From field to fork
How Dal researchers are keeping us well fed
CANCER FIGHTERS
Atlantic Canada has the highest cancer rates in the country. Responding to this health-care challenge, cancer research has become a major focus for Dalhousie Medical School and its affiliated teaching hospitals. By Allison Gerrard

FROM FIELD TO FORK
Getting food from the field to your plate can be a complex undertaking. Dal’s researchers and students are helping to ensure that our food supply stays healthy—and our choices remain abundant. By Stephanie Rogers and Emma Geldart

TEAM PLAYERS
Whether it’s on the field, the ice or the gridiron, what life lessons can be learned from competitive sport? We rounded up some student athletes and varsity alumni to find out. By Dawn Morrison

DAL MAGAZINE
TEAMWORK

How does playing a team sport influence the person you become? The answers from Dal’s varsity athletes captured in “Team Players” (p. 18) range widely, but it’s clear that the collaborative nature of teamwork can unlock strengths we might not unearth on our own, allowing us to become better teammates, better leaders, better people.

While the food-related research explored in “From Field to Fork” (p. 12) also ranges widely—from apple genome research to precision pesticide technologies to building healthier eggs—central to the work is the fact that research, too, is a collaborative process. Yes, a single researcher may be guiding the efforts, but peers, students and colleagues in academia and industry are key to ensuring their success, contributing valuable insights and support along the way.

Further proof of teamwork as an essential ingredient to success: The linkages listed in “Dal DNA” (p. 40) stretch across time and around the globe. But as with athletic efforts and research collaborations, it is clear that we are stronger when we work together, and smarter when we test our ideas with colleagues, peers and students who both challenge us and cheer us on.

We are delighted to celebrate Dal’s proud record of teamwork and collaboration in this issue—itself the result of a team’s worth of work, from interviewees and writers to photographers and designers and more. It’s proof that, as Dal President Richard Florizone says, nobody does anything alone.
The Legacy Effect
Anne McLellan

“Dalhousie provided me with the opportunity to do things and go places that I would not have thought possible. It laid the foundation for my entire life. Including Dalhousie in my will is a privilege.

Read more about Anne McLellan, Dal’s chancellor, at alumni.dal.ca/mclellan

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DALHOUSSIE UNIVERSITY
"IS IT OKAY FOR A SOCIETY THAT VALUES FREEDOM OF SPEECH TO LIMIT FREEDOM OF SPEECH SO AS TO DEFEND FREEDOM OF SPEECH?"

Dal Philosophy Professor Duncan MacIntosh, member of the Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law, on the kind of questions the think tank considers—and that he poses to his philosophy students.
COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Music to the people

Every piano needs a player—and around Halifax this summer, several colourful pianos were waiting for players to tickle their ivories. The pianos—placed on the waterfront, on Barrington Street and in Cornwallis Park—were dubbed “#PlayMeHFX,” and were the brainchild of Dalhousie Planning students Peter Nightingale and Jeremy Banks.

Haligonians seems to have taken to the pianos, even going so far as to take it upon themselves to cover them up with tarps in bad weather. Gauging whether the pianos would be treated well was one of the challenges the two students saw in putting the program together. Another was the time commitment. “The project is really fun and we’re so proud of it but we both have day jobs,” says Nightingale. “It takes a lot of time to organize, paint and install pianos. It’s become almost a full-time commitment.”

Don’t worry though: the students won’t be shying away from the project or shutting it down any time soon. Instead they say they’re looking at how it can continue in the future. “Now that the project is out there we have a lot of people wanting to donate time, resources, and even pianos, which helps a lot,” says Nightingale.
— Rosalie Fralick

Planning students Peter Nightingale (above) and Jeremy Banks are behind #PlayMeHFX.

JUST THE FACTS

Supercharging student-linked startups

When Dalhousie’s Faculty of Management began offering the Starting Lean course three years ago, it didn’t take long for the profs who designed the class to realize they were onto something special. Students who had hatched business ideas and joined together in teams to explore them a mere month or two prior were signing up potential customers by term’s end. To bridge the gap from school term to real-life launch, last year Dr. Mary Kilfoil and her colleagues added an accelerator program called the LaunchPad. Over eight weeks, the accelerator gives 10 groups face time with community mentors and $10,000 in seed money to put toward refining their nascent business ideas. The program is open to others outside of Dal, provided they have at least one founding member who is a current student or a recent graduate of the university. — Matt Reeder

RESEARCH

NO SMALL MATTER: A Dal nanoscience research team led by Peng Zhang in the Department of Chemistry has discovered a new methodology to study nanoparticle structures, research published in July in the prestigious scientific journal Nature Communications. Dr. Zhang, PhD student Daniel Padmos and their collaborators from Northwestern University and University of California, Riverside combined a powerful x-ray from a mile-sized synchrotron facility with computer modelling based on density functional theory. By doing this, the team was able to comprehensively study the surface of a nanoparticle. The shape of the surface is key because different shapes lead to different properties and different properties lead to different behaviours. The Dal research team’s methodology can now be used to study other nanomaterials, further expanding the knowledge in nanoscience research and designing the building blocks for groundbreaking discoveries in biomedical applications.

WHALE CULTURE: In a paper published in Nature Communications in September, Dal PhD candidate in biology Mauricio Cantor details findings that suggest culture—generally viewed as distinctly human—is at play among sperm whales off the Galápagos Islands. Cantor’s study examined two clans of sperm whales that share the same geographic area. Each clan developed their own “dialects” composed of patterns of clicking sounds called codas.
— Nikki Comeau
"I try to get a closer look into the minds of consumers." From Field to Fork, p. 12

**ENGAGING ALUM**

**NAME:** Courtney Larkin (BMGT’10)

**POSITION:** President, Dalhousie Alumni Association

**HER BACKSTORY:** The role of president of the Dalhousie Alumni Association (DAA) is a natural fit for Courtney Larkin, former Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president (2008–09), award-winning peer mentor and Progress Club of Halifax/Cornwallis Young Woman of Distinction award recipient (2012). As an off-campus student, the Cole Harbour native’s early involvement in student life was thanks to an upper-year student who encouraged her to attend Orientation Week: “I showed up excited but I had no idea what it was all about.” From there, Larkin signed up as a first-year representative and eventually got involved with the DSU. Upon her graduation in 2010, the DAA elected her to its board. Now Larkin says of her volunteerism, “It’s just what I do.”

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Larkin has a clear list of goals for her two-year term as DAA president. “I want to create an awareness that all alumni can stay engaged with each other and with students—no matter where they are.” This involves adding more cities to the chapters program and identifying initiatives where Dal alumni can connect to their communities. “I would also love to see each Faculty embrace mentoring in its own unique way.” Her greatest challenge will be trying to connect with as many of Dal’s 125,000 alumni as she can. “I may only have two years in this role but I plan to stay involved. I’m a Dal alumna for life.”

**WHY SHE DOES IT:** “That genuine feeling of being a part of something that I’ve experienced ever since Orientation Week—I hope all students and alumni will get to feel that.” Larkin is ready to get creative with opportunities for alumni. “I run into old acquaintances at the grocery store and by the end of our chat, we’ve found a way to get them involved.”

—Allison Langille

Courtney Larkin hopes to get more alumni engaged with Dal. LEFT, Larkin (pictured second from right) takes part in Halifax’s Pride Day parade.
Dalhousie Sport Hall of Fame inducts new members

A sold-out crowd spent the evening bidding generously on silent and live auction items, helping the Tigers generate valuable funds for Dalhousie teams. CBC Broadcaster and former Dal student Bruce Rainnie served as master of ceremonies for the event. This year’s class of inductees featured:

1. Robert Lewington, a football player who played four seasons with the Tigers from 1966-70, including as captain in his final season. His average of 4.5 points per game puts him second all-time for the Tigers and he is currently sixth on the black and gold all-time scoring list. When the football program was revived as a sport club in 2010, the Tigers offensive Most Valuable Player award was named in Lewington’s honour.

2. Dr. Carolyn Savoy, who spent more than 30 years at Dalhousie as a faculty member and the coach of the women’s basketball team, was inducted posthumously. She is the winningest women’s basketball coach in Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) history with 858 wins and a 75 per cent winning record. She led the Tigers to 389 (of 530 games) regular season wins, nine conference titles and five conference championship titles.

3. The 1995 men’s soccer team, which won a national gold medal, was inducted as a team. The team is the first (and only) Nova Scotia men’s university-level soccer team to win a Canadian university championship.

4. Stewart McInnes (BA’58, LLB’61) was also recognized for his contribution to sport in Nova Scotia with the Sandy Young Award. McInnes was a senior partner in the law firm of McInnes Cooper from 1961 to 1999. During his time at Dalhousie, he was a member of both the hockey (1956–60) and football (1954–61) teams. He has served as director of both the Pan American Wheelchair Games (1979–81) and the 1985 Canada Summer Games, and is a former member of the National Executive Olympic Trust of Canada and the Canadian Olympic Association Task Force.
“If I want to prevent epilepsy in patients after a trauma, I can now prevent it by repairing blood vessels.”

**Dr. Alon Friedman:**
William Dennis Chair in Epilepsy, Department of Medical Neuroscience

**Innovation:** Discovered that damage to the blood/brain barrier, a protective interface that separates blood vessels and brain tissue, can induce a chain reaction that can lead to epilepsy and other neuro-psychiatric diseases.

**Foundation:** For a brain to function properly, it cannot be exposed to blood. Even though some molecules found in blood are ones the brain requires (oxygen, glucose), others such as proteins actually harm brain cells. The blood/brain barrier is a protective lining that keeps blood out of the brain, and allows for the transfer of only the specific molecules the brain needs. Leaks in the barrier that allow neurotoxins to enter brain tissue can result in epilepsy and neurodegenerative disorders.

**Inspiration:** As a medical doctor and a clinician, Dr. Friedman was inspired by the patients he worked with daily. With his colleagues, he created animal models in the lab to mimic the pathologies they saw in patients in order to see what happened when the blood brain barrier was injured.

**In His Words:** “It seems many patients suffered from injury to the blood brain barrier, but we never diagnosed this damage because nobody recognized that this was an important mechanism. Now we can tackle and target treatment to repair blood vessels to treat epilepsy. So if I want to prevent epilepsy in patients after a trauma, I can now prevent it by repairing blood vessels.”

**Why It Matters:** Through MRI imaging of patients with various conditions including concussions, strokes and high blood pressure, Dr. Friedman and his team are able to detect damage to the blood brain barrier. Diagnosing that damage enables doctors to prevent the disorders in the first place and to treat disorders that have already occurred. —Tina Pittaway
**Dal students top geoscience winners**

A diligent team of undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Earth Sciences and Faculty of Engineering worked around the clock for months, determined to secure seats at the 77th Annual International Fully Integrated Evaluation and Development (FIELD) challenge held in Madrid, Spain in June. To say the work paid off would be an understatement: the team won first prize at the competition, hosted by the European Association of Geoscientists & Engineers (EAGE) at its annual conference and exhibition.

Charles Carlisle, Darragh O’Connor, Connor Wentzell, Kenneth Martyns-Yellowe, and R J Victor McAlfferty met while working in Professor Grant Wach’s Basin and Reservoir Lab. The five would go on to prove their commitment to the fields of geoscience and engineering, first by winning two other competitions earlier this year to secure their place in the FIELD challenge. The team’s trip was sponsored in part by Shell Canada Ltd., who donated funds to the trip through its Campus Ambassador Program. Their win included a € 3000 voucher for the Earth Sciences Department that will fund field trips and student academic events, as well as help establish a Dalhousie EAGE chapter on campus this fall.

“Our students in Earth Sciences and Engineering never cease to amaze me,” says Dr. Wach. “Self-directed competitions such as the EAGE Field event bring out the best in our students. They drive themselves to achieve excellence and epitomize what we seek to accomplish with our educational efforts through experiential learning.”

—Nicole LeBlanc

**New Indigenous Studies minor launches**

Students interested in the history and culture of First Nations peoples in Nova Scotia and across the country have a brand new option to add to their Dal undergrad degree this fall. In September, Dalhousie launched its new minor in Indigenous Studies. The program will be available to students in a variety of Bachelor’s programs, including Arts, Commerce, Science, Computer Science, Informatics and Management. The program brings together courses from several different faculties and departments, making it easier for students with an interest in indigenous topics and issues to integrate those into their studies.

Diana Lewis has been hired as program coordinator for the minor. Lewis is Mi’km’aq and a member of the Sipeke’katik First Nation in Nova Scotia. Lewis says students from all walks of life will enjoy the program, and it will offer “a better historical and contemporary perspective” on the past, present and future of Canada’s Indigenous people.

More than 50 students have signed up for the courses being offered in the fall term. Plans are for the program to expand to offer six to eight courses next year.

—Rosalie Fralick

**Bidding farewell to Eliza Ritchie Hall**

“Eliza students looked at themselves as family,” says Heather Sutherland of Eliza Ritchie Hall. Sutherland, assistant vice-president of Ancillary Services, oversees Dal’s residences as part of her portfolio.

That Eliza spirit lives on in its alumni, but the rooms and hallways of the building have seen its last occupants.

As outlined in the university’s Campus Master Plan, the Eliza Ritchie site has been flagged as the future home of Dalhousie’s new fitness centre.

“It was an incredible community,” says Anne Bartlett, who was residence coordinator/residence life manager for Eliza from 1994 until 2001. “There was something unique about being a smaller building on its own… Everybody respected one another.”

The Eliza Ritchie name will live on in the Eliza Ritchie Doctoral Entrance Scholarship, an award for outstanding female students entering their PhD studies first created in 1985 to mark the centennial anniversary of Dal’s first female graduates. As well, the university is considering how best it can re-purpose the Eliza Ritchie name on campus and continue to celebrate her legacy.

As for the impact of the residence itself, it continues in the success of its alumni, in those individuals who’ve been inspired by its community spirit and gone on to do great things in their lives and careers.

—Ryan McNutt and Chloe Westlake

The residence is gone but its spirit lives on.

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Atlantic Canada has the highest cancer rates in the country. Responding to this health-care challenge, cancer research has become a major focus for Dalhousie Medical School and its affiliated teaching hospitals. By Allison Gerrard

MORE THAN 50 DAL INVESTIGATORS AND THEIR TEAMS ARE WORKING TOGETHER, AND WITH PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD, TO FIND BETTER WAYS TO DETECT, DIAGNOSE, TREAT AND PREVENT CANCER.
**STOP IT BEFORE IT STARTS**

**SPOT IT AND TREAT IT**

**Better Diagnosis and Care**
Some Dalhousie researchers are searching for biomarkers that signal the presence of cancer. These biomarkers could eventually provide fast and reliable ways to detect and diagnose the disease with something as simple as a blood test. Evaluating the effectiveness of cancer screening programs is another area of research interest. As Dalhousie University’s Gibran and Jamile Ramia QEII Health Sciences Centre Chair in Surgical Oncology Research, Dr. Geoff Porter aims to improve access to timely, high-quality care. “As a surgeon, I know time is of the essence when diagnosing cancer. I’m looking at how we can make changes to the health system that optimize both the timing and quality of cancer diagnosis and treatment.”

**Treatment Advances**
Dalhousie medical researchers are pioneering ways to fight cancer. Drs. Naga Puvvada and Keith Brunt of Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick have developed a new way to deliver chemotherapy drugs. Using nanotechnology, the novel system releases chemo in cancerous cells only, leaving healthy cells alone. “This new delivery system, while it is in its early stages, is promising for patient-tailored therapy in personalized medicine,” says Dr. Brunt. “The potential to improve the quality of life for solid tumour cancer patients and their overall outcomes is within reach with this type of targeted, measurable treatment.”

**Trigger Hunt**
Dalhousie scientists are learning how changes in genetic make-up can trigger cancer. They’re looking at how some molecules in the body promote the cancer process, while others slow it down. From there, they’re seeking ways to block the functions that cause cancer, and rev up the functions that protect against it. Other Dal scientists are learning how cancers spread so that they can find better ways to stop this deadly progression of disease. “I’m exploring the molecular mechanisms that enable cancer cells to grow, invade surrounding tissues, and metastasize,” says Dr. David Waisman, the Dalhousie-based Canada Research Chair in Cancer Research. “My team is working on several strategies aimed at stopping this chain of events. One involves blocking the activity of a protein that empowers cancer cells with the ability to break free from the tumour mass and clear a path into the blood supply. Once in the blood, the cancer cells use this protein to colonize other organs. We’re also examining the possible use of this protein in clinical tests as a marker for indicating how a patient will respond to chemotherapy, and if high levels of the protein correspond to overall and progression-free survival.”

**Prevention Focus**
Dalhousie investigators are exploring Atlantic Canadians’ hereditary, environmental and lifestyle risk factors through long-term studies. “By analyzing biological samples and other sociological information over time, we may be able to determine why some people develop particular cancers while others don’t,” explains Dr. Louise Parker, a Dal epidemiologist and the Canadian Cancer Society (Nova Scotia Division) Endowed Chair in Population Cancer Research. “This research will inform future cancer prevention efforts as well as public policy.”
Getting food from the field to your plate can be a complex undertaking. Faculty, staff, researchers and students in Dal’s Faculty of Agriculture are studying what we eat, how we produce it and why we choose what we do. This work is helping improve today’s farming and processing methods, as well as educating the food policy makers and scientists of tomorrow.

By Stephanie Rogers and Emma Geldart
IN THE FIELD

BEING PRECISE ABOUT PESTICIDES A pesticide sprayer sweeps through a field of blueberries. But instead of delivering an even spray across the crop, it’s stopping and starting, spitting and spraying in what looks like an erratic pattern. At first glance, you might think it’s malfunctioning. But in fact, high-tech cameras and computerized controllers are directing the sprayer to apply precisely—and only—what is needed. It senses weeds or plants that need to be sprayed with herbicide, fungicide or insecticide, and leaves the rest untouched, reducing the amount of agrochemical used on the crop. It’s called an automated prototype variable rate (VR) sprayer, and it’s a project of Qamar Zaman and his team, a recently patented technology that could help make the use of uniformly applied agrochemicals on crops a thing of the past.

Dr. Zaman is an associate professor and precision agriculture research chair in the Faculty of Agriculture. Precision agriculture is a concept of farming that accounts for the variability in crops, responding to soil variation, yield variation and field variation, among many other things. As one of the pioneers in the field, Dr. Zaman’s research is focused on precision agriculture in wild blueberries. He has contributed to research on increasing the berry yield and developing new ways for growers to reduce the use of agrochemicals and protect the environment. “Precision agriculture technologies can also decrease the cost of production,” Dr. Zaman explains. “We just have to have the proper equipment, machinery that is equipped with controllers and sensors.”

Dr. Zaman and his team of researchers have about eight projects on the go designed to help improve and maintain the wild blueberry industry, including the VR sprayer, currently in its final phases of testing. With its success, Dr. Zaman is looking to extend his research beyond the wild blueberry industry. Variability in fields can be found in many agricultural crops including cabbage, cauliflower and potatoes and the technology could be adapted to them. “It worked very well [for wild blueberries] so next we will look at more applications that can be applied to other fruits and vegetables.”

FISHING FOR SUCCESS Jim Duston peers into an enclosure of fish, his green waterproof lab coat keeping him dry, as the creatures spin and swirl just below the surface. The grey and silver-scaled fish, most between two and three feet long, are striped bass, and Dr. Duston thinks that these 10- to 30-pounders could be the key to revitalizing Nova Scotia’s fishing industry, an industry he says is over-reliant on Atlantic salmon and trout. He and his research team are looking at ways to diversify the industry.

Striped bass is in high demand in American restaurants. The species’ high quality white meat is a customer-pleaser, but with the collapse of the wild population in the 1980s due to over fishing, there is now strict quota on wild striped bass. And although the population is recovering, small wild fisheries cannot support the demand for the product. “This leaves
an opportunity for farmed fish,” Dr. Duston explains. Aquaculture, or fish farming, is expanding worldwide faster than any other animal production system and accounts for well over 50 per cent of the seafood consumed globally.

Dr. Duston’s research is looking at how to effectively and efficiently farm striped bass. He began his research in the late 1990s by retrieving eggs from the Stewiacke River. The fish grew to adult size, which takes about six years, and then became the ‘broodstock’ which produce the eggs and milt (seminal fluid) for the cultured fish. Striped bass are challenging to grow, especially from eggs and into the early larval stages. Dr. Duston is looking at tank-based experiments to gain insight into the ecophysiology of the fish—how it adapts to its environmental conditions—and is also conducting field survey work in the Shubenacadie River, studying striped bass nursery habitats. “It’s important we learn more about the factors affecting survival and growth,” Dr. Duston explains. His goal? To make striped bass a commercially farmed fish in the region.

BUILDING BETTER EGGS Derek Anderson’s research team examines the quality and composition of eggs produced by hens fed marine byproducts and plant oils. Their challenge? Figuring out a way to elevate the healthy fatty acid profile of eggs to benefit of the overall heart health of those who eat the eggs.

“We’ve tried to enhance eggs through the consumption of lobster and crab meal but the eggs may have a bit of a fishy taste which would not be palatable to all consumers,” explains Dr. Anderson, whose team also includes Janice MacIsaac and Ming Gong. Flax seed oil had been considered an option, but it isn’t stable enough to maintain good quality—and the hens simply don’t like the taste of it. “That makes it difficult to get enough flax in the bird to elevate their levels of Omega-3 fatty acids,” Dr. Anderson says.

Next up? “We’re now looking at canola and camelina oil as alternatives to flax because we think they have more stable oils, have a good profile of fatty acids and the oil itself will not be difficult to feed to hens.”

IN THE CLASSROOM

GROWING BETTER POLICYMAKERS Kathleen Kevany is trying to get the students in her Systems Rethinking course to consider how decisions about agriculture get made—and how those decisions can contribute to good environmental, health, economic and social policy. Subtitled “Real-World Problems Linking Agriculture, Food and Well-Being,” the course engages students in critical thinking on the importance of systems theory and interrelationships. For instance, in one case study, students examine the potato from every angle. What is happening to the body when eating potatoes? What about the soil it grows in? What of the economic, social and historical implications of this revered vegetable? Dr. Kevany and her team hope the course will equip her students to become the kinds of professionals—policymak-
How products flow through the chain from inputs and genetics to retail, Dr. Somogyi explains. He begins his value chain research by mapping throughout the chain, from input supplier and farmer to retailer, “value markets. “My research is about increasing agribusiness income and looks at linking growers and their products with specific high value markets,” explains Simon Somogyi of the Department of Business and Social Sciences.

GEttING smarter aBout marKEts It might look like a jet-setter’s itinerary: stops in Iceland, Nova Scotia, the Netherlands and other spots in North America and Europe. But in fact, it’s the study tour of students in Dal’s International Food Business (IFB) program.

Agriculture is more than just growing food. The IFB program teaches students to understand the business side of food production, and how it can be more profitable, more market focused, more efficient in operations and more responsive to changing policies and trends. Through the program, students gain an international perspective by completing an orientation and study tour to Iceland, two work placements (one in Europe and one in North America), and then a second year of study in the Netherlands at partner institution, CAH Vilentum.

“Modern food production systems in developed countries, such as Canada, are more and more focused on niche, high-value export markets,” explains Simon Somogyi of the Department of Business and Social Sciences. “The IFB program instills in students the idea of developing food products for high value export markets and equips them with the knowledge and skills to do just that.”

IN THE SUPERMARKET

peering INside coNsumErs’ heads Why do you buy the food you buy? What helps you make your food choices? Faculty of Agriculture researchers are probing the influences on your buying choices to help growers and agribusinesses do a better job of enticing you to buy their products.

Dr. Simon Somogyi focuses his research on agribusiness marketing and looks at linking growers and their products with specific high value markets. “My research is about increasing agribusiness income throughout the chain, from input supplier and farmer to retailer,” Dr. Somogyi explains. He begins his value chain research by mapping how products flow through the chain from inputs and genetics to retail and finally, to the consumer. He conducts consumer research to uncover what consumers want and then looks at how consumer information flows back up the chain from retailer to farmer. His goal is to uncover opportunities to improve communication so that everyone from the grower to the producer of the end product can meet consumer needs more quickly, precisely—and profitably.

Ji Lu looks at why consumers buy the food they buy. “I try to get a closer look into the minds of the consumers,” he says. “While people make many food decisions each day, most of these decisions are not necessarily rational.” Dr. Lu tries to understand how cultural background, intuitive beliefs and everyday emotions influence buying decisions.

“We are living in a society that is influenced by marketing,” Dr. Lu explains. In practical term, Dr. Lu’s research is looking closer at what exactly consumers want, so farmers can produce it. “The market trend of food products critically changes the face of agriculture activities, from farming, processing, retailing to consuming. For example, while the growing appetite for healthy, local, and socially ‘fair’ products makes manufacturers and retailers increasingly take more social responsibilities, both farmers and consumers may benefit from this change.”

A+ FOR APPLES

Dal researchers are helping apple producers maximize their crops in two important—and distinctive—ways.

• Sean Myles and his team are using their Apple Biodiversity Collection of more than 1,000 different varieties of apples planted in a five-acre orchard in Kentville to take the guesswork out of developing new breeds of apples. By mapping desired traits of the apples’ genomes, the team is helping growers develop new varieties that are resistant to diseases and pests, with the goal of lowering reliance on pesticides.

• Vasantha Rupasinghe, Canada Research Chair in Fruit Bioactives & BioProducts, is investigating the disease-fighting power of cool climate fruits such as apples, with the aim of developing natural health products to prevent and treat chronic disease. This includes studying the neuroprotective qualities of the flavonoids found in apple peels, qualities that could help reduce plasma and liver cholesterol levels and blood pressure, in collaboration with George Robertson of Dal’s Department of Psychiatry and Pharmacology. Dr. Rupasinghe has several patent applications pending and is in the process of identifying a nutraceutical company to commercialize this technology.
World food demand is set to grow 60 per cent by 2050, meaning we will need to feed two billion more people. Dal’s researchers and students are working to help make that possible.

Canada is the world’s third largest pork exporter with $2.6 billion in exports to over 100 countries every year.
Agriculture employs over 2.1 million Canadians on farms and in processing plants, boardrooms, laboratories and beyond.

Apples, blueberries and grapes make up over 90 per cent of Canada’s fruit acreage.

The United States is Canada’s #1 food export destination.

Canada is the world’s largest producer of canola, peas, lentils, mustard seed and flaxseed. We are also the 5th largest producer of wheat and 7th largest producer of soybeans.

Aquaculture is expanding worldwide faster than any other animal production system, and now accounts for well over half of the seafood we consume.

In 2009, sales at Canadian farmers’ markets exceeded $1 billion with a total economic impact of over $3 billion.

1 in 8 Canadian jobs are in agriculture and agri-food.
Team players

WHETHER IT’S ON THE FIELD, THE ICE OR THE GRIDIRON, WHAT LIFE LESSONS CAN BE LEARNED FROM COMPETITIVE SPORT? WE ROUNDED UP SOME STUDENT ATHLETES AND VARSITY ALUMNI TO FIND OUT.
BY DAWN MORRISON

STUDENT ATHLETE: ANNA DUNN-SUEN
(BSC, MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY’17) ➤
One of the things I’ve learned through sport is that there is a “no one left behind” approach that I really appreciate. You have to take care of other people, no one person takes the fall. You’re in it together. This lesson came back to me when I did some travelling last year to build homes in Ecuador. Our group went on a hike and there was a girl who was not particularly athletic, and struggling a bit to catch up. I walked with her and encouraged her to keep going. One of my colleagues said, “It was pretty cool of you to walk with her and motivate her.” To me, I didn’t really stop to think about it; it was automatic. That’s what playing varsity sport means—it’s a big family to take care of.

Another thing about sport is you learn how to work. You devote yourself to a goal with passion, and you achieve that goal through hard work. You give it everything you have and you don’t do it for a banner or a medal. You do it for the satisfaction that comes from achieving your goals and the personal growth that comes with it.
“You learn how to work.”

STUDENT ATHLETE: ANNA DUNN-SUEN
(BSC, MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY ’17)
“Sport is a template for life.”

ALUM: DR. WILLIAM STANISH (MD’70),
two-time Climo Award Winner;
two-time MVP (hockey and football); Malcom Honour Award-winner; inducted into Dalhousie, Nova Scotia and UPEI Sport Halls of Fame.
CURRENTLY: Professor of Surgery at Dalhousie, Founder/Director of the Orthopaedic and Sport Medicine Clinic of Nova Scotia, Chief Medical Officer for the Canadian Olympic Team at the 1984 Olympics (Los Angeles) and the 1988 Olympics (Seoul).

STUDENT ATHLETE: CORBIN BOES (GOALIE), (BCOMM’18)

Obviously, teamwork is a big life lesson you learn from sport. You become friends quickly with your teammates, and you have to work together to succeed. True teamwork means accountability. You’re accountable to your other teammates, your coaches and yourself. They are putting a lot in and they expect to get a lot back. You want to be accountable for how you perform. Whatever sport you’re in shapes you. Sport teaches you the discipline that helps you in daily life, and you’re constantly thinking about what you have to do to get better. I feel I take this into the classroom as well, where I just want to do my best to put in a good effort and advance. It also helps you to deal with high-pressure situations, and moulds you into a person who can handle anything. You have to mentally prepare. When you’re playing a game in front of thousands of fans, like when I played junior hockey in the Western Hockey League final, you have to put that pressure aside and focus on the task at hand. It’s the same for life events. I don’t know what life would be like without sport.

—

DAL FALL 2015

20
“True teamwork means accountability.”
“Be prepared, and thank yourself later.”

STUDENT ATHLETE: SANGMUK CHOI (BSC, KINESIOLOGY’16)

My first year as a student athlete at Dalhousie was eye-opening. I realized how overwhelming being a student athlete can be, and what I needed to do in order to keep up—on and off the field. I soon got tired of all-nighters, Red Bulls and lack of sleep. That reality taught me how to use time efficiently and inspired me to live by the words “if you fail to prepare, prepare to fail.”

The overall experiences and lessons learned from being a Dalhousie Tiger have shaped who I have become and will continue to stay with me for the rest of my life, for which I’m very grateful.

“The value of time management.”

ALUM: TERESA MORRISON (DDS’13)
CURRENTLY: Associate at
Spring Garden Dentistry and
Chain Lake Dental, Halifax

I played varsity soccer on the StFX team for four years, before coming to Dalhousie for Dentistry. Dal and StFX were huge rivals at the time. After I joined the Dal team, we ended up in the AUS semifinal against StFX. We ended up losing to my former team! The thing about it was that when I came from StFX, the Dal team welcomed me with open arms. Once I was on the Dal team, immediately, I was one of them. I also learned the value of time management through sport. You’d think you’d have less time for schoolwork when you’re playing varsity but actually the opposite is true. There’s less room for procrastination, so you really have to be organized.

“Teamwork is something I don’t have to guess at; it’s second nature.”

ALUM: KATE MACDONALD (BSC, KINESIOLOGY’11)
three-time AUS all-star, CIS Academic All-Canadian
CURRENTLY: Recreation Programmer with the Halifax Regional School Board

Working well in a team environment has been an invaluable lesson for me. We’d have up to 24 people on the varsity soccer team, each with their own experiences, backgrounds and perspectives, yet we’d have to work together towards a common goal. I use what I’ve learned every day in my current position. I have to collaborate on a lot on projects, and having this sense of teamwork is something I don’t have to guess at; it’s second nature. I think it’s partly a Dal culture thing, this sense of camaraderie. Everybody there was so tight-knit, and so dedicated to working together to represent the school. I think it was just understood that a high standard was being set, and you had to reach that standard.

“Things don’t always come easy, and you have to meet those challenges head on—just like in life.”

ALUM: KATHY SPURR four-time AUAA all-star; three-time CIAU Academic All-Canadian; National Team Class of ’55 winner; German Bundesliga 1 Player. (BSC KINESIOLOGY’88, MH’09)
CURRENTLY: Assistant Professor, School of Health Sciences (Respiratory Therapy)

When I applied for my very first job, the person who hired me said even though I had no experience at all, he was hiring me because I was a varsity athlete and played on a national team. He knew I had the work ethic and drive to do the job. As a varsity athlete, you’re driven to succeed. You also learn things like working as part of a team, time management, leadership skills, the ability to put yourself outside of your comfort zone and learning to overcome adversity. There might be situations where you are overmatched by a school that is bigger or better, or you have to overcome an injury. Things don’t always come easy and you have to meet those challenges head on, work hard and overcome them—just like in life.

At one point, I found myself teaching full-time at Dal, working on my master’s part time, coaching a high school basketball team and being a wife and a mother. That’s a lot of balls in the air, and being a varsity athlete certainly gave me the skills I needed later in life to prioritize and manage my time.

STUDENT ATHLETE: KASHRELL LAWRENCE (BCOMM’17)

There are so many lessons I’ve learned that it’s hard to think of just one, but what coach preaches is to leave it all out on the floor. Going forward, I often think about whether I’m doing everything I can to be successful in what I do. This lesson is applicable to all aspects in life. When going into a job interview, if you do your research for the job, you can move on positively regardless of the result. When overcoming adversity, I always try to be confident in myself. I know that I have prepared for adversity and because of that I am ready to face it.
“Leave it all out on the floor.”

STUDENT ATHLETE: KASHELL LAWRENCE (BCOMM’17)
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When the MS Society approached Justine Fedak (MBA ’01) to be an honoree at its 2013 Women on the Move luncheon in Chicago, she agreed with one condition. “I said, ‘Only if we raise the most money you have ever raised and we get the most profile for Multiple Sclerosis ever,’” recalls Fedak, who was diagnosed with the disease in 2001. “It’s the most random, ridiculous disease of all time, so it’s very hard to raise money for something that people don’t understand.”

The luncheon garnered $100,000 in donations that year, thanks in part to Fedak’s efforts and the connections she’s made as senior vice-president and head of brand, advertising and sponsorships for BMO Financial Group. “That’s the most money they’ve raised so far,” she notes with some pride. “And we got corporate contributions for the first time, which have continued, so we’ve managed to establish a real foothold for MS in Chicago.”

If anyone exemplifies a woman on the move, it’s Fedak. She may do so now with a Lucite cane (“Wonder Woman had an invisible plane; I have an invisible cane,” she laughs) but this Ontario-born Dalhousie alumna and former long-distance runner has made quite an impact on the Windy City over the past two decades through her community and charitable work. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Gilda’s Club Chicago and Access Living. She is an executive director of Noah’s Arc Foundation, which encourages youth to develop a stronger sense of self and community. And she’s involved in the Chicago Police Foundation, the Chicago Sports Commission, the Magnificent Mile Association and chairs the Municipal Marketing Advisory Council.

It may seem like a lot to balance, but Fedak sounds energized by her many commitments. “The more I invest in others, and the more I invest in the world around me, the more happiness I derive personally.”

Each role also offers Fedak another opportunity to apply the invaluable lessons and philosophies learned while earning her MBA from Dalhousie through BMO. “The professors didn’t just teach material. They taught us how to learn, how to approach problem solving, how to apply differences in thinking to arrive at a collaborative result. That focus on contributing and collaborating has 100 per cent influenced my community work, and I think it’s what makes Dalhousie special.”

There were many other influences beyond Dalhousie that sparked Fedak’s desire to build a better world. She drew inspiration from her father, Emil Fedak, a lawyer who frequently helped Ukrainian families adjust to a new life in Canada, and from a friend’s father, Dr. M. A. Romeo, who was involved in fundraising for the opera and the arts. But the one person who truly shaped her world view and interest in giving back was her grandfather, who had served as Metropolitan with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada.

“I spent a lot of time with him. He was my best friend, and he really demonstrated such internal peace and contentment by being of service. I think it starts with being happy and finding ways to contribute.”

Although Fedak’s commitments suggest she prefers to contribute where health—personal and community—is involved, she says there’s no vision or mission that determines her choices. “I do it because it’s in front of me and it needs to be done. If someone asks for my help and I think I can do it, I will.”

Take Noah’s Arc Foundation, for example. Fedak wasn’t sure how she could help when she was approached by her friend, Cecilia Rodhe, to launch this initiative envisioned by Rodhe and her son, Chicago Bulls centre Joakim Noah.

“Violence and its impact on the community is so much bigger than anything that one person could do. To even understand the challenges that a city like Chicago goes through and the loss that people experience is enormous. “But you realize you can help simply by reaching out to others and asking them for support. That’s what I’ve done. We’ve had a lot of people step up and say ‘I want to be part of this’ and we’re all working to make

**RECOGNITION: DAA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Justine Fedak (MBA’01) is energized by her many charitable commitments. “The more I invest in others, and the more I invest in the world around me, the more happiness I derive personally.” By Mark Campbell
this community a more positive place. I’m really proud of what we’ve accomplished as a team.”

Fedak is equally proud of the fact that she’s helped raise awareness about MS, even if the decision to do so was initially a reluctant one.

“When I was diagnosed, I went through the classic denial of not wanting people to know, because I thought they would judge me, or treat me differently, and I wouldn’t get the same opportunities at work. “Of course that didn’t happen,” she continues. “In fact, having the cane is a conversation starter. People often ask me where I got it and why I have it, so I take the opportunity to explain what MS is. It’s allowed me to connect with more people.”

The energy expended to hide MS now channeled in other ways, Fedak suggests that vulnerability may be the greatest strength we possess. When we need assistance or support, we gain a better appreciation for what others are going through, whatever their need. With that appreciation comes the desire to lend a hand.

“If you can help someone then maybe they’ll help someone else. That’s why if I can help somebody I will. And I hope then that somebody will help me in turn.”

Fedak continues to help where she can, and that dedication has been recognized with several honours over the years, most recently the 2015 Dalhousie Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

“It’s something that inspires me to ensure that each and every day I celebrate and live by the words of Jack Kerouac: ‘Be in love with your life every minute of it,’” says Fedak. “I am humbled and honoured to be acknowledged by the Dalhousie community and I will continue to draw on the collaboration and spirit of lifelong learning that I experienced when I had the chance to earn my MBA from the university.”

What are Fedak’s next moves? She wants to write more, fueled in part by the responses she’s received to her columns on living with MS in the Chicago-Sun Times’ publication, Splash. She also envisions a day when she and her husband, Conrad Zurini, owner broker, Re/Max Escarp-
Each year, the Dalhousie Alumni Association Awards recognize a number of Dalhousie alumni for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions. These remarkable individuals are carrying on Dalhousie’s nearly 200-year tradition of excellence.

RECOGNITION

2015 Dal Alumni Association Awards

The A. Gordon Archibald Award recognizes alumni for outstanding volunteer contributions to Dalhousie.

He had a spectacular career in the investment business, but Douglas C. Mackay (BComm’53; LLD’93) is the first to admit that it hasn’t always been an easy ride. In fact, he almost didn’t make it through first-year university.

“I did not get off to a good start at Dalhousie,” he recalls. “I did make the varsity hockey team and we won the Eastern Canadian championships. But I got hooked on bridge, often playing for six or seven hours a day. And when the government allowed pubs to open for the first time in 1948, I spent many hours at the Lord Nelson Pub, which was always packed with students. As a result, I skipped a lot of classes and nearly flunked my first year.”

Mackay joined Phi Delta Theta fraternity and was the only person living in the frat house who was not a war veteran. “These veterans were trying to make up for four lost years,” he says. “They worked very hard during the week and played hard on the weekends.” Their work ethic had a profound influence on Mackay’s life. He pulled up his bootstraps, hit the books and fully immersed himself in the university experience and his studies.

He moved to Toronto, where he embarked on a 40-year career in the investment business. Starting as a salesman, he was quickly promoted to branch manager and later general sales manager. He moved on to take over the new issue department and was responsible for managing and launching some of the largest and most innovative securities achieved in Canada. At the time he retired, he was vice chairman of RBC Dominion Securities, the largest investment firm in Canada.

Throughout, Mackay has solidified his reputation as one of Dalhousie’s greatest friends. He served for years on the School of Business Advisory Board, and played a key role in several of Dalhousie’s fundraising campaigns. His monetary gifts have funded a Chair in Finance, supported more than 100 students and created a stellar speaker series that brings in the best and brightest financial minds in the country to help keep the School of Business up to date and relevant in a very fast-moving sector.

For all these contributions, Mackay was awarded an Honourary Doctorate of Laws from Dalhousie in 1993. “I was delighted to be recognized in this way,” he says. “But what they didn’t tell me when I accepted, was that I would be giving the convocation address to 1,100 people. I was in shock.”

As for the A. Gordon Archibald Award for which he’s being honoured, there’s no speech required. This time, he can relax and let others take the floor as his contributions to Dal are celebrated.—Joanne Ward-Jerrett

The Volunteerism Award recognizes alumni for outstanding volunteer contributions to the community.

From dental missions around the world to the four-hour commute he makes each month from Sydney to teach at Dalhousie’s Dental School, Ian Doyle (DDS’78) goes to great lengths to give back.

“I look at volunteering as a way to contribute to my community and the world for the mutual benefits that result from helping others,” says the 2015 Dalhousie Alumni Association Volunteerism Award winner. “When I sold my practice six years ago, I soon realized I had the flexibility to do things that...
required more time off and more travel."

Dr. Doyle has certainly taken advantage of
that, participating in missions that are helping
to establish preventative dental care for com-
munities in Peru, Nicaragua and Guyana.

“I’ve been travelling to Amerindian com-
munities in a remote area of the Pakaraima
Mountains of Guyana since 2007. We’ve gone
from relieving pain and treating infection
through oral surgery and antibiotics to train-
ing local technicians who will be able to pro-
vide comprehensive dentistry using donated
equipment,” he says.

Even while home in Sydney, Dr. Doyle is
constantly on the go, contributing where he
can. This longtime blood donor and member
of the Cape Breton Chordsmen participated
in the launch of a free dental day for homeless
and underserved populations. He volunteers
with his church, the Rotary Club and Talbot
House, a treatment facility for men with ad-
dictions. And he’s helped advance the qual-
ity of dental care as an executive member of
the Nova Scotia Dental Association, the Nova
Scotia Dental Board and Cape Breton Island
Dental Society.

“Community involvement was constant-
ly encouraged while I was at Dalhousie. I re-
member instructors and upperclassmen say-
ing you have to get involved or dentistry will
not be as fulfilling. And that’s absolutely true.”

As incoming president of the International
College of Dentists in Canada, Dr. Doyle con-
tinues to set an example for young dentists
and alumni alike. He wants to encourage more
dentists to volunteer at home or abroad and
he’s planning missions to Haiti and Cambodia.

Those missions could turn into family af-
fairs. “My son Ian, Jr. and his wife Kylene are
graduating physicians who plan to come to
Haiti. My wife Anne (BA’76) has been on all
but one mission, while my daughter Patricia
(BSc’05, MD’09) has accompanied me to
Nicaragua. I wouldn’t be the volunteer I am
without the support of my family and I feel that
Anne is as deserving of this award as I am.”
—Mark Campbell

What do you do when you’ve led the develop-
ment of a United Nations law that gives chil-
dren around the world access to international
justice when their rights are denied or violat-
ed? If you’re Sara L. Austin (BA’98), you find
new ways to make a difference in the lives of
young people.

The former director of the president’s office
for World Vision in Toronto is currently doing
that as a lecturer in the Department of Child
and Youth Studies at Mount Royal University
in Calgary. “We moved here earlier this year
and this was an opportunity for me to con-
tinue my passion for empowering children
and youth,” says Austin, the 2015 Dalhousie
Alumni Association Christopher J. Coulter
Award recipient.

“The Christopher J. Coulter
Award recognizes recent graduates for
innovative accomplishments and notable
contributions to society, the community or
Dalhousie

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and youth,” says Austin, the 2015 Dalhousie
Alumni Association Christopher J. Coulter
Award recipient.

“Many young Canadians are unaware that
they have rights. Through this program, we’re
equipping early childhood educators and
child and youth care counsellors with an un-
Canadian champion for the rights of women and children Sara Austin (BA’98) helped draft an international law guaranteeing child rights which was adopted by the United Nations.

Auston also is involved in the University’s Centre for Child Well-Being, an initiative dedicated to investigating, promoting and enhancing the factors that determine the happiness, security and health of children. And she’s building momentum to launch a nationwide movement to address issues such as inequality and poverty among children across Canada.

“We have a national poverty epidemic with one in six children living in poverty. That rises to one in four among Aboriginal children and one in three in some of our urban areas. By engaging government, non-profits and the private sector in solutions to this situation, I believe we can make Canada the best nation on earth for kids to grow up.”

That determination, first fostered by Austin’s parents, came into full bloom at Dalhousie where she studied International Development and Women’s Studies.

“The university provided the academic training and practical life experience through the Cuban semester program to start me on this path,” says Austin. “That the Dalhousie community continues to encourage and celebrate the work that I’ve done is a huge honour for me. An award like this gives me the energy to keep doing what I’m doing.”

As for long-term plans, Austin is open to any opportunities that allow her to put her theories and practices for protecting and empowering children to good use. And that includes her five-year-old son.

“I want to support and encourage him to achieve his potential, whatever that might look like. But I also want to help kids across the country and around the world to experience a better life.” —Mark Campbell

THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD recognizes alumni for exceptional accomplishments in career and community service.

The 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Justine Fedak, profiled on pp. 26-27 of this issue.
Erin Martin (MD’15), Ahmed Jad (MD’15) and fourth-year medical student A. J. Biswas are a diverse group. Hailing from Whitehorse, Egypt and Montreal respectively, their paths to medicine and motivation to be doctors are as varied as they are. But they do have one similarity: the generosity of a stranger has made a lasting impact on them.

Last year, they each received the George and Rusina Loh Medical Bursary. Like many students, they agree that medical school has been one of the most invigorating experiences of their lives, but also comes with its challenges. The bursary, established by Loh (MD’58) and his wife, Rusina, provides financial support to deserving med students, who juggle intense workloads and financial responsibilities as they make their way through the program. But beyond the financial benefits, the bursary functions as a tremendous source of encouragement, according to the students.

“It’s a very humbling feeling to know there are people out there who not only want to acknowledge your hard work, but also want to provide an opportunity to help with your success,” says Dr. Jad, who is now doing a general residency in Halifax.

His fellow bursary recipients echo that sentiment. Dr. Martin says that from her first day of medical school, she was made to feel part of a strong and welcoming community, one that creates a culture of people who want to help in any way they can. For her, that was never more evident than when she received her bursary.

“As each student moves forward, their experiences will shape them as doctors, enriching the care they provide to the communities and individuals they serve—a true testament to the generosity of the Lohs.” —Fallon Bourgeois
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When the September 11th attacks took place in 2001, Tony McFadden (BEng’85) was working in Malaysia for a telecommunications company. His job required him to spend a lot of time in airplanes, prompting a friend to suggest that McFadden take a run at writing a thriller with a telecom expert at the centre of the action.

That novel, Matt’s War, would hook McFadden on the challenges of writing fast-paced, teeth-gnashing thrillers. He credits his background in project planning for major firms like Nokia, where he managed a team of radio engineers, with helping him come up with a fail-safe formula for his writing, which to date includes 10 self-published novels and a couple of screenplays. “[Outlining a story] is high-level design. I’m doing a lot of project planning now and I know that in order to have a radio tower ready to put your radio equipment on in six months I have to order that equipment right now, not in six months,” says McFadden from his office in Perth, Australia, the country he moved to 10 years ago with his wife. Born in Sydney, N.S. and raised mostly in Saskatchewan, McFadden’s love of the beach is what’s kept him in Australia.

“Story structure is basically a blueprint.” Before writing the first draft, McFadden has already thought of six to seven key scenes, and he knows how it’s going to end; he’s filled in the blanks on how the characters get to that ending and what elements come into play in order to get them there.

“I won’t write the first draft until I know what all these points are,” he explains. “Mapping that can take me longer than writing the first draft.”

His next big stage is tackling the marketing. As a self-published author, his books are available on Amazon and all major eBook platforms, as well as on his website, www.tonymcfadden.net. His plan from day one was to have a deep back catalogue in place before he mapped out his marketing blueprint.

“I always said I’d write 10 books to have a back catalogue and start working on the business side. The 10th dropped in February,” he says.
—Tina Pittaway
You’re helping people, and you can make such a difference in peoples’ lives,” says Janet Knight Hart (BSc’65). “For me it was all about giving people a better quality of life.”

As faculty and alumni of the School of Physiotherapy prepared to gather in Halifax from October 2–5 to celebrate the school’s 50th anniversary, friends Janet Knight Hart and Joan Leng (BSc’65) reflected on their experiences as members of the school’s first graduating class. Close to a dozen members of their class planned to attend the reunion, which Knight Hart and Leng were involved in planning.

“We started out with 16 students in the first year and ended up with 14 graduating,” recalls Knight Hart. “You had a closeness and cohesiveness as a group, with personal contact with the teachers.” Program founders Dr. Arthur Shears and Dr. Wells “really instilled in us a sense of professionalism and pride in our school.”

Both Knight Hart and Leng had applied to schools in Quebec and Ontario, but when they learned Dalhousie was launching a program, they jumped at the chance to stay in Nova Scotia. “I had an uncle who had multiple sclerosis, and I became interested in physiotherapy because of that,” explains Leng, who was raised in New Glasgow, and was sponsored by St. Martha’s Hospital in Antigonish for her Dal studies.

At that time, students were awarded provincial bursaries and sponsored by specific hospitals. In exchange for financial support, graduates worked for two years at their sponsoring hospital. Knight Hart was sponsored by the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Hospital. Both went on to work in Ontario and the Maritimes. Leng also worked at the Canadian Forces Hospital in Lahr, Germany.

The two friends have helped plan various reunions over the years, and appreciate the chance to reconnect with classmates from across Canada and as far away as Hawaii.

“As you start to get up to 40, 45 and now 50 [years since graduation], it becomes much more meaningful to reconnect with these people that you had these experiences with,” says Leng. And the years do tend to melt away, says Knight Hart. “I think we still feel we are the girls of Wells and Shears.” — Tina Pittaway

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1950s

'54 NANCY WICKWIRE FRASER, BA, of Brockville, Ont., published March Poems 2003, a book of 18 poems illustrated with her own watercolours. The forms of the poems reflect an influential course she studied at Dalhousie in 1953, taught by Professor Lambert, entitled “Modern Poetry.”

'59 ROSELLE GREEN, BA, MA'63, DPA'73, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from the University of King’s College on May 14, 2015.

1960s

'66 MARK GORDON, BA, published his newest novel, The Snail’s Castle, in February 2015. The novel is set at McGill University in the early 1960s. It is a story of love, lust, ambition and redemption.

'70 DAVID BENTLEY, MA, was awarded the 2015 Killam Prize in Humanities for his work on Canadian literature and culture, and Victorian literature and art.

'71 ELIZABETH STEVENS, BA (Theatre), has released her first children’s book, Pamela Pollock’s Perilous Adventure (And how she found the Blueneuse), published by Glen Margaret Publishing. This book was a Dal family affair, published by RICHARD

ROGERS (BSc’73) and edited by his wife, GRACEY (HISCOCK) (BED’69). The book launch was held on June 24 at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax. Elizabeth lives in southern New Brunswick. She divides her time between writing, working on films and teaching English as a Second Language to foreign workers on Deer Island, N.B. She completed an MA (English/Creative Writing) at UNB Fredericton in 2000. Contact by email: stevens.eliz4@gmail.com

1970s

'73 Since retirement in 2001, former Dalhousie Fellow in Rheumatology DR. LOURDES ROMANO-JANA, PGM, formed a cultural dance group called Sayay Dance Company. Sayay has represented Philippine dances during the biennial Erie Festival of Dance since 2003. Dr. Romano-Jana choreographs and performs with the group.

'76 GEORGE COTARAS, BSc, BEDS’79, BArch’81, is the president of Halifax firm Fowler Bauld and Mitchell. He was the lead architect for the new Halifax Central Library, which opened on Dec. 13, 2014. His former classmate and colleague WAYNE DUNCAN (BArch’80) played a huge role in making the library a success.

'78 DAVID HOUSTON, MSc, recently retired from full-time employment as a dean at the University of Cumbria in the U.K. He has retained a research fellowship position, which allows him to work on his golf and enjoy some travel adventures with wife Sue. He remains involved with the U.K.’s Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education as a university reviewer, and with the Football Association as a Coach Education consultant. Dal holds special memories for David and played a pivotal role in the development of his academic career. Long may it prosper, and any alumni passing through the beautiful Yorkshire Dales are very welcome to pop-in for a cuppa.

1980s

'80 PATI (LYNCH) DURKEE, BSc (Hon), has returned home to Yarmouth, after teaching elementary school for the Toronto District School Board for 26 years. She has opened an art and decor shop called Hubert and Belle’s, named after her parents, in Port Maitland, N.S., just outside of Yarmouth. The shop features folk and fine art paintings from artists across the East Coast, including her own work. She invites everyone to drop in for a visit. Find the shop on Facebook or check out www. hubertandbelle.com

'83 A short story by BEV VINCENT, BSc, PhD’88, was nominated for a Thriller Award by the International Thriller Writers. “The Honey Trap” was first published in the Cold War-themed anthology ICE COLD, edited by Jeffery Deaver and Raymond Benson. The 2015 award winners were announced at ThrillerFest X in July, at the Grand Hyatt (New York City). Website: www. bevvincent.com

'84 BARBARA ADAMS, BScPT, has published a groundbreaking book, Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Owner’s Manual, offering both fibromyalgia patients and chronic pain survivors a unique insight into the physical challenges and treatment protocols of these two complex conditions. Barbara’s book and her treatment programs have been featured on DocTalk (Eastlink TV). She has been interviewed by CTV, ATV and Breakfast Television in Nova Scotia and Alberta. Barbara is an Arthritis Society guest speaker, a researcher and a physiotherapist. She has also taught about fibromyalgia and chronic pain management at the School of Physiotherapy. Website: www. fibrophysio.com

LINDA HAM, MSc'88, has recently been appointed as chief geologist with the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office. Their daughters, Kira and Anika, are both undergraduates at Queen’s University. Paul and Linda live in the ‘Road to Nowhere’ subdivision on the edge of Iqaluit with their three dogs Misiu, Taiga and Pickwick.

LINCOLN THOMPSON, MBA, and wife Donna Gardner Thompson, BComm’86, owners of Gardiner Realty (Fredericton, N.B.), have been named East Coast Brokerage Firm of the Year by Royal LePage. The award is one of five given across the country. In addition to the prestigious award, Gardiner is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year. The firm is known for its dedication to local communities.

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THUNDERBALL
THE SONS OF KATIE ELDER

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**1990s**

**'91**  
James Bell, BComm, was recently hired as director of Tax Solutions Canada, a member of the Farber Financial Group. Based in Toronto, Tax Solutions Canada provides assistance for both personal and corporate clients located across the country dealing with Canada Revenue Agency issues related to audit, objections and appeals, legal action related to tax debts and non-filer issues.

**'92**  
Kelley Hayes McAlonie, BEDS, MArch’94, was recently appointed director of capital planning at the State University of New York at Buffalo, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jennifer Niemi, BA, otherwise known as Peep #1 of the blog Nerissa’s Life, received the newly created Special Certificate for Excellence in a Collaborative Blogging Effort at the 2015 Nose-to-Nose Pet Blogging and Social Media Awards. The award is shared with the New Zealand blog, Dash Kitten, and the American blog, Savannah’s Paw Tracks. The award recognized how interesting and entertaining the collaborative effort has been. This winning series may be easily found under the ‘adventures’ tab at the top of the Nerissa’s Life blog at www.NerissasLife.com

**2000s**

**'03**  
Dr. Christophe Fricker, MA, recently published Meet Your Party, his second book of poems. It includes a chapter on Halifax and reflects on experiences during his MA studies. The book is bilingual (English and German), and also includes illustrations. It is, to a very large extent, an attempt at saying thank you to people and places for moments that have changed Dr. Fricker’s life. Two poems are dedicated to fellow students.

**'07**  
Global News is pleased to announce that Mackay Taggart, BA, will be taking on a new role as news director for Toronto, effective July 8, 2015. Mackay has spent the last four years with Global News, most recently working as supervising producer, after spending three years with The Morning Show, which he helped launch in 2011. Prior to joining Global, Mackay worked in radio as a morning show producer and assistant program director with Newstalk 1010. He has covered significant national and international events including the inauguration of Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., the one year anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti, the Vancouver Olympics and the British Petroleum oil spill from the Gulf Coast. He also spent a year travelling and living in Sierra Leone with Journalists for Human Rights.

**'09**  
Zhe Wang, BEDS, MArch’11, and his wife Eileen met while Eileen was pursuing a degree at NSCAD and Zhe was in his B2 term in the architecture program. One week after she arrived in Halifax from Shanghai they met at the art store DeSerres. They are proud new parents to a baby boy named Gehry (after architect Frank Gehry!). They are living in Toronto where Zhe is preparing for his professional exams.

**2010s**

**'10**  
Pop/R&B singer/songwriter Julia Tynes, BA, has released her debut single, "After You," on iTunes, Amazon, Google Play and other online retailers. "After You" is the first release from Julia’s upcoming EP, The Girl In Every Song. Julia has been selected to be part of the EAST Collective, a Scarborough-based initiative for young artist collaboration, and was the recipient of a Bell Media scholarship to attend a music business course run by artist management company Coalition Music. Last year Julia enjoyed successful live performances at top Toronto venues like the Hard Rock Café, the Opera House and the Taste of the Danforth Festival. Visit her website (juliatynes.com) for links to YouTube: @juliatynes.

Lesley Sawers, BSc, JD’14, has joined Patterson Law’s litigation team. She will focus on designing CaGBC’s new residential tower at the foot of the Granville Street Bridge. She is also working on designing CaGBC’s new offices in Vancouver. Gavin has been volunteering on the Cascadia Green Building Council steering committee, the AIBC Intern Architect Committee and as a mentor at the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. He has been maintaining his LEED AP BD+C credit, and received his Certified Associate in Project Management accreditation from the Project Management Institute.

**'14**  
Janice Munroe Dodge, BA, was awarded Nova Scotia’s first Turnaround Achievement Award for Education Excellence.

Katelyn Vinet, JD, joined Patterson Law’s litigation team as an associate lawyer in their Truro office. She will focus primarily on civil litigation and family law matters.
IN MEMORIAM

ISABEL LESLIE (MACKAY) CRAWFORD, BA’37, BEd’38, Sackville, N.B., on April 3, 2015

MARGARET C. (MACMILLAN) HICKING, BComm’39, Halifax, N.S., on April 16, 2015

STEPHEN BORDEN BIRD, MD’41, Bridgewater, N.S., on April 5, 2015

HAROLD GEORGE GILLIS, DENGR’43, BEng’44, Nepean, Ont., on May 29, 2015

RONALD ALEXANDER BARNETT, DENGR’45, BEng’47, Fredericton N.B., on May 18, 2015

DONALD STEWART COX, DDIP’46, Truro, N.S., on May 21, 2015

ROBERT DUNCAN FITZNER, BEng’48, Halifax, N.S., on April 28, 2015

LAURENCE RIPLEY STEWART, FRF’48, Truro, N.S., on May 16, 2015

LEANDER S. ARCHIBALD, DDIP’47, on March 19, 2015

WILLIAM STUART MADDIN, MD’47, Vancouver, B.C., on May 21, 2015

WILLIAM FREDERICK MULHALL, BEng’47, Hantsport, N.S., on May 25, 2015

MARGARET ANNE (STEVENSON) VINCENT, BA’50, MA’51, Halifax, N.S., on March 4, 2015

RALPH BRADFORD WELCH, BEng’50, St Andrews, N.B., on June 7, 2015

MARTIN HART BUSHELL, LLB’51, Hammonds Plains, N.S., on May 1, 2015

JAMES BEVERLEY ELLS, BComm’51, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 3, 2015

ANITA MAE JOAN (SIMPSON) HAGEN, BA’51, DED’52, New Westminster, B.C., on June 5, 2015

ANGUS LEWIS MACDONALD, LLB’51, River John, N.S., on Aug. 10, 2015

ALVIN EDWARD CLARK MACRAE, MD’51, Dartmouth, N.S., on June 15, 2015

ROBERT PALMER PARKIN, DPHRM’51, BSc’51, MD’56, New York, N.Y., on May 17, 2015

JAMES K PURVES, MD’51, Halifax, N.S., on June 14, 2015

RICHARD CUMMING SIRCOM, BEng’51, Dartmouth, N.S., on April 27, 2015

GERALD MANFORD HEBB, DENGR’52, BEng’55, Halifax, N.S., on March 17, 2015

CHARLES HENRY HINES, MD’52, on April 7, 2015

ELSIE JEAN (BYERS) NEILY, DPH’52, Wilmot Station N.S., on April 8, 2015

MARY ADELINE (CHISHOLM) MACLAGREN, BA’52, MD’58, Ottawa, Ont., on May 3, 2015

WILLIAM ERNEST SINCLAIR, BA’52, Ottawa, Ont., on June 27, 2015

ALPINE HUESSTIS ALLEN, DPHRM’53, Springhill, N.S., on May 21, 2015

SYLVIA KATHLEEN (WADDELL) BELL, BSc’53, DPHRM’53, Halifax, N.S., on June 7, 2015

ELSIE MERLE CLARKE, BA’53, Halifax, N.S., on March 31, 2015

WILLIAM DAN CHILCOTT, LLB’54, Ottawa, Ont., on April 28, 2015

JANET CHRISTINE (DAWE) GARDINER, BComm’54, St. John’s, N.L., on Aug. 5, 2015

DONALD STONE, DPHRM’54, St. Peters, N.S., on May 12, 2015

GEORGE RODERICK KERR, MD’55, Houston Tex., on July 10, 2015

DONALD P. MCINNES, DDIP’55, Pictou, N.S., on Aug. 10, 2015

ROBERT ALEXANDER CROOKS, BA’56, Truro, N.S., on April 5, 2015

BERNARD LEO GRUMLEY, DDIP’56, Edmonton Alta., on March 15, 2015

LEO JOSEPH COLE, BEng’57, St. John’s, N.L., on April 30, 2015

G ROSS LANGLEY, MD’57, LLD’15, on June 19, 2015

SHEILA HARRIET (ELLMAN) CAMPBELL, BA’58, MA’63, Edmonton Alta., on June 4, 2015

GEORGE MARK COBB, MD’58, Shediac, N.B., on March 20, 2015

DAVID LESLIE GATES, DENGR’58, BEng’63, Lower Sackville, N.S., on June 29, 2015

DONALD MACKINNON HALL, LLB’58, Berwick, N.S., on July 16, 2015

ALAN RALPH LANGILLE, DDIP’58, Kingston, N.S., on April 19, 2015

DAVID OWEN LOOMER, DDIP’58, Onono, Maine, on April 19, 2015

FREDERICK STERLING GOODINE, MD’59, Woodstock, N.B., on May 5, 2015

LESTER THEODORE SEMON, BEd’60, Bridgewater, N.S., on April 10, 2015

CHARLES THOMAS MACDONALD, BEng’61, Nepean, Ont., on June 17, 2015

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As Dal President Richard Florizone says “No one does anything alone.” Dalhousie University has formed a multitude of partnerships over the decades that contribute to the education of our students, strengthen our local communities and reach across the globe.
By Stefanie Wilson

### 1868
The Victoria General Hospital becomes affiliated with the Dalhousie Medical School. It was the first of many teaching partnerships between the Medical School and hospitals across the Atlantic Provinces, including what is now the QEII Health Sciences Centre, Nova Scotia Hospital, IWK Health Centre and the Saint John Regional Hospital.

### 1913
Dalhousie University partners with 52 other Commonwealth universities to found the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the world’s first (and now oldest) international university network.

### 1923
After a disastrous fire, University of King’s College relocates to Halifax and enters into a partnership with Dalhousie that continues as an immensely productive relationship to this day.

### 1984
Dalhousie’s Interdisciplinary PhD program is developed to allow students to explore research that cuts across disciplinary boundaries and encourages interdisciplinary relationships between faculties and departments.

### 2002
A 2+2 BSc Agriculture program is established with Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University in Fuzhou, China. The program welcomed Chinese students to NSAC (now Dalhousie’s Faculty of Agriculture) for the final two years of their degree.

### 2008
Dal’s Occupational Therapy program partners with CNIB Halifax to provide work placements for first-year OT students. CNIB now welcomes students for six months of the year.

### 2008
An agreement signed by the Government of New Brunswick, Dalhousie University and the University of New Brunswick creates the Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick program. The program admits 30 New Brunswick students each year, providing them with the opportunity to study medicine in their home province.

#### Dalhousie DNA: Partnership

- **2011**
  Dalhousie becomes a founding member of CALDO, which works closely with universities and academic organizations in Latin America to match students with programs in Canada.

- **2011**
  Dalhousie helps to form the Halifax Marine Research Institute, now known as the Institute for Ocean Research Enterprise (IORE), to build partnerships among federal research laboratories, universities and private-sector organizations focused on oceans.

- **2016**
  An exclusive five-year partnership will begin between Tesla Motors and Dalhousie lithium-ion battery researcher Jeff Dahn and his team. The goal is to develop batteries with improved lifetime, increased energy density and lower cost.

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