

**Faculty of Graduate Studies  
Annual Report  
2014**



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

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*Inspiring Minds*



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## Dean's Report

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) is committed to providing the best possible service to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate programs. Our focus for the coming year remains on improving graduate student funding, graduate recruitment, professional skills development, service delivery, quality assurance, and services for postdoctoral fellows. The following initiatives have been undertaken this past year:

- Graduate student funding witnessed both challenges and opportunities in 2013-14. Endowment income pays for most of the scholarships in FGS. The Killam Trustees asked that the rate of spending from Killam funds for scholarships be reduced from 4.75% to 3.5%. The University also reduced the spending rate on all *other* endowments from 4.75% to 4.25%. Together this would have represented an almost 30% cut in scholarships if the cuts had been immediately enacted.

Working with the VP Finance and Administration, FGS has created a phased in reduction and use of carry-forwards that, barring an unforeseen crisis, will see no more than an average 10% cut in the next academic year and maintenance at that level for the subsequent 4 years. While not encouraging, a disaster has been mitigated. “First and Second Round” transfers to units have necessarily been cut, but FGS did apply a weighted reduction scheme in order of protect small units from devastating cuts that they could not afford. If (*and only if*) we obtain better than anticipated returns on investments, it may be possible to see the reduction scaled back.

On the positive side, the Province of Nova Scotia has recently announced the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships. The Masters scholarships are valued at \$10,000, the Doctoral scholarships are valued at \$15,000 and the International Scholarship covers the International Differential Fee (IDF). International students can also be considered for the Masters or Doctoral level Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship (which ever program they are enrolled in). The Nova Scotia Government stipulates that applicants nominated by academic units for the Masters level scholarship may hold the award for up to 2 years; PhD applicants can hold the Doctoral Level award for up to 4 years and International students can hold the International award for up to 3 years. For the 2014-15 academic year, Dalhousie plans to award 61 Master's, 23 PhD and 11 IDF awards. (Similar numbers will be awarded each year.)

In order to be eligible to be nominated for a Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship, the proposed thesis research must be aligned with Nova Scotia priority research areas such as: Ocean S&T, ICT, Clean Technology (including Materials Research), Financial Services Research, Life Sciences, Aerospace & Defense, Health & Wellness, Resource Sectors or Social Innovation. If a nominating Department is unsure whether a student falls under these categories, it should contact FGS for advice.

- The three federal granting agencies (Tri-Council) are harmonizing the delivery model for the Canada Graduate Scholarships–Master's and Doctoral support programs and devolving the administration for the Canada Graduate Scholarships–Master's program entirely to the Universities. This year Dalhousie received a quota for all Master's scholarships and made these awards internally. The quota was 20 SSHRC, 30 NSERC and 14 CIHR awards.
- In other Killam related news, FGS will be suspending indefinitely the Dalhousie Killam Lecture Series. The final lectures will occur this Fall, entitled “Interface: Computer Science, New Media Art and Public Space”, which is organized by the Faculty of Computer Science and the Dalhousie Art Gallery. This suspension is a reflection of (1) the reduction in Killam funds and (2) the confusion that has

resulted from the advent of the national Killam Lecture Series, in which the Killam Prize winners tour the Killam institutions.

In addition the Killam Trust has changed its logo and is considering the title “Laureates” for some segments of Killam awardees.

- FGS has proposed an increase of the application fee from \$70 to \$110, which is in line with that charged by other U15 universities. The extra revenue will be used to pay for an additional Admissions and Recruitment Officer. The search is now on for that person.

Let me note that the combination of the transfer of the Tri-council scholarships to Dalhousie for decision and the introduction of the new NS scholarships has greatly increased the administrative burden and workload of the office staff, who are charged with scholarship management, and particularly the Scholarships Officer. I feel that it is imperative that an additional scholarships and admission clerk be hired.

- A Senate review of FGS was commenced in this academic year. The review committees have not yet started their work, but FGS has prepared an extensive Self Study in anticipation of their work (over 200 pages in length). This Self Study is a result of (1) an extensive set of internal working group reports (17) from the staff at FGS, (2) consultations using focus groups with faculty, students, graduate secretaries, graduate coordinators and post-docs, and (3) an in-depth collection, collocation, and analysis of data related to FGS from the past 6-8 years. The Self Study also includes a Strategic Plan for the Faculty (as an administrative unit) and a new Governance Manual, which describes the functioning of the Faculty. (This is the first revision of the Governance document in 10 years.)
- Faculty Council (FC) was re-organized this year, again in preparation for the Senate review. In particular the dean is no longer the chair of FC. FC now elects a chair from its own membership, as well as a deputy chair. That chair runs the business of FC and receives support from the dean’s office. In addition, the division of responsibilities of the dean and FC, and its sub-committees, was better delineated. FC is entirely responsible for the academic policies of FGS; however, the dean is fully and solely responsible for the financial management and administration of FGS. This division is consistent with the separation of responsibilities and duties seen between the Senate and the BOG, as represented by the President.

In a related move, the dean and associate deans will no longer report to the APCC, as that committee will be informed by the dean’s report to FC. (This leaves more time for academic business and stops needless repetition of discussions.)

- General graduate student work-space continues to be a challenge. The two PhD student shared offices on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Goldberg Computer Science Building will be moved to the second floor of that building once security access issues are resolved.
- Policies and services for postdoctoral fellows on campus have been established and are on-line. With mandatory health and optional dental, EI and CPP benefits now being available to postdocs, FGS has noticed an increase in the amount of time spent on postdoc issues and files. The harmonization of PDF policies and benefits with the Faculty of Agriculture in Truro still provides challenges and is ongoing.
- FGS staff organized the second Dalhousie ‘Three Minute Thesis’ (3MT) competition. The competition was run over two days with the winners of the heats presenting at the finals. The competition was a great success and participation came from all faculties across campus. It is intended to run this event again next year with the possibility of sending our winner to a national competition. This year there are regional events (Western, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic regions) with the winners of each region going on to a National 3MT competition. Dalhousie organized and hosted the Atlantic regional event which was a great success.

- FGS and the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students worked with MITACS Step to bring a third series of professional development workshops to the region. The workshops were held in November and March and included sessions on presentation skills, networking, time management, foundations of project planning and a networking event. The workshops were open to PhD students from their third year up and postdoctoral fellows from the region. It is anticipated that Dalhousie will continue to run these events in the upcoming academic year.
- Recruitment in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) in 2013/14 included responding to inquiries from prospective students, processing admissions, pre-arrival communications, on-campus orientations, student retention initiatives, updating promotional material, participation in national and international graduate recruitment fairs, improving the FGS admissions website, modifying application forms, and hosting campus-wide staff and faculty meetings.

Last summer, we held two pre-arrival webinars for incoming students, sent new students biweekly newsletters about Dalhousie and Halifax and maintained a Facebook presence for incoming students. The half-day orientation in early September was attended by approximately 400 students. The number of new admits for January is significantly lower than September, but we also held a two-hour orientation for these new students in January, which was attended by approximately 100 students. In addition to the large orientations, FGS was invited to participate in department specific orientations in the Faculties of Management and Engineering. Both the September and January Orientations were capped off with a BBQ hosted by the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students as well as opportunities to take a campus tour.

Promotional material for Graduate Studies appeared in the *Dalhousie Magazine*, *The Coast* and *Metro* as well as on Facebook and Twitter. This is our first year implementing a social media strategy, which will be reviewed and revamped as we receive reports on viewership. We updated the FGS programs bookmark, one of our magazine ads, email templates for student inquiries and began a re-design of the FGS Creative Brief as well as started to update the FGS Handbook, the latter two are currently on hold until our new recruitment administrator is hired.

- Our Recruitment Officer visited both Brazil and Columbia this year, and FGS staff attended several Canadian fairs.
- Dalhousie signed an MOU to permit a Joint Doctoral Program with L'Université de Montréal.
- Dalhousie University, together with the University of British Columbia, the University of Montreal and the University of Ottawa are in the final stages of signing an agreement with nine European universities, funded by the Erasmus Mundus program of the European Union. The main objectives are to establish strong links and mobility flows at doctoral and post-doctoral level between North American and European partner universities over the 48 months of the project, to facilitate sharing of educational/research experiences and learning from other Centers' experiences to overcome issues and difficulties in the development of international education programs, to establish links between North American and European partner universities to conduct collaborative education programs, to establish links between North American and European partner universities to assess other collaboration possibilities, and to create a new network with outstanding scientific and technological expertise focused on the following thematic fields. The areas covered are *Medical Sciences*, *Natural Sciences*, and *Engineering and Technology*.

The body of the Annual Report includes summaries of enrolment, scholarship activities, convocation, new academic programs, program reviews, changes in FGS administration and regulations, the Interdisciplinary PhD program, academic integrity, and budget issues.

Over the past year there have once again been several changes in personnel and responsibilities within the FGS office. Katelynn Northam was extended for a further year as the Recruitment and Program Assistant but left the position in March. Jasmine Smart replaced Chenxi Xu as the Graduate Student Services, Admissions and PDF Clerk and Elaheh Nolehdan is now the Information Clerk for the front desk. We also had Kathryn White, and Brenda Phillips backfilling as the Graduate Secretary for the Interdisciplinary PhD program while Meghan Fish was on maternity leave until December 2013. Kim Humes has left her position as the Student Services Clerk to take on a role in the School of Information Management. Kim's replacement, Karen Conrod, will start in FGS on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Last May Heather Nowlan left her position as the Admissions and Convocation Officer. Leanne Flynn has taken on this role. At the time of this report going to print we are currently in the process of recruiting a new Admissions, Recruitment and Retention Officer.

Finally, this report would not be complete without a grateful acknowledgement of all of the people who have contributed to FGS over the past year. The FGS office staff has once again worked tirelessly to provide service to all constituents as well as to engage in new initiatives, and their dedication is impressive and greatly appreciated. Our student assistants, Ella Muravyeva, Kylie Peacock, Caroline Lavoie, Rahel Bruins, Hayley McCabe-Naish, Mercedes Bullock, and Fatemeh Mousavi have been terrific all year and continue to contribute in a wide range of essential activities.

We also greatly appreciate the many staff and faculty members across campus who make graduate programs work day to day, including graduate coordinators, departmental administrators, members of Faculty Council and APCC, as well as members of the various committees and review and appeal panels over the year. Clearly, the objectives of FGS could not be met without their effort.

Finally, I am standing down as dean on 20 June 2014. A new dean will be in place on that date.

May 8, 2014

Bernard Boudreau, Dean  
Faculty of Graduate Studies

**This report covers the period of May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014 and contains projections to August 2014 where numbers were available. The financial data covers the period September, 2012, to August, 2013.**



## 1. Enrolment

Graduate students represent approximately 20% of the total Dalhousie student population which reflects the research intensive nature of Dalhousie. The December 1 “headcounts” since 2000, reported in the table below, show the changes in total enrolment over the last twelve years. Graduate enrolment has remained relatively steady over the last year. Overall enrollment is the highest it’s ever been and 2013 saw an increase in the number of international graduate students once again.

### Graduate enrolments 2000-2013 (December 1 “headcounts”) <sup>1</sup>

Year	Full time	Part time	Total	Increase	FTE	International
2000	1684	843	2527	6.1%	1965	333
2001	1853	933	2786	10.2%	2164	362
2002	2061	998	3059	9.8%	2394	442
2003	2288	954	3242	6.0%	2606	547
2004	2338	903	3241	0.0%	2639	540
2005	2228	844	3072	-5.2%	2509	475
2006	2267	792	3059	-0.4%	2531	412
2007	2396	826	3222	5.3%	2671	412
2008	2412	862	3274	1.6%	2699	441
2009	2469	855	3324	1.5%	2711.56 <sup>2</sup>	537
2010	2611	726	3337	0.4%	2844.20 <sup>2</sup>	592
2011	2612	722	3334	-0.1%	2844.38 <sup>2</sup>	684
2012	2740	698	3438	3.2%	2954.07 <sup>2</sup>	806
2013	2728	698	3426	-0.3%	2932.77 <sup>2</sup>	831

1. *Exclusive of medical post-graduate residents*

2. *FTE calculations are based on the MPHEC/Statistics Canada formula and do not include Journalism students at King’s College.*

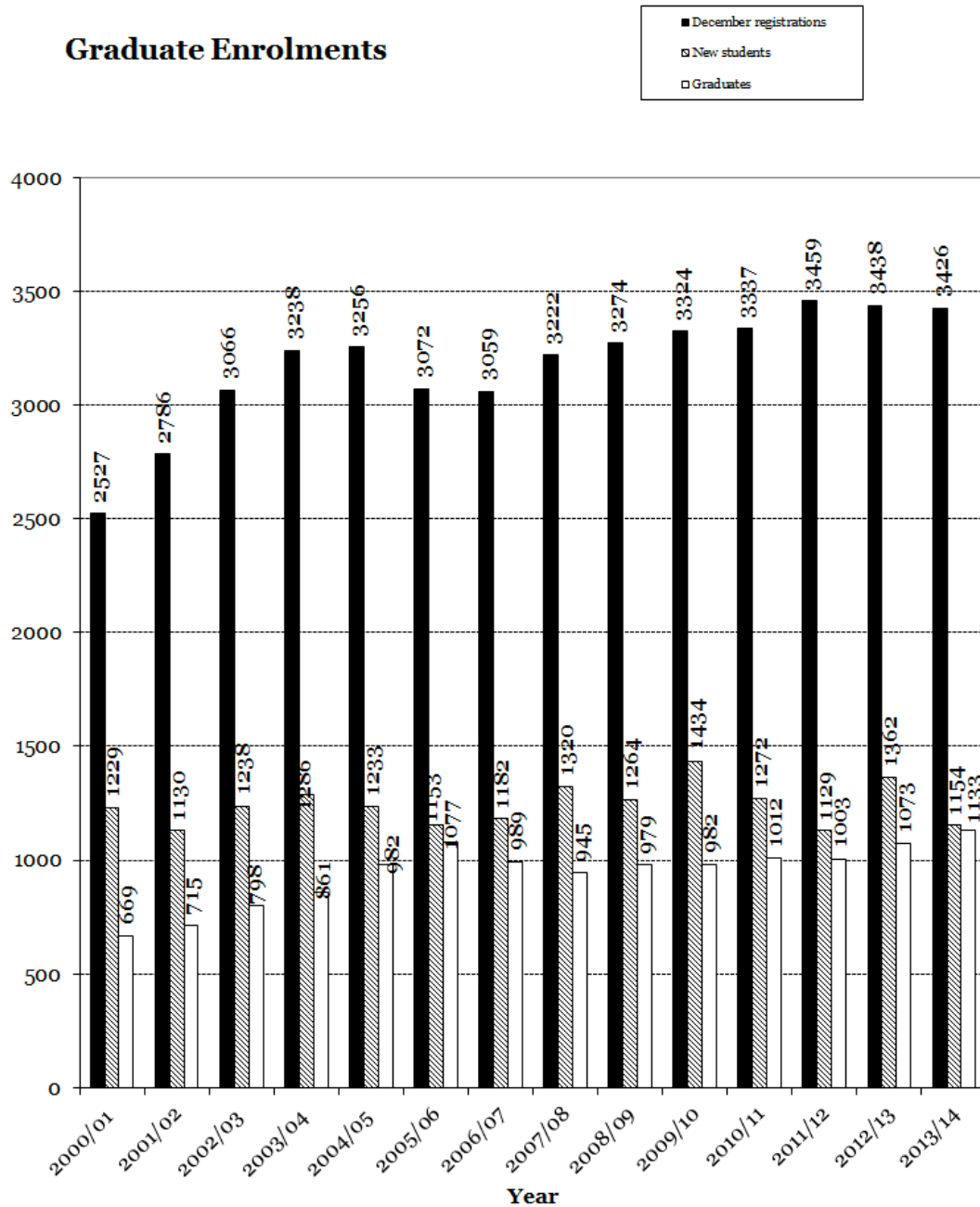
These numbers do not reflect the details for individual faculties and programs. While the international graduate student enrolment continues to increase, there can be little doubt that the international differential fees on top of tuition are an important negative factor in recruitment of these students.

The long-term flattening in enrolments shown in the table above could be the result of at least 4 factors:

- (1) The capacity to take more students in the thesis-based programs could be limited by an inability of professors to supervise and to pay for more students;
- (2) The teaching capacity and space in the professional programs have reached saturation and more students cannot be accommodated;
- (3) The number of quality graduate applicants may have plateaued, which is not indicated in the number of students admitted to Dalhousie with GPAs  $\geq 3.7$ , which is still increasing.
- (4) A smaller fraction of applicants are accepting our admission offers.

If either of the first two points is the cause, then Dalhousie needs to rethink its graduate student recruitment strategy if it wishes to maintain a strong graduate school. If the fourth is true, we must establish why this is occurring.

### Graduate Enrolments



\* The 2009/10, to 2013/14 new student figures include newly registered summer term students.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, there were 942 newly registered graduate students starting in the fall term, 167 who started in the winter term and another 45 who started in the summer term. 1133 students graduated in May and October 2013. To capture programs that have a summer start date, newly registered graduate students have been included. However, with the student summer registration process still active, the summer term number will alter. This increase will be reflected in our report next year.

## International Enrolments

<b>International Graduate Students by Geographic Region as of December 1, 2013</b>		
<b>Geographic Region</b>	<b>Student Numbers</b>	<b>%</b>
Africa	64	7.7%
Asia - Eastern	162	19.5%
Asia - South Central	395	47.5%
Asia - South Eastern	7	.8%
Bermuda and Caribbean	7	.8%
Central America	2	0.2%
Europe	60	7.2%
Middle East	85	10.2%
North America	23	2.8%
Not Reported	0	0%
South America	23	2.8%
South Pacific	3	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>99.9%</b>

Specific student numbers for Saudi Arabia (70), China (158), and India (274) are included in the above.

## 2. Funding and scholarship support

Funding for graduate students is derived from a wide variety of sources, including scholarships from university and endowment budgets, external national and provincial agencies, supervisor research grants, departmental funding, etc. In 2012-13, financial support from all sources, internal and external, to Dalhousie graduate students was more than 21 million dollars.

The organization of various external scholarship competitions, the allocation of internal scholarship funds, and the administration of monthly payments to graduate students on a term-by-term basis is one of the most important, and one of the most time-intensive responsibilities of FGS. Detailed reports from the FGS and Killam Scholarship Committees will follow in the Associate Deans' section of this annual report.

The FGS scholarship (departmental allocations) budget includes contributions from the university budget, the Killam Memorial Research and Scholarship endowment (different from the Killam Advanced Studies endowment that supports the Killam Scholarships), and auxiliary funds. The total of the FGS scholarship allocations to 56 graduate units or programs for 2014-15 is \$3,200,209.

Department allocations were reduced (initially) this year because of the cut in Killam spending. The same formula as normal was used to set first estimate of the allocation (i.e., points per student with a GPA ≥

3.7), then that amount was reduced using a weighted scheme. FGS scaled the cuts to the total amount received by a particular department, so that small programs that received less than \$20K were subject to no cut; cuts then scaled linearly to 10% at \$100K in allocation and to 15% above \$200K. The logic was that small programs would be immediately devastated by even a 10% cut, while large programs could find some economies to absorb the cut. If the returns on the endowments prove to be better than anticipated, and we receive more money than hoped for, then we will forward increases on to the units.

The total FGS scholarship funds available vary (slightly) from year to year depending on the “auxiliary funding” available as a result of variations in actual spending vs. budget in previous years. This auxiliary funding is added to the funding total and distributed proportionally after the second round allocation has been determined. In the appendix to the report of the Scholarship Committee, we present the allocations by unit for 2014-15 as well as the trend in FGS scholarship allocations in recent years.

## Funding sources for Dalhousie graduate students, 2012-2013 <sup>1</sup>

### Funding from Dalhousie University Sources

FGS Scholarships	\$3,299,758
<i>Includes: Dr. P. Anthony Johnstone Memorial Bursary, Eliza Ritchie Scholarship, FGS Departmental Allocation, James Robinson Johnston, NS Black &amp; 1st Nation, Phi Kappa Pi Joe Ghiz Memorial Award, Sushi Nami Royale Scholarship, The Mowat Prize, OZ Optics</i>	
Bursaries	\$41,540
Departmental Funding	\$854,659
Killam Scholarships	\$655,776
President's Awards	\$397,102
Agriculture Campus	\$547,743
Other Internal:	\$20,313
<i>Includes: Alumni Excel Prize, Alumni Graduate Scholarship, Bruce &amp; Dorothy Rosetti &amp; Reid Scholarship, Duffy Award, John &amp; Lina Graham Commonwealth Fund, Lett Fund Bursary, Teaching Assistant award</i>	
<b>Total internal sources:</b>	<b>\$5,816,891</b>

### Funding from sources external to Dalhousie University

SSHRC (includes Vanier)	\$1,097,952
NSERC (includes Vanier)	\$2,535,166
Faculty Research Grants	\$10,663,110
CIHR (includes Vanier)	\$632,150
NSHRF (Scotia Scholar)	\$286,440
Sumner	\$24,000
Other External:	\$551,788
<i>Includes: Aboriginal Health Res Scholarship, ACENet Fellowship, Alzheimer's Society, Autism Research Training Program, Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic, Capital Health District, Conacyt, CRTP Award, Dover Mills, Dr. RM MacDonald Scholarship, Exxon Mobil Canada Ltd. Scholarship, Heart &amp; Stroke Foundation, Hebb Prize, International Performance Geological Assessment Centre, IWK Grad Studentship, Lew King Scholarship, Malcolm Ross Graduate Scholarship, Margaret Meagher Fund, Multiple Sclerosis Society Fsp, NS Planning Directors Award, NSERC/SSHRC GGSF fund, Robert L. Comeau Scholarship, Roda Book Prize, Saudi Arabia, SSHRC Supplement, Wenner Gren Foundation Award.</i>	
<b>Total external sources</b>	<b>\$15,790,606</b>

<b>Total all sources</b>	<b>\$21,607,497</b>
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1. Figures as of August 31, 2013. These figures include funding that is awarded for the full academic year (Sept 2012 – Aug 2013).

SCHOLARSHIP	VALUE OF AWARD	DURATION OF AWARD
Izaak Walton Killam Predoctoral Scholarship	Level 1 = \$20,000 / yr Level 2 = \$25,000 / yr	2 Years 2 – 4 Years
Mackenzie King Scholarship	Travel = \$11,000 Open = \$10,000	1 Year 1 Year
Eliza Ritchie Doctoral Scholarship for Women	\$24,000 / yr	Maximum 3 years
James Robinson Johnston Scholarship for African Canadians	Master's = \$15,000 / yr Doctoral = \$19,000 / yr	Maximum 2 years Maximum 3 year
Nova Scotia Black and First Nations Graduate Entrance Scholarship	\$15,000 / yr	Maximum 2 years
Phi Kappa Pi Joe Ghiz Memorial Award	\$750 Prize	One-time payment
The Sushi Nami Royale Graduate Scholarship	\$1,000 Prize	One-time payment
A. S. Mowat Prize	\$1,500 Prize	One-time payment
The Vitamin Scholarship (in abeyance)	Master's = \$19,000 / yr Doctoral = \$21,000 / yr	Maximum 2 years Maximum 2 years
Walter C. Sumner Memorial Fellowships for Doctoral Studies in Chemistry, Physics, Electrical Engineering or Computer Science	\$8,000 / yr	Maximum 2 years
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)	CGS-M \$17,500 / yr	1 year
	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship \$20,000/yr CGS-D \$35,000/yr	1, 2, 3 or 4 years 3 years
Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	PGS-M \$17,300 / yr	1 year
	PGS-M (Julie Payette) \$25,000 / yr	1 year
	CGS-M \$17,500 / yr	1 year
	PGS-D \$21,000 / yr CGS-D \$35,000 / yr	2 or 3 years 2 or 3 years
Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)	CGS-M \$17,500 / yr	1 year
	CGS-D \$35,000 / yr (\$30,000 stipend, \$5,000 research)	Maximum 3 years
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship	\$50,000 / yr	Maximum 3 years
Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship	\$40,000 / yr stipend \$20,000 / yr travel allowance	3 years (may apply for a thesis writing scholarship or a postdoctoral scholarship, for a fourth year of financing)
Canada Graduate Scholarship – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement	Up to \$6,000	3 to 6 months
Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships	\$44,000/yr (plus benefits, relocation costs, \$3,000 Research grant, \$1,000 conference travel grant)	Maximum 2 years
Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships	\$70,000 / yr	2 years
President's Award	Tuition	First 2 years of PhD
Oz Optics	\$10,000	1 year

The award statistics for scholarships, from the three granting councils to Dalhousie students for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, 2014 are presented in the next table.

**National Granting Council Scholarships Awarded, 2010-2014**

		<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>NSERC</b>	Master's Nominations (CGS-M, PGS-M)	51	44	41	41	174
	Master's Awards CGS-M	36	23	16	19	30
	PGS-M	2	3*	3	2	N/A**
	Doctoral Nominations (CGS-D, PGS-D)	45	41	47	44	53
	Doctoral Awards CGS-D	2	4	5	9	7
	PGS-D	26	15	14	10	13
	Vanier Nominations	1	2	4	2	1
	Vanier Awards	1	1	0	1	0
	<b>NSERC New awards to Dalhousie</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>
	<b>NSERC Total new awards held</b>	62	57	55	49	?
<b>SSHRC</b>	Master's Nominations (CGS-M)	19	18	18	13	119
	Master's Nominations (Business Related) <sup>1</sup>	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Master's Awards CGS-M	22	18	18	13	20
	Doctoral Nominations	29	25	22	21	21
	Doctoral Nominations (Business Related) <sup>1</sup>	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Doctoral Awards CGS-D	5	6	8	6	?
	SSHRC-D	0	3	4	2	?
	Vanier Nominations	2	1	1	1	2
	Vanier Awards	2	0	1	1	1
	<b>SSHRC New awards to Dalhousie</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>?</b>
	<b>SSHRC Total new awards held</b>	33	31	36	26	?

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>CIHR</b>	Master's Nominations	12	5	7	7	79
	Master's Awards CGS-M	12	4	5	1	14
	Doctoral applications (direct to CIHR)	25	23	12	21	?
	Doctoral Awards CGS-D	7	6	1	3	?
	Doctoral	0	0	0	2	?
	Vanier Nominations	1	3	1	1	0
	Vanier Awards	1	1	0	1	0
	<b>CIHR New awards to Dalhousie</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>?</b>
	<b>CIHR Total new awards held</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>?</b>
<b>Total Tri-Council new awards</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>?</b>

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Trudeau</b>	Nominations	2	3	2	3	2
	Awards	0	1	1	1	?

1. SSHRC held a new Business related competition for the first time in 2009 and competition was discontinued after 2010.
- \* 2 of the 3 PGS-M awards are Julie Payette awards (only 24 Julie Payette awards are given nationally)
- \*\* The PGS M level has been removed due to the new harmonized system
- ? Figures not known at the time of this report (SSHRC Master's and CIHR).

FGS has the important responsibility of informing students, departments and faculty members of the wide variety of rules, regulations, deadlines, etc. for each competition, of organizing the needed competitions, and of preparing nomination files for submission to the granting councils. Numerous new regulations — such as the time restrictions for holding CGS-M awards and the possibility of starting the awards in any term, the global payment system administered by FGS and its associated audit requirements, etc.— place an additional level of complexity on the administration of the granting council scholarships.

### 3. Interdisciplinary PhD Program

The Interdisciplinary PhD Program is the only graduate unit housed within FGS. Dr. William Barker serves as Director of the program, working with the Graduate Secretary, Ms. Meghan Dorward. The program's Admissions Committee considers applications for study, while the Program Advisory Committee advises on strategic and administrative matters for the program. The program satisfies a strong demand for a program that would allow its students to do research on complex problems that cannot be solved within a single discipline, and strong interest by faculty members in interdisciplinary collaborative work. This past year we continue to see a slow decrease in the number of registered students as many students have graduated in the past couple of years. The uniqueness and strength of the program derives from its careful selection of well-qualified students for admission, its stringent requirements for

interdisciplinary supervision and coursework, and demonstrated integration of disciplines in comprehensive examinations and thesis work. Fifty-five students are currently enrolled in the program: 39 of these students hold scholarships, grants and bursaries from various funding agencies, including an increasing number of the national Tri-Council Agencies.

#### **4. FGS administration and regulations**

University, faculty, and departmental regulations relating to graduate students are summarized in the Graduate Calendar. In addition, the FGS web site presents all regulations and procedures in an easily-accessible format. As a result, the FGS web site (<http://dalgrad.dal.ca>) has easily become our most important means of communication and method of transmitting new information. It is the major resource for information, forms, and regulations concerning most facets of graduate studies. Most forms are placed on the web, allowing for electronic completion and submission, and since May 2009, graduate applicants have had the option of having their academic references, program requirements, degree audits, and 2012 progress reports submitted electronically. The FGS web site is updated weekly and includes an RSS newsfeed. The site also maintains links to all units and programs as well as to many other sites. Our ability to send e-mail messages to all graduate students or selected groups has also proven extremely useful. This is because the e-mail list is updated centrally and is therefore current at the time of the mailing, hence improving our communication of administrative deadlines and regulation updates.

#### **5. Killam programs**

Dalhousie's Killam endowments have been an important and pivotal factor in the development of our graduate studies programs over the last four decades. FGS has responsibility for the Killam Advanced Studies fund, which supports predoctoral scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, and the part of the Killam Memorial Research and Scholarship fund allocated to support graduate scholarships. These endowments allow us to attract outstanding Canadian and international students to our graduate programs. The results of the 2012 and 2013 Killam scholarship competitions, which were once again particularly intense, are reported in detail separately later in this report. FGS is also responsible for the coordination of the Dorothy J. Killam Lecture Series funded from the Killam Residue Fund.

FGS, on behalf of the university, reports on all activities supported by the Killam endowments by means of an annual report to the Killam national conference normally held in conjunction with the CAGS annual conference in the fall.

These reports are available on the FGS web site (<http://killamtrusts.dal.ca/news/reports/>).

In February 2013, the Killam Scholarship Committee received 66 nominations for new awards and awarded 28 new and 39 renewal scholarships.

In April 2014, the Killam Scholarship Committee received 90 nominations for new awards and offered 14 Master's, wait listed three Master's and offered 23 Doctoral awards. 44 renewal scholarships were offered and accepted.

In 2013, the budget allowed for two Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships. The Committee had an exceedingly difficult task selecting the winning candidates from among a very strong field of applicants representing widely different disciplines. Both offers were accepted.



In the 2014 competition, the budget allowed for three Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships. All three offers were accepted. The Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship stipend amount is \$44,000 plus \$3,000 for research and \$1,000 for travel. Benefits and relocation allowances are also offered to the Killam Postdoctoral Fellows at Dalhousie University.

The Killam Lecture Series serves both the university and the community at large, and gives considerable visibility to Dalhousie's academic and research programs. The theme for the 2013 Killam Lecture Series was 'Epigenetics: Mental health beyond nature and nurture'. This series was organized by the Faculty of Science, and was led by Dr. Richard Brown with Dr. Ian Weaver, and Dr. Leslie Phillmore assisting in the coordination. The theme for the 2014 Lecture Series will be 'Interface: Computer Science, New Media Art and Public Space', organized by the Faculty of Computer Science and the Dalhousie Art Gallery. This series is being led by Dr. Michael Shepherd with Peter Dykhuis, and Stephen Kelly assisting with the coordination.

Like the previous year, FGS decided to hold a formal convocation-style presentation followed by a reception for the annual Killam event. This event was held in conjunction with the annual visit by the Killam Trustees on November 6, 2013. Four Killam Scholars were invited to give poster presentations before the formal presentations began. The event was held in the McInnis Room, Student Union Building. The evening was opened by Dr. Carolyn Watters, VP Academic and Provost, who welcomed our pre and postdoctoral Killam Scholars, Killam Professors and alumni and more than 100 guests. Following presentations by Managing Trustee George Cooper and recognition of Killam awardees, Mr. David Morgan, one of our Killam predoctoral scholars, gave a short talk describing his research in lay terms. A reception followed, with music provided by Shimon Walt.

The Killam Trust Committee assists in the coordination of the various activities supported by the Killam Trusts across the university. Its membership includes the Killam Trustees, university Vice-Presidents Academic, Finance and Administration, and Research, the Deans of Graduate Studies and Science, and a number of other university administrators. The committee meets twice a year to provide guidance and coordination for all Killam Trust activities at Dalhousie University related to the Killam bequests. Financial matters, such as investment policy and spending rates of income from the Trusts, remain the responsibility of the Board of Governors and Investment Committee. The Killam Trust Committee advises on, and considers for approval, policies and practices related to the use of these funds to support the activities funded by the Killam bequests as brought before it by various Killam selection committees. The committee also supports policies to promote the Killam name within the university and in the community at large. Thus, the committee has an important role in any discussion of policy changes related to the administration of Killam programs, but its main function is to coordinate Killam-related activities and to improve the visibility of the Killam programs at Dalhousie across the university and the community at large.

## **6. Recruiting**

Ever since 2006, when FGS began its role in graduate recruitment, we have grown our expertise and strengthened our effectiveness, this has continued in the 2013/14 year. Recruitment in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) in 2013/14 included responding to inquiries from prospective students, processing admissions, pre-arrival communications, on-campus orientations, student retention initiatives, updating promotional material, participation in national and international graduate recruitment fairs, improving the FGS admissions website, modifying application forms, and hosting a campus-wide staff and faculty meetings.

After an admission decision has been entered in Banner, FGS sends an informative and welcoming email from the Dean; last summer, we held two pre-arrival webinars for incoming students, sent new students biweekly newsletters about Dal and Halifax and maintained a Facebook presence for incoming students. The half day orientation in early September was attended by approximately 400 students. The number of new admits for January is significantly lower than September, but we held a two hour orientation for new students in January, which was attended by approximately 100 students. In addition to the large orientations, FGS was invited to participate in department specific orientations in the Faculties of Management and Engineering. Both the September and January Orientations were capped off with a BBQ hosted by the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students as well as opportunities to take a campus tour.

Again this year FGS hosted the Dalhousie Three Minute Thesis competition in early March and is hosting the inaugural Eastern Three Minute Thesis Championship in late April. Winners from each of the Dalhousie heats were chosen by panels of judges made up of faculty, staff and administrators from across the university, finalists in each heat competed in the Dal championship the following evening for a chance to win the title of first place, second place and people's choice as well as cash prizes. The Eastern Championship will host Three Minute Thesis winners from CAGS universities in Eastern Canada (Quebec to Newfoundland) and the top three finishers in this competition will compete in the National Championship for the title and prize money.

Promotional material for Graduate Studies appeared in the *Dalhousie Magazine*, *The Coast* and *Metro* as well as on Facebook and Twitter. This is our first year implementing a social media strategy which will be reviewed and revamped as we receive reports on viewership. We updated the FGS programs bookmark, one of our magazine ads, email templates for student inquiries and began a re-design of the FGS Creative Brief as well as started to update the FGS Handbook. The latter two are currently on hold until our new recruitment administrator is hired.

During the fall, FGS travelled to four graduate student recruitment events in Canada: Queens University, Memorial University, and McGill University (Arts and Social Science, and Science). FGS also participated in the Halifax Career Fair in September and Dalhousie's Open House in October. These graduate student recruitment events are opportunities to spread the Dalhousie name and provide information on our many world class master's and PhD programs.

In September, 2013 the Consortium of Alberta, Laval, Dalhousie and Ottawa (CALDO) participated in the "Imagine Canada" events in three cities in Brazil. In the winter of 2014, CALDO expanded to include five more U15 universities: Calgary, Saskatchewan, Waterloo, Western and Queens. As part of the expanded CALDO, in March 2014, FGS participated in "Explore Canada" fairs held in six cities in Colombia. As a member of CALDO, we participated in university information sessions while in Brazil and Colombia, and met with staff in the International Offices at several top universities in Colombia. Clearly there is a great deal of government support for students in these countries to go abroad to complete master's and PhD programs as well as postdoctoral and other research collaborations. Also as a member of CALDO, from our home universities, we participate in webinar sessions with prospective graduate students in Colombia in which we present information about Canada and our universities and answer specific student questions about various aspects of our programs and universities.

FGS continues to work with Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) students, most of whom are visiting research students; and with the College of Continuing Education (CCE) with prospective graduate students whose first language is not English. In April, 2014 we provided material and a presentation to Dalhousie representatives attending the Saudi Arabia Education Fair.

In January FGS held a two hour campus-wide recruitment meeting with graduate staff and faculty, which was well attended and included much conversation, suggestions and questions. As a result we identified

four areas in which to focus attention in the next year: hire a new administrator responsible for recruitment, admissions and retention, coordinate a series of information sessions with presenters from Research Services, Communications and Marketing, and the Webteam, advocate for more support for graduate-level recruitment and resources targeted to graduate programs, and provide support for graduate recruitment initiatives at local conferences.

FGS is a member of the National Association of Graduate Enrollment Management (NAGAP) and is represented on the executive of the Canadian Association of Graduate Enrollment Management (CAGAP). These associations provide a network of resources in the various fields of graduate studies management. FGS has implemented recruitment and retention strategies gleaned from these associations.

In sum, recruitment efforts in FGS during the 2013/14 year have been strengthened and our focus is more streamlined. Many positive recruitment initiatives have taken place over the last year and we are cognizant there is still much we can do. We expect a new Admissions, Recruitment and Retention Officer in FGS will affect better services to prospective students, graduate departments, as well as follow up opportunities encountered at recruitment fairs.

## **7. Students**

The convocation lists for the May and October 2013 convocations included 979 master's degrees, 107 PhD degrees, and 22 diplomas awarded, for a total of 1108 graduates over both months. This is compared to a total of 798 in 2002, 861 in 2003, 982 in 2004, 1077 in 2005, 989 in 2006, 945 in 2007, 978 in 2008, 982 in 2009, 1012 in 2010, 1003 in 2011, and 1073 in 2012.

Our Faculty recommends awards for a number of internal and external competitions, including the Governor General's Gold Medal Awards (2), the Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis Awards (2), the NSERC Doctoral Prizes (2 nominations to NSERC), the North Eastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS) master and doctoral thesis awards and graduate mentoring awards, and for the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies CAGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Awards (2 nominations). While each of the external awards has different eligibility criteria, recognition of our students' achievements through awards at the department or FGS and university levels adds to the strength of the file submitted for external nominations. In many cases, just the nomination by the department or by the university is very highly appreciated by the student and may serve as a significant addition to their CV. All such awards and nominations for external awards are selected from departmental nominations by the Prize Panel of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The Governor General's Gold Medals are awarded during the May convocation to "the most outstanding master's graduates (thesis or non-thesis)" in the May and previous October convocations combined. The 2013 Gold Medals were presented at the May 2013 convocation to Braden Murphy, a MASc graduate of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and to Emma Curran, an MA graduate in the Department of Classics. These exceptional students were selected from eleven departmental nomination files, representing a master's level graduating class of 979 students. The citations for Mr. Murphy and Ms. Curran in part read as follows.

### ***Braden Murphy***

*The Governor General's Gold Medal in the Natural Sciences and Engineering for 2013 is awarded to Braden Murphy. Braden Murphy graduated with the degree Master of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering in the May 2013 convocation. The title of his Master's thesis is: "**Design and Development of a Novel Toroidal Pneumatic Motor.**"*

*Braden Murphy's research "focused on the development of a novel pneumatic engine which has led to U.S. and Canadian patent applications, an accepted peer-reviewed journal paper, and precipitated a technology start-up company based here in Halifax.... Many of our graduate students defend admirable theses that advance our understanding of engineering science, but few succeed in advancing the profession through truly creative engineering design: Braden's work has achieved this in 'spades.'" Braden Murphy graduates with a GPA of 4.04.*

### **Emma Curran**

*The Governor General's Gold Medal in the Humanities and Social Sciences for 2013 is awarded to Emma Curran. Emma Curran graduated with the degree Master of Arts in the October 2012 convocation. The title of her Master's thesis is: "**Golden Age Imagery and the Artistic Philosophy of Ovid's Metamorphoses.**"*

*Emma Curran's thesis "explores a well-known topos, but pushes its significance well beyond the present scholarship. ...Not surprisingly for a student of her talents, Emma has a long list of scholarships and awards to her name, some of which are of the utmost prestige.... Despite her devotion to scholarship and the rewards she has gained by it, Emma also managed to develop a robust record of teaching and other academic service while at Dalhousie...." Emma Curran graduated with a PGA of 4.15.*

The winners of the 2014 Governor General's Gold Medals will be announced at the May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 FGS Full Faculty meeting.

The Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Awards were established in 2004, and the first awards were presented at the May 2004 convocation. For 2013, the Faculty of Graduate Studies Doctoral Thesis Awards were presented to Dr. Roger Marsters of the Department of History in the Humanities and Social Sciences category, and Dr. Jeffrey Gagnon of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in the Natural and Medical Sciences and Engineering category. These awards are for excellence of the doctoral thesis only, largely based on the report on the thesis by the External Examiner, and the nomination and thesis abstract. The citations for these two scholars read in part as follows:

### **Roger Marsters**

*The Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences for 2013 is awarded to Roger Marsters. Dr. Marsters graduated with the degree Doctor of Philosophy, in History in the May 2013 convocation. The title of his Doctoral Thesis is: "**Approaches to Empire: Hydrographic Knowledge and British State Activity in Northeastern North America, 1711 - 1783.**"*

*In his Doctoral thesis, Dr. Marsters "persuasively challenges prevailing interpretations of both early Canadian and Atlantic history. By tracing the protracted efforts of the British to know and to navigate the St. Lawrence River –from the failed expedition of 1711, through the Conquest of 1759, and to the aftermath of the American Revolution– Dr. Marsters makes important contributions to three different fields: the history of hydrography, cartography, and pilotage; the international history of the Atlantic world; and the national history of Canada.... He has produced a powerfully original thesis that is as remarkable in style as it is persuasive in analysis".*

**Jeffrey Gagnon**

*The Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Award for “the University’s most outstanding doctoral thesis” in the Natural and Medical Sciences and Engineering for 2013 is awarded to Jeffrey Gagnon. Dr. Gagnon graduated with the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Physiology and Biophysics in the May 2013 convocation. The title of his thesis is: “Unravelling the Mechanism of Ghrelin Secretion and the Effects of Ghrelin Reduction using a Receptor Decoy Approach.”*

*In his Doctoral thesis, Dr. Gagnon “chose to work on understanding the role of the active form of ghrelin in the regulation of energy homeostasis in vivo... The quality of the research performed by Jeff Gagnon during his PhD training can be highlighted not only by the number of the papers published and the quality of the journals publishing his work, but also, as outlined by the external examiner, the results obtained by Jeff during his PhD constitute a solid addition to the field.”*

The winners of the 2014 FGS Doctoral Thesis awards will be announced at the May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 FGS Annual Faculty meeting. It is important for FGS and for the university to honour our most outstanding graduates through such awards, not only because of the achievements of the award winners, but also to recognize the high level of achievement of all our students and programs. Students nominated for external award competitions in the last year are as follows.

**CAGS/UMI Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award** (submitted March 2014)

Engineering, Medical and Natural Sciences category:

Dr. Daniel Boyce, Department of Biology, PhD to be awarded May 2014, for his thesis “Patterns and Drivers of Marine Phytoplankton Change over the Past Century”.

Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences category:

Dr. Hai Dang Vu, Schulich School of Law, JSD was awarded May 2013, for his thesis “Towards a Network of Marine Protected Areas in the South China Sea: Legal and Political Perspectives”.

**NAGS Awards** (deadline February 1, 2014)

Doctoral Dissertation Award

No nominations were submitted to FGS for this award.

Master’s Thesis Award

No nominations were submitted to FGS for this award.

These external award competitions are highly selective: CAGS represents more than 60 Canadian universities, NAGS more than 100 American and Canadian institutions. It is, however, important for Dalhousie and for our students to assemble the nomination files and make strong nominations. Recognition as the Dalhousie nominee undoubtedly is an honour for the student, and for the university it is important to be well represented among such nominations for doctoral graduates.

## **Associate Deans' Reports**

### **Associate Dean – Scholarships, Curriculum, & Program Reviews**

Dr. Pelzer wishes to thank the Faculty staff for their support, help and expertise throughout the year. The dedication of staff to Graduate Studies ensures that a very high level of service is provided to students and faculty alike. As well, the Faculty of Graduate Studies would like to thank the members of the various committees of which the Faculty is composed for the generosity with which they donate their time and the careful consideration and insight they bring to the tasks they are asked to undertake. The Faculty could not function without their support, and their efforts are deeply appreciated, as is their unfailing sense of humour and continuing good will.

#### **1. Scholarships**

The following section will outline all of the scholarship competitions and processes held during the 2012-2013 and 2013-14 academic years. Committee members were elected or appointed to ensure fair and accurate disbursement of scholarship funds.

##### **FGS Departmental Scholarship Allocation**

Graduate Coordinators were asked to confirm the names of those who, upon admission, were considered to qualify as first-class students to be counted toward a department's second round allocation. Graduate Faculty staff used data from students' files to make a final determination of eligibility to be counted toward a department's allocation, based on a four-year undergraduate degree with a transcript demonstrating a GPA of 3.7 or higher for the last two years of a student's program.

The total amount of funding allocated to all departments for 2013-2014 is \$3,376,579, as compared to the 2012-2013 total of \$3,263,175. The anticipated funding allocation to departments in 2014-15 will be \$3,200,000.

The yearly allocation for thesis programs is based on two parts. Part A (1<sup>st</sup> round) is calculated as 80% of the previous year's base allocation. Part B (2<sup>nd</sup> round) is based on the number of A- or better students coming into a program in the previous year, weighted as follows: 1 point for new masters students, 2 points for transfers from masters into PhD programs and 3 points for new PhDs. The points are used to reallocate the remaining 20% of the funds to departments.

Non-thesis programs allocation is also based on two parts. Part A is calculated using the number of new masters students with A- or better entering in the previous year multiplied by a weighted factor related to the length of the program. The length factor is as follows: 3 for one year programs (10 or fewer half courses), 4 for 16-22 month programs (up to 20 half courses), 5 for 2 year programs (20 plus half courses) and 6 for 3 year programs (30 plus half courses). Part B is an entrance scholarship for use in the current recruitment cycle to help attract an exemplary student with a GPA of 4.0 or better.

A total of 658 points were accrued by departments for the 2013-2014 allocation year, an increase over the 565 point total for 2012-2013. A total of 600 points were accrued by departments for the 2014-2015 allocation year. Departmental allocations are presented in Table 1 at the end of this section of the Report.

## **Izaak Walton Killam Predoctoral Scholarships**

The Killam Predoctoral Scholarships are the most prestigious scholarships offered at Dalhousie University. Applications are submitted by departments on behalf of students whom they feel merit consideration for this award.

### *Renewals*

Killam Scholars wishing to renew their Scholarships for the 2013-14 academic year were asked to submit a progress report. Progress reports were reviewed by the Associate Dean, Dr. Pelzer. In total, 39 students submitted progress reports to request renewals, 7 from students in master's programs and 32 from students in doctoral programs. The Associate Dean recommended that all of these scholarships be renewed.

In March 2014, progress reports were received from 44 Killam Scholars wishing to renew their Scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year (6 Level 1, and 38 Level 2 Scholars). Progress reports were reviewed by the Associate Dean, Dr. Pelzer, who recommended that all of these scholarships be renewed.

### *New Applications*

Applications for new Killam Predoctoral scholarships are submitted by faculties, departments, and schools on behalf of Master's and Doctoral students accepted into their graduate programs but who are not yet at Dalhousie, and for Doctoral students who have already begun their studies here but who do not hold Killam scholarships.

A first round of offers is now made to top candidates immediately following the meetings of the selection committees: a wait list is sent to Graduate Coordinators for information. A second round of offers is made to applicants after Tri-Council results are learned.

The Killam committee was broken down into a Level 1 committee (Ian Folkins, Physics; Eli Diamond, Classics; Kamal El-Sankary, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Theodore Kolokolnikov, Math and Stats; Lindsay Dubois, Sociology and Social Anthropology; Geoff Loomer, Law) and a Level 2 committee (Olav Kringolson, Psychology; Leonard Diepeveen, English; Jan Haelssig, PEAS; Sara Kirk, Health and Human Performance; T. Alexander Quinn, Physiology; Ruben Zaiotti, Political Science). Committee members reviewed and rated only their specific files and submitted their individual rankings to FGS to be collated. These initial rankings were then considered at meetings of the Committees held on April 23, 2014, chaired by the Associate Dean. In all, 90 nominations were received (44 Level 1 nominations and 46 Level 2 nominations). From the ranked list, 37 new Killam scholarships were offered, 14 at Level 1 and 23 at Level 2. Three master's nominations were wait listed, with offers being made if offered awards are declined.

For comparison, in the competition held in February 2013, 66 nominations were received (21 Level 1 nominations, and 45 Level 2 nominations), and 28 new scholarships were offered (7 Level 1, and 21 Level 2).

*Killam Trustees:* George Cooper, Kevin Lynch, M. Ann McCaig, John Montalbano

*Dalhousie Killam Administrator:* Danielle Pottie

### **MacKenzie King Scholarships**

These scholarships are intended to provide support for graduates of Canadian universities to pursue study at the graduate level in any discipline at any location (the “open” scholarship) or specifically in the areas of international or industrial relations in the United Kingdom or the United States (the “traveling” scholarship).

A Committee consisting of Bernard Boudreau and Dieter Pelzer reviewed 4 applications for the March 2014 open and traveling scholarship competitions. The Committee recommended that 2 open applications (no traveling applications were submitted to Dalhousie) be forwarded to the University of British Columbia for consideration by the MacKenzie King Scholarship Selection Committee.

Results from this competition weren’t known at the time this report was prepared.

Last year (in the competition held February 2013), 15 applications were received, of which 2 open and no traveling applications were forwarded to the University of British Columbia for consideration by the MacKenzie King Scholarship Selection Committee. Dalhousie students were not awarded any scholarships.

### **Eliza Ritchie Doctoral Scholarship for Women**

The Eliza Ritchie Doctoral Scholarship is an entrance scholarship which was established in 1985 to commemorate Women’s Centennial Year. It is named in honor of Eliza Ritchie, a Dalhousie graduate (1887) who went on to become one of the first Canadian women to receive a PhD degree (Cornell, 1889). The purpose of the scholarship is to attract outstanding female students to PhD programs at Dalhousie. Departments may nominate Canadians and permanent residents for the scholarship. It is awarded, as a first criterion, based upon high academic standing and promise. Among applicants of otherwise equal achievement, preference is given to candidates from the Atlantic Provinces and to those seeking entry into programs in which women are underrepresented.

A selection committee consisting of Bernard Boudreau, Dieter Pelzer and Eileen Denovan-Wright met to review the applications for the March 2014 competition. There was 1 new award and 1 renewal scholarship offered.

Last year (in the competition held March 2013), there was 1 new award and 1 renewal scholarships offered.

### **James Robinson Johnston Scholarship for African Canadians**

The James Robinson Johnston Scholarship is an entrance scholarship that was established in 1996 to provide support for African Canadian students to undertake graduate studies at both the master’s and doctoral levels. It is named in honor of James R. Johnston, the first member of the Nova Scotian African Canadian community to graduate in Law from Dalhousie University (1898).

No competition was held in 2012-2013 as the funds for this award were committed. A new competition will be held in 2014-2015 (closing date May 15, 2014) to offer 1 Master’s or Doctoral award.



### **Nova Scotia Black and First Nations Graduate Entrance Scholarships**

The objective of the Nova Scotia Black and First Nations scholarships is to increase the representation of Nova Scotia Black and First Nations students in the university's wide diversity of graduate programs, and ultimately in the academy and in advanced professional occupations. The graduate program may be at the master's or doctoral level, and may include professional, course-based and thesis-based programs.

In 2013, Dalhousie University received 5 new applications and 1 renewal application. 1 new and 1 renewal scholarships were awarded. Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS), Bernard Boudreau (Dean, FGS), and Kevin Hewitt (Physics and Atmospheric Science) reviewed the applications for the May 2013 competition.

The next competition deadline is May 15, 2014.

### **Phi Kappa Pi Joe Ghiz Memorial Award**

This is an annual award given to a student enrolled in a graduate degree program at Dalhousie University.

A prize of \$750 will be awarded to a student studying at the Master's or Doctoral level, in any discipline at Dalhousie University. The student must have a first-class standing (GPA 3.7/4.3) or higher in the last two years of previous study (graduate and/or undergraduate) and demonstrate both community involvement and university life involvement. Application or nominations should be made to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

In October 2013, Dalhousie University received 6 new applications. 1 award was made. Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS) and Bernard Boudreau (Dean, FGS) reviewed the applications.

### **The Sushi Nami Royale Graduate Scholarship**

The Sushi Nami Royale Graduate Scholarship is an annual scholarship of \$1,000 that will be awarded to a first year Master's student or second year Doctoral student with first-class academic standing. Preference will be given to an international student who is studying in an area related to the food industry, including distribution, management, regulations and policy, or processing.

In October 2013, Dalhousie University received 5 new applications. 1 new scholarship was awarded. Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS) and Bernard Boudreau (Dean, FGS) reviewed the applications.

### **A.S. Mowat Prize**

The A.S. Mowat Prize was established in 1984 and was created with gifts from numerous donors. Contributions were received from alumni and staff who worked and studied under Professor Mowat. The purpose of the A. S. Mowat Prize is to perpetuate the memory of Alexander S. Mowat who, as the O.E. Smith Professor of Education, served for thirty years (1939-1969) as chairman of the Department of Education at Dalhousie University; and to commemorate Professor Mowat's contribution to education in Nova Scotia.

The A. S. Mowat Prize was established to provide a prize of \$1,500 to recognize outstanding achievement by a student who is in their first year of a Master's program in any discipline at Dalhousie University.

In April 2014, Dalhousie University received 7 new applications. 1 prize was awarded. Bernard Boudreau, Dieter Pelzer, and Eileen Denovan-Wright reviewed the applications.

### **The Vitamin Scholarship**

The Vitamin Scholarship was enabled by an endowment created by the settlement of a court case, in which the companies involved agreed to allocate resources to vitamin research in Canadian universities. The Vitamin Scholarship was established for activities related to vitamin products such as food and nutritional research or education, food related programs, and/or consumer services or consumer protection activities. This scholarship is for one year at the Masters level and Doctoral level, and is renewable for one additional year. The award must be taken up upon commencing the first year of the degree program and is worth \$19,000 (Master's) and \$21,000 (Doctoral) (2008-2009) for a twelve-month academic year.

Unfortunately, the Vitamin Scholarship competition has not been held since 2008 as the endowment fund has not earned any new income with the current market conditions.

## **2. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Scholarships**

Two SSHRC Scholarship Committees are involved in determining which applicants will be recommended for and offered scholarship funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The SSHRC Doctoral selection committee consisted of David Black (Political Science), John Cameron (IDS), Julia Wright (English), and Michael Fournier (Classics). The SSHRC CGS Master's award committee consisted of William Barker (King's College/English), Michael Hymers (Philosophy), Maria Jose Gimenez (Spanish), Michael Fournier (Classics), Colin Mitchell (History), Howard Ramos (Sociology), and Ruben Zaiotti (Political Science). Both committees were chaired by Dieter Pelzer.

A total of 27 applications for SSHRC doctoral scholarships were reviewed by each member of the Committee prior to its meeting. Individual rankings were submitted to the FGS office where they were collated and distributed to members at a meeting held on January 2, 2014. The initial rank-ordered list was discussed and two final, alphabetical lists – an “A” list consisting of applicants ranked in the top 21 positions, and a “B” list comprising all the rest – were prepared and sent forward. Dalhousie was awarded five CGS-D scholarships and six SSHRC doctoral scholarships. Last year, 6 CGS-D scholarships and 2 SSHRC doctoral scholarships were awarded.

For the Master's competition, a new system was introduced in 2013. The Tri-Council harmonized the NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR Master's competition in to one competition. The new online system had a deadline of December 1, 2013 and Universities were given a quota and were able to offer the awards internally. The new system also introduced an incoming model, allowing students to apply to up to 5 different Universities. Dalhousie received 119 applications for the SSHRC portion of this competition. We were able to offer 20 awards. The Committee met on March 24, 2014, to rank the top 20 candidates and wait list 27 other candidates.

### **3. Walter C. Sumner Memorial Fellowships for Doctoral Studies in Chemistry, Physics, Electrical Engineering or Computer Science**

This Committee is responsible for preparing a ranked list of applicants, which is then forwarded to the Sumner Foundation for consideration for awards. The committee consisted of Russ Boyd (Chemistry), Qigang Gao (Computer Science), Ian Hill (Physics) and Craig Lake (Engineering), and is chaired by Dieter Pelzer.

To be eligible to be considered for these fellowships, applicants must be pursuing or intending to pursue doctoral studies in the fields of chemistry, physics or electronics. Candidates are required to have a degree from a Canadian university other than the one at which doctoral studies are to be undertaken. In descending order, preference is given to qualified applicants who are: 1) native to Nova Scotia, 2) native to one of the other three Atlantic Provinces, and 3) native to any other province of Canada.

In February 2014, the Committee considered 5 files for new awards and 3 files for renewal. Committee members ranked the applications prior to meeting. The ranked lists from each member were collated by FGS. The files were forwarded to the Foundation. At the time of this report, final results of this competition were not received from the Sumner Foundation. In last year's competition (2013-14), Dalhousie was awarded 4 new Fellowships and 2 renewals.

### **4. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Postgraduate Scholarships**

Two NSERC Scholarship Committees are involved in determining which applicants will be recommended and offered scholarship funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. The NSERC Doctoral Committee consisted of Andrew Rau-Chaplin (Computer Science), Michael Lee (Biomedical) and Aaron Newman (Psychology). The NSERC Master's Committee consisted of Rob Jamieson (Civil Engineering), Robert Rose (Physiology and Biophysics), Keith Johnson (Math and Stats), Olav Kringolson (Psychology), Srinivas Sampalli (Computer Science) and Mark Stradiotto (Chemistry). Both committees were chaired by Dieter Pelzer.

For the doctoral competition, each committee member read and rated 53 applications before the final meeting, held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at which a ranked list to be forwarded to NSERC was produced. A total of 41 applications were recommended for consideration of NSERC scholarships in the 2013 competition. 20 Doctoral scholarships were awarded by 13 PGS-D, and 7 CGS-D.

For the Master's competition, a new system was introduced in 2013. The Tri-Council harmonized the NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR Master's competition in to one competition. The new online system had a deadline of December 1, 2013 and Universities were given a quota and were able to offer the awards internally. The new system also introduced an incoming model, allowing students to apply to up to 5 different Universities. Dalhousie received 174 applications for the NSERC portion of this competition. We were able to offer 30 awards. The Committee met on March 24, 2014, to rank the top 30 candidates and wait list 25 other candidates.

The NSERC Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship (IPS) program is relatively small in comparison to the PGS and CGS programs, but IPS applications from Dalhousie students have had a very high success rate and have allowed for the building of valuable linkages between university researchers and local or national companies. The value of these awards is \$21,000/year for 1, 2 or 3 years, including \$15,000 from

NSERC and a minimum of \$6,000 from the industrial sponsor. Students apply individually for IPS awards, and need to have established an agreement with an industrial sponsor of their project. Part-time students are eligible for NSERC IPS awards. In addition, NSERC requires well-defined contractual and IP agreements between the student, supervisor(s), university, and the participating company. This requires a close coordination between the student and academic supervisor, the cooperating industrial organization, and FGS. Currently in the 2013-14 academic year Dalhousie has 8 active NSERC IPS awards. Applications are accepted and considered by NSERC staff at any time. Once the full application is received by NSERC, the decision usually is made within 6-8 weeks, and the award can be taken retroactively to the beginning of the academic term if needed. Dalhousie IPS applications easily compensate for the significant administrative tasks associated with each individual award.

## **5. Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) CGS–M Scholarships**

The CIHR CGS-M committee consisted of David Jakeman (Pharmacy), Bill Baldrige (Medical Neuroscience), Susan Kirkland (Community Health), Lois Jackson (Health and Human Performance), Tim Lee (Microbiology), and Paul Murphy (Physiology), and was chaired by Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS).

For the Master's competition, a new system was introduced in 2013. The Tri-Council harmonized the NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR Master's competition in to one competition. The new online system had a deadline of December 1, 2013 and Universities were given a quota and were able to offer the awards internally. The new system also introduced an incoming model, allowing students to apply to up to 5 different Universities. Dalhousie received 79 applications for the CIHR portion of this competition. We were able to offer 14 awards. The Committee met on March 25, 2014, to rank the top 14 candidates and wait list 17 other candidates.

FGS is not involved in coordinating the CIHR doctoral competition.

## **6. Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships**

The Vanier CGS program was announced in September 2008. The aim of the program is to attract and retain world-class doctoral students by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health; as well as leadership skills. Both Canadian and international students are eligible to be nominated for a Vanier CGS. A Vanier CGS is valued at \$50,000 per year, for three years.

Nominees are evaluated and selected based on the following three criteria, which will be weighted equally by the peer review committees. Until this year, the final selection of awardees by the board was based solely on the leadership component (referee letters, university nomination letter and applicant's self-assessment of leadership potential and ability) of the applications. This year, successful applicants were selected on all three peer-review criteria. Increased emphasis was also placed on student mobility and recruitment.

Peer review selection criteria:

- Academic excellence, as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions.

- Research potential, as demonstrated by the candidate's research history, his/her interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, and the potential benefit to Canadians and any anticipated outcomes.
- Leadership (potential and demonstrated ability), as defined by the following qualities: personal achievement, involvement in academic life, volunteerism/community, outreach, civic engagement.

The SSHRC Vanier nomination committee consisted of Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS) and Robert Summerby-Murray (Dean, FASS) and Krista Kesselring (Associate Dean, FASS). FGS received 7 applications and 2 applications were forwarded on to SSHRC. Dalhousie was successful in receiving a SSHRC Vanier CGS scholarship

The NSERC Vanier nomination committee consisted of Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS), Bernie Boudreau (Dean, FGS) and Eileen Denovan-Wright (Associate Dean, FGS). FGS received 6 applications and 1 was forwarded on to NSERC. Dalhousie was not successful in receiving a NSERC Vanier CGS scholarships.

The CIHR Vanier nomination committee consisted of Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS), Bernie Boudreau (Dean, FGS) and Eileen Denovan-Wright (Associate Dean, FGS). FGS received 1 application and it was not forwarded on to CIHR.

## **7. Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship**

Each year, the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation rewards up to 15 outstanding doctoral candidates who are enrolled or about to be enrolled in a social sciences and humanities program and who are doing research in areas related to their four themes. This award has continuously attracted the very best scholars in the social sciences and humanities, individuals with a passion for public engagement and who are likely to become leading national and international figures.

The Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship is tenable for up to 4 years. The award consists of an annual stipend of \$40,000, which is intended to cover the cost of tuition and reasonable living expenses, and a \$20,000 annual travel allowance, which is available to support research-related travel and to cover networking expenses associated with the Foundation's Public Interaction program.

Dalhousie University, upon recommendation from a selection committee, consisting of Kim Brooks, Bernard Boudreau, and Robert Summerby-Murray, nominated 2 students in the 2014 Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship competition. The results for the 2014 competition were not known at the time of this report.

In the 2013 competition, Dalhousie nominated 3 students for a Trudeau Scholarship. One application was successful.

## **8. Canada Graduate Scholarship – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS)**

The Government of Canada launched this program in 2008 to support high-calibre graduate students in building global linkages and international networks through the pursuit of exceptional research experiences at research institutions outside of Canada. By assessing international scientific research and training, CGS-MSFSS recipients will contribute to strengthening the potential for collaboration between Canadian and international universities and affiliated research institutions. This award is valued at \$6000.

In June 2013, Dalhousie submitted 1 applications for SSHRC CGS-MSFSS. The application was successful. The application was reviewed by Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS).

In October 2013, Dalhousie submitted 4 applications for SSHRC CGS-MSFSS and all applications were successful. The applications were reviewed by Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS).

## **9. Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (NSHRF)**

The Scotia Scholarship is a funding opportunity that is available under NSHRF's Research Trainee Funding Program. The Scotia Scholarship is intended to provide financial support to high caliber trainees engaged in health research-related academic study at Nova Scotia universities. The goal of the Scotia Scholarship is to support the development of the next generation of highly qualified health researchers and leaders in the Nova Scotia health research enterprise. Scotia Scholarship funded applicants have the distinct honour to carry the designation of Scotia Scholar.

Specifically for Scotia Scholarships, NSHRF considers research trainees to be: students enrolled at Nova Scotia universities who are completing thesis based degree programs at the Master's and Doctorate levels or honours based degree programs at the Undergraduate level at institutions that do not offer graduate level thesis based degree programs.

The applications for the 2014 NSHRF Master's competition were reviewed by Valerie Chappe (Physiology), Yukiko Asada (Community Health) and John Kozey (Biomedical). The applications for the 2014 NSHRF Doctoral competition were reviewed by Michael Shepherd (Computer Science), Kevin Duffy (Psychology) and Richard Singer (Biochemistry).

In April 2014 the NSHRF held a Master's and Doctoral Scotia Scholar competition. Dalhousie had a quota of 10 Master's applications and 24 Doctoral applications. Dalhousie received 81 applications (47 for Master's and 34 for Doctoral). The results of this competition were not known at the time of this report.

Dalhousie received all the awards for applications submitted to NSHRF in the 2013 competition.

The Scotia Support Grant is modeled after the NSERC CREATE and CIHR STIR programs of indirect student support. The competitive, peer reviewed funding opportunity will run every two years and is open to researchers/supervisors. The purpose of the Scotia Support Grant is to:

- Support additional training opportunities within vibrant and productive research programs;
- Enable funded researchers/supervisors to recruit the level and number of research trainees needed to enhance their programs of research;

- Provide flexibility for all levels of academic trainees to be engaged within Nova Scotia based research programs that are generating knowledge relevant to the NSHRF health research priority areas; and
- Contribute to the sustainability of local research programs that have the potential to impact and improve the health of Nova Scotians, while also training tomorrow's health researchers.

## **10. Academic Programs**

Concept papers, new graduate programs and major program modifications need approval at various stages, starting with the home Faculty, FGS, Senate, Board of Governors, MPHEC, and, for health or health-related programs, the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR). The review by FGS normally includes a report from an internal review committee and from at least one external expert. For new programs, a site visit of the external is required. Minor program modification proposals must be submitted to the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee (APCC) of FGS for approval. A degree name change, which does not affect degree requirements, existing academic program content and has no resource implications requires the completion of the Modified Program Proposal form, and approval by APCC on behalf of Faculty Council of FGS. A request to suspend/terminate a program must be made when it is intended that students no longer be admitted into the program and for the permanent removal of the program from the institution's offerings. The Program Termination Proposal form should be used. Proposals to suspend/terminate, if approved by the home Faculty, require approval by APCC on behalf of Faculty Council of FGS. Name changes and proposals to suspend/terminate a program also require approval by SAPRC/Senate (SCAA in case of name changes), the Board, MPHEC, and AACHHR (if it meets the criteria of a health or health-related program). Please note that since the beginning of 2013, MPHEC has revised its forms and information requirements for new programs and all other program changes. These forms can be found at the Senate and MPHEC websites.

For further information on the MPHEC program assessment process, including detail on the criteria used, please refer to the full policy document, *Academic Program Assessment Prior to Implementation at:* (<http://www.mphec.ca/quality/assessmentacademicprograms/publiclyfundedinstitutions.aspx>).

Units planning to develop new graduate programs are strongly advised and encouraged to consult with FGS and Kim Thomson, Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost (494-2591 or [kim.thomson@dal.ca](mailto:kim.thomson@dal.ca)) at a very early stage

In 2013-2014 the following program concept papers, new program proposals and program modifications were reviewed in FGS.

### **Concept papers:**

- Master of Anatomy (approved by FGS, and SAPRC)
- Master of Medical Neuroscience (approved by FGS, and SAPRC)
- PhD in Medical Neuroscience (approved by FGS, and SAPRC)
- Master in Landscape Architecture (returned to Faculty for revisions)
- Master in Food Science (returned to Faculty for revisions – proposers decided not to pursue proposal at this time)
- Master in Science in Nursing (approved by FGS, forwarded to SAPRC)

- Master of Science Medical Physics (approved by FGS, forwarded to SAPRC)
- PhD in Medical Physics (approved by FGS, forwarded to SAPRC)

**New program proposals (at various stages of review):**

- General Practice Dental Residency (approved by MPHEC)
- PhD in Health (approved by FGS, and SAPRC)
- PhD in Epidemiology and Applied Health Research (approved by FGS, and SAPRC)
- Certificate of Advanced Master of Health Administration Studies: Legal Aspects of Health Administration (approved by FGS)
- Graduate Certificate in Occupational Therapy (approved by APCC)
- Public Administration Professional Development Certificate (approved by APCC)

**Major program modifications:**

- Concept paper for the Major Modification to the Master of Applied Computer Science Program (approved by FGS)
- Concept paper for the Major Modification to the Master of Public Administration (Management) Program (approved by FGS)
- Non-thesis stream in the MA in French (under review by FGS)
- Concept paper for the Major Modification to the Master of Planning Studies (approved by FGS)
- Concept paper for Major Modification to the Master of Nursing Program (approved by FGS and forwarded to SAPRC)
- Concept paper for the Major Modification to the Master of Business Administration – Financial Services (approved by FGS)

**Minor program modifications and change of degree names and degree designations:**

- RADIANT TNT Graduate Certificate (approved)
- Master of Public Administration (Senate and Registrar's Office notified)
- Master of Environmental Design Studies (Senate and Registrar's Office notified)
- Master of Arts in Economics (Senate and Registrar's Office notified)
- Master of Development Economics (Senate and Registrar's Office notified)
- MA English (Senate and Registrar's Office notified)

**Program Suspension: Admission to this program is suspended. The program will continue to be delivered to any current students until all students have graduated, or the time allowed for program completion has elapsed, or all students have left the program.**

- Suspension of online delivery mode of MHA program. Approved by APCC in December 2013
- Genetic Counselling – will not be proceeding



FGS is responsible for academic reviews of its graduate programs. In the case of departments in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Science these reviews are carried out jointly with departmental reviews on a 7-year cycle. In other faculties FGS reviews are also carried out, wherever feasible, in combination with various faculty-based reviews, or as post-accreditation reviews. Reviews of graduate programs in the Faculty of Medicine are combined with first-term headship surveys or surveys/searches on a 5-year cycle. For joint reviews, FGS appoints one or two members to the review committee. For FGS reviews, internal review committees can consist of two to four members (normally three), and at least one external reviewer is asked to visit the unit. Following receipt of the review reports and response from the unit under review, the conclusions of the review are discussed in a meeting of Faculty Council.

**Reviews for the following graduate programs have been completed since April 2013:**

- Department of Economics (joint with Faculty of Science): MA, MDE and PhD programs (rating deferred by APCC for 12-month pending implementation of recommendations)
- School of Nursing (joint with Faculty of Health Professions): MN and PhD programs

**Reviews for the following programs are in various stages of progress:**

- Interdisciplinary PhD Program
- Department of Microbiology and Immunology (joint with Faculty of Medicine)(1<sup>st</sup> Term Survey & 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Survey/Search Committee)
- Community Health & Epidemiology
- Department of Chemistry (joint with the Faculty of Science) (in the review process)
- Department of History (joint with the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences)
- Department of Philosophy (joint with the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences)
- Faculty of Engineering (Senate Review)
- Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology (joint with Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences) (still with FASS for consideration)
- Department of Pathology (joint with Faculty of Medicine) (in the review process)

Programs that are subject to accreditation reviews by external agencies typically have a review cycle of 5 years. For such programs, FGS can decide to use a “post-accreditation” review of academic issues and issues internal to the university, normally relying on the accreditation report submitted by external reviewers as the FGS external review.

## **11. Curriculum Matters**

Issues related to the graduate curriculum, including new courses, cross-listings, and changes to class titles, prerequisites and numbers, are reviewed and approved by the Faculty’s Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee at its monthly meetings.

For the period between May 2013 and April 2014, APCC considered and approved the following:

New Classes.....	49
Cross Listings.....	16
Minor Changes* .....	26
Removals.....	26

*\* This includes such items as title and number changes, changes to prerequisites, and changes in course descriptions or delivery method.*

## **12. The Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships**

The Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee is responsible for recommending candidates to receive new Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship awards and for establishing a wait list.

*Committee membership:* Roman Smirnov (Mathematics and Statistics), Derek Reilly (Computer Science), Kamal El-Sankary (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Pauline Gardiner Barber (SOSA), and Brad Meisner (Health and Human Performance). The committee was chaired by Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS).

*Killam Trustees:* George Cooper, Kevin Lynch, M. Ann McCaig, John Montalbano

*Dalhousie Killam Administrator:* Danielle Pottie

A total of 31 applications were put forward by 24 departments for this year's competition: 7 from women and 24 from men, together representing 15 different countries. Each member of the Committee reviewed all of the applications and established a ranking list which was submitted to the Faculty office before a meeting was held on February 18, 2014. At that meeting, the collated rankings of committee members were used in conjunction with each individual's scores, as a basis for discussion. As a result of their deliberations, the Committee recommended 3 offers to the Dean and Killam Trustees.

The 3 initial offers were accepted (Andrew Snow, Obstetrics, Urban Larsson, Math and Stats and Catherine Holtmann, Sociology).

The following table outlines, for the given year, the distribution by discipline of new and renewed Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships held during the period indicated.

## Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Distribution by Discipline

Year	Total held	F/M	Science & Engineering	Discipline	Humanities & Social Sciences	Discipline
May 2014	3	0/3	2	Chemistry, Physics	1	Philosophy
2013-14	7	2/5	6	Chemistry (2), Biology, Psychiatry, Psychology, Physics	1	Philosophy
2012-13	8	2/6	6	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychiatry, Psychology, Earth Sciences	2	Political Science, Law
2011-12	6	2/4	5	Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Psychology, Psychiatry	1	Law
2010-11	7	3/4	4	Bioethics, Biology (2), Pathology	3	History, SOSA, English
2009-10	10	5/5	5	Pathology, Biology, Bioethics, Biology, Psychology	5	SOSA, English (2), Philosophy, History
2008-09	13	4/9	7	Biology, Bioethics, Math, Psychology, Process Engineering, Microbiology, Earth Sciences, Industrial Engineering	6	English, History, Philosophy, Theatre
2007-08	15	7/8	11	Psychology, Biochemistry, Earth Sciences, Biology, Math and Stats, Microbiology, Process Engineering, Industrial Engineering	4	History, Philosophy, Theatre
2006-07	11	5/6	8	Biochemistry, Biology, Earth Sciences, Industrial Engineering, Mathematics, Psychology	3	History, Theatre
2005-06	7	2/5	6	Biochemistry, Biology, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Chemistry	1	History
2004-05	8	2/6	4	Chemistry, Biology, Pharmacy, Mathematics	4	History, Music, English
2003-04	5	2/3	2	Biology, Biochemistry	3	English, History, Music (1 yr)
2002-03	4	0/4	3	Pharmacy, Chemistry, Earth Sciences	1	English
2001-02	6	1/5	4	Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics (2)	2	Philosophy, Political Science
2000-01	7	2/5	5	Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Engineering Mathematics, Mathematics & Statistics, Neuroscience/Psychology	2	Philosophy, Sociology & Social Anthropology
1999-2000	5	1/4	4	Chemistry, Mathematics, Pharmacology, Biology	1	English
1998-99	5	2/3	2	Chemistry, Physics	3	Political Science (2), Economics

### **13. Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships**

In July 2010, the Canadian government announced the establishment of the Government of Canada's Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships, a prestigious new program to attract and develop the world's best and brightest postdoctoral researchers in Canada. Under that program, 70 new fellowships are to be awarded each year, with funding provided through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Fellowships are \$70,000 per year (taxable) and are tenable for two years.

An application to the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Program is actually a nomination from the University, with important roles for the supervisor, the department, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies acting for the University. The Dalhousie Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Committee is responsible for recommending candidates to be nominated by the University.

*Committee membership:* John Newhook (Associate VP, Research), Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS) and Bernard Boudreau (Dean, FGS), Eileen Denovan-Wright (Associate Dean, FGS). The committee was chaired by Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS).

There were 6 applications submitted for this year's competition. Each member of the committee reviewed all of the applications and established a ranking list which was submitted to the Faculty office. It was determined that 1 application would be nominated by the University. Dalhousie was successful in receiving that Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship.

### **Acknowledgements**

The generous support of the Killam Trusts, the Mackenzie King Scholarship Board of Trustees, and the Walter C. Sumner Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

The members of the various committees which serve on behalf of the Faculty express their thanks to the staff of Graduate Studies for their support and guidance.

Submitted 8 May 2014

## **Associate Dean – Postdoctoral Fellows, Defences, & Academic Integrity**

### **1. Postdoctoral Fellows—General**

Currently, there are 199 postdoctoral fellows (PDFs) at Dalhousie including 183 PDFs associated with faculties in Halifax and 16 PDFs associated with the Faculty of Agriculture in Truro. In addition, there are 10 Dalhousie-affiliated PDFs at the IWK.

The recommended minimum stipend for PDFs across the university has been raised to 36,000. In 2013, the mean annual salary for grant paid PDFs was ~43,000 per annum (median 42,000). This average salary reflects PDF salaries across faculties and levels of experience. In 2013, the value of CIHR and NSERC fellowships were 40,000 per annum, and SSHRC postdoctoral fellowships were valued at 42,000 per annum.

#### **Starting Stipends for New Postdoctoral Fellows\***

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
New Postdoctoral Fellows	47	59	24	74	96
Average Stipend	42,598	42,340	42,000	42,937	43,953
Minimum Stipend	31,475	26,500	35,000	30,800	25,220
Minimum Stipend Earners	1	1	1	1	1
Stipend Earners < 35,000	3	5	0	3	5
Maximum Stipend	73,224	75,000	60,000	100,000	70,000
Maximum Stipend Earners	1	1	2	1	1

\* Killam Postdoctoral Fellows are not included in these figures.

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Dalhousie celebrated its fourth Postdoc Research and Appreciation Day. It was the most widely attended event to date, with 86 individuals registered for Appreciation day, and 156 for the appreciation dinner. The keynote speech by Dr. Gregory Petsko (Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Chemistry at Brandeis University and Professor of Neurology at Weill Cornell Medical College) on the current state of the postdoctoral experience was extremely relevant and well received by the attending PDFs. It was followed by a lively question period. PDF Research Day featured oral presentations, poster sessions, an update from the national postdoctoral association survey, and career perspectives panel discussion.

FGS has established closer ties and collaboration with PDFs through monthly meetings with FGS and the Dalhousie Postdoctoral Society to identify needs and resources for PDFs. In collaboration with Human Resources, we have been reviewing benefits for PDFs and clarifying the role of Dalhousie-affiliated PDFs. The diversity among universities and barriers for PDFs to receive benefits is a matter of discussion nationally. There has been a national working group established to discuss the issues of benefits for PDFs, particularly for PDFs funded through TriCouncil.

## **2. Theses and Defences**

All Master's and doctoral graduate theses are prepared according to the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Regulations for thesis preparation and submission. FGS is responsible for ensuring that all theses conform to these regulations, as well as standards outlined by Library and Archives Canada. FGS completes format checks for all theses and accepts theses once complete. Thesis submission is made electronically via the electronic university repository DalSpace and submissions are made public within one week of acceptance unless a thesis embargo request has been received prior to submission. From the period of May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014, FGS accepted 343 Master's theses and 96 doctoral theses. Last year, several important changes were made to the forms and procedures for thesis approval and submission that have made the process comprehensive but simple and adaptable to best serve students, thesis supervisors and examiners.

Doctoral defences for all programs are organized through the Faculty of Graduate Studies. FGS is responsible for approving and formally inviting external examiners and arranging for the venue and chairperson for the examination. From May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014, 98 PhD oral defences were conducted. This number is comparable to the 115 and 98 defences held over the previous two academic time periods.

The designated room for PhD defences is the Coburg Board Room. Since this room was opened in October, 2010, 273 PhD defences have been held therein. The Coburg Board Room was designed and equipped to serve PhD defences. In the last year, FGS has implemented policies, procedures and updated equipment to ease facilitation of remote participation at PhD defences. From May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014, 16 external examiners and 19 readers and thesis supervisors participated remotely at PhD defences. Of these participants, 32 were preplanned and preapproved by FGS. Remote participation was arranged by FGS without prior planning in 3 cases due to inclement weather or difficulty in travelling to Halifax. Discussion of the necessity, value and limitations of remote participation are ongoing at Faculty Council.

The number of PhD defences by department is listed in the table below. The names of the FGS-appointed chairs from each department that participated in PhD defences for other units are listed in the same table. FGS recognizes the contributions of PhD defence chairs as vital to the independence, objectivity and integrity of the PhD oral defence. Supervisors, readers and Departmental representative are also vital to the PhD defence.

### PhD Defences - May 1, 2013- April 30, 2014

Department	# of defences	# of Chairs from Dept	Name of Chair
Biochemistry	1	9	Dr. Byers, Dr. McLeod (2), Dr. Karten, Dr. Archibald (2), Dr. Too, Dr. Bearne (2)
Biology	9	6	Dr. Leonard, Dr. Scheibling, Dr. Lee, Dr. Whitehead, Dr. Wright (2)
Biomedical Engineering	1	3	Dr. Wells, Dr. Lee (2)
Business Admin		3	Dr. Hebb, Dr. Sheehan (2)
Chemistry	11	6	Dr. White, Dr. Burnell, Dr. Zwanziger (2), Dr. Stradiotto, Dr. Boyd
Civil Engineering	8	2	Dr. Newhook, Dr. Lake
Classics		2	Dr. Diamond (2)
Community Health & Epidemiology		3	Dr. Levy (2), Dr. Asbridge
Computer Science	4	8	Dr. Trappenberg, Dr. Heywood, Dr. Zincir-Heywood, Dr. Zeh (2), Dr. Cox, Dr. Milios (2)
Earth Sciences	2	2	Dr. Jamieson, Dr. Gibling
Electrical Engineering	1		
Engineering Math & Internetworking	2		
English	1	7	Dr. Furrow, Dr. Diepeveen, Dr. Wright, Dr. Baxter (2), Dr. Maitzen, Dr. Barker
Health & Human Performance		1	Dr. Kozey
History	2	6	Dr. Bannister, Dr. Neville, Dr. Mitchell (2), Dr. Brittan, Dr. Kesselring
ID PhD	6	1	
Industrial Engineering		1	Dr. Pelot
International Development Studies		1	Dr. Ulicki
Law	2	3	Dr. Coughlan, Dr. Devlin, Dr. Doelle
Math & Stats	2	3	Dr. Dilcher, Dr. Janssen, Dr. Nowakowski
Mechanical Engineering		3	Dr. Hubbard, Dr. Warkentin, Dr. Pegg
Medical Neuroscience	3	5	Dr. Rutherford, Dr. Semba, Dr. Currie (3)
Microbiology & Immunology	6	3	Dr. Hoskins (2), Dr. Garduno
Nursing	6	1	Dr. Macdonald
Oceanography	1	2	Dr. Kelley, Dr. Lewis
Pathology	4	1	Dr. Greer
Pharmacology	1	2	Dr. Pasumarthi, Dr. Howlett
Pharmacy		1	Dr. Sketris
Philosophy		1	Dr. Sherwin
Physics & Atmospheric Science	7	2	Dr. Hill, Dr. Folkins
Physiology & Biophysics		1	Dr. Chappe
Political Science	1		
Process Engineering & Applied Science	5	2	Dr. Donaldson, Dr. Amyotte
Psychology & Neuroscience	11	3	Dr. Stewart, Dr. Eskes, Dr. Chambers
Resource & Environmental Studies		4	Dr. Tyedmers, Dr. Duinker, Dr. Beazley (2)
Sociology & Social Anthropology	1	1	Dr. Gardiner-Barber
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	

### **3. Academic Integrity**

When academic misconduct is suspected, the instructor is to submit a signed statement outlining the basis for the allegation, together with all relevant supporting evidence, to the Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) of the Faculty which is responsible for the delivery of the course at issue, or in the case of an allegation in relation to a graduate thesis or other non-course graduate materials, to the AIO of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Between May 1, 2013 and April 30, 2014, Associate Dean Denovan-Wright, who is the AIO of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, was contacted regarding two allegations of academic misconduct. Both involved graduate level courses. The professors bringing forth the allegations were referred to the AIOs of the appropriate faculties. There were no allegations of academic misconduct involving graduate theses or non-course graduate matters.

Submitted 8 May, 2014



## **Interdisciplinary PhD Director's Report**

### **1. Interdisciplinary PhD Program**

The Interdisciplinary PhD (ID PhD) program at Dalhousie provides an opportunity for well-qualified students to undertake doctoral studies that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries by integrating the knowledge bases, approaches, perspectives and insights of discrete academic areas. Begun at Dalhousie in 1984, this program currently has 55 doctoral students enrolled. It is the only PhD program at Dalhousie that is housed within the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The Interdisciplinary PhD program went through both staffing and structural changes over a year ago. The position of Associate Dean as director and the position of Coordinator were removed and replaced by the position of Director, who reports directly to the Dean. The Director is currently Dr. William Barker from the Department of English. The Director also serves ex officio as member of FGS Faculty Council and also as a member of Academic Program Planning Committee.

As Director, Dr. Barker has completed a complete self-study of the program which will soon go under review. He meets annually with all students. Admission procedures retain the relatively stringent four-part structure established the year before and the earlier work of reviewing all student files for consistency in relation to FGS committee and program requirements has been completed.

Since the program does not have faculty of its own, it draws upon faculty members engaged in the program from across campus to ensure the university and FGS standards are met. To this end, there are three committees that run the program:

**Admissions Committee:** Drs. William Barker, Director and Chair; Jack Duffy (Professor Emeritus, Rowe School of Business Administration); Gordon McOuat (Adjunct Professor, Department of History); and ID PhD student representative, Matthew Numer.

**Appeals Committee:** Drs. Peter Tyedmers, Chair (Environmental Studies); Kenneth Rockwood (Medicine); Bill Freedman (Biology); and ID PhD student representative, Sharon Woodill.

**Advisory Committee:** Drs. William Barker, Director and Chair; Jack Duffy (Professor Emeritus, Rowe School of Business Administration); David Black (Department of Political Science); Raza Abidi (Health Informatics); Richard Apostle (Sociology and Social Anthropology); Anita Unruh (Health and Human Performance); Elaine Toms (Rowe School of Business Administration); Peter Tyedmers (Environmental Studies); and ID PhD student representatives Jennifer Baechler and Matthew Numer.

Overall the program, with all its successes, faces some significant challenges, and many of these will be addressed in the coming review.

In the 2013-14 academic year, 39 ID PhD students hold scholarships, grants and bursaries (totaling \$726,495) from various funding agencies, including the *Tri-Council Agencies*.

### **Graduates:**

In the period of this report, we celebrated 5 successful oral defenses of ID PhD theses.

- **Holly Richardson:** *“Seeing the Arcane in the Mundane: The Spiritual as Lived by Ill Children”*
- **Sherry Scully:** *The Maladaptive Threats of Identity Limbo and Cohesion Resistance: A Qualitative Case Study Examining the Challenges of Over-inclusion and Status and Dominance Confusion*
- **Kate Bigney:** *“The Difference a Discourse Makes: Fisheries and Oceans Policy and Coastal Communities in the Canadian Maritime Provinces”*
- **Lori McCay-Peet:** *Investigating Work-related Serendipity, What Influences it, and How it may be Facilitated in Digital Environments*
- **Samuel Stewart:** *Knowledge Translation in online Communities of Practice: Utilizing Social Network and Semantic Content Analyses to Link Healthcare Practitioners to the “Right” Knowledge Sources*

William Barker  
Director, ID PhD Program  
Submitted May 8, 2014

**Table 1: Departmental Allocations**

Faculty	2011 Allocation (Sept 11 – Aug 12)	2012 Allocation (Sept 12 – Aug 13)	2013 Allocation (Sept 13 – Aug 14)	2014 Allocation (Sept 14 – Aug 15)
<b>ARCHITECTURE</b>				
Architecture	\$48,230	\$58,084	\$56,967	\$58,575
Planning	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$15,500	\$21,590
<b>TOTAL ARCHITECTURE</b>	<b>\$65,230</b>	<b>\$75,084</b>	<b>\$72,467</b>	<b>\$80,165</b>
<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>				
Computer Science	\$185,568	\$206,954	\$233,063	\$218,561
<b>TOTAL COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>	<b>\$185,568</b>	<b>\$206,954</b>	<b>\$233,063</b>	<b>\$218,561</b>
<b>ENGINEERING</b>				
Civil Engineering	\$96,766	\$98,413	\$98,230	\$96,426
Electrical Engineering	\$71,331	\$91,045	\$99,836	\$87,914
Environmental Engineering	\$4,414	\$3,531	\$2,825	\$2,260
Engineering Mathematics	\$13,625	\$13,115	\$11,852	\$10,866
Industrial Engineering	\$14,037	\$20,230	\$32,684	\$33,675
Mechanical Engineering	\$47,887	\$45,810	\$59,748	\$62,414
Petroleum Engineering	\$6,900	\$6,725	\$6,700	\$14,840
Process Engineering & Applied Science	\$66,644	\$77,315	\$72,352	\$78,061
Mining Engineering				
<b>TOTAL ENGINEERING</b>	<b>\$321,604</b>	<b>\$356,184</b>	<b>\$384,227</b>	<b>\$386,456</b>
<b>FASS</b>				
Classics	\$33,540	\$31,332	\$29,566	\$27,771
English	\$149,918	\$143,934	\$148,147	\$122,720
French	\$25,094	\$31,575	\$23,260	\$19,445
German	\$25,338	\$27,770	\$26,716	\$27,372
History	\$71,130	\$68,904	\$74,623	\$67,628
International Development Studies	\$50,935	\$51,248	\$49,998	\$43,299
Philosophy	\$65,850	\$55,680	\$58,044	\$54,715
Political Science	\$71,881	\$68,005	\$70,904	\$70,051
Sociology & Social Anthropology	\$85,143	\$89,114	\$78,791	\$94,173
Musicology	\$8,685	\$8,448	\$6,758	\$7,266
<b>TOTAL FASS</b>	<b>\$587,514</b>	<b>\$576,010</b>	<b>\$566,807</b>	<b>\$534,440</b>
<b>HEALTH PROFESSIONS</b>				
Clinical Vision Science	\$8,560	\$11,348	\$12,078	\$13,382
Health & Human Performance	\$47,020	\$52,616	\$52,593	\$48,806
Health Services Administration	\$12,200	\$22,775	\$14,000	\$22,100
Human Communication Disorders	\$57,700	\$83,300	\$81,200	\$68,047
Nursing	\$23,875	\$27,975	\$31,920	\$19,936
Occupational Therapy	\$29,425	\$54,880	\$62,784	\$28,696
Pharmaceutical Science	\$4,000	\$4,700	\$3,760	\$6,728
Physiotherapy	\$47,050	\$64,350	\$75,700	\$79,746
Social Work	\$17,350	\$13,625	\$28,800	\$19,760
<b>TOTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS</b>	<b>\$247,180</b>	<b>\$335,569</b>	<b>\$362,835</b>	<b>\$307,201</b>
<b>LAW</b>				
Law	\$52,150	\$41,030	\$30,304	\$34,563
<b>TOTAL LAW</b>	<b>\$52,150</b>	<b>\$41,030</b>	<b>\$30,304</b>	<b>\$34,563</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT</b>				
Business Administration				
Resource and Environmental Studies	\$40,300	\$46,445	\$36,036	\$35,263

<b>Faculty</b>	<b>2011 Allocation (Sept 11 – Aug 12)</b>	<b>2012 Allocation (Sept 12 – Aug 13)</b>	<b>2013 Allocation (Sept 13 – Aug 14)</b>	<b>2014 Allocation (Sept 14 – Aug 15)</b>
Information Management	\$33,000	\$32,650	\$32,000	\$29,118
Marine Management	\$14,850	\$22,075	\$18,600	\$9,920
Public Administration	\$17,000	\$18,825	\$28,400	\$35,616
<b>TOTAL MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>\$105,150</b>	<b>\$119,995</b>	<b>\$115,036</b>	<b>\$109,917</b>
<b>MEDICINE</b>				
Anatomy & Neurobiology	\$46,587	\$41,770	\$38,666	\$42,639
Biochemistry	\$72,737	\$71,690	\$79,852	\$72,461
Community Health & Epidemiology	\$36,756	\$39,905	\$45,424	\$50,425
Microbiology & Immunology	\$108,581	\$95,865	\$88,692	\$84,879
Pathology	\$26,033	\$25,326	\$30,761	\$30,446
Pharmacology	\$58,862	\$59,090	\$63,772	\$69,934
Physiology & Biophysics	\$32,138	\$31,711	\$30,619	\$36,523
<b>TOTAL MEDICINE</b>	<b>\$381,694</b>	<b>\$365,357</b>	<b>\$377,786</b>	<b>\$387,307</b>
<b>SCIENCE</b>				
Biology	\$216,441	\$191,153	\$202,422	\$183,496
Chemistry	\$156,778	\$156,937	\$143,565	\$126,082
Earth Sciences	\$56,730	\$51,384	\$62,107	\$57,195
Economics	\$57,847	\$61,278	\$64,022	\$58,635
Mathematics	\$73,331	\$88,665	\$111,432	\$97,549
Oceanography	\$54,433	\$61,546	\$77,737	\$85,367
Physics	\$125,034	\$125,527	\$131,922	\$116,091
Psychology	\$181,789	\$184,431	\$192,545	\$184,685
Statistics	\$23,688	\$32,450	\$31,960	\$26,057
<b>TOTAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>\$946,071</b>	<b>\$953,371</b>	<b>\$1,017,712</b>	<b>\$935,157</b>
<b>MULTIFACULTY/FGS</b>				
Biomedical Engineering	\$69,332	\$65,966	\$66,297	\$72,751
Electronic Commerce	\$7,400	\$10,925	\$16,700	\$8,420
Health Informatics	\$11,000	\$10,925	\$7,700	\$13,550
Interdisciplinary PhD	\$154,131	\$145,805	\$125,644	\$111,721
<b>TOTAL MULTIFACULTY/FGS</b>	<b>\$241,863</b>	<b>\$233,621</b>	<b>\$216,341</b>	<b>\$206,442</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,134,024</b>	<b>\$3,263,175</b>	<b>\$3,376,578</b>	<b>\$3,200,209</b>

## **FGS Student Research Grant & Conference Travel Funding**

FGS grants are awarded to support, or support in part, research and conference travel for students who do not have other sources of support for these important aspects of their graduate program. Both grants are available only to full-time students in thesis programs. In past years, research grants were awarded only in SSHRC-based disciplines. This is no longer the case since the award is now based on need and absence of other forms of support. Note, however, that virtually all research grants are still awarded to students in disciplines other than the natural and medical sciences and engineering. Detailed guidelines and application forms for research and conference travel grants are available on the FGS web site. Students are required to submit a signed application to FGS together with supporting letters from their supervisor and department, unit or program.

Currently the maximum awards for conference travel grants and research grants is \$500 with research grants only available to doctoral students. Each award is assessed based on need as explained in the application's budget submission, and the maximum amount is not necessarily awarded. Research and conference travel grants are funded out of the FGS administrative budget, a budget that is subject to the annual budget cuts experienced by all faculties. We are working to keep as much money for students as possible in this envelope.

### **FGS Research Grant and Conference Travel Grant funding summary <sup>1</sup>**

	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
	Awards	\$ Total	Awards	\$ Total	Awards	\$ Total	Awards	Awards	Awards	\$ Total
<b>Conference travel grants</b>	165	109,658	149	81,616	156	59,273	123	48,406	130	56,127
<b>Research grants</b>	31	25,446	20	14,671	5	1,046	3	1,200	0	-800 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>		<b>145,104</b>		<b>96,287</b>		<b>60,319</b>		<b>49,606</b>		<b>55,327</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total expenses are for the fiscal year period April 1 - March 31.

<sup>2</sup> Two of the research grants provided last year were not spent and were repaid by the students.

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## **Final Report on the 2013 Dalhousie University Killam Lectures: “Epigenetics: Mental health beyond nature and nurture”**

This year’s highly successful Dorothy J. Killam Memorial Lecture Series was entitled ‘Epigenetics: Mental Health Beyond Nature and Nurture’ and focused on the integration of genomic and environmental influences in psychology, neuroscience and medicine, which is a central theme of a number of initiatives within Dalhousie University. We invited four of the world’s leading experts in the field of epigenetics, particularly with response to the role of early environmental regulation of gene expression and brain development, to bring their work to the attention of the next generation of psychology and neurobiology researchers, as well as to the general public.

Importantly, the invited speakers were a mix of established researchers who were founders in epigenetics research, as well as a new, up and coming researcher who is already recognized internationally for his contributions to the field. Indeed, because of the Killam Foundation we were able to bring an amazing slate of researchers to Halifax, an opportunity we would never otherwise have had. Therefore we, the organizing committee, wish to thank the Killam Foundation for this opportunity for members of the Dalhousie community, as well as for helping to make the public aware of this cutting edge area of research.

We organized many additional events and meetings around each speaker’s visit to ensure the largest number of faculty and students could meet and interact with each speaker. We had excellent participation from faculty and students from more than 20 Departments across Dalhousie University and from the local hospitals, who are interested in the environment, health and cognitive processes and how the environment interacts with the genome to cause mental and physical illness. Below we summarize each speaker’s visit including the events and participation.

Lectures were held at 7:30 pm in Ondaatje Hall, Marion McCain Building. Before each lecture Dr. Ian Weaver recounted the history behind the Dorothy J. Killam Trust and the opportunities created by the Killam Trust including scholarships, fellowships, and the sponsored lecture series. Following each talk the speaker fielded questions from the audience. After each talk, a reception was held in the upper lobby of the Marion McCain Building with a cash bar and catering (small desserts) provided by Dalhousie University Faculty Club. All lectures were recorded (slides and speaker) and edited using Camtasia software (TechSmith Corporation) by MedIT Audio-Visual.

**Date:** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2013

**Speaker:** Adrian Bird

**Institution:** The Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JR, UK

**Title:** Epigenetics, Genetics and Rett Syndrome

**Attendance:** ≥115

**Summary of visit:** Dr. Bird’s visit was partly sponsored by *The Gairdner Foundation*, which was created to recognize and reward the achievements of medical researchers whose work contributes to significantly improving the quality of human life. Dr. Bird was given the Gairdner International Award in 2011. Out of the 300 individuals from 13 countries who have received the Gairdner Award, 72 have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in either medicine or chemistry. Indeed, Dr. Bird’s visit to Halifax was timed closely with the announcement of the Nobel prizes, creating considerable “buzz” around his talk as his name was mentioned in the international press as a possible nominee for a Nobel in the near future.

**Highlights:**

- Dr. Bird gave a lecture to approximately 300 high school students as part of the Dalhousie Open House, also held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He fielded terrific questions that the students posed, with warm and honest responses. Everyone was very engaged.
- As a result of the success of this Open House event, John Dirks, President & Scientific Director of The Gairdner Foundation emailed Dr. Ian Weaver and Ms. Asa Kachan (Assistant Vice-President Enrolment Management & Registrar) to discuss the possibility of a Gairdner awardee giving a talk at next year's Dalhousie Open House.
- Over the course of his stay, Dr. Bird met with researchers from the Departments of Pharmacology, Psychiatry, Neurosurgery as well as the IWK.

**Date:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2013

**Speaker:** David Sweatt

**Institution:** Department of Neurobiology UAB School of Medicine, 1010 Shelby Building, 1825 University Blvd, Birmingham, Alabama 35294, USA

**Title:** Epigenetic Mechanisms in Memory Formation

**Attendance:** ≥105

**Summary of visit:** Dr. Sweatt's research area of epigenetics and how it applies to learning and memory was particularly anticipated by members of the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience. At least one of the courses offered in the department uses his text book, *Mechanisms of Memory*, as a resource. Dr. Sweatt happily met with graduate and undergraduate students from various departments in a coffee session sponsored by the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, toured the LSC facilities, and gave an excellent talk, the recording of which will be used in future classes.

**Highlights:**

- Dr. Sweatt met with graduate and undergraduate students from the department of Psychology and Neuroscience and Anatomy and Neurobiology for a coffee session in the Life Sciences Centre. Feedback from students was extremely positive and stressed the excitement at the opportunity to talk to a successful, world-class researcher without other professors present.
- Over the course of his stay, Dr. Sweatt met with researchers from the Departments of Psychology and Neuroscience, Medical Neuroscience, and Neurosurgery.

**Date:** Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2013

**Speaker:** Jonathan Mill

**Institution:** Exeter University Medical School, St. Luke's Campus, Exeter, EX1 2LU, UK; Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, De Crespigny Park, London, SE5 8AF, UK

**Title:** Epigenetics Pathways to Mental Illness

**Attendance:** ≥130

**Summary of visit:** The reception for this talk was sponsored by the Dalhousie University's *Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts (CYCC) Institute*, which was created to improve mental health and well-being for vulnerable and at-risk children and youth in Canada. It promotes the use of research, best and promising practices and local knowledge in mental health programming for vulnerable and at-risk young people.

**Highlights:**

- Dr. Mill met with members of the CYCC Institute.
- Dr. Mill met with researchers from the Departments of Psychology and Neuroscience, Psychiatry, and the IWK

**Date:** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2013

**Speaker:** Randy Jirtle

**Institution:** McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA; Duke University Medical Centre Durham, NC 27710, USA

**Title:** Epigenetics: How Genes and Environment Interact

**Attendance:** ≥ 140

**Summary of visit:** Dr. Jirtle was extremely excited to be invited to give this talk as he had always wanted to visit Nova Scotia – he spent time touring the province with his wife after his lecture was complete. Dr. Jirtle’s research appealed to a broad range of researchers including Biology: he toured and visited various labs in the LSC and spent time with the Hoskin Cancer Research Group. Given his status and high-media profile (with respect to one of the models he studies, the Agouti Mouse), he was the perfect speaker to end the lecture series.

**Highlights:**

- Over the course of his visit, Dr. Jirtle met with researchers from the Departments of Microbiology and Immunology, Biology, Pathology, Psychology and Neuroscience, and from the IWK.

Report taken from the full report submitted by:

Dr. Richard Brown

Dr. Ian Weaver

Dr. Leslie Phillmore

April 2014



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## **Academic Appeals Committee Annual Report 2013-2014**

### **Membership 2013-2014**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Term End</b>
Louise Spiteri	Information Management	2016
Martin Gibling	Earth Sciences	2015
Deb Tamlyn	Nursing	2015
Richard Singer	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	2014
Alexander Treiger	Classics	2014
<i>1 vacancy</i>	DAGS Rep	2014

*Reserve Panel:* Members of FGS Faculty Council

In its June 2003 meeting Faculty Council approved the composition of the FGS Academic Appeals Committee of six members and a Reserve Panel consisting of the members of Faculty Council (FC 02/03.82). The six members are elected on a rotating basis, normally for a three-year term. For individual appeal cases, an Appeal Committee of four members (including a graduate student representative) is selected from the Academic Appeals Committee, and when necessary, with members drawn from the Reserve Panel.

Since May 2013, the Academic Appeals Committee received four appeals. One was returned as it was not based on the criteria required for an appeal to FGS. Three appeals resulted in subsequent hearings.

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Academic Appeals Committee for their efforts in resolving often complex questions of student rights, jurisdiction and regulation.

Submitted May 8, 2014  
Bernard Boudreau, Dean FGS

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