

Dear School of Social Work Alumni,

I am writing to express my thanks as the recipient of the School of Social Work Alumni Award. I counted it an honour in itself to have been nominated by my peers. I appreciate the efforts of the Alumni that make supports and encouragements like this scholarship possible. I am pleased to be a graduate candidate of the Dalhousie University School of Social Work for the October 2015 convocation.

As you know, I had the opportunity to serve as the Alumni Committee student representative for 2013–2014. I enjoyed the experience very much. It was a pleasure to get to know the alumni members and to learn from them. This year, 2014-2015, I was the Treasurer of the School of Social Work Student Group. It was also a great opportunity to connect and work with so many people.

It is hard to imagine how quickly my two years in the Social Work program have gone by. It has been a deeply rich experience. I have learned so much from those that I have sat under and from those that I have sat beside as well. Coming back to school at midlife I have been touched by how supportive and affirming my classmates have been.

I came to study Social Work through my involvement in Hospice Palliative Care as a volunteer with the Colchester East Hants Palliative Care Society. It was my interest in palliative care and bereavement work that brought me to Dalhousie. These remain core interests to me but my interests have also been broadened via the course of my studies.

I am currently doing the first half of my placement with the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (MHMCT) and it has been an incredible learning experience. For the second half of my placement this summer I am going to the Short Stay Unit (SSU) of the Abbie J. Lane Hospital.

I am enrolled in Social Work with Adolescents with Marion Brown this summer. The course is framed around Michael Ungar's (2015) *Working with Children and Youth with Complex Needs*. Our weekend classes together have been time well spent.

In September I begin the MSW program at Dalhousie and look forward to the continuation of the journey.

I am honoured to be the recipient of the School of Social Work Alumni Award. I am grateful for the support and appreciate all that you do for students and for the school.

With Sincere Thanks,

Gregor Nielsen

Dalhousie School of Social Work – BSW 2015