



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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FROM THE CHAIR

AND SO, WE HAVE EMERGED,
eyes blinking in the sunlight, from
another year of online learning,
mask-wearing, and being told that we're
on mute. After having lectured for years
using terms like "disruptive change,"
"critical junctures," and "disequilibrium,"
we all got to experience these concepts
in real time.

Academic life will never be the same.
Few meetings will be in person, student
papers are all submitted online, and de-
partmental research seminars may regu-
larly include curious participants from
several different continents. There are
great opportunities, but also unfortu-
nate losses in the restructuring of aca-
demic life. One aspect of this – already
fading away before the pandemic hit –
was the decline of spontaneous discus-
sion erupting in the hallway when the
trajectory of faculty and students, mak-
ing their way to and from the photocopier,
the coffee machine, and the wash-
rooms, intersected and facilitated minor
bits of conversation that could suddenly
escalate into insightful and fascinating
observations and critiques on a myriad
of subjects. The intellectual sparks from
these chance encounters could keep
one's synapses firing for hours.

That aspect of academic life is gone,
and I will mourn it. The convenience of
web-mediated professional life is both
advantageous and seductive, but we
should never lose sight of the sense of
community and joyful spontaneity of in-
tellectual exchange that makes univer-
sity life an edifying experience rather
than a box to be ticked on the road to
other things.

The pandemic – and current events
in Europe – have also made us look at
what we do differently. When the world
seems to be on the brink of unanticipat-
ed catastrophe, when we see how some
states are able to inflict pervasive and



gratuitous suffering on others, how can
we be content to chatter about theories
and frameworks and regression anal-
ysis? In 1939, as WWII was devouring
university students across Europe, C.S.
Lewis asked the same question: "why
should we -- indeed how can we -- con-
tinue to take an interest in these placid
occupations when the lives of our
friends and the liberties of Europe are
in the balance?" Perspective, he sug-
gested, was vitally important: the war
hadn't actually created a new situation;
it merely exacerbated existing human
situations until we could no longer ig-
nore them:

*Human life has always been lived
on the edge of a precipice. Human
culture has always had to exist under
the shadow of something infinitely
more important than itself. If everyone
had postponed the search for
knowledge and beauty until they were
secure the search would never have
begun. We are mistaken when we
compare war with "normal life". Life
has never been normal. Even those*

Continued on next page

FROM THE CHAIR *cont'd*

periods which we think most tranquil, like the nineteenth century, turn out, on closer inspection, to be full of cries, alarms, difficulties, emergencies.

And so, we as political scientists try to carry on in our own period of cries, alarms, difficulties, and emergencies, understanding that these political tensions have always been a part of human society (there is a reason, after all, that we make you read Hobbes).

I do want to salute all those students who have been with us over the past two years. These years have been difficult, but you made it through, against all sorts of adversity, and now you know you can face the next wave – literal or metaphorical – when it comes. The best things you have achieved this year aren't what we've tried to give you: it's what you've done for yourself, and it's the kind of person you've been able to become at the end of it (which is what Nietzsche suggested, although

the point is more profoundly learned through experience than through aphorism). So: for all our recent students, please be proud of what you've accomplished. Paraphrasing that great feminist scholar Ginger Rogers, not only have you been able to achieve what previous cohorts of undergrads have accomplished, but you've been able to do it backwards and in high heels.

I also want to give a shout-out to our younger faculty, who have done a heroic job in the past few years. It's difficult enough to try to find your feet as a lecturer, and to become part of an established academic community, but to do so in isolation and under duress is exceptionally demanding. Scott, Leah, Kiran, and Igor – you've done a fantastic job under arduous conditions – things can only get easier!

A note of thanks as well to the rest of our terrific faculty: to Kristin, for shepherding the graduate program; Anders,

for the undergraduate program; Bob, for the Honours program; and Margaret, for the LJSO program; Peter, Brian, and Ruben, for keeping the CSSD and JM-EUCE Centres on track; Louise, for all her extracurricular work for the federal government on the Electoral Boundaries Commission (and for pointing me towards C.S. Lewis); and to Tracy and Mary, who are the beating heart of our unit. Rachael, we're looking forward to having you join us; Dave, we're looking forward to having you back from sabbatical, and can't wait to tell you all the new committees we've put you on.

I'm honoured to be part of such a fantastic team. It's been a hard year, but we've pulled together, and made it work. Onwards!

Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck,
Political Science Chair

OUR FACULTY



Besides his teaching load, **DR. PETER ARTHUR** was a member of the department's equity, diversity, and inclusion

(EDI) committee. The committee focused on incorporating EDI issues into the various aspects of the department's activities as colleagues, educators, and mentors. Additionally, he began his membership in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' (FASS) Research Development Committee (RDC). Also, he assumed the position of the Director of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD). Along with these, he worked on various research papers and presented a paper, "Jerry Rawlings' leadership, media civil society and Ghana's democratic

consolidation process," at a workshop, "Centres peripheries, interstices: towards an eclectic political economy of global development," that took place on 28-30 October 2021, at Dalhousie University. He is currently working on having that paper published by Springer in a book, **Jerry John Rawlings Leadership and Legacy: A Pan-African Perspective**, to be edited by Felix Kumah-Abiwu and Sabella Abidde. Also, together with K. T. Hanson and K. Pupilampu, Peter Arthur submitted a book proposal titled **Sustainable Development, Digitalization and the Green Economy in Post Covid-19 in Africa** to Palgrave Macmillan and awaiting response from the publishers. The book would examine sustainable development in Africa post Covid-19, specifically zeroing in on issues such as governance, digitalization from a perspective of natural environment and

climate change, agriculture, education, as well as the green economy. Also, Dr. Arthur served as an external examiner for a number of graduate theses at the University of Ghana, Legon. Finally, Dr. Arthur would be undertaking a year's sabbatical leave from 1st July 2022. During that period, he hopes to undertake research on the impact of COVID-19 on the activities and operations of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Ghana.



During his third year as a faculty member in the Department, **DR. KIRAN BANERJEE** spent the past year teaching courses,

both online and in the classroom, researching and writing, preparing several grant applications, as well as remotely engaging in a number of collaborative projects. His class offerings featured a graduate and advanced undergraduate seminar on international ethics, as well as an upper-level course on the global politics of migration. He also acted as an MA thesis supervisor for the first time in the Department, as well as served on three dissertation committees. Banerjee also had the opportunity to serve on both the FASS and Departmental EDIA committees over the course of the past year, as well as act as one of the inaugural Stanfield Fellows. In addition to receiving the news of a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) application, Dr. Banerjee has been involved in several new grant submissions. This past winter, he also hosted a highly productive SSHRC funded workshop focused on North American migration governance. The contributions from the workshop are part of an edited volume under advanced contract; the book will be dedicated to Banerjee's mentor and former colleague from the University of Saskatchewan, Joseph Garcea, who was one of the initiators of this project, but tragically passed away in fall of 2020. The coming months will have Dr. Banerjee focused on a number of initiatives, including a workshop he is co-organizing this summer, a study of the international dimensions of Canada's role in responding to forced migration, and ongoing research on the pandemic's impact on refugee resettlement. As the year comes to a close, he would like to express his thanks to the staff and his colleagues in the Department of Political Science, as well as his students across all his classes.



DR. DAVID BLACK celebrated the end of his five-year term as Chair with a year of leave – which quickly filled up with a variety of new and ongoing

projects. These included the successful defences of three wonderful PhD candidates – now Drs. Susan Manning, Nafisa Abdulhamid, and Elikem Tsamenyi. He will miss them all, but is happy to see them successfully launched on new careers. This was followed in September by the first annual **Stanfield Conversation on Democracy – Democracy on Edge**, featuring two of Canada's outstanding theorists of democracy, Professors Charles Taylor and Simone Chambers, and moderated by Dalhousie alum and host of CBC's *Power and Politics*, Vassy Kapelos, for which he co-chaired the Organizing Committee. Watch out for the second annual "Conversation" in October 2022, on "Technology, Media Fragmentation, and the Crisis of Democracy in America." In late October of 2021, he threaded the Covid needle once again, working with several others to organize a workshop on "Centres, Peripheries, Interstices: Towards an Eclectic Political Economy of Global Development," which doubled as an opportunity to celebrate the careers and contributions of former Dal faculty, Professors Tim Shaw and Jane Parpart. Following a second workshop in June of 2022, this project will yield several new special journal issues.

Some of his ongoing projects were engagingly disrupted by new opportunities related to 'world events'. His longstanding interest in Sport and Politics, and particularly in sport sanctions, led to several media engagements and some [new writing](#) in the shadow of the Beijing Winter Olympics, including interviews with the *Economist*, the *South China Morning Post*, and the *USA Today*. He also had the pleasure of collaborating with his new colleague, Dr. Kiran Banerjee, on chapter concerning the relationship between Canadian foreign and forced

migration policies for a new book project on Canada in the Global Refugee Regime.

Alongside these and other new projects, he continued his SSHRC-funded work on "Canada and the New Politics of Partnership", working with IDS colleague John Cameron on Canada's "partnered" involvement in Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health and Rights. And he continued as part of the leadership team and co-lead of the South African country team for a major SSHRC Partnership Grant project on "Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development" (EDID), which has led to rewarding new collaborations with members of the South African disability sector among many others.

Indeed, the year was full enough that he wonders where he will fit in teaching, as he adds it in this fall! He is, however, looking forward to returning to in-person classes and getting to know a new 'crop' of Dalhousie undergraduate and graduate students.



DR. BRIAN BOW focused mostly on teaching this year, with a new version of POLI 1065, and planning for a new upper-level course on capitalism,

technocracy, and populism. He wrapped up responsibilities as co-lead (with Veronica Kitchen) of the North America group within the Defence and Security Foresight Group (DSFG). Work continues on two ongoing research projects, one on transgovernmental networks and anti-globalization movements, and one on the "export" of police and justice-system models. In 2022-23, he will be going back to serve as Honours program coordinator and director of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD).

Continued on next page

OUR FACULTY *cont'd*



DR. KATHERINE FIERLBECK: This year marked the wrap-up of her Transparency project with the publication of the book *Transparency,*

Power, and Influence in the Pharmaceutical Industry: Policy Gain or Confidence Game? with the University of Toronto Press in July, supported by web symposia on transparency for Lancaster University's *Health in Europe* series in June, the MacEachen Institute in November, and Carleton University's symposium on Ghost Management in April.

The SSHRC project on Health Equity with Elizabeth McGibbon also culminated this year with two journal articles (in *Critical Studies* and the *Canadian Journal of Critical Nursing Discourse*). Katherine's Covid-19 research continues apace, with a book chapter in the forthcoming volume *Public Health Political Science: Integrating Science and Politics for Public Health* (Palgrave-MacMillan) as well as a brand-new CIHR grant focusing on a forensic dissection of provincial responses to the pandemic. Looking beyond Covid-19, she has organized a workshop in the UK this June with participants from across Europe, the US, Canada, and Australia examining the comparative response to re-thinking public health in the wake of the pandemic, the proceedings of which will constitute a new book to be published by World Scientific Publishing's Global Health Economics and Public Policy series.

Another project wrapping up is a book on the various forms of public health care in Canada not covered by the Canada Health Act. This volume, *Straddling Medicare: Boundary Challenges for the Canada Health Act* (co-authored with Greg Marchildon) is currently in press with McGill-Queen's University Press.



DR. ROBERT FINBOW: Though delayed by Covid-19, the book from the Erasmus + project *CETA Implementation and Implications:*

Unravelling the Puzzle will be released in September by McGill-Queen's University Press. I am completing an overview of transatlantic trade relations between the EU and Canada and the US for the *Research Handbook on Transatlantic Relations* for Routledge publishers. I am also finalizing a chapter for a special issue of *Politics & Governance on Re-Embedding Trade in the Shadow of Populism*. In May I presented to the online workshop for CEIM in Montreal on the topic "Built in Obsolescence? how weak social clauses in multilateral trade deals helped fuel populist backlash". In the fall term, I participated in online workshops on CETA's 4 Year Anniversary, on Dispute Settlement under the CUSMA and on EU-US trade relations. I completed my term as Honours Coordinator for the department and helped guide our best students to completion of the honours project and defenses.

I am very appreciative of the department's nomination for the Eric Denis Memorial Chair in Political Science and honoured to follow so many distinguished predecessors since the founding of the Chair a century ago. Special thanks to current Department Chair Katherine Fierlbeck and former Chair David Black, along with Tracy Powell, Acting Dean Jure Gantar and the FASS Professional Development Committee for their work on the nomination. It is of course mostly a nod to the fact that I have somehow managed to hang in there and make some contributions through times of change and have not yet kicked the bucket. But considering the purposes of the Denis endowment does give pause. It seems my career is bookended by awards created to recall the sacrifice

of two young persons – similar in age to our students - who lost their lives in the Great War, the war to end all wars. First the George H. Campbell Memorial Scholarship as an undergraduate at Dalhousie 45 years past and now the Eric Dennis Memorial Chair. It does make one reflect on the good fortune to have longevity in an era of comparable prosperity and peace, and to last long enough to see many desirable changes and excellent colleagues and students pass through these halls. The world may appear shaky and unstable but the Department with its new compliment remains on a solid footing.

"Dalhousie is honoured in being made the custodian of these monuments of Nova Scotia heroism. And what more fitting monuments could be erected to the memory of these gallant sons of our province, who gave their lives for freedom and democracy? Both gifts express, in a far-seeing and enlightened manner, the very principles for which the donor's sons have fought and died. In both cases these public-spirited men have the same patriotic object in view, namely, to democratize higher education in Nova Scotia. The George H. Campbell scholarships will bring the advantages of University training within reach of a larger number of Nova Scotia boys and girls. The Eric Dennis Chair of Government and Political Science—the first chair of its kind to be established in any Canadian University—will broaden the influence of Dalhousie as a force in the moulding of the future citizenship of the country."

—E. P. Duchemin, "Valedictory," *Dalhousie Gazette* L, no. 10-11p. 13- 14 (June 18, 1918)



In July 2021, **DR. KRISTIN GOOD** began her term as the department's new Graduate Coordinator. She has enjoyed working more

closely with the department's excellent graduate students. In terms of writing and research, her co-edited textbook, *Canadian Urban Governance in Comparative Perspective* will be submitted over the summer months. She is currently focused on analysing and writing up her findings for a project on Indigenous-newcomer relations and "decolonizing" local immigration policymaking. She was awarded the Faculty of Arts and Social Science's Burgess Research Award this year to recognize and assist with the completion of this work. Dr. Good also continues to conduct research that critically examines the constitutional status of municipalities in Canada. In this vein, she contributed a chapter to an edited book on this subject and was invited to contribute to a new blog's (The State & Local Government Law Blog – SloG) symposium on Prof. Ran Hirschl's recent book *City, State* (OUP 2020). As founding co-editor (with Dr. Martin Horak) of the McGill-Queen's Studies in Urban Governance book series, Dr. Good continues to review books and promote the series.



DR. ANDERS HAYDEN has been examining the emerging idea of a "wellbeing economy," building on his recent work on "beyond GDP"

measurement. He recently submitted an article on the question of whether a wellbeing economy is a sufficiency (i.e., post-growth) economy. He gave an invited talk on the topic to the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome and a related presentation at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. A book that he has been co-editing with Céofride Gaudet and Jeffrey Wilson, *Towards Sustainable Wellbeing: Moving*

beyond GDP in Canada and the World (University of Toronto Press), will finally see the light of day this autumn. He wrote a review of Peter Victor's new book, *Herman Daly's Economics for a Full World*, which reminded him of how significant an influence Daly has been on his thinking. He has work in progress with Ralph Torrie on the role of sufficiency – i.e., actions to reduce volumes of production, consumption, or levels of energy-consuming activity – in a low-carbon transition. Dr. Hayden has been serving as the department's Undergraduate Advisor and on a number of departmental, faculty, and College of Sustainability committees. Overall, 2021-22 was a down year in terms of productivity, which is a reflection of the burnout that he has been increasingly conscious of. (To see if you "pass" the burnout test, too, see the [Maslach Burnout Inventory](#).) He has given media interviews on these issues and the related phenomenon of "internalized capitalism" (the idea that one's self-worth becomes tied to constant productivity) but is aware that doing additional work on the subject of excessive work is more of a symptom of the problem than a solution. In the years ahead, he aims to reduce his work hours, giving up income to do so – an idea that he first wrote about a quarter century ago that he now aims to put in practice once again in his life.



DR. RACHAEL JOHNSTONE is excited to be moving to Halifax to join the department after completing her maternity leave in April. She is

looking forward to finally having a chance to meet with her colleagues in person and get to know the students in the department.

Work has been slower than usual this past year (for understandable reasons!), but she is pleased that her article "Equality Rights, Abortion Access, and New Brunswick's Regulation 84-20" (co-authored with Dr. Emmett Macfarlane

at the University of Waterloo) has been published in the *University of New Brunswick Law Journal* in advance of a major court case in the province concerning the constitutionality of this regulation. This piece builds on her growing body of work on reproductive rights in Canada, including an ongoing project on maternity and parental leave for elected representatives, funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant, that she will be picking up again this fall.



DR. SCOTT PRUYERS had the opportunity to teach two brand-new classes this past year. This includes Political Representation (a

3rd year undergraduate class), and Canadian Parties in Comparative Perspective (undergrad/grad split). Both classes were remarkably rewarding, and, despite the pandemic, held (mostly) in person! In addition to teaching, he supervised two excellent honours students and facilitated a reading course regarding grassroots party politics in Canada. Dr. Pruysers continued his role as an editorial board member of two journals (*Frontiers in Political Science* and *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*) and served on a number of departmental/faculty committees.

During the last year he published several articles in journals such as *Frontiers in Political Science*, *Personality and Individual Differences*, and the *American Review of Canadian Studies*. He is thrilled to announce that his most recent book, *The Political Party in Canada* (with William Cross and Rob Currie-Wood) has been accepted and is forthcoming with UBC Press. The book provides a detailed account of the composition, functions, activities, and internal power-dynamics that characterize Canadian political parties. Rather than viewing parties as singular or monolithic organizations, the

Continued on next page

OUR FACULTY *cont'd*

book disaggregates parties into their distinct, and often competing, faces. Moving forward, Dr. Pruyssers had two SSHRC Insight Grants (one PI, one Co-applicant) that were successfully funded in 2022. These grants will support the next phase of his research agenda.



In last year's newsletter, **DR. LEAH SARSON** expressed her expectation that we were slowly transitioning out of the pandemic. Of

course, this proved very wrong as yet another year has passed amid the anxiety and uncertainty of COVID-19. Over the past year, Dr. Sarson has regularly marvelled at the ongoing enthusiasm and grace of her students, many of whom have yet to experience a "normal" academic term. She is particularly proud to have successfully supervised her first two MA students. Dr. Sarson took on two new courses this term, including Indigenous Politics in Canada, for which she was privileged to welcome eleven Indigenous speakers into the classroom. Dr. Sarson has several forthcoming pieces, such as an article in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* exploring Indigenous law-making and a chapter comparing the foreign policies of Prime Ministers Stephen Harper and Justin Trudeau. In addition to continuing her

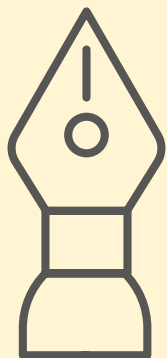
SSHRC-funded work on Indigenous governance in the Arctic, Dr. Sarson was delighted to be part of a successful Department of National Defence MINDS grant related to military activities in the North American Arctic. Dr. Sarson also enjoyed serving as a Senator on the Dalhousie Senate, as well as several other committees. She is looking forward to getting back in the classroom in the new academic term and participating in upcoming in-person conferences.



DR. RUBEN ZAIOTTI: Since it has been the topic of my last two newsletter entries, I promise this time I will not mention how Covid-19

disrupted my (and everybody else's!) plans last year. What I will say, however, is that I miss regularly going on campus to my office overlooking the Quad and seeing my colleagues in person. A picture taken from my window as my video conferencing background is not the same as the real thing...Not to mention that my office chair is much more comfortable than the one I am using at home... (By the way, it is actually a dining chair, and, by the look of it, it is clearly not happy that I am sitting on it beyond lunch and dinner time...). Talking about chairs (in the academic sense), I do have some news to report. My Jean Monnet Chair has

been renewed! A Jean Monnet Chair is a three-year teaching and research position awarded by the European Commission to scholars in various disciplines in recognition of their interest in the European Union. I held this position from 2018 to 2021. The new chair will last until 2025. Besides teaching courses on the European Union, I will work on a new research project on the topic of border control. Managing flows of people and goods at Europe's internal and external borders is a challenging endeavour, especially in times of crisis (i.e. Covid-19, Brexit, refugees). With this research project, I plan to explore how EU institutions and member states have responded to these challenges and the impact of these decisions. One of the highlights of last term has been a public forum on the war in Ukraine that I hosted (online) in the early days of the Russian invasion. Colleagues from Dalhousie, Saint Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent University fielded questions from the audience, trying to make sense of this tragic event. Besides my chair's activities (past and future), last year I continued my work as director of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence. I am glad there is a separate article on the centre in the Newsletter, otherwise I would have to break my self-imposed promise of not talking about Covid-induced disruptions. And, indeed, the Centre had quite a few...



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

If you wish to share your alumni story in our next issue of the Political Science Annual Newsletter, please reach out to psadmin@dal.ca

STANFIELD CONVERSATIONS: TALKING DEMOCRACY

Kiran Banerjee and Scott Pruyers

THIS PAST FALL SAW THE LAUNCH of the inaugural *Stanfield Conversations: Talking Democracy*. The series builds on the legacy of Rt. Hon. Robert L. Stanfield, a long-serving former Premier of Nova Scotia and celebrated former leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party. This ongoing series will focus on critical challenges to democracy and imaginative and inspiring responses to them.

The first Conversation, titled 'Democracy on Edge', took place Thursday, September 23, 2021, and featured Professor Charles Taylor, an internationally-celebrated Canadian political philosopher whose wide-ranging work has bridged philosophical theory and political action, and Professor Simone Cham-

bers, a leading international specialist in democracy studies and political theory, current Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of California Irvine. Complementing the public lecture, graduate students at Dalhousie were invited to a special 'Master Class', with Taylor and Chambers leading a seminar.

A dozen graduate students participated in a lively discussion that touched upon some of the contemporary challenges facing democracy today. The ensuing conversation, informed by key texts provided by Taylor and Chambers, offered student participants a chance to critically engage with and provide their own perspectives on these central issues. This included an en-

gaging dialogue regarding the danger of populist parties and rhetoric, concerns of growing fake news and online manipulation, and questions regarding democratic backsliding more generally. A tremendous success, the Master Class will be a staple of future Stanfield events for years to come.

Please also see The Stanfield Conversations: Talking Democracy – "What is Democracy? Video where students, professors, and alumni share their own thoughts on what democracy means to them: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4C90jD3p0U>



NICK HARRIS – KING’S 33RD RHODES SCHOLAR

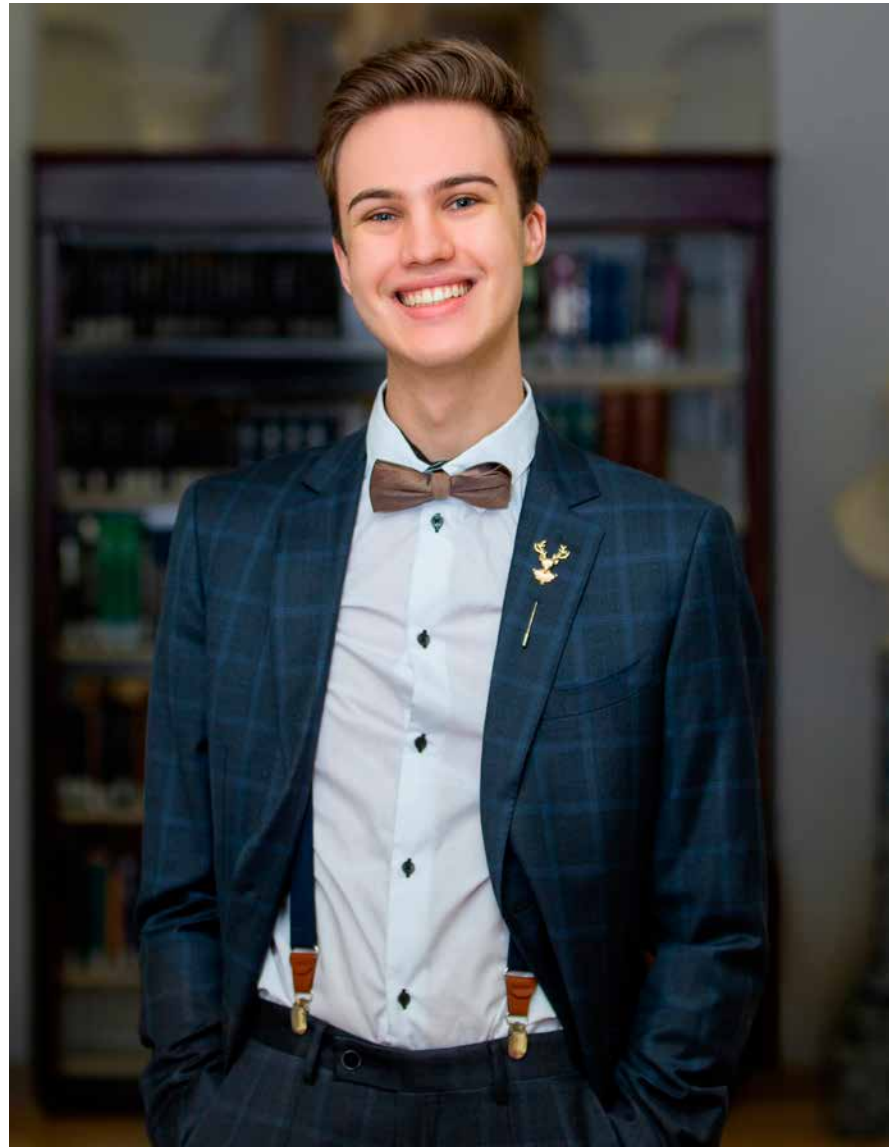
BA: Honours in Political Science and Law, Justice & Society (Spring 2022)

ORIGINALLY COINED BY DONALD DUCK, the term Flipism is a pseudophilosophy under which decisions are made by the flip of a coin. There was a time that I never thought I would attend university. In fact, there was a time that I never thought I would finish high school. So, when it came time to choose, I flipped a coin. I flipped a coin and found a home.

My name is Nick Harris and I am a recent graduate in Political Science and Law, Justice, and Society at University of King's College and Dalhousie University. This year I was selected as Rhodes Scholar. The Rhodes Scholarship, based at the University of Oxford since 1903, brings together more than 102 exceptional individuals from around the world each year to complete undergraduate or graduate studies. Eleven students from Canada were chosen for the class of 2022. Individuals apply and are chosen after a rigorous selection and interview process based on their academic excellence, leadership, strength of character and dedication to solving humanity's greatest challenges. At Oxford, I am pursuing a Masters of Philosophy in International Relations. I always thought that politics was about bringing people together, recognizing you can only go so far by yourself. International Relations recognizes that when you have a community by your side you can overcome the world's seemingly impossible challenges.

This would not be possible without countless mentors who have helped me learn and grow. I'm thankful to my mentors at Dalhousie, including Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck, Dr. Larissa Atkison, Dr. Louise Carbert, and Dr. Margaret Denike. You've all inspired me, in so many different ways, to put my all into any community I find myself in.

The thread that connects each chap-



ter of my life is a belief that we can always make tomorrow better, despite whatever circumstances we face today. I believe the Rhodes Scholarship will provide the right environment for me to learn more about international institutions and the challenges this world is facing, and will face next. Through this gift, I hope to understand how I

can contribute to tackling my generation's set of impossible challenges—and those of the next generation. After all, in the words of Nelson Mandela, 'it always seems impossible until it's done.'

So what's next? Guess I'll just have to flip a coin. <https://ukings.ca/news/nick-harris-kings-33rd-rhodes-scholar/>

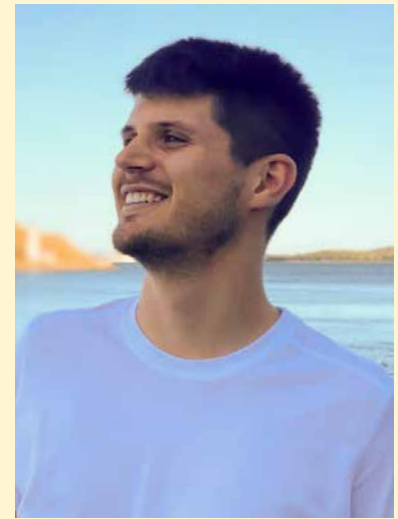
VALUING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The Practicum Placement in Public Policy

Margaret Denike

WHILE COVID-19 FORCED MUCH OF the work of the University and of local organizations to be conducted virtually and in isolation, the Practicum Placement course provided several students with an opportunity to gain first-hand experiences at a government and/or non-governmental organization, community service, or research institute. All twenty students who had applied for this program this year were granted the opportunity to receive academic credit for spending one day each week over the course of the winter term in their choice of a work placement, under the mentorship and supervision of a director. These placements combined both virtual and face-to-face practical experiences in offices such as the Department of Justice, the Halifax Refugee Clinic, the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs; the Dallaire Institute; the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; and the Canadian Rights and Freedoms Centre, among others. The supervisors have been unanimous in acknowledging the quality of our students and the value of their contributions to their organizations. Indeed, although it was never part of the plan, a few of the students have been kept on over the summer, to continue their work on the projects and initiatives that they were pursuing through the placement. The testimonials of two students capture the impor-

tance of these opportunities for them: as described reported by Sam Beaton, "Working with the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia allowed me to feel part of an important team while having an opportunity to develop skills that will benefit me in a workplace setting in the future. ... During my brief hiatus with the organization, I learned many valuable skills such as communicating with the public, holding productive meetings, and lastly, taking a simple idea and growing it into something empowering and meaningful." Another of our graduating students, Jacob Burchell, describes his experience at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, where he conducted research under the guidance of the Executive Director, and worked collaboratively with CCPA contributors: "As a political science student, this [experience] was eye-opening for me because I was able to see the personal side of my discipline, which is otherwise theoretical, historical and/or analytical. Getting to experience the practical and hands-on aspect of my discipline was amazing, and it was the affirmation I needed as I finished my degree."



DAL'S LATEST PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU FOUNDATION SCHOLAR DECIPHERS OUR CHANGING DEMOCRACY

Political Science PhD Tobias Gerhard Schminke latest Dal recipient Genevieve MacIntyre - May 27, 2022

TOBIAS GERHARD SCHMINKE, a PhD student in Political Science, is Dalhousie's newest Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation scholar. This scholarship is among the most prestigious, national awards in Canada. The Foundation received 500 applications this year; and Tobias was selected as one of only 13 recipients.

This three-year leadership program is designed to train engaged leaders, equipping outstanding doctoral candidates with the skills to translate their ideas into action, for the betterment of their communities, Canada, and the world. Scholars are selected each year and receive leadership training in the context of Brave Spaces, in addition to generous funding for their studies.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.dal.ca/news/2022/05/27/trudeau-scholar-2022-dalhousie-tobias-gerhard-schminke.html>

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT (CSSD)

Peter Arthur, CSSD director, 2021-2022

DESPITE THE COMBINATION OF

online and in-person teaching, both faculty and students helped to make the 2021-22 academic year a good one for the Centre for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD). Members and Fellows of the Centre were involved in a number of events. First, the CSSD was involved in organizing, together with Dalhousie Students' Union (DSU), the Sobey School of Business Community Revitalization & Prosperity Network, and Saint Mary's University Student Association (SMUSA), a debate on 13th September 2021, featuring political party candidates for the Halifax riding during the federal elections. Also, the Centre Director, Dr. Peter Arthur, and the Assistant Director, Grant Curtis, participated in a workshop, "Centres peripheries, interstices: towards an eclectic political economy of global development," that took place on 28-30 October 2021, at Dalhousie University, CSSD. Aside from these, the Centre hosted a talk by the Consular General of the Israeli Embassy (Paul Hirschson) based in Montreal on 18th Nov 2021. The talk, delivered

in the POLI 2520 class, focused on the initial steps that led to the normalization of diplomatic relation between Israel and the United Arab Emirates in 2020. The talk built on the Consular General's unique insight as one of the first two Israeli diplomats sent to the UAE in 2005. Also, on 10th March 2022, the CSSD together with Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence (JMEUCE), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the Office of Advancement, Dalhousie University, sponsored a discussion, "The Conflict in Ukraine: A Forum." This talk and discussion focused on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Finally, the CSSD co-organized with Dalhousie Political Science its annual Glyn Berry lecture/talk on 31st March 2022. This year's lecture, titled "From Coutts to Kyiv: Shifts in World Order" was delivered by guest speaker, Dr. Andy Knight of the University of Alberta. The talk/lecture focused on connecting the dots between the local (the recent truckers' protests in Canada) and the global (Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine), highlighting the current period of flux, un-



certainty, disorder and violence.

Dr. Knight argued that throughout history, there have been periods similar to this one that signal a transitional moment from one world order to another. Additionally, the Centre welcomed Dr. Nafisa Abdulhamid and Roger Thompson as the newest Research Fellows, and looks forward to their contributions towards the success of the Centre. Finally, Dr. Brian Bow has agreed to take over as Centre director for a year from 1st July 2022, while Dr. Peter Arthur, the substantive director, is on sabbatical leave.

JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (JMEUCE)

ANOTHER YEAR... ANOTHER

disheartening catalogue of cancellations and postponements sprinkled with yet more zoom presentations. However, May 2022 finally saw the return of in-person activities – the first for nearly 27 months – with an international workshop (details below). So far there are no signs that the reckless mixing of participants from Nova Scotia, Ontario and Europe resulted in a super-spreader event, so perhaps we are starting to reach the light at the end of the tunnel...?

For most of the year, however, JMEUCE events were held relentlessly online, with some also being available for watching afterwards via the News and Events section of the JMEUCE website. These included the Speaker Series:

- **Euro-African borderwork and local politics in the Sahel.** Philippe Frowd, Political Studies, University of Ottawa.
- Collaboration on Viscount Bennett Chair Roundtable on International Economic Law - **Dispute Settlement Under the Canada-United**

States-Mexico Agreement: Perspectives from North America and Europe.

Andrea Bjorklund, Faculty of Law, McGill University, Frank J. Garcia, Boston College Law School, Camille Martini, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, Sergio Puig, James R. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona, Olabisi D. Akinkugbe (Moderator), Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University.

- **The Conflict in Ukraine:** A Forum with panel members from Mount Saint Vincent University: Maya

Eichler; Saint Mary's University: Lyubov Zhyznomirska (JMEUCE Fellow); and Dalhousie University: Denis Kozlov, Leah Sarson, Anders Hayden (JMEUCE Associate), Brian Bow (JMEUCE Fellow) and Moderator Ruben Zaiotti (Director, JMEUCE). Held in collaboration with the CSSD, FASS and Office of Advancement, Dalhousie University.

- **EU-Russia-Ukraine Relations: Diplomatic Reflections.** Richard Wright, former EU Ambassador to Russia. Online event for students (by invitation) held at – and in partnership with – University of Surrey.

With the ongoing constraints around gatherings here and challenges with travel to/from Europe, most of our more student-focused activities continued to be postponed or cancelled. We look forward to seeing those resume next year. At least Covid-19 has not stopped students writing essays, so it was possible to offer the annual JMEUCE Essay Prize. The 2022 award went to Faith Gladwin, who has just finished her third year of a double major in Political Science and Law, Justice and Society. Her winning paper on "Rising Populism: The Fall of the European Union?" is available in the [Publications](#) section of our website.

The main highlight of the year was the in-person international workshop on Asylum Regimes, Bordering Practices and Asylum Seekers' Experiences: Gendering Violence and Precarity in Forced Migration (5th – 6th May 2022).

Panel from International Workshop (5th - 6th March 2022)

This was a collaborative initiative between the Centre and the WASEM Project, led by JMEUCE Fellow, Evangelia Tastsoglou of Saint Mary's University where the event took place. Building on research into regulatory frameworks on gender and asylum seekers' protection from gender-based violence, as well as empirical research on gender-based violence experienced by female asylum seekers arriving in Greece, the aim of the workshop was to examine wider policy issues of relevance in the EU and in a comparative way with, especially, Canada. Participants included academics and researchers from various disciplines, representatives of NGOs and early-career scholars from both Dal and SMU. The workshop also included a public film screening of the award-winning documentary followed by a discussion with the film directors, who joined remotely from Ontario.

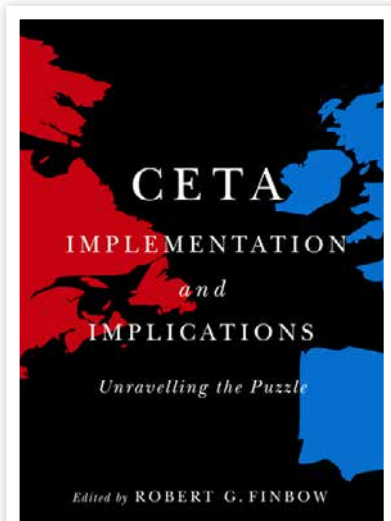
Panel from International Workshop (5th - 6th March 2022)

As well as its own events, the JMEUCE is pleased to report on affiliated Jean Monnet Activities based at Dalhousie. The Jean Monnet Health Law and Policy Network, led by JMEUCE Associate Katherine Fierlbeck, is now entering its final few months. Over the past five years, the Network has hosted a series of in-person events and academic exchanges, including a workshop in Copenhagen, a panel in Toronto and a speaker series, alongside a number of virtual panels and a summer school in Spain. Over the next few months, the

Network is set to conclude with a final seminar in London, and the release of an edited volume which will be part of the World Scientific Series in Global Health Economics and Public Policy.

The Jean Monnet GEAP3 Network, managed by JMEUCE Associate Matthew Schnurr of the Department of International Development Studies, is preparing to host its second event in May 2022, exploring the politics underpinning gene editing, agriculture, and its potential outcomes in the African context. At the same time, the Network's partners are currently preparing to conduct a series of surveys and interviews on the role of public opinion surrounding the use of gene-edited crop technologies.

Finally, the successfully concluded CETA Implementation and Implications Project, led by JMEUCE Deputy Director Robert Finbow, has resulted in the recent publication of an edited collection, *CETA Implementation and Implications: Unravelling the Puzzle* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press 2022). This book is the first comprehensive assessment of the landmark Canada-EU economic and trade agreement by multidisciplinary scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. In the words of one reviewer: "Any scholar or practitioner who is working in the area of CETA will find this a very valuable resource" – which seems an excellent note on which to wrap up the project!



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Dr. Anders Hayden, Undergraduate Advisor

THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR BEGAN

with what seemed like a return to the pre-covid “normal,” but ultimately it was anything but a normal year. In September 2021, for many of us, the return to in-person teaching came with a renewed positive energy that was evident in the classroom. By mid-December, the Omicron variant had put an end to in-person activity on campus. The return to in-person learning only began again (on a partial and gradual basis, depending on the class) at the end of January.

As undergraduate advisor, the usual pattern of work over the year was disrupted. The annual Open House for prospective students to learn about the possibilities at Dalhousie took place online this year – a format that was not ideal for reaching prospective students interested in Political Science. A

much better format was the opportunity to speak to a King's College class to encourage them to consider a Political Science program (which replaced the usual advising luncheon for King's College students). With travel restrictions eased, some students began making plans again for study abroad, and so the process of reviewing their plans and course selection resumed. There was also a noticeable increase this year in questions from first-year students seeking help with registration.

The back-and-forth between online and in-person teaching has been challenging for students and instructors alike. There has been considerable discussion in the academic world about increasing disengagement of students, reflected in lower attendance, less class participation, more late and missed assignments, and poor exam results. (See,

for example, these items in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) and [New York Times](#)). There is an ongoing debate about how to respond. On the one hand, there is often a need for compassionate accommodations for students wrestling with challenges in these difficult times. On the other hand, there is concern that the flexible approach to learning, deadlines and requirements, which was a necessary temporary response in the scramble to cope with Covid-19, has eroded habits that are key to student learning (e.g., the habit of coming to class at a regular time) and contributed to student disengagement. While the worst of Covid-19 may now be behind us (fingers crossed), the question of how to respond to the long-term effects on students will be on the minds of faculty members for some time to come.



2021-22 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD/PRIZE WINNERS

KATE WALKER, BA Candidate: Major in Political Science has been awarded **The Commonwealth Political Science Prize**. This prize is awarded annually to the student who receives the highest grade in Political Science 2410 and 2420. The Commonwealth Prize was established by John Beveridge, who graduated from Dalhousie University in 1971.

NICK HARRIS, BA: Honours in Political Science and Law, Justice & Society has been awarded **The Eric Dennis Gold Medal**. Founded by Senator William Dennis and Mrs. Dennis, this medal is awarded upon graduation to the student who stands first among those taking First Class Honours in Government and Political Science. This is the University Medal in Political Science.

GRACE CATTON, BA Candidate: Major in Undeclared Arts has been awarded **The H.B. McCulloch Memorial Prize**. This prize is awarded annually to the student who, among all the first- and second-year students registered in introductory classes in Political Science, is judged to have written the best essay in the second term.

EMILIE QUINN, BA: Honours in Political Science and History with a Minor in Spanish has been awarded **The James H. Aitchison Award**. In 1979 Colleagues of Dr. J.H. Aitchison established a fund from which an annual prize would be awarded in recognition of the best undergraduate Honours essay. The fund was established to honour Professor Aitchison who was instrumental in founding the department.

THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY (DUPSS)

Claire Mercer, President



THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE

Political Science Society's return to campus this 2021-2022 academic year proved to be a great success, as the team worked collaboratively to hold both new and recurring events. We started the year off strong by hosting a never-before-seen meet and greet event, "DUPSS Donuts," which was followed by our annual "Meet the Profs" event. Also early in the year, DUPSS hosted a very successful trivia night at the Grawood, in which students from many disciplines attended. Another first for the Society was our headshot fundraiser, where students could pay a small fee for a professional headshot. We also held a bake sale in the Student Union Building. And, as our last event of the Fall semester, DUPSS hosted a "Poli Nights" social at the Daily Grind.

The winter semester's events included an honours information panel, where various professors, alumni and current students shared their experiences with Dalhousie's Political Science Honours program. For a winter fundraiser, society members facilitated a clothing sale over

a few weeks. DUPSS was also proud to have once again offered the Dalhousie Political Networking Initiative (DPNI) to students within the Dalhousie community, in partnership with various political offices. To finish off the year, DUPSS was thrilled to have hosted their fourth annual Poli Sci gala and the launch of our undergraduate journal, the Podium. The gala was a wonderful, in person opportunity to acknowledge all this year's accomplishments not only for the society, but the larger community in which DUPSS operates.

DUPSS certainly faced some challenges with the ongoing uncertainty of Covid-19 impacts, but we persevered, nevertheless. Dalhousie's students and societies have maintained resiliency throughout the past two years, and DUPSS is fortunate to have been able to continue to offer events and opportunities this past year. I want to give thanks on behalf of DUPSS members to all who have supported our efforts – in particular, this includes the wonderful Faculty and staff within the Department of Political Science, specifically Tracy and Dr. Fierlbeck. I also want to thank all the students who have attended our events in the past, your participation is invaluable. Last, but not least, I want to express my sincere appreciation to my team members on DUPSS this year. You have all worked so hard, and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

We'd like to extend the greatest of luck to the incoming executive team and look forward to seeing DUPSS's future accomplishments.

WOMEN IN POLITICS SCHOLARSHIP

THE WOMEN IN POLITICS

Scholarship was established in September 2020 through the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences by Sarah Dobson, A Dalhousie Political Science and Law graduate and Grace Evans, then a current Political Science student. The Women in Politics Scholarship supports the next generation of women-identifying students in the field by encouraging and inspiring their career aspirations. This award is given annually to two students who have identified as female, declared a major in Political Science, and demonstrated academic capability. We are pleased to announce that the 2022 recipients of this scholarship are:

- **ISOBEL CAMERON**, BA Major in International Development Studies and Political Science
- **SOPHIA LINDFIELD**, BA Major in Environmental, Sustainability, and Political Science



HONOURS PROGRAMME REPORT

THE HONOURS PROGRAMME HAD

another successful year with many strong students and honours projects. As restrictions eased on campus with changing responses to the Covid-19 pandemic this year the honours seminar was again successfully held in person all year. Some Covid exposures meant that a few presentations and defenses reverted online to MS Teams in winter term. 15 students successfully completed their honours project this year. Several excellent projects were completed in time for spring graduation, and a few will complete additional credits for fall graduation. The range of topics was wide and included very contemporary issues – Ukraine-Russia conflict, populist parties and values, yellow vest movement, social media civility and gender, Acadian identity and reparations, Arctic sovereignty, security and environment, Vancouver's Climate Emergency Plan, NGOs and international human

rights, athletes' activism and BLM, Olympics and human rights, US border migration pressures, the Covid-19 pandemic and power narratives, Covid benefits and basic income and subjective social well-being. Together the research completed and shared via presentations provide great new insights on so many contemporary challenges and phenomenon.

Emilie Quinn won the James H. Aitchison Prize for her essay on Ukraine response to Russia's Crimean incursion. Nick Harris won the Eric Denis Gold medal for the highest GPA over the 4-year degree programme. He is off to Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship this fall. Once again, the campus restrictions limited our ability to help the honours students celebrate their success. We were hopeful that we could have an in-person celebration, and delayed plans for an event thinking we could host a lunch when mask mandates ended in May. However, these plans were

again cancelled when pandemic conditions worsened, on campus mandates were extended and several in the department tested positive for Covid. We were forced to hold an online meetup but had a very sociable time, joined by a majority of the students who grew intellectually and personally as a congenial community this year. A sincere congratulations to all and appreciation to all faculty colleagues who served as supervisors and examiners during my time as honours coordinator. And a special shout out to Tracy Powell, whose help and hard work in running the honours programme was invaluable over the years. I will miss the educational experience of guiding and reading the diverse scholarship mentored so strongly across the Department and its sub fields.

Dr. Robert Finbow, Honours Coordinator

ALEXANDRA BELITZKY

"The Retweets Are Coming! Evaluating Incivility in Federal Cabinet's Replies on Twitter"

Supervisor: Scott Pruysers

CLAIRE BELLIVEAU

"Righting Wrongs of the Past: An Examination as to Whether Acadians of Nova Scotia Should Receive Reparations for the Deportation of 1755"

Supervisor: Louise Carbert

CHARLOTTE BOURKE

"An Experiment in Climate Justice? An Analysis of the Role of Social Equity in Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan"

Supervisor: Anders Hayden

JACOB BURCHELL

"The Cracked Mosaic: Feelings of Marginalization and Populism in Canada"

Supervisor: Scott Pruysers

BENJAMIN FILLIER

"Canada's Environmental Effective Control and Sovereignty in the Northwest Passage Through Shipping Policy – Old Whine in New Battles"

Supervisor: Hugh Williamson

MAIREN HAMILTON

"Influencing Societal Subjective Well-Being: A Public Policy Perspective"

Supervisor: Brian Bow

NICHOLAS HARRIS

"Narratives of Power: Covid-19 as Political Crisis"

Supervisor: Katherine Fierlbeck

EVAN KEOUGH

"NARCO-POLITIK: How American Destabilization Efforts Within El Salvador Have Contributed to the Formation of MS-13 & The Northern Triangle Migration Crisis"

Supervisor: Robert Finbow

LIAM MEADE

"Who Are the PPC? A Comparative Analysis of the Canadian Radical-Right"

Supervisor: Louise Carbert

OWEN PAULI

"Canadian Emergency Benefit Payments During COVID-19: A Blueprint for a National Universal Basic Income?"

Supervisor: Robert Finbow

EMILIE QUINN

"Why did Ukraine Opt for Restraint? Explaining Ukraine's Response to the Russian Annexation of Crimea"

Supervisor: Ruben Zaiotti

ADRIANO TESOLIN

"A New Era for Black Athlete Activism: Investigating the Intersections of Race, Sport, and Athlete Activism in the United Kingdom"

Supervisor: Ruben Zaiotti

AMBROSE TIERNEY

"Soft Power Codependency: The Olympic Games and Human Rights"

Supervisor: Ruben Zaiotti

STACEY WEBBER

"International Non-Governmental Organizations and the Diffusion of International Human Rights Norms in Areas of Limited Statehood: Article 9"

Supervisor: Leah Sarson

LIAM WICKHAM

"End of the World, End of the Month, Same Struggle: The Yellow Vests, Carbon Pricing, and the future of Climate Politics"

Supervisor: Anders Hayden

2021-22 JAMES H. AITCHISON AWARD WINNER FOR BEST HONOURS THESIS

*Emilie Quinn, BA: Honours in Political Science
and History with a Minor in Spanish*



Q This award was created in honour of Professor Aitchison who was instrumental in the founding of the POLI Department and was the head of the Department from 1949-1973. How does it feel to be the recipient of this prestigious POLI award?

A To be the recipient of the prestigious James H. Aitchison Award is a true honour. After reflecting on the life and career of the late James H. Aitchison, I am humbled to be associated with such a respected lineage and to the Department he helped to create.

Upon reflecting on the topic of my research and the legacy of J.H. Aitchison's career in the military, public and academic service, I donated the monetary award sum to the Canadian Red Cross Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund. As the 2022 recipient of this award, I believe that there was no better way to honour this award than to help those in need during this time of crisis.

Q What helped you with your decision to take Political Science? Was there anything or anyone who inspired you?

A Entering my first year I, like so many before me, was unclear in knowing where my time as an undergraduate student would take me. However, in my first semester I enrolled in Dr. David Black's course 'Political Worlds: Themes & Concepts' which intrigued me and brought me back to a paper I wrote during my IB studies. I saw for the first time how political science academia could offer tools to understand real world problems through analysis and critical thought. When I saw what the political sciences had to offer, I was hooked from that moment on. During the next three and a half years, I was fortunate enough to experience the many courses offered by the Political Science Department professors and I never once had a second thought on my chosen direction.

Q Is there a particular area of Political Science that interests you most?

A I have always been drawn to international relations topics of political science because I was afforded the opportunity and challenges to work on real world problems and to use the tools that this area of study provided me to navigate these complex areas.

In my second year, I took a course on Foreign Policy where one of my instructors Nafisa Abdulhamid challenged and encouraged me on an assignment on the topic of the 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea. After completing the course, I continued to wrestle with this event and my desire

to investigate it further. Fuelled with this interest to learn more, I decided to explore the Crimean annexation in my honour's thesis under the Department supervision of Dr. Ruben Zaiotti. Armed with my toolkit of political science theories, concepts, and methods that I had learned during my undergraduate classes, I was able to complete an investigation on the Crimean crisis that allowed me to increase my own understanding and pursue a topic that I am truly passionate about.

Q What are your plans after you graduate in May? Any long-term plans or goals?

A I have always been drawn to the legal process. The way this system operates and the long-lasting impacts on society in the past, present and future are some of the most intriguing facets of society that I have come to appreciate during my political science studies. If you ask me today, I feel myself leaning towards a career in policy making and hope to be involved in this process and to be a meaningful contributor through service to our society. As I prepare to don my cap and gown, and walk across the graduation stage, I am eager to explore the opportunities that lie ahead in the many fields and careers that my degree has prepared me for.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Kristin Good, Graduate Coordinator

THESIS EXAMINATIONS CONTINUED

this year with nine students successfully defending their theses. The MA students who defended successfully were: Francesca Bray (*Inuit Agency in the Arctic*); Xinyu Gong (*5G and China-US Relations: Competition and Intervention*); Filip Guzina (*How The Framing Of Supervised Injection Sites Can Hinder Implementation*); Graeme Parsons (*China's Role in African Integration*); Rhys Robinson (*Maqbarat Al-Atrak: Saudi Arabia's Intervention in Yemen*); and Allyssa Walsh (*Lost in Translation: The Impact of International Institutions' Gender Norm Diffusion Practices on Post-Conflict States*). Two

PhD students also defended their dissertations Nafisa Abdulhamid (*Protecting Civilians in Armed Conflict: The Case of the African Union Mission in Somalia*) and Elikem Tsamenyi (*African Peace, Security and Conflict Management: An African International Society Approach*). Congratulations to all of you! Our graduate students have had many successes this year. You can read about them in their updates and in the feature article on alumna Dr. Susan Manning's 2022 Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis Award.

As the incoming Graduate Coordinator, it was a pleasure to welcome and teach my first cohort of graduate stu-

dents, a bright and collegial group of students. The academic year began with a return to campus only to be followed by yet another transition to online learning and the uncertainties that accompany such transitions. My thanks and kudos to the current cohort for their resilience during this challenging but highly productive and engaging academic year.

I am pleased to introduce our incoming cohort, which consists of seven promising MA students: Victoria Hudson, Austin Lees, Miriam Mensah, Caira Mohamed, Leah Nicholson, Izzy Ortner and Buket Tatlidil who were all offered scholarships. Leah Nicholson secured a prestigious Canada Graduate Scholarship (SSHRC) award this year. I am looking forward to working with them and our broader graduate student community in the coming year!



POLITICAL SCIENCE TRAVEL FUND

For our graduate and honours students, field research (whether in Canada or internationally) and the opportunity to present their ideas at conferences and workshops are vital forms of educational and professional development. Yet supporting these invaluable opportunities for research and conference travel has always been a challenge for the department and our students, since there are few sources of financial assistance within or beyond the university. Now, thanks to generous alumni contributions, we have ini-

tiated a new fund to support graduate and honours student travel. This will allow our students to undertake vital interview, archival, and participant observation research, and to share their ideas with audiences of peers and senior scholars. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please go online to alumni.dal.ca/giving.



THE DEPARTMENT'S FIRST 3MT COMPETITION

Kristin Good, Graduate Coordinator

THE DEPARTMENT'S FIRST 3-MINUTE thesis (3MT) event was held online in March. The graduate students made excellent presentations on their research, which were recorded individually and shared with the department.

Although both the MA and PhD students presented their research, the event was also structured as a competition among MA students that was judged by PhD students in this and last year's cohorts: Allison Chandler, Xinyu Gong, Patricia Porto de Barros Ayaz, and Tobias Schminke.

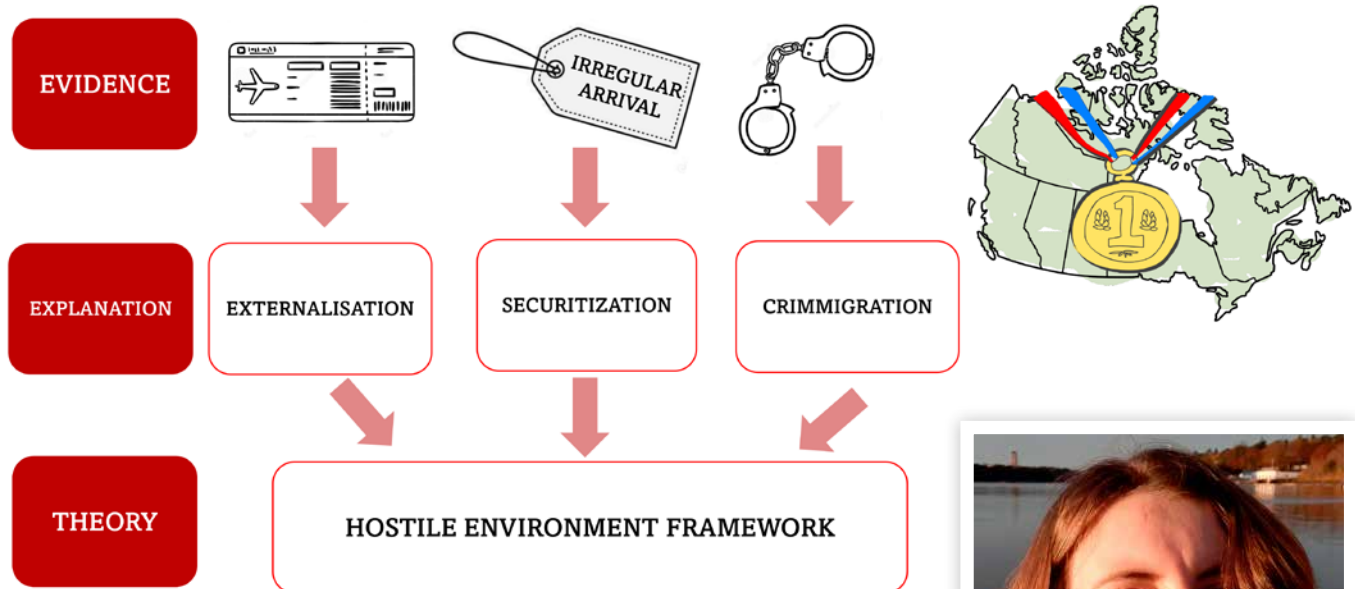
The jury reached a consensus that Alice Craft was the winner of this year's 3MT competition. The title of her presentation was "Why Does Canada Detain 'Irregular Arrivals?'" Alice summarizes her ongoing MA thesis research as such:

"Between April 2019 and March 2020, Canada locked up more than 8000 people on the grounds of immigration related detention. In the words of a refugee detained after fleeing the Taliban, 'I chose Canada because I thought it was welcoming to refugees. I thought Canada was better than this.....' This is indeed the popular belief; Canada is a migration haven. In the context of rising anti-immigrant policies in the Global North, Canada has emerged as an outlier in the treatment of refugees. Canada resettled the highest number of refugees in 2019, overtaking the US for the first time in history. However, the detention of refugees hints at a very different reality. Employing a theory-building process tracing method, this thesis proposes a hostile environment framework that places the use of detention within a

highly controlled and punitive migration policy context in Canada. Securitization, externalisation and crimmigration theories are limited in explaining distinct areas of this wider project to resettle the best and alienate the rest."

The PhD students commented on Alice's confidence, enthusiasm for her research, the effectiveness of her Power Point slide (pictured here), her ability to capture the audience's attention and her "great intro and ending – punchy and memorable." Overall, the quality of the graduate presentations was top-notch, and I hope that this event will begin a new departmental tradition!

Alice Craft- 3MT Presentation for MA Thesis Why Does Canada Detain "Irregular Arrivals"?



GLYN BERRY SCHOLAR

Xinyu Gong (PhD Candidate)

I AM SO GRATEFUL AND HONORED

to be the recipient of the Glyn R. Berry Memorial Scholarship this year. The rise of China has greatly impacted the world. As a Chinese student who studies in Canada, I hold the responsibility to act as a bridge to connect China and Canada. This responsibility not only requires me to explain China and Chinese culture to Canada but also pushes me to explore. Glyn Berry's lifework aimed to build a better and more peaceful world by helping people in conflict zones. In keeping with his devotion, my doctoral research focuses on contemporary Chinese foreign policy, which is the policy that is considered the main game-changer in the world we live in today.

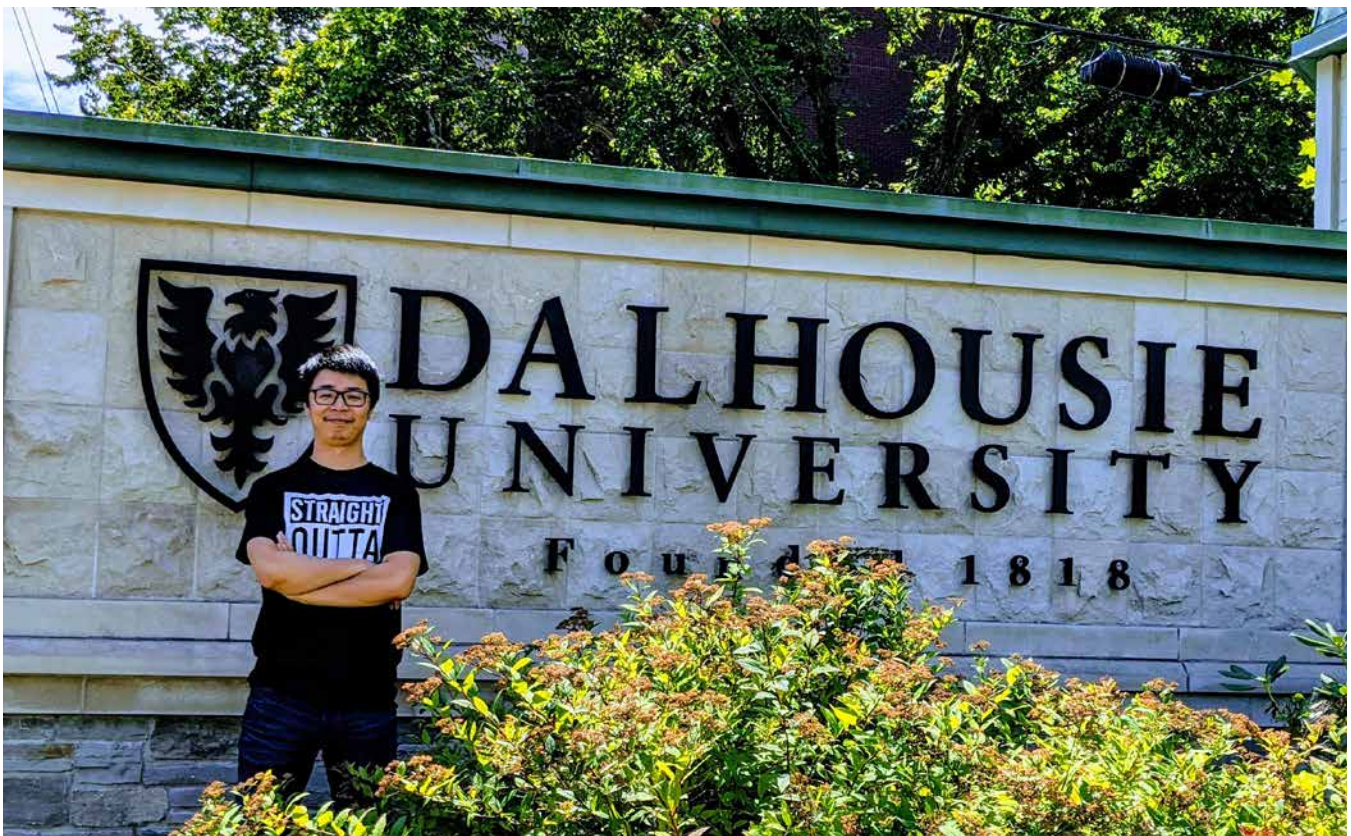
This academic year has been challenging, I would say even more stressful than the year before as students, including me, have to manage the difficulties from the mixture of online and in-person classes, as well as the long-ex-

isting risk of Covid-19. The lifting of the public health restrictions and precautions does not mean the pandemic is over, it pushes everyone to find a way to live with the virus. I felt very lucky to be sheltered in Nova Scotia throughout the entire pandemic, as the province has been doing tremendously well nationwide. Although I was not able to go back to China to visit my family but living in Halifax is not isolating at all for me because of my lovely PhD squad-Tobias, and Ally, as well as the graduate cohort. We watched the election together, had parties together, shared hilarious political memes and laughed together. My life outside school wouldn't be colorful without their friendships.

Inside the school, I managed to complete my required coursework. I also landed teaching assistant positions for POLI 1001 and 1002, with our new faculty member, Dr. Igor Shoikhetbrod. The TASHips allowed me to engage with undergraduate students who have passion

about politics. I gain a sense of achievement when I see students progressively improving through the courses. Igor has been extremely helpful as he provides me with a lot of tips and advice for teaching in universities. I also want to thank Dr. David Black as well as my supervisor Dr. Brian Bow for providing opportunities that allowed me to participate in different events, including The Rt. Hon. Robert L. Stanfield Conversation and The Glyn R. Berry Lecture.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Tracy and Mary for their endless support. I am grateful to the graduate coordinator Dr. Kristin Good for her generous solicitude. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Leah Sarson for all the academic support I have received from her. It is my honor and fortune to study and work with all the lovely students and faculties in this department, which I prefer to call family.



KEENS- MORDEN SCHOLARSHIP AND MARGARET MEAGHER FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Joe Fitkowski (MA Candidate)

I AM HONOURED TO BE THE

recipient of both the Keens-Morden Scholarship and Margaret Meagher Fellowship for the 2021/22 academic year. Both Reid Morgan and Margaret Meagher have shown through their actions as a civil servant and diplomat respectively the importance of Dalhousie University in helping shape Canada's foreign and domestic spheres, and their work within their fields have shown a dedication to public service and the betterment of Canada through robust foreign policy, international relations, and national security.

Although this year has been challenging, it has also been extremely exciting for me as a student and academic to return to my interest of illiberal democracy and Central European politics, and to expand on both my knowledge base and research in a top-tier programme in Atlantic Canada. In many ways, I have left many comfort zones while attending Dalhousie, and I consider this a beneficial experience in my academic career.

Being originally from Ontario and moving to Halifax in the middle of Covid-19, I must admit adjusting to postgraduate education during a global

pandemic was at times stressful. However, with help from my professors and cohort, these stresses have turned into opportunities to experience academic growth and a drive to complete my programme with my best face forward.

In my pursuit of this, I have been lucky to work alongside Dr. Leah Sarson and Adam MacDonald as a teaching assistant in their undergraduate World Politics and Foreign Policy in Theory and Practices courses, respectively. Working with them has proven to be not only helpful in better understanding how to educate as an academic, but also in understanding my own continued education in foreign politics and affairs.

I have also have had the distinct pleasure to work with Dr. Ruben Zaiotti as my thesis supervisor, and with his help develop a coherent research project discussing and analysing Poland's relationship with the European Union and liberal democracy through the lens of identity and rhetoric. Dr. Zaiotti's help in clarifying my thesis and pointing me in the right direction has had an insurmountable impact on my research design and how I continue to frame my thoughts and ideas around populism, nationalism, and identity within Central Europe, and Poland in particular.



Moving forward, I am excited to continue my research, especially the opportunity to conduct original research and collection in Europe, a goal I am currently planning for September of next year. By taking an extra year in the programme, I am hoping I allow myself the time needed to engage fully with academia and my research, both as it pertains to my thesis, and my overall education at Dalhousie.

Despite a rough start for all of us at the beginning of this year, I'm optimistic for our future, and wish everyone the best in their endeavours, academic or otherwise!



DID YOU KNOW?

Dalhousie's creation can be traced to Thomas McCulloch (1776-1843). He was recruited to be the first President. See full story at <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/dalhousie-origins/thomas-mcculloch.html> Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck holds the title of McCulloch Chair.

SHAW-PARPART SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Patricia Porto de Barros Ayaz (PhD Candidate)



I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO BE A

Dalhousie student and for the scholarship I have received from Drs. Jane Parpart and Timothy Shaw, an inspiring couple that I had the pleasure to meet in person last year. Their research is very insightful and their commitment to the community is encouraging. I am pleased to have people like them playing this important role in my academic life.

As I keep saying, Dalhousie is an amazing university not only because of its structure, but also because of the wonderful people whom I have had the pleasure to meet at the Political Science Department, and especially my supervisor (Prof. Ruben Zaiotti) and the coordi-

nator (Prof. Kristin Good) whom I have been in closer touch with since I arrived in Canada.

These last terms have been full of challenges, but I also learned and accomplished much. For instance, I had the chance to participate in the initial phases of an innovative project of the Nova Scotia government, which aims to make the Health System more inclusive. I also had the pleasure to talk more about this project during an interview to *The Chronicle Herald*.

Moreover, I was able to act as a mentor for new international students – I shared some of my experiences with them, while I learned from theirs. And I am eager to welcome the new students to our department in September.

I truly miss my Brazilian and Turkish families. However, although there are more than 7 thousand kilometers keeping them physically away from me, they are always present in my life, and I am very thankful for their support. Finally, yet importantly, I know the extra challenges that the international students have to deal with during their graduation and I must mention my gratitude for having such a patient and loving husband by my side.



THE DORIS BOYLE GRADUATE PRIZE WINNER

ALLISON CHANDLER,

PHD Candidate: has been awarded The Doris Boyle Prize for Best Graduate Essay. The prize is awarded for the best essay written by a graduate student in the area of international relations. Doris Boyle served for many years as Administrative Secretary of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development (formerly Centre for Foreign Policy Studies), from its creation in 1971 until her retirement. The prize was created by faculty and research staff of the Centre to honour her contributions to the activities of the Centre.



Patricia with Drs. Tim Shaw and Jane Parpart



DALHOUSIE GRADUATE SOCIETY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (DGSPS)

Allison Chandler, DGSPS President

WHEN I FIRST TOOK THE MANTLE

of "President", it was a slightly intimidating prospect. The success of the Political Science Graduate Society has always been the result of the continued determination and intention of students; it is not an automatic nor accidental thing, but the fruits of real investment from its members. I was thus very happy to learn there was such enthusiasm for our society amongst the current graduate community. Five people volunteered to join our Executive, all with a keen interest in supporting graduate students and making our time in graduate school all that it could be. The challenges posed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, and particularly the increase in restrictions and a return to online learning in second semester, sadly hindered many of our early plans for the Society. Nevertheless, the sense of community runs deep in this graduate cohort, and we were able to organize a number of in-person events to help keep those connections alive and support one another during these change-

able times. It makes me very hopeful for the future of our Graduate Society, no matter what changes still may come.

In September, our community grew significantly with the addition of three new PhD students and seven MA students. These students joined a vibrant and high-achieving cohort, and the DGSPS would like to highlight a number of significant accomplishments earned this year by our members. Firstly, a warm congratulations to Dr. Susan Manning ('21), who won Dalhousie's Faculty of Graduate Studies Doctoral Thesis Award this year. We are also celebrating PhD student Tobias Schminke, who was awarded the Dalhousie Student Entrepreneur of the Year Impact Award recognizing his trailblazing work with Europe Elects. The DGSPS would also like to congratulate Francesca Bray, Filip Guzina, and Allyssa Walsh on successfully defending their MA theses. Congratulations to all, and we wish the new graduates the very best in their future endeavours!



As we consider what we have achieved this past year, we should measure our success in laudable awards but also in the smaller, often private, victories that make up our daily lives as students living in a global pandemic. With any luck, we will celebrate it all in-person soon!



2022 DOCTORAL THESIS AWARD WINNER

Susan Manning, PhD



I AM VERY HONOURED TO WIN THE Dalhousie Doctoral thesis award and have my work over the past 5 years recognized in this way. I am also very grateful for the support of my supervisors, committee members, colleagues, and friends within the Political Science PhD

program during the dissertation writing and defence process. I could not have done it without you!

My thesis explores the extent to which the concerns and experiences of marginalized members of communities (including women and girls, Indigenous people, people with disabilities and people living on low incomes) are taken into account in the impact assessment (IA) process for mines and dams in Northern Canada. I argue that structural and systemic inequities exist within IA processes and policy frameworks that often prevent both the participation of marginalized members of Northern communities and the recognition of their concerns within the IA process. These inequities emerge from unequal relationships of power between communities and the state, communities, and the proponent, and within communities themselves, which shape community impacts from resource projects, but are also reproduced in the IA process.

I hope that my research contributes to positive changes with federal, provincial, and territorial impact assessment processes for resource development projects to allow community concerns to be better recognized and addressed during the assessment phase of resource projects.

I have been able to put the learnings from my research to practical use in my post-PhD role for Canadian Coast Guard Arctic Region as the A/Manager, Diversity & Inclusion. In this role, I lead all the diversity and inclusion initiatives for the region and provide training and resources to Coast Guard personnel to ensure our delivery of programs and services to Arctic communities respect the diversity among and within communities as well as the unique cultures and context of the North.

Also see Dalhousie Article: <https://www.dal.ca/news/2022/04/04/doctoral-thesis-awards-dalhousie-2022.html>

POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS



TARI AJADI
(PhD Candidate)

This academic year has brought some transformative changes for me that I will briefly

comment on before noting the broader context this change sits within. I have been fortunate enough to be awarded a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Black Studies at Queen's University, which has meant a move to Kingston, Ontario for a year to complete my dissertation. At the end of this year, I will begin as an Assistant Professor in Black Politics at McGill University. Importantly, I was also a co-author, alongside colleague, comrade and friend Julia Rodgers, of the *Defunding the Police: Defining the Way Forward for HRM* report, released in

January 2022 which will guide policymaking in the municipality. I am excited about all of these opportunities and accomplishments, and I am thankful to all of those who have supported me on my journey towards these milestones. Yet these achievements sit in a context of compounding and cascading political and social crises, and as such they are largely irrelevant. I hope (and expect) that this will be my last contribution to one of these newsletters as a student. I hope to leave you, dear reader, with this parting thought: if political science can contribute anything to the world, I believe that it can offer a lucid and honest assessment of how power operates within society and within institutions more concretely to facilitate more informed and more robust questions about structural inequities that persist over time. I think it's our collective

responsibility to use our power - material, discursive, relational and otherwise - to fight for a just world. I cannot tell you what justice looks like for you. I can say what it looks like for me (the *Defunding* report being one such example). I see a willingness and drive to embrace that responsibility in both undergraduate and graduate students in this Department. Let's continue to allow them the space to lead us towards what is next.



BASHAR ALSARRAFI
(MA Candidate)

Although the last few years have been difficult, the journey at Dalhousie

University has been rewarding and enjoyable thus far. However, I would like

to say that now more than ever is the time to question everything. Be considerate of the avenues which you engage to receive, share, and distribute information. This means that we must be conscious of not only the information that we consume, but the information that is not being consumed or repressed. The onset of war has highlighted the disproportionate nature of media reporting on significant issues that are and have been present for many years, such as the Israel's unethical occupation of Palestine.

Furthermore, the challenges that have emerged from the pandemic put into question several health systems and policies across the globe. As such, my research focuses on municipal policy response and Covid-19 policy efficacy in Canada. While the pandemic has exposed the weakness of institutions, it has also spawned a policy fatigue because of the constant changing nature of Covid-19 pandemic policy. Thus, I seek to complete writing my thesis and hope to advance my education by working towards a PhD, while also completing workshops at Dalhousie University during the summer. I would like to thank Dr. Good, and Dr. Pruyers for being positive mentors and assisting me in my academic journey. I would like to also thank my Partner, Mimi, and the Graduate cohort for always being there despite the challenges we all faced during this time.



ALLISON CHANDLER
(PhD Candidate)

Well, this year has been quite the introduction to my PhD! It's been both a

tumultuous and rewarding year, and despite the challenges, I am downright delighted to be here. I am truly grateful for the support I have received here at Dal as well as through the SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship and SSHRC-DND MINDS Scholarship Initiative. It's been an exciting first year, and I look forward to seeing you all again when I emerge from my Comprehensives-induced hole in 2023.



ALICE CRAFT
(MA Candidate)

After spending 2020 regressing into my 14-year-old self in my parent's house in Leamington Spa,

UK, this academic year has brought the fresh start that I so desperately needed. Having arrived in Halifax just days before the start of the autumn term (I will never understand 'fall'), the beginning of the MA programme was somewhat of a whirlwind for me. I hit the ground running and joined the Dal Tigers as the resident 'old bird' of the Basketball Varsity Team, got stuck into my four courses across the POLI and SOSA departments, and tried to see some of Nova Scotia before the winter arrived. I made the wise decision to hang up my basketball boots in favour of long shifts in the Killam Library and came out of the autumn term relatively unscathed. I also managed to squeeze in some great experiences acting as a communications assistant at the Halifax International Security Forum and visiting Cape Breton (I saw my first moose!). The winter term was a whole different beast. Covid once again reared its head and I was grateful for Professor Banerjee, Professor Arthur, Professor Good, and Professor Zaiotti for making the transition back onto online-learning as seamless as could be. This term was a personal and professional challenge for me as I lost a close family member and had to plough through what felt like an endless ream of papers. However, the highlights have been presenting my MA research at the Migration and Diaspora Studies Conference, moderating a 'Population Displacement' panel at the Montreal Climate Summit, and working with the Research Network on Women, Peace and Security. I hope to be completing my thesis 'The Detention of Irregular Migrants in Canada' in the summer and seeing what the rest of the world has in store for me (guideposts welcomed!).



GRANT CURTIS
(PhD Candidate and CSSD Deputy Director)

Grant Curtis is a PhD candidate in Dalhousie's Department of

Political Science. Prior to his retirement, Grant's career focused on international development, with field-based assignments in several countries in Africa and Asia with United Nations system agencies, bilaterals, international NGOs, and the Asian Development Bank. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and English from the University of Saskatchewan; an M.A. in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University; an M.P.A. from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; an M.A. in English from Dalhousie University; and an M.F.A. in Creative Non-Fiction from the University of King's College, Halifax.

His doctoral work interrogates the failure of post-2001 state building in Afghanistan.

Research Interests

- Development Studies with focus on the security-development nexus, fragile/failed states, state building, post-conflict emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction, and emergent civil society.

Selected Publications

- "Leveraging the eFP: Future Multilateral Cooperation – Policy Brief Recommendations" (Vincent Boucher, Grant Curtis, Melissa Finn, and Sarah Sharma). Defence and Security Foresight Group, University of Waterloo. September 2020.
- *Cambodia Reborn? The Transition to Democracy and Development*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press and United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, 1998.
- "Transition to What? Cambodia, UNTAC, and the Peace Process" in Utting, Peter, ed. *Between Hope and Security: The Social*

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POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS *cont'd*

Consequences of the Cambodian Peace Process. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, 1994.

- "Cambodia: Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Process." Paper presented to Sasakawa Peace Foundation Round Table, "Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia: The Path to Economic Development," Tokyo, 09 November 1992.
- *Cambodia - A Country Profile.* Stockholm: Swedish International Development Authority, 1990.

Professional Affiliations

- Cuso International Board of Directors, 2020
- Junior Fellow, Defence and Security Foresight Group, 2020
- Canadian Evaluation Society (Credentialed Evaluator)



**ADAM
MACDONALD**
(PhD Candidate)

It only seems like yesterday that I joined the Department,

coming back to school after a decade away. Things are now coming full circle as I am one of, if not the most, senior (in terms of time in the program) graduate students. I still have a couple semesters worth of work left to finish my dissertation, but I am transitioning to the next stage of my life. As a result, I am in a bit of a reflective mode in terms of my time in the graduate program. Overall, I am very thankful for everyone who has and continues to help me along my journey. One thing that has been valuable to me is the culture built among my fellow graduate students. Culture is important. This past year witness as a changing of the guard with a new cohort of graduate students assuming the reigns in the Department. I have really enjoyed getting to know and work with them this past year, though our interactions have been limited. These include working with Ally, Savannah and Xinyu in terms of turning over the executive of the Graduate Society, having Joe as the TA for the

course I instructed, and seeing Tobias take the lead in organizing graduate students' responses to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The graduate program is in good hands. Even though I have moved out of area, to all current, incoming, and/or prospective graduate students please feel free to reach out to me to talk about anything regarding the program and graduate studies in general. You can get in touch with me via email – [adam](mailto:adam.macdonald@dal.ca).

macdonald@dal.ca or
adampmacdonald@gmail.com



**DREW
MACEACHERN**
(MA Candidate)

Coming back to academia after five years of teaching English has been an

adjustment, but a welcome one. Although rather hectic and stressful at times, particularly with the uncertainty of (and experience of catching) COVID, I have found it both enjoyable and fulfilling to expand my education and research skills. After an undergraduate education that was largely focused on the humanities-side of political science, it has been challenging yet rewarding to think of and practice political science as a social science. Learning how to consider the interaction of theory and methodology in designing research questions has made me think more deeply and clearly about political questions. Of course, this is only possible thanks to the wonderful support of my cohort, the faculty, and the staff that I have been able to profit so much from my short time at Dal. My fellow MA students (and first year PhD students) are not only incredibly intelligent and insightful, but they are also extremely supportive, and I am incredibly grateful I was able to spend my time at Dal with you. At the risk of leaving out other faculty members that deserve mention, my thesis co-supervisors, Drs. Brian Bow and Nissim Mannathukkaren have been incredibly helpful in providing guidance and support during the process of designing my thesis, giving critical and

constructive feedback while also being available to talk. Now that my courses are finished, I am starting to work on my MA dissertation, which I hope to finish within the year, as well as a research project with Dr. Mannathukkaren. While I had originally planned on pursuing a law degree after completing my MA, my experience at Dal has caused me to seriously consider pursuing a PhD.



**RILEY NIELSON-
BAKER**
(MA Candidate)

Riley is a public servant and student of public policy and governance in

Nova Scotia. They have a Bachelor of Public Management from Florida Atlantic University and a Master of Public Administration from Dalhousie University. Their research interests include transgender people in Canadian law, the rural-urban divide, and anti-oppression efforts in the public sector. Riley works in the field of gender-based violence as a program coordinator for the Province of Nova Scotia, providing support for survivors grounded in trauma-informed and whole-of-community practices. They are the recipient of the 2021 Roselle Green Award for Public Administration Excellence from Dalhousie University.

Riley is the author and organizer of Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia, a grassroots, community-based policy movement to improve access to healthcare for members of the trans, intersex, and gender diverse community in Nova Scotia. What started as a small proposal before the 2021 Nova Scotia election has turned into a provincial movement, with supporters across the medical and queer sectors including Doctors Nova Scotia, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Egale, Sexual Health Nova Scotia, and Wisdom 2 Action among the more than 50 official signees.

Riley is completing their MA Thesis analyzing the legal concept of the transgender person in Canadian

case law, with the goal of providing a foundation for future research into the issues surround transgender rights in Canada.



**SAVANNA SHAW
(MA Candidate)**

In 2021, Savanna graduated from St. Thomas University with a BA (Hons) in Political Science.

Her undergraduate thesis focused on contemporary American populism, and she continues to build on this interest in her Master's thesis. Her current work assesses the voting motivations of Black and Latinx Trump voters by incorporating their perspectives on political issues and the populist movement.

Savanna is the current Treasurer of the Dalhousie Political Science Graduate Society.

Research Interests:

- Populist Movements; Political Behaviour; American Populism; Ingroup-outgroup Dynamics; Right-wing Populism; American Politics



**TOBIAS
SCHMINKE
(PhD Candidate)**

Honourable reader! I am a Dalhousie University greenhorn, so you

might not know me yet: My name is Tobias, I was born and raised in Oberroßbach, rural South-Western Germany, where each town has a local brewery, local vineyard, or – ideally – both. After a weltwärts (German government peace corps) [year in Gathiga \(Kenya\)](#) 2013-14, I studied media and communication science in [Mainz \(Germany\)](#) and [Haifa \(Israel\)](#) 2014-17 before joining a Swahili school in Iringa (Tanzania). The same year, I decided to join Halifax's Saint Mary's University, which included master thesis [field research](#) on trade unionism in Kampala (Uganda). I worship everything related to the infamous three "p": polls, parliaments, and parties. In that spirit, I founded the [election observatory Europe Elects](#) (plus subsidiary brands) in 2014. Today, my volunteer team of 45 collects, verifies, and shares information on

elections and democracy with 210,000 followers. Thanks to the kind support from the department, Dalhousie awarded me the student entrepreneur award 2022 for Europe Elects. After working towards my permanent residency at IBM for almost two years, I cherish being back at school at Dalhousie University, where my proposed thesis research focuses on party system change and [fragmentation](#). Together, with my mentor-supervisor, Dr. Scott Pruyers, and Dr. Kiran Banerjee, I am working as the second author on a book chapter that explores the link between populist attitudes and anti-refugee sentiments in Canada. This year, I also became a Trudeau scholar, and I am looking forward to my first in-person meeting with the organization in June. A highlight in my first year at Dalhousie was the opportunity to organize a [field trip with Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University students](#) to one of my favourite local museums in Halifax, the Africville Museum.

ALUMNI VIGNETTES



**WESLEY PETITE
(BA Political
Science with
Honours and a
Minor in
Business, 2012)**

As I approached the Henry Hicks Building from University Ave in the fall semester of 2021, it felt significant. Though campus felt different for many reasons in 2021, it was a full circle feeling that put the campus in a new light for me. Where once I was a student full of questions and optimism, I was now a course instructor preparing lesson plans (and still full of optimism). Teaching a course (POLI3565) for the Department of Political Science was an amazing opportunity. More than just a step in my academic career, I saw this course as an opportunity to help students learn more about the world

around them like so many amazing faculty members had done for me during my undergrad. In my years working to attain my PhD in Political Science at Carleton University, I developed analytical skills, pedagogical theories, and rich political insights. However, my memories of my undergraduate experience were equally as useful in designing and teaching this course.

During my undergrad, I not only learned innumerable facts and insights but, more importantly, a love for the educational process. I can clearly recall arriving to class or to office hours, driven by a daring and critical engagement with class materials and current events. Professors, such as Dr. Fierlbeck, Dr. Arthur, Dr. Denike, Dr. Bail, and Dr. Bow, encouraged me to refine my points and challenged me to deepen my understanding of the texts being

discussed. These professors will forever exist as legends in my own personal history who set me on my way as a critical scholar and engaged member of society. As a young student, I would seek to denounce illegitimate institutions as mere social constructs that we simply need to tear down with collective force. I've now come to confront "political realities" (as contingent as they may be) to be formidable limitations to what can take place in the present. It is with such an understanding that an aspiring activist-scholar, such as myself, is better able to understand the problems at hand and foster collective responses.

I completed my MA with the Institute of Political Economy at Carleton University and then completed my PhD in Carleton's Department of Political

Continued on next page

Science. The challenges of grad school were certainly distinct. Nevertheless, the deep conversations on democracy, power, and human rights that I'd been a part of at Dalhousie helped me to confront and build on these challenges. I have become increasingly fascinated by the notion and practice of participatory democracy and what place it may find within the traditional institutions of the Canadian federation. My doctoral research explored the tension between the rising popularity of participatory budgeting and the established professionalism of local government in Canada. In doing so, I returned to foundational questions of how public interest is defined and how it can best be realized, in all its forms, through governance.

Seeking to connect theory with practice, I've taken on a range of positions that directly relate to my academic interests. These include executive roles with the part-time educators' union at Carleton University as well as working as a consultant for politicians in Ottawa who wanted to deepen their engagement with constituents. I now work as the Policy Advisor of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (est. 1906). Among the abundance of exciting and meaningful work this position engages me in, I am supporting the renegotiation of an intergovernmental service exchange agreement and the review of Nova Scotia's Municipal Government Act. I bring academic skills and insights to these important projects and get to see the impact that my work is having on them. This role has left me with less time for teaching, but I continue to find ways to balance of my numerous professional and political passions.

I'll never forget Professor Fierlbeck remarking, in 2008, that my fellow students and I were in a historical moment of unique political significance (due to the global financial crisis among other global events). I had a hunch at the time, which has proven to be true. This hunch was that each historical moment has its own muse, its own respective unprecedented moment, its own tumult on whatever scale that makes it like no other before. In the years since,

moments of instability, uncertainty, and breakthrough have continued to occur, and I have been all the more prepared to engage in these moments because of the foundation of my character that Dalhousie helped me to establish.



KEVIN WASKO
(BA Political
Science with
Honours, 2005)

Although several years have passed since my time at Dalhousie, the

impact those years had on my career path have been long lasting. As a physician, I provide direct patient care and work within the health care system. As a health system leader, I lead change through collaborative cross-sectoral partnerships. I have assumed provincial leadership roles in the Saskatchewan health care system, helping to shape the system and the delivery of health services in the province. This has been an exciting marriage of my education in the field of politics and government with my clinical expertise in the field of medicine. Although my career path has not been typical for a graduate of political science, my education has proven beneficial as I have harnessed a duality of knowledge in political science and medicine to navigate the politics of healthcare.

Born and raised in rural Saskatchewan, I arrived at Dalhousie eager to study and experience life on the other side of the country. In addition to studying political science, I served as the President of the Dalhousie Student Union, a position that was a culmination of successive student leadership roles on campus. Those experiences set a foundation for leadership that have allowed me to pursue continual advancement of leadership throughout my career.

After graduating from Dalhousie with a BA (Hons) in 2005, I attended the University of Calgary and received my MA in political science. I then worked in medical administration and the Minister of Health's office in Saskatchewan before returning to Calgary for medical school. I returned

to my rural Saskatchewan roots in 2011 to pursue family medicine residency in the newly-created Swift Current rural training program through the University of Saskatchewan. Although initially immersed in full scope family medicine, which included a satellite clinic in my home community of Eastend (pop. 503), it was never lost of me that perhaps more than anywhere, health care is sacred to the people living in rural Saskatchewan, the birthplace of Medicare. In fact, one would be hard-pressed to find anything more political than health care in rural Saskatchewan.

I have since moved on from full scope family medicine towards a practice focused on emergency medicine and health system leadership, having obtained a certificate of added competence in Emergency Medicine and the Canadian Certified Physician Executive credential. In recent years, I completed training in clinical quality improvement, public sector governance, and public policy development as an Action Canada fellow through the Public Policy Forum. I have served as Physician Executive for Integrated Rural Health with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) since 2017. Along with my Vice President partner, I have been jointly responsible for the delivery of health services across rural Saskatchewan.

Throughout the pandemic, I co-sponsored the COVID-19 immunization campaign and co-chaired the Clinical Expert Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Immunization. In the fall of 2021, I served as the SHA leader within the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre where we navigated the challenges of Saskatchewan's 4th and largest wave, leading a system-wide response. More than ever, these experiences have certainly reinforced how political health care can be!

This summer, I will embark on a new journey to leave my comfort zone, starting a position as a full-time emergency physician at Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga, Ont. I am excited to bring all that I have learned in medicine and politics to a very different part of Canada, as politics will always be at play in our Canadian health care systems.



NOTABLE POLI FACULTY AND STUDENT NEWS STORIES AND BLOGS

GRAD PROFILE: FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE, **CLAIRE MERCER**, Arts and Social Sciences

Genevieve MacIntyre - May 31, 2022
<https://www.dal.ca/news/2022/05/31/claire-mercet-arts-and-social-sciences-2022.html>

DR. ANDERS HAYDEN was interviewed for an article in the magazine Refinery 29 titled: "I Don't Deserve To Be Burned Out." How Capitalism Complicates Rest."

Nayanika Guha - April 5, 2022
<https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2022/04/10918535/feeling-guilty-resting-imposter-syndrome>

TOBIAS SCHMINKE, POLI DOCTORAL CANDIDATE wins Dal's 2022 IMPACT Award

Graeme Gunn - March 30, 2022
https://www.dal.ca/news/2022/03/30/impact-awards-2022-dalhousie.html?utm_source=Today@Dal&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dalnews

CLAIRE MERCER, BA MAJOR POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY wins Faculty Leadership Impact Award

Graeme Gunn - March 30, 2022 https://www.dal.ca/news/2022/03/30/impact-awards-2022-dalhousie.html?utm_source=Today@Dal&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dalnews

THE PODIUM – A journal of Political Science Published by Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society March 2022 <https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/politicalscience/Podium%20Journal%20-%20March%202022%20edition.pdf>

Political Science professors **DR. LEAH SARSON, DR. RUBEN ZAIOTTI, DR. BRIAN BOW, DR. ANDERS HAYDEN;** History professor Dr. Denis Kozlov; Dr. Maya Elchler (MSVU), and Dr. Ly-

ubov Zhyznomirska (SMU) share their insight from tactics to tragedy of Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Mandy King - March 21, 2022 <https://www.dal.ca/news/2022/03/18/ukraine-russia-putin-invasion-war.html>

DR. KATHERINE FIERLBECK

shares her insight on the polarization of debate around the truckers protest.

Aaron Beswick - February 17, 2022 <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/news/the-long-covid-of-canadian-politics-the-polarization-of-debate-around-the-truckers-protest-100694776/>

Political Science professor

DR. RUBEN ZAIOTTI and IDS professor **DR. ROBERT HUISE** share their insight

on the local and global impact of Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Alison Auld - February 25, 2022 <https://www.dal.ca/news/2022/02/25/ukraine-russia-news-putin-02-24-22.html>

DR. LOUISE CARBERT was appointed to the Nova Scotia Commission for the Redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts. Stay posted for maps showing the proposed new boundaries. February 23, 2022 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/boundaries-federal-election-nova-scotia-population-1.6440386>

DR. KRISTIN GOOD cited by Senator Paula Simons in a senate debate. January 24, 2022 <https://sencanada.ca/en/senators/simons-paula/interventions/566327/38#h1D>

Political Science PhD candidates **TARI AJADI** and **JULIA RODGERS** co lead authors on police defunding report January 18, 2022 <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/220117bopc1021.pdf>

Also see interview with columnist Sheldon MacLeod - January 19, 2022: Tari Ajadi on the Defunding the Police report for HRM <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/opinion/thinking-out-loud-with-sheldon-macleod-tari-ajadi-on-the-defunding-the-police-report-for-hrm-100682504/>

'DEMOCRACY HAS TO RISE TO THE OCCASION:' INAUGURAL STANFIELD CONVERSATION TACKLES THE STATE OF FATE OF DEMOCRACY

Genevieve MacIntyre - September 28, 2021 <https://www.dal.ca/news/2021/09/28-democracy-has-to-rise-to-the-occasion---inaugural-stanfield-con.html>

"Stanfield Conversations: Talking Democracy" series launches at Dalhousie University

Dal Students speak out about Democracy on Edge featuring Dalhousie students and alumni: Claire Belliveau, Sarah Dobson, Tina Oh, and Tobias Schminke

CBC Communications - September 15, 2021 (Updated September 24 2021) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/community/dal-students-speak-out-about-democracy-on-edge-1.6176329>

SHANGHAI RANKING'S GLOBAL RANKING OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS

Political Science emerged as one of Dalhousie's top subject areas in this year's Global Rankings of Academic Subjects (GRAS)

May 2021 <https://www.shanghairanking.com/institution/dalhousie-university>

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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: psadmin@dal.ca

