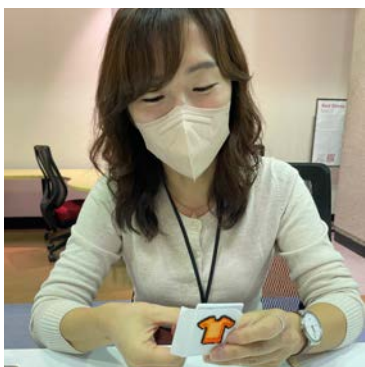


Dalhousie Libraries

Annual Report 2022-2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF LIBRARIES

This annual report covers my first full year as Dean of Libraries at Dalhousie, a role I began in August 2022. Coming back to Dalhousie over twenty years after completing my graduate studies here I'm struck by the many changes I see on campus, but also by what's remained constant in the university. As I look out of my office window in the Killam Memorial Library at the residence I lived in when I first came to Dal, I'm reminded that one of those persistent qualities is the generous and welcoming spirit of the university that I valued as an incoming student and have enjoyed again as a new employee here. I'm very grateful for the support and patience of our incredible team at Dal Libraries as I've navigated a year of firsts, new experiences, and discoveries.

We began the 2022 fall term by welcoming a larger group of incoming students to study in person on campus and have seen increased use of our libraries throughout the year as students re-discovered their favourite study and collaboration spaces and reclaimed our libraries as a second home on campus. It's been a great pleasure visiting our libraries in Halifax and Truro, seeing students hard at work, and meeting with and getting to know our team members who are passionate about supporting students, faculty and community members in their academic endeavours.

This report contains just a few examples and highlights of the many great things our Dal Libraries team members do each day to exceed the expectations of the Dalhousie community with our spaces, collections, and the services we provide.

Michael Vandenburg

Dean of Libraries



KILLAM LIBRARY DEEP ENERGY RETROFIT

The Killam Memorial Library is undergoing a deep energy retrofit as part of Dalhousie's commitment to enhancing the energy and water efficiency of its existing buildings. The initiative aims to achieve over 50% reductions in both energy and water consumption, translating to a substantial decrease of more than 2,100 tonnes of CO2 emissions, equivalent to removing 700 cars from the road.

The retrofit, addressing the library's status as one of the university's top five most energy-intensive structures, involves comprehensive upgrades and maintenance across various systems. Despite the extensive work, the project team has been minimizing disruptions and avoiding closures during critical periods like midterms and exams by completing the project space by space.

Key features of the retrofit include ventilation, air distribution, and controls improvements, energy-efficient lighting, touchless fixtures in washrooms, and the conversion of heating systems from steam to hot water. So in addition to reducing the

“ I’m thrilled by Dalhousie’s commitment to sustainability and to this landmark building. It’s wonderful to know that the project is being funded largely by the energy savings that these new systems will bring.

Michael Vandenburg, Dean of Libraries

environmental footprint, the improvements are enhancing the internal environment for library users.

Dalhousie's Energy and Green Buildings Plan underscores the university's commitment to assessing and improving the sustainability of its buildings. The Killam retrofit joins previous initiatives such as the Tupper Medical Building and Clinical Research Centre retrofit and the Howe Hall hot-water conversion project, contributing to the university's sustainability goals and long-term vision.



UPDATING OUR LIBRARY SERVICES PLATFORM

In May 2022, we were excited to introduce Alma, a new and improved tool for searching our print and digital library collections. Not only does Alma provide easy access to Dalhousie's library collections, but it also helps facilitate quick access to the collections of our partners in 12 other Atlantic Canadian academic libraries and to request materials from libraries across the globe. While the move to Alma was relatively seamless for library users, an enormous amount of effort went into the migration both before and after we went live in May 2022.

Throughout 2022 and early 2023, members of our resources team performed critical behind-the-scenes work to ensure that our collections were represented fully and accurately in the new system. They reviewed and confirmed that the underlying records supporting the purchase and licensing of library collections had migrated properly so we could confidently complete our first fiscal year-end in the new system and resume the purchase of new materials in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

With several recent retirements and new additions, our resources team performed this system renewal while they were undergoing a renewal of the team itself, adjusting workflows while they adjusted to working with new leadership and team members. Many thanks and kudos to Kirsten Huhn, Ratna Dhaliwal, Robin Bishop, Carlina Gillis, and Denise Irving for seeing us through the aftermath of this migration and successfully through the first academic cycle in Alma.



BRIDGING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP WITH OPEN ACCESS

Dalhousie Libraries celebrated International Open Access Week by featuring Julia Kontak, a PhD student and managing editor of the *Healthy Populations Journal* (HPJ). In an interview with Melissa Rothfus, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Kontak highlighted the paramount benefit of open access — ensuring easy access to research information, especially for government officials hindered by paywalls.

The HPJ, aligned with the Healthy Populations Institute, focuses on health equity research and embraces diverse knowledge forms like art and poetry. Kontak emphasized open access as crucial for addressing publishing inequities and reaching communities beyond academia.

While acknowledging the potential downsides of high publishing fees, Kontak highlighted the HPJ's approach, eliminating financial barriers for authors through funding and volunteer labour. She also stressed the challenge of making academic content understandable to a broader audience, underscoring the need for knowledge translation.

Open access, according to Kontak, extends beyond academia, playing a pivotal role in applying research to everyday issues. Partnerships with the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network and the Canadian Associ-



Julie Kontak

“ We need this knowledge to not just stay on a shelf or locked up on a website where you have to pay to access it. Open access helps with the hurdles of just getting evidence into practice.

tion for Health Services and Policy Research student working group showcase the HPJ's commitment to expanding the reach of health equity research.

In Kontak's words, "We need this knowledge to not just stay on a shelf or locked up on a website where you have to pay to access it. Open access helps with the hurdles of just getting evidence into practice. There are more steps, but the first is having the information available so we can continue to bridge that knowledge gap."

CITING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In response to growing interest in artificial intelligence and the implications for its use in higher education, the Teaching & Learning team created guidelines for [Citing Artificial Intelligence](#) within the libraries' citation styles guides.

Lindsay McNiff led the development of the guide, which was compiled with feedback from the Teaching and Learning team and advice from the Council of Science Editors (CSE).

Dalhousie's guide recommends verifying information and sources generated by AI tools. Current tools can generate false information and cannot discern people's intellectual property, raising ethical concerns. Due to the temporary nature of AI-generated content, the CSE guidance advises treating it as personal communication and citing accordingly.

The Citing Artificial Intelligence guide has proven to be needed and popular - we have received several requests from other institutions to duplicate the guide with attribution. The Teaching and Learning team plans to monitor and update the guide as recommendations on citing artificial intelligence evolve and change.

The Teaching & Learning team is:

- Mark Lewis, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning
- Jaclyn Chambers Page, Copyright Librarian
- Allie Fulford, International Students' Librarian
- Julie Marcoux, Data Librarian
- Nicole Marcoux, Research Assistance & Subject Liaison Librarian
- Michelle McDonald, Learning Technologies Specialist
- Shelley McKibbon, Information Services Librarian
- Lindsay McNiff, Learning & Instruction Librarian
- Robin Parker, Evidence Synthesis Librarian



STIRLING COUNTY STUDY

A CRITICAL NEW ARCHIVAL COLLECTION

The University Archives continued to acquire official University Records and made several acquisitions in a range of areas, including business, health, music, film studies, and journalism. One of our more notable archival acquisitions this year was a collection, or fonds*, of material related to a seminal psychiatric epidemiology study conducted by Jane Murphy and Alexander H. Leighton.

Alexander Leighton held professorial appointments in both the departments of psychiatry and community health and epidemiology at Dalhousie University, as well as in sociology and anthropology at Cornell, and he was professor emeritus at Harvard. In 1948 Leighton initiated the first of the post-war studies of the distribution and prevalence of mental illness in a general population.

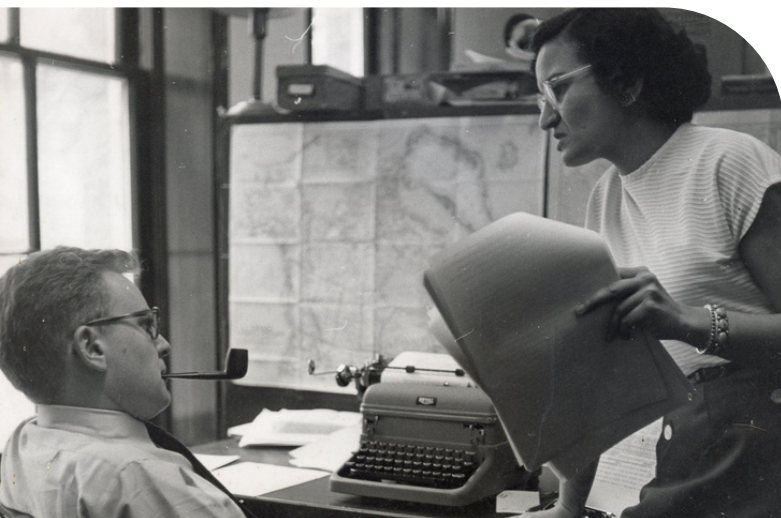
This study, widely known as the Stirling County Study, is the longest running study of its kind to understand the prevalence and types of mental illness across generations in a cross-cultural community.

The Stirling County Study is still active and from Leighton's retirement in 1975, it was directed by his wife and research partner, Dr. Jane Murphy Leighton until 2021. One of its initial findings in Nova Scotia, was that one in five adults experiences mental illness, most commonly depression, anxiety and/or alcohol abuse. Similar studies were carried out in other settings, including New York City, Alaska, Nigeria and Vietnam. Other investigations of this type now number in the hundreds and have been conducted across the world.

While the Stirling County Study is perhaps the Leighton's best-known work, they conducted many other studies that are included in Alexander Leighton and Jane Murphy fonds along with a tremendous collection of family correspondence.

We are proud to have been entrusted with preserving this important work and making it available to researchers to continue the critical work of understanding and supporting mental health.

**Fonds is an archival term referring to an entire body of records of an organization, family, or individual*



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

UNIQUE TRAVELOGUE WITH FORE-EDGE PAINTING

In February 2023, a rare first edition of a travelogue of the western parts of England by noted British educator, writer, and art theorist, William Gilpin (1724-1804) was acquired. The volume was a welcome addition to the collection of Gilpin's works donated by his family to the Dalhousie Libraries in 1974 and 1991.

In the volume, Gilpin reflects on the picturesque beauty he encounters on his journeys through the English countryside. To enhance his points, Gilpin illustrated his text with eighteen beautifully executed aquatints of the scenes he encountered.

An extraordinary feature of the newly acquired volume is the presence of a unique fore-edge painting located on the edges of the book pages. It depicts a fisherman casting out from his small boat with a lighthouse in the background and picturesque trees on the bordering shorelines.

Fore-edge paintings are painted on the fanned-out pages and carefully gilded when dry. The painting is protected and hidden from view. Fore-edge painting was very time-consuming and required great skill so it was very rarely done. To have a picturesque image as the fore-edge painting on a volume about the picturesque beauty of the English countryside is an exceptional bonus.



Other fore-edge paintings from the Gilpin Collection.



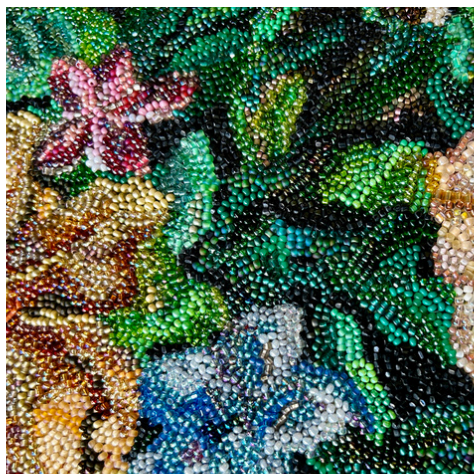
BEAD COLLECTION DONATION

“ My beads, which I have collected for years, need a new home. I hope that your students could use it. It would make me so happy that you or your colleagues could teach the joy of beadworking with these beads.

Susan Zalai, Toronto

In a heartfelt gesture, Dalhousie Libraries received a remarkable donation of beads from a generous individual, Susan Zalai. Hindered by eyesight issues, Susan, an avid beader, decided to contribute her extensive bead collection to Dal Libraries' Indigenous beading programs. The donation, comprising a vast array of beads in vibrant colors, was accompanied by a breathtaking beaded pillow crafted by Susan herself.

Susan's generosity is poised to enhance the library's programs, fostering creativity and community engagement. Susan hopes that her collection can help to teach the joy of beadwork and inspire a new generation of beaders.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY BEADING WORKSHOP & CBC INTERVIEW

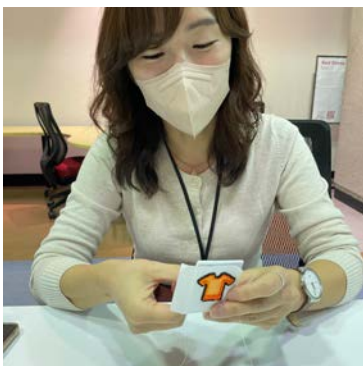
Dalhousie University's Indigenous community room located in the Killam Library, the Ko'jua Okuom, has been providing a space for students to showcase and share their culture. The Ko'jua Okuom, meaning "a place for celebration or coming together," opened in the summer of 2022 and offers a platform for various activities, including beading workshops.



Michelle McDonald, instructional support technician and beader, was interviewed by [CBC's Portia Clarke](#) about the significance of the space during the first Orange Shirt Day beading workshop. Michelle thoughtfully noted that the room is a place where Indigenous students are now visible and not just statistics on campus, fostering a sense of community within the university.

Samantha Adema, Indigenous services librarian, spoke to CBC, emphasizing the importance of the room as a dedicated space for Indigenous students to meet and see their culture represented. She hopes the Ko'jua Okuom will host a variety of events, including traditional dancing, providing a platform for cultural expression and connection.

The beading workshop was a huge success - vibrant orange shirt pins were made by staff and students to mark Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It was the first of many beading workshops, and Michelle has gone on to create workshops for special items for Remembrance Day and Pride celebrations.



APUKNAJIT MID-WINTER FEAST

On February 1, a celebration of the Mid-Winter Feast in the Ko'jua Okuom, served as a prelude to Catherine Martin's film, "Basket Maker." During this annual feast, Mi'kmaw people, or L'nu, leave food offerings to honor *Apuknajit*, the spirit of winter, expressing gratitude for surviving the winter and for good luck.

Our feast was designed in consultation with Catherine Martin and Michelle MacDonald. It featured a menu blending the traditional with the contemporary, including luski and molasses, beef stew, and blueberry tarts. Opening with a traditional ceremony and smudging in the Killam Library's garden, the celebration continued in the Ko'jua Okuom, followed by the film screening in the MacMechan Auditorium. The screening was accompanied by a panel discussion featuring basket makers Margaret (Maggie) Peltier, Ursula Johnson, and Della Maguire. Livestreamed, the event attracted 150 virtual attendees.

Catherine Martin's "Basket Maker" is a poignant journey, intertwining her personal film images with archival footage of Mi'kmaw women basket makers, honoring their entrepreneurial contributions and ancient knowledge. Catherine Martin, an award-winning Mi'kmaw documentary filmmaker and Dalhousie's director of Indigenous community engagement describes the film as a meaningful visit with influential women from her early life, encapsulating the essence of tradition and storytelling.



Photos by Nick Pierce



DAL READS

DESMOND COLE IN CONVERSATION WITH EL JONES

Dal Reads, our community reading program, hosted its annual author event on March 29, 2023, with Desmond Cole for his book *The Skin We're In*. The author thoughtfully suggested we organize the event as a conversation with celebrated Halifax author, activist, and educator, El Jones.



Cole and Jones are involved in each other's work and activism, and Jones is mentioned throughout *The Skin We're In*. Their easy conversation and connection with the book's themes enabled members of the Dal Reads community to engage deeply with the work.

After an initial postponement due to weather, the in-person gathering drew 49 people, a testament to the popularity and significance of Cole's work. Attendees were able to network, connect, and engage with the author and each other. The discussion was so compelling that the event was extended until 10:00 p.m.

The book resonated with local readers particularly as many of its stories were connected to or took place in Nova Scotia.

Following the main program, attendees had time to ask questions and interact with the author, who generously signed over 35 copies of book.



Photos by Sue Brigham

EVENTS

CELEBRATING GUY BERTIAUME

In November 2022, we gathered in person at the Killam Memorial Library to celebrate Dr. Guy Bertiaume, recipient of an honorary degree from Dalhousie at its spring convocation celebration. Dr. Bertiaume was honoured for his work leading Library and Archives Canada and its attendant partner institutions into a world where both instant digital access and enduring preservation of Canadian cultural heritage are guaranteed.

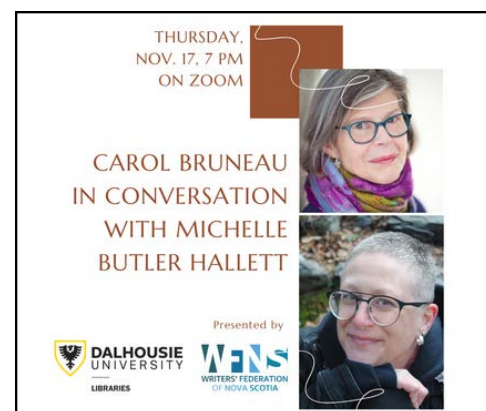
Our Associate Dean Library Services, Elaine McInnis, hosted the intimate event, welcoming participants and introducing our honouree. The more than twenty people attending were a familiar crowd happy to converse and catch up. Dr. Bertiaume was delighted that several staff from Library & Archives Canada and Bibliothèque et Archives Canada were in attendance and expressed his gratitude for a thoughtful gathering.



RADDALL READING

The Dalhousie Libraries once again partnered with the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia to host the Raddall Reading on the evening of November 17, 2022. The event was held on Zoom and featured Raddall winner Michelle Butler Hallett reading from her novel *Constant Nobody* and speaking with author Carol Bruneau about her work.

Lindsay McNiff gave the opening remarks and Writers' Federation executive director Marilyn Smulders introduced the authors. Roughly 45 people attended the reading and conversation with Michelle and Carol, which made for an engaging and insightful Q&A session after the event.



SUPPORT FOR MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Dalhousie has been optimizing and improving its digital security. One of the most impactful and noticeable steps in that process was the move to multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all accounts. MFA was implemented in 2022 and led to a large surge in support needs for our community.

The Help Desk saw a near doubling of support requests, the bulk of which were from people encountering challenges setting up their MFA. Thousands of requests inundated the Help Desk team over a short period, and our team worked diligently to help everyone.

The success of the MFA rollout was largely due to the committed and careful work of the Help Desk team. That work continues every day as we help the Dalhousie community keep their accounts and devices safe.

The Help Desk is:

- Mick Bottom – Manager of Services, Support and Training
- Gino Ranieri – Help Desk Technician
- Carl Harvey – Help Desk Technician
- 25 Student Navigators



SUMMER SHINE 2022

Our internship program provides practicum opportunities for students interested in gaining work experience in the libraries or archives and records management. Summer Shine is an opportunity for MI students to present their internship projects.



ANNETTE AMENTA

Archival Functions and the Joy O'Brien Fonds: The Joy O'Brien fonds, spanning 30 years of the Nova Scotia Mass Choir's activism, include audio/video recordings, textual records, and photos. Annette designed a finding aid with core archival functions in mind, ensuring efficient acquisition, appraisal, arrangement, preservation, and access, documenting the choir's impact on racial justice and Nova Scotian communities.



MADDIE HARE

Single Service Point Videos: The W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library and Kellogg Library Learning Commons provide distinct spaces and services. Maddie created videos to help in staff onboarding, combining leadership skills with comprehensive training materials, and enhancing knowledge for seamless library services to students, faculty, and the community.



ANNE SUMMERHAYS

French Collection Development for "Cereal Box" French Speakers: Driven by a passion for French culture, Anne addresses the challenge faced by non-native French-speaking librarians in Canada. She created a resource for future French subject specialists focusing on diversifying French literature collections in academic libraries, aiming to authentically represent French culture beyond translated English classics.



COURTNEY SVAB

Drug Regulation Information Page: Navigating drug regulation resources behind paywalls challenges users in academic and clinical settings. Courtney introduces a discovery page on the Pharmacy LibGuide, simplifying access to critical drug regulation information. Her approach involved identifying user needs, intuitively presenting information, and facilitating optimal access to tools for acquiring drug regulation information.



MANSI NISHIT TRIVEDI

My Journey Renewing an Environmental Science LibGuide: LibGuides serve as user-friendly research navigation tools. Mansi, overcoming fears and self-doubts, shares the joy of updating the Environmental Science LibGuide during her internship. The project involved creating new content, refreshing old resources, and recommending new collections for the Killam Library, strengthening critical thinking and adapting to new software and technology skills.

OUR PEOPLE

ARRIVALS

We welcomed the following people to the Dalhousie Libraries over the past year:

- Danielle Hoar - Library Services Assistant
- Elizabeth (Liz) Johnson - Administrative & Library Services Assistant
- Eric Rountree - Instructional Support Technician/Caption Coordinator
- Jodie Walker - Library Services Assistant
- Kristy Read - Manager, Community Engagement, Web Content & Communications
- Michael Vandenburg- Dean of Libraries
- Nicole Marcoux - Limited-Term Research Assistance & Subject Liaison Librarian
- Ratna Dhaliwal - Collections & Metadata Librarian
- Robin Bishop - Manager, Acquisitions & Content Management
- Sara Clarke Library Services Assistant

We welcomed the following people to new roles over the past year:

- Allison Fulford - Acting Associate Dean Resources/Head of Sexton Library
- Brett MacDougall - Video Conferencing Coordinator
- Clare Cheong - Archives Assistant
- Phil Laughler - Digital Asset Technician

DEPARTURES

We also said farewell to a few colleagues:

- Chioma Obodo
- Heather Stempien
- Kelsey MacGillivray
- Marlo MacKay
- Ven Cain



RETIREMENTS

JANICE SLAUENWHITE (45 YEARS)

Janice was hired right out of high school and started as a clerk-typist in information services in August of 1978. She held a variety of positions during her career, retiring as financial and physical resources manager in the Office of the Dean of Libraries. Janice is known for building and maintaining strong relationships with staff in many departments across the campus and within the libraries and will be missed by all.



LINDA CLARK (43 YEARS)

Linda started as an Acquisitions Librarian in 1980, became an assistant law librarian in the late 1980s, and in 2016, she added document delivery librarian to her portfolio. Linda was involved in the design and construction of the new library post-fire, educated architects and contractors on the function and goals of a library, and loved increasing her collection development skills. She was a dedicated and supportive colleague.



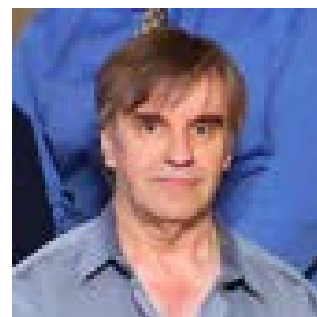
PENNY DAVID (43 YEARS)

Penny began her journey at Kellogg Library as a clerk-typist in 1980, and most recently worked at the library's single service point where she has been a welcoming and helpful presence for library users. She was active in university initiatives, including the annual United Way campaign and the Canadian Cancer Society's daffodil fundraiser. Penny was a member of the Dalhousie Black Faculty and Staff Caucus, and her positivity and support for her colleagues have left an indelible mark.



ANDREW FINCH (40 YEARS)

After joining the Libraries as a student employee in 1979, Andrew dedicated over four decades to various roles, culminating in his retirement from the Access Services Department of the Killam Library. From his early days as evening circulation supervisor to his integral role in the successful integration of the Maritime School of Social Work Collection in 1997, Andrew's commitment and expertise have left a lasting impact.



JOAN CHAISSON (41 YEARS)

Joan began her career in 1981, navigating the challenges of the Government Documents department. Over the years she adapted to evolving library services, moving to Archives and Special Collections. Throughout her four-decade journey, Joan enjoyed the camaraderie with colleagues and met the shifting demands of her roles with interest and grace.



MICHELLE PAON (23 YEARS)

Retiring as Head, Sexton Library, and Associate Dean Resources, Michelle joined in 1997 as an MLIS intern. As a science librarian, she supported biology, environment, psychology, and Indigenous studies. Michelle excelled in teaching research sessions and contributed to DalSpace, Killam Library Learning Commons, and the Novanet Live Help Pilot Project. Passionate about sustainability and reconciliation, she leaves a lasting legacy.



SARAH STEVENSON (22 YEARS)

Sarah retires as Associate Dean Archives, Records Management & Special Collections, and Head of the Killam Library. She was also the subject liaison for chemistry, mathematics and statistics, marine management, resource and environmental studies, and physics and atmospheric sciences. Sarah led the restructuring of the Killam internship program and served on a multitude of committees. She has made her mark at Dal Libraries.



GWEN MACNAIRN (21 YEARS)

Gwen joined us in 2001 as the Computer Science Librarian, leaving a lasting impact until her retirement. With diverse experience, including technical writing at ESRI and a Diploma in GIS, Gwen excelled as the GIS and data services coordinator. Committed to lifelong learning, Gwen pioneered academic integrity efforts and actively contributed to various committees. Her positive and energetic presence will be missed.



ANNE MATTHEWMAN (13 YEARS)

Anne began as Chief Law Librarian in August 2010, and taught legal research to law students at the first year and the advanced levels. Anne became the Associate Dean Teaching and Learning in 2020, after crafting the advanced legal research course and teaching it for 12 years. Anne was active on university committees and enjoyed the collaborative spirit of the Law Library and the dedicated Teaching & Learning team.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL

JAMES BOXALL

Congratulations to James Boxall who received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medal in December 2022. James was recognized for his career of service to geography and geographic education in Nova Scotia and Canada.

James was instrumental in the creation of the Canadian Council for Geographic Education, now Canadian Geographic Education, an organization that supports a network of over 20,000 teachers. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Past-President of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, and co-chair of the Canadian Roundtable on Geomatics.

James has been with the Dalhousie Libraries for over 30 years in several roles related to geography; he is currently the library's GIS specialist and map curator. He has developed and taught courses in human geography in earth and environmental sciences, geospatial information management in the School of Information Management, and marine spatial planning in the Marine Affairs Program.

James has been published widely and his geospatial and geography teaching led to his involvement in projects in Canada and globally, in the UK, Mexico, and Vietnam, often as co-chair of the International Network for Learning and Teaching Geography.

Congratulations to James on receiving this significant award in recognition of all he does at Dalhousie and beyond.



BY THE NUMBERS



3,069,701
website
page views



2,451
laptops
loaned



29,785
service point
interactions



305
copyright
questions
answered



3,787,108
journal articles
accessed



110
boxes of university
records transferred
to archives



34,700
individual digital
objects created
and preserved



33,540
IT help desk
problems solved



855
items added to
DalSpace
repository



262,268
open education
resource page
views



9,299
users assisted
with Brightspace



299
instruction
sessions for
6,879 students



THANK YOU

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