the only thing Dal can offer you. The key to my outstanding year at Dal was the societies and extracurricular activities I participated in. There are typically first year or starting positions for almost every society! This past year I was the first year representative for Dalhousie’s Arts & Social Sciences Society (DASSS) and Dalhousie’s Undergraduate Political Science Society (DUPSS). Both of these societies are where I met upper year friends and other students with similar educational goals.

I have heard first year is the hardest for students because of the transition. Managing my time wisely was vital to my success. Looking forward, I will be the Vice-President Academic & External for DASSS and the Vice-President Internal for DUPSS in addition to a few other societies on campus. I am excited to see you this upcoming year, and don’t hesitate to visit me in my office in the McCain. Best of luck to you!
Hello and welcome to Dalhousie! You’ve chosen an incredible school in an amazing city and I hope you’ll love your four years (or longer!) here. My name is Angela Hou and I’m a third year student doing a combined honours degree in Political Science and International Development Studies. Although we’re all students, schoolwork isn’t everything so I want to tell you a little more about how to get involved in this far-reaching, ever-expanding, and intricately diverse Arts community at Dal. Luckily, I’m the President of the Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society (DASSS) for this upcoming year, and DASSS is exactly what you need to get involved!

Wait…but what’s DASSS?

DASSS is the faculty society that represents all arts and social sciences students. We do this by advocating for the needs of arts students to the Faculty and to the Dalhousie Student Union. There’s a DASSS Council that meets to discuss issues facing arts students and to collaborate on finding solutions, whether it’s after-hours access to the McCain Building or working with the Dean’s Office to address funding for academic resources and programs. The Council is made up of representatives from each of our member societies, which are societies that reflect many of the departments and programs in FASS, as well as five executives and a chair. We’re as diverse as the faculty itself and our goal is to build a supportive community of arts students where each and every single student has the capacity to create an amazing university experience!

But where do I fit in? And how do I get involved?

You are a member of DASSS just by being an arts and social sciences student! You can come to all of our meetings, vote on who will represent you, and run for positions. I’d love for you to come out to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the fall and learn more about what we do! If you’d think you’d like to get really involved, run to be our First Year Representative – it’s a position on Council held especially for first year students. And we always have free pizza at our AGMs!

DASSS also plans some pretty cool events for all arts students, but if you want to get involved in a particular department or program, then you should join one of our member societies! For example, the International Development Education and Awareness Society (IDEAS) is the departmental society for IDS students and folks interested in development. It’s a great idea to join departmental societies to meet people with similar interests as well as meet upper year students who’ve all been where you are now. They also run their own program-specific events.

If you just want to do you, DASS also provides grant funding for arts students to do their own thing. Whether it’s for a workshop fee, for travel expenses to attend a conference, or even for supplies for a project – you can apply for funding.

There’s so much that DASSS has to offer you, so connect with us to find out more!

But how can I find out more?

You can email us at dasss@dal.ca or swing by Room 2013 of the McCain Building. All of the execs have office hours where we’ll definitely be there to chat. You can check those out on our Facebook page, or on our website at http://www.dalhousiearts.com/. Personally, I’d love to answer any questions you may have – text or call me at 902.719.8208 or send me an email at angela.hou@dal.ca – can’t wait to hear from you!
First-year Seminar

A seminar is a class that is smaller and more interactive than a “regular” class. Because these classes have limited enrolment – usually fewer than 30 students – they are generally reserved for students in their upper-levels of study.

That is, until now...

Welcome to the FASS First-Year Seminars. Students who take these classes will become active participants in their own education, contributing to discussions, and learning from both professors and each other.

We have five seminars, each with a class size of just 20 first-year students and taught by a top professor in the Faculty. These courses are ideal for students looking to meet and interact with their peers, engage with their professors, share their opinions, thoughts and experiences and study fascinating material.

FALL 2015
Creativity in the Internet Age
Tuesdays/Thursdays
10:05 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Friend, Neighbour, Stranger, Self: The Political Significance of Personal Relationships
Tuesdays/Thursdays
10:05 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Raiders of the Lost Archives: Historical Research in Halifax
Tuesdays/Thursdays
10:05 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

WINTER 2016
The Global Citizenship Primer: Ethics, Humanity and Social Justice for the 21st Century
Tuesdays/Thursdays
1:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

The Stranger in Fiction and Film
Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays
9:35a.m. - 10:25a.m.

For more information and full seminar descriptions, visit http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/programs/first-year-seminars.html

Register using the online academic timetable: Arts and Social Sciences [ASSC] 1200

How to become an “A” student
By Dr. David Matthias, Assistant Dean, Student Matters

Congratulations on your admission to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University! I’m sure that you are excited, eager, and optimistic as your first term of study approaches, and so you should be, for you are about to embark on a life-changing educational and personal journey.

I’m sure you are also feeling at least a twinge of nervousness and trepidation as well, and again so you should be, for any journey will pose challenges, and will offer up unexpected turns, high points, and low points.

Like every other new student in the Faculty, you are here because you have academic talent and potential. But you are now facing the challenge of transitioning your talents and realizing your potential in a new and unfamiliar learning environment that also poses new personal developmental challenges as you learn to be more independent, to make your own choices, and set your own goals. And unfortunately, not every student navigates the transition and completes their journey successfully.

How can you improve your chances of becoming “A” successful university student?

Be prepared to:

Adapt: what worked for you before, in other educational settings, may not work for you at university. But be aware that you cannot Adapt unless you first honestly . . .

Assess your outcomes: learn from your mistakes and accept constructive criticism—whether that criticism comes in the form of comments on your work or the grades that you earn on your work. View any early disappointments as opportunities to identify your weaknesses and your strengths, then . . .

Act to improve: be prepared to change the way you study and write, to alter your habits, and to adjust your preconceptions. Learn how to learn in your new environment. But if you are unsure what is wrong or what you might do differently . . .

Ask for guidance: seek clarification, advice and support from your professors, your teaching assistants, academic advisors, librarians, and other Student Services personnel; and if necessary, . . .

Acquire new skills: take part in workshops that address common problems, find and study resources on studying, and engage with your fellow students both in class and in extracurricular activities; then . . .

Apply what you learn: initiate new approaches and strategies in your work and life—experiment, push your boundaries.

If you want to be an “A” student, an Adaptable student, then learn about yourself as a learner while you learn. Be flexible and resilient, and you will enjoy your journey and you will reach your destination.

I wish you great success in your first year in the Faculty and in the University.

Dr. David Matthias
asstdeanfass@dal.ca / 902.494.1440

Writing Centre
Looking to improve your writing skills? Check out Dalhousie’s Writing Centre, a free service to all undergraduate and graduate students.

Learn more at dal.ca/writingcentre.
Welcome from a Dal professor
By Dr. Karen Foster, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Rural Futures for Atlantic Canada and Assistant professor of Sociology
BA Honours 2005 (Sociology and Social Anthropology)

In high school, I was not a person who had her… err… stuff together. I liked to write, and that was enough to keep bad grades at bay, but I coasted on this unearned talent all the way to graduation.

And so it was that I applied to the journalism program at King’s, thinking about a career in writing, but I applied a little too late and was told that the program was full. The letter had a consolation, though: I could enroll in the regular BA program, giving me access to classes and services at King’s and Dalhousie. That’s how I ended up being a de facto Dalhousie student, using only the gym and The Ward Room at the institution to which I was actually paying tuition.

Like many first year students, I thought I could continue to coast along as I had in high school. I skipped class, never spoke in the classroom, avoided group projects or presentations, and liked to see how far I could get in a course without taking the textbook out of the plastic wrap. By April I had a C average and no one to blame but myself. It didn’t feel good. The following year, I turned things around so much that I received a prize from King’s, awarded annually to the student whose GPA improves the most from one year to the next. It is the backhanded compliment of academic awards: Congratulations! You aren’t terrible anymore!

But I took it. And from that point on, I thought differently about my education. I slowly started seeing my professors as people from whom I could learn a lot, and the classroom as a space to test out ideas—maybe even out loud! I realized learning should be uncomfortable, and it should take time. I realized I had questions of my own that I actually wanted to answer. I figured out that in the process of learning and memorizing facts, I was beginning to assemble these into positions. I started to read assigned readings actively, jotting questions in the margins, taking notes, thinking about how the ideas might apply to my own life, to society, to the past and the future, here and far away.

Now that I am a professor in the same department where I was a student a decade ago, I appreciate that Dalhousie was, and still is, the incredible, liminal space that a university should be: a space where you are required to shed what you think you know and open yourself up to the possibility that you might know nothing at all. So find the professors that challenge you and make you want to ask questions and learn more, find the topics that you can’t stop thinking about, find the classes and the readings that take everything you know and turn it completely upside down. Find people on campus and in the city who want to talk about big ideas, who are on this journey too.

Because you will likely never get this chance again, when your primary responsibility (in the classroom, anyway) is to ask questions and seek knowledge. At some point, maybe in the middle, maybe in the end, you might move from asking questions to finding answers, figuring out what you believe in, what’s important to you, what you value, what the “good life” is, and how you will preserve those values, but also the openness to being proved wrong, when you leave Dalhousie.

The world outside this place needs thinking, critical people who are good to each other. This is your time to figure out how to be those people.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Research Office facilitates research in humanities, social sciences and performing arts at Dalhousie University, and publicizes the results and benefits of that research.

Learn more about our research at http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/research.html.
Introducing the program coordinator for Dal’s new Indigenous Studies Minor

By Diana Lewis

Greetings! My name is Diana Lewis and I have recently been hired by Dalhousie as program coordinator for the new FASS Minor in Indigenous Studies, launching in the fall of 2015.

I am Mi’kmaq and a member of the Sipekne’katik First Nation in Nova Scotia and I am very excited to introduce this program to Dalhousie. I hold a Master of Resource and Environmental Management degree and I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology here at Dalhousie. My research focuses on environmental health issues facing Indigenous communities.

In addition to FASS, students from other faculties may take courses in this Minor. The two core, three-credit courses that students will be required to take for this Minor are “Historical Issues in Indigenous Studies” (CANA 2050/HIST 2205), and “Contemporary Issues in Indigenous Studies” (CANA 2052/SOSA 2052). Students will then choose 12 credit hours from a list of courses in Arts and Social Sciences and Health Professions.

Over the next few years we plan to expand the minor to explore offerings that could include Mi’kmaq language, Indigenous research methodologies, international Indigenous issues, or environmental issues – these are just a few examples of courses that students had expressed interest in during the planning stages of the Minor. This program fulfills the organizers’ goal of an academic program at Dalhousie that recognizes and appreciates the Mi’kmaq people on whose traditional territory the school is built. The cornerstone “elder in residence” program demonstrates the University’s commitment to respect and honour the culture and traditions of the region.

I am truly looking forward to teaching students about the history of our people and putting that into a contemporary perspective. It is something I am very passionate about and I hope that when you make your course selections, you consider the Indigenous Studies program. If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to email me at diana.lewis@dal.ca.

Stan out with a Minor

What’s a minor? Good question. A minor is a set of three or more credits in a given subject area, which allows you to step out of the box and customize your degree into something that is uniquely your own. Students can take a minor in a FASS subject – such as History, Pop Culture or Arabic Studies – or explore their options in Science with minors like Marine Biology and Psychology. With more than sixty offerings between the two institutions (Dalhousie University and University of King’s College), your options are open like never before. The possibilities are endless. We can’t wait to see what you come up with!

For a full list of Minors options, visit www.dal.ca/minors
Notes and reflections from an alumna and new professor of Creative Writing
By Shauntay Grant – Author, Spoken Word Artist, and Professor; Bachelor of Music 2002

Congratulations and welcome to Dalhousie University and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences!

I first came to FASS as an 18-year-old music major and, at the time, never imagined I’d be back all these years later as a creative writing prof. I never really planned to be a writer. In elementary school I wanted to be a veterinarian. By junior high my plans had shifted to marine biology. In high school I had my sights set on becoming a composer. And by the end of my studies at Dal I was making moves towards a dual-career as a choir director and radio broadcast journalist.

Writing was just something I did for fun. I wrote poems in the margins of my notebooks, organized spoken word events on campus, open mics around town. I preferred the fleetingness of spoken word performance to the permanency of the printed page, where I felt far less experienced and painfully exposed. So I shared my “stage poems” freely and kept my “page poems” private. And as a result, bypassed the constructive feedback that sharing in a creative writing class might have offered at the time.

It’s ironic that my first book publication – a children’s picture book called Up Home – is based on the text of a poem I wrote as an 18-year-old undergrad. And sometimes I wonder, what other stories might have emerged had I let go my inhibition and did more in those early years to develop my love of language and creative play?

I know firsthand that creating and sharing a work-in-progress can be both a terrifying and exhilarating place. And so as a prof I work to create supportive spaces where students feel their work will be regarded with kindness, and where they can confidently explore their interests while being mentored as writers, editors, storytellers, and creative thinkers.

I look forward to working with students this year in CRWR 2000X/Y “The Creative Process” and ENGL 3098 “Creative Writing: Poetry I”. The latter is for students interested in writing poetry, while “The Creative Process” is a larger interdisciplinary lecture course that focuses on exploring creativity in a wide variety of areas such as literary arts, visual arts, music, theatre, dance, mathematics, medicine, and advertising.

It’s great to be back at Dal and FASS, and I wish each of you the very best in your respective FASS journeys. Have a great first year!

FASS locations are as varied as our offerings. Here are a few of our hubs...

The McCain - 6135 University Ave
The Arts Centre - 6101 University Ave
The Hicks - 6299 South Street

Fun Facts about Prof. Grant:
Prof. Grant’s first book publication Up Home (Nimbus, 2008) won the 2009 Best Atlantic Published Book Prize at the Atlantic Book Awards. Up Home was also shortlisted for a 2010 Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award.
Prof. Grant is an accomplished writer and storyteller, Halifax’s third Poet Laureate (2009-11), and a recipient of various honours, most recently the Joseph S. Stauffer Prize in Writing and Publishing from the Canada Council for the Arts. She is also one of four Canadian authors selected by the Writers’ Trust of Canada for its prestigious Berton House Writers Retreat (2015-16 cohort).
Why did you decide to study at Dalhousie?

I always wanted to study abroad. Since English is the only language I know besides Portuguese I wanted to go somewhere where I would be able to communicate properly. I was deciding between Canada, United States, and England. Because the tuition in the U.S. is really high, that wasn’t an option for me.

I figured I would make friends more easily in Canada than in England. Then one day my high school was having a Canadian University fair, and there is where I learned about Dalhousie. It seemed to be a very good university in the lovely city of Halifax, a place where I had only heard good things about.

What are some of the main differences you have noticed between student life in Canada and student life in your home country?

Well, I guess one of the biggest differences would of course be the climate, pretty big change from Brazil to Canada! I also noticed that the universities in Canada provide more services and privileges to its students than in Brazil. Another difference is that the universities in Brazil don’t offer housing to students, making it harder for people to move from their hometown and thus barely having any international students, or even students from other states within Brazil. This fact also puts a bigger barrier in making friends especially for first year students.

What do you like about studying in FASS?

I think the faculty is very well organized and filled with great and competent professors. And there is nothing better than studying what you love.

Tell us about your extra-curricular activities.

In my second semester I joined Dalhousie’s swing dancing society. It was something that I had never done before, and I was surprised to like it so much! Like I mentioned before, Dalhousie has many societies and I’m sure everyone can find something that they like or new interests.

What are some of your favorite things about Dalhousie?

I love how Dalhousie is a big university but you always run into the same people, so every day you are surrounded by familiar faces. The campus is beautiful and very well located; from errands to leisure, everything is about a maximum 20 minute walk away.

Dalhousie is always organizing fun events for its students, and it has a large variety of societies for all types of interests.

What advice would you give to an incoming international student?

Be open to new people and new experiences! You might be surprised! Also, if it is your first year at Dalhousie try to live in residence, it is much easier to make friends!

What advice do you wish someone had given you on your first day at Dal?

Don’t be shy in class and participate more. It makes a difference for the professors.

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International Centre

International students that come to study at Dalhousie represent more than 100 countries around the world. Dal has over 90 international exchange options for students.

Explore exchange, study abroad, and volunteer opportunities and learn about available funding at dal.ca/international.
Studying on the other side of the world
The benefits and adventures of studying on a student exchange
By Anna Howard
4th year International Development Studies major, Management minor

I did my exchange at the University of Western Australia, located in Perth.

Perth, on the southwest coast of Australia, is one of the most isolated cities in the world. It is actually closer to Asia than to the Australian capital, Canberra, or other major cities of Sydney and Brisbane. I chose to go to Perth because the University of Western Australia is one of the top-rated universities in Australia and the campus is world-renowned for its park-like atmosphere. Perth is also as far from Halifax as it is possible to go for an exchange, and I wanted to spend my five months as far away from home as I could!

When I arrived in Perth after a 30-hour plane trip, I was stunned by the beautiful weather. I had left Halifax in early February, the day after an ice storm and blizzard, and I arrived in Perth to 35 degrees and sunshine. I spent my first few days there exploring the city and going to the beach. It was a great way to orient myself to the city, which is more than four times bigger than the Halifax Regional Municipality. By the time I moved into my residence room in mid-February, I knew how to find my way around the city and how to use public transit to get anywhere I needed to go. My room at UWA was in University Hall which had an active social events committee, so it was easy to make new friends from around the world. Every night, I would hear kookaburras laughing in the trees outside my window.

I was eager to do an exchange because I decided to stay in my hometown of Halifax to attend Dalhousie, but I wanted to experience studying abroad. UWA was my first choice because of its wide range of classes and good academic reputation. UWA offers some unique classes, including many focusing on Australasian society and Aboriginal culture, that I would never have been able to take at Dalhousie. For example, I took a class focusing on “Australian Society: Facts and Fantasies” which gave me the opportunity to conduct some original research. I interviewed a fellow student from a rural Australian community about his family, his career ambitions, and his academic pathway, and applied sociological frameworks to analyze my findings. This was a great way to understand sociological research methods and I learned a lot doing it.

The benefits of doing an exchange are enormous: I have made many new friends and can now visit people around the world, I have become much more independent and self-sufficient and I have proved to myself that I can cope with new situations and can live away from Halifax friends and family. I would encourage FASS students to consider doing an exchange to have new adventures (I went camping on Rottnest Island, I spent my mid-semester break on Bali, I went surfing and skydiving, and I took many road trips in Western Australia); to open up new doors for their studies and their careers; and to challenge themselves with learning to study in a new environment.
Welcome from a new grad
By Emma Skagen
BA 2015 (Concentrated English Honours Program)

Hi everyone! Welcome to Dal's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences!

If you're anything like me, you're probably pretty nervous and excited right now—and with good reason. You're in for a pretty rocky, but extremely rewarding, ride!

When I arrived at my residence room in Gerard Hall back in 2011, having moved across the country from my hometown of Calgary, Alberta, I was painfully shy and felt really out of place. Dal felt huge and I was pretty freaked out.

Within a few months, though, my unconventional decision to take first-year Latin “just for fun” led me to meet some like-minded individuals who were quick to become some of the greatest friends I've ever had.

Not only did following my interests help me meet people, it also led me to more success at Dal than I ever really thought possible. By my fourth and final year, I was President of the Undergraduate English Society, Editor-in-Chief of Verso (a student-run journal), and receiver of two Dal Impact Awards for my contributions to campus life and faculty leadership.

I had a part-time job in the English department office, where I had the honour of getting to know many professors and even assisting some of them with their research. I even found myself writing freelance for Dal News—that's right, a paid writing gig!

I also started tutoring newcomers to Canada in English with Halifax Public Libraries—a way I found I was able to do what I love while also helping other people.

One thing that I wish I'd considered earlier on was a study abroad or exchange program. If you plan ahead, you can get a lot of your degree requirements under your belt beforehand and have less to worry about when it comes to transfer credits.

When I first came to campus, I felt pretty anonymous and raising my hand in class discussions seemed unthinkable; but by the end of my time at Dal, almost all of the professors in my department knew me by name and Dalhousie felt like my second home.

So, if you hear about something that sounds like fun to you, get involved! Learning more can be as simple as sending an email from the comfort of your res room. Also, be sure to explore Halifax! It's a great city with lots of interesting stuff happening, I'm sure you're going to love it!

As for me, I'm starting the adventure all over again at grad school in Victoria, B.C. this September. Wish me luck!

From campus life, to life-changing professors, to study abroad, hear how FASS students are discovering themselves and their passions here at Dal.

Visit dal.ca/faces-of-fass to watch their stories. What will your Dal story be?
Reflections from a FASS alumnus*

By Joseph Chedrawe
BA 2002 (French), LLB (2005)

“I’m doing a BA ... but I’m going to law school after that!”

That was my 17-year-old self’s response to more than one person’s surprise that I was doing a liberal arts degree, instead of pursuing a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education. I felt the need to justify why I had chosen to pursue a degree in arts and social sciences.

At the time I meant it. My BA (DAL ‘02) was just a stepping stone to law school. I did end up going to law school (DAL ‘05) and, a few years later, went on to pursue graduate studies at the University of Oxford (BCL ‘09, M.Phil ‘10) in the United Kingdom where I also became a lecturer in law.

But today I feel differently. My liberal arts education did (and does) matter. If I had to re-choose my degree program, I would choose the Dalhousie Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences all over again. The skills I gained from a liberal arts education - analysis, critical thought, problem solving, research, communication (verbal and written), to name a few – continue to play a huge role in my day-to-day professional and personal life. I was able to take courses in psychology, political science, philosophy, languages, history, literature and more. As a French major, I enhanced a practical skill and have been called upon to assist on legal cases because of that ability. My time as President of the French Society and a Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society representative gave me some of the best memories I have as an undergraduate student. My professors were passionate about their subject matter and genuinely cared about students’ education and general well-being.

My BA was (and is) intrinsically valuable and, even if I hadn’t continued to study afterwards, my liberal arts education has served me well.

*DEFINITION: ALUMNUS
A male graduate, or former student of a specific school, college or university. ‘Alumna’ refers to a female graduate. ‘Alumni’ refers to two or more graduates.

Source: dictionary.com

A native of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Joseph Chedrawe graduated from Dalhousie with a BA in French in 2002 and an LLB in 2005 where he was the winner of numerous awards, prizes, and scholarships. After graduation, Joseph worked for a Francophone judge at the Federal Court of Canada in Ottawa and was an associate with a law firm in Halifax, following which he attended the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, first as a graduate student, and then as a vice dean and lecturer in law. After working in international human rights law with the Legal Resources Centre, an NGO in Johannesburg, South Africa, Joseph moved to Dubai where he currently practices international arbitration law.

Learn more about FASS alumni at: http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/alumni-friends/alumni-profiles.html
At a glance...

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Accessibility
902.494.2836; access@dal.ca

Academic Advising
902.494.3077; advising@dal.ca

Frank G. Lawson Career Info Centre (Career Counselling)
902.494.2081

Writing Centre
902.494.1963; writingcentre@dal.ca

Health Services
902.494.2171

Office of the Registrar
902.494.2450; registrar@dal.ca

Student Services
902.494.2404; student.services@dal.ca

Counselling & Psychological Services:
902.494.2081; recepcps@dal.ca

Money Matters, Student Life, Library, Career Services and more!
https://my.dal.ca/

Need Help Finding a Job?
Come visit the Career & Leadership Development Centre.

We’ll review your cover letter and resume, show you how to find the right job, and connect you with the right employers.

4th Floor, Student Union Building
Open: Monday – Friday; 8:30am – 4:00pm
no appointment necessary
dal.ca/cldc

For urgent academic concerns
Contact Dr. David Matthias, Assistant Dean, Student Matters
902.494.1440; asstdeanfass@dal.ca

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Accessibility
902.494.2836; access@dal.ca

Academic Advising
902.494.3077; advising@dal.ca

Frank G. Lawson Career Info Centre (Career Counselling)
902.494.2081

Writing Centre
902.494.1963; writingcentre@dal.ca

Health Services
902.494.2171

Office of the Registrar
902.494.2450; registrar@dal.ca

Student Services
902.494.2404; student.services@dal.ca

Counselling & Psychological Services:
902.494.2081; recepcps@dal.ca

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We’ll review your cover letter and resume, show you how to find the right job, and connect you with the right employers.

4th Floor, Student Union Building
Open: Monday – Friday; 8:30am – 4:00pm
no appointment necessary
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