IN CHARGE: DAL'S NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

FEATURE

MEDICAL RESEARCH'S REAL-LIFE IMPACT
HOW FORESTS FUEL OUR ECONOMY AND OUR HEALTH
DAL THINKER FORD DOOLITTLE
FEATURES

SEEING THE FOREST AND THE TREES
Exploring our many connections to and uses for green space. By Chris Benjamin (BComm’97) page 10

WHO’S THE BOSS?
Recent Dal grads are putting themselves in the driver’s seat by launching their own businesses. By Jordan Whitehouse, Erin Stewart and Nikki Comeau page 12

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ON THE COVER

Find a job or create a job! We profile three alumni-led startups and explore how Dal is helping set students up for entrepreneurial success.

Who’s the boss?

Who’s the boss?

ON THE COVER

Dal’s world-class medical research is making breakthroughs and tightening the timeline between discovery and treatment. For patients like Al Isnor, the benefits of neurosurgeon Dr. Robert Brownstone are already a reality.

Dal thinker Ford Doolittle
“Nova Scotia has the assets, opportunities, institutional capacities and human capital to turn around its current outlook and build a much more positive future.” In the coverage of the report of the Nova Scotia Commission on Building Our New Economy—commonly called the Ivany Report after Chair Ray Ivany—that probably isn’t the quote that most people remember. More likely candidates for “most memorable lines” are “the status quo is not an option” and that we must “halt the slide.” But while those more memorable lines do have stark shock value on their side, it is the optimism embedded in other places in the report that shines a light forward.

Dalhousie is playing a key role in positioning Nova Scotia—and indeed Canada—for a more positive future. Our faculty, students and staff attract resources—intellectual and financial—to our region, helping to fuel the development of a knowledge-based economy. And by fostering an entrepreneurial spirit, our programs are setting graduates on the path to contributing to the economic health of our region, helping to fuel the development.

In this issue, we focus on three recent graduates who have embraced entrepreneurship in three very different fields (Who’s the Boss?, p. 12). In the pages that follow, you’ll also find the latest on Dal medical research (The Road to Wellness, p. 20), and much more. The assets to build a more positive future? Look around the Dalhousie campus and you’ll see them firsthand.
Bruce left behind a successful law practice, 47 bow ties and an endowment to Dalhousie.

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“VISUALIZING SUCCESS IS OK, BUT VISUALIZING FAILURE IS WAY MORE USEFUL.”

Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, speaking at Dal in April on how planning for problems helps ensure you don’t panic when faced with them.
Innovation leaders

1. Andre Bezanson is still working on his PhD, but he’s already making waves in the field of ultrasound imaging. Bezanson, a biomedical engineering student, is conducting research that allows scientists and clinical researchers to image smaller objects with a higher resolution using ultrasound technology—and at a lower cost than with traditional high frequency ultrasound devices. His work recently earned him the Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation, an award given annually to five Mitacs-sponsored innovators chosen out of thousands of nominees from across Canada.

2. Andrea Christians, a Master of Earth Sciences student, is the recipient of the 2013 Energy Innovation Grant. The award, which is a partnership between the Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Pengrowth Energy Corporation, recognizes groundbreaking research in the oil and gas sector. Christians’ research into the evolution of salt structures hugging Nova Scotia’s world-famous coastline could eventually help energy companies tap into new oil and gas resources.

3. The 2009 H1N1 outbreak saw record vaccination rates in Nova Scotia, with more than half the province’s population getting their flu shot. But how did those rates change in the years since, particularly among at-risk groups like pregnant women? That’s what fourth-year medical student Alex Legge wanted to find out. She’s co-lead on a new paper, published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, which makes a convincing case for pregnant women to get vaccinated against the flu. — Kevin Bradley, Ashley Greene, Ryan McNutt

Aquaculture Genomics Lab detects new invasive species

The Aquaculture Genomics Laboratory, founded a year ago in the Faculty of Agriculture, focuses on using innovative molecular biotechnology to drive scientific discoveries and to respond to industry challenges in the shellfish aquaculture industry. Under Sarah Stewart-Clark, the laboratory is directly connected to the oyster, mussel, scallop and lobster fishery and aquaculture sectors in Atlantic Canada.

“Our goal is to provide science-based information for both industry members and government managers to best grow this industry forward in Nova Scotia,” explains Dr. Stewart-Clark.

Located on the Agricultural Campus, the lab performs monitoring of environmental water samples for both target and pest DNA. Assays (analytic procedures) that can detect when target larvae are present in water samples enable growers to make decisions about when to place spat collectors in the water to gather their seed product. — Stephanie Rogers

ISK SITTING KILLING US? “I was one of those people we now refer to as an ‘active couch potato,” says Travis Saunders, a Heart and Stroke Postdoctoral Fellow in Dalhousie’s Department of Medicine. Saunders, a cross-country athlete during his undergraduate and master’s degrees, researches the detrimental health impacts of sitting. “I was running an hour to an hour and a half a day, far exceeding any physical activity guidelines,” he explains. “I thought I was this paragon of health, but then I realized that actually it’s still bad for me to sit, even if I’m active.” Dr. Saunders’ research focuses on how sitting, even paired with physical activity, can be bad for our health. Sitting prevents sugar and fat from being pumped out of our blood, and simply getting up every 20 or 30 minutes can get the blood flowing and the vacuum pumps working. Read more about his research on his blog at http://blogs.plos.org/obesitypanacea/—Misha Noble-Hearle
GENETIC ARTISTRY

NAME: W. Ford Doolittle, professor emeritus
DEPARTMENT/AREA OF STUDY: Evolutionary and molecular genetics, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
WHAT’S HIS FOCUS? Pushing the boundaries of evolutionary biology for over 40 years, Dr. Doolittle is renowned for “chopping down the tree of life” theory and establishing the “web of life” analogy: that evolution didn’t branch out from one source and has involved lateral gene transfer (the passing of genetic material from one organism to another).
RESEARCH/Academic HIGHLIGHTS: The 2014 winner of the prestigious Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada’s Herzberg Gold Medal for Science and Engineering, which comes with a $1 million research grant, Dr. Doolittle will continue research projects on genome and DNA evolution and function, including “junk DNA” —sequences that are “relics of transposable parasitic DNA elements that don’t contribute much to our biological functioning.” Another key area: microbiomics, the study of “all the microbes in a particular location, whether the human body or elsewhere,” with applications in medicine and environmental monitoring. “The whole biosphere wouldn’t exist if not for microbes—understanding how they keep the biosphere a livable place is one of science’s most important questions.”
WHY HE DOES IT: Joking that what gets him out of bed every day is his dog, he says “I’m still excited about science—there’s still so much we don’t know. It’s important to learn about the world, and if I’m contributing to that in some small way, that’s important to me too.” Over the years, he’s also earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from NSCAD University. He sees both science and the arts as “idea–driven practices,” and scientists and artists alike are “not in it for the money, but to learn, for something intrinsic to the activity.” —Jane Affleck

Dr. Ford Doolittle, TOP, is renowned for establishing the “web of life” analogy. He is also an artist: RIGHT, his portrait of Einstein. ABOVE, he accepts the Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering from Governor General David Johnston.
Fresh powder, new possibility

Ten Dal Occupational Therapy students helped disabled skiers take to the slopes at Martock Ski Resort last winter. The program at Martock had 15 participants, who alternated weekends depending on instructor and volunteer availability. “It’s the perfect OT thing to do,” said first-year student Kristy Taylor. “You are getting people out to do things they wouldn’t normally do.”

Michelle Mahoney, an admin assistant in the School of Occupational Therapy, heard about the program from the students. Mahoney has arthrogryposis, a condition that involves lack of muscle around various joints and affects her arms and legs. She uses a sit-ski to take part in the program. Mahoney says she cried the first time she went down the hill. “I was so blown away by the fact that they were doing this for me,” she says. “I couldn’t stop saying ‘thank you.’ Who would have ever thought of me skiing?” —Misha Noble-Hearle

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and former chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, delivered the keynote at the IDEALaw conference on Aboriginal rights.

Digitizing Biodiversity

The biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is a consortium of natural history and botanical libraries from around the world. It’s currently the only freely available, authoritative information source for the majority of species we know about on our planet. The problem: most of it isn’t all that accessible digitally. Now a Dal team, co-led by Evangelos Milios of the Faculty of Computer Science and Anatoliy Gruzd, director of Dal’s Social Media Lab, is helping rebuild this history of biodiversity for the digital age. The project, called MiningBiodiversity (MiBio) is a collaboration with National Centre for Text Mining at the University of Manchester.

40 million
Number of pages of text in the BHL library

14
Number of teams awarded funding in the Digging into Data competition, through which MiBio was funded

$250,000
Amount of funding awarded to MiBio
**NONI MACDONALD & MICHAEL GRAVEN: PROFESSORS OF PEDIATRICS, FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

**INNOVATION:** Belize Health Information System, the world’s first integrated, countrywide patient-centred health information system.

**FOUNDATION:** An e-health system that allows practitioners and hospitals to share patient information in real time, nationwide. It also incorporates evidence-based patient care guidelines to help practitioners improve care.

**INSPIRATION:** The system, launched in Belize in 2007, combines Dr. MacDonald’s expertise in vaccine strategy and community research capacity with Dr. Graven’s work in health informatics. For their work, the two researchers received the Professional of Distinction Award at the 2013 Discovery Awards.

**IN HER WORDS:** “It’s about helping physicians and health-care workers on the ground in these countries practise better, faster care for patients,” explains Dr. MacDonald. “It also allows the government to identify where bottlenecks and problems emerge and how they could be addressed, so there are efficiencies and cost benefits as well. And the change we saw in Belize was simply remarkable.”

**WHY IT MATTERS:** With the help of the health information system and the hard work of health workers, Belize’s maternal mortality rate dropped to zero in 2011 and stayed there since—that’s better than Canada or the U.S.—and helped cut the number of hypertension-related strokes and heart attacks by more than half. Because the system is easy to use, more than 90 per cent of health-care workers adopted it in less than a year. And the country’s health-care expenses have leveled off and even started to decline. The system is now being implemented in other Caribbean nations, including Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. —Ryan McNutt

“**It’s about helping physicians and health-care workers on the ground in these countries practise better, faster care for patients.”**
Dal news

New Medical Sciences degree launches

Students looking to explore the science of the human body will have a new option to consider at Dal this fall. Starting in September 2014, Dalhousie will offer a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree option in Medical Sciences. The program, the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada, will explore a variety of topics and help prepare students for careers in research, graduate programs in life sciences and professional program in health-related fields.

The program responds to high demand among science students and prospective students for a degree option more targeted towards the medical sciences.

Admission for the program’s 100 seats has been open since the fall and interest has been very high.

Housed in the Faculty of Science, the four-year undergrad program is interdisciplinary by nature, drawing on contributors from Science, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The collaborative, cross-faculty nature of the program sets it apart from similar programs elsewhere in Canada, according to Chris Moore, dean of the Faculty of Science.

“We’ve been working on the program for nearly three years,” says Dr. Moore. “It’s a genuinely interdisciplinary program in the biomedical sciences, covering a range of disciplines along with courses to emphasize the connections among them.” —Cory Burris

Federal budget invests in research

University leaders across Canada are enthusiastic about major investments announced in the 2014 federal budget, tabled in the House of Commons earlier this year.

The big-ticket item for university research in the budget is the proposal for a new Canada First Research Excellence Fund, which over the next 10 years will add $1.5 billion to Canada’s research economy. While the full details of the fund are still forthcoming, it will launch with an investment of $50 million in 2015–16, a number that will increase by $50 million each year until 2018–19, after which it will maintain a steady-state level of $200 million in annual funding.

Martha Crago, Dal’s vice-president research, says the new resource will help Canadian researchers increase the global reach and collaboration opportunities for their work while also building a stronger research ecosystem at home.

The budget proposed an additional $46 million in annual funding to Canada’s granting councils starting in 2014–15. This represents the largest annual increase in research funding through the granting councils in more than a decade.

Both the U15—the association of Canada’s top research universities, of which Dalhousie is a member—and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) praised the new investments. —Ryan McNutt

Finding faults in the Himalayas

It’s home to the highest points on planet Earth, but until recently, there were aspects of the Himalayan mountain ranges that geologists simply could not explain.

In particular, scientists were uncertain just how, exactly, the mountains formed. The most common argument was that they were entirely the result of India’s land mass moving into Asia. But new Dal research suggests a different answer, buried deep within a complex fault system in western Nepal.

John Gosse in Earth Sciences teamed up with fellow Dal researchers David Whipp and Chris Beaumont (both in Oceanography) on “Limit of Strain Partitioning in the Himalayas Marked by Large Earthquakes in Western Nepal,” published in a recent edition of Nature Geoscience (the other coauthors were Michael Murphy, Michael Taylor and C.R.P. Silver). It is the first study of its kind to investigate this particular fault system.

The compression of the Indian plate and Asian plate as they press together was believed to be responsible for the high peaks throughout the entire range, from China to Pakistan. However, this new fault line shows that the two plates are also moving sideways, pulling apart in the area of the new fault.

“Because the plate boundary is curved, we’re getting a side-by-side motion away from the centre of the range front,” says Dr. Gosse. “Now we have to modify the way we believe the Himalayas are actually forming.” —Sarah Beatty

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SEEING THE FOREST AND THE TREES

From urban trees to boreal forests, Dalhousie researchers are exploring our many connections to and uses for green space, from feeding our souls to fuelling our economies. By Chris Benjamin (B.Comm’97)
A BIRD’S-EYE VIEW OF DAL’S FOREST-RELATED RESEARCH

CITY
For urbanites, trees are a rare sensory joy, a boon to health, and something they can’t get enough of in places of work and play. Peter Duinker of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies hopes to improve access to green in cities everywhere. His team is conducting sidewalk surveys and focus groups to better understand how values, knowledge and policies place trees within urban environments.

SUBURB
Forests have always influenced where we live, but how they do so may change with the climate. Eric Rapaport is an associate professor in the School of Planning. In the long term, Dr. Rapaport says, increased precipitation will reduce forest fires in Atlantic Canada. But for now, rising temperatures and urban sprawl are “potentially putting communities in harm’s way.” To prevent the worst, studies of natural and social systems are helping communities develop more safely as climate change intensifies.

WILD
Robert France, in the Faculty of Agriculture’s Department of Environmental Science, is finishing a 10-year multidisciplinary project on the boreal forest, the world’s largest intact forest ecosystem which spans 10 countries. Dr. France hopes to better understand the impacts of clear cuts on lakes. “Forestry is often the biggest industry [in these regions],” he says. “Trout fishing is second.” That adds an economic impetus to conserving both. To do that, France is unraveling the mystery of how these two systems interact.

MORE THAN JUST WOOD

A HISTORY OF EXTRACTION
“Atlantic Canada has centuries of commitment to forests as lumber,” says Claire Campbell, history professor and co-editor (with Robert Summerby-Murray) of Land and Sea: Environmental History in Atlantic Canada. That’s left us worse off economically and ecologically. “But since the end of the twentieth century, we have generations growing up with environmental rhetoric,” she adds. The region’s commitment to natural beauty might keep our forests intact, she believes.

CELEBRATING TREES
Beauty is celebrated in literature for good reason, says creative writing instructor and poet Sue Goyette. “[Forests’] wildness and otherness are necessary guides to our own wildness and otherness,” she says. As forests disappear, these reminders become essential, with much at stake. “That trees have become such a commodity is worth artistic attention... As a citizen, I’m deeply concerned.”

CULTURE CHANGE
Daniel Rainham, Elizabeth May Chair of Sustainability and Environmental Health, says children spend less time outdoors over subsequent generations. But his research on their perceptions of nature so far confirms that humans have an instinctive bond to other living systems. The future of forests relies on humans becoming more deeply connected to the natural world, he says. “We need to remake economic models to accommodate natural land.”

BEAUTY IS CELEBRATED IN LITERATURE FOR GOOD REASON, SAYS CREATIVE WRITING INSTRUCTOR AND POET SUE GOYETTE. “[FORESTS’] WILDNESS AND OTHERNESS ARE NECESSARY GUIDES TO OUR OWN WILDNESS AND OTHERNESS,” SHE SAYS.
Find a job or create a job?
We profile three alumni-led startups and explore how Dal is helping set students up for entrepreneurial success.

Who’s the boss?
Microbrewing 101

Before Peter Burbridge (BA’06, MBA’09) even started his MBA at Dalhousie in 2007, he knew he wanted to launch his own coffee roastery business after graduating. But, as career paths often do during university, his focus changed—in his case, from brown beans to sustainable suds.

Burbridge can’t quite pinpoint when his transformation began, but a class on zero-emissions brewing in his Patterns for Sustainable Development course played a part. It was his first exposure to the idea of using a brewery’s waste streams to make new products. Burbridge, a homebrewer and supporter of sustainable business, was hooked. “After that class, it just stuck in mind,” he says. “I thought it would be really interesting to pull off in my own business or see how close I could come.”

Four years later, in 2013, his goal came closer to reality when he opened North Brewing Company in the heart of Halifax’s burgeoning north end. Though the microbrewery is a long way from being zero emissions, Burbridge thinks they’re on the right track with initiatives like giving all of its spent grain to a farm for animal feed. In the meantime, he and partner Josh Herbin are focused on producing a range of preservative-free Belgian ales meant to satisfy even the most discerning beer buff.

It was no easy feat getting the business to this point, however. After graduating, Burbridge continued mastering his own homebrews while working in wholesale at Java Blend, a popular roastery and café. Owner Jim Dikaio’s mentorship was invaluable, but Burbridge always knew he’d have to move on. “Doing one repetitive job over and over again doesn’t really work for me,” he says. “With your own business, it’s much more dynamic; you’re always doing something different and always being presented with new challenges.”

The biggest challenge he faced in getting the taps flowing was money. By June 2012, he had raised enough funds through equity, friends and family to get in the doors of 2576 Agricola Street but barely enough to stay in business. “I really close I could come.”

A year later, customers are still lining up, asking for the newest brews or lineups out to the sidewalk. “A lot of people thought that we couldn’t possibly break even at this tiny scale within one year, but we’ve definitely proven that we can,” says Burbridge. “It’s nice when people say that you’re probably going to fail, and then you don’t.”

So what’s the secret? “My advice to any aspiring entrepreneur is pretty simple. First, don’t let anyone discourage you, and second, get an advisory team in place. The more people you can talk to and get involved that have some experience and wisdom—people like David Roach—the more hard lessons you’ll save yourself from having.” —Jordy Whitehouse

Many told brewery owner Peter Burbridge (BA’06, MBA’09) (top) that his microbrewery wouldn’t last, but a year after opening, he’s still quenching Halifax’s thirst for craft beer. Bottom right, a North Brewing Company employee cleans out the brewing equipment between batches.
FROM CLASSROOM TO START-UP
In March, the Province of Nova Scotia announced funding for four new “sandboxes”—collaborative spaces hosted by universities and colleges that will bring together students, mentors and external advisors to take business concepts from idea to execution. Dalhousie will host two of the four, in collaboration with other university and industry partners: an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Sandbox, to be located in the Goldberg Computer Science Building, and the Nova Scotia Agriculture Sandbox, which will have a location on Dal’s Agriculture Campus. Each will receive $150,000 from the province annually for the next three years.

“We’re excited to be partnering with fellow educators, industry partners and the provincial government to give our students a new learning opportunity and a chance to grow our economy,” said Dal President Richard Florizone at the announcement.

But the sandboxes aren’t Dal’s only effort at fostering entrepreneurialism. “Entrepreneurship education is not just for students who would like to start a business someday; it’s for anyone who would like to increase their chances of getting a job and being successful as an employee,” explains Angelo Dossou-Yovo, assistant professor in the Rowe School of Business.

That might explain why entrepreneurship is on the minds— and course loads—of many students across Dal’s campuses and faculties.

Dr. Dossou-Yovo teaches two courses focused on entrepreneurship. The first, New Venture Creation, explores the foundations of entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial process. "Companies are looking for employees with entrepreneurial skills because they need to be

Stephanie Mark (BA’07) is betting on people’s desire to peek inside the closets of fashion’s style-makers. So far, her website The Coveteur is proving that she has a winning hand.

The accidental entrepreneur

From Halifax’s University Avenue to the luxury designs of Park Avenue and beyond: it’s not the trajectory you typically associate with a Dal history degree. But for entrepreneur Stephanie Mark (BA’07), it’s the route she’s traveled—with a stop-over at Parsons: The New School for Design in New York and Elle magazine along the way. Mark is co-founder and market director of The Coveteur, a fashion and lifestyle website that takes readers inside the closets of the rich, stylish and fabulous—and offers a chance to do a bit of shopping along the way.

After graduating from Parsons’ fashion marketing program, Mark held a variety of jobs including assistant buyer and freelance stylist. By 2010 she found herself back in her hometown of Toronto, brainstorming business ideas over brunch with friend and fellow fashion enthusiast Erin Kleinberg. While ‘street style’ was the current trend, Mark and Kleinberg didn’t think that was the right fit for them. “We really liked that whole insider aspect. And then we thought what we would really love to see is all of their clothes and their wardrobes and their style philosophy and aesthetic.” And so, The Coveteur was born.

“I think the timing was right,” says Mark. Mark and Kleinberg started sending out email requests. And to their surprise, people responded to them and Jake Rosenberg, The Coveteur’s photographer, who’s been onboard since their brainstorming brunch and shares the co-founder title.

Before their launch, the trio already had collaborations established with Elle.com and Vogue.com, and had crisscrossed North America building up content—and closets—for their debut. “In the beginning, Jake, Erin and I all shared a hotel room,” says Mark. “We shot three or four closets a day so that when the site launched, we could have a steady stream of things coming out.”

Thankfully, The Coveteur team has grown to a full-time staff of 10—but so has the work. Within the next few months, The Coveteur will be expanding, including content from more European cities. Initially self-funded, the team now generates revenue through a combination of advertising, e-commerce and affiliate models, and collaborations.

“It was really just a creative outlet,” says Mark of the site’s beginnings. “We all had other jobs so it wasn’t necessarily a ‘we’re going to go out and be our own bosses’ situation. It was more just something we were passionate about, and were lucky enough that it turned into a business.”

The learning curve has been steep, but Mark says the most challenging aspects of her job have been figuring out how to manage a team full time—and that confrontation and saying ‘no’ doesn’t have to be a bad thing.

The most important lesson that Mark has learned through running her own business? “Don’t take things personally,” she explains. “It’s important to remember that your decisions should always be for the good of the business.”

Mark speaks fondly of her time at Dalhousie and how it laid the foundation for her next step at Parsons: “The [Dalhousie] environment was key for me. I worked hard, but the laid-back East Coast vibe has really translated to who I am today and how I approach work situations.”

That laid-back East Coast vibe will serve Mark well in a business that’s constantly evolving. “We’re always trying to see what we can do better and looking forward,” says Mark. “We’re more than thrilled and thankful to the industry but also, to our readers and our followers. Without them, The Coveteur would still just be a great idea.”—Erin Stewart
Braced for success

The athlete suffering after that one bad landing. The carpenter who spends his day lifting, bending and kneeling. The retiree whose knees creak with every movement. Problems with the knee—the largest joint in the body—are some of the most common sport–related injuries and a source of discomfort even for non–athletes. But now, three Dalhousie alumni have developed an advanced knee bracing solution that will help those with knee injury move more comfortably and enhance performance while protecting the joint. Chris Cowper–Smith (BSc’06, MSc’09), Bob Garrish (BSc’05, MASC’12) and Shea Kewin (BMGT’13) recently launched Spring Loaded Technology, a start–up named after the unique attributes of their patent–pending knee brace.

“We’re the only knee brace that has a compact spring–loaded hinge,” explains Cowper–Smith, the company’s CEO. “It loads energy when the user flexes down and releases that energy upon extension of the joint.” That stored energy—equivalent to an individual’s own body weight—reduces pressure on the joint and can be customized to allow the knee to extend with greater force. The brace allows athletes to jump higher and dodge faster and anyone with a bum knee to move with greater comfort.

The product’s innovation stems from the combination of diverse expertise within the group. Cowper–Smith brings neuroscience and kinesiology experience to the table. Garrish, the chief technology officer, excels in mechanical engineering and mathematics. The company’s chief business development officer, Kewin, recently completed his business management degree and is now pursuing a Masters of Business Administration at the University of New Brunswick.

The three co–founders met while taking an entrepreneurship class together at Dal in 2012. The course, called Starting Lean, was new to the Faculty of Management at the time. Kewin, then an undergrad, entered the class with the idea for a performance–enhancing knee brace and joined forces with Garrish and Cowper–Smith. By the time the course was complete, the team had an award–winning business model and prototype. Since incorporating in 2012, the company has attracted just over $1 million in financing through various business competitions and investors.

The company plans to have a refined product on the market in 2015. They’re already seeing consumer interest from those outside their intended target market and they haven’t even started marketing yet. “It’s not just athletes or those with knee injury. We’re hearing from the carpenter who finds bending and lifting much harder than he used to. We see this benefiting someone who enjoys gardening but can’t handle the constant bending down and standing up,” says Garrish. “For these people, it’s a device that will enhance their lifestyle.”

—by Nikki Comeau

flexible and innovative, so we also talk about intrapreneurship—how you can be an entrepreneurial employee.”

The second course, Managing the Venturing Process, is more focused on the entrepreneurship strategies that will be used throughout a business’ life cycle. “We bring the business community inside the classroom,” says Dr. Dossou–Yovo. “We want to provide students with the opportunity to learn from experienced entrepreneurs and start building their business network, so they can get to the next level. And the [local] business community has been more than willing to help and inspire our students.”

These courses introduce concepts that will be expanded in future entrepreneurship offerings, including the much–lauded Starting Lean course, a cross-disciplinary class that asks, “Should this product be built?” rather than, “Can this product be built?” Mary Kifoil, now in her second year of teaching Starting Lean, believes that we’re in the midst of an entrepreneurial renaissance. Even aspiring academics are opting in. “It used to be that you published your research and then went to work in a university,” says Dr. Kifoil. “Now, even at the graduate level, it’s much more accepted to commercialize your ideas and your research.”

For the past several years, that’s exactly what Dal’s been doing. Initiatives like the Industry Liaison and Innovation (ILI) Office pair corporate partners with university researchers, leading to commercialized research, spinoff ventures and strengthened relationships between the two sectors.

Dalhousie is responding in other ways too. Currently, multiple faculties are collaborating on a new certificate that’s focused on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. Aimed at students who are interested in ‘social entrepreneurship’ the certificate will equip Dal’s conscientious achievers with the tools and knowledge they need to ‘do good.’

—Erin Stewart, with files from Ryan McNutt
Dal’s world-class medical research is making breakthroughs and tightening the timeline between discovery and treatment. For patients like Al Isnor, the benefits of connecting with Dal-based doctors are already a reality.

By Matt Semansky
Al Isnor’s Tourette’s Syndrome was so severe that the violent jerking of his head and neck was resulting in chronic pain. “Al had exhausted all other avenues and his life was becoming a living nightmare,” says his wife Sandy (pictured with Al, above). Dal medical researcher and neurosurgeon Dr. Robert Brownstone helped Isnor find relief.
Brown has a pain in her stomach, a fist-sized passenger stowed away behind her belly button. Its effects, which are constant and vary only in intensity, include an agonizing swelling that Brown calls “The Bloat.” It is not a simple tummy-ache or the result of any commonly understood affliction like cancer or gastrointestinal illness. Since it escalated in severity at age 13, Brown’s pain has defied easy explanation and denied her a normal life, forcing her to miss months of school at a time.

Al Isnor, on the other hand, knows exactly what caused him to hit “rock bottom” several years ago at 24: Tourette’s Syndrome, with symptoms including such violent jerking of his head and neck that he required medication for the resulting pain. Isnor’s symptoms were threatening the steady hands he required in his woodworking job and despite trying countless medications and treatments, he hadn’t found any lasting relief.

Two different ailments. Two desperate patients. But after years of pain and frustration, Brown and Isnor were able to tap into the network of Dalhousie medical research. Their lives were about to get better.

Monica Brown (left) suffered from debilitating stomach pain. Says Dr. Christine Chambers (right), Canada Research Chair in Pain and Child Health, “Pain is an alarm system that’s supposed to go off when something in your body is wrong, but just like alarms can go off for no reason or be overly sensitive, that can happen in your pain system.”
UNRAVELLING MYSTERIES
When Dr. Christine Chambers met Brown a decade ago, she saw a young girl suffering from both debilitating pain and the anguish of not knowing its cause. “It’s hard enough to be a teenager when you don’t have any health challenges,” says Dr. Chambers. “Then you layer on a mysterious disease, which is really what pain is.”

In addition to treating patients like Brown, Dr. Chambers is a Canada Research Chair in Pain and Child Health working out of the Centre for Pediatric Pain Research at the IWK Health Centre. Thanks to her efforts and those of her colleagues, Dalhousie has become recognized as an international leader in pediatric pain research.

“What we know about pain now is that it’s a very complex biological and psychological experience,” says Dr. Chambers. “Pain is an alarm system that’s supposed to go off when something in your body is wrong, but just like alarms can go off for no reason or be overly sensitive, that can happen in your pain system.”

Armed with that knowledge, Dr. Chambers worked with Brown with the hope of helping her manage her pain in a healthy way. With Dr. Chambers’ guidance, Brown found some relief in yoga, breathing and meditation, as well as medication. By explaining her research, Dr. Chambers also gave Brown the words to tell friends and family how she felt. Perhaps most importantly, Brown found in Dr. Chambers someone who could listen and understand.

“It was the first time in my life I felt believed.”

In contrast to the steady, incremental gains made by most medical researchers, Dr. Chambers says the field of pediatric pain lends itself to quick transitions between discovery and care. Her research into how parents respond to children in pain, for example, has already yielded new recommendations for parents, which Dr. Chambers has conveyed in a TEDx Talk and through a lighthearted YouTube video (http://pediatric-pain.ca/it-doesnt-have-to-hurt). “When parents try to offer reassurance, kids pick up on the fact that their parents are nervous and that anxiety seems to make the pain worse.”

Because pain research isn’t expressly tied to defeating a single major disease, Dr. Chambers says the field doesn’t generate much awareness or many resources. She says that in her field, bridging and matching funds can be essential to continuing important research or getting new research off the ground. For researchers working grant to grant, bridge funds can keep projects afloat between grants. Matching funds allow researchers to aim higher by seeking out research opportunities partially funded by external parties.

“Those types of funding are absolutely critical for researchers like myself who might be going from one grant to another, or who have an idea for something interesting and innovative but might need matching funds to make it happen,” says Dr. Chambers.

FROM THE BASICS TO THE BENEFITS
“Al had exhausted all other avenues and his life was becoming a living nightmare,” says Sandy Isnor of the moment a little more than seven years ago when Al walked into neurosurgeon Dr. Robert Brownstone’s office. Now Al’s wife, Sandy was at the time his long-distance girlfriend.

One of Dr. Brownstone’s specialties is the implantation of deep-brain stimulation (DBS) devices in people suffering from tremor and movement disorders. He says it is rare for someone with Tourette’s Syndrome to have symptoms so severe that they require this kind of procedure, so when Al Isnor walked through Dr. Brownstone’s door he knew he was, by definition, dealing with a serious case.

According to Al, Dr. Brownstone explained the DBS surgery in a way that was easy to understand, which helped Al make the decision to go forward with it. Within a few months of the procedure, both Al and Sandy noticed his symptoms decreasing in frequency and intensity. “It was like seeing a different person in front of me,” Sandy says.

Dr. Brownstone knows that the distance between basic research discovery and practical application is often measured in years, even decades. He works on both ends of this timeline, operating on patients like Al Isnor while also studying the fundamental circuitry of the nervous system as the principal investigator at Dalhousie’s Motor Control Lab. “Hopefully what I do [in the lab] will help patients 20 or 30 years from now,” he says. Dr. Brownstone is building toward breakthroughs in our understanding of how movement works. He studies four distinct groups of circuits: those between the spinal cord and the muscles; those within the spinal cord; the “command circuits” between the brain and the spinal cord; and the “decision-making” circuits in the upper levels of the brain. Researching at this fundamental level, Dr. Brownstone describes himself as “disease-agnostic,” in that he is not targeting particular illnesses. “The hope is that some of these discoveries will have applications for many different diseases.”

Like most medical researchers, Dr. Brownstone has benefitted from technological advances and ever-improving equipment. As an example, he cites cellular molecular digital imaging microscopes, which allow researchers to see fine details that their predecessors could never have imagined. The need for top technology is behind the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation’s (DMRF) Core Facilities Fund, a resource that is used to acquire and maintain advanced equipment that can be used by multiple researchers and departments. “These facilities are absolutely critical and the only way we can support them is institutionally,” says Dr. Brownstone.

Having the best technology at his disposal will help Dr. Brownstone change future patients’ lives through his research. In the meantime, he makes an immediate impact for patients like Al Isnor as a neurosurgeon.

LIVING BETTER
The term “medical research” conjures up the idea of lifesaving new treatments and cures, major diseases wiped out in flashes of brilliant insight, and Dalhousie has contributed a great deal in the fight against killers like cancer and heart disease. Dr. Tom Marrie, Dean of Medicine at Dalhousie, points to the work of Dr. Patrick Lee, who has pioneered a virus that can be implanted into—and destroy—cancer cells. Dr. Marrie also notes that Dalhousie’s cardiology research team is renowned for expertise about heart rhythm.
Dalhousie researchers have also shown leadership in fields that support quality of life. Dr. Brownstone and Dr. Chambers are two examples, working with patients suffering from chronic illnesses. And as better treatment allows more people to survive serious conditions, the need has further grown to examine quality-of-life concerns. Whether the research is aimed at curing major diseases or bolstering scientific knowledge, saving lives or making them better, each aspect feeds the other. “These little things that each lab discovers, other labs learn from that and it just keeps going,” says Alison Edwards, executive director of the DMRF. “That’s why health research matters.”

Al Isnor and Monica Brown don’t need convincing. Theirs are just two lives that have been improved by medical research and Dalhousie researchers. Now 32, Isnor is married to Sandy. He’s been driving for the past five years after previously staying away from the wheel because of his symptoms. Whereas once he couldn’t sit still through a movie or a plane ride, he is now an enthusiastic traveller who has visited Toronto, New York and South Africa. His condition requires minimal management, including an annual procedure to change the batteries in his deep brain stimulation device. “My quality of life has gone from zero to 1,000 in seven years,” he says.

At 23, Brown is in the Bachelor of Education program at Mount Saint Vincent University and gives speeches through the IWK that promote understanding of pain as a chronic illness. Dr. Chambers and the team of clinicians and researchers she collaborates with continue to give Brown the tools to manage her pain, for which Brown is grateful. “I don’t know where I’d be without Dr. Chambers and her dedication to her research and her patients.”

**FACILITIES AND FUNDING**

The Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) is focused on two key areas in its major gift fundraising efforts for health research at Dal. One is world-class facilities and top technology, operated by experts and available to multiple researchers. The other is the development of bridging and matching funds, resources that get research started and keep it going. Hence the DMRF’s creation of the Core Facilities Fund and the Research Investment Fund.

Gerry Johnston, assistant dean, research at the Faculty of Medicine, says the Core Facilities Fund is critical to keeping Dalhousie researchers on the cutting edge. “We have a large number of people doing truly excellent research, but you need high-end facilities to keep researchers on par with researchers around the world,” he says. When it comes to the

“My quality of life has gone from zero to 1,000 in seven years,” says Al Isnor of his life after the implantation of a deep-brain stimulation device.
The Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation is focusing on investing in world-class medical facilities and technology at Dal, as well as assisting with bridging and matching funds for researchers. Find out more at www.dmrf.ca.

The side effects of health research

Health research brings with it obvious benefits, including improved patient care, that ripple out across Dalhousie and the broader community. “To provide state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment for the people of Nova Scotia and the Maritimes, we have to have active research programs,” says Dr. Tom Marrie, dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie.

But the positive effects of health research extend well beyond the health-care field. Robust research is also a boon to the economy. Gerry Johnston, assistant dean, research at Dalhousie’s Faculty of Medicine, explains that “70% of research is people. Those people go out and buy food, put gas in their car and pay taxes.”

Along with generating economic activity, Dalhousie research also marks the university as a vibrant hub of activity in the global knowledge economy. Dalhousie’s Industry Liaison and Innovation team connects companies like Halifax-based venture capital firm Innovacorp with researchers whose work has promising commercial potential. According to Dr. Johnston, success in bringing new ideas and discoveries to market will attract more world-class researchers and companies, which in turn will breed more success. “Researchers and companies want to be in an environment where there is innovative activity and new knowledge is being generated and interpreted. And they can do that here.”

Joanne Bath, director of major gifts for the DMRF, has been hired to focus fundraising efforts on these important priorities. “We want to tell our story and get people excited about the amazing medical research happening here, research that has a global impact,” says Bath. “We hope that will inspire philanthropic investment in the work we are doing.”

Research Investment Fund, Dr. Johnston adds that institutional funding will help researchers continue their vital work when they are experiencing a gap in grants and other funding. “Having some bridge funding capacity helps us maintain expertise and the momentum of research. We’re providing researchers with the necessary support so that they can hopefully maintain a stable operation over a long period of time.”

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On behalf of our students who benefit from your generous support, thank you!

Through the support of alumni and friends, the 2013-2014 Dalhousie Fund raised over $3 million to enhance the education of today's Dal students.

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The Hon. David C. Dingwall, P.C., Q.C., Counsel (LL.B. ’79)
Fiona Campbell, Associate (LL.B. ’10)
“It’s harder to figure out the boundaries, but they do exist and you have to be clear on them so you don’t run wild.”

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Rules of War

A journey to the former Yugoslavia for the UN put William Fenrick (LLB’73) on the frontlines of conflict, and set him on a path to helping to define the boundaries of international law. By Mark Campbell

Just months shy of his 50th birthday, William Fenrick (LLB’73) spent a few hours in the custody of Croatian Serb militia officers in the former Yugoslavia.

It was 1993, and Fenrick was in the crumbling nation investigating war crimes as a member of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 780 Commission of Experts. In this active war zone, Fenrick was witness to some of the most horrific acts imaginable, including mass killings. He was also at risk of injury, even death, during the intense ethnic conflict. Military commanders who didn’t want Fenrick and his colleagues to uncover the full extent of the atrocities they had committed also posed a real threat to the team’s safety, which is how he found himself in custody.

As hard as it is to fathom, Fenrick says he wasn’t worried for the most part. “We were going on sheer adrenaline. I don’t think many of us on the commission were afraid. Even so, the potential for something to happen was constantly on my mind.”

The former naval officer from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and the only investigator on the five-member commission with military experience, Fenrick was trying to determine if criminal cases could be developed against Bosnian Serb military commanders based on the atrocities the investigators uncovered—atrocities committed against Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats. He not only wrote reports that paved the way for charges and convictions; he also helped prosecute those cases as senior legal advisor with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Fenrick also shaped how nations like Canada conduct war. He worked with his mentor, Leslie Green, a professor of law at the University of Alberta, to develop a manual on the law of armed conflict for Canada’s military. He negotiated treaties, drafted policies and served as the principal legal adviser to the National Defence Headquarters Crisis Team during the Gulf Conflict of 1990–91, ensuring Canadian troops conducted themselves in a humane way. And he helped take the unprecedented step of sending lawyers overseas with the troops. “I wanted to ensure our soldiers were fully instructed on the law related to combat.”

By the time Fenrick retired from the International Criminal Tribunal in 2004, he had not only helped to create the international humanitarian laws that govern combat, his efforts had helped make armed conflicts a little more humane. “Like many people, I probably would have joked that there could be no law in war,” says his son Michael (LLB’08). “But it has to do with maintaining the rule of law in the most dire, challenging and often hellish circumstances imaginable. My father’s work has gone some way toward making life better for people in the worst circumstances.”

The Ontario-born Fenrick had no real interest in law until he enrolled at Dalhousie’s Law School in 1970. The Royal Military College graduate, who served as a Royal Canadian Navy officer from 1967 to 1970, made the decision upon realizing his first academic love, history, was overcrowded field. Law, he reasoned, was a more viable way to support his family. Yet it wasn’t until the October Crisis of that fall that Fenrick truly became passionate about law, specifically how states conduct themselves during emergencies. “When a state is under threat, what can it do legitimately? What controls can it impose? Can it bend the law to stay together? That intrigued me.”

Equally intriguing was his work with the newly launched Dalhousie Legal Aid Service, as a member of the board of directors. “Our focus was on how you protect those who are most vulnerable, so it went hand in hand with my interest in law in crisis situations. Through my studies and involvement in Legal Aid, I was becoming more aware of social issues and the legal approaches to address them.”

Upon graduating, Fenrick joined the military’s Office of the Judge Advocate General (JAG), serving as a court martial prosecutor and defender for four years before moving to the Directorate of International Law at JAG’s Ottawa office. His work there—drafting the armed conflict manual and serving as principal legal adviser during the Gulf Conflict—made him the obvious choice for Canada’s nomination to the Commission of
Experts investigating Yugoslavian war crimes. Though resources were limited and access to sites was often denied, Fenrick and his colleagues persisted, writing reports that led to charges and, later, convictions. “I thought I had the best job in the forces and one of the best jobs ever. And when they established the tribunal, I applied and spent the next 10 years helping to prosecute the cases I built.”

It is his work as senior legal adviser to the tribunal that Fenrick believes is his most important undertaking, mainly for demonstrating that military commanders could successfully be tried for combat offences.

“Before the tribunal, there was general agreement that attacks causing disproportionate civilian casualties, or attacks directed against civilians, were illegal by today’s standards. Yet no one knew how you could prosecute for such incidents. It was a lot of effort, but I think we developed some strong cases, achieved important decisions and produced some good laws.”

He elaborates further: “If you practice in a court in Halifax, you have a pretty good idea of the laws and your boundaries. International law is fuzzier. It’s hard to figure out the boundaries, but they do exist and you have to be clear on them so you don’t run wild. That’s my legacy: I helped clarify those boundaries and developed international humanitarian law by determining a realistic, workable approach to the legal issues we faced in prosecuting cases.”

Fenrick retired to Halifax in 2004 and spent a few years teaching seminars at Dalhousie on international humanitarian and criminal law. He continues to write and lecture on the topics, and is optimistic that there is now a foundation for a strong, sustainable international legal system. Still Fenrick cautions there is more work to be done.

“It took hundreds of years to develop Canada’s court system. We’re only at the early stages in international humanitarian law. There are those who see the glass being half empty. But I see it as half full. It will take time, but I believe we will make great strides. I’m glad I had the opportunity to contribute to it.”
“I think it’s amazing that you can still have this tie back to your university network and your friends, even though you are now in a different career path.”

New Chapter

Vancouver alumni chapter volunteer Kyle MacDonald (BComm’09) reflects on what he’s gotten by giving

WHO: Kyle MacDonald (BComm’09)  
VOLUNTEER ROLES: House President, Risley Hall; VP, External, Dalhousie Commerce Society 2008–2009; Chair, Communications, Dalhousie Alumni Vancouver Chapter  
CURRENT POSITION: Co-founder, Goliath Coffee Company, Inc.  
HOW DAL HELPED ME DEVELOP MY LEADERSHIP SKILLS: It really pushed me to see what I could achieve. Whenever you do a role like [House President], it’s a big time commitment. I had the opportunity to really shape the initial experience of all of these new students coming to Dalhousie from all over Canada and the world. I also really wanted to help kickstart those students’ university experience.  
KEY ABILITY ACQUIRED: The ability to work in a team effectively. It strengthened my ability to listen and collaborate; to step up when decisions need to be made and to have confidence in those decisions.  
MOST IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP LESSON I LEARNED: It gave me confidence in my speaking and presentation abilities and has helped me take on big challenges that may seem overwhelming initially. It gives you the drive. You realize that you can do great things if you put your mind to it, surround yourself with the right kind of people and you’re focused.  
HOW I’VE PUT THOSE LESSONS TO WORK SINCE LEAVING UNIVERSITY: Most students can be intimidated by taking on extra things when they’re at university because of the extra pressure that’s on you and it can affect your academics. But the benefits of taking on these roles in the long-run in your resume, personal growth and professional development vastly outweighs it.  
WHY I CAME BACK TO VOLUNTEER WITH THE DAA: When I moved to Vancouver I felt a disconnect. So when the DAA launched these new programs, I thought this is great, I want to help build the community here on the West Coast. I think it’s amazing that you can still have this tie back to your university network and your friends, even though you are now in a different career path. —Tina Pittaway

Volunteering as House President of Risley Hall (right) boosted Kyle MacDonald’s confidence. ABOVE, MacDonald (second from right) at a Vancouver chapter event, with President Florizone (far left) and members of the chapter executive.

IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN ONE OF DALHOUSIE’S 11 ALUMNI CHAPTERS, CONTACT BILL CHERNIN AT VOLUNTEER@DAL.CA OR VISIT ALUMNI.DAL.CA/CHAPTERS
Danny Gabriel

Cindy Dobbelsteyn (BSc’78, MSc’82, MSc’99) tried retirement on for size, but it didn’t fit. Just two months after the 57-year-old speech pathologist completed a rewarding 30-year career with Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres in June, 2013, Michael Kiefte made her an offer she couldn’t refuse. Working through the Dalhousie School of Human Communication Disorders (SHCD), Dr. Kiefte and Dobbelsteyn have launched the Accent Modification Clinic in Halifax—the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada.

As a proponent of lifelong learning, Dobbelsteyn practises what she preaches. “I can’t seem to sit still for long,” Dobbelsteyn says, laughing. “And I’m not good at saying ‘no’. This opportunity came along, and I thought it just sounded so exciting. It’s giving me the chance to further my education.”

The Accent Modification Clinic needs some explanation as some have rushed to judgment, assuming that the goal is to champion The Queen’s English to recent immigrants, with an emphasis on eliminating the regional differences in accent. Dobbelsteyn immediately dispels that notion. She stresses that accents are worthy of pride as beautiful historical and cultural identifiers—and harder to remove than freckles. The clinic works to invoke more subtle changes.

In a global economy, foreign students and graduates conducting business in an English-speaking world can be at a competitive disadvantage. When English is your second language, it’s not just the accent that makes communication difficult, it’s the unusual cadence and emphasis placed on specific words in conversation.

At school, it’s less of an issue. Classrooms in most Canadian universities are wonderfully multicultural, and faculty and students are adept at listening in a way that begets understanding. But in boardrooms and at receptions, where multimillion dollar contracts are signed and alliances formed, those listening skills in others might not be as well-developed. It’s a cliché, but often you don’t get a second chance to make a first impression.

The fee-for-service clinic develops programs to suit individual needs and goals, with homework given to hasten progress. Programs generally last 10 to 12 weeks.

Dobbelsteyn loves the work, but admits she’s moved outside her comfort zone. “The reading and research—and working with people from all over the world—I was prepared for that. I’m loving the challenge. I love learning things and trying them out to see how they work. But the marketing, the self-promotion? That’s not my forte.”

During her career, many have praised Dobbelsteyn for being generous with her expertise and her time. She devotes about a month every year to the Speech–Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) national committee that certifies professionals working in this challenging field. She’s also an internationally recognized expert on speech disorders in individuals born with cleft palate. She’s been a professor at SHCD and she’s collaborated with charitable groups like Operation Smile and Earthspeak to volunteer in developing regions, particularly in Ecuador.

Dobbelsteyn has three degrees from Dal, starting with mathematics. But as much as she liked working with numbers, she liked working with people more, and so moved on to do degrees in Human Communication Disorders and Community Health and Epidemiology.

One thing is certain. Dobbelsteyn is having fun. “I feel very lucky,” she says. “When opportunities have come my way, I’ve never been sure where they would take me,” says speech pathologist Cindy Dobbelsteyn. ABOVE and LEFT, she helps those for whom English is a second language improve the clarity of their spoken English.

“...improving the clarity of their spoken English...”
“Until I came to Dal, I had no idea that I could sing classical music, or that I had any aptitude for it.”

Rising Star

Iain MacNeil (BMus’13) thought he’d become a music teacher. And then he discovered opera.

At 19, Iain MacNeil (BMus’13) came to Dalhousie intending to train as a music teacher. Instead, opera found him and set him on an exciting new trajectory. “I grew up around music,” says the Brockville, Ontario native, who started piano at age five and quickly moved on to musical theatre, capturing the lead role in a community production of Oliver! when he was 12 years old. “Everyone in my family—even my grandparents—is into music, be it listening to old favourites like John Denver, or making music themselves, singing and playing piano or guitar.”

Encouraged by his high school music teacher and mentor, Judy Quick, MacNeil set his sights on Dalhousie, imagining that he would fit right into the local music scene at this cool, seaside university. “Judy was such a great influence,” he says. “I wanted to be a music teacher just like her. And she thought I’d like Halifax.”

But it didn’t take long for MacNeil’s career plans to change direction, thanks to the attentions of accomplished mezzo-soprano and Dalhousie voice professor Marcia Swanston. “Until I came to Dal, I had no idea that I could sing classical music, or that I had any aptitude for it,” says MacNeil. “Suddenly, I was exploring this whole world of layered and textured music.”

A natural bass-baritone, MacNeil cut his operatic teeth on Mozart, whose music he describes as “both the easiest and most difficult to sing.” Within months, the teenager was singing opera in Italy, an experience that cemented his future career aspirations.

Now 23, MacNeil has emerged as one of the rising stars of the international opera scene. “In the last year, Iain has enjoyed unprecedented success,” says Dal’s Swanston. “It’s all rather amazing for a young singer just emerging from undergraduate studies.”

Highlights of that success include being one of only two Canadians invited to take part in the Young Singers Project at the Salzburg Festival in Austria; being invited to join the prestigious University of Toronto Opera program (he hadn’t even applied); and touring with Carmen on Tap through the United States with Julie Nesrallah. He is currently proceeding through the rounds of the New York Metropolitan Opera competition in the United States and has just been named to the Canadian Opera Company’s Ensemble Studio, Canada’s premier training program for young opera professionals. “Iain actually came third in the Canadian Opera Ensemble Competition,” says Swanston. “He is the second of only two Dal students who have placed in that competition the fall after graduation, so it’s almost unprecedented.”

For all his successes, MacNeil is surprisingly grounded. “It’s dangerous to let the music business dictate your life,” he says. “Music and performing demand a lot of emotional energy, so I’m trying to enjoy it; to take the highs and the lows and stay balanced.” —Joanne Ward-Jerrett
Dal alumni gathered at events around the globe

ALUMNI EVENTS

Spring Fever

We visited Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong and Beijing for events in mid-February. Attendees had a chance to network with fellow alumni and catch up on news from Dal. Earlier in February, the New York Chapter mingled with President Florizone at the residence of the Consul General of Canada in New York, the Honorable John Prato. Engineering alumni skied at Martock and Sunshine Village, and alumni receptions were held in Vancouver. Spring in Calgary offered alumni a chapter pub night, a reception to meet President Florizone and two lobster dinners! Receptions were also held in Nassau and Edmonton, as well as in Halifax for Faculty of Agriculture alumni. Other chapter events included a Sherlock Holmes walking tour in London and an evening with Senator James Cowan, Q.C. (BA’62, LLB’65, LLD’09) in Ottawa.

What’s that top photo on p. 27? Ralph McNeil (BEng(TUNS)’80), Stephen Harding and Bill Ellsworth (BEng(TUNS)’80) are in the kitchen for the Calgary Engineering Lobster Dinner.

FOR DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS, VISIT ALUMNI.DAL.CA/EVENTS, JOIN US AT FACEBOOK.COM/DALUMNI OR CALL 1.800.565.9969.

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A passion for human dignity. An unquenchable thirst for knowledge. A commitment to end global suffering and injustice—such were the forces that drove Canadian foreign diplomat Glyn R. Berry (PhD’81) to do the extraordinary work that he did to improve conditions for ordinary people in desperate circumstances. Tragically, he died in the midst of his humanitarian work—killed in a terrorist attack in Kandahar in 2006, while serving as the political director for the provincial reconstruction team with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT).

But today, the Glyn Berry legacy lives on in a scholarship established in his memory at Dalhousie University. A partnership between Dalhousie and DFAIT, the Glyn R. Berry Memorial Scholarship in International Policy Studies supports the work of outstanding doctoral students, who are committed to furthering the work of Glyn Berry through meaningful scholarship in the areas of international affairs, defense and global security policy. Now fully endowed, the scholarship—which is valued at $11,000 per year for up to four years—is supported by an engaged group of political, academic and humanitarian donors who are committed to continuing Berry’s legacy.

To date, two candidates have been awarded full scholarship funding. David Morgan, the inaugural Glyn R. Berry Scholar in Political Science, is focusing his doctoral research on international and local understandings of civilian protection. Ben O’Brien, the recipient of the scholarship for 2013–2014, is studying under Dr. David Black in the area of human security. O’Brien seeks to better understand complex notions of human security in order to better ascertain threats and propose remedies.

“The Glyn R. Berry Scholarship is a tremendous testament to the power of research to effect meaningful change through improved social policy,” said Robert Summerby-Murray, Dalhousie’s dean of arts and social sciences, at a recent donor event. “This is a gift that will keep on giving, as it continues to provide funds to attract top PhD students in international policy and security studies.” — Joanne Ward-Jerrett

Honouring a Fallen Diplomat

The Glyn R. Berry Memorial Scholarship is a fitting tribute to its namesake, supporting outstanding doctoral students engaged in meaningful scholarship in international affairs, defense and global security policy.

“This is a gift that will keep on giving, as it continues to provide funds to attract top PhD students in international policy and security studies.”
1960s

'64 ERIC JERRETT, BEng (NSTC) (Civil) was recently presented with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. His other honours include the TUNS Alumni Achievement Award, MUN Lifetime Achievement Award and the Order of Canada. Before retiring, Eric was the only person in Canada licensed to practice engineering, architecture and land surveying. He was also a notary public. Eric and his wife Elizabeth (Betty) reside in Bay Roberts, N.L.

'68 DR. CAROL MORRISON, MSc, PhD ’71, now works as a full-time artist and recently had a solo show of her Maritime landscapes at Swoon Fine Art in Hammonds Plains. She previously worked as a research scientist at the Halifax Laboratory of DFO and then as a consultant with a research group at the IWK while obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts at NSCAD.

1970s

'73 CLYDE MASON, BComm, spent 33 years working as a real estate broker in Nova Scotia and Florida. He is now traveling the western U.S.A. with his wife. The Masons started a mobile retail business in 2009, selling liquid-filled massage insoles to customers experiencing foot, leg and back pain. Their web site is www.massaginginsoles.com.

'74 HAROLD SMITH, O.C., BA, LLB ’77, was elected as a Fellow of the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers, Class of 2013, at the 18th Annual Induction Ceremony in New Orleans. As a fellow, Harold joins a distinguished list of North America’s leading labour and employment lawyers as one of 25 fellows of the College practicing in Canada.

'84 JOHN MURRAY, BComm, of Dartmouth, N.S. received his Certified General Accountant designation from the CGA Association of Canada.

1980s

'80 DR. B. BHASKAR GOLLAPUDI, PhD (Biology), has been honoured by the Society of Toxicology (SOT) with the 2014 SOT Arnold J. Lehman Award. Dr. Gollapudi accepted his award on March 23 at SOT’s 53rd Annual Meeting and ToxExpo in Phoenix, Ariz.

'81 JOHN DEMMINGS, BComm, relocated to national headquarters of Canada Post in 2011. As one of two subject-matter experts, he worked with colleagues and consultants on the design and development of a major software initiative to effectively report and manage workplace incidents. The launch and deployment of the project throughout the country was very successful.

1990s

'87 DAVID COMEAU, BSc (Recreation), was named Senior Vice President, Operations & Special Projects for Falck Safety Services Canada. Falck is the world’s largest emergency response and safety training company, with centres in 18 countries worldwide. In addition to his new role as VP, David is also an equity partner in the Canadian operation.

'92 JENNIFER NIEMI, BA, is pleased to announce that Nerissa’s Life has won four awards in the 2013 Canadian Blog Awards: first for Best Funny Blog, first and second for Best Blog Post and second for Best Pet Blog. The blog is written by Nerissa the Cat with just a teeny-tiny bit of help from her peep #1, Jennifer.
2008 English Governor General’s Literary Award Winners

Fiction: The Origin of Species, Nino Ricci
Non-Fiction: Fifteen Days, Christie Blatchford
Poetry: More to Keep Us Warm, Jacob Scheier
Drama: Bone Cage, Catherine Banks
Children’s Literature: The Landing, John Ibbitson
Children’s Illustration: The Owl and the Pussy Cat (Edward Lear), Stephane Jorisch

’95 Megan Shortreed, LLB, is a partner at Paliare Roland Barristers in Toronto, where she practises as a civil, commercial and regulatory litigator. Megan is listed in “The Best Lawyers in Canada” and was recently named a Benchmark “Future Star” for Ontario. On February 20, 2014, Megan received the Toronto Lawyers Association’s inaugural Honsberger Award in recognition of her contributions to the legal profession and her charitable work against homelessness in Toronto.

’98 Jeremy Kohm, BA, was named in Luerzer’s Archive list of the “200 Best Ad Photographers Worldwide.” This is the second consecutive year that he has received the honour. Based in Toronto and New York, Jeremy shoots advertising and editorial photography internationally. More of his work can be seen at jeremykohm.com.

’99 Lori Andrews, P.Eng, BEng (Environmental Engineering), has joined Waste Diversion Ontario in Toronto as its new Data Manager. Lori will be responsible for the overall management of data and information for WDO. This includes administration, development, implementation, verification and analysis of the annual Blue Box Municipal Datacall (an online survey of Ontario municipalities).

’00s

’01 Zainol Nainal, BSc (Pharmacy), did one year of housemanship in Malaysia after graduating from Dal. He then completed his Master of Clinical Pharmacy in 2003 and in 2009, graduated with a PhD in Clinical Pharmacy, the first doctorate degree of its kind in Malaysia. He is currently teaching in a private college university in Cyberjaya, Malaysia and is enjoying every moment of it. He thanks all of the faculty members for their incessant support and encouragement throughout his studies. He also thanks librarian Elizabeth Foy and fellow classmates of ’01.

ONCE A TIGER, ALWAYS A TIGER!

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DAL SPRING 2014
2010s

DEBORAH CAMPBELL, MPA (Management) was recently promoted to municipal clerk of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. Campbell, who was appointed on January 23, credits the Master of Public Administration program for preparing her for this exciting new role.

JAMIE CHARLEBOIS, MDE, and ANDREW FANNING, BA’07, MDE, published a book, First Forays in International Development: Instructive Experiences from Seven Young Professionals. The new publication is available at amazon.com.
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DONALD DOW, PGM’75, St. John’s, N.L., May 28, 2008
CRYSTAL DAWN (BAIN) COLLINGS, BA’76, Head of Chezzetcook, N.S., on January 17, 2011
JAMES WILLIAM PROFIT, DDIP’76, Guelph, Ont., on January 14, 2014
RAJENDRA PRASAD HAJELA, PGM’77, North York, Ont., on January 30, 2014
SUSAN ELIZABETH STUTTARD, BSc’78, MSc’80, Halifax, N.S., on February 13, 2014
WILLIAM ERIC CHERNIN, BSc’79, MD’83, PGM’85, Sanford, Maine, on January 4, 2014
THOMAS JOHN MOUNCE, DEngR’79, BEng’81, Edmonton, Alta., on January 24, 2011
WILLIAM GERARD GUSHUE, LLB’80, Goose Bay, N.L., on February 21, 2013
MARThA MARIA (VLAHOS) MACLELLAN, BN’81, Halifax, N.S., on January 24, 2014
CAROL THERESA (WILKIE) MCCREADY, BSW’81, MSW’84, Pleasantville, N.S., on May 18, 2012
RICHARD WILLIAM BAMP PEARSON, LLB’82, on March 4, 2014
GARY R. NOSEWORTHY, TECH’82, Timberlea, N.S., on April 21, 2013
ROBERT THOMAS MACEWAN, BA’83, Courtice, Ont., on February 13, 2014
CYNTHIA DOREEN BARKHOUSE-MACKEEN, BN’84, Bedford, N.S., on February 1, 2014
JIMMY SANG POON, BSc’85, Kowloon, Hong Kong, on June 4, 2012
SHIRLEY BEATRICE WALL, BN’86, Halifax, N.S., on January 4, 2014
SANDEE LYNN HICKS MOORE, BN’88, Saint John, N.B., on March 17, 2013
ANDREA MARIE (VASSALLO) BLAKE, BSc’88, Dartmouth, N.S., on December 4, 2013
SUELLEN JANET ANNE MURRAY, LLB’90, Halifax, N.S., on February 7, 2014
KAREN ANN VACON, BA’91, Tusket, N.S., on February 7, 2014
ANNE ELLEN (GARVACK) FILLMORE, MED’91, Halifax, N.S., on December 1, 2013
MARCEL PAUL POIRIER, BEng’91, Pictou, N.S., on February 17, 2014
VLADIMIR VIISOREANU LAFKOVICI, PGM’92, Digby, N.S., on February 21, 2014
MICHAEL DAVID SUMNER, BED’92, York, Ont., on January 24, 2014
ALISON ANNE MACNEIL, BA’93, Halifax, N.S., on January 24, 2014
BRENDA ELIZABETH PELLERIN, BSW’94, Dartmouth, N.S., on January 12, 2014
M. CHRISTIAN GOULD, DTECH’96, BTECH’01, Saint John, N.B., on January 5, 2013
BRAD G. MCISAAC, LLB’97, Iqaluit, Nunavut, on December 23, 2013
IAN LAMONT MCLAUCHLAN, MA’99, Dartmouth, N.S., on November 2, 2003
MARY-JANE MCLAUGHLIN, MD’01, on September 15, 2006
AART CHRISTIAAN TER BEEK, TECH’04, North Winaloe, P.E.I., on March 2, 2013

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PINTEREST: pinterest.com/dalhousie
YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/dalhousie
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Dal Spring 2014
Reconnect with your faculty and class. There are new and exciting events for 2014 — along with some old favorites.

Visit dal.ca/homecoming2014 for full details, registration and tickets. Check back often for updates to the schedule.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16
- The Dalhousie Alumni Dinner — host Jane Taber, Atlantic Bureau Chief, The Globe and Mail
- Faculty of Architecture and Planning — Sexton Campus Coffee Club, Sexton Tour, Sexton Campus Welcome Reception
- Faculty of Engineering — Sexton Campus Coffee Club, Sexton Tour, Sexton Campus Welcome Reception, Class of ’64 Dinner

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17
- President’s Reunion Class Social
- Faculty of Agriculture — Homecoming Breakfast, “Go Back to Class” and Campus Tour
- Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences — celebration of 40 years of Canadian Studies
- Faculty of Computer Science — Lecture with Dr. Stan Matwin, Alumni Reception and Geekbeer
- Faculty of Dentistry — JD McLean Lecture Series
- Faculty of Law — “Back to Class,” Law Alumni Dinner and Domus Night
- Faculty of Medicine — Dalhousie Medical Alumni Awards Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
- NEW THIS YEAR! Tiger Family Fun Run/Walk
- NEW THIS YEAR! Post-run brunch and campus celebration
- Faculty of Dentistry — Atlantic Dental Education Weekend and Dentistry Alumni Dinner
- Faculty of Engineering — Farewell Breakfast
- Faculty of Management — breakfast with alumni and students
From prominent graduates to programs that create relationships with industries, universities and researchers internationally, Dal’s connections and influence stretch around the globe. By Jane Affleck (BA’00)

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1872
The Dalhousie Alumni Association holds its first annual meeting, aiming to “promote the best interests of the university and to foster affection for all students of Dalhousie.”

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1904
Dal’s first Rhodes Scholar, Gilbert S. Stairs, heads to the University of Oxford (UK). Dal has since sent 88 students to Oxford. Dal’s latest Rhodes Scholar is Michael Mackley, currently a fourth-year biology student.

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1982
Dal’s first study-abroad/exchange program sends students in the Department of French to Aix-en-Provence, France (to Dijon, since 2004). By 2013, 443 Dal students participated in study-abroad programs in 120 institutions in 44 countries.

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1983
Elizabeth May, current leader of the Green Party of Canada, graduates from Dalhousie with an LLB degree. Dal’s Environmental Science program is the headquarters for the Elizabeth May Chair in Sustainability and Environmental Health, currently held by Daniel Rainham.

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1987
Dr. Abdulla bin Abdulaziz Al Rabiah completes his pediatric surgery fellowship at Dal. As Saudi minister of health, Dr. Al Rabiah appointed the first woman to the position of assistant undersecretary in the medical services affairs department.

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2009
The International Food Business program at the Faculty of Agriculture officially launches. The program sends second-year students at the Truro campus to Europe: Iceland for orientation, then a year in The Netherlands. Dutch students come to the Agricultural Campus for their third year. The result: a hands-on education and international friendships and networks.

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2011
Paul Bishop, professor of materials engineering in the Faculty of Engineering, leads a five-year project with Boeing to research and develop new materials for the aerospace industry. The project, the faculty’s first with the aerospace leader, offers students the opportunity to solve real-world problems and connect with industry professionals.

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2012
Dal partners with CALDO, a Canadian consortium of universities, to boost the number of Brazilian students coming to our campuses through the Science Without Borders program. As of winter 2014, Dal has hosted 77 undergrad students and four PhD students.
Remember when you had **no cares** in this world?

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