“In any place where relief work was progressing, the hospitals, the bread lines, the clothing depots, students were to be found.”
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REVELATIONS, REVOLUTIONS AND RADIO Shows like Black Power Hour on CKDU challenge societal structures and amplify the voices of marginalized people and groups. For Dalhousie’s campus radio station, social justice has always been on the programming playlist. By Matt Semansky page 14

“LIKE ALL THUNDERS ROLLED INTO ONE” On the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, we look back at the role Dalhousie and its students played in helping the city heal. By Ryan McNutt page 20

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DAL MAGAZINE
MELANIE JOLLYMORE is an experienced freelance writer who’s been working with Dalhousie University since the late 1990s, with a focus on health, research and medical education. She has also been a literary publicist for the past 20 years and continues to work with Penguin Random House.

RYAN MCNUTT is a senior communications advisor with Dalhousie Communications and Marketing and a freelance music journalist whose work has been featured in *Maisonneuve*, *The Walrus*, *Exclaim!*, and *AUX*.

MATT REEDER spent more than three years as senior online editor at the Financial Post and four years in the digital newsroom at Reuters prior to joining Dalhousie’s Communications and Marketing team.

MATT SEMANSKY is a former online communications officer in Dalhousie’s Communications and Marketing department. He now works as communications coordinator at the University of Toronto Schools.

What would I have done? That’s a question that pops into my head when I read about significant moments in history. What would I have done in Poland or France or Germany in the Second World War? What would I have done in Gander during 9/11? What would I have done in Halifax in the aftermath of the explosion? I’d like to think I’d have sheltered my neighbours, no matter their religion; that I’d have welcomed strangers into my home, no matter the hour; that I’d have headed towards the harbour to help, no matter the danger. But would I?

It’s hard to know. And so, I imagine possibilities, as I read books like Caroline Moorhead’s *A Train in Winter*, about women in the French resistance. As I listen to interviews with Gander residents, and add the musical *Come From Away* to my New York City to-see list. As I get lost in the stories of Dalhousie students who “couldn’t help but help” in the Halifax explosion’s devastating aftermath. And with each reading, each listening, each viewing, I imagine myself as a better me.

What would I have done then? What will I do if confronted with injustice or disaster in my own time? Who can ever be certain? But in times that we worry might test us, steeping ourselves in the stories of others who have done the right thing might be the best test prep we can manage. Ryan McNutt’s “Like all thunder rolled into one,” page 20, is a good place to start.
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Engineering opportunity

It’s not always easy being an optimist, but fifth-year Engineering student Bai Bintou Kaira has a tendency to embrace life’s challenges rather than turn away from them. “I’m just trying to motivate people to see that life is a work in progress, but that no matter what your experience is, it can always be better,” she says. “You should always believe that it’s going to be better and work towards that.” Kaira has brought her positive perspective to many different initiatives since arriving at Dal from her home country of The Gambia in West Africa—challenging herself and inspiring others in the process. She’s been a tutor to other Engineering students, a mentor to youth of African descent with Imhotep’s Legacy Academy and the Black Student Advising Centre, and an advocate for international students as an executive with the African Students’ Society—all while learning to come to terms with the death of her mother when she was in first year. Kaira says the confidence she has in her own ability to help initiate change has grown through these experiences, which have also given her an appreciation for the value of teamwork. Kaira was originally set on going to medical school. Now, she says she’s gravitating toward a career focused on redesigning existing medical technology to make it accessible to low-resource regions, such as the developing countries she was surrounded by growing up and Canada’s northern communities. While some dwell on the structural challenges in such an undertaking, Kaira chooses to see the opportunity. “If you believe in something and you hold tight to it, somebody else will believe in it, too,” she says. —Matt Reeder
Empowering high school students

Last summer, high school students gathered at Dal to participate in SHAD, a month-long program aimed at empowering exceptional high school students to make the world a better place. The students were tasked with figuring out ways Canadians can meaningfully reduce their energy footprint. Among the six projects presented to the Dal community as part of the program were a thermostat that tells you how much money you are spending or saving every time you change the temperature in your house, and an industrial-sized manual compost bin for use in national and provincial parks.

– Matt Reeder

Three for three

Three Dalhousie graduate students are among the 164 outstanding researchers across Canada to receive the prestigious 2017 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships.

ALISON CHUA, OCEANOGRAPHY: Chua’s research focuses on improving the efficacy of autonomous underwater vehicles in ocean research and integrating them into a network of vehicles to more effectively explore the ocean.

HANSEN JOHNSON, OCEANOGRAPHY: Johnson’s research uses robot glider technology to monitor waters in the Northwest Atlantic for whale habitats, with the goal of providing new insights on whale distribution and habitat.

TIMOTHY DISHER, NURSING: Dishers’s research explores how much benefit is associated with single family rooms in the treatment of preterm babies, and what switching to a single family room design would mean to the healthcare system and families.

– Michele Charlton & Meaghan Bartlett

Approximately 350 people gathered at the Dunn Building in August as the Department of Physics and Atmospheric Sciences hosted a free public viewing of the partial eclipse. Using telescopic solar filters under the supervision of Dal instructors, participants were able to watch the eclipse safely. Spectators also shared special shades and used handmade projectors, some provided by the Physics Department, to experience the eclipse. “It’s great to see the public interested in science events like this,” said Lauren Utter, a telescope moderator at the viewing. “I especially love seeing all the kids involved. Having that sense of fun with science is awesome.” – Meaghan Bartlett

–

BY THE NUMBERS

Empowering high school students

54
Number of 2017 SHAD participants at Dal

800
Number of 2017 SHAD participants across Canada

6
Number of Dal project teams
MICROBIAL CONNECTIONS

NAME: Erin Bertrand
POSITION: Assistant professor, Department of Biology, and Canada Research Chair in Marine Microbial Proteomics
HER BACKSTORY: Originally from New England, Erin Bertrand wanted to come back east after completing her postdoctoral fellowship at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California. She had heard about the big push behind ocean research at Dalhousie and decided to come for a visit in the winter of 2013. She fell in love with Halifax and jumped at the opportunity to move here when she was offered the job in 2015. “This is a great place to be an ocean science researcher,” she says.
HIGHLIGHTS: As soon as her first research cruise to the Southern Ocean reached the sea ice edge in the Ross Sea, Dr. Bertrand was hooked. “Encountering that striking seascape and the tremendous biological activity that it supported, all while contributing to discoveries about how that biological activity is sustained: I couldn’t imagine a better job!” Another highlight came from some laboratory work, when she discovered the function of a protein that would let her diagnose some of the ocean’s microbes and understand when and where they might be stressed. Stress can affect the way a microbe grows—either by slowing it down, or changing the way it uses resources. “Measuring this protein is exactly what my lab group is working to do now,” says Dr. Bertrand.
WHY SHE DOES IT: For Dr. Bertrand, it’s about understanding how something operating at the molecular level can have a large and even global impact. “What I like about my research field is that I can study how the demand for a rare, tiny nutrient, required to make a handful of proteins work, can shape patterns for fisheries productivity and influence interactions between the ocean and atmospheric carbon.”
– Michele Charlton

“I’ve always looked at the world as extremely interconnected. I want to better understand that and be able to better articulate those interconnections.”
Un-stung heroes

More than 50 “citizen scientists” across Atlantic Canada contributed their eyes and pens to Dal student Bethany Nordstrom’s master’s project last summer. Retired elementary school teacher and principal Jane Allin counted jellyfish from her kayak near Port Medway, while Judy Bowers and her husband tracked beached jellyfish on the South Shore.

Jellyfish are notoriously difficult to research. “A turtle, for example, you can put a tracker on it, follow it, get a sense of their migration patterns,” says researcher Nordstrom. “But jellyfish show up sporadically with little warning, and can disappear just as quickly.”

Nordstrom’s particular interest in jellyfish concerns another visitor to the North Atlantic: the leatherback sea turtle. By studying the turtles’ main food source—jellyfish—Nordstrom is hoping to learn more about their feeding patterns.

Volunteers were equipped with monitoring kits including data sheets, rulers, gloves and a guide to jellyfish species. Nordstrom also accepted info on sightings via a jellyfish@dal.ca email address. She’s optimistic that her work will have an impact on sea turtles. “We have one of the largest foraging populations here in our Atlantic waters. It’s critical that we understand the habitat that they’re using and their requirements, so we can continue to protect this area for them.” —Ryan McNutt

Former NS Premier joins MacEachen Institute

The Honourable Darrell Dexter, former premier of Nova Scotia, has been appointed an honorary distinguished fellow at the Dal-hosted MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance. Based at the institute, Dexter began teaching students as an adjunct professor in a public policy research course at Dalhousie in September. The course offers graduate students an opportunity to engage in thoughtful discussion, debate key public policy challenges and work on current, real-world policy problems.

“His career demonstrates his passion and commitment for improving Nova Scotia through public services,” says Kevin Quigley, scholarly director of the non-partisan, interdisciplinary institute, and a professor in the School of Public Administration. “He also has a vast breadth of knowledge and experience in the world of public policy. Our students will benefit immensely from his unique experience.” —Worren McDougald
Danny abriel; CC Derek kea TS

"This finding turns our current understanding of the heart’s electrical activity on its head. If we can steer cells in the scar to purposely connect with cells in the healthy heart tissue, we could prevent arrhythmias."

INNOVATOR

ALEX QUINN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS

INNOVATION: Dr. Alex Quinn and his international collaborators have discovered that scar tissue in the heart can conduct electrical signals generated by healthy heart tissue. This overturns the longstanding belief that scars in the heart are dead zones that can only block the heart’s normal electrical activity.

FOUNDATION: After a heart attack, tissues that have died form scars. The scars provide crucial scaffolding that holds the heart together but, unlike surrounding healthy tissue, scar tissue cannot generate electrical signals or contract. Instead, it interferes with the normal beating patterns and overall electrical connectivity of the heart, leading to cardiac arrhythmias.

INSPIRATION: Prior to accepting a faculty position at Dalhousie in 2013, Dr. Quinn was working in England with his mentor, Dr. Peter Kohl, now director of the Institute for Experimental Cardiovascular Medicine in Freiburg, Germany. Dr. Kohl had been trying for decades to prove that electrical signals could transmit across scar tissue in the heart. Shortly before Dr. Quinn’s return to Canada, he and Dr. Kohl were struck with the idea that perhaps voltage-sensitive fluorescent proteins (VSFPs) could reveal electrical activity hidden within scars in the heart. He continued to work with Dr. Kohl from his new post at Dal, ultimately proving their hunch to be valid.

IN HIS WORDS “This is the first direct evidence that electrical connections between scar and healthy tissue occur in the heart.”

WHY IT MATTERS Cardiac arrhythmias can lead to both heart failure and sudden cardiac death. Researchers have tried for decades to stimulate the growth of new heart muscle cells after heart attack, with limited success. Dr. Quinn and his collaborators have found an alternative and potentially more effective way to preserve normal heart function after a heart attack. –Melanie Jollymore

“I don’t think there’s a Black writer in Nova Scotia that hasn’t been shaped by George.” 2017 DAA Award Winners, p. 28
You need to have a fire in your belly.” A Passion for Research, p. 32

DAL NEWS

NOTES

Irving Oil fuels IDEA Project

From a new 450-seat auditorium to engineering scholarships, Irving Oil’s $2.2 million gift to Dalhousie University is an investment in young people and the growth of Atlantic Canada.

“As an Atlantic Canadian company, committed to our communities, we know that our young talent and future leaders want to stay here—provided the opportunities exist,” said Mark Sherman, vice-president and chief operating officer, a Dal Engineering graduate himself (when it was the Technical University of Nova Scotia). The gift from Irving Oil is designed to enhance the student experience, from the first day on campus through to graduation and beyond. It supports new infrastructure and financial awards while cultivating a culture of safety among engineering students.

At the heart of Irving’s investment is the new $1.5 million, 450-seat Irving Oil Auditorium. A state-of-the-art learning space, designed to meet the needs of engineering students, it will also double as a community resource for a revitalized downtown Halifax, available to the public for presentations, performances and lectures. Additionally, more than $700,000 will support high-performing engineering students who’ve completed their second year of studies. Besides providing 10 scholarships of $7,500 annually, the 10-year commitment includes a co-op placement with Irving Oil for each recipient. –Elizabeth MacDonald

Input on Indigenous health

A Dalhousie researcher has become the new vice-chair of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s (CIHR) Institute Advisory Board on Indigenous Peoples’ Health. Margaret Robinson, an assistant professor in the Indigenous Studies program, was offered the prestigious role earlier this year.

The CIHR advisory boards provide guidance to the funder’s Scientific Directors and Governing Council. The Advisory Board on Aboriginal People’s Health was established in 2008, with Dalhousie’s Fred Wein (from the School of Social Work) as chair. Originally, the board advised only the Institute of Aboriginal People’s Health, but in 2014, CIHR’s Governing Council replaced the 13 Institute advisory boards with five new boards that serve all of CIHR.

The new version of the advisory board will seek to support the health and wellness of Indigenous peoples through shared research leadership across CIHR and strategic alliances to help transcend traditional boundaries and establish culturally sensitive policies and interventions.

“To often, health research hasn’t incorporated a solid understanding of Indigenous cultures, Indigenous peoples or our Nations’ strengths,” says Dr. Robinson. –Michele Charlton

Business boot camp for veterans

It’s not easy to start a new career, but Dalhousie is helping members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) boost their skills and confidence as they transition to becoming business owners. The program, now in its third year, is a partnership with Prince’s Operation Entrepreneur (POE). Coordinated by Mary Kilfoil, acting director of the Norman Newman Centre for Entrepreneurship at the Rowe School of Business, the program brings together professors, Halifax business leaders and students from Enactus Dalhousie for an intense seven-day summer business boot camp for CAF members and veterans.

Marcus Brauer, one of the boot camp participants, turned a long-time hobby into a business with Under Pressure Antiques. In the military, he worked as a health services officer, managing a hospital. While many of his skills are transferrable (managing large budgets, dealing with personnel), the POE boot camp is helping him fill the gaps.

Gabrielle Breault says she is poised to take her business, Petite Patrie Chocolate, to the next level after completing the boot camp. Breault is the only certified fine chocolate maker in the Atlantic provinces. “I’ve got a clear plan now,” she says. “You don’t know what you need until you get here and they go over details to make sure you are well informed on every aspect of being an entrepreneur, I didn’t realize how much my business needed me to be here.” –Nicole Maunsell

Left-to-right: Ian Whitcomb (Irving Oil president); Arthur Irving (chairman, Irving Oil), Sarah Irving (Irving Oil executive vice-president and chief brand officer); Richard Florizone (Dal president), Mark Sherman (Irving Oil vice-president and chief operating officer), Stephen Harding (Dal assistant vice-president, development).
The Graduate to Opportunity Program provides salary contributions to small businesses, start-up companies, social enterprises and non-profit organizations to help hire a recent grad. To breathe new life into your workforce, visit NOVASCOTIA.CA/GTO.

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THE FUTURE OF FOOD

Autumn’s bounty may seem generous, but access to adequate, safely prepared food is a growing challenge worldwide. Matt Reeder highlights Dal’s food-related research.

BREEDING BETTER SHELLFISH

As the world’s population swells past 7.5 billion, regions around the globe are turning to aquaculture as an efficient means of protein production. In Atlantic Canada and elsewhere, shellfish producers have had to adapt traditional wild harvesting operations. Molecular biologist Dr. Sarah Stewart-Clark, a shellfish expert who runs the Aquaculture Genomics Lab on Dal’s Agricultural Campus, works closely with oyster growers and other shellfish farmers to use genetic technologies to come up with ways to breed larger, faster-growing varieties. “Shellfish are a very efficient way to grow protein for humans,” she says.

FREEING THE SEEDS

Dr. Liz Fitting, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, studies the politics and culture of food in Latin America, particularly in relation to the livelihoods of small-scale farmers. Her most recent research explores how activists in Colombia challenge new seed regulations and property rights that undermine the long-standing farmer practice of saving and exchanging local seed varieties, important in helping farmers better respond to the food needs of their own communities and beyond.

TARGETING COOKSTOVE POLLUTION

It’s estimated that up to a half a million people die prematurely each year from exposure to the fine particulate matter emitted by outdoor solid-fuel cookstoves that are in wide residential use in many countries from Southeast Asia to Africa. The cookstove emissions of soot and carbon dioxide also exacerbate climate change. Now, a study by University of Colorado Boulder researchers and Dr. Randall Martin’s Atmospheric Composition Analysis Group at Dal is providing surprising insight into how to best focus reduction efforts, showing that while reducing cookstove use in China and India would make the biggest impact for climate change, the largest climate and air-quality impact per cookstove would come from Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

MAKING WAVES

Hana Nelson (BSc’08) has always been curious about the origins of food and invested in making ethical choices. Now, as Halifax’s only independent fishmonger, she’s connecting consumers with fresh, sustainable, locally caught seafood. In 2014, she opened her business Afishionado Fishmongers, designed to make local seafood products available to consumers, beginning with a retail stand but then switching to a weekly subscription service. Today, Afishionado has over 180 subscribers and provides seafood to over 30 restaurants. People can either buy online or pick up their weekly subscription at locations throughout the city, including at Dal, her alma mater. “I chose Dal because I knew there are many people within the Dal community who see the value in what we’re doing. It’s an incredible feeling to have coastal and international ocean experts, amongst others, purchasing our products. That means a lot to me.” This past January, the Afishionado team took it one step further—opening their own processing plant in Millbrook, NS. To learn more about Afishionado, visit: www.afishionado.ca. —Fallon Bourgeois
Collage by Caren Watkins. Icons from The Noun Project: Dong, 8ties®.
“The show aims to be a platform for art as a tool of resistance,” says student and volunteer Ntombi Nkiwane (BMngmt’17).

revelations, revolutions and

RADIO
CKDU shows like Black Power Hour challenge societal structures and amplify the voices of marginalized people and groups. For Dalhousie’s campus radio station, social justice has always been on the programming playlist. By Matt Semansky
is hot and muggy in the radio booth at CKDU, the palpable weight of the air made heavier by the sheer number of bodies crammed into the space. Behind two large tables arranged in an L, Reed “iZrEAL” Jones queues up tunes on a laptop and fiddles with stacks of blinking electronic equipment. Co-host El Jones (no relation) shifts her chair closer to a microphone and chats with iZrEAL and their guest, Colton. Surrounding them is a standing-room only crowd of people who, over the next 90 minutes, will join the discussion, work the phone lines or simply listen quietly.

As the clock ticks towards 1:30 p.m., the chatter is loose and conversational. A live radio show is about to begin, but the moments leading up to it are characterized by a relaxed anticipation. Though the darkened room, with its fading, cracked floor tiles and walls decorated with Sharpie-scrawled words, is stuffy, the mood is relaxed. It’s reflective of an environment that El will later describe as a “safe space” for people from marginalized communities to make their voices heard amongst each other and over the airwaves.

For CKDU, amplifying perspectives not typically represented in mainstream media is part of its mandate as a campus and community radio station. It’s a mission the station takes seriously, as evidenced by the many past and current programs that use radio as a tool of social justice.

“How does this work? We share the mic?” asks Colton, an Indigenous poet, rapper and clothing designer from Saskatchewan who goes by the stage name Illustrated.

El nods her response, with iZrEAL adding a further piece of clarification. “You might get interrupted if a call comes from the inside. We stop the show when a call comes.”

Seconds later, the room goes silent as El and iZrEAL lean into their microphones. Black Power Hour has begun.

**The Origin of Black Power Hour** as a radio show dates back to February of 2016, when iZrEAL produced a 30-segment series about unknown figures in Black history for his own Facebook feed. He discussed the series on CKDU’s Potato Salad Radio Show, and it struck a chord with “Ed,” who was (and still is) incarcerated at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in the Burnside area of Halifax.

“Ed called in and said it would be cool if there was a regular show [that delved into Black history and culture]. Within two weeks, we were on the air.”

The fact that Black Power Hour was sparked by an idea from someone living behind bars has guided the mission and structure of the show from the beginning. El, an advocate for prisoners’ rights and prison abolition—the movement towards alternatives, such as restorative justice, and the deconstruction of a system that disproportionately ensnares people of colour—says the show exists primarily to inform and empower prisoners like Ed. “Our main focus is on the needs of incarcerated people,” El explains. “We hope that people in the wider community listen and think about the humanity of prisoners and listen to what people have to say, but ultimately it’s about providing a space to people who don’t have another space to talk about culture, current events and politics and perspectives that educate and uplift.”

The work of educating and uplifting takes different shapes from week to week for Black Power Hour, which airs from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. every Friday. In the days and hours leading up to the show, El, iZrEAL and other contributors will scour the news for per-
ient topics of discussion. iZrEAL also prepares a regular segment dubbed Hip Hop News, which takes a closer look at happenings in the genre that dominates the show’s musical programming.

In addition, Todd McCallum, a professor in Dalhousie’s History Department, regularly prepares and presents segments dealing with historical information about Black history, such as the role of women in the Ku Klux Klan, the campaign to pardon imprisoned members of the Black Panthers and, closer to home, the racist violence of Halifax founder Edward Cornwallis.

It’s a format that allows for maximum flexibility, variation and input from a variety of contributors. Ntombi Nkiwane, a 2017 Bachelor of Management graduate with a minor in Political Science, made regular appearances on the show during the final year of her degree, engaging a love of radio and a passion for social justice cultivated in her home country of South Africa. “The show aims to be a platform for art as a tool of resistance,” says Nkiwane, who recently returned to South Africa, where she says radio played a vital role in organizing opposition to apartheid in the decade before her birth. “Anything that relates to political or cultural content, we’ll speak about.”

Hosts, guests and contributors aren’t the only ones doing the talking on Black Power Hour. Prisoners’ voices are an integral part of the show. When iZrEAL speaks of “calls from the inside,” he’s referring to incarcerated prisoners who call the show to join the conversation, make music requests and even perform their own poetry or rap verses. Regardless of where the on-air discussion is when these calls come in, Black Power Hour gives the airwaves over to the caller—inmates don’t have the luxury of scheduling their phone calls. “Instead of doing one-way programming where we assume the role of teachers and arbitrators of knowledge and power, it’s very two-way,” says Nkiwane. “As much as we’re teaching, people who are incarcerated are teaching us.”

IT’S EARLY IN THE SHOW, but already an inmate from the Burnside facility has called in. Along with a song request, he delivers his own rap verse with compact energy and clarity that resonates even over the phone. He then hands the receiver to a friend, who’s also itching to spit some rhymes. For a few bars, heads in the studio are nodding along. And then, briefly, things go south.

As it becomes more evident that the verse is directed at a specific person, the poker faces in the booth turn to frowns. Finally, El taps a button that cuts the rapper off mid-line. “People need to not spill beef (on the show),” El says. Later, she clarifies that this incident is a rare occurrence. Typically, she says, callers respect Black Power Hour’s stance of not taking sides in person-to-person conflicts, but “it happens once in a blue moon.”

Moving on from the cut-off caller, El and iZrEAL launch into a discussion about the Minnesota police officer acquitted of murder during a roadside stop. iZrEAL laments the role of majority-white juries in the consistent absence of legal consequences for law enforcement officers who shoot people of colour.

The floor is then given to Colton, aka Illustrated, who details his harrowing upbringing in foster care, where he faced physical and emotional abuse and was cut off from his Indigenous heritage—experi-
ences that have left him with clinical depression and PTSD. After sharing his story, Colton launches into a spoken-word poem called “Hush,” his voice becoming a piercing engine whirr.

“Hush! That’s what the money’s for! Hush! That’s what I’m hearing more! Hush! That’s how we’re being ignored! Hush! No more will we be silenced, for the truth holds acts of violence.”

The air in the studio seems to stop circulating entirely. As Colton barrels toward the poem’s climax, it’s not difficult to imagine the weight of his words likewise stopping audiences from campus to the correctional facility in their tracks.

“So we found a purpose, to lead the revolution, and I will bleed to lead the revolution!”

It’s almost 2:30, which means that iZrEAL Jones is at the microphone delivering his Hip Hop News segment for Black Power Hour. He eulogizes the late rapper Prodigy, who passed away earlier in the week, before jumping into a spirited defense of LaVar Ball, the outspoken father of recent NBA draft pick Lonzo Ball. The elder Ball has been criticized for hyping himself, his son and their business interests before Lonzo has even played a minute of professional basketball—criticism iZrEAL sees as an attempt to undermine two successful Black men.

“Stop hating on Black business,” he instructs listeners.

The discussion business of the show now done, Black Power Hour turns its last 30 minutes over to song requests. iZrEAL winces and mutes the sound in the studio as he starts playing a country ballad, but seems only marginally more pleased with most of the hip hop selections that dominate the requests.

“We take some heat over the requests,” says iZrEAL of the songs whose language and subject matter may offend certain listeners—and don’t necessarily reflect his own preferred flavour of hip hop. “But if that’s what [incarcerated listeners] want to hear to get them through their day, we’ll take the heat to make sure they’re centred and what they want to hear is first and foremost.”

As the music plays, the conversation in the studio continues, out of reach of listeners’ ears. It’s no less captivating than the on-air content, a blend of jokes, gossip and gallows humour. Colton shares more of his personal story with his hosts and solves a problem when he’s offered a couch to crash on for the night before returning home. The informal authenticity of both the on- and off-air discussion once again hearkens back to El’s description of the CKDU studio as a safe space.

“CKDU is part of campus space, and we know space isn’t always as inclusive as it should be for Black and Indigenous people,” says co-host El Jones, top left. “As much as we’re teaching, people who are incarcerated are teaching us,” says volunteer Nkiwane, bottom.

“CKDU is part of campus space, and we know space isn’t always as inclusive as it should be for Black and Indigenous people,” says co-host El Jones, top left. “As much as we’re teaching, people who are incarcerated are teaching us,” says volunteer Nkiwane, bottom.
CKDU, like most campus radio stations, is funded by a small levy paid by each Dalhousie student along with the contributions of donors. Its budget is small and its staff is lean, but with this underdog status comes the permission—and the mandate—to experiment and provide a meaningful alternative to mainstream media. “As someone who has studied radio for a long time and is a person of colour trying to break into the media, I don’t really see my stories reflected well on commercial radio or the newspaper,” says Francella Fiallos, programming and development director at CKDU and a master’s student in journalism at King’s College. “But I do see them reflected on campus and community radio.”

Currently, examples of such stories can be found on CKDU programs like Black Power Hour, Voice of Eritrea—a Pan-African news and music show hosted by Nazareth Yemane—and Kukukwes, Maureen Googoo’s exploration of issues affecting Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada.

Googoo, a veteran of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), started the show in 2016. A year prior, she’d launched a news website under the same name, which means “owl” in Mi’kmaq and is, in fact, the non-Anglicized spelling of her own name. As the only reporter and editor for the Kukukwes website, Googoo relies on Fiallos to edit audio from her interviews into radio-appropriate segments. Googoo focuses on the themes and the scripts for the Kukukwes show, which has sent 14 instalments to air since last summer.

“There are other outlets that cover Indigenous issues, but you have to keep in mind they’re covering them for a non-Indigenous audience. My website and radio show are the only outlets in Atlantic Canada that cover the news from an Indigenous point of view.”

Googoo adds that the radio medium has distinct advantages over other forms of communication, especially for her intended audience. “When you go on the air, you’re talking to somebody and trying to tell them a story,” she says. “A lot of listeners, especially Indigenous listeners, come from an oral storytelling tradition.”

Fiallos notes that the station has produced several programs that showcased traditionally marginalized voices and advanced social causes over the years. From Habitat Radio’s environmentalism to Vegan Activist Radio’s grassroots activism to the feminist focus of shows like Third Wave Radio and Femme FM, CKDU has long acted as a megaphone for voices and stories that advocate for a more just world.

“People love to hear a good story and tell a good story,” says Googoo. “I’m one of those people who loves to tell a good story.”
“LIKE ALL THUNDERS ROLLED INTO ONE”
On the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, Ryan McNutt looks back at the role Dalhousie and its students played in helping the city heal.
It was a Thursday morning of “singular beauty,” one that to Dalhousie English professor Archibald Mac-Mechan felt “warm, almost summer-like” despite winter being just around the corner. In truth, the thermostat never rose above 4 degrees Celsius in Halifax on December 6, 1917. But considering Mac-Mechan could often be found swimming in the Northwest Arm as late as mid-November, his definition of “warm” likely owed more to his personal taste in temperature than creative license.

That particular morning, a few minutes after 9 o’clock, the professor was sitting in the dining room of his home on Victoria Road that he shared with his wife, Edith, and their three children, reading the newspaper. That’s when an impossibly loud noise filled the air. “I went to the head of the stairs when I heard a second explosion, a crack and the sound of breaking glass,” Mac-Mechan wrote in his journal that night. “I saw the glass in the passage by the front door was smashed.”

After two “terrific explosions,” the sound ceased. Racing back to his room for his clothes, Mac-Mechan’s first thought was that a boiler had burst in the kitchen; his second was that an artillery shell had been shot at the city. It was only after he ventured out into the street, quickly filling with confused neighbours, that word got around about the source of the blast.

A collision had occurred in Halifax Harbour.

Florence J. Murray, a fourth-year Dalhousie medical student from O’Leary P.E.I., was still in bed at her apartment on Robie Street when the walls began to shake violently—“like all thunders rolled into one,” as she described it. She hurried downstairs and into the street, anxious that the blast may have been a bomb from an air raid. (This was wartime, after all.) She quickly saw the damage to the neighbouring houses and realized that whatever it was that caused such destruction, people were going to need medical help.

She didn’t have to look far to find them. Rushing to the nearby Buckley’s department store to pick up bandages and iodine, she was inside for only a few minutes when a woman was half-dragged, half-carried into the shop with an artery cut on her face, blood gushing from the wound. Murray immediately took to slowing the bleeding, bandaging the woman’s face as best she could. Leaving the store, Murray crossed people needing assistance every which way she turned. She bandaged wounds large and small as she worked her way towards the hospitals, eventually ending up at the newly completed Camp Hill veteran’s facility, where many of the wounded were being taken. She would end up working there, dressing wounds, every day until Christmas Eve.

Nearly 100 kilometres away, in the basement of what is now the Cumming Building on Dal’s Agricultural Campus, Mary Lee MacAloney was hard at work in the chemistry lab when she felt a slight rumbling. The NSAC student suspected it was someone bringing a piece of heavy equipment into the lab; Chemistry Professor L. C. Harlow was adamant it was an earthquake.

When MacAloney learned what had actually caused the tremor, she panicked: her family lived in Fairview, not far from the Bedford Basin. It wasn’t until 3:30 in the afternoon that a telegram managed to make it through with news they were okay—around the same time MacAloney learned of a Truro-bound trainload of injured set to arrive at 5 p.m. She and her roommate, fellow student Sue Chase, went to the Truro Court House and offered to help.

The Court House was divided into wards as the patients arrived—their faces and clothing blackened, some wounds hastily bandaged, others not at all. MacAloney and Chase washed faces and hands, took care of patients’ bandages and held flashlights while doctors operated well into the night. MacAloney didn’t get back to her boarding house until 9 the following morning. She slept until 1, studied that afternoon and went back to assist at the Court House all evening.
MacAloney stayed on duty for four straight nights, a feat made all the more impressive by the fact that she suffered from rheumatism, causing chronic pain in her joints. She would have stayed even longer had Melville Cumming, NSAC principal, not sent word to the hospital to not let her work anymore because he was worried about her health. She just couldn’t help but help.

There are thousands of stories about the Halifax Explosion just like these—stories marked by blood, courage and compassion.

When the French cargo ship the Mont-Blanc collided with the Imo in Halifax Harbour on the morning of December 6, 1917, the resulting blast killed 1,650 people instantly. More than 9,000 more were injured and 6,000 were left homeless. A significant portion of the city—an estimated 1,630 buildings, spanning nearly 2.6 square kilometers—was levelled, with more than 12,000 buildings damaged in some way.

In the explosion’s wake, the shape of the city changed forever. New partnerships emerged, like Halifax’s special relationship with the city of Boston. Generosity found new outlets in organizations like the United Way of Halifax and CNIB, both formed in the aftermath. And, piece by piece, Halifax was rebuilt anew.

Dalhousie was spared the worst of the explosion, with Studley Campus sitting more than 3 kilometres from its source. As reported by the Dalhousie Gazette, there were no fatalities among students or staff and only two serious injuries: one individual (“Hamilton”) lost an eye, while another (“Miss Gunn”) sustained wounds in the face and hands. As for damage, the worst of it was in the Macdonald Building’s science library, today known as University Hall. Its tall Palladian windows were blown in, sending glass flying everywhere and shattering large globes inside. “So intense was the explosion,” wrote Dalhousie President Arthur Stanley MacKenzie, “that windows did not fail out but were broken into pieces from dust to the size of your finger and flung about like snow or hail so that even in this area of the city, there are people cut.”

The Dal Senate convened for an emergency meeting at President MacKenzie’s house the night of the explosion, cancelling all classes until the new year and postponing exams. The eventual bill for campus damage came to nearly $20,000—the equivalent of more than $330,000 in 2017

THROUGH AN ARTISTIC LENS
A hundred years later, the Halifax Explosion continues to resonate as part of the city’s history. To mark the centennial anniversary this year, the Dalhousie Art Gallery is hosting four interwoven projects this fall related to the Explosion and its aftermath. “We are interested in profiling the non-military narratives, and the contributions that the university to the community in the aftermath of the explosion,” says Art Gallery Director Peter Dykhuis. Among the projects: an exhibition from the creative working group Narratives in Space + Time Society (NiS+TS) on public geographies and the explosion; photographs by Claire Hodge of Halifax’s Hydrostone neighbourhood (curated by Dykhuis); works by Group of Seven artist Arthur Lismer during his time in Halifax from 1916–19; and a geographic digital map of Halifax, dating back to the Explosion, organized by James Boxall (director of Dal’s GIScience Centre). The exhibits run from October 12 through December 17, and kicked off with a special panel discussion with faculty experts from Dal’s Faculties of Health and Arts & Social Sciences on October 11. Meanwhile, over at the Nova Scotia Archives, manager Patti Bannister—a lecturer in Dal’s School of Information Management—and her team prepared an exhibit of never-before-seen pictures of the aftermath of the explosion. The collection, discovered less than two years ago in an Ontario household, form the basis of an interactive exhibit at the Archives during Halifax’s annual Nocturne: Art at Night festival on Saturday, October 14, before making their way into the Archives’ collection. “It offers visitors a unique experience of life in Halifax neighbourhoods after the explosion,” says Bannister. For more of the stories behind the Halifax Explosion, explore the 100 Years, 100 Stories project—a partnership between Halifax Regional Municipality and several museums/archives—at 100years100stories.ca
“WITHIN 15 MINUTES AFTER THE EXPLOSION, PROBABLY EVERY STUDENT IN THE HIGHER THREE YEARS WAS RENDERING FIRST AID”

dollars. President MacKenzie approached Andrew Carnegie of the New York-based Carnegie Corporation, who had previously donated $40,000 to help construct the Macdonald Building, to ask for assistance in paying for the repairs; Carnegie agreed to cover the costs entirely.

In the weeks and months that followed, Dalhousie expertise was put to work taking stock of what had happened. Howard Bronson, professor of physics, completed the first scientific research study on the explosion itself, a paper presented at a meeting of the Nova Scotia Historical Society in 1918. David Fraser Harris, professor of physiology, was recruited by the Halifax Relief Commission to compile a medical history. Dissatisfied with the content, however (finding it “scrapy,” long and poorly balanced in its focus), the commission shelved the report; Dr. Harris’s work was lost for years until a medical student from the University of Ottawa, working with Dal prof Jock Murray, located it in the Nova Scotia Archives in 1989.

Then there’s Prof. MacMechan, who on December 15, 1917 was asked by the Relief Commission to pen an official history of the explosion. He accepted the assignment with some trepidation—“although not equal to it, I felt I could not refuse,” he wrote in his journal—but quickly got to work. He set up what became known as the Halifax Disaster Record Office, and with the help of Dal student John Mitchell and secretary Jessie MacAloney, started collecting correspondence and arranging interviews to help document the human experience of the explosion.

MacMechan’s history went unfinished and unpublished in his lifetime; the Relief Commission essentially lost interest in the project and MacMechan’s attempts to find a commercial publisher proved fruitless. (His draft manuscript, lacking its final chapter, lived in the Dalhousie Archives and was finally published in 1978.) But it’s thanks to his work that the stories of students like Florence Murray and Mary Lee MacAloney have been documented for posterity. And their experiences were far from unique.

“Within fifteen minutes after the explosion,” wrote the Dalhousie Gazette in January 1918, “probably every student in the higher three years was rendering first aid, and the majority of students from every faculty were assisting in a variety of ways as numerous as the needs they saw.”

One document in MacMechan’s files, held in the Nova Scotia Archives, is titled “Dalhousie’s Part in Relief Work,” and credits more than 30 different students who were known to have provided care and support to victims. Notably, nearly all of them are women—not surprising considering how the First World War had affected the university’s student population. Total enrolment had declined more than a third from pre-war totals. The Class of 1918 had seen its numbers dwindle from a high of 72 to a mere 20 who graduated that year, and—abnormal for the era—half were women.

Many students made their way to the hospitals—Camp Hill and Victoria General, in particular—where they spent hours dressing wounds and feeding patients. Some ended up at the Nova Scotia Technical College (now Dal’s Sexton Campus), which became one of the city’s hubs for distributing medical supplies. Others helped hand out food and clothing, or did house-to-house visits to check up on neighbours. Wrote the Gazette: “In any place where relief work was progressing, the hospitals, the bread lines, the clothing depots, students were to be found.”

Student Eliphal Nicholas ended up at the Halifax School for the Blind; its residents were largely unharmed, but staff were working to convert classrooms into a makeshift hospital for others in need. Nichols was charged with trekking to the Victoria General to let them know that the school could accommodate 50 patients. “Can you wash cuts?” she was asked when she arrived. “Go in and work.” She dressed wounds for two hours until she was almost faint, and then returned to the School for the Blind and helped clean children and tend to patients there well into the night.

One of the most spectacular stories involved second-year student Margaret Wright and her classmate Mabel White. Wright lived at the Halifax Ladies College, and following the explosion went to campus thinking that classes might still be on. In her travels, she came across White, who had already torn apart her own clothes to make bandages for others. They heard of a need in the direction of Rockhead Infectious Disease Hospital, the northernmost hospital in Halifax. The students stuffed their pockets and muffs with bandages and iodine and made their way north, picking up two more students (“Misses Josephine and Helen Crichton”) en route.

When the foursome arrived at Rockhead around 2 p.m., the facility was “so dilapidated they thought it was not inhabited,” according to MacMechan’s notes. “The windows were broken, the doors smashed in, and the roof broken.”

Walter H. MacKenzie
Dalhousie University
down... They found the pipes burst, and the floors flooded. They had to wade through water. Lying in the office on the floor, they found 12 or 13 children, covered with blood.” Novices, all of them, to health care, the four students set to work cleaning wounds and feeding patients as best they could. Working on little sleep, they helped keep the facility running for nearly two full days until replacement help arrived.

There are moments of levity to be found in MacMechan’s files, too—the experience of student Christine MacKinnon, for one, who found in her time at Camp Hill “very few [patients] that couldn’t joke.” One laughed about her fear that her husband would go back to the front if he came home from war to a wife with a glass eye. Another, somewhat paranoid, had MacKinnon leave a soda cracker on her nightstand to test whether she could trust her bedside neighbor not to steal her belongings. One woman took pride in the fact her hair was perfectly braided when the explosion hit, always ready for whatever might happen.

But, 100 years on, it’s the horrors in the stories MacMechan heard that hit hardest: eyes ripped from sockets, faces sliced apart, children shivering until they breathed their last breath. For students like Murray who intended careers in health care, the Halifax Explosion must have been a harrowing crash course. But for every medical student who ran into the streets to help others, there were even more who were studying literature, law, science. What drove them to put aside their fears, take a deep breath and do what they could?

Perhaps that is what’s most impressive about the stories of the Halifax Explosion: in MacMechan’s notes, there are no trite explanations to be found of why so many did so much to help, no easy platitudes or inspirational can-do sentiments. Students, like so many in Halifax, became caretakers, emergency workers, cooks, transport—whatever was needed. They couldn’t help but help.
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These remarkable individuals are carrying on Dalhousie’s nearly 200-year tradition of excellence.

RECOGNITION

2017 Dal Alumni Association award winners

Each year, the Dalhousie Alumni Association recognizes four alumni for their outstanding achievements and contributions. By Mark Campbell

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

Writer George Elliott Clarke (MA’89, LLD’99) has a way of turning conversations about himself and his accomplishments into grand narratives honouring the African Canadian writers who stimulate him.

For nearly five decades, Clarke has been working to reclaim a legacy of what he calls Africadian writing that reaches back to the arrival in Nova Scotia of Black refugees from the Civil War. His goal is to, as he puts it, “set the record straight that there was never any period of effective silence, that there were always intellectuals in our community. There were always people who published work.”

Clarke is firmly part of that heritage, advocating for equality and freedom through works such as his epic narrative poem Whylah Falls to his novel George and Rue, where he explored the racism that led his mother’s cousins to commit robbery and murder. His writing and advocacy have earned him many honours over the years, from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Fellowship Prize and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award, to Order of Nova Scotia and Order of Canada appointments.

Now Clarke, who is the current Parliamentary Poet Laureate, is receiving recognition from the Dalhousie Alumni Association, which has presented him with a 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award.

“I don’t think there’s a Black writer in Nova Scotia that hasn’t been shaped by George,” says El Jones, a professor, activist and writer whose own work has been influenced by Clarke. “It’s more than the time he takes to mentor and encourage young Black academics and writers. He almost singlehandedly gave a name to Africadian, or African Nova Scotian, literature, so he led the way in having people recognize that we have a distinct culture and a distinct literature to be proud of.”

Currently working on a poem to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his alma mater, Clarke is delighted to receive the award, even if he thinks it may be a bit premature. “I see myself as being in midcareer and not a terminus, but it’s a very good feeling to know my peers believe I have a record of accomplishment. It encourages me to continue to try and do a bit more before my race is run.”

Loran Morrison (BSc’11, BSc’14) always looks forward to Wednesday afternoons.

Each week, this third-year Dalhousie Medical School student welcomes students and tutors alike to SHINE Academics, a volunteer-run free tutoring program she co-founded in 2013. Focused on science and math, the program, offered through the Halifax North Memorial Public Library, has had a significant impact on everyone who participates in it, including Morrison.

“When you volunteer in your community, you’re doing something that adds energy, excitement and meaning to your life,” Morrison explains. “That’s what SHINE has done for me. To see students who were certain they couldn’t do math now entering their second year of university is just incredible.”

Incredible is a good way to describe Morri-
NICK PEARCE; AN ABRIEson, who has consistently found ways to give back despite the demands of her studies, work and her three dogs. She played a key role in launching Sistema NS, a music tutoring program for youth, and she spent three months in Mae Sot, Thailand, providing education and health-care services to Burmese refugees. Such devotion has long inspired her friends and family to make a difference in their own way and it is being recognized with the 2017 Dalhousie Alumni Association Volunteerism Award.

"Loran is a revolutionary thinker, a visionary leader and nothing short of an inspiration to everyone who has the pleasure of meeting her," says SHINE co-founder Chloe Zinck (BSc’16). "She carries this passion with her in everything she does and I have no doubt that she will continue to change the world."

Morrison and SHINE have certainly helped to change the lives of students who have participated in the program. Josh Creighton, a SHINE graduate who is currently studying at Dalhousie, says the impact of the program goes far beyond improving grades.

"SHINE acts as a platform for people to become leaders in our community," Creighton says. "I hope Loran realizes how much we, the community, appreciate her for all she’s done."

SHINE has grown considerably from its humble beginnings, thanks mainly to word of mouth. This fall, more than 70 students are participating, and Morrison is excited to see what comes next for the program. "SHINE has always evolved in an organic way. I don’t know what direction it will move in, I only know it will continue to grow and I am absolutely going along for the ride. It is the light of my life."

THE A. GORDON ARCHIBALD AWARD recognizes alumni for outstanding volunteer contributions to Dalhousie

Few people have brought smiles to the faces of Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry professors, students and patients alike quite like Susan Keating-Bekkers (DDH’91) has.

Through her extensive volunteer work and financial gifts, Keating-Bekkers is enhancing the university’s educational experience, assisting students in completing their studies and ensuring that marginalized communities have full access to dental care.

"My goal is to provide oral health care to as many people as possible," Keating-Bekkers explains. "Dalhousie has outreach programs and students that provide services to the community. It was crystal clear that if I supported the Faculty of Dentistry, it would have a significant impact for everyone. Students receive great learning experiences, people gain access to quality oral care and it improves the university’s dental program immensely. It’s a win-win-win."

Whether working as a volunteer faculty instructor, creating a scholarship in her name or establishing funds such as Oral Health Care Initiatives for Nova Scotia Immigrants, Keating-Bekkers has demonstrated a high level of service to her alma mater over the years. That devotion is being recognized with the 2017 A. Gordon Archibald Award from the Dalhousie Alumni Association.

"I was humbled," Keating-Bekkers says of the honour. "I’ve never done this for attention or limelight. But if just one person is inspired to donate their time or money to the Faculty of Dentistry or anything that interests them, that would be great."

"Susan does not wait to be approached,"
says Faculty of Dentistry professor Angela Nowe (DDH’94). “She identifies a need and then creates an opportunity to give back. Through her generosity, she has made a significant contribution both to the advancement of our university and the wider community.”

Keating-Bekkers continues to volunteer with the Faculty of Dentistry and supplement the funds she has created to ensure they benefit students, patients and professors for years to come. But if an opportunity presents itself to do more, Keating-Bekkers is ready to step up.

“One of the worst things you can do,” explains the architect, “is take any success you have for granted, because then you become so motivated by the fear of losing it, you’re afraid to take risks.”

It is a philosophy that has worked well for Gandhi. He established two highly successful architectural studios—one in Halifax and one in Toronto—before celebrating his 40th birthday. Publications such as The Globe and Mail, Canadian Architect Magazine and Wallpaper* have sung his praises. He was invited to participate in the Architectural League of New York’s Emerging Voices Lecture Series. And he has received the 2014 Canada Council for the Arts Professional Prix de Rome—the nation’s highest honour for young architects—as well as two Atlantic Woodworks! Awards.

Now, Gandhi has added the 2017 Christopher J. Coulter Award from the Dalhousie Alumni Association to his remarkable resume.

Omar Gandhi (BEDS’03, MARFP’05) has always made a point of prominently displaying rejection letters for projects and award submissions in his studio.
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“You need to have a fire in your belly.”

A passion for research

As Dalhousie’s Department of Psychology and Neuroscience celebrates its 70th anniversary, one of its first PhD graduates reflects on a lifetime of pioneering research.

“You need to have a fire in your belly.” That’s how Barrie Frost (PhD’67, Psychology) sums up the secret to a successful research career. Dr. Frost was the one of the first PhDs to graduate from the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience—then simply called the Department of Psychology—in 1967. Today, he is known internationally for his extensive research in visual and auditory neuroscience and is a pioneer in understanding how the brain processes hearing and sight.

Born in New Zealand, Dr. Frost obtained his bachelor’s and master’s in psychology from the University of Canterbury. His interest in visual, hearing and perception began while working at the University of Sydney. After being accepted at multiple universities for his PhD work, he received a compelling letter from Henry James, then head of Dalhousie’s Department of Psychology. “He wrote me a beautifully crafted letter, about four pages long with encouraging offers,” said Dr. Frost, including the offer of his own newly equipped lab and joint supervision from Drs. Werner Honig and Lorin Riggs (Brown University).

During his time at Dal, Dr. Frost had the opportunity to meet a number of experts and visiting researchers. His most memorable visit was with Harvard University’s Dr. David Hubel, a Nobel Prize winner. “I had a marvellous interchange with Dr. Hubel. When he returned to Harvard he wrote me a long hand written letter explaining the intricacies of recording single nerve cells in the brain and how to make electrodes. These sorts of things are inspiring and influential,” says Dr. Frost.

After graduating from his PhD, Barrie completed a post-doctoral fellowship from the Department of Physiology and Anatomy at the University of California, Berkeley. For the last 48 years, he has been at Queen’s University and is Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Biology and Physiology. He and his collaborators have carried out a broad range of research on how networks of neurons in the brain process various types of visual and auditory information. Other research projects include work to help Parkinson’s patients move, low frequency hearing in birds and human visual processing.

During his career, Frost has received many honours including the Rutherford Scholarship of the Royal Society of London, the Canadian National Health Research Scholarship, the James McKeen Cattell Award, Queen’s Alumni Prize for Teaching Excellence, Queen’s University Prize for Excellence in Research, the Alexander von Humboldt Forschungspreis Research Prize and the Honorary LLD from Concordia University. In recent years, he was the recipient of the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (Canada) Award of Excellence, was a finalist for the NSERC Herzberg Gold Medal for Science and in 2003 he received the prestigious Hebb Award from the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science.

Today, Dr. Frost’s passion for learning continues. His research interests include work on water fleas, owls and birds of prey, as well as investigating the migration paths of butterflies and moths. He and his colleagues recently discovered Australian moths are using the Earth’s magnetic field to migrate. “We’ve got an atlas of the whole moth brain and we’re going in to see if we can find cells in there that respond to the magnetic field,” he says.—Jocelyn Adams
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Rod MacLennan (BSc ’60, LLD ’98) recalls the moment well. It was after his first year at Dalhousie and the freshman student’s strong marks had earned him a modest scholarship. When the Truro native shared the news with his parents, MacLennan’s father said, “Look, there are students who could use the money more than you. Ask Dalhousie to enter the scholarship on your academic record, but donate the money back so someone else can benefit.”

The young MacLennan did exactly that. Thus began a 50-year legacy of giving to Dalhousie University. MacLennan never could have imagined all these years later his alma mater would establish a society in his name—one which recognizes the university’s most loyal donors. The MacLennan Society recognizes donors who have supported Dalhousie for 50 years (within a 60-year span), 25 years (within a 30-year span), and 10 years (within a 15-year span).

THE MACLENNAN SOCIETY: HONOURING LOYALTY
MacLennan holds the honour of being the first alumnus to have contributed for 50 consecutive years to the university—a distinction that surprises the modest donor and volunteer leader. “The idea of continuity never entered my mind,” says MacLennan. “Supporting my alma mater was just something I did every year.”

The MacLennan Society, introduced during Dalhousie’s annual donor recognition event on November 7, celebrates dedicated donors at all levels who, like MacLennan himself, consistently help Dalhousie do what it does best: offer a stellar education to all. MacLennan’s loyalty and steadfast support of Dal is an inspiring story of support and the impact those who choose Dalhousie play in the role of the university.

FOLLOWING A FAMILY TRADITION
His father’s early lesson in giving back ignited a passion for philanthropy and community building that defined Rod MacLennan’s life. Over the years, he generously shared his time and talent with a host of local and national organizations, including his own family foundation and Scouts Canada. In 2005 he received membership in the Order of Canada for a wide variety of his philanthropic work. But few causes were as close to his heart as Dalhousie.

“I come from a proud Dal family going back three generations,” says MacLennan. “My father and two of his sisters graduated in the 1920s. In fact, his sister Electa founded the School of Nursing, and our family established a bursary in her name. My father always supported the annual fund, and I started donating in the mid-sixties after I returned to Nova Scotia.” And he never stopped.

While MacLennan contributed regularly to annual funds and supported capital campaigns, he never forgot the impact of that first gift. “Many of our students need financial help in order to pursue their Dal education,” he explains. “So I decided to establish bursaries.”

In honour of his parents, Charles and Mary—both of whom loved the arts—MacLennan endowed four bursaries in perpetuity: two in theatre, two in music, valued at $2,500. Every year, he makes a point of meeting the recipients. “Besides being strong academically, they’re committed to creating a career in the arts,” explains MacLennan. “Seeing these students succeed inspires me to continue doing what I’m doing.”

To mark the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Dal, MacLennan established a fifth bursary, this one in molecular biology and ocean science. The science grad chose to honour two outstanding professors: Ronald Hays, who brought ocean science to the university in the 1960s and established the graduate program, and Dixie Pelluet, a much-beloved biology professor.

“I wanted to ensure their names and legacies lived on at Dalhousie,” says MacLennan.

DRIVING MEDICAL INNOVATION
In 2000, MacLennan brought his highly-regarded leadership skills to...
the board of the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF). For the next 12 years—several of them as chair—he combined his love of science with his passion for making a difference. “How can you not be impressed with the life-changing discoveries in cancer treatment? The insights into tackling dementia, generated through the Brain Bank? Or the Cell Restoration Laboratory’s breakthrough work in brain repair?” asks MacLennan. “All this innovation, and so much more, is happening right here at Dalhousie, thanks to the DMRF. And that makes me proud.”

**GIVING SPIRIT**

As Dalhousie looks towards its third century, MacLennan is looking back over his half-century of giving to Dal. And what stands out for him? “Without question, it would be the endowed bursaries. For me, giving back is just something you should do, if you can. Fortunately, I was able to, so I did—happily.”

**LOYALTY BY THE NUMBERS**

At the launch of the MacLennan Society earlier this month, 6,502 donors were recognized for their consistent giving to Dalhousie.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOLD (50 YEARS)</td>
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<td>SILVER (25 YEARS)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRONZE (10 YEARS)</td>
<td>5,020</td>
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</tbody>
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TOP The MacLennan Society recognizes donors who have supported Dalhousie for 50 years (within a 60-year span), 25 years (within a 30-year span), and 10 years (within a 15-year span). ABOVE Rod MacLennan (BSc’60, LL.D’98) has been supporting his alma mater in many capacities for 50 years. On November 7, he was the first person inducted into the MacLennan Society, a new giving society recognizing Dal’s most loyal donors.
Few things bring people together like great conversation. And that’s the impetus for Open Dialogue, a new program introduced this fall. Open Dialogue is an opportunity to collaborate, discuss, challenge and otherwise engage in meaningful and thoughtful conversation. From mentorship panels to lectures to discussion forums covering current issues and historical events, the offerings will be as unique and varied as the subject matter.

Sheila Blair-Reid (BComm’86), executive director of alumni engagement, says the program is an excellent way to bring alumni, students, the greater Dal community and members of the public together for thought-provoking discussions and valuable learning opportunities.

“Knowledge sharing can be invaluable when it comes to guidance and information. That’s as true for students as it is for our alumni. As a community, Dal values lifelong learning and Open Dialogue is one of the many ways we’re able to offer it,” she says.

Last academic year several faculties hosted mentorship panels, which have become increasingly popular among students and alumni alike. It’s an opportunity for students to connect with and learn from members of the alumni community.

Dental Hygiene in the Real World, a panel discussion hosted by the Faculty of Dentistry last spring, featured dental hygiene alumni with a variety of experiences. The event attracted more than 75 percent of the graduating class.

“It was such a great opportunity for students to see the exciting possibilities for their own careers,” says Shaunna Hachey (DDH’04, BDH’12), who moderated the event. “Alumni provided insight on a variety of topics from ethics to the importance of giving back to the community.”

Beyond mentoring events, Open Dialogue has also brought female leaders in the STEM fields together for a discussion forum and networking event this fall.

In October, the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Health collaborated with the Dalhousie Art Gallery as part of the Gallery’s exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. Faculty members from Arts and Social Sciences, Health and Architecture and Planning explored the lasting effects on communities and health care following the explosion that devastated the city in December 1917.

With events planned throughout 2018 (including those hosted by alumni chapter volunteers nationally and internationally), Open Dialogue’s range of engaging and informative topics offer something for everyone.

For more information on Open Dialogue and other events, visit alumni.dal.ca/events.—Fallon Bourgeois
Your annual gift helps our students reach their full potential, empowering the next generation of leaders. It supports scholarships and bursaries, experiential learning, resources and equipment.

To make your annual gift to the Dalhousie Fund visit: giving.dal.ca
Reunite, reminisce and refresh

ALUMNI EVENTS

Coming together for Homecoming

From October 11 to 15, nearly 6,000 alumni, students, faculty and staff celebrated Homecoming 2017. With 56 events across Dal’s four campuses including Athletics games and celebrations in 11 faculties, there was something for everyone. In addition to staff and faculty volunteers, 140 alumni were engaged in the planning and delivery of Homecoming events. Thanks to all who participated! Now’s the time to mark your calendar for Homecoming 2018, September 27-30. Visit alumni.dal.ca/200 for details.

LEFT and BELOW LEFT Attendees enjoy the annual Alumni Dinner TOP Starting gun at the President’s Fun Run ABOVE LEFT A special event to commemorate 100 years since the Halifax explosion ABOVE RIGHT Panelists and classmates at the alumni panel for Marine Affairs RIGHT Members of the Agriculture class of ’62 BELOW The Women’s Division invited alumni and students to a Victorian-style tea at Shirreff Hall
1950s

’53 JOHN VACHAL, BEng (TUNS), is enjoying retirement from Boeing (airplane design) in Seattle, Wash. Classmates may reach him at jvachal@hotmail.com.

’58 THOMAS (TOM) DENTON, LLB, received an honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree from the University of Manitoba at its spring convocation. His investiture into the Order of Manitoba, the province’s highest award, was in 2014. Both honours were in recognition of his work in the sponsoring or resettling of 40,000 refugees. He is not retired and at age 83 continues as executive director of Hospitality House Refugee Ministry in Winnipeg.

1960s

’61 CAROL (TULLOCH) BRADLEY, BA, was pleased to spend part of the summer in England, with a week in Coventry as Canadian Quaker representative to Britain Yearly Meeting. Then a visit with SYLVIA (LYMAN) VAN ROOSMALEN (BSc ’62), Allison (Ross) Charters (1958-59) and PAM DAVIDSON (BA ’61). So good to see old friends.

’67 MARY BARKER, BA, has been awarded the 2017 Philip A. Novikoff Memorial Award from the Canadian Public Relations Society. Barker was recognized for her superior and outstanding service over time as a public relations professional. As a practitioner, Barker has worked with educational institutions and the professions of engineering and law. As an educator, she taught in PR certificate and degree programs from the 1970s to 1990s in Halifax and Melbourne, Australia. She’s also been a mentor and guest lecturer for numerous students and classes over the years. Barker is also a strong advocate of volunteerism and professional associations.

1970s

’72 DR. THOM MCKENZIE, MSc, Lifetime Achievement Awardee of the President’s (U.S.A.) Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, received the first Annual CSPAP Distinguished Research award from SHAPE America in March 2017. Further information about Dr. McKenzie’s career is available at thomckenzie.com.

KARL PFEIFFER, MA (Philosophy), retired from his position as professor and graduate chair in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Saskatchewan in 2014. As an emeritus, he continues as a member of the university’s College of Graduate Studies & Research, making himself available via email and Skype. He is an adjunct senior research fellow in philosophy at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, where Karl’s wife Dyahanti has resumed her engineering career and their thirteen-year-old son Geethan attends Haileybury College. Karl earned his PhD from the University of Calgary in 1980.

’73 HEATHER KIRK, BA, published her seventh book in June 2017. This was a nonfiction work titled Seeking Peace: The Quakers and brought out by Borealis Press of Ottawa, Ont. Seeking Peace is an introduction to one of the longest and most influential nonviolent resistance movements in history. The book is 272 pages long and is illustrated with almost 100 drawings, paintings, photos, maps, etc. Seeking Peace is aimed at senior high school and freshman college students and average adults. It is Heather’s second book about a little-known but important pacifist organization; the first was Be Not Afraid: The Polish Revolution, “Solidarity” (Borealis, 2011.) Heather’s previous books include two young adult novels set in Canada and Poland and several nonfiction works about Canadian author Mazo de la Roche, author of the world-famous Jana series. For further information please see Heather’s website at www. heatherkirk.ca. Heather lives in Barrie, Ont.

’75 DEBORA, Bed, BSc, and GREG DWYER, BSc, MBA ’79, who met over a dead frog in Bio 101 lab, have retired to Vancouver Island and are loving it.

’78 DAN EDGAR, BSc, and DONALDA EDGAR, BSc ’80, BN ’84, celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary on June 9. Donalda earned her MA (Leadership) from Royal Roads University on December 7, 2016. Dan earned his MA (Leadership) from Royal Roads University on May 18, 2011, his MA (Human Development) from Fielding Graduate University on May 23, 2017, and his PhD (Human and Organizational Systems) from Fielding Graduate University on May 4, 2017. The Edgars reside in Hammonds Plains, N.S.

VICTORIA VIDAL-RIBAS, LLB, retired in 2013 from the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Real Estate Asset Management Division, Ministry of Infrastructure, after 28 years with the Ontario Public Service. She is now happily engaged in supporting animal rescue and training and competing with her multiple field Labradors.

’79 SPENCER HOK MING LAI, BComm, recently graduated with a PhD from the University of South Australia. After 28 years with Tertiary Education in Hong Kong, he retired in 2008. He is now an external doctoral thesis examiner for the University of New Castle in Australia.

DR. RAYMOND PIEROTTI, PhD (Biology), recently published his second book, The First Domestication: How Wolves and Humans Co-evolved (Yale University Press). His first book, Indigenous Knowledge, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology was published in 2011 by Routledge (Taylor and Francis Group). Dr. Pierotti is a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Kansas in the U.S.

1980s

’81 CYNTHIA A. HENRY, BA (Theatre), had one of her 18 paintings celebrating the language of loving the female lobster on display at the Mym Gallery in ARTsPLACE in Annapolis Royal, N.S. this past June and July.

’83 JEAN ROBINSON-DEXTER, BRec, and her business partner, Cari Patterson, are celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of their business, Horizons Community Development Associates, Inc. Horizons is a client and community-centred consulting company focused on helping communities achieve their goals. Based in Nova Scotia and serving Atlantic Canada, they specialize in planning, research and evaluation, community development and project management services. Their clients include provincial and federal government departments and agencies, First Nations communities, and the health and not-for-profit sectors.

DR. PAUL SANTERRE, BSc, was awarded the Governor General’s Innovation Award for his invention of Endexo technology, a unique compound of surface-modifying macro molecules that are added to plastics during manufacturing of medical devices. He received his award at the presentation ceremony at Ottawa’s Rideau Hall on May 23, 2017.

’86 CHARMAINE ROMKEY, BA, MLIS ’88, is the Director of Human Resources with the Tri-County Regional School Board in Nova Scotia.

’89 ROGER THOMPSON, BA, MA ’94, received more praise for his Ethics of Star Trek class in Korea. Susan Sackett, the late Gene Roddenberry’s assistant, said: “Professor Thompson’s course, ‘The Ethics of Star Trek’ is timely and important in today’s troubled world. Gene Roddenberry, with whom I worked for 17 years, always

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DAL FALL 2017
39
said that many episodes were like little morality plays—they spoke to human rights, equality, the futility of war and much more. Star Trek TOS is more than 50 years old, but it is a brand new thing to most Koreans, and Professor Thompson’s class is truly a pioneering effort to enlighten a new generation.” In addition, Gates McFadden, the actress who played Dr. Crusher on Star Trek: The Next Generation, said “How wonderful. The world certainly needs ethics.” Finally, Professor Thompson was just elected as a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, which he earned for living, travelling and working in Asia for the past 15 years.

1990s

'93 ANNE-MARIE WOODS, BA, landed an exciting position as Cultural Outreach Officer for the City of Toronto’s Economic Development and Culture Department–Arts Services Division. Known as an Artpreneur (self-employed artist/creative consultant), it’s been 10 years since her last traditional 9-5 but she is now part of an incredible team that champions arts and culture and community arts. During her first month on the job she has already helped with the Cultural Hotspot Launch and facilitated an arts jury. Anne-Marie credits her experience as an artist, arts administrator, outreach worker and writer (as well as her persistence and tenacity) for helping her get this one-year position.

1990s

'98 LAURA REATHAFORD, LLB, has joined the firm Blank Rome LLP as a partner in the labor and employment group in the Los Angeles office. Laura focuses her practice on management-side employment litigation, with special emphasis on representative actions under the Private Attorney General Act (PAGA). “We are very excited to welcome Laura to the firm,” said Alan J. Hoffman, Blank Rome’s Chairman and Managing Partner. Laura is a distinguished litigator across the full range of employment disputes, including claims for wrongful termination, sexual harassment, unpaid wages, discrimination, and union grievances.

2000s

'00 CAITLIN KEALEY, BA, was recognized as one of Ottawa’s Forty Under 40 this year. Forty Under 40 is one of the most sought-after and distinguished business awards in the National Capital Region. It is jointly organized by the Ottawa Business Journal and Ottawa Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Caitlin was recently a participant in the Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference (GGCLC). The GGCLC brings together Canada’s emerging leaders from business, labour, government, NGOs, education and the cultural sector for a unique two-week experience aimed at broadening their perspectives on work, leadership, their communities and their country.

SHERI SWEETLAND, BComm, formally celebrated 10 years at PTC Accounting/Finance Recruiting and was recently promoted to Director, Client Engagement.

'04 ZOFEE KHALF, BA, and Khurram A. Khan are proud to announce the birth of their son, Mikail Khurram Khan. Mikail was born on April 7, 2017 in Dayton, Ohio at Wright Patterson Air Force base.

'05 PHILIP DUGUAY, BA, now leads the Canadian division of Anbaric Development Partners, a joint venture
between Anbaric of Wakefield, Mass. and the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan. He is based in Montreal. The company develops long-distance transmission projects and microgrids to help integrate more green power resources across North America.

ALVIN THOMPSON, BTech (NSAC), recently graduated with a PhD in geography from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ont. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Thompson’s thesis focuses on Tobago and is titled *Towards New Perspectives in Integrated Coastal Management: Prospects for Responding to Changes Affecting Coastal Area Tourism Systems*.

NICHOLAS WILSON, BA, is the Team Lead for the Calibration and Validation Group at Planet, an Earth Observation satellite company with the largest satellite constellation in world. Planet is based in San Francisco, Calif. and is close to meeting its goal of imaging the entire landmass of the Earth, at medium resolution, every day. With a wide range of applications, a driving force for the company is to democratize access to daily images of the Earth to better understand our changing planet. Access to the data is freely available to university students, researchers, and professors. Learn more by visiting the Planet website at www.planet.com/products/education-and-research.

'07 STEPHANIE GARDINER, BSc, has won a GE Water and Process Technologies Eagle Award, given to GE employees who achieve an outstanding record of achievement in sales excellence and technical proficiency. This award is such a prestigious one that even a nomination is an honour. This year 14 individuals across Canada were nominated and Stephanie was one of seven who received the award on May 3, 2017 at the Canada Eagle Awards held in Montebello, Que. Stephanie is the daughter of David and Shirley Gardiner of New Waterford, N.S. Stephanie has worked as an account manager for GE Water and Process Technologies in Medicine Hat, Alberta since January 2012. Her nickname there is “Bulldog – the competition crusher.” She has taken five of the six accounts previously held by GE’s competitor in the Medicine Hat area. She has worked very hard to achieve this award and we, her family, are very proud of her and her accomplishments in just five years with the company.

'09 MARK TRUEMAN, BComm, graduated from the MBA Oil & Gas Management program at Robert Gordon University (Aberdeen, Scotland) in 2015. Having started his career in Nova Scotia’s offshore oil and gas sector, Mark relocated to Calgary, Alta. in 2011. Mark works as Strategic Supply Chain Advisor with Chevron Canada. He is married to Meredith Trueman (Wasney).

'10 WYATT SHAW, BComm and DAN FORTE, BMgmt’11, have founded porti media, which will eliminate idle time by providing media and entertainment at your fingertips. Their company places mounted screens in ride-share vehicles, so passengers can engage with sponsored content, movies and games on the go. The final result adds value to all parties as passengers have a more enjoyable experience, and drivers receive monetary incentive and higher ratings for their service. More recently the team has been accepted into the DMZ incubator program, which is based out of Ryerson University and was ranked the best among 60 North American initiatives by UBI Global, a research organization that benchmarks incubation programs. For more information, visit www.portimedia.com.

'11 Kourosh Rad, BCD, received the prestigious Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) national President’s Award for Young Planners. The award was presented at a conference in Calgary and is in recognition of Rad’s diverse planning background and his contributions to the community at large. Based in Halfax, Rad immigrated to Canada from Iran with his family in 2007. Rad is now Vice President of Research & Development with Compass Commercial and under the leadership of ROBERT RICHARDSON, BComm’84, responsible for identifying future trends and strategies for commercial real estate portfolios. Rad was nominated for the award by JACOB RITCHIE, BEng’03, HRM Urban Design Manager. This nomination was supported by MP ANDY FILLMORE, BEDS’91, MURP’92, Councilor. WAYE MASON, BA’06, NATHAN ROGERS, MAPlan’08, Architecture49’s Abigail MacEachern, Southwest’s ERIC BURCHILL, MBA’03, and WSP Sweden’s Charlotte Hauksøn.

'13 ANDREA LANDRIAULT, BA, is the author of a children’s book about homeless rights entitled *I May Not Have A Home, But I Have Rights*. For several months she has been working with a group of current or formerly homeless clients in Calgary on publishing the book to generate funds to include the voice of lived experience in efforts to end homelessness. Find the video by searching the book title on YouTube.

'14 LYLE QUINN, BA, is pleased to announce his new role as Manager, Business Development & Events with Dalhousie University’s Event & Conference Services office.

'16 BRYCE TULLY, MSc, joined Basketball Canada as the Mental Performance Coach for the women’s national team. Since completing his Master’s degree in December 2015, Tully has been working at the Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic as a Mental Performance Consultant, working with national development team athletes and provincial athletes from a variety of sports.
The Legacy Effect
Wickwire Bursaries

Hundreds of Dalhousie engineering students, like Janna Boutilier, have benefited from Lloyd Wickwire’s generosity. He was inspired by his mother’s tenacity and the struggles he and his brothers faced.

Read more about the Wickwire family at dal.ca/donors/wickwire.

Janna Boutilier,
Wickwire Bursary recipient

We Can Help
If you’re thinking of including Dal in your estate plans, we can help you match your gift to your wishes.

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Or get in touch, we’re here to answer your questions.
Ian Lewer 902.494.6981 ian.lewer@dal.ca
Debbie McIntosh 902.494.6853 debbie.mcintosh@dal.ca
Ann Vessey 902.494.6565 ann.vessey@dal.ca
IN MEMORIAM

CLARENCE E COX, DDi'40, on July 29, 2017
ALBERT WILANSKY, BA'41, BSc'42, MA'44, Bethlehem, Penn., on July 3, 2017
EDITH LOUISE (MOORE) ANTHONY, BA'42, Grimsby, Ont., on June 11, 2017
GORDON OSBORNE TAYLOR, BEng'46, Halifax, N.S., on April 10, 2017
ANGUS N GILLIS, DDi'47, on July 27, 2017
KENNETH ROSS AIRNSLIE, DDi'48, Halifax, N.S., on July 1, 2017
WILLIAM DUNCAN ANDERSON, BComm'49, Kelowna, B.C., on April 22, 2017
DAVID SHERMAN INKPEN, BComm'49, Dartmouth, N.S., on April 4, 2017
ALAN MACDONALD, BEng'49, Halifax, N.S., on June 24, 2017
DONAL RONEY STEWART, BA'49, Calgary, Alta., on April 30, 2017
ERIC JAMES WHYTE, DDS'49, Hillside Boularderie, N.S., on May 5, 2017
JAMES ROBERT FLEMING, BEng'50, Peterborough, Ont., on June 7, 2017
MARGARET AGNES (PEVERIL) CLATTENBURG, LCMus'51, Halifax, N.S., on April 4, 2017
JAMES O'NEIL FITZGERALD, BEng'51, Halifax, N.S., on April 13, 2017
DONALD EDWARD ISNOR, BEng'51, Saint John, N.B., on August 1, 2017
BENJAMIN KNOWLES DOANE, MA'52, MD'62, Halifax, N.S., on May 5, 2017
ERNEST HOLMES GILLIATT, BEng'52, Guelph, Ont., on June 22, 2017
JOSEPH JOACHIM CARROLL, MD'53, Hamilton, Ont., on April 9, 2017
YVETTE SIMONE (PENDLE) LANE, BSc'53, Halifax, N.S., on August 12, 2017
VERNON WILLIAM SOBEY, MD'53, Surrey, B.C., on May 18, 2017
ROBERT NORMAN ANDERSON, MD'S4, PGM'59, LL'D'69, Halifax, N.S., on August 18, 2017
ROSS DOUGLAS DAVID ANDERSON, LLB'54, West Vancouver, B.C., on May 13, 2017
GEORGE E CLARK, BSc'54, DDS'58, Halifax, N.S., on June 16, 2017
MARGERY UNA MORRIS-OAKLEY, MD'54, Dartmouth, N.S., on April 12, 2017
ANNEKE JANS LEUCRETIA (WILSON) HENDERSON, BA'55, Truro, N.S., on May 14, 2017
MARGARET ANN (CURRIE) MACDONALD, BA'55, West Vancouver, B.C., on June 20, 2017
GEORGE EARLE WIGHT, BComm'55, Basking Ridge, N.J., on April 17, 2017
MARY ETHEL MAITLAND DESBOROUGH LINDSAY, BA'56, Avon, Conn., on August 9, 2017
DONALD EDWARD MORRIS, MD'56, Halifax, N.S., on July 19, 2017
JOHN FREEMAN-MARSH, BEng'58, Armstrong, B.C., on July 1, 2017
GILBERT FRANCIS JENNESS, BA'58, Cairns, QLD, Australia, on June 26, 2017
THOMAS BECK DAVIS, LLB'59, Halifax, N.S., on May 27, 2017
CONRUELS WILLIAM MCGILLICUDDY, BEng'59, Oakville, Ont., on June 6, 2017
JOHN DARBY CHAMBERS, BA'60, Redding, Calif., on April 8, 2017
NORMAN JOSEPH SAULNIER, BEng'60, Dartmouth, N.S., on June 16, 2017
WILLARD AUSTIN GARRON, BEng'62, Dartmouth, N.S., on August 7, 2017
FREDERICK LODGE HARRIGAN, BEng'62, Halifax, N.S., on May 28, 2017
MURIEL JEAN (HIGGINS) MAGEE, DTSN'62, Halifax, N.S., on August 7, 2017
GLADYS MARGUERITE SMITH, DNSA'62, Glace Bay, N.S., on June 3, 2017
JOAN CYNTHIA (WILLIAMS) EISNER, DTSN'64, Bridgewater, N.S., on April 30, 2017
SHIRLEY ANN ALLENA HAMBRICK, BA'64, BEd'65, Halifax, N.S., on July 30, 2017
SUSAN MARIAN LORING, MA'64, Oakfield, N.S., on April 12, 2017
IAN DAVID MORRISON, BA'64, Charlottetown, P.E.I., on May 15, 2017
GEORGE DAVID DOUGLAS, MD'65, Moncton, N.B., on May 7, 2017
BARBARA ROSE SCOTT, BEd'68, BA'69, BEd'69, Halifax, N.S., on July 22, 2017
DEANNA MAY (DICKS) SILVER, DDH'66, Halifax, N.S., on July 10, 2017
JOHN MACARTHUR STEWART, BA'66, LLB'67, Toronto, Ont., on June 11, 2017
SANDRA CHRISTINE LITTLE-MORIN, BEd'67, BA'71, MA'72, Halifax, N.S., on May 12, 2017
ROBERT MICHAEL NAPOLITANO, LLM'87, Portland, Me., on June 17, 2017
THOMAS EDWARD DOBSON, MD'68, Halifax, N.S., on April 1, 2017
RENGASWAREM RAJARAMAN, MSc'68, PhD'72, Halifax, N.S., on April 12, 2017
HERBERT FREDERICK WALLACE, PhD'D9, Gloucester, Ont., on April 19, 2017
JOSEPH NEWTON PEW, BEng'70, Fleetwood, Penn., on June 10, 2017
MAY MZI-CHU HSIAO, MSc'71, on June 19, 2017
DEREK SIDNEY DAVIS, PhD'72, Dartmouth, N.S., on August 7, 2017
JAMES NORMAN LEARY, BSc'72, Halifax, N.S., on April 29, 2017
ROBERT DOUGLAS MCKEVILLY, BSc'72, Halifax, N.S., on July 12, 2017
RICHARD NORMAN CALDER, LLB'73, Halifax, N.S., on April 5, 2017
GARY JAMES COLLIER, BSc'74, BEng'76, Whitby, Ont., on July 14, 2017
ANGUS MUNROE JOHNSTON, MA'74, PhD'85, Halifax, N.S., on April 9, 2017
SURYAKUMAR PURSHOTTAM MASTER, PGM'74, Campbellton, N.B., on June 1, 2017
MATTHEW JOHN MCPHERSON, BComm'74, Halifax, N.S., on April 18, 2017
GRANT THOMAS FILMORE, BA'75, Shelburne, N.S., on July 9, 2017
STEVEN GORDON ZATZMAN, LLB'76, Halifax, N.S., on May 1, 2017
TANYA LYNN (FISHER) BROOME, BA'91, BSW'98, MSW'03, Elmstanden, N.S., on May 18, 2017
ANITA MARY URRUH, PhD'96, Halifax, N.S., on July 30, 2017
KAREN M MACNEIL, MLIS'02, Marion Bridge, N.S., on August 5, 2017
JENNIFER SARAH ROSS, MREM'11, Victoria, B.C., on June 30, 2017
RYAN THANH TRAN, BComm'17, Barrie, Ont., on July 23, 2017
REACHING OUT, LIFTING UP

Improving diversity and inclusion on campus ensures that the next generation of scholars will be prepared to tackle the challenges of our time.

In higher education, we often use the phrase “STEM” to describe the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Recently, some—like Universities Canada—have broadened this to “STEAM” to recognize the important role of the arts and humanities.

Either way, in many of these fields, underrepresentation—of women, of historically-marginalized groups—has been the norm.

The only way we can change this is by expanding access to education—reaching out into our communities, opening doors, and creating new pathways into higher learning. Dalhousie’s groundbreaking Transition Year Program, for example, has been increasing access and the success of Black and Indigenous students at Dalhousie for nearly 50 years.

That spirit of community outreach can be found in efforts across the university to promote participation and diversity in STEAM subjects. Among them:

• **Imhotep’s Legacy Academy**, which over the past 15 years has grown from a small after-school program to a province-wide initiative that engages 650 junior and senior high school students of African descent each year.

• **SuperNova**, a not-for-profit initiative that provides youth across Atlantic Canada with engaging, fun science activities at in-class workshops and summer camps.

• **Our Faculty of Computer Science’s “Closing the Gender Gap” project**, which aims to double the number of first-year female students in 2018, with an overall target of 40 per cent women in its undergraduate student body by 2021.

There is much more work to be done. Going forward, we need to build on these and other past and current successes like the Indigenous Blacks & Mi’kmaq Initiative in the Schulich School of Law, PLANS (Promoting Leadership in health for African Nova Scotians) and the Aboriginal Health Sciences Initiative.

In doing so, not only will we improve diversity and inclusion on campus—thus enriching our classrooms, broadening our contributions to the community, building a more vibrant scholarly community. We will also help ensure that the next generation of scientists and scholars are better prepared to push knowledge and innovation forward, and to tackle the great challenges of our time. That will build a better Dalhousie—and a better world. —Richard Florizone
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