

# HISTORY NEWS

SUMMER 2023



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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## STAY CONNECTED

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

### GREETINGS TO ALL STUDENTS,

alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of Dal History! It's my pleasure to invite you to read this year's newsletter for updates on our activities over the 2022/23 school year — the first in a long time not to be significantly disrupted by COVID. True, Hurricane Fiona gave the year a boisterous start and we had a few bumps along the way, but it's genuinely been a delight to be back in the classrooms and hallways with each other in person. Challenges of various sorts persist, of course — not least for some, the dreadful wildfires raging on the outskirts of the city -- but we have much to celebrate and so much for which to be thankful. Certainly, I am deeply grateful to all the students, staff, faculty, and alumni who contribute so much to our collective endeavours. Thank you.

In the pages that follow you will find news from or about some of our students, staff, and faculty, past and present. Sadly, last summer we lost our retired colleague David Sutherland, known to many of you from his years as a highly respected teacher and supervisor. We offer our condolences to his family and many friends, and include the text of Judith Fingard's comments at David's memorial service. A loss of an entirely different sort: Alana Toulon, who has taught U.S. history with us over

the past three years, is off to a new job at Thompson Rivers University — we'll miss her and wish her well. But we also welcomed a few new additions and celebrate the arrivals of babies Asher, Anya, and Ifeanyi to the families of two faculty members and one of our PhD students. We had our first year with both Michele Edgerton and Jillian Durkee as our new office administrators, to whom we're all very grateful. And some faculty, past and present, have won significant recognition for their work, not least that bestowed by the Royal Society of Canada on Afua Cooper and Jack Crowley, described in the pages that follow.

We have much to celebrate, then. Above all, we celebrate our graduating students, at both Dal and King's. (This is, by the way, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dal/King's partnership.) Josephine Blenkhorn won the University Medal in History. Some other students' activities and achievements are noted in the pages that follow. I hope you'll join me in congratulating all of our grads and wishing them the very best for the days to come.

As ever, please get in touch with any news you might like to share. In the meantime, very best wishes from all your friends in History.

*Krista Kesselring*



*At the King's Encaenia, with Dr. Simon Kow and Lucy Boyd (BA '23).*

# UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY STUDENTS SOCIETY UPDATE

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMY PALECZNY

**THIS YEAR THE UGHS** put on a variety of events that helped to connect history students and history lovers alike at Dal. We started our year off with a general meeting and continued to have those regularly throughout the year. We also went on a Ghost Tour at Citadel Hill which was our best attended event of the school year. Just over twenty members came out to hear spooky stories and get in the Halloween spirit. The UGHS also put on a study night near exam season in the Fall semester for students to come out and have some tea and work on essays or prepare for finals. We had senior students there prepared to help out with citations, editing, or anything else. We also put on regular board game nights at the Board Room Game Cafe, which was a great opportunity for members to socialize and meet new people. At the start of the Fall and Winter semesters we also hosted student-prof mixers complete with coffee and donuts. We are also currently in the process of making the newest edition of our undergraduate journal, *Pangaea*.



*The UGHS Ghost Tour at Citadel Hill in 2022.*

### WOMEN OF HALIFAX TOUR WITH EMMA WANAY

Undergraduate student Emma Wanay created her own Women of Halifax Tour as a final project in the Heritage Studies Capstone course offered by Dr. Jerry Bannister.

The class, unlike previous classes she had taken, put a heavy emphasis on preservation and public history, which she immediately linked to Historic Preservation, a topic she became fond of while interning as a historic interpreter last summer at Fort Delaware State Park. The topic perfectly connected the preservation of history and landmarks and ensuring their accessibility to the public. This is what led Emma to create the tour, on a topic she “shamefully knew little about.”

Emma continued, “despite studying history in Canada, I had only taken one Canadian History course. So, in part, the project was a parting gift to my last four years in Halifax, a way to remember it, but more importantly, I knew other people were unaware of the importance of women in the history of Halifax and wanted to share their stories. I truly had so much fun making the tour, and only wish I had more time to perform extended research on the people and events I discussed and on other history I could have added. I hope in time the tour will continue to grow, and I have already received interest from others about what to add next.”

The tour currently consists of twelve sites and is primarily located in the center of Halifax. The tour is

made in no order (although she has a suggested route). Emma wanted it to be accessible, so people could start where they wanted and end where they wanted because not everyone has hours to dedicate to the tour. Her hope was to cover a large span of Halifax women's history, so she tried to find landmarks from all different time periods and different significant events. This was primarily because she wanted to ensure that everyone's story was told, with twelve landmarks, Emma looks to improve the tour over time. As Emma states, “for where the tour stands now, I think it is currently a testament to the variety of ways that women made their mark in Halifax.”

The tour can be accessed at [halifaxwomenstour.my.canva.site](https://halifaxwomenstour.my.canva.site).

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## DANIEL “DANNY” ENGLEHUTT

*Danny is an undergraduate history student graduating this Spring. Danny began his studies at Dalhousie in 2002. He won one of the 2021 Edith and Rose Goodman prizes for the highest grades in Canadian history classes and this year received the inaugural Michael Cross Memorial Prize for the best essay in Canadian or labour history.*

**Q: Why did you decide to study at Dalhousie?**

**A:** I always regretted not pursuing a university degree and my wife, Sarah, wanted to complete the degree she had started 10 years before. We agreed that if one of us registered for courses, the other would as well. So, we both decided to attend Dalhousie part-time.

**Q: Why did you decide to study history?**

**A:** I have always had an interest in history. My uncle Carman Miller was a historian at McGill. His work and publications influenced my decision to study history.

**Q: What changes have you noticed at Dalhousie during your time here?**

**A:** I began my studies in 2002, so the obvious answer would be technology. I smile when I see all the professors' mailboxes in the lobby of the FASS building. When I started my degree I still had to drop physical copies of all my papers in these boxes.

**Q: Do you have a favorite memory from your studies at Dalhousie? Any from the History Department?**

**A:** I have enjoyed the whole journey. I think that the limited course offerings in the evening were a blessing in disguise. I often had to take classes outside of my comfort zone.

My best memory at Dalhousie was meeting the late Michael Cross. In January 2002, on the advice of Hildi Konok, the Assistant Dean of Arts, I walked into Michael's class on social history. I often tell people that it was the best advice I ever received at Dal. Michael and I remained in contact from 2002 until his passing in 2019 and I considered him one of my closest friends.

In my time at Dal, I had Todd McCallum for three classes including a directed reading this past semester to end my degree. I appreciated and benefited from his help and guidance in my final semester at Dal. I took three classes from Ian Stewart at Kings and learned so much from him. I also appreciated the two classes I had with Ajay Parasram and my time in his classroom was enjoyable and engaging. His class on Mahatma Gandhi was one of my favourite classes.

**Q: What advice would you give to incoming and/or current students?**

**A:** I am not sure what advice I could offer. I did not begin my degree until I was 30. I was at Dalhousie because I wanted to be there, not because I had to be there and that made it easier for me to keep focused. I also was lucky enough to discover my love for history. When I left high school I had no idea what I wanted to study. Time management was the key to my success. I always tried to keep up with my readings and assignments. I could not afford to fall behind.

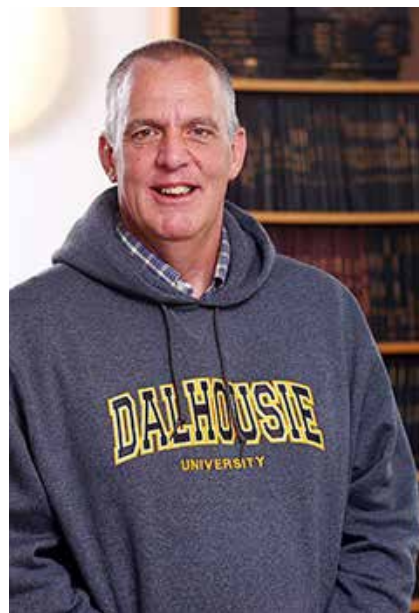


Photo: Nick Pearce

**Q: Congratulations on your graduation! What does completing your degree mean to you?**

**A:** I am proud to finish. Juggling family, work and school was challenging at times, but I have no regrets. I feel blessed to have met so many wonderful people at Dal.

*An [interview](#) was published by DalNews with Danny for the convocation storytelling student features.*



# AROUND CAMPUS (AND BEYOND)

## MY YEAR ABROAD USING THE DALHOUSIE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

*Second-year BA History student David Cowx describes his studies in Sweden.*

**MY NAME IS DAVID COWX** and during the 2022–2023 school year, I went on international exchange to the University of Gothenburg (Göteborg) in Sweden. While there, I studied history, political science, and French.

Studying at Göteborg was a good experience because it allowed me to expand the depth of my knowledge on Scandinavian history and European political science. Being physically located near the subjects of my history lectures meant that I could visit many of the sites and artifacts that came up in class. Political science courses were also enhanced by being able to witness many phenomena discussed and reflected, like the rise of certain parties or elections taking place. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to speak with a blend of students from across the world, offering first-hand accounts of policies as well as reactions globally that no class could provide.

In between the proper education, my stay abroad permitted me to expose myself to new countries. My trips led me to 12 new countries ranging from Sweden, Morocco, the UK and Poland. I also picked up some Swedish, which laid the groundwork to pick up some words in Danish too. These opened doors regarding which people or texts I could engage with, permitting me to learn on my own time. It was not necessary to be at university, simply being on this exchange improved my knowledge.



*A photo of Gothenburg taken by Cowx during the exchange.*

I should say that one's worst fears and highest hopes for their social standing when they move are equally valid. I was extremely lucky in my first semester abroad to find myself a solid group of friends with whom I felt I could do anything. As the New Year came and the second semester arrived with new students, I was not so lucky. Loneliness can and likely will happen at points, but fortunately you can create your own luck and lessen the chances of that by being social and exploring new tasks. A great way to meet people you like is by simply leaving the house sometimes. Finding an activity you prefer, in my case fencing, can connect you with others.

Paperwork surrounding every topic from academic credits to migration permits will arise and will likely be stressful. Fortunately it ceases to be a



*Nighttime in Uppsala captured by Cowx.*

large issue about the same time one arrives at their destination, assuming the matters were resolved. I highly recommend that those able to spend at least one semester abroad.

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### MASTERS STUDENTS' RESEARCH TOPICS

**Cindy Bergeron:** "The changing lives of women in 19th century Nova Scotia as portrayed through dress."

**Ava Clarke:** "The cultural significance of Mi'kmaq commodity art through the exploration of wood-splint flowers."

**Emily Martens-Oberweland:** "The relationship between humans and whales in 17th century England."

**Ally Montminy:** "Questions of 'accuracy' and 'authenticity' in relation to historical representation in video games (specifically Assassins Creed I-III)"

**Nico Olive:** "PanAfricanism: the consequences and effects of diaspora disappearance between 1945–1958"

**Trina Roache:** "How centralization, a 1940s Indian Affairs policy of forced relocation, impacted Mi'kmaq kin

networks in what we now call Nova Scotia."

**Adam Shannon:** "The nature of mid-twentieth century public history in Nova Scotia through the correspondences and career of Thomas H Raddall."

**Jamieson Urquhart:** "Nigerian intellectual debates over late colonial higher education and their implications on global citizenship theory."

# GRADUATE HISTORY SOCIETY UPDATE

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIESON URQUHART

**IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE IT IS ALREADY SPRING.** The Graduate History Society, like the rest of the Department, has much to celebrate! By flower's bloom, our small yet mighty group successfully hosted the 24th Annual "History Across the Disciplines" Conference, established Halifax Trivia dominance and amassed unrivalled Killam library hours. We used our collective brainpower to tackle pressing topics, such as whether *Too Hot to Handle* or *Love Island* offers reality television's best exemplification of the modern panopticon. What's more, we made crucial discoveries...not least that "together mode" (minecraft) ensures the optimal Microsoft Teams experience. We also proved through expert "turkey" preparation that, should we choose, the GHS could own and operate a Michelin star *chicken* restaurant.

We began the year with a seminar discussing the AHA controversy over presentism and its thorny epistemological ramifications. As academic products of a so-called "post-truth" era, most were unconvinced by the term presentism's pejorative quality. "Of course we only have the present," we gestured, "what comes next is what matters." That is not to say that we then turned to our respective research armed with anachronism. Instead, we affirmed that responsible scholarship was attuned to our inescapable position. Rather than being embarrassed by our unfortunate temporal condition — alienated from the very subjects we seek to understand, and therefore also from ever-so coveted "objectivity" — we thought we'd instead let it inform our conference theme: "History Speaks: Silenced Narratives and Social Change." We welcomed scholars that sought to rethink, challenge, and complicate dominant narratives by exploring and giving space to marginalised voices. As it was online, we were able to hear from scholars across Canada, India, Nigeria, Ghana, Singapore, and the United States. Thank you again to Trina Roache, distinguished



*The conclusion of the 2022-2023 Graduate History Conference.*

journalism professor at King's, closeted pool-player extraordinaire, and our cohort colleague, who delivered an excellent keynote on the importance of incorporating Mi'kmaq perspectives to reframe historic timelines. The various interests and insights of each panellist found purpose in their ability to enact change in the present.

Beyond the conference, the GHS cultivated a vibrant social and intellectual community.

(Along with being a serious scholarly society, how fortunate we are for each other's friendship). Our Society spearheaded multiple interdisciplinary gatherings with kindred graduate students from Philosophy and Political Science. Although the patterns of the FASS tapestry can still be more mingled and tightly woven, a task I urge incoming membership to continue. Looking forward, we are in the midst of developing a "from the archives" column for the *Dalhousie Gazette* and eagerly anticipate further collaboration with our undergraduate counterpart.

The GHS would like to express our utmost gratitude to Colin, for facilitating thought-provoking seminars, and to Emily, especially for her conference organisational work. Thank you also to our supervisors for their guidance; to Phil, for allowing grad students a chance to spread

their curling brooms; to Will, for orchestrating the Stokes Seminars; to those who were conference panel chairs; to the members of the graduate committee; and to Krista, for their department captainship! A very special thank you to Jill and Michele for their watchful omnipotence.



*Potluck preparation with the GHS.*

### EXECUTIVE TEAM

Jamieson Urquhart, President

Nico Olive, Vice President

Emily Martens-Oberwelland,  
Secretary

Adam Shannon, Treasurer

# GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

## CINDY BERGERON

*Cindy grew up in Southern Ontario in a mill town, Cornwall, right on the St. Lawrence River. She moved around a lot but after marrying, having four kids and a divorce, Cindy ended up staying in Nova Scotia. She is raising her two youngest while completing her MA. Navigating single motherhood and graduate studies is a constant balancing act. She loves being creative, which means many things. She creates mediaeval scrolls, builds miniatures for her five doll houses and, her peers know this all too well, she enjoys dressing up in costume and walking around campus.*



**Q:** What was your path to starting an MA in History at Dalhousie?

**A:** In 2018, I was diagnosed with colon cancer. I had to take chemo for about 8–9 months which brought me to the end of 2019. Towards the end of that same year, my family life changed significantly. I had been toying with the idea of going back to work...but then Covid hit. So, it made me rethink and reflect upon where I had been and where I was going. I applied to Dal on a whim to see if I would be accepted based on a thirty year old transcript (from Guelph). Because I was 52 when I started my undergrad, I wanted to work to get it finished quickly. During the course of my research, I looked at the possibility of completing a Masters degree and discussed it with my family, who supported me.

**Q:** You make things! How has this interest shaped your research?

**A:** I am currently studying material culture. This actually has a lot to do with my hobbies of recreating objects and clothing from the Middle Ages. The idea of taking an object and looking at it within the context of history is fascinating to me. So my Master's thesis is about women and how they claimed agency through the garments that they wore: the interesting dichotomy of women and clothing/textile production amidst the changes that were happening during that long nineteenth century, when the industrial revolution reverberated across the Atlantic to Nova Scotia. This wider context is another piece of the focus of my research.

**Q:** What has your favourite part of the process been?

**A:** Honestly, it's developing a relationship with my thesis advisor, Dr. Lisa Binkley; but as well with my cohort. I was actually quite surprised — pleasantly surprised — that the students that I spend time with throughout the course of this degree have been extremely supportive and open to having someone, probably older than their parents, working with them within this academic situation. So, am I enjoying my time at university? Definitely! Is it something that I have been wanting to do for a long time? Yes. The fact that I am actually on my way to completing my Master's degree is something that I don't think I would ever have imagined back in 2018 when that diagnosis reshaped my entire world. My four children are wonderfully excited for me about this process. I'm not sure what the next step would be. I would like to possibly teach, I've really enjoyed being a TA.



## EMILY MARTENS-OBERWELLAND

*Emily grew up on a farm in southern Ontario but fell in love with whales at the age of five. This fascination led her to Dalhousie University, where she started her Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology in 2018. While at Dal, she also pursued her second love and graduated with a combined honours degree in Marine Biology and History with a Minor in Musicology. Her supervisor, Dr. Krista Kesselring, inspired her to pursue an MA in History at Dal focusing on environmental history. This allowed her to combine both her passions and sent her down the path of interdisciplinary research.*



**Q: You have a (healthy) obsession with whales. Describe your research?**

**A:** Yes, I guess you could call it an obsession! It's changed the way I view the world and the past. That's how I ended up investigating the Early Modern English relationship between humans and whales, specifically during the tumultuous 17th century. There were so many political, social, religious, and intellectual changes during this time and it's surprising to see just how many places whales pop up! You can find references to whales in the political and legal sphere as "royal fish" (meaning they solely belonged to the sovereign), in the economic sphere as the conquest of the burgeoning whaling industry, and in the social and religious spheres as the big "leviathan" or as monstrous prodigious beings sent from the heavens. My work is essentially an amalgamation of these appearances which sheds light on the ways in which people interacted and reacted to whales, the ocean, and animals in early modern England.

**Q: Your undergraduate was in the sciences. What can academic science and art learn from each other?**

**A:** So many things. Communicating research more effectively for instance. But all jokes aside, the arts and humanities—especially history—can play an incredibly important role for the sciences. When communicating new research, understanding the history behind the subject you are researching—and therefore understanding the social implications of your work—can help scientists more effectively communicate their work. On the flip side, historians and other arts departments can benefit from science's understanding of how the natural world works to better understand how our past worlds worked. Beyond this... interdisciplinary work is just so incredibly important. Nothing should ever be analysed or considered in the vacuum of just one discipline. "Problems" are multi-faceted and thus our approach towards them should come from multiple angles. This requires us working alongside not just other disciplines but valuing other knowledge sources that have been absent from academia in the past. That's my biggest issue with the word interdisciplinary... it still cuts out certain knowledge sources. A fisherman knows his waters better than any marine

scientist could and the indigenous knowledge that has been passed down for generations would take lifetimes for researchers to gather and understand.

Acknowledging, valuing, and working together with various knowledge sources and disciplines should be the only way forward. So, I guess, the biggest thing that science and art can learn from each other is that they can, in fact, learn from each other!

**Q: Your exciting interdisciplinary work is going to continue! Tell us about your upcoming program.**

**A:** Yes! The saga continues. I will be starting a MSc in Marine Biological Resources at the University of Ghent this fall. Not to worry though, I plan on continuing down the interdisciplinary path, taking what I've learned about conducting historical research and applying it to future endeavours. The IMBRSea program is an ERASMUS program where each semester takes place at a different university based on course specialisation. Not only does this help me familiarise myself with various marine ecosystems, but it also brings together many people from different fields, nationalities and disciplines. Being lucky enough to hop from country to country is just an added benefit!

# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

*The Department of History extends heartfelt congratulations to all our 2022/23 graduates for their dedication, hard work, and many achievements. Good luck with all your future endeavours!*

## MASTER'S GRADUATES:

Jacob Bolton

Lisa Bower

Catherine Charlton

Conor Hubley

Alex Kennedy

Amber Laurie

Evelyn Riddell

Jeremy Spronk

Heywot Tadesse



*Heywot Tadesse, shown here at the Fall 2022 convocation, is now at the University of Toronto beginning a PhD in History.*



*Catherine Charlton, MA '22, now works as a regulatory officer at McGill University and is shown here with her grandmother, Betty Veinot, who received her own MA in History in 2014.*

## UNDERGRADUATES (BA OR BSc, DAL OR KING'S, WITH A MAJOR OR HONOURS IN HISTORY)

Yomna Abd El-Rahaman

Nour Aly

Brooklyn Babcock

Benjamin Barnes

Hannah Beaulieu

Zachary Bild-Lowrie

Josephine Blenkhorn

Alyson Boone

Lucy Boyd

Sarah Bradbury

Maya Bridge-Cook

Simon Brodnitz

Meaghan Bulger

Cassandra Burbine

Benjamin Derible

Tristan Dinneen

Wolf Engelberg-Schneiderman

Daniel Englehutt

Veena Erasmus

Melissa Fior

Andrew French

Abigail Hanson

Mitchell Hutchinson

Leah Jenkins

Hayley Kirk

Cynthia LeClair

Pascale Legault

Madison Matthews

Stuart McEachern

Kathleen Mckenna

Emma McNiven

Judith Meyrick

George Mitchell

Samuel Moore

Makayla Morgan

Amy Paleczny

Liam Queripel

Callum Saunders

Graciela Simpson

Sarah Tanner

Isabel Teramura

Maxwell Te-Scott

Paola Tolentino

Evan Wakal

Emma Waney

Emma Ward



# DEPARTMENTAL STUDENT AWARDS, 2022/2023

*In addition to congratulating all prize winners, the History Department would like to offer its thanks to the alumni and donors whose generous gifts have made these prizes and scholarships possible. This support enables the continued celebration and encouragement of academic excellence among History students.*

**THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL FOR HISTORY**, awarded on the basis of the best undergraduate record among Honours students in History.

**Josephine Blenkhorn**



**GEORGE E. WILSON SCHOLARSHIPS:** Prize for the most meritorious essay by a first-year student. **Ev Ross**

First year scholarship, for a student with high standing in an introductory History class. **Thet No No Hillary**

Scholarship for students completing an honours or major in History with high standing. **Matthew Heard**

**THE EDITH AND ROSE GOODMAN PRIZES FOR CANADIAN HISTORY**, for students with the highest marks in Canadian history courses.

**Matthew Heard** and **Sophie Keddy**.



**THE TOM AND ADA JENNEX UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**, for a History major finishing third year who demonstrates academic excellence in the study of the Atlantic World.

**Alice Twa**



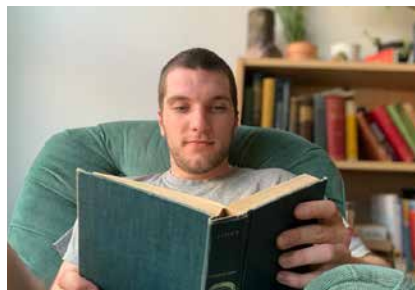
**SUSAN BUGGEY ATLANTIC WORLD HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP**, awarded to a History major in recognition of the importance of studies in history that connect Atlantic Canada and its people to a multicultural world outside its region, nation and continent.

**Matthew Hamilton**



**LVK SCHOLARSHIP** for students who excel specifically in History.

**Liam Alabiso-Cahill**



**THE COMMONWEALTH HISTORY PRIZES**, to facilitate and encourage the study of Commonwealth or British history. This prize is awarded annually for the best undergraduate essay on a topic relating to the history of Britain and/or the Commonwealth countries and is funded by a gift from Dr. David Jessop and Dr. Karen Ostergaard.

**Justin Mager** and **Tristan Dinneen**



**THE MICHAEL S. CROSS MEMORIAL UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE**, for the best essay in Canadian or labour history. **Danny Englehutt**

Also: **THE CLAN RAMSAY OF NOVA SCOTIA PRIZE**, awarded to a student registered in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for the best paper dealing with any aspect of the influence of Scottish culture within Canada: **Jaida Lapsley** for work submitted to HIST 3274, History of Nova Scotia Since Confederation.

# FACULTY UPDATES

## DR. LISA BINKLEY

Dr. Lisa Binkley focused her teaching on enhancing experiential and active learning, connecting with students in her courses in a meaningful way. Her most recent effort included a two-week field course in Aotearoa/New Zealand with fourteen Indigenous students from approximately seven different nations from across Canada and the United States. The course, which was cross listed between Indigenous Studies and History was generously funded by the Government of Canada's "Global Studies Opportunity," which saw the opportunity to support international study travel to international destinations for previously underprivileged groups. The field course took place over four in-class sessions prior to departure that prepared students in areas of intercultural competency and a history primer in Māori culture. Dr. Binkley's third-year seminar/lecture course on Métis History and Culture offered students the opportunity to participate in the co-authorship of a graphic novel, focused on the concepts of the

bullying, stigmatization, and lateral violence that many marginalized groups continue to face in Canada. The project, which is funded by Canada Race Relations Foundation and considered part of the course curriculum, is in the process of being professionally illustrated by artist Nicholas Alföldy and considered for publication. This experience was further enhanced by the opportunity for students to take this course in the recently remodelled Active Learning Classroom, an initiative of Dr. Binkley and Suzanne LeMay-Sheffield of the Centre for Learning and Teaching. The new classroom, outfitted with brightly coloured modular furniture that could be easily moved around the room to accommodate alternative modes of teaching, disrupts the concept of the traditional classroom that customarily positions the instructor at the front. This new configuration proved inspirational for the students in the Métis Histories course, where in this new flexible format, students could work in groups and reconfigure desks as they needed to effectively discuss course content and work on the graphic novel.



*Aotearoa/New Zealand students at Raukawa University with host delegates from Victoria University.*

## DR. AFUA COOPER

Dr. Afua Cooper has continued her efforts as the Principal Investigator for **A Black People's History of Canada**, a research project aimed to create teaching resources surrounding Black history in Canada. In June 2023, Dr. Cooper received an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa in recognition of her research and contributions to African Canadian history and culture. As described in this DalNews story, Dr. Cooper was also the recipient of the Royal Society of Canada's J.B. Tyrrell Historical Medal, in recognition of her research achievements. For more on her work and the medal, see the DalNews story, "[Weaving Black History into the Canadian Narrative.](#)"



*Photo by Cody Turner.*

Three Dal History members participated in the University of King's College public lecture series, **Representations of Colonization and De-colonization**, giving talks now available on Youtube:

Dr. Lisa Binkley: "[The Display of a Haudenosaunee Silk Patchwork Quilt at the Caughnawaga Grand Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition](#)"

Dr. Aaron Wright: "[Nuclear Exposures: Photographic Archives of Canadian Uranium Mining](#)"

Dr. Philip Zachernuk: "[Of Good Africans & Witch Doctors: The Entangled Story of How West African Activists Worked to Decolonize Late Colonial Film](#)"





Dr. Hanlon receiving his membership with the Order of the Cavalieri del Fiume Azzurro.

## DR. GREGORY HANLON

In September, Dr. Gregory Hanlon published his latest book, *Death Control in the West 1500–1800: Sex ratios at baptism in Italy, France and England*. This sweeping neo-Darwinian overview of neonatal infanticide by married parents is the first of its kind for Europe, and offers a new, and much grimmer account of the Western demographic transition. Twenty years in the making, it contains contributions by five Dalhousie honours and graduate students, under their own names. The book was presented to faculty/graduate seminars this winter at the Sorbonne (a supporter of this research from the outset), Lyon, Bordeaux (Dr. Hanlon's alma mater), and Bologna.

Dr. Hanlon has also been inducted as an honorary member complete with diploma and medallion, into the Order of the Cavalieri del Fiume Azzurro, a Lombard cultural association that sponsors military re-enactors for the Thirty Years' War. Every year they put on a show on the site of the battle of Tornavento (1636). Dr. Hanlon's 2016 book, *Italy 1636: Cemetery of Armies*, was a close study of the battlefield experience in the seventeenth century, inspired by neo-Darwinian research on universal instincts of men in combat.

Dr. Hanlon's next project is a neo-Darwinian approach to display behaviour in northern Italy during the Baroque era, 1570-1730. Those interested in this research are recommended to take Dr. Hanlon's Dalhousie course HIST 4175, Splendour and Display in Early Modern Europe.

## KRISTA KESSELING

Krista Kesselring began the 2022/23 academic year at the British Legal History Conference in Belfast and ended it at the European Social Science History Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden. In addition to presenting material on the history of consent and forced marriage, she added a bit of tourist-time for visits to the Giants' Causeway and Bohus Fortress. Over the year, she had a book chapter on the history of godparenting and friendship appear in print, which she describes as a somewhat cheerier topic than much of her other work. A previously published piece, "Law, Status, and the Lash: Judicial Whipping in Early Modern England," won the North American Conference on British Studies' Walter D. Love prize for the best article published in the field in 2021. She continues to blog at [www.legalhistorymiscellany.com](http://www.legalhistorymiscellany.com) and is beginning a new project on the history of witchcraft trials.



## DR. COLIN MITCHELL

Dr. Colin Mitchell published two pieces over the past year, the first being a conference paper titled, "Prophets and Historical Icons: Historical Sensibility and the Early Safavids" which was presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Association of Iranian Studies in Salamanca, Spain, in the Summer/Fall of 2022. Dr. Mitchell also published "The Early Safavids, 1450-1510: Embodiment and Disembodiment" in *Iran-namag*, an issue dedicated to doctoral supervisor Dr. Maria Subtelny.

## RECOGNITION FROM THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA- DR. JACK CROWLEY



The History Department congratulates Dr. Jack Crowley for being elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. One of three scholars at Dalhousie University elected to the Fellowship this past year, Jack joins 2558 scholars from across Canada who have been awarded this distinction for their contributions to their respective fields. Jack has been involved with influential historical research for over forty years, where his insight into global economics and politics have influenced national and transnational scholars alike. "Recognition by the Royal Society of Canada is among the highest honours of Canadian academic life," says Alice Aiken, Dalhousie's vice president research and innovation. "It makes me incredibly proud to be able to herald these tremendous Dalhousie researchers among Canada's top scholars. Their work advancing science, policy and human welfare is exemplary." For more, see the [DalNews](#) story.



# INSIGHT INTO GRADUATE RESEARCH AND THE CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION:

## A CONVERSATION WITH DR. WILL LANGFORD

Dr. Will Langford is an Assistant Professor within the Dalhousie History Department who specializes in Canadian history, particularly twentieth-century social history.

Dr. Langford's first book, [\*The Global Politics of Poverty in Canada: Development Programs and Democracy, 1964-1979\*](#), analyzes the history of programs and policies targeting poverty in Canada.



### THE DECISION TO PURSUE GRADUATE RESEARCH

is a big decision for any undergraduate to make as they prepare for graduation. Pursuing graduate studies involves a financial commitment, a time commitment, and a commitment to your own research skills. Dr. Will Langford is well aware of the process having graduated from his MA at UBC in 2011, and his PhD at Queen's in 2017. It was during his time at UBC that Dr. Langford became involved with the Canadian Historical Association (CHA), an organization geared towards Canadianists that supports historical inquiry, discussions, papers, and research. Will became further involved with the CHA after his PhD as an Atlantic Canadian representative within the association and was a part of discussions within

the CHA surrounding the precarity of history instructors and instruction across the country.

Dr. Will Langford's contributions to the CHA have helped foster key resources for both studying and established academics. The CHA provides a number of publications, reports, and conferences surrounding precarity, employment, and finances across Canadian history which can serve as resources for graduate students. Will noted that the CHA includes a graduate student board, which voices the concerns of students directly to the association's executives.

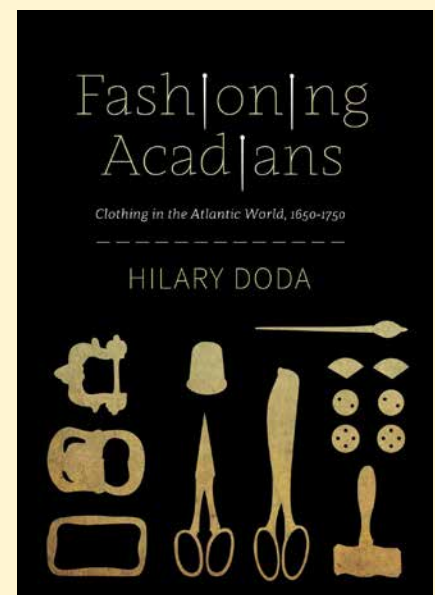
When asked what advice he would give to both prospective and current graduate students, Dr. Langford provided a variety of insights informed by both his work within the CHA and his own personal experiences. "Be knowledgeable and have a plan," Dr. Langford noted, "prepare for change and be flexible." Informing students through honest and collaborative reports, Dr. Langford hopes his work with the CHA is helping students make informed decisions, create a plan for their future, and be flexible with their studies.

The resources of the CHA, and the contributions of Dr. Langford can both be found on the Canadian Historical Association website at [cha-shc.ca](http://cha-shc.ca).

## BOOK LAUNCH ANNOUNCED

### FASHIONING ACADIANS: CLOTHING IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD, 1650-1750 BY DR. HILARY DODA

A graduate of Dal's History and Interdisciplinary Studies programs and now an instructor in Costume Studies, Dr. Hilary Doda has announced the release of her newest book, *Fashioning Acadians: Clothing in the Atlantic World, 1650-1750*, set to release this coming Fall. Dr. Doda's anticipated release is described as "a history of clothesmaking and dress in Acadia from 1650 to 1750. Through the analysis of four Acadian settlements in what is now Nova Scotia, Hilary Doda uncovers the regional fashions and trends that had begun to emerge prior to the violence of the deportations of 1755."



# AROUND CAMPUS (AND BEYOND)

## COMMUNITY ENGAGED HISTORY AT WORK: GRACE MCNUTT'S RESEARCH WITH BK716

*Grace McNutt is a PhD candidate studying Atlantic Canadian history, having previously graduated with an MA in History from Saint Mary's University in 2020. As well as her studies at Dalhousie University, Grace is also a Board Member for the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, and has been a part of Dalhousie's OpenThink program.*

### DIRECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

is a special experience for any historian.

Taking up an opportunity that was forwarded by her advisor, Dr. Jerry Bannister, Grace McNutt became involved in an international experience commemorating Canadian history. In Autumn of 2020, the wreckage of BK716, a British Second World War aircraft was recovered near Almere, a municipality in the Netherlands. Wanting to commemorate the crewmen, a magazine was organized by the community highlighting the history of the aircraft and the individuals who served onboard. Along with students from across Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, and the United Kingdom, Grace had the opportunity to provide her research skills and expertise. The research culminated in an online publication, and an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crash presentation within the community of Almere, which Grace had the opportunity to attend in March.

When asked to reflect on the experience, Grace highlighted feeling the significance of her research and the findings when she was present within the community. The visibility of her efforts within Almere reminded Grace of how important community engagement is for academically driven research. "I could feel the importance of the material when present there. I got to meet the mayor and Canadian emissaries," Grace stated. "This plane is so important for the municipality and the families."

For more information on both the project and Grace's contributions, information can be found at [bk716.their-story.org](http://bk716.their-story.org).



*Grace and other researchers presenting the material in Almere, Netherlands.*



*A photo taken by Grace of a statue commemorating the aircraft and crew.*

# ALUMNI NEWS

## ALUMNI PROFILE: LAURA HYNES JENKINS



*Laura is currently the Director of Government Relations at Dalhousie University. Her work focuses on finding areas of alignment and opportunities for collaboration between the mission of the University and the priorities of governments at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels. Throughout her career, she has served as Chief of Staff to Dalhousie's President, as a Dalhousie Government Relations Advisor and as a political staffer in the Nova Scotia Premier's Office and Legislative Assembly. Laura is also a double Dal alum with a BA in History and Spanish ('07) and a Master of Arts in History ('09).*

**Q: What was your specific area of research? Were there any professors you had as direct supervisors or had frequently for courses?**

**A:** I completed my MA with Dr. Gregory Hanlon. My research focused on infanticide in early modern Europe, specifically the study of sex ratios at baptism in the northern Italian city of Parma in the first half of the seventeenth century. I had a hard time deciding on an honours and masters area of research, I loved so many of the classes I took at Dal during my undergrad: a directed reading with Dr. Hanlon where we worked with primary materials, the history of seafaring with Dr. Bannister, WW2 with Dr. Bell, Early Modern England with Dr. Kesselring were among my favorites.

**Q: Do you remember any certain details or emotions related to your graduation?**

**A:** My undergraduate convocation was so rewarding. It felt like such a significant milestone: all the long hours had added up to something substantive. My parents and then-

boyfriend (now husband) came and we just really soaked it in.

I actually didn't attend my Masters convocation. I finished my thesis in December and didn't graduate until May. I went backpacking in February and watched the livestream of my convocation from a hostel in Sydney, Australia. I was awarded the Governor General's medal for arts and my parents attended on my behalf to accept it. They were so excited, and it was nice to feel part of the ceremony even though I was on the other side of the world.

**Q: How have your studies impacted your career and career path?**

**A:** I loved research. My history degrees taught me how to conduct research, how to analyze data, and to form credible, informed arguments. My undergraduate and Master's theses also taught me how to tackle a project—to prioritize my time, break a project down into manageable pieces, etc. When I graduated, I wanted to see how I could apply these skills in a non-academic setting. I ended up working as a researcher for members of the Nova Scotia Legislature. There I got to apply these skills researching and developing proposals for new legislation and policy and doing public affairs research. I supported the development of a political platform and developed a strategy to roll out strategic initiatives. From there I jumped to Dal where I spent 5-years working with the Faculty of Health and

now 5-years with government relations. In this role, I support units across the university to develop new initiatives aligned with government priorities. Research, data analysis, and argument construction have been essential skills in all these roles.

**Q: Do you have any fond memories you'd like to share from your studies?**

**A:** A group of us who did our honours in history continued on to do our MAs. We had a great time holding Graduate History Society meetings in the old grad house and hanging out at Bleak House where we had our offices.

**Q: What advice would you provide prospective, current, and/or recently graduated students?**

**A:** I loved studying history. I'm so glad that I chose to study humanities. Not only did it allow me to indulge a passion for history, but it also equipped me with both hard and soft skills that have been directly relevant to my career. I credit much of my ability to strategize, to think outside the box, to consider differing opinions, and to find solutions to complex problems to my time at Dal and grounding in humanities and research. You may have to be more creative in articulating how the skills you learn in a humanities degree apply in the workforce, but they are 100% relevant and valued.



# AROUND CAMPUS (AND BEYOND)

## BONSPIEL!!!

We have challenged one another for a quarter century (plus COVID time), to be the Best Curlers in History, or to Lose with Grace. Here are the 25<sup>th</sup> iteration highlights.

The "Best Curlers in History" were led by Marc Gordon, ably assisted by Debbie Sutherland O'Brien, Thomas Mitchell, and John Nwosu.



*Best Curlers in History.*

Most decisively, the last place "Losing with Grace" trophy went to the UGHS squad: Amy Paleczny, Emma Waney, and Nabil Abi Daoud. Each won a gift certificate from Bookmark bookstore on Spring Garden Road.



*The UGHS Team winning the Losing with Grace Trophy.*

Nabil went overboard (at least three times) to win the "Best Fall." Mikhah Bjorge drew on his Alberta curling DNA to be voted MVP. Deanna Foster was lauded for her Best Potluck dish, a chocolate Curling Rock cake!



*Jamie Urquhart bestowing the MVP prize on Mikhah Bjorge.*

Thanks in part to some generous donations, we managed to raise \$200 for the Graduate History Society's coffers.

Many thanks to co-organizer Jamieson Urquhart and, as ever and above all, to Phil and Carol Zachernuk for organizing and for hosting the post-bonspiel potluck.

## THE NEW OFFICE CREW

Our thanks to Michele Edgerton and Jill Durkee, in their first full year with us in their new roles as program administrators!

From Jill Durkee:

"I am a former Dalhousie History student. I completed my honours in 2014 and worked in the Nova Scotia Museum industry for 8ish years (before and after graduation) previous to working at Dal. I was also a TA for a few different King's courses. If I TA'd any active students in the department... I am so sorry for my white board mind maps. I love when students visit, and I'm very happy to chat about grad studies or the heritage industry. Would also accept pet slideshows, soup recipe exchanges, and craft/home project updates. This is my first year in the grad office, and I'm still figuring out how to fill Val's monumental shoes, but I'm very excited to return to the Dalhousie History department and be a part of your learning journey."



*Michele Edgerton- Outside of her time in the History Department, Michele paints with various art groups, walks, hikes, drinks lots of tea, and gardens.*

From Michele Edgerton: "It's hard to believe I've been in the Admin Coordinator role a year already! I'd previously worked in the Philosophy

Department and supported the History Grad admin during Covid. It has been good to finally meet department members in-person over the last year. History is a great department to work in and I'm also very fortunate to be working with my colleague Jill."

## PORTRAIT RECOGNIZING HISTORIAN DANIEL PAUL UNVEILED

A new portrait of Mi'kmaw historian Daniel Paul by Alan Syliboy has been officially unveiled.



*At an event held in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean's Office, the painting was unveiled to Elder Paul.*

Last Fall, Dalhousie Professor Margaret Robinson started the process for recognizing Daniel Paul that culminated in the portrait after learning of Elder Paul's cancer diagnosis. After consulting with the History Department Chair Dr. Krista Kesselring, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean Jennifer Andrews, and Acting President and Vice-Chancellor Frank Harvey, the process was started through Project Dal to raise funds for a commission from Mi'kmaw artist Alan Syliboy.

Elder Paul's ground-breaking book *We Were Not the Savages* has been of major historical significance in Canadian history. His efforts as a historian and activist have resulted in multiple distinctions including the Order of Nova Scotia, the Order of Canada, and the Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. Memorial Elder Award. The portrait of Elder Paul will be hung in the foyer of the Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building at a later date. "Having Dr. Paul's portrait hang in the foyer of the McCain Building is also a way to help Dalhousie reflect its location on Mi'kmaw territory," Dr. Robinson says. "Seeing our culture celebrated lets Mi'kmaw students know they belong here."

# STOKES SEMINARS 2022/2023

*The Larry D. Stokes Seminar aims to stimulate productive discussion about history and historical practice. It takes place most Friday afternoons during term time, with departmental presenters joined by invited guests from Halifax and beyond, usually presenting works-in-progress. Seminars are open to the public and now, since COVID, are run as hybrid sessions. If you're interested in joining next year's seminars, keep an eye on our website for the Fall and Winter 2023/24 schedules as they appear, or email Jill Durkee ([gradhist@dal.ca](mailto:gradhist@dal.ca)) to be added to the email distribution list. Our thanks to Will Langford for organizing and chairing this year's sessions.*

## FALL

**23 Sep** – Cassandra Luciuk (Dalhousie University) – “They Will Crack Heads When the Communist Line is Expounded”: Anti-Communist Violence in Cold War Canada

**7 Oct** – Norman Pereira (Dalhousie University) – My Past and Thoughts (with Apologies to Alexander Herzen)

**14 Oct** – Jamie Jelinski (Dalhousie University) – “This Sculptor is a Cop”: John Reginald Abbott, Murder in Montreal, and the RCMP's Criminal Identification Masks

**21 Oct** – Julia Rombough (Acadia University) – Noisy Soundscapes: Women's Institutions, Sound, and the Body in Early Modern Florence

**28 Oct** – Parisa Zahiremami (University of King's College) – Sufism, Kingship, and The Politics of Patronage at the Ghaznavid Court: Sanā'i (d. 1131) and His Royal Patron Bahramshāh (r. 1117–1157)

**4 Nov** – Mariah Cooper (Dalhousie University) – The Third Identity: Pregnancy and the Rapable Body

**18 Nov** – Priyamvada Gopal (Cambridge University) – “Mahatmaji, I Have No Country”: Ambedkar, Caste and Decolonisation

**25 Nov** – Stephen Snobelen (University of King's College) – Science as a Vehicle for Satire, Parody and Comedy in Early Eighteenth-Century London

**2 Dec** – Justina Spencer (University of King's College) – Refracting Rhetoric Inside Jean-François Niceron's “Perspective Telescope”

## WINTER

**20 Jan** – Adriana Benzaquén (Mount Saint Vincent University) – “These small symptoms of my obediense”: Negotiating Father-Son Conflict through Letter-Writing in Early Modern England”

**27 Jan** – Julia Poertner (Dalhousie University) – Narratives of Nature and Culture: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**10 Feb** – Isaac Saney (Dalhousie University) – Cuba, Africa, and Apartheid's End: Africa's Children Return!

**17 Feb** – Courtney Mrazek (Saint Mary's University) – Housewives, Breadwinners, and Students: Gendered Elements of the War on Tuberculosis at the Nova Scotia Sanatorium, 1904–1969

**1 Mar** – Royden Loewen (University of Winnipeg) – Contested Knowledges: Canadian Agronomists and the Southern Peasant

**10 Mar** – Stephan Pigeon (Dalhousie University) – Journalism from Below: Sub-Editors in the British Press System

**24 Mar** – Shirley Tillotson (Dalhousie University) – From Noble dream to Nightmare: Public Opinion and Economics in the Tragedy of Canada's Prices and Incomes Commission, 1968–72.

**31 Mar** – Danielle Inkpen (Mount Allison University) – Footprints in the Snow: Toward a History of Searches for Yeti

**11 Apr** – Mike Bjorge (Dalhousie University) – “...can't we just conscript them?” Western Canadian Coal Miners, Wildcats, and the Assault on Wartime Wage Controls, 1940–1944

## MACKAY LECTURE SERIES

*The MacKay Lecture Series is an annual event in which recognized scholars and speakers from across the globe give public talks on research relating to the Humanities and Arts, funded by the generous gift of Gladys MacKay in appreciation for the education that her husband, the Reverend Malcolm Ross MacKay, received at Dalhousie as a BA student in History.*

Given the COVID-disruptions in 2021/22, we had two speakers this academic year:

The 2022 MacKay History Lecture organized by Dr. Ajay Parasram featured Dr. Priyamvada Gopal, who discussed the foundational Bandung Conference of 1955 and its legacies.

The 2023 MacKay History Lecture organized by Dr. Will Langford featured Dr. Royden Loewen, who discussed agricultural knowledge as reflected in letters by Manitoba Mennonite settlers published in a diasporic newspaper and scientific pieces from American farm magazines during the 1880s.



# IN MEMORIAM

## DAVID SUTHERLAND

*Members of the History Department were sorry to hear of Dr. David Sutherland's death last summer and offer our condolences to his family and friends. A specialist in Atlantic Canadian history, Dr. Sutherland taught in Dal's History Department for nearly forty years. As well writing as his numerous publications, David supervised 15 masters students, 4 doctoral students, and a multitude of honours theses. With thanks to Professor Emerita Judith Fingard, we print here extracts from her comments at David's memorial service.*



### MY THANKS TO BETTY AND IAIN

for asking me to comment on my association with David the historian, a dear and valued friend for the last 50 years. He and I joined the faculty of the Dalhousie history department in the early 1970s and we were about the same age. At that time the interests we shared related mainly to research, but we also taught a course together in the early years of the development of what we had hoped, in vain, would become a curriculum in Atlantic regional history. It was so very convenient to have an abundance of sources to draw on even if they often had to be the fruit of our own individual research rather than an analysis of already published and respected interpretations. Those heady days also had their pitfalls. Both of us became absorbed in the production of entries for the new Dictionary of Canadian Biography, known in the trade as the DCB, writing that was sometimes a by-product of research interests but at other times an interruption of that work. At this time of commemoration the editorial staff of the DCB offer the following tribute to David.

'A biographical dictionary based on primary sources is an onerous engagement for historians that almost certainly diverts them from other activities essential to the advancement of their careers. They do not write for the paltry sums we offer but rather out of a sense of professional duty, and fidelity to the idea of the DCB and its usefulness to anyone interested in Canada's past. Without the allegiance of scholars, such a work would be impossible. From the 1970s to 2022, David Sutherland devoted precious time, energy, and talent to the DCB, both as a contributor of 30 biographies across volumes 5 to 15, and as a consultant always ready to offer advice, suggestions, and help. The completion of one small biography is, we believe, the equivalent to the effort required for a scholarly article. In short, it represents a prodigious amount of exacting work and even a David Sutherland could only do so much. Certainly, we took him to the limit — lucky us! In the days of the printed DCB, successive volumes mentioned David in the acknowledgements for his stalwart, unwavering support. We are pleased to record our appreciation one last time: Many served us, few as well, none better!'

For a period in the 1980s David also became immersed in research for the Historical Atlas of Canada and, more national work such as service on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board followed in the 2000s. In the meantime in the late 1990s he worked with Janet Guildford and me on a popular, illustrated history of Halifax to mark the city's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At Dalhousie his continued contributions to teaching included the supervision

of 15 MAs and 4 PhDs. As one of our local archivists and former students has suggested: 'David's lasting influence as an historian is probably his teaching and encouragement of others.'

By the time he retired from the Dalhousie history department, he was active in our local history society, the RNSHS, presenting and/or publishing 10 contributions. He faithfully attended monthly meetings of the Society, and served on the Society's council including a three-year term as president between 2006 and 2009. In 2012 he was appointed a fellow of the society. Until the pandemic, David spent many hours researching reels of microfilm and documentary collections especially at the Nova Scotia Archives. His work to produce an analysis of a sampling of the vast collection of Halifax explosion documents published by the Champlain Society in 2017 constitutes a major contribution to the complicated 20<sup>th</sup> century history of this city and its people. He was also involved in the development of content for the website of our Provincial Archives. As it began to add online resources, David quickly learned the mysteries of how these products were constructed, and how writing styles had to be adapted to suit this new research format. As for David's own research, sadly a project which centred on the year 1929 as a pivotal focus was still in progress at the time of his death. [...]

Always gracious but upfront David was for me a gentleman and a scholar, as well as a kind friend, especially when he and Betty came to my rescue during a time of great need in my life. I will always miss him... May his memory be a blessing for Betty and Iain and an inspiration for the rest of us.



# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have an interesting story to share?  
Know of a former classmate who is doing  
something exciting and newsworthy?

Email us at:  
**HISTORY@DAL.CA**

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