

Dalhousie

M A G A Z I N E

ADVANCING
**CANCER
RESEARCH**

**MEAN
GIRLS**

IDENTITY,
INCLUSION
AND ACADEME

EAT, DRINK
AND BE WARY

VOL. 26 | NO. 1 | SPRING | 2009

Canada Post Publications Mail
Agreement No. 40065040

Return undeliverable Canadian
addresses to: Alumni Office
Dalhousie University
Halifax NS B3H 3J5



If there's a pub night within three time zones of your home, this gang will let you know.

You likely already know one or two faces on the Dalhousie Alumni Relations squad. This gang of merry makers are the point of contact for connecting Dal grads with Dal news and events. Heck, they'll likely do your laundry if you come home for a visit.

If there's a notable event in your life, or if you're just a little homesick for Dal, give them a call at 902.494.8801 or 1.800.565.9969. Or visit www.dal.ca/alumni.

LEFT TO RIGHT, FRONT ROW: Alice Ridgeway, Admin Assistant; Ian Murray, Director, Alumni Relations;

Shawna Burgess, Associate Director, Alumni Programs; Rosemary Bulley, Alumni and Development Officer, Faculty of Computer Science

LEFT TO RIGHT, BACK ROW: Jenn Godbold, Alumni and Donor Relations Officer, Faculty of Health Professions;

Katie Maskell, Alumni, Public and Donor Relations Officer, Faculty of Dentistry; Anne Swan, Alumni and Development Officer, Faculty of Architecture;

Allison Himmelman, Associate Director, Alumni Outreach

MISSING FROM PICTURE: Jessica Farrell, Alumni and Donor Relations Officer, Faculty of Engineering; Ashley LeCroy, Events;

Karen Kavanaugh, Director, Alumni Relations and Development, Faculty of Law; Joanne Webber, Executive Director, Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**
Inspiring Minds



On our cover

Patrick Lee was photographed in his laboratory in the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building by Daniel Abriel.

10

Hope is on the horizon

Patrick Lee is on a mission to prove that human reovirus can kill cancer stem cells. The latest findings from his team, recently published in *Molecular Therapy*, dominated newscasts, spread like wildfire online, and sparked a buzz of excitement in the cancer community.
by Melanie Jollymore

14

Water, water everywhere

Canadians benefit from a relative abundance of quality fresh water – but are we tapping into this gift, or bottling it up?
by Billy Comeau

18

Survival of the meanest

Navigating the tween years has never been easy. A new perspective on how girls negotiate social status may – or may not – surprise parents and teachers.
by Marilyn Smulders



24

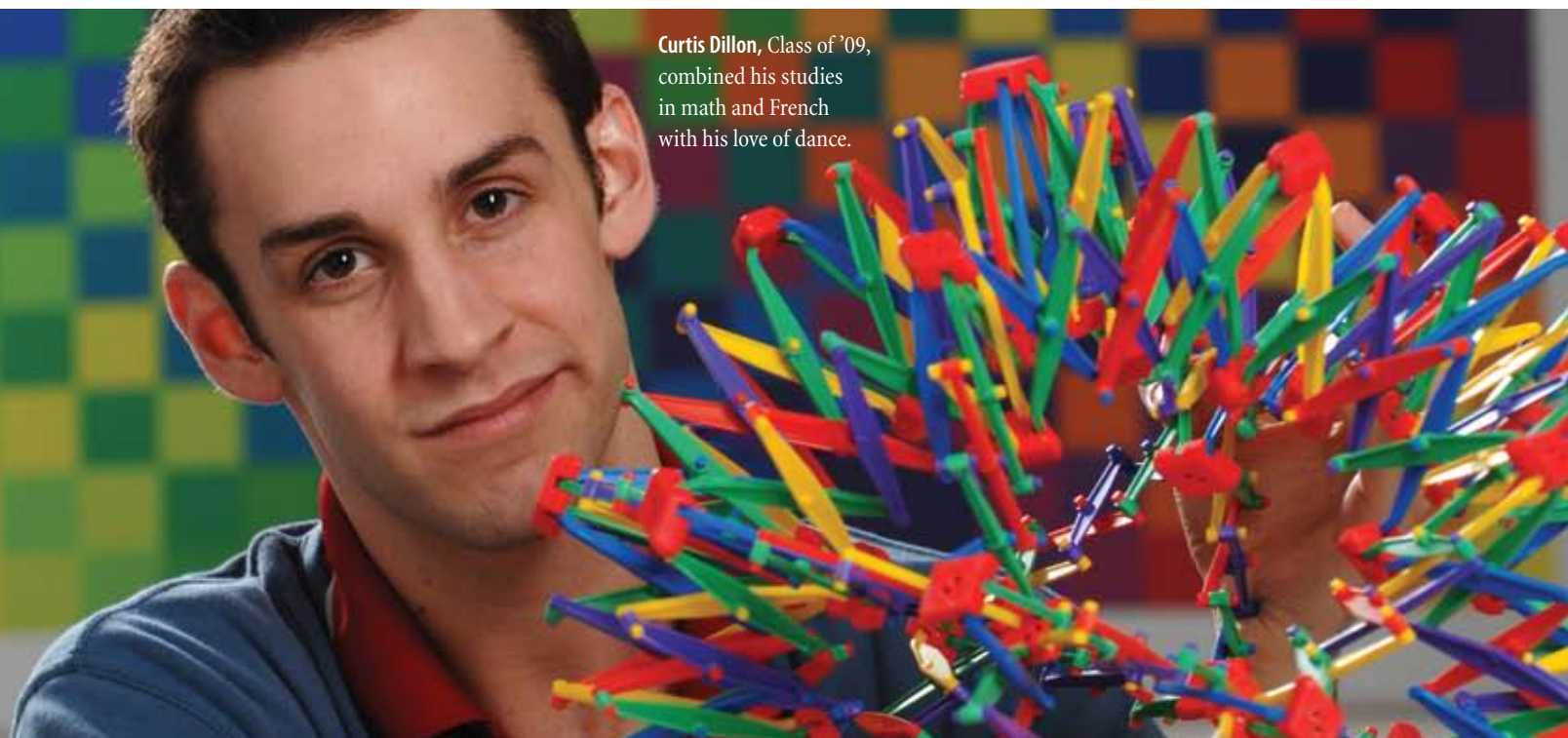
The spice of life

From basic sustenance, to the comforts of home, to a gourmand experience, food equates with family, culture and values.
by Ryan McNutt



DEPARTMENTS

FROM THE EDITOR	2
CONVOCATION	4
UPFRONT ON CAMPUS	6
DALUMNI	28
CLASS NOTES	34
THE BACK STORY	40



Curtis Dillon, Class of '09, combined his studies in math and French with his love of dance.

Hope springs eternal

Charles Tsoulhas, a Greek immigrant who founded the well-known Armview Restaurant in Halifax, is the parent of seven Dalhousie graduates. As Charles and his wife Maria reflect on their many Dalhousie connections, it seems apt to note his satisfaction: "That was our dream – to educate our children as much as we could." (see *All in the family*, P. 35)

And as I'm writing, the campus is brightened with graduates in many-hued silks, rushing to ceremonies, posing with family and friends, sharing future plans with favourite professors.

Family and friends of the Class of 2009 – some 2,700 strong – had good reason to celebrate their personal milestones during the lovely spring weather. Our newest alumni face the next stage of their lives well prepared to tackle causes they're passionate about.

Dentistry graduate Pari Irani calls upon her classmates to be mindful of the transformative power of reaching out to be of service to others (see *Guest View*, P. 3). Kelly O'Donnell, a graduate of the first and only dental hygiene degree program in Canada, has confidence in a strong job market. Anna Calvert is choosing to dedicate her career to conservation research for Canadian wildlife, particularly songbirds (see *Class of 2009*, P. 4-5). Curtis Dillon, who graduates with an intriguing combination of math and French, epitomizes the joy of self expression through dance (see *Back Story*, P. 40).

As a new generation looks ahead, the generation of knowledge continues on campus. Medical researchers have published a breakthrough study that offers renewed hope in the fight against cancer. Patrick Lee's research team has discovered a novel approach against cancer stem cells and the spread of a disease that affects so many close to us (see *Hope is on the Horizon*, P. 10-13).

Yet another exciting research opportunity is on the horizon. Dalhousie appears twice on the short list for Canada's \$10 million 'super chairs' – the Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC). Dalhousie was among 17 universities to see our proposals among the top 40, selected from 135 submissions. The final 20 are expected to be announced in early 2010 (see *Chance of a lifetime*, P. 9).

Improving opportunities available to the next generation; employing unique talents to influence the community; expanding medical treatment options for patients; and attracting world-class researchers to Atlantic Canada – from here, the future looks bright.

Amanda



EDITOR

Amanda Pelham

ASSISTANT EDITOR/ADVERTISING MANAGER

Keri Irwin

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Marilyn Smulders

ART DIRECTOR

Fran Ornstein

CLASS NOTES/ DALUMNI/ IN MEMORIAM

For submissions, contact: Joanne Ward-Jerrett
alumni.records@dal.ca

ADDRESS CHANGES

Tel: (902) 494-6855

1 (800) 565-9969

Email: alumni.records@dal.ca

Alumni Records, Macdonald Building
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3J5

PRODUCED BY

Dalhousie University
Communications and Marketing

CONTRIBUTORS

Melanie Jollymore is a freelance writer and communications consultant based in Seaford, Nova Scotia. She specializes in health care and medical research.



As the mother of an 11-year-old girl, **Marilyn Smulders** was fascinated by Nicole Landry's research on tween girls. She's a writer/editor with Dalhousie's Communications and Marketing Office.

Steve Gillis is a Nova Scotia Community College student who spent a work term with Dalhousie Creative Services. The talented illustrator is responsible for creating the artwork for the feature on mean girls.

Ryan McNutt doesn't consider summer his favourite season by any stretch, but still enjoys patio dining during Nova Scotia's fleeting days of warm weather. He's going to think a bit more about what he's being served this summer after researching his article on the politics of food.



The newest member of the Communications and Marketing team, **Billy Comeau**, tried unsuccessfully to contract out writing this bio. Noted for his lack of singing and guitar playing ability, he is terrified by snakes and outer space, but loves the ocean, golf and Saturday afternoons.

We're pleased to introduce two of our student writers: **Rebecca Schneider** is a fourth-year English honours student; and **Michelle Hampson** is an aspiring journalist, who hopes to write for *Skier* magazine some day.

Brian Harrison, of Trivium Design, continued his steady hand with cover and page design; partnering with **Jane Lombard**, of Dalhousie Creative Services, who added design and layout for the back section of the magazine. **Debora Jewitt** coordinated sessions with our talented photographers, **Nick Pearce** and **Danny Abriel**. Many thanks to our proofreaders, including **Dawn Morrison** and **June Cleary**.

DALHOUSIE MAGAZINE

appears three times a year.

Editorial deadline for the next issue is
August 6, 2009.



Photo: Danny Abriel

Pari Irani, Class of '09, will soon be practising dentistry in Newfoundland, where she'll provide professional service for rural communities.

In the spirit of service

I was 13 and living in West Africa with my family when I first decided that becoming a dentist would let me provide assistance and service to others.

It was half my lifetime and half a world away, but the decision still resonates. The most satisfying aspect of my program was meeting and caring for patients at the Dalhousie Dentistry Clinic.

We all know that some people have the opportunity or motivation for great service, but we all have the ability and spiritual need to perform many small acts of kindness. Sometimes we fail to see the difference we can make in other people's lives.

The act of service can begin just by talking to people. Sometimes this means getting out of our comfort zone and reaching out to someone else. Whether I'm working with refugee families to help them settle into new homes in Fredericton, fundraising for children with haemophilia in Morocco, or providing guidance for young adults within the Halifax community, it's the personal connection that enables

me to build unity. The experience and pleasure that I gain from providing service is much greater and infinitely more valuable than momentary comfort.

Bahá'u'lláh (the founder of the Baha'i faith) refers to the human being "as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value."

As individuals, we can cultivate our innate capacities which can transform our communities that surround us.

The purpose of life and society is to generate creative processes which serve to release those "gems" of human potential.

As individuals, we can cultivate our innate capacities which can transform our communities that surround us. As graduates of Dalhousie, we have had the opportunity and developed our capacities with the education that has been provided to us. These "gems," therefore, allow us to contribute both professionally and in our personal lives for the betterment of our human family.

It is through service to others that we can best develop ourselves and find true happiness.



New beginnings: Class of 2009

Living your passion

Anna Calvert

Anna Calvert is taking on the considerable challenge of Canadian wildlife conservation, new PhD in hand.

She notes that "climate change" is often thrown around as a threat to many aspects of life on Earth, yet surprisingly little is known about which life forms may be most vulnerable to the impending changes. Her PhD thesis examines that question using her studies of migratory songbirds and mathematical models to assess how important weather and climate are to the decisions they make while migrating. Improving the design for modeling mark-recapture data, she found that songbirds will respond to both broad climatic patterns and to local-scale weather variation, but that shorter-distance migrants may respond more readily to weather changes. This leaves longer-distance migrants potentially more vulnerable in the future.

Her favourite non-academic aspect of life in Nova Scotia is access to hundreds of quiet, beautiful lakes, canoeing and camping with her husband and dog.

"The rocky landscapes, abundant cranberries and peaceful campsites gave me the energy I needed to fuel my studies," she says.

Collaboration has been a key element of her academic success. **"I really benefited from the support, collaboration and friendship of a great network of fellow grad students and professors,"** she says.

In the future she wants to remain involved in conservation research for Canadian wildlife, taking up the conservation challenge with a renewed vigour and optimism for the future.

Luke Williams

Luke Williams wants to make the world a more efficient and less wasteful place.

"I've always tried to make the most with as little as possible," he says. **"A lot has surfaced in renewable energy sectors and there's much more we can do to conserve energy and make things more efficient. I want to be part of that."**

The mechanical engineering graduate has fostered a student-friendly environment. In fact, his leadership was recognized by the 2009 Dalhousie Student Union's Society Professional of the Year award.



Despite heavy demands on his time, he organized the special event "Pulling for Kids." Engineering students pulled two cars for 12 hours, raising almost \$7,000 for Christmas Daddies.

"It was definitely one of my greatest accomplishments," he says.

An avid paddler from Dartmouth, NS, he was a member of the Concrete Canoe Team and the Dalhousie Kayaking Society.

continued on p.5





Cy Giacomini

Cy Giacomini aspires to compose music for the film industry.

An aspiring musician before enrolling in the Bachelor of Music program, the Haligonian took an early interest in composition and chose it as his concentration.

His experiences culminated in winning the 2008 Concerto Night Competition in Composition.

The honour of having an original composition played live by the Dalhousie Concerto Night Orchestra was the highlight of his academic career. Continually diversifying, his courses in music technology have enabled him to craft an original song from computer software to final product.

The full-service musician and composer equates his academic experience with belonging to “a tight-knit family.”

Making an impact

Honorary degrees are awarded to recognize outstanding individuals who have made a difference in the community.

Catherine Frazee, one of Canada’s most influential disability rights activists, was recognized for exposing barriers to equality and proposing systemic changes that challenge inequality.

Joan Glode, executive director of Mi’kmaq Family and Children’s Services, has devoted her life’s energies toward improving the conditions and lives of First Nations children and families in Canada.

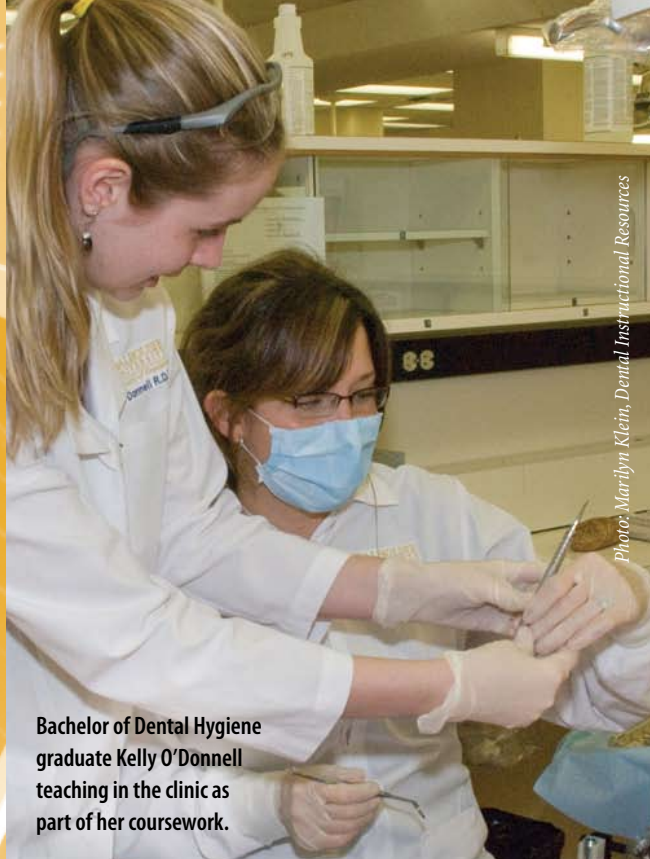
Warmest congratulations to: Robert Anderson, physician and ethicist; Jesse Ausubel, an influential leader for climate change research and policy; Donald Gillis, engineering educator; Daniel Andrew Eisenhauer, engineering innovator and a founder of the ABCO Group of Companies; Gordon Nixon, president and CEO of the RBC Financial Group; Nicholas Pippenger, an academic who has shaped our understanding of theoretical computer science.



Catherine Frazee



Joan Glode



Bachelor of Dental Hygiene graduate Kelly O'Donnell teaching in the clinic as part of her coursework.

Photo: Marilyn Klein, Dental Instructional Resources

A Canadian first

The first graduates from Dalhousie’s Bachelor of Dental Hygiene program received their degrees May 22.

“We’re proud to be part of history,” says graduate Kelly O’Donnell, referring to herself and fellow graduate Joanna Grant.

The first and only dental hygiene degree in Canada is a one-year program offered to all graduates of the diploma program licensed in Nova Scotia.

Broadening knowledge for dental hygienists, the new degree focuses on teaching, health policy, research, leadership and preparation for alternate practice settings such as cancer care.

“It was an opportunity to create options I might not have previously considered within my profession,” explains Ms. O’Donnell, from Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia.

With the establishment of the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia in 2009, the degree allows dental hygienists to ‘self-initiate’ and work beyond private practice settings.

With all 41 diploma graduates currently working, the market is strong. As Nancy Neish, director of the School of Dental Hygiene explains, the bachelor’s degree only enhances employment options.

“It helps prepare students to become dental hygiene educators, provides basic research knowledge and additional preparation for working in public health.”

Billy Comeau

continued on p.6

Competitive turtle racing

A story 100 million years in the making is avoiding a tragic ending thanks to the efforts of Dalhousie adjunct professor Mike James. He co-authored the study *"Leatherback Turtles: The menace of plastic,"* investigating plastics ingestion in leatherbacks, prehistoric reptiles faced with extinction.

"We wanted to see if plastics ingestion in leatherbacks was hype or reality," says Dr. James. As it turns out, it's reality. "After reviewing 371 necropsies dated back to 1968, one third had ingested plastic."

It is widely believed leatherbacks mistake plastic products for their favourite meal of jellyfish. Thousands of spines lining the turtle's throat make it impossible to regurgitate – leading to obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract, digestive and reproductive problems and for some, starvation.

Leatherbacks, a critically endangered species, can ill-afford greater loss in their historic family tree. Thanks in large part to Dr. James's pioneering work, leatherbacks have been receiving well deserved attention lately.

National Geographic recently featured The Great Turtle Race, a 6,000 kilometre marathon from Atlantic Canada to the Caribbean. Sponsored by the likes of R.E.M. and Pearl Jam, 11 turtles were tagged by the Canadian Sea Turtle Network, of which Dr. James is director of science. Their voyage was broadcast by *National Geographic*.

"People need to know more about these amazing animals – they need protection," says Paul Robert MacDonald, a Dal student who attached satellite transmitters to the leatherbacks off the waters of Nova Scotia.
Billy Comeau



Photo: Nick Pearce

To be continued

Carol Bruneau, Dalhousie's first-ever writer in residence, recently bid us adieu.

"I can't believe that it's over. Long winter, short time," Ms. Bruneau marvels. "Every week was exciting." During her stay at Dalhousie, Ms. Bruneau ran two workshops, was available for individual consultation, and featured her work during an open mic. "Every day would be something new. There were surprises all the time."

Ms. Bruneau will return to teaching at NSCAD U in the fall. In the meantime, she is revising her current project, a novel – she had an editor review it during her residency. The book will be set in occupied France, but more than that can't be revealed. "I never like talking about what I'm working on," Ms. Bruneau admits. "I guess it's superstition."



Photo: Danny Abriel

Perhaps to hunt down that extra inspiration, Ms. Bruneau will soon visit France for three weeks. "I think Paris is so amazing... it's just so magical." She cites the Rodin museum and the Louvre as personal favourites, and also enjoys "the food, the food, walking around and – oh – the food."

Ms. Bruneau completed a BA and MA at Dal before her return as a mentor. Has Dalhousie changed since then?

"It's a much more creative environment... more interdisciplinary, probably more welcoming – still great standards of academic achievement, of course."

Most importantly, Ms. Bruneau says that Dalhousie is "in tune with the possibilities that individuals and students can bring." With campus resources like a writer in residence, 2009 made it even easier Dal's artists to bring their possibilities to fruition.
Rebecca Schneider

A record performance

Dalhousie is home to more Academic All-Canadians than any other university in Atlantic University Sport (AUS) with 80 student-athletes earning the nationally-recognized designation.

And for the fourth consecutive year, a Dalhousie student-athlete has been chosen by Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) to represent Atlantic Canada in the Desjardins Top 8 Academic All-Canadians. Niklas Rademacher graduated from Dalhousie's management program last spring and was a 6'10" left side hitter for the men's volleyball program. To qualify as an Academic All-Canadian, a student-athlete must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 80 per cent or better over the academic year while competing in a varsity sport.

continued on p.7

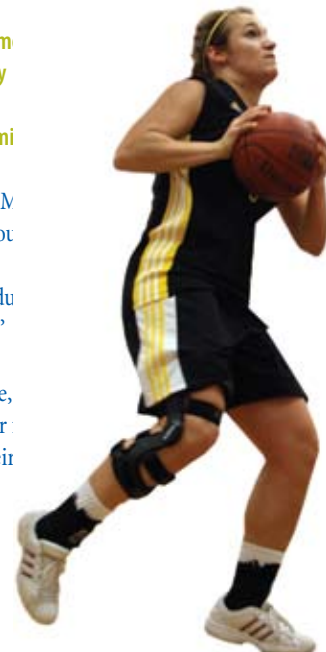


Photo: Nick Pearce

Love of learning

One of the Academic All-Canadians is Alex Legge, from Mahone Bay, N.S., who is studying neuroscience. She's achieved a near perfect average while playing varsity basketball and hopes to attend medical school.

"So far my experience at Dalhousie has been amazing. I love the academic program I've chosen and I truly enjoy my classes. My first two seasons of basketball have been great too. I couldn't ask for better teammates," she says.
Lucy Uberoi

No tests. No final exams. No pressure. Lots of fun.

What better way to take university-style courses, many taught by retired university professors?

The Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia was launched two years ago by the Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners for students ages 50 plus. It now boasts 200 members who pay \$120 annually to keep their minds open and active by taking any or all of several non-credit offerings a term.

Decades ago, Patricia Walsh Macneil attended university for two years before leaving to go to work. Now retired, the Halifax woman, whose late husband worked at Dal, says the program enables her to "satisfy a hunger for learning that will always be there. At this stage of life, it's so important to stay involved and interested."

The life-long learners choose from a wide selection of courses, including history, religion, art, politics, science, literature and philosophy. The two-hour weekly classes run 10 weeks at various Halifax-area locations.

The college is modeled on senior colleges in other provinces. Blanche Potter Creighton, a retiree from the theatre department, is the group's president and an eager learner.

"I took courses on Islam and Judaism because I'm interested in religion. I think it's important to understand how we connect so we can be open to each other," she says. "Most lecturers have handouts and suggest outside readings, but how much the students do is up to them."

She read Shakespeare's plays for another class. "It's all so enjoyable. If you're at university, you have to take a course and exam for credit to a degree. We're there because we want to learn."

Sid Sodhi, a retired Dal psychology teacher, was a founder of the college.

"My dream is to have the college across the province. In P.E.I., the college has been going 10 years and offers 100 courses a year to more than 1,000 students."

He smiles. "Give us 10 years, and we'll have more than that."

For information, visit the web site www.retireesandpensioners.dal.ca/Scans/
Joel Jacobson



Photo: Danny Abriel

A banner year

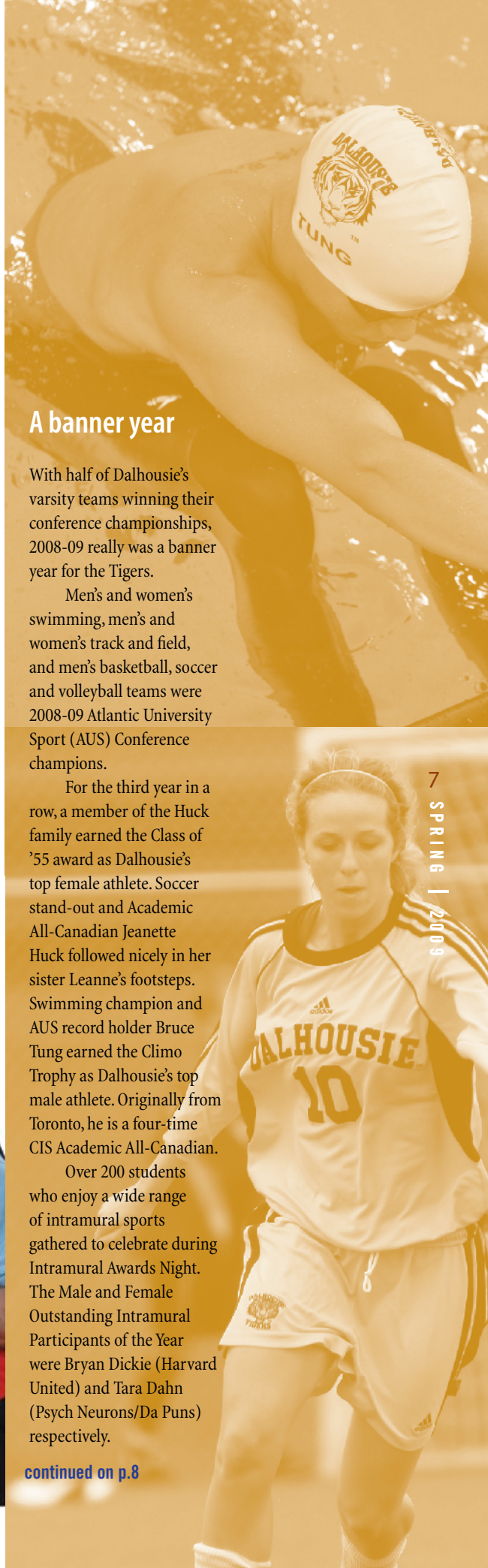
With half of Dalhousie's varsity teams winning their conference championships, 2008-09 really was a banner year for the Tigers.

Men's and women's swimming, men's and women's track and field, and men's basketball, soccer and volleyball teams were 2008-09 Atlantic University Sport (AUS) Conference champions.

For the third year in a row, a member of the Huck family earned the Class of '55 award as Dalhousie's top female athlete. Soccer stand-out and Academic All-Canadian Jeanette Huck followed nicely in her sister Leanne's footsteps. Swimming champion and AUS record holder Bruce Tung earned the Climo Trophy as Dalhousie's top male athlete. Originally from Toronto, he is a four-time CIS Academic All-Canadian.

Over 200 students who enjoy a wide range of intramural sports gathered to celebrate during Intramural Awards Night. The Male and Female Outstanding Intramural Participants of the Year were Bryan Dickie (Harvard United) and Tara Dahn (Psych Neurons/Da Puns) respectively.

continued on p.8



Swine flu education for physicians

In light of recent reported cases of H1N1 Influenza A (swine flu) in Nova Scotia, the province's medical doctors have been scrambling to find out as much about the disease as possible.

Dalhousie Medical School quickly pulled together an interactive on-line session between top provincial experts on swine flu and doctors all across the province. The session gave an overview on the situation, and covered appropriate testing on patients and infection control.

More than 100 physicians participated in the session, which was presented by Dalhousie faculty members and infectious disease specialists Drs. Robert Strang, the chief medical officer of health for the Province of Nova Scotia, Lynn Johnston, and Todd Hatchette.

"This was one of the best efforts I have seen to educate family physicians on a late-breaking topic. I really felt prepared afterwards," says one of the participants, Dr. Stewart Cameron, who also teaches in the department of family medicine. "I used the material they presented to make a patient newsletter for our office and also employed it in a radio interview I did the next day."

This was the first in a series of interactive online sessions hosted by Continuing Medical Education, aimed at providing information for family physicians and specialists.

Organizers believe this session is the way of the future for many facets of medical education, research, communications, and especially media relations.

Charles Hsuen, Medical Communications

A roof with a view

This image of a spring wildfire that caused evacuations in Spryfield was taken from the roof of the Life Sciences Centre looking south. In the photo you can spot a helicopter; Nova Scotia crews were also assisted by fixed-wing aircraft from New Brunswick carrying water.

Nick Pearce Photo

DSU elects leadership

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) is ringing in new president Shannon Zimmerman.

Ms. Zimmerman has served as a Board of Governors representative for two years, sitting on the student experience committee and acting as a councillor.

"I represented student needs within the body of the university," explains Ms. Zimmerman, who has also been the president of Sheriff Hall, and a DSU member-at-large. "My role was to represent what students wanted to see."

Ms. Zimmerman is a fourth-year double major in political science and international development studies.



Leadership affirmation

Dalhousie's Board of Governors recently announced the reappointment of Tom Traves as president and vice-chancellor.

"At the end of his new term in 2013, Dr. Traves will have been president for 18 years, placing him among the longest-serving presidents in the history of the university," says Jim Spatz, Chair of the Board of Governors.

Dr. Traves has served as a member of the Advisory Council of the Order of Canada, and as chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents, and the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust Fund.

He is also the Canadian representative on the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and vice-chair of the Association of Atlantic Universities. In 2002, he was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal.

"Under his leadership, Dalhousie has continued to grow in enrolment, stature and reputation," he notes. "As importantly, Dalhousie has attained ongoing financial stability, which will serve us well during uncertain economic times."

Dr. Traves has been president of Dalhousie since 1995.

continued on p.9





Perfectionism and binge eating linked

A newly-published study shows why individuals with a high degree of perfectionism are often setting themselves up for a host of physical, emotional and mental problems – particularly related to binge eating.

Dalhousie's Dr. Simon Sherry has published "*The Perfectionism Model of Binge Eating*" in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, along with co-author Peter Hall of the University of Waterloo.

Although less well recognized than anorexia or bulimia, binge eating is a serious disorder. Binge eating occurs when a person feels out of control and rapidly consumes a large amount of food in a short period of time. Binge eating elevates the risk of developing depression, obesity, diabetes and other problems.

By closely following the daily activities of a large group of undergraduates, the researchers believe that they're the first to identify why perfectionism results in binge eating.

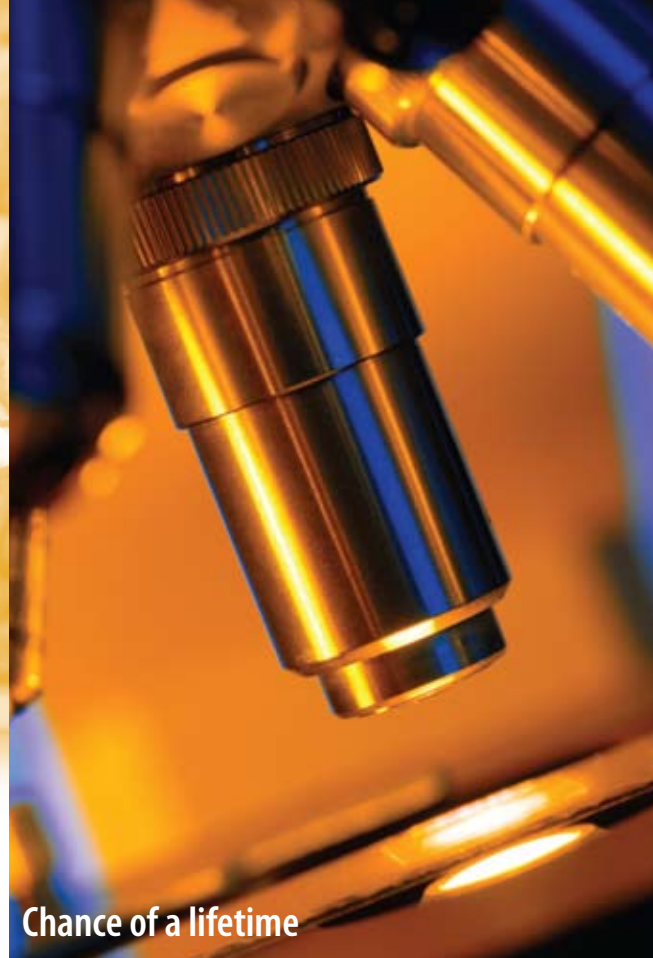
"It seems that as perfectionists go about their day-to-day lives, they generate a lot of friction," says Dr. Sherry. "Because of their inflexibility and unrealistic expectations they also create problems in their relationships."

Binge eating becomes an effort to escape from being overwhelmed with feelings of loneliness, failure and sadness. To temporarily escape from a discouraging reality, it's necessary to do away with higher order thought. The experience of eating – smelling, chewing, tasting – is immediate and visceral.

"Think about it – when was the last time that you were rapidly eating a pizza and pondering a major life decision at exactly the same time?" asks Dr. Sherry.

While binge eating banishes troubles and difficulties in the short term, it also generates powerful negative emotions of guilt and shame that are longer lasting. The intent is that this research will translate directly into better care, through improved assessment and treatment opportunities.

"We want to improve the lives of perfectionists with patterns of disordered eating," he says.
Amanda Pelham



Chance of a lifetime

Dalhousie is in contention for two of Canada's "super chairs" – the Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC).

Each would bring \$10 million in funding to attract a world-class researcher.

"This is a chance of a lifetime to bring top-drawer, Nobel-laureate-style researchers to Dalhousie," says Martha Crago, vice-president research.

The CERC Secretariat evaluated 135 proposals from 41 universities. The short-list was unveiled at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Dalhousie was among 17 universities to see its proposals – in Ocean Science and Technology; and in Developmental Immunology and Immunosenescence – among the top 40.

"The problems, such as how climate change is affecting the world's oceans, are so complex and multi-faceted that you need to bring everyone together – the chemical, biological and physical oceanographers – to work on solutions," says Keith Thompson, who leads the proposal for the CERC in Ocean Science and Technology.

Immunosenescence refers to the gradual deterioration of the human immune system due to aging, when it becomes increasingly difficult to respond to infections, immunizations and tumors. The CERC in Developmental Immunology and Immunosenescence, proposed by Scott Halperin and Jean Marshall, would develop new vaccines for different age groups, protecting them from debilitating infectious diseases.

The next step is to identify the two researchers the university intends to attract. The successful 20 CERC recipients are expected to be announced in early 2010.
Marilyn Smulders

hope IS ON THE HORIZON

BY MELANIE JOLLYMORE

Hope has enormous significance for anyone who has experienced a cancer diagnosis.

Emmie Luther-Hiltz was just 33 years old when she woke up one Easter Sunday to find a golf-ball-sized lump in her breast – a lump that had not been there the day before.

“It was an aggressive cancer with a very tough prognosis,” says

Ms. Luther-Hiltz, whose two children were just five and eight years old at the time. After having her breast and grossly malignant lymph nodes removed, she endured six months of chemotherapy.

Remarkably, she is alive and well 16 years later, but that doesn’t mean her fear of cancer has gone away. “Breast cancer can recur after 15, even 20 years,” she says. “I’ve had a number of

scares and, just last year, had my other breast removed when we found a benign lump.”

As a cancer survivor who works closely with patients through Cancer Care Nova Scotia, Ms. Luther-Hiltz is heartened by the recent news that Dalhousie virologist Patrick Lee has found a way to kill the very cells that lead to cancer recurrence. These are the cancer stem cells. Like a queen ant churning out eggs, cancer stem cells continuously produce new cancer cells.

“You can kill all the ants in the anthill, but if you don’t get the queen, you will still have ants,” says Dr. Lee, Cameron Chair in Basic Cancer Research at the Dalhousie Medical School. “Unfortunately, chemotherapy and radiation do not eliminate the cancer stem cells and they keep on producing cancer cells.”

Dr. Lee’s landmark finding – that a common virus effectively targets and kills breast cancer stem cells – recently appeared in the prestigious journal, *Molecular Therapy*. When the story broke, it led local newscasts, spread like wildfire online, and sparked a buzz of excitement in the cancer community.

“This is a fabulous discovery,” says Emmie Luther-Hiltz. “What it means is hope. Hope has enormous significance for anyone who has experienced a cancer diagnosis.”

Dr. Lee is thrilled by his team’s findings, as he has been on a mission for the past two years to prove that human reovirus can kill cancer stem cells. Unlike most cancer experiments, which rely on cancer cell lines developed for the laboratory, Dr. Lee’s experiments used fresh tumour tissue from local breast cancer patients.

continued on p.12

Patrick Lee

"Cell lines are grown in vitro so long, it's hard to be certain your experiment is reflecting real life," says Dr. Lee. "It's very exciting to see these results in real biopsy material."

He credits his collaborator, Dr. Carman Giacomantonio, a Capital Health surgeon and associate professor in Dalhousie's Division of Surgical Oncology, for his dedication to the project. "Carman would bring us the breast tumour tissues within an hour or two of removing them from a patient."

Whenever tumour tissues arrived in the lab, postdoctoral fellow Paola Marcato and research assistant Cheryl Dean worked late into the night, implanting tiny pieces of tumour in the mammary fat pads of mice while the grafts were still fresh enough to take hold and form tumours.

After injecting reovirus into the tumours, the researchers noted how quickly the cancer stem cells were dying compared to the regular cancer cells. "The cancer stem cells died at the same rate as the regular cancer cells," says Dr. Lee. "This is exactly what we had hoped to see."

The media spotlight is nothing new for Dr. Lee. In 1998, he galvanized the world scientific community with his first groundbreaking discovery – that reovirus selectively targets and kills cancer cells without harming healthy cells.

"But proving we can target cancer stem cells is even more exciting than the original discovery," he says. "It means we finally have a way to get to the root of the problem."

Reovirus kills cancers of the lung, prostate, colon, ovary and brain, as well as lymphoma and melanoma, as shown by Dr. Lee's previous studies. "We have every reason to believe that reovirus will kill the cancer stem cells in these and other kinds of cancer," he says. "We plan to test it against prostate cancer stem cells next."

As the researchers explore additional potential in their lab, a Calgary-based company, Oncolytics Biotech, is testing the virus in cancer patients.

"We have had dramatic results in both phase one and phase two clinical trials in a wide range of cancers, including sarcomas, ovarian, pancreatic and advanced head and neck cancers," says Matt Coffey, the company's chief operating officer. "Now we're getting ready to launch international phase three clinical trials."

The pair began working together at the University of Calgary on the original reovirus discovery. Oncolytics Biotech was launched to develop and test reovirus-based cancer therapies.

"Getting the cancer stem cells is key," says Dr. Coffey. "We're not here to delay cancer, we're here to cure it."

Senior researchers have also come to work in the university's increasingly dynamic cancer research community, which has grown from a handful of scientists to more than 50 principal investigators.

The worst side effects in cancer patients have been mild, flu-like symptoms, he notes. "The virus causes no disease, which makes it safe for patients and easy to work with."

Meanwhile, Dr. Lee and his team are learning more about the cancer-killing advantages of reovirus every day.

"We think of cancer cells being so tough, but they are weak in the face of the virus," says Dr. Lee. "Cancer cells are not capable of mounting a defense against the reovirus. They actually help the virus reproduce and form new virus particles that are many times more infectious than the parent virus!"

These virulent particles then rupture the cancer cell and circulate around the body, killing not just the primary tumour, but also cancer cells that have spread. At the same time, they stimulate a powerful anti-cancer immune response.

Dr. Lee and postdoctoral fellow Shashi Gujar are working on a way to maximize this anti-cancer response, while minimizing the immune system's reaction to the reovirus. "We want to tone down the anti-virus response so reovirus can freely infect and kill cancer cells while helping the body mount its own anti-cancer attack," notes Dr. Lee.

continued on p.13

Drs. Marcato and Gujar are among the many young cancer researchers who have flocked to Dalhousie since Dr. Lee joined the medical school in 2003. Senior researchers have also come to work in the university's increasingly dynamic cancer research community, which has grown from a handful of scientists to more than 50 principal investigators.

This growth spurt began with a remarkable gift to the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation. In 1999, the late Beatrice Hunter bequeathed \$12.5 million to the foundation for cancer research, in memory of her parents, Dr. Owen and Mrs. Pearle Cameron. This gift provides \$500,000 to cancer research at Dalhousie Medical School each year. It also created the Cameron Chair in Basic Cancer Research, the leadership position that attracted Dr. Lee to Dalhousie.

Dr. Lee is a founding member of the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute, established in April 2009 to foster a coordinated cancer research effort in Atlantic Canada.

"Patrick Lee has helped create an environment where world-class cancer research can thrive," says Theresa Marie Underhill, chief operating officer of Cancer Care Nova Scotia, which co-funds his cancer stem cell research with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation–Atlantic Region. "It's rare for us, as the provincial cancer agency, to fund basic research, but Dr. Lee's reovirus work is very close to patients, and even involved cancer patients going through surgery, so it was the right fit."

"For an organization dedicated to a future without breast cancer, research is the most significant part of our work," says Nancy Margeson, CEO, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation–Atlantic Region. "To have a breakthrough of this magnitude substantiates our faith that one day our vision will come true."

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Terry Fox Foundation are also staunch supporters of Dr. Lee's research. As he notes, every grant and every discovery builds on the one before, leading to those eureka moments that change everything.

For Emmie Luther-Hiltz, whose parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings have all battled cancer, Patrick Lee's discoveries offer hope for the future. "Cancer is a way of life in our family," she says. "This kind of news means that maybe our children won't have to live with such an overwhelming fear of developing cancer. Hope is on the horizon."

Emmie Luther-Hiltz

Photo: Dany Abriel







water

BY BILLY COMEAU

It's entirely possible for every municipality in Canada to have access to safe drinking water. **Policy is the challenge, not the technology.**

15
SPRING | 2009

Making waves across the country, drinking water is becoming an increasingly hot topic in Canada. Though most Canadian municipalities provide residents with safe public drinking water, Statistics Canada says at least three in 10 Canadian households choose bottled water.

A movement against bottled water is gaining momentum. The Canadian Federation of Municipalities has asked its members to restrict the sale of bottled water on municipal property. School boards throughout the country are considering bans and in March the University of Winnipeg became the first university in Canada to prohibit the sale of bottled water on campus.

Environmentalist David Suzuki calls it 'disgusting' that Canadians will pay more for water than gasoline because they're uncertain about their tap water, but many still question the quality of public drinking water.

"There's probably no difference in quality between treated tap water and bottled water," says Dalhousie professor Graham Gagnon, the NSERC/HRWC Industrial Research Chair and Canadian Research Chair in Water Quality and Treatment. "If you compared the label on a water bottle to tap water, you'd find they were strikingly similar."

Dr. Gagnon, who works with the Halifax Water Commission, explains many bottling companies

continued on p.16

get their water from municipalities just like Halifax. “The choice is artificial,” he says. “Most bottled water is tap water and because both are managed by people, the risks for both are similar.”

For some, however, the choice isn't clear. Some rural municipalities in Canada do not have water treatment facilities and thus are subject to boil or purchase bottled water. As Dr. Gagnon explains, this isn't necessary, but occurs due to the lack of a national water policy.

“It's entirely possible for every municipality in Canada to have access to safe drinking water,” he says. “Policy is the challenge, not the technology.”

Health Canada sets guidelines for water treatment, but provinces have discretion on how to achieve them.

The lack of a national water policy is what many, including Dr. Gagnon, feel is perhaps the greatest challenge to municipal water supplies.

“It comes down to ‘rate base,’” says Dr. Gagnon.

While municipalities like Halifax and Edmonton charge per cubic meter of water used, others, like Vancouver, charge equally to all regardless of use. The disparities in municipal water budgets put them at a financial disadvantage compared to bottling companies, which have one brand, one formula and one price.

But the prices of tap and bottled water are magnitudes apart. In Halifax, municipal drinking water costs \$0.413 per cubic meter while a 591 ml bottle of water sells for about \$1.75. “The amount of water in a bottle costs less than three one-hundredths of a penny, meaning the 10 cent deposit on the bottle is 400 times the cost of Halifax's water,” says Dr. Gagnon. “Factor in that Halifax Water uses gravity to distribute water compared to the packaging and shipping costs of bottled water and the cost isn't even comparable.”

In addition to quality, the environmental

In addition to quality, the environmental consequences of choosing the bottle are of great concern for those working in sustainability. For example, the fossil fuels used to create a single bottle would fill one quarter of that same bottle.

consequences of choosing the bottle are of great concern for those working in sustainability. For example, the fossil fuels used to create a single bottle would fill one quarter of that same bottle.

“From a sustainability perspective, drinking tap water is absolutely the right choice,” says Tarah Wright, associate director of Dalhousie's College of Sustainability. “The environmental, economic, and social costs of bottled water make turning on your tap an easy and practical choice.”

Dr. Wright believes education needs to change in order for people to make informed sustainable decisions. “We're producing ecologically illiterate people who aren't able to see the sustainability ‘big picture,’” she says. “In our current education system people learn about issues in isolation. If people don't fully understand the environmental, economic and social impacts of purchasing bottled water, can we really blame them?”

The social impacts are seen in places like the Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph and Cambridge area. Water

continued on p.17

rates in the area continually increase due to a declining water supply, but water bottlers still package the water for sale in Ottawa even though the Ottawa River provides safe cheap drinking water to the city. "I would suggest if most people understood the ramifications of their actions, they would make the right choice," says Dr. Wright. "But we're not trained to think that way."

However, any shift in consumer behaviour will likely have to involve the same businesses that supply and sell bottled water. In Canada the bottled water

Suzuki worked with Wal-Mart," adds Dr. Cunningham, speaking of his 2007 meeting with 1,200 Wal-Mart managers urging business to take a leadership role in sustainable development. "But if you can get the largest corporation in the world, with a budget larger than most governments to change its practices, that's more than the individual or even large NGOs can do." She explains that many companies understand their records in sustainability are becoming more important in consumer decisions

environmental consequences of choosing the bottle
e working in sustainability. For example, the fossil
bottle would fill one quarter of that same bottle.

industry takes in over \$650 million in sales each year, and these new challenges could impact their bottom line.

"It's becoming a corporate social responsibility issue," says Peggy Cunningham, director of Dalhousie's School of Business Administration. "Companies are responsible for things they have a direct impact on, so bottlers have a responsibility to environment and sustainability."

"We now have to look at these issues through a sustainability lens, something we probably should have started doing a long time ago. Businesses are going to have to put more restrictions on themselves, but also have to be part of the solution."

As large corporations drive innovation and have large budgets and new technologies, Dr. Cunningham explains that by working with business, consumer culture could be shifted from within. "Sometimes if you change the behaviour, you change the attitude," she says.

"I never thought I'd see the day when David

and view sustainability as a long-term investment.

However, all three professors agree that municipalities need to do more to get information to residents about their water supply. "They need to make it cool," says Dr. Wright. "Don't create flyers nobody will read, make a hip video and have it go viral," she explains.

"Communication is key. A small budget doesn't mean you can't be creative and get your message out," adds Dr. Cunningham.

It's likely the debate between bottled water and tap water will intensify. While bans and restrictions on sales may be a step in the right direction, Dr. Gagnon, Dr. Wright and Dr. Cunningham believe they aren't likely to stop people from choosing bottled water. They hope people will seek information to make the best choice, for the environment and their wallet.

"Quality and economics tell you that in municipalities with water treatment, tap water is the better choice," says Dr. Gagnon.



ooooommmggggggg!*

*Survival of the Meanest
BY MARILYN SMULDERS

They use meanness as a way of negotiating their place in the hierarchy.

Whoever said “girls are sugar and spice and everything nice” has obviously never seen the movie *Mean Girls*.

In the 2004 movie, Lindsay Lohan plays a home-schooled kid raised in the African bush by zoologist parents who enters public high school for the first time. “Survival of the fittest” takes on a whole new meaning as she tries to find her place among the preps, jocks, nerds, desperate wannabes, burnouts, band geeks, and the meanest species of all – the “Plastics,” the most popular, prettiest, most fashionable girls at school.

There’s something to this scathing portrayal of high school which rings true for researcher Nicole Landry. While obviously satirical, its depiction of popularity, power and meanness is borne out by her research on adolescent girls and how they negotiate playground politics. Her findings, based on her master’s thesis, have just been published in the book, *The Mean Girl Motive: Negotiating Power and Femininity* (Halifax: Fernwood Publishing).

“Girls are not brought up to be assertive. They’re raised to be nice and pretty and have lots of friends,” says Ms. Landry, a research coordinator with the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology in the Faculty of Medicine. “But they themselves recognize meanness as an integral part, even a normal part, of their growing up.”

As an undergraduate at Saint Mary’s University searching for a topic for her honour’s thesis, it struck her that girls were excluded from research on childhood aggression, presumably because aggression was thought to be almost exclusively a male phenomenon.

In a society where being rough and tumble is regarded as an important part of being a boy, it is different for girls, who are not taught to express aggression. Instead, hostility and anger are conveyed passively through meanness. As shown in movies, from *Mean Girls* to *Bratz: The Movie* and Disney’s *Camp Rock*, girls tend to bully by gossiping, backstabbing and excluding others from activities.

“Kids are like little adults, but they don’t have the things that we have to give them status and power: a good job, a nice house, wealth. They use meanness as a way of negotiating their place in the hierarchy,” she says.

“It’s what girls do to get by. They need to dress the part and look the part and gather their army of friends around them. Their capital is their friends, their hair, their name-brand clothing – that’s power for them.”

In conducting her research, Ms. Landry met with 24 tween girls, ages eight to 11, split into four focus groups. The majority of the girls, all members of a nonprofit youth organization, came from predominantly working-class families. The majority were white, while one-quarter of the girls were black or mixed race.

Through meetings held over several weeks, Ms. Landry initiated discussion by showing movie clips and pictures and asking questions. Each of the girls was also asked to record her thoughts and feelings in a “reflection journal.”

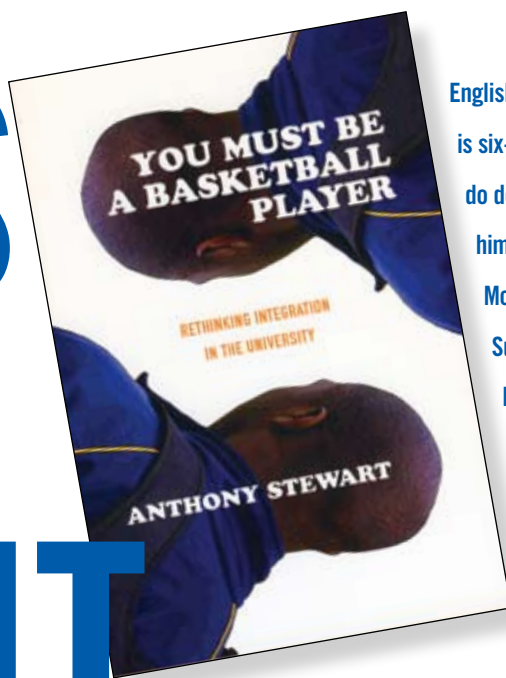
According to the girls, popularity is affected by class and race; popularity, which is equated with power, is awarded to rich, white girls who can afford the coveted labels but also to white girls from less-well-off families as long as they are pretty.

But one thing the participants stressed about popular girls is that they are always mean; that’s how they maintain their place at the top. At the same time, these popular girls are inundated with rules, about how they must look, behave and who they can associate with. According to the girls Ms. Landry talked to, some of rules for popular girls include: “Always sass everyone,” “Get boys to like you,” and “Whenever you have a chance to make fun of someone else, do it.”

“It was an amazing experience. I had forgotten what it was like to be nine, 10, 11 years old and it all came rushing back,” says Ms. Landry, 27, who grew up near Pictou. “It’s such a frustrating, confusing time for them when they’re really developing their identities. And on top of that, they’re concerned about how they look, their friends, getting a cute boyfriend ... it’s all so important.”

BY MARILYN SMULDERS

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.



English professor Anthony Stewart is six-feet-six-inches tall. Students do double-takes when they see him walking down the hall of the McCain Building to his office. Surely he must be a varsity basketball player, or why else would he be at university?

In his book, *You Must Be a Basketball Player: Rethinking Integration in the University* (Halifax:

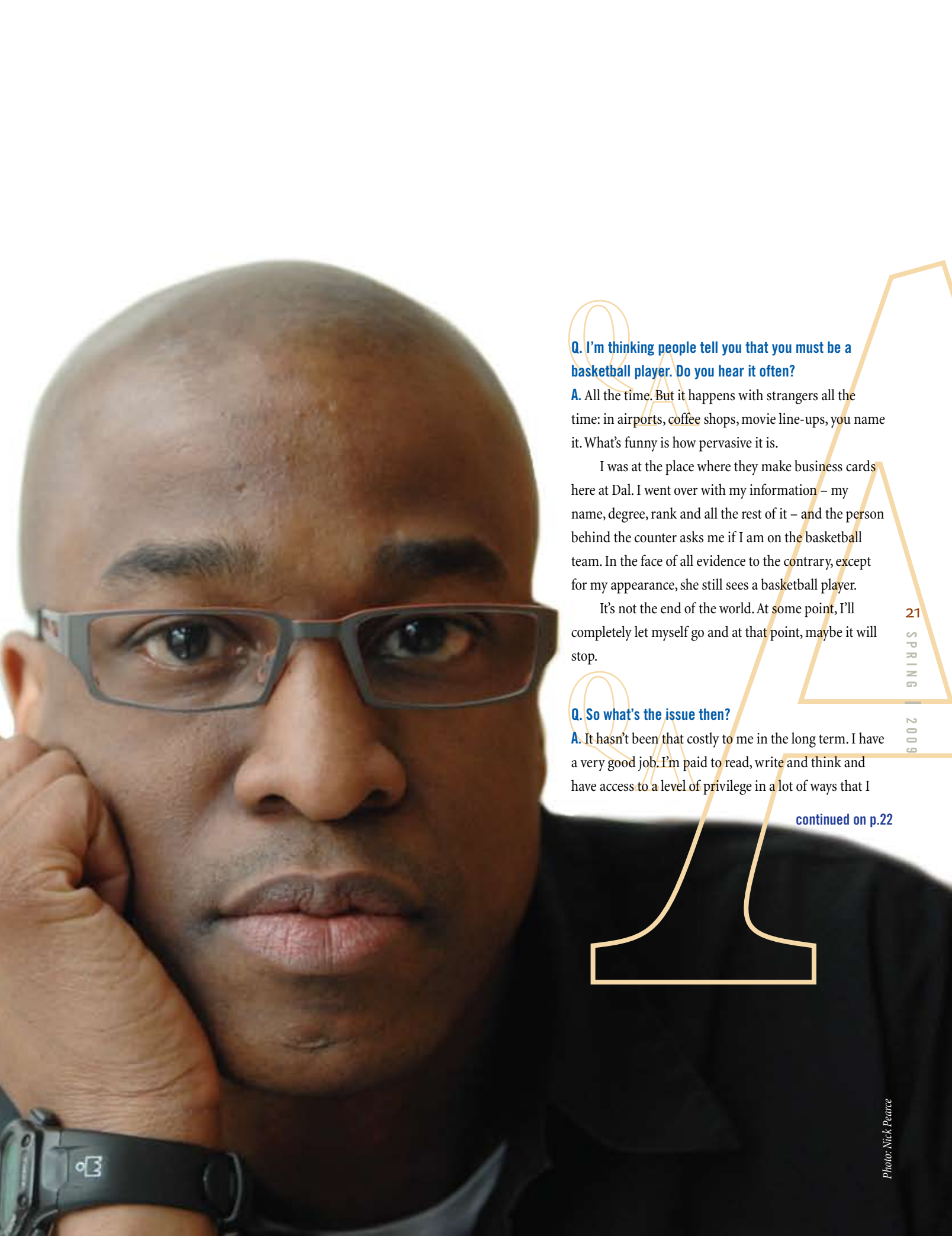
Fernwood Publishing), Dr. Stewart says it

straight out: the university environment is overwhelmingly white and must change. If more “people of colour” taught classes, did research or worked in administration in a university setting, the sight of a black man going into his office wouldn’t be so unusual.

“We must broaden the palette of faces at the front of university classrooms as wide as possible and, as a result, broaden the impression of what authority, expertise and influence look like to our students,” says the bookish, first-born son of Jamaican immigrants.

Marilyn Smulders sat down with Dr. Stewart to ask him about his book.

continued on p.21



Q. I'm thinking people tell you that you must be a basketball player. Do you hear it often?

A. All the time. But it happens with strangers all the time: in airports, coffee shops, movie line-ups, you name it. What's funny is how pervasive it is.

I was at the place where they make business cards here at Dal. I went over with my information – my name, degree, rank and all the rest of it – and the person behind the counter asks me if I am on the basketball team. In the face of all evidence to the contrary, except for my appearance, she still sees a basketball player.

It's not the end of the world. At some point, I'll completely let myself go and at that point, maybe it will stop.

Q. So what's the issue then?

A. It hasn't been that costly to me in the long term. I have a very good job. I'm paid to read, write and think and have access to a level of privilege in a lot of ways that I

continued on p.22

The only time people complain about preferential hiring practices as they pertain to merit is when you're talking about race.

wouldn't have expected. But what kind of effect do you think it has on an 18-year-old boy who just happens to be six-feet-six-inches tall and black? He is constantly being told by the world around him what he can be, what he should be and what he must be and, by extension, what he can't be, shouldn't be or mustn't be.

There are so few people of colour who do this job and more generally, work at the administrative and professional levels. My point is that unless we're more conscious of the implicit messages we're constantly sending to people, the professional class in Canada will continue to look the way it does now. People will continue to wring their hands and say all the right things but unless we are aware and conscious, it will continue to look the same.

Q. But if we start hiring people based on the need to diversify our faculty, what happens to the best man or best woman for the job?

A. A lot of people believe that if we start making hires in part based on diversification of our faculty, this will be an all-assault on merit. Our university will be filled with unqualified people.

But we already hire for reasons other than strict merit all the time, as a matter of course. Most Canadian universities, if not all, have a Canadians-first hiring policy – is that affirmative action or isn't it? Ninety per cent of the incoming class at Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine has to have a permanent address in the Maritimes. That leaves nine spots in a national medical school for people coming

from the rest of Canada and internationally. You tell me: Is that affirmative action or isn't it?

Twenty years ago, the issue was getting more female students into the sciences and engineering and everyone was onboard. The main reason we don't tend to talk like that in regards to race is squeamishness. It's uncomfortable.

The only time people complain about preferential hiring practices as they pertain to merit is when you're talking about race. What that says is, 'I don't mind preferential hiring practices if all it means is you're bringing in more white people. My concern is when you're going to start bringing in dark-skinned people because they're not as good as we are.' That's the implication, when you think about it, and it's disturbing.

If we did not have preferential practices in place already, the argument about merit might hold up.

Q. Tell me about your own Faculty.

A. Let me just say I'm not picking on this university – it just happens to be the university I work in. In the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at this university, the full-time complement, the tenure-track group, adds up to about 130 people. If you were to guess how many people of colour there are, what would your number be?

The number is five. Out of 130.

Five people of colour in the entire full-time complement; they're all black, and all men. And there's a whole other aspect to this, which has to do with the double marginalization of women of colour.

continued on p.23

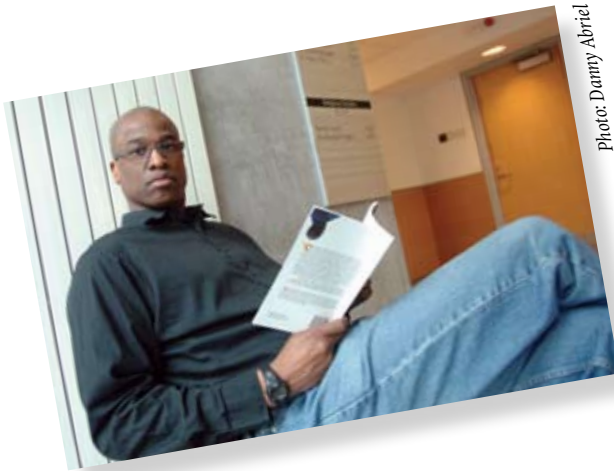


Photo: Danny Abriel

To strip it down, these things happen, in part, because people don't talk about them. We don't get any practice thinking about what might be done differently. That's the issue. What my book does, I hope, is offer a vocabulary for thinking about these issues constructively. Now it's time to start walking the walk.

Universities, like other institutions, are majoritarian – they will reflect in their practices and policies, the interests of the majority; that is, unless and until this is drawn to the attention of the individuals who work there so that something might change. At some point it does start to look unethical.

An epigraph from Edward Said reads: 'Never solidarity before criticism.' What that means is that it's disingenuous and cowardly that everything else is available for your criticism except the place you work. The purpose is not to say the academy is a terrible place. It's not. The fact that I can write a book like this as an academic working in a university bears that out. I can't really think what else I'd prefer to do.

Q. Where do you see hope?

A. Changing the way the academy looks will provide young Canadians of colour with a more varied experience of what expertise looks like, what they can aspire to. But not to be missed in all of this are the tangible benefits

to our white students. Why don't we see that our white students will also benefit? These kids are being trained as the elite; most of them will end up working in the professional class. In other words, they're going to be in positions to make hiring and admissions decisions.

On Wednesday, November 5th, I read something to my students that Ralph Ellison wrote 50 years ago, in 1958, on the prospect of a black American president. I choked up and had to stop and restart reading this passage three times before I got through it.

Now, if Obama's election means that much to me, a black Canadian who didn't grow up in poverty and has a great job, what do you suppose the effect has been on poor black kids living across the States, their parents and grandparents? Their grandparents will remember that just registering for the vote could get you killed.

I used to say quite confidently to my students that if I lived to be 150, I'd never see a black president. I guess I have to stop saying that. There is a level of possibility now in terms of what I can imagine that was not in place before Obama's election. It changes how we see.

What I hope to see 20 years from now is the expression to describe a generation of black Americans, Obama's children or the Obama generation.

Even if only a few of the kids who now regard athletics or entertainment as their only option, can now imagine themselves to be prospective presidents, they'll start to accumulate skills that will be useful to them in any number of ways – in a way that having a good jump shot or being able to hit a curveball won't.



BY RYAN MCNUTT

THE SPICE OF LIFE

In a global food system, food not only travels enormous distances, but it encounters a wide variety of regulatory regimes, political decisions and cultural meanings.

“If we are what we eat, what is it that we’re eating?”

Normally when someone asks that question, they’re thinking in medical terms: Am I eating healthy enough? Are there harmful chemicals or pesticides in my diet? But when anthropologist Elizabeth Fitting poses the question, she’s trying to provoke a broader discussion about how our food is produced and what its path from producer to product says about our values as a society.

“Food is a good window to look at cultural, social, political and economic systems,” she explains. “In a global food system, food not only travels enormous distances, but it encounters a wide variety of regulatory regimes, political decisions and cultural meanings. There’s a lot we can learn from that.”

The days in when we could draw a straight line from the farm to the family table are long gone, replaced by a system of mass production that interlinks companies and consumers around the world. And while we are inundated with health information about much of what we eat, its origin is often more mysterious. That’s why people are increasingly asking tough questions about where their food comes from, and why terms like “local source” and “fair trade” are becoming common chatter at the supermarket.

In Dr. Fitting’s case, questions about agriculture and community have taken her from the farmlands of Mexico to the Dalhousie classroom. She’s currently working on a manuscript exploring how the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has affected peasant farming in Mesoamerica. NAFTA has led to a dramatic increase of U.S. corn flooding the market in Mexico, not only making it difficult for small-scale producers to sell their maize, but in some cases unintentionally introducing genetically modified corn to areas where it is prohibited. Reacting against this, a political movement of scientists, academics and farmers’ organizations has emerged, operating under the banner “Sin maiz, no hay país” (Without corn, there is no country).

That connection between food and national identity is one of the many ideas that Dr. Fitting will be exploring in her new course, “Food and Eating Across Cultures,” starting this fall.

“The idea is to really get students to think about the food they eat, the journey it takes and who participates in that journey, from peasant farmers through to multinational corporations,” she explains. “Take corn as an example. What does it mean to a Mexican peasant versus a middle-class professional in Mexico City? What does it mean to a Canadian farmer? What does it mean to you?”

continued on p.26



The idea is to really get students to think about the food they eat, the journey it takes and who participates in that journey, from peasant farmers through to multinational corporations.

Nathan Pelletier has seen first-hand what food means to people. The PhD student in “ecological economics” set off a cyberstorm earlier this year when speaking at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Chicago. With a headline referring to hamburgers as “the Hummers of food,” news stories about his research into the environmental impacts of meat production led to harshly polarizing reactions on blogs and message boards across the Internet.

A reporter came up with that provocative title; Mr. Pelletier prefers to describe his findings in less-sensationalist terms. Still, he concedes that there’s quite a bit of truth to the sentiment.

“Beef is a cultural icon in so many ways, and it wasn’t until I engaged the beef question that people really got riled up about my research,” he explains. “But I think most people would be shocked at the role that livestock plays in environmental degradation on a global scale. It seems counter-intuitive to a lot of people that food systems are such a key driver of environmental change.”

The numbers speak for themselves. On an equal weight basis, beef produces 10 to 20 times more greenhouse gases than chicken or salmon. It accounts for only 30 per cent of meat consumption but a staggering 78 per cent of emissions (not including land-use changes). And a household that chooses not to eat red meat or consume dairy products for a year saves the same amount of carbon emissions as if they cut 13,000 kilometres out of their driving.

“Chris Weber [engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University] raises the point that we don’t really make day-to-day decisions about a lot of things that affect our environment, such as what we drive, where we live or where our electricity comes from,” says Mr. Pelletier. “But our food consumption is affected by conscious choices that we make all the time. It’s not that we have to give up entirely on these products. We just have to be more cognisant of our consumption habits, recognizing that

eating better will not only improve our personal health but the health of our environment.”

Just as North Americans feel a strong connection with beef – and Mexican farmers with corn – peoples around the world are using food as a way to express and define their identity. Amal Ghazal of the Department of History examines the global and historical dimensions of this in her course, “Food for Thought: History and Culinary Cultures of the Islamic World.”

“When my students and I explored the role that community dinners play in Muslim culture, they were surprised to see how much food was shared between the different facets of society,” says Dr. Ghazal. “They started to see a more multicultural perspective.”

In the course, Dr. Ghazal and her students travel through the history of Islamic civilization with food as the guide, from the counterculture foundation of the coffee shop – originally an Ottoman invention that terrified the governing elite – to exploring why certain countries compete to claim certain foods as their own. For example, Baklava is cited as a Turkish, an Arab and a Greek creation – evidence of the shared Ottoman history of both a pastry and three peoples.

“What students learn quite quickly is that they’re not exploring a homogenous Muslim community, but one with many borrowed cultures and various traditions,” she says. “Muslim society is defined by different connections, including food. It helps us break down the stereotypes and misconceptions.”

As our disparate societies around the world continue to connect through globalization, such mixing and mingling of food cultures is only going to expand – as will the environmental, political and identity issues alongside. The dinner plate of 2109 will likely be unrecognizable to us, just as today’s meals would seem foreign and strange to earlier generations. We are what we eat, after all – and “what’s for dinner?” is always up for debate.

GROUP HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE

for members of the Dalhousie University Alumni Association



PROTECTION MADE EASY... GROUP RATES MADE EASIER!

As an alumnus of **Dalhousie University**, you can **SAVE** on your home and auto insurance through **preferred group rates**, while enjoying **high-quality insurance products** and **outstanding service**.

As the leading provider of group home and auto insurance, we offer a wide range of innovative products, so you are sure to get the coverage that is right for your particular needs...and the peace of mind that goes with it!

Insurance program recommended by



Request a quote and you could



**ENJOY SAVINGS THROUGH
PREFERRED GROUP RATES**

MelocheMonnex.com/dal

1 866 352 6187

(Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)



Insurance

Meloche Monnex

The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY and distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc. in Québec and by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in the rest of Canada.

Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

***No purchase required.** Contest ends on January 16, 2010. Skill-testing question required. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Complete contest rules available at MelocheMonnex.com.

Meloche Monnex® is a trade-mark of Meloche Monnex Inc.

TD Insurance is a trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank, used under license.

Alumni Association Year in Review



As Alumni Association President Level Chan's term comes to an end, he reflects on the past year and looks forward to the future for Dal's alumni community.

28

DALHOUSIE MAGAZINE

As I look back on the 2008/2009 year and the many accomplishments and successes of Dal's students and faculty, our outstanding alumni and the work of the Dalhousie Alumni Association (DAA) Board of Directors, I can't help but feel great pride and anticipation for the future.

Outstanding alumni

We celebrated the winners of the 2008 Alumni Association Awards and heard a riveting presentation from **Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard, CM (MSW'77)** at the sold-out 2008 Annual Dinner.

Now we're preparing to showcase more of the extraordinary work being done on campus and to celebrate our most recent award winners at the 2009 Annual Dinner. Congratulations to our 2009 DAA award winners: **Rose Cousins (BScK'99)**, **David Precious (DDS'69, MSC'72)**, **Nuala Kenny (MD'72)**, and **Tracy Taylor-Helmick (MSC'94, PhD'98)**, Professor, Department of Psychology.

If you plan to be in Halifax in October, I encourage you to join us on October 8, 2009. The Annual Dinner is an evening you won't want to miss!

Remembering a friend

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of DAA board member **Chris Coulter (MBA'93)** in November. Chris was a dedicated volunteer with a bright personality and a true zest for life. To honour Chris and ensure his memory and dedication to Dal live on in perpetuity, the board renamed the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award to the Christopher J. Coulter Award.

Focused on the future

The DAA board has continued to represent the alumni voice on and off campus. We were pleased to have a say in the ongoing campus planning process – and put in a plug for an alumni space on campus – and worked with the university to host student recruitment events across the country.

Over the past few months, the board has conducted a strategic review, focusing on what we can do better to engage our alumni in the future. I believe we're headed in the right direction and look forward to seeing the board take our goals and plans forward as I hand over the reins to **Nancy Barkhouse (BA'72)** in June. Stay tuned!

Finally, I would like to thank all of our alumni and friends who have shown their support for Dal over the past years – whether you volunteered, hosted or attended alumni and recruitment events, cheered on our varsity athletes, or contributed financially. It has been a pleasure serving as your Alumni Association President.

Level Chan (BA'99, LLB'02)

continued on p.29



Where we've been

Dalhousie alumni and friends reconnected and reminisced throughout the winter and spring at events in **New York, Florida, California, the Bahamas, Bermuda, New Brunswick, Edmonton and Calgary.**

Photos, from top:
Sarasota Alumni Luncheon



Fredericton, Moncton

The Dalhousie Alumni Association and the Faculty of Medicine partnered at alumni events in Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John to profile Dal's new Medical Education Program in New Brunswick, scheduled to launch in 2010.



Bermuda Alumni Dinner

Host **Tom Davis** (BCom'69) and President Tom Traves pose with Dalhousie's newest Honorary Alumna the Hon. Paula A. Cox, Bermuda's Deputy Premier.



Calgary Lobster Dinner

View more pictures online at www.dal.ca/alumni/events/photos.



Basketball reunion

During the 2009 AUS Women's Basketball Championships, a reunion was held for players, coaches, and support folks. More than 60 basketball alumni from the '50s to 2000s attended. Organizer **Judi Rice** (BPE'75) would like to thank **Karen Moore** (BCom'82), Krista Hynes and the Athletics staff for their assistance in making this a memorable weekend.

Five members of the CIS 1980 Silver Medal winning team – **Patti (Langille) Hutchison**, **Andrea Rushton** (BPE'80), **Carol Rosenthal** (BPE'80), **Jill (Tasker) Ross** (BScPT'81), **Anne Murray** (BPE'80)

Join us!

Halifax Movie Night mid-July

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Dalhousie Annual Dinner

October 8, Halifax

Dalhousie Alumni Reunions

October 8-9, Halifax

Dalhousie Law School Reunion Weekend

October 2-4, Halifax

Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine Annual Dinner

September 24, Halifax

Do we have your email address?

For many events, we send electronic invitations, and we don't want you to miss out! To update your information, visit www.dal.ca/alumni/update or email alumni.records@dal.ca.

And watch for fall events in **Montreal, Boston, Toronto and Ottawa!**

For complete event details and updates, visit www.dal.ca/alumni/events.

1960s

1966

Robert Roberts, MD, president and CEO of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, was honoured by the Royal Society of Canada for his outstanding achievements and pioneering work in cardiovascular science. He was awarded the prestigious McLaughlin Medal, widely recognized as one of Canada's most significant tributes for research excellence. An internationally renowned scientist, physician and educator, Dr. Roberts' landmark research in molecular cardiology has opened new frontiers in cardiovascular medicine focused on causes and more personalized treatments of inherited heart diseases.

1970s

1971

Kenneth (John) Pickford, BA, is the chair of the Canadian Navy's 100th anniversary celebration. While the official centenary is in 2010, there are related activities taking place across the country, beginning in June.

1972

Robert Moore, BSc, has retired from Brown University. He and his spouse, together with standard poodles Tommy and Belle, live in Warren, Rhode Island. Bob is very involved with the measurement of macular pigment in the human eye and with restoring their old house

near Narragansett Bay. Friends can find him at Robert_Moore@brown.edu

Louis F. O' Brien, BEng (NSTC), is senior vice-president of Canada Post Corporation, and president of the \$1.3-billion parcels division. In addition, he is chairman of the board of SCI Logistics and was director of Purolator Courier (2005 - 2008). He joined Canada Post in 1992. A professional engineer with an MBA from Queen's University, Louis is also the immediate past national chairman of Financial Executives International Canada. He has been married for 28 wonderful years to Sharon and they have two children - Heather and Cameron. Louis and Sharon live in the Orleans section of Ottawa.

1978

Tom Laughlin, MD, PGM'79, received the 2008 Family Physician of the Year award for New Brunswick from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Past president Dr. Ruth Wilson presented the award at a ceremony held in Toronto.

1979

Robert (Rob) Belliveau, BEng (NSTC), has been appointed general manager of Brunswick Pipeline. Rob began his career in the energy sector and brings more than 25 years of experience in process operations and controls, management, and customer service. A resident of Quispamis, N.B., Rob is a sports and fitness enthusiast. He coaches minor hockey and baseball and is a member of the board of the Kennebecasis Valley Minor Hockey Association.

Dean Michelin, BSc, is now vice-president of commercial operations at Valeo Pharma, based in Kirkland, Que. After holding positions at eight different pharmaceutical firms and two advertising agencies at different geographic points across Canada, Dean is looking to stay in one place and improve his command of French. His goal is to make Valeo Pharma a significant presence in the pharmaceutical landscape, while enjoying the bicultural nature of the industry in Quebec.

1980s

1980

Paula Curtis, BRec, has been appointed president and CEO of Opportunity International Canada. She brings to her position more than 20 years of senior management experience in philanthropy, organizational development and Christian leadership through her tenure at The Navigators of Canada; Ryerson University Office of Advancement; William Osler Health Centre Foundation; Canadian Whale Institute; and The Terry Fox Foundation. Opportunity International is a non-profit microfinance organization dedicated to helping the working poor in 27 developing countries.

1981

Brian MacDougall, BCom, MHSA'90 and **Andrea (Danyluk) MacDougall**, BN'83, are now living in Cairo, Egypt where their son, Andrew is completing his senior year of high school at the Cairo American College. Brian is working at the American University as vice-president of planning and administration and Andrea is enjoying the life of an expat spouse and volunteer. Daughter Allison MacDougall, BA'08 (Kings), is completing her education degree at Memorial University and son Ian is working with CIBC in Halifax.

1984

Maurice Chiasson, BA, LLB/MBA'88, has been appointed Queen's Counsel, designating Maurice as one of "Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law" and recognizing him as a leader in the legal community. It is based on criteria which include: professional integrity, outstanding contributions to the practice of law, demonstration of exceptional qualities of leadership in the profession, and engaging in activities of a public or charitable nature in such a way as to raise the esteem in which the legal

continued on p.31

REUNION 2009 OCTOBER 8 & 9

Meet old friends and see what's new at Dalhousie. A special invitation for the Classes of 1969, 1964, 1959, 1954, 1949, 1944 and earlier. Join us in Halifax on October 8 & 9!

For information on reunion events, email alumni@dal.ca or call 902.494.6051, toll free 1.800.565.9969



profession is held by the public. Maurice is based in Stewart McKelvey's Halifax office. His practice is concentrated in bank financing, restructuring and insolvency, and commodity tax.

Jean Whalen, LLB, is Nova Scotia's newest judge. She was appointed to the bench January 16 by Attorney General and Justice Minister Cecil Clarke. Most recently, she had been instructor and senior Crown attorney in Dartmouth. Jean is also one of the founding members of the Black Lawyers Association of Nova Scotia. She has been vice-chair of the Race Relations Committee of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and a member of the Sexual Harassment Committee at the Nova Scotia Community College.

1985

Michael Solway, BCom, and Danielle Conway have adopted Henry Conway Solway, December

5, 2008 from Volgograd, Russia. Henry was born October 19, 2007. Everyone is doing great and Henry is loving his new home in Toronto.

1987

Cindy Campbell, BN, and **Scott Pryde**, BCom'84, have relocated to New Mexico after an amazing and adventurous four years in Alaska. Cindy is looking forward to providing psychiatric health care to those who need it most. The couple is anxious to explore all the mysteries of the "land of enchantment." Classmates can contact them at cdcarnp@yahoo.com

1989

Shawn Hiltz, BCom, has been promoted to director of marketing, Asia, for the Consumer Media Group of Dow Jones Publishing Company, which includes their flagship title, *The Wall Street Journal Asia*. Shawn relocated to Hong

Kong in 2005 following six years with the Walt Disney Company, which included posts in Orlando, Florida and Paris, France.

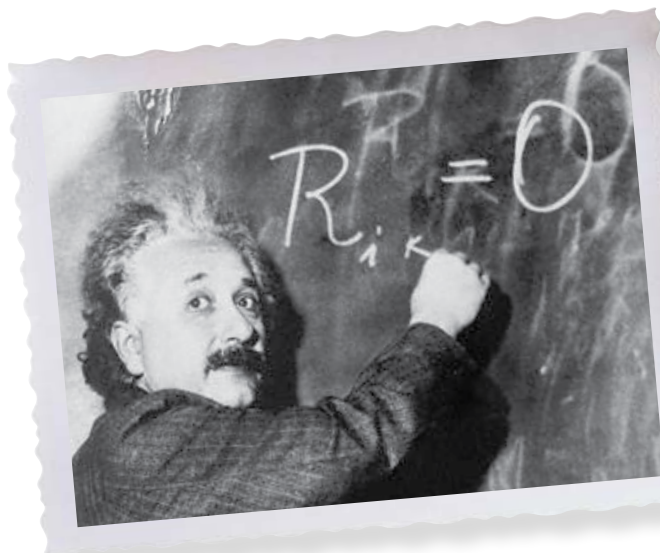
1990s

1990

Tory Thorkelson, BA, is included in the 2009 edition of Marquis *Who's Who in the World* (26th edition) and has also accepted an invitation to join the CamTESOL (Cambodia) editorial board for a two- to three-year term. He is Assistant Professor, English Language and Literature Department with Hanyang University, Seoul.

Peter Giles, BSc, was named one of 16 candidates for a pair of openings with the Canadian Space Agency. Peter, who along with his brother **Steve Giles** (BSc'97, BEng'02,

continued on p.32



Einstein's theory of relativity has nothing to do with leaving your entire estate to relatives.

Bequests to Dal make sense, in theory and reality.

Legacy gifts speak to your experience at Dalhousie and all it has meant to you – an education and a lifetime of memories. Your gift could support a bursary fund, or strengthen the program within one of your preferred faculties, like the Dalhousie Science Student Experience Fund. Giving back to Dal through a bequest, large or small, helps to ensure lifelong success for the generations that follow.



For information, call: 1.800.565.9969
email: wendy.mcguinness@dal.ca or ann.vessey@dal.ca



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Inspiring Minds

LLD'05) was part of Canada's canoe-kayak team at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, emerged from a field of more than 5,300 applicants. In addition to his physics degree, Peter holds master and doctoral degrees from Stanford University. He works for General Dynamics in Dartmouth as a systems engineer.

Susan Atkinson, MD, PGM'92, received the 2008 Family Physician of the Year award for Nova Scotia from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Past president Dr. Ruth Wilson presented the award at a ceremony held in Toronto.

1991
James Chipman, LLB, has been appointed Queen's Counsel. This appointment designates James as one of "Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law" and recognizes him as a


leader in the legal community. It is based on criteria which include professional integrity, outstanding contributions to the practice of law, demonstration of exceptional qualities of leadership in the profession, and engaging in activities of a public or charitable nature in such a way as to raise the esteem in which the legal profession is held by the public. Jamie is based in Stewart McKelvey's Halifax office. His practice focuses on litigation, with an emphasis on insurance, products liability and medical defense.

1992
Patty (Frenette) Walsh, BScPT, has just graduated from a coursework Masters of Physiotherapy in the field of paediatrics from the University of Queensland. She is currently living in Newcastle NSW Australia and is looking

forward to connecting with classmates at patty_steele@hotmail.com

1993
Joan Glode, MSW, is the recipient of this year's National Aboriginal Award for Public Service. As founding president of the Micmac Native Friendship Centre and founding director of Mik'maw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia, Joan gives credit for her award to the team of social workers and staff members who work in offices and shelters in Indian Brook, Millbrook, Eskasoni and Waycobah. Considered a pioneer in her own right, Joan was the first native person in the Atlantic region to earn a master's degree in social work from the Maritime School of Social Work. She and 13 others were honoured at a gala event in Winnipeg in March.

continued on p.34



The Dalhousie Annual Dinner

Hitting the high notes in
Teaching. Research. Learning.

Thursday, October 8, 2009
6:00 for 7:00pm • Cunard Centre Halifax NS

Join fellow Dalhousie alumni and friends as **Dr. Jacqueline Warwick**, musicologist and Assistant Professor, Department of Music, gets our toes tapping and gets us thinking about how music impacts society. The Dalhousie Alumni Association will also recognize the outstanding community contributions of the 2009 award winners.

Tickets: \$85 or \$850 for a table of 10

To reserve tickets or tables, contact Dalhousie External Relations:
902.494.2805 or 1.800.565.9969

To order online: www.dal.ca/alumni
Please order tickets by September 24, 2009



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**
Inspiring Minds

Spotlight

FROM COAST, TO COAST ...TO COAST

It's April 12, 2009. The sun, always shining at this time of year, sits low in the North Pole sky. Dave Shannon (LLB'90) is exhilarated. After months of planning, he says to Christopher Watkins, a fellow lawyer from Thunder Bay, Ont., "Wow! Are we really here?"

"Here" is the North Pole where Dave, a 45-year-old paraplegic, has proved anyone with a disability can achieve if the heart and mind are willing.

Dave grew up in Dartmouth, N.S. and graduated from Prince Andrew High School. While attending Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ont., Dave broke his neck when trying out for the rugby team. At 18, he became

**I'm hoping we contributed
to awareness. We showed
that anyone can do this,
that there is no barrier
so significant that it
cannot be overcome.**

a quadriplegic. Undeterred, he completed his arts degree. Homesick for Nova Scotia, Dave earned his law degree at Dal and then received an LL.M. from the London School of Economics, specializing in disability law.

In 1997, at age 34, he wheeled 9,000 km across Canada in 197 days – from Cape Spear, N.L., to Victoria, B.C. – to raise awareness for people with physical challenges. "I went coast to coast and last year started planning to go to Canada's third coast – the Arctic."

He and Chris went through North America, Europe and an island north of Lapland to reach their goal. They were taken to the ice cap by a Russian military cargo plane, then helicoptered about 10 km from the North Pole.

Dave's manual wheelchair (he usually uses

a power chair) was strapped to a sledge. He self-propelled himself with adapted walking sticks as Chris, with a significant form of arthritis, pulled the sledge on a tether.

"It was intensely cold, maybe -50°C," says Dave. "It took us a couple of hours by sledge to get to the pole which we found by independent verification through a GPS." Dave, who operates a law practice in Thunder Bay, says they saw a broad expanse of white in the low sun, "almost like another planet." The pair planted a recycled paper biodegradable copy of the "disabled

parking sign" on the ice and sealed it with water.

"I'm hoping we contributed to awareness," says Dave. "We showed that anyone can do this, that there is no barrier so significant that it cannot be overcome."

They also raised money to fund a bursary for a disabled student working in human rights and the environment.

Dave denies he's a role model but Chris chimes in, "He's a ground breaker, definitely a role model for all people with challenges."

Joel Jacobson



Photo: Bjorn Nordahl



Grand MEETINGS

The Lord Nelson Hotel has over 12,500 sq. ft. of flexible event space and stylish private suites for smaller gatherings. We offer the warm ambiance of unique and historic architecture enhanced with state-of-the-art digital convenience. Our premium service plus ultimate downtown location across from the Public Gardens add that extra ingredient to make your next meeting or event a memorable experience.

*For information call our
Meeting Specialists 491.6140 or visit
www.lordnelsonhotel.com*



THE LORD NELSON
HOTEL & SUITES
1515 SOUTH PARK ST. HALIFAX

Anne-Marie Woods, BA, was one of the featured female artists in the Women of Oral Tradition Showcase held in Trinidad this spring as part of the 20th anniversary of Rapso Fest. An actor, dancer, singer, poet, playwright and creative consultant, Anne-Marie made her roots as an artist in Nova Scotia for many years, and is now making her mark in the arts and spoken word scene in Toronto.

1995

Kelly (Pettis) Doucet, BSc, BScOT '99, and husband Michael are delighted to announce the arrival of their handsome twin boys who were born at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's, N.L. on January 16. Aiden MacKenzie was delivered at 3:31 p.m. and weighed 5 lbs., 16 oz., while Liam Christopher was delivered at 3:32 p.m. and weighed 6 lbs., 0.5 oz.

Kathy Ann (Griffin) Losier, BSc, BSc (Pharm)'98 and **Pierre Losier, PhD'95**, are very pleased to announce the arrival on October 15, 2008 of Daniel Louis, a brother for Dominic, age five and Noah, age three. The Losier family resides in Port Mouton, N.S., where Kathy Ann is currently on maternity leave but will be returning to her position as store manager/pharmacist at Lawtons Drugs in Shelburne. Pierre works at Abitibi Bowater Paper Company.

continued on p.36

ANNUAL GIVING

Thank you for making a difference.

You and more than 7,500 of your fellow alumni and friends raised over \$3,200,000 during the 2008 Annual Fund campaign. Whether you gave through the mail, over the phone or on our website, your contributions have made a real-world difference to today's Dal students.

For information on how to make a gift to the Annual Fund, visit www.dal.ca/giving or call 1.800.565.9969



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**
Inspiring Minds

Spotlight

ALL IN THE FAMILY

After graduating from Dalhousie, each of Charles and Maria Tsouluhas' seven children made a gift of their diplomas to their parents. Today the degrees proudly hang in a room in the family home.

"I think that in many ways it signifies my parents' legacy to us," says Peter (LLB'03), the youngest, who followed his six sisters to Dalhousie. "The greatest thing that a parent can give to their child is an opportunity. What that room speaks to is the opportunity that they gave us through their hard work."

Charles and Maria journeyed separately from Greece to Halifax's Pier 21, seeking a better life. They met and married in the city. Charles co-owned two restaurants – one of which, The Armview Restaurant, Peter owns today with two friends. Maria ran a grocery store/lunch counter.

"I always believed education was something special, something important," Charles says. "I always tried to give to my children something I could not have, for various reasons, like education. So that was our dream – to educate our children as much as we could."

Why Dalhousie? Even before he had children, Charles was set on the university. "I had some friends going there and I'd been through a lot of sections of Dalhousie, like the libraries. And it has a good name in Greece."

Dina (BSc'88), Litsa (BA'89), Penny (BSc'89) and Sophia (BA'93) went on to become teachers, Georgia (BSc'93) a midwife, and Anna (BSc'93) a pharmaceuticals marketing manager. Dina is also co-owner of Moksha Yoga studios in Halifax and Montreal. Peter is a practising lawyer in Halifax.

While Charles and Maria provided financial support and encouragement, they give much credit to their children. "They really worked hard themselves, too," Maria says. "The priority for them was school. We were lucky that way."

Marie Weeren

I always believed education was something special, something important. So that was our dream – to educate our children as much as we could.





COME BACK TO CAMPUS FOR FITNESS!

Dalhousie Alumni pay just \$35.08 a month...or for \$54.34 monthly you can bring the whole family!
Based on annual membership purchase, plus applicable tax.

SAME MEMBERSHIP. BETTER PRICE
IT PAYS TO BE AN ALUMNUS!

Check us out online for special promotions and to view the Dal Athletic Shop's new line of Tiger Gear (online order form available).

DALPLEX

CONTACT DALPLEX FOR DETAILS • 494-3372 • WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA

in Liverpool. They welcome friends to contact them at bigblue@ns.sympatico.ca

1998

Vanessa (Zacny) Poulton, BA, and her husband James welcomed the arrival of their second daughter, Tia Berrie, on February 6, 2009. Tessa is thrilled to be a big sister! Tia is also loved and admired by her uncle and godfather, **Jordan Zacny**, BSc'02, MSc (Epid.)'06, MD'08 and aunt **Alia Mukhida**, BSc(Hons)'03, MD'08.

Timothy R. Lindsay, BSc(K), received his master's degree in Kinesiology in 2006 from the University of Victoria, B.C. He is currently working on a doctorate program at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

1999

Terezia (Wolinska) Matus, MLIS, is currently employed as head librarian at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In addition to these responsibilities, she is coordinating G-10, a group of International Library Managers of Washington, D.C. area.

continued on p.37

For your next conference or special event, choose Dalhousie University.

Whether it's a meeting of five or a conference for more than 1,000, we can help you set the stage for an outstanding event. Dalhousie provides an extensive range of meeting space options for formal and informal events – from small boardrooms to large auditoriums. Full catering and audio visual services are available.



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

CONFERENCE SERVICES
& SUMMER HOUSING

Tel: 902-494-3401 | Fax: 902-494-1219 | Email: conference.services@dal.ca

www.dal.ca/conferenceservices

2000s

2000

James B. Wood, PhD, was appointed in January to the position of director of education at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, Calif. James continues to be interested in cephalopods (octopuses, cuttlefish and squid) and was recently featured in the Discovery Channel special, "Squid Invasion."

2001

Atul Devani, BSc, has finished his MD and is currently living in the United States where he and his wife, Vijia, are doing their residency in family medicine at Memorial Health in Savannah, Ga. He and Vijia married in September 2006.

2002

Jennifer Crouse, BCom, has been curling competitively for 16 years. Her big news is that her curling team won the provincial Scotties tournament in Bridgewater, N.S. in February. Jen and the team represented Nova Scotia at the nationally televised Scotties Tournament of Hearts on February 19 in Victoria, B.C. While the team didn't do as well as they hoped, finishing with a record of two and nine, they learned tons about competing at the national level and look forward to landing in the top four next time out. Other Dal grads on the team include coach **Carole Ann MacLean**, BSc'81, DDH '86, and **Sheena Gilman**, MArch'04.

2003

Roseann Kerr, BSc, is working for Horizon Arts Camp in Toronto. The camp provides co-ed summer programs to youth ages seven to 15, who come from under-served families in the Greater Toronto Area. For more information, contact rosie@horizonartscamp.org or visit www.horizonartscamp.org

2004

Jacquelyn Corbett Cyr, BSc, has been promoted to the position of CEO of Espresso, a Toronto-based marketing agency. The appointment makes Jacquelyn, 31, one of the country's youngest agency CEOs. She joined Espresso (then named RetailCom) in 2004 as an account director and quickly rose through the ranks. In 2008, she was promoted to chief operating officer and guided the agency through a major re-launch that included re-branding the company as Espresso.

2005

Michael DiSanto, PhD, has written a new book entitled *Under Conrad's Eyes: the Novel as Criticism* to be published by McGill-Queen's University Press. The book makes a new critical argument about Polish-born Joseph Conrad's work and has drawn some high praise in early reviews. Reviewer Pericles Lewis of Yale University states that, "DiSanto has a great enthusiasm for Conrad and for ideas. This is a compelling and original work that makes a significant contribution to Conrad studies and to

intellectual and literary history of the nineteenth century."

2007

Philip Bassil, MBA, and Brigitte are thrilled to announce the birth of their baby boy, Samuel Philip, who weighed in at 8 lbs. 3 oz. Mom, baby and big sister Milan are all doing great and Philip is ecstatic, of course.

Valuable Education Valued Degree



Learn with global leaders. Ron O'Dor, chief investigator, Ocean Tracking Network; Francois Baylis, CRC in Bioethics and Philosophy; and Tom Duck, part of NASA's Phoenix mission to Mars.

Discover more than 130 graduate programs including interdisciplinary degrees in oceans, health, environment, management and health informatics.

Experience a dynamic environment enriched by \$100 million in funded research annually.

Prestigious graduate education in Canada's leading east coast city.



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Inspiring Minds

Graduate Studies

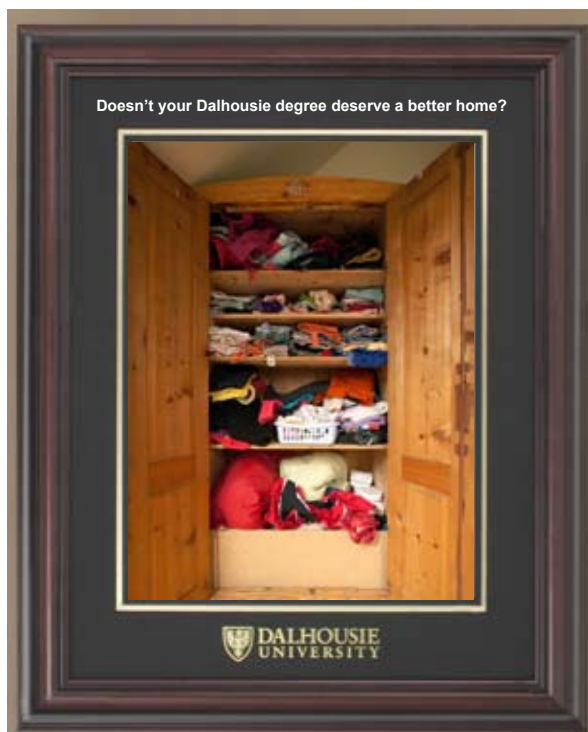
www.dalgrad.dal.ca

Howard Heartz Williamson, DEng'33, BSc'34, Dartmouth, N.S., on December 17, 2008
Lucille Dunstone (Dumaresq) Barrow, BA'35, Ottawa, Ont., on January 8, 2009
Reginald Dickey Evans, BCom'35, MA'36, Halifax, N.S., on December 15, 2008
Edith Elvin (Cox) Upham, BA'36, Peterborough, Ont., on December 6, 2008
James McLeod Hendry, BA'39, LLB'47, Kanata, Ont., on January 29, 2009
Lewis Fraser Millett, BEng'39 (NSTC), Windsor, N.S., on January 31, 2009
Charles Austin Reilly, BSc'39, MSc'40, Sun City, Fla, U.S.A., on February 15, 2009
Joan (Furlong) Paddon, BA'40, North Gower, Ont., on December 24, 2008
David Graham McCurdy, MD'41, Halifax, N.S., on December 29, 2008
Marjorie Beatrice (Parkes) Evans, BA'42, Halifax, N.S., on December 31, 2008
Graham Lens Miller, BEng'43 (NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on March 11, 2009
Louis Edmund Lawton, MD'43, St. John's, N.L., on April 1, 2009
Rose Ellen (Sullivan) Macneill, LCMUS'44, BM'46, Sydney, N.S., on February 5, 2009

John Sponagle Dodge, BCom'48, Dartmouth, N.S., on March 25, 2009
John Edgar Peters, BEng'43 (NSTC), Dartmouth, N.S., on March 24, 2009
Reginald Duncan Humphreys, DEng'48, BEng'50 (NSTC), Edmonton, Alta., on March 13, 2009
Jessen Dewolfe Wentzell, BCom'49, LLB'51, Ottawa, Ont., on February 1, 2009
Thomas Renfrew McKim, BSc'49, Woodmans Point, N.B., on March 4, 2009
Herbert Wesley Dodge, DEng'49, BEng'51 (NSTC), Bathurst, N.B., on January 2, 2009
Pleman Lloyd Soper, LLB'49, St. John's, N.L., on March 6, 2009
Douglas Willard Keating, MD'49, Halifax, N.S., on January 5, 2009
Eric Gibson Bauld, BA'51, BED'66, Victoria, Australia, on December 16, 2008
Eric Reginald Skanes, BEng'51 (NSTC), Moncton, N.B., on December 1, 2008
Frank Bemister Hopkins, DPHRM'51, Centreville, N.S., on March 10, 2009
John Alexander Stewart, BEng'52 (NSTC), Brockville, Ont., on January 13, 2009
Allison Carmen Kelly, BSc'52, MD'56, Saint John,

N.B., on January 25, 2009
James Edwin Harris Miller, MD'52, Halifax, N.S., on January 14, 2009
James Ian Chisholm, MD'52, Halifax, N.S., on February 7, 2009
William Gibbs Strachan, BSc'53, DEng'53, BEng'55 (NSTC), St. Catharines, Ont., on November 9, 2008
Piercie Augustus Spurrell, MD'53, St. John's, N.L., on January 25, 2009
Jeanette Elaine (Lebrun) Humble, BA'55, Brantford, Ont., on January 31, 2009
Hilroy Selig Nathanson, BA'55, LLB'58, Halifax, N.S., on January 2, 2009
Byron Lewis Reid, BSc'55, MSc'57, MD'61, Fergusons Cove, N.S., on January 10, 2009
Donald (Don) Henderson Hatherly, Q.C., LLB'56, Annapolis Royal, N.S., on April 23, 2009
David Balfour Meynell, LLB'56, Toronto, Ont., on October 5, 2008
Frederick Ralph McDonald, LLB'57, Ottawa, Ont., on January 6, 2009
Ronald Charles Hurley, MD'57, Fredericton, N.B., on February 24, 2009
Wilson Rudolph Siddall, MD'57, Head of St. Margarets Bay, N.S., on March 30, 2009

continued on p.39



DEGREE FRAMES

from the Dalhousie Bookstore

- Prices range from \$61.95 - \$199.95
- Six distinctive styles
- Each frame includes a matt with the Dalhousie crest
- Canadian made with easy clip system

For more information;
Tammy Corkum- 494 5104
 Order online at www.dal.ca/bookstore

Walnut Wood \$61.95
 Black Briarwood \$88.50
 Briarwood \$88.50
 The Diplomat \$124.50

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
 BOOKSTORES

The Diplomat Medallion
 \$199.95

Visit us at one of our locations:

Studley Campus,
 6136 University Ave

Sexton Campus,
 1360 Barrington St.

In Memoriam: Innis Christie

Professor Emeritus Innis Christie (BA'58, LLB '62) QC, of Halifax, N.S., died on Feb. 9, 2009 at the age of 71.

His contributions to the legal field were many, as a respected scholar, author, arbitrator and public servant. In 2008, the University of Toronto presented him with the Bora Laskin Award for his outstanding contributions to labour law in Canada.

Prof. Christie was the Dean of the Dalhousie Law School from 1985 to 1991. He is the founding author of the text *Employment Law in Canada*. He taught, mentored and

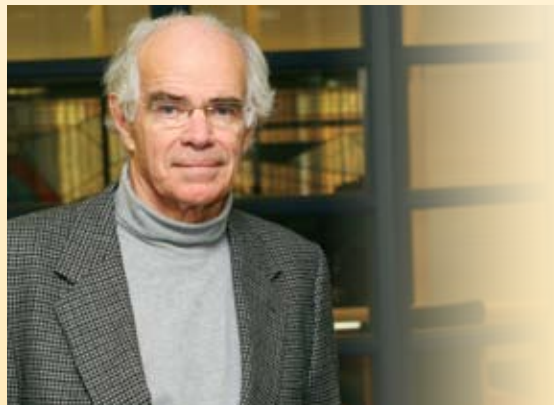


Photo: Nick Pearce

inspired generations of labour law students across the country.

A strong focus for his career began in 1965, as he became a leading labour arbitrator across a wide range of industries, in the public sector and in universities.

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society

presented him with the 2008 Distinguished Service Award. He was chosen for his impressive legal career, including his work as Deputy Minister for the Department of Labour – which culminated with a new Occupational Health and Safety Act and a new Workers' Compensation Act.

Academic labour law, public policy formation and administration, labour arbitration and adjudication, and legal education have all benefited from his deep understanding and enduring commitment.

James Gilbert Holland, BSc'58, MD'63, PGM'71, Halifax, N.S.

Malcolm Alexander MacAulay, MD'58, Moncton, N.B., on March 16, 2009

Allan Harvey Shlossberg, BSc'59, MD'64, Halifax, N.S., on December 15, 2008

Donald Morris Paull, BA'60, BEd'63, MA'68, Harrietsfield, N.S., on January 12, 2009

George Karpati, MD'60, Hampstead, Que., on February 6, 2009

Desmond Gerrard Woods, PGM'60, Halifax, N.S., on January 7, 2009

Harry Vincent Blair, BSc'64, Oakville, Ont., on November 30, 2008

Richard William Clancey, BA'65, Hubbards, N.S., on January 24, 2009

Gordon Darhl Watson, BA'68, BEd'69, Dartmouth, N.S., on February 23, 2009

Donald Gerald Melvin Ritcey, BCom'68, Truro, N.S., on December 23, 2008

Robert Joseph Kavanagh, DDS'68, Portugal Cove-St Phi, N.L., on December 20, 2008

Clifford Parker Wyman, BA'69, BEd'70, Kentville, N.S., on January 13, 2009

Isobel Marie (Fox) Havlovic, BCom'69, Halifax, N.S., on March 30, 2009

Lloyd Pulsifer Burrows, BA'70, Truro, N.S., on January 28, 2009

Virginia Louise (Stampto) Wood, BA'70, Calgary, Alta., on March 2, 2009

Blair William Green, BCom'68, LLB'70, Burlington, Ont., on September 29, 2008

Barrett Douglas Halderman, LLB'71, Saskatoon, Sask., on January 2, 2009

Ben Yomen Simon Prossin, LLB'71, North York, Ont., on February 20, 2009

Hedwig (Kraus) Norman, BA'72, BEd'73, MLIS'01, Halifax, N.S., on April 5, 2009

Matthew Joseph Ryan, LLB'72, North Sydney, N.S., on February 5, 2009

Douglas Joseph Sampson, LLB'72, Ottawa, Ont., on March 6, 2009

Helen Elizabeth Armstrong, MLS'73, Dartmouth, N.S., on January 13, 2009

Creighton Dawson Brisco, BSc'74, BEd'75, MURP'86, Halifax, N.S.

Kevin Patrick Delaney, DDS'74, Bay Roberts, N.L., on December 2, 2008

Hubert L Davis, BEng'75 (NSTC), Lethbridge, N.L., on December 5, 2008

Vincent Frederick Lambie, LLB'75, Halifax, N.S., on January 22, 2009

Richard Graham Fitzsimmons, LLB'75, North York, Ont., on March 13, 2009

Gregory Vernon Trask, MBA'75, Halifax, N.S., on December 19, 2008

Eric Louis Hansen, PGM'75, Halifax, N.S., on March 20, 2009

John Christopher Gardiner, BA'76, Bedford, N.S., on March 30, 2009

Maia Danica Erjavec, BA'76, MED'85, Halifax, N.S., on February 23, 2009

Michael Gilbert Baker, LLB'80, Lunenburg, N.S., on March 2, 2009

Mary Olding Hebb, LLB'81, Head of St. Margarets Bay, N.S., on January 27, 2009

David W Driscoll, BEng'82 (TUNS), Halifax, N.S., on April 6, 2009

Bruce Montgomery Cooper, LLB'82, Nepean, Ont., on November 10, 2008

John Robert Hutton, BCom'83, Halifax, N.S., on January 7, 2009

Agnes Margaret Parker, MEd'86, Victoria, B.C., on April 4, 2009

Barbara Carol Miller, BN'88, Amherst, N.S., on December 22, 2008

Donald Edgar Waldron, PhD'88, Fairfield, Conn., on January 6, 2009

Shirley Rosamund (Davis) Coffin, BA'89, Bedford, N.S., on February 16, 2009

John A. Zsolt, BEdS'89, MARFP'91, Toronto, Ont., on March 1, 2009

Alana Grace Chiodo, MLIS'93, Eastern Passage, N.S.

Donna Hollister Smith, LLB'94, Mineville, N.S., on March 2, 2009

Nadine (Halliday) Rogers, MPA'97, Hampton, N.B., on February 17, 2009

Anita Ruth Mal, BA'04, Halifax, N.S., on February 3, 2009

theBackstory

NOW THAT'S SHOW BIZ!

40

DALHOUSIE | MAGAZINE



NAME Curtis Dillon

HOMETOWN Hails from Dartmouth – a lifelong Maritimer.

EDUCATION Class of '09 with a double major in mathematics and French, along with studies at Toronto's National Ballet School.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS Curtis Dillon has choreographed a musical, become DalDance's hip-hop instructor and understudied for the *Nutcracker* at the Rebecca Cohn. Now a performer in Neptune Theatre's *High School Musical*, he's bringing his talent to a new stage.

SLAM DUNK Playing the role of basketballer Jason, Curtis Dillon had to learn to sing – and play basketball. “I can spin the ball on my finger really well now!” He also balanced eight-hour rehearsal slots with his final exams. “I always get nervous, and I think that’s a good thing. It brings out a lot of adrenalin.”

NEXT UP He hopes to travel to Montreal to pursue his dreams in dance. All that teaching at DalDance will come in handy someday – Mr. Dillon hopes eventually to return to high school for a third time, to teach.

LAST WORDS Why does a professional who studied ballet teach hip-hop? “It’s just how much you can groove into it. I really like that sharp and energetic movement.” And the ‘High School Musical’ experience? **“I’ve definitely met some amazing people and I’m inspired to push myself even harder.”**

Research: Rebecca Schneidereit



Photo: Nick Pearce Inset photo: Danny Abriel

The future is theirs to create.

And yours to protect.



ALUMNI TERM LIFE INSURANCE

The need for life insurance is one of life's most important lessons.

Whatever life brings, make sure the people who count on you will be well taken care of. With your Alumni Term Life Insurance plan, you may give your loved ones the financial security to continue living the life you dreamed of for them, no matter what.

Call us at **1 888 913-6333**
or e-mail **am_service@manulife.com**



**What will life
teach you?**

manulife.com/dalhousiemag

Manulife Financial

Underwritten by The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company

www.chandlersales.com

1 800 363 9611



It's your *brand.*
Build it with...


CHANDLER
APPAREL & PROMOTIONAL