

DAL MAGAZINE

SPRING 2017



COURSE
CORRECTION:
LAWYER **NAIOMI
METALLIC**,
CHANCELLOR'S
CHAIR IN
ABORIGINAL
LAW AND POLICY

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TRIPLE THREAT Dal-based researchers have won the Herzberg Canada Gold Medal three times in four years, a rare feat. Meet the minds who are pushing the university's research profile to the national and international stage like never before. By Ryan McNutt

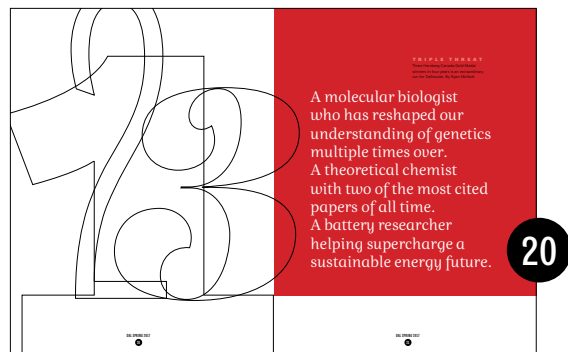
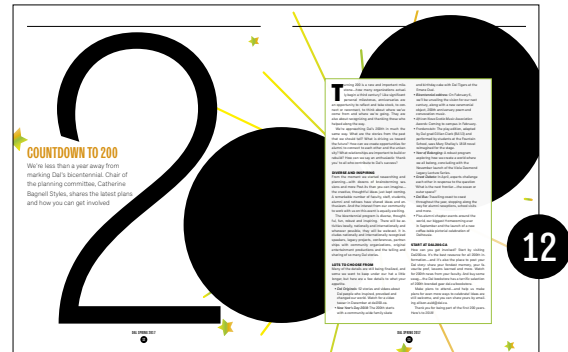
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DALMAGAZINE

MASTHEAD

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EDITORIAL

RESISTING #NotUs

When confronting the difficult truths of Canada's interactions with Aboriginal people, it's tempting to climb "Mount Distant", and attempt to remove yourself from emotion—and perhaps accountability—by adopting a third-person voice. Or you might slide over to "Finger-wag Hill", slip into second-person and berate everyone else for what they've got wrong and what you know is right. Coming down to eye-level (I-level?) can feel risky, as I fear I'll say the wrong thing, or presume that my perspective—as a middle-class white woman in a society that gives people like me advantages—is more universal than it actually is.

The truth is especially tricky to face when it runs counter to what was taught at school or told at home, when it challenges the stories of a community or a country. It's tempting to meet that truth of residential schools, systemic racism, genocide with explanations, elaborations. "But...but...but..." #NotMe. #NotMine. #NotAll. #NotUs.

Sometimes we need to just shut our "buts" down—and listen as others share their truth, without talk-blocking it with the context we want heard but which we sometimes find hard to hear from another.

At the risk of climbing "Finger-wag Hill", it's a lesson I wish I could share with a senator or two, a politician or three, a handful of Facebook friends or four. Because instead of speaking over people our society has marginalized, we need to listen. To hear their tough truths. And to honour their courage in speaking it.

It's a lesson Chancellor Anne McLellan and Professor Naomi Metallic (*A Seat at the Table*, p. 14) are modelling for us—and for a new generation of students—as they work together to ensure that tough truths about the intersection of Aboriginal issues and Canada's legal system are confronted. It is courageous work.



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FUTURE ALUMNI

Dance master

A smartphone, a good location and a few dance moves: that's all it took for Hasmeet Singh Chandok's Maritime's Bhangra Group to capture the world's attention. Ever since a video the group made at Peggy's Cove last fall went viral—viewed millions of times around the world—several organizations have offered the dance group extra resources, but Chandok says there's a reason they still shoot all their performances on an iPhone. "I want to give out this message to people that if you want to bring change, you can't complain that you didn't have enough resources," says Chandok, a Computer Science master's student from India. "If you want to do it, just do it." Chandok began organizing Bhangra dance performances for events within the Dal community a few years ago through the Sikh Student Association—a student group he started with his brother, Kunwardeep (a Dal alum), to raise awareness about Sikh religion and culture on campus. Noticing the popularity of the performances, Chandok decided last summer to form a dedicated dance group to carry their message of tolerance and change to a wider audience. That's exactly what Maritime Bhangra Group has done. The group has produced several follow-up videos since the Peggy's Cove breakout hit, including one featuring federal cabinet ministers. The segments typically start with 40 to 50 seconds of dancing followed by a message to raise awareness about different causes from prostate cancer to the neurodegenerative disease ALS. "When people share these videos, they are not sharing just a dance," he says. "They are sharing a social responsibility of raising awareness about important causes." —Matt Reeder



DAL NEWS



Who won the 2017 Residence Charity Face-Off hockey showdown in March? The scoreboard said the Bighorns (Risley, Shirreff and LeMarchant Place) prevailed over the Trojans (Howe Hall, Gerard Hall and Mini-Rez) with a score of 4-2. But as is the case every year, the real winners were patients and families at the IWK Health Centre. Residence students raised \$13,000 for the IWK Foundation in the lead-up to the game. This was the 12th year for the annual event, which to date has raised a total of \$189,000 for the foundation. Organizers hope to reach the \$200,000 mark, appropriately, in Dal's 200th anniversary year next year. —Ryan McNutt

THE LIST

Alum among finalists to become Canadian astronaut

Dal alum Dr. Robert Riddell (MD'11) is in the running to take to the stars. He is among 17 finalists of the Canadian Space Agency's current recruitment campaign, which will result in the selection of two candidates to start astronaut training this August.

The qualifications to become an astronaut are intense, and the selection process rigorous. Nine Dal alumni were among the first round of 72 finalists selected from a pool of more than

3,700 applicants, including Dr. Riddell, Scott Bishop (BScK'00, MASc'04), Brendan Craig Dickson (BSc'97, BA'97, MSc'99), Cordell Grant (BEng'03), William Shane Journeay (MD'11), Olathe MacIntyre (BSc'02), Kharim Schliewinsky (MD'12), Dr. Kevin Spencer (BEng'00, MD'09) and Dr. Gavin Tansley (MSc'16).

Dr. Riddell is originally from Belleville, Ont., and is currently a physician in the Canadian Armed Forces. —Ryan McNutt

#

BY THE NUMBERS

Celebrating FASS research

The fireside lounge on the first floor of the McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building looked a lot like a library in March. An assortment of books touching on everything from Indigenous and gender issues to Russian Studies and U.S. foreign policy were on display as part of an event celebrating recent publications from researchers in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). "The annual event is an opportunity to recognize the publications and research produced by our faculty," explained Howard Ramos, associate dean of research for FASS. More than 20 faculty members came together to be recognized for their work. One of the busiest authors at the event, Dr. Margaret Robinson, assistant professor of Indigenous Studies at Dal, had three different publications on display. —Molly Marcott

18

Number of full-length books published by FASS researchers in 2016

39

Number of peer-reviewed articles published

5, 3 & 1

Number, respectively, of book chapters, reports and reviews published

WHY I DO IT

HOMECOMING

NAME: Sheila Blair-Reid (BComm'86)

POSITION/DEPARTMENT: Executive Director of Alumni Engagement

HER BACKSTORY: When Sheila Blair-Reid (BComm'86) began her role as executive director of alumni engagement in 2016, it was a coming home of sorts. "Both of my parents dedicated their careers to the university—my dad as a biochemist in the Faculty of Medicine, and my mom as an administrator. In turn I spent a lot of my childhood on campus. You could say my love for Dal started then." It was also here where Blair-Reid discovered her entrepreneurial drive, as a student in the Faculty of Management. She went on to build Metro Guide Publishing, Atlantic Canada's largest magazine publishing house, before returning to Dalhousie. "I was keen to work with an institution where I can look back on life and feel that I helped make a difference in the world."

HIGHLIGHTS: Blair-Reid is inspired by the impact her more than 130,000 fellow alumni worldwide are making, and excited by their shared potential. "We are connected by a common background, and more importantly, by a common vision around what we can do together. That lifelong connection is powerful." Especially motivated by Dalhousie's 200th anniversary in 2018, Blair-Reid looks forward to bringing the celebration to alumni through a Canadian coast-to-coast bicentennial bus tour and a supersized Global Homecoming. "We have all played a role in Dal's history and that is something to celebrate."

WHY SHE DOES IT: Blair-Reid is driven by an enthusiasm to connect alumni with their alma mater. "Our goal is to offer alumni opportunities to engage with the university, its students and research, and each other in meaningful ways." — Naomi Hill



Sheila Blair-Reid, executive director of alumni engagement, is inspired by the impact her more than 130,000 fellow alumni worldwide are making.

DAL NEWS

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Students band together to care for Halifax's vulnerable

Students in nine different professional programs have joined forces to tend to the unmet health needs of low-income, vulnerably housed and homeless people in Halifax, through a new student-led initiative called HOPES (Halifax Outreach Prevention Education & Support).

Beginning this February, students in Dalhousie's Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Social Work, Occupational Therapy and Health Administration programs—as well as in Med-avie's paramedicine and Mount Saint Vincent University's dietetics programs—are providing health education, navigation assistance and clinical care to people who might otherwise fall through the cracks of the health care system.

Through the HOPES multi-faceted approach, junior students provide information, initial screenings and general guidance on Sunday afternoons at the St. Andrew's United Church on Robie Street in Halifax, in conjunction with the long-running Sunday Suppers and Walk in Our Shoes programs at the church. Meanwhile, se-

nior students work in interdisciplinary teams, supervised by volunteer preceptors, to provide clinical care at the HOPES Health Centre on the corner of South and LeMarchant streets (Dalhousie Health Services location).

"We were hoping for about 50 students so we weren't entirely prepared when 220 expressed an interest," says Jelsi Mynott, HOPES' communications coordinator and a student in Dal's combined master's program in Health Administration and Law.

HOPES is looking for more preceptors to supervise the students in their work at the HOPES Health Centre. "I think faculty members and professionals in the community who get involved as preceptors will find it very rewarding to work with such motivated students," says Jenna MacGregor, a first-year Dalhousie Medicine student who is also the HOPES preceptor coordinator. "We're looking for a four-Sunday commitment from preceptors, per semester."

—Melanie Jollymore



HOPES student volunteers (pictured) provide information, initial screening and clinical care to low-income, vulnerably housed and homeless people in Halifax.



RESEARCH

\$28.5 MILLION TO MARINE RISKS GROUP

A Dalhousie-led ocean research group dedicated to strengthening Canada's capacity to observe, predict and respond to marine risks has received \$28.5 million in renewal funding from the federal government. The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science, visited campus in February to announce the government's re-investment in the Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response (MEOPAR) Network through its Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program.

First established through NCE in 2012, MEOPAR enables academic researchers, government scientists and partners across sectors (private, non-governmental and community) to work together to reduce Canada's vulnerability to the changing marine environment — and to take advantage of some of the economic opportunities arising from those changes.

Ottawa's renewed commitment to MEOPAR will be paid over five years and allow the network to build on the groundbreaking research it began with the first round of funding. The group has supported 44 research projects and 21 research core activities at 28 Canadian universities since its inception. —Matt Reeder and Michele Charlton

INNOVATOR

DR. AFUA COOPER

JAMES ROBINSON JOHNSTON CHAIR IN BLACK CANADIAN STUDIES

INNOVATION: Developed a minor program in Black and African Diaspora Studies, created the Black Faculty and Staff Caucus and launched the Lord Dalhousie panel, an examination of the complex legacy of the university's eponymous founder. Dr. Cooper serves as chair of this panel of distinguished scholars, which will publish a report with recommendations on future actions in August of 2017.

FOUNDATION: Several U.S. colleges have uncovered links to slavery and racial oppression in their institutional histories and Dalhousie's story has its own uncomfortable chapters. Although he founded the university with a philosophy of openness, Lord Dalhousie's legacy also includes documented statements supporting the return of freed slaves, who he deemed "incapable of industry," to their masters.

INSPIRATION: Dr. Cooper is investigating the founding ideologies of higher learning institutions and how they were informed by contemporary ideas about race. With the panel, she aims to establish the historical context behind the university's founding ideology and Lord Dalhousie's views on race, as well as advise the institution on how to address its complex history in the present day.

WHY IT MATTERS With Dal's bicentennial on the horizon, Dr. Cooper and the panel are conducting a vital exploration into the history of the university and the ideals that have shaped it. A complete and clear-eyed understanding of what inclusiveness meant to Lord Dalhousie in the 19th century will, as the panel's terms of reference state, inform how the university responds to this legacy "in order to build a stronger, more inclusive university that fully reflects our history, our values and our aspirations." As Dr. Cooper says, "We are in a time when people want to learn the whole story."

—Matt Semansky



"We're looking at how academies helped to further racial and gender inequality. This is what propelled us to look at Lord Dalhousie's legacy, because he was a man who didn't want Black people in the province and a school was established in his honour."

DAL NEWS

NOTES



Dalhousie is seeking a new musical composition suitable for performance by a brass quintet. ABOVE, Eric Mathis, Fountain School trombone instructor.

Calling composers

It's hard to imagine a convocation ceremony without music. From the singing of the national anthem to the fanfare of the classic "Pomp and Circumstance" theme, music adds spirit and energy to one of the university's most celebratory times.

Fitting, then, that for Dal's 200th anniversary celebrations next year, Dalhousie is looking for a new musical composition—one that would be a perfect fit for ceremonies like convocation and its introductory counterpart, induction.

An initiative led by the Fountain School of

Performing Arts, the Call for Works was issued earlier this year and is open to all professional Canadian composers. The university is looking for a short piece (less than 2 minutes and 30 seconds) that is to be performed by a brass quintet (two trumpets, French horn, and tenor and bass trombones).

Why a brass quintet? Because it's a brass quintet—the Symphony Brass Quintet, which includes Fountain School trombone instructor Eric Mathis — that performs the musical accompaniment for Dalhousie's convocation ceremonies. Submissions are due no later than September 15, 2017.

—Ryan McNutt

Keeping NICU parents connected

The Government of Canada has made a \$3-million investment in a technology being developed under the leadership of Dalhousie's Dr. Marsha Campbell-Yeo, aimed at letting parents and their family become more active participants in the care of their baby within the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit). The investment in ChezNICU is being made through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's (ACOA) Atlantic Innovation Fund. The support will help the IWK/Dal team further develop and commercialize the system.

Nearly one in eight babies in Canada are born preterm, and growing evidence shows that increased parental involvement in care improves outcomes for infants and their families. Partnering with Cisco Solutions, the IWK Health Centre's ChezNICU product will offer parents 24/7 access to help them navigate the complex NICU environment at their own pace. They can connect and learn about their baby's care on-site,

from their smartphone or tablet or from their home computer. The system will help parents learn at their own pace, developing confidence in being part of their baby's daily routine.

"By working together, we can ensure that the research evidence generated by leading Dalhousie scientists is brought directly to the patients who need it most—and, in turn, clinicians can identify health care gaps and provide researchers with timely and relevant research questions," added Dr. Campbell-Yeo. —Ryan McNutt

From Nunavut to Dalhousie

For the last two years, colleagues in the Faculty of Management have been working with the Government of Nunavut on the best way to help public servants advance their leadership skills. In February, Martine Durier-Copp, director of Management's Centre for Advanced Management Education (CFAME), signed an agreement with Nunavut Deputy Premier Monica Ell-Kanayak that will bring this

collaboration to a new level—and potentially bring Nunavut's public servants into Dal's programs. The agreement grants members of the Nunavut public service advanced standing into CFAME graduate programs once they complete the Government of Nunavut's Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Development program.

Programs like Hivuliqtikhanut are especially valuable to a government as young as Nunavut's, explains Dr. Durier-Copp. When Nunavut was created in 1999, it inherited policies from the Northwest Territories, and operated a slim public service.

"Since then," says Dr. Durier-Copp, "no other government in Canada has faced the breadth and pace of development of its legislation, policy, programs and public sector." Continuing to educate Nunavut's administration and leaders is essential, she says, emphasizing that the idea is not to push Nunavut to use the practices of other provinces and territories, but to "enable it to select the most appropriate practices that are optimal for its population." —Miriam Breslow



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COUNTDOWN TO 200

We're less than a year away from marking Dal's bicentennial. Chair of the planning committee, Catherine Bagnell Styles, shares the latest plans and how you can get involved

Turning 200 is a rare and important milestone—how many organizations actually begin a third century? Like significant personal milestones, anniversaries are an opportunity to reflect and take stock, to connect or reconnect, to think about where we've come from and where we're going. They are also about recognizing and thanking those who helped along the way.

We're approaching Dal's 200th in much the same way. What are the stories from the past that we should tell? What is driving us toward the future? How can we create opportunities for alumni to connect to each other and the university? What relationships are important to build or rebuild? How can we say an enthusiastic 'thank you' to all who contribute to Dal's success?

DIVERSE AND INSPIRING

From the moment we started researching and planning—with dozens of brainstorming sessions and more Post-its than you can imagine—the creative, thoughtful ideas just kept coming. A remarkable number of faculty, staff, students, alumni and retirees have shared ideas and enthusiasm. And the interest from our community to work with us on this event is equally exciting.

The bicentennial program is diverse, thoughtful, fun, robust and inspiring. There will be activities locally, nationally and internationally and wherever possible, they will be webcast. It includes nationally and internationally recognized speakers, legacy projects, conferences, partnerships with community organizations, original entertainment productions and the telling and sharing of so many Dal stories.

LOTS TO CHOOSE FROM

Many of the details are still being finalized, and some we want to keep under our hat a little longer, but here are a few details to whet your appetite.

- **Dal Originals:** 52 stories and videos about Dal people who inspired, provoked and changed our world. Watch for a video teaser in December at dal200.ca.
- **New Year's Day 2018:** The 200th starts with a community-wide family skate

and birthday cake with Dal Tigers at the Emera Oval.

- **Bicentennial address:** On February 6, we'll be unveiling the vision for our next century, along with a new ceremonial object, 200th anniversary poem and convocation music.
- **African Nova Scotia Music Association Awards:** Coming to campus in February.
- **Frankenstein:** The play edition, adapted by Dal grad Gillian Clark (BA'13) and performed by students at the Fountain School, sees Mary Shelley's 1818 novel reimagined for the stage.
- **Year of Belonging:** A robust program exploring how we create a world where we all belong, concluding with the November launch of the Viola Desmond Legacy Lecture Series.
- **Great Debate:** In April, experts challenge each other in response to the question 'What is the next frontier—the ocean or outer space?'
- **Dal Bus:** Travelling coast to coast throughout the year, stopping along the way for alumni receptions, school visits and more.
- Plus alumni chapter events around the world, our biggest Homecoming ever in September and the launch of a new coffee-table pictorial celebration of Dalhousie.

START AT DAL200.CA

How can you get involved? Start by visiting Dal200.ca. It's the best resource for all 200th information—and it's also the place to post your Dal story: share your fondest memory, your favourite prof, lessons learned and more. Watch for 200th news from your faculty. And buy some swag—the Dal bookstore has a terrific selection of 200th branded gear dal.ca/bookstore.

Make plans to attend—and help us make plans for even more ways to celebrate! Ideas are still welcome, and you can share yours by emailing allison.auld@dal.ca.

Thank you for being part of the first 200 years. Here's to 2018!

A SEAT AT THE TABLE





When Dalhousie Chancellor Anne McLellan (left) studied law at Dal, Aboriginal issues were rarely discussed. Now, thanks to McLellan's funding of the Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy, lawyer Naomi Metallic (right) is helping ensure that's no longer the case.

BY JANE DOUCET

On a mild and rainy Wednesday in March, Professor Naomi Metallic took eight students in her Aboriginal Law seminar course on a field trip to the Nova Scotia Archives, located just down the street from the Schulich School of Law on University Avenue. They were there to tour the facility's research holdings, including the Indian Treaties Collection.

One of the artifacts was the original 1749 renewal at Chebucto of the Treaty of 1725. Prof. Metallic and her students stood quietly around the treaty, reading its handwritten script and absorbing its historic significance. It was signed at Chebucto (Kjipuktuk, now Halifax) on Aug. 15, 1749 by Joannes Pedousaghtigh, Chief of the tribe of Chignecto Indians, and deputies from the Chiefs of the St. Johns Indians, and witnessed by members of His Majesty's Council for Nova Scotia. The signing ceremony was held on board HMS Beaufort in Halifax Harbour, and the table used for the ceremony is now in the Legislative Council Chamber at Province House in Halifax. "I've spent days here at the Archives going through government documents while working on different cases," she told the students later, during the lecture portion of the two-hour class. "Sometimes you find nothing, and sometimes you find gems."

Throughout the interactive class, as Prof. Metallic discussed the pro bono case on traditional hunting rights that she had argued for Saint John Mi'kmaq Stephen Bernard in November before a hearing at the New Brunswick Court of Appeal, she encouraged an atmosphere that was as conversational as it was tutorial. Several times, Prof. Metallic paused to ask the students, "What do you think?" as the conversation related to the readings she had assigned, and the students confidently engaged with her in their responses.

When they discussed the protection of Indigenous language, Prof. Metallic and one of her students admitted that they both felt guilty that they can only speak a little of their native language, though recognizing this was not a personal failing but a product of historical attempts to destroy Indigenous languages and cultures. "One of my life's goals is to be fluent in Mi'kmaq," she said.

Prof. Metallic is Dalhousie's inaugural Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy, a position she assumed last September. Her return to the Weldon Law Building's classrooms on a larger scale was a homecoming—she had been a member of the law school's Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq (IB&M) Initiative, which was established in 1989 to increase representation of those groups in the legal profession, earning her law degree in 2005.

The Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy was made possible thanks to a generous donation by the Honourable Anne McLellan, Dalhousie's seventh Chancellor and a former deputy prime minister of Canada. The idea came from a conversation that McLellan and Dalhousie

President Richard Florizone had about creating initiatives at the university that would promote diversity and inclusion; in particular, they were seeking an opportunity where McLellan could make a difference. She had met Prof. Metallic briefly through their work on Dal's Board of Governors, which coincided with her conversation with Dr. Florizone.

"The President made me aware that Naomi might be interested in coming to the law school full-time," says McLellan. "The stars aligned, and we decided to create the Chair." That alignment was due in part to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action 28, which calls upon Canadian law schools to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal peoples and the law.

"Dal takes the TRC Calls to Action seriously, in particular Action 28," said Dr. Florizone at Prof. Metallic's official welcome reception in October. "We're proud of what we've done to foster diversity and inclusiveness at Dalhousie, but we know there's more we need to do." For law school Dean Camille Cameron, having Prof. Metallic assume the Chancellor's Chair is a positive step on the law school's path to greater diversity and inclusiveness. "The contributions that Prof. Metallic is making in the classroom, in our curriculum and in building relationships between the law school and our Aboriginal communities in this region are exciting and exactly why the Chancellor's Chair was established," she says.

McLellan did her undergrad at Dal, then earned a Law degree here in 1974. "I'm a proud Dal Law grad," she says. At Prof. Metallic's welcome reception, McLellan told those who had gathered in the Weldon Law Building's atrium that when she was in law school, there was no recognition of the contribution of Indigenous peoples on campus. "This Chair is a small part of a long journey toward diversity and inclusiveness, but that journey isn't over by any means."

McLellan believes that the law school should be acknowledged for its IB&M Initiative, and that both that program and Dalhousie have come a long way over the years in promoting diversity and inclusiveness. "Now was a good time for the law school to take ownership of a Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy and become a leader in Aboriginal law, policy and research," she says. "Naomi is the ideal first Chair—she is Mi'kmaq and so vibrant, energetic, dynamic and talented. She's a great fit."

Although the Chair is physically seated in the law school, it's intended to be interdisciplinary, which means that Prof. Metallic will collaborate not only with her Schulich School of Law colleagues but across Dalhousie faculties and beyond.

IMPROVING LIVES

Naomi Metallic hails from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation located on the Gaspé coast of Quebec, known as the Gespegewagi district of Mi'kma'ki. After earning her LLB



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from Dal, she graduated from the University of Ottawa's civil law program the following year, in 2006, then became the first Mi'kmaq person to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada. She also holds an LLM from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. Prior to accepting a tenure-track faculty position at the Schulich School of Law last July, she was a senior associate with Burchells LLP in Halifax, where she began practicing in 2008. That was also the year she started guest lecturing at her alma mater.

Prof. Metallic carefully considered her transition from lawyer to academic. "After nearly 10 years of rewarding practice in Aboriginal law, I decided to make the move to academia to continue my work for First Nations in a different way—through teaching, writing and speaking about the issues facing Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and how the law can be a tool for reconciliation and improving the lives of Indigenous peoples."

Prof. Metallic is a proud IB&M Initiative alumna. "I feel very fortunate to build on the great work of the IB&M and to push for positive change for Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal peoples," she says. However, she hasn't stopped practising law altogether; she is "keeping a toe in practice" at Burchells with such cases as Stephen Bernard's (he and his legal team are currently waiting to receive the judges' verdict).

MAKING CONNECTIONS

When Prof. Metallic was interviewed for this story in early March, a semester and a half into her role as Chair, she had already ticked off many of the items on her 2016–2018 strategic plan. They include contributing to teaching and research in the area of Aboriginal Law, developing a new course in Indigenous Governance, building relationships between the university and Aboriginal communities in the Maritimes, creating research internship positions and speaking at national conferences on Aboriginal issues.

Case in point: last October Prof. Metallic and eight of her students, most of whom are members of the IB&M Initiative, attended the 28th annual Indigenous Bar Association (IBA) conference in Vancouver. The theme, *Redefining Relationships With or Without You*, created an opportunity for industry, government, academics and legal practitioners to discuss how to move forward with a commitment to redefine Canada and its relationships with Indigenous peoples' lands, laws and institutions. Prof. Metallic spoke on two conference panels. The first was with a group of Indigenous academics, where she presented a draft paper looking at whether Canada should pass legislation recognizing Indigenous self-government (she believes it should). The second was with a group of women assembled by the Canadian Human Rights Commission, where she discussed the use of human rights law to address inequities in funding and services in First Nations communities.

It was the first time that Prof. Metallic and her students had attended the IBA's annual event, where, in addition to the speakers, they enjoyed listening to Inuit throat singing. "We met fabulous Indigenous lawyers, academics and students," she says. "There was a beautiful element of incorporating traditional culture and story. It was a wonderful recharging and re-energizing event." Prof. Metallic plans to work with the IBA to co-organize October's conference in Halifax, along with the Dalhousie Indigenous Law Students' Association.

LOOKING AHEAD

Right now Prof. Metallic's main challenge is balancing her teaching and research responsibilities with media and speaking-engagement requests. "Being too busy is a great challenge to have!" she says. "I'm enjoying speaking and presenting, and it's nice to be wanted and recognized. I'm encouraged by how much people have a desire to learn about Indigenous issues."

Speaking engagements include addressing the Canadian Association of Law Libraries in Ottawa about reconciliation and the role librarians can play, as well as the Atlantic Canada Human Rights and Labour Law Conference in Halifax and the Canadian Bar Association's Aboriginal Law Conference in Winnipeg. Part of her summer homework will be working on a chapter of the second edition of the bestselling casebook *Administrative Law in Context*. Her research includes writing about how Canadian laws and institutions can be reformed in order to give Indigenous peoples greater control over matters that affect them.

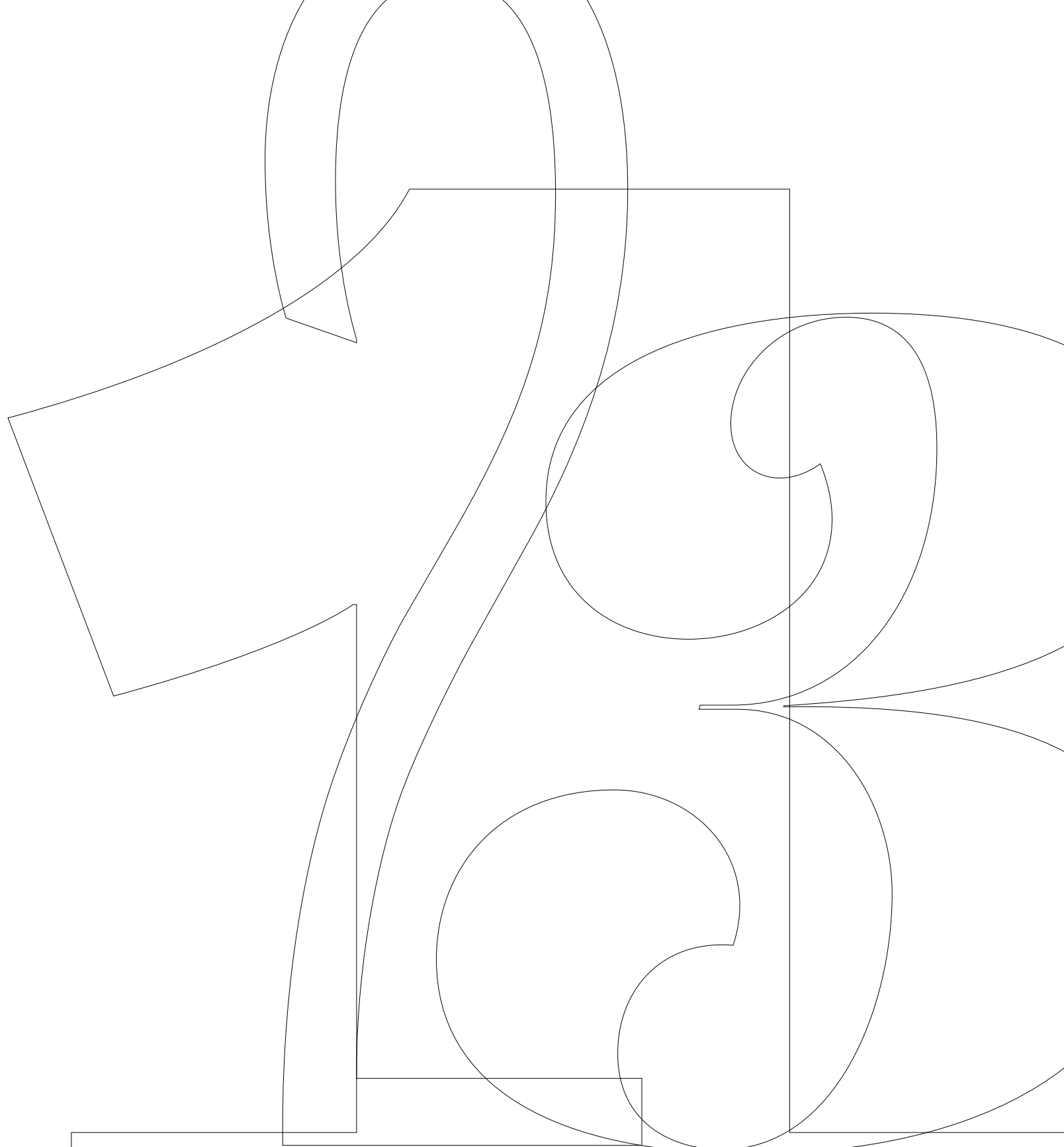
"I'm excited about the opportunities for research and collaboration with my law school colleagues, as well as with people in other Dalhousie disciplines," says Prof. Metallic. "I'm most passionate about the representation of Indigenous peoples and diversity within key societal institutions like law schools, the legal profession and the judiciary. The Chair gives me a wonderful opportunity to move this work along with more authority and legitimacy."

Of all her responsibilities, Prof. Metallic is especially enthusiastic about teaching. In addition to Aboriginal Law, she teaches Constitutional Law, Indigenous Governance and Aboriginal Peoples and she coaches the Kawaskimhon Aboriginal Law Moot, which was held in Calgary in March. Last September, she introduced Blanket Exercises—an experiential learning activity designed to increase awareness of Aboriginal history in Canada—into the first-year Law students' curriculum.

"I love the students," says Prof. Metallic. "They're engaged and thoughtful about Indigenous issues, so I enjoy our discussions. I can't wait for them all to become judges! Thanks to my students, I'm encouraged about what the future of the legal profession will look like."



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DAL SPRING 2017

TRIPLE THREAT

Three Herzberg Canada Gold Medal winners in four years is an extraordinary run for Dalhousie. By Ryan McNutt

A molecular biologist
who has reshaped our
understanding of genetics
multiple times over.

A theoretical chemist
with two of the most cited
papers of all time.

A battery researcher
helping supercharge a
sustainable energy future.



For Dalhousie to host three Herzberg Canada Gold Medal winners is a rare feat, one that only three other universities in Canada can claim. To have three recipients in four years—that’s an extraordinary run, the sort that pushes Dalhousie’s research profile to the national and international stage like never before.

Presented by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Herzberg Medal celebrates sustained excellence and influence across a career. With a \$1-million prize attached, it’s arguably Canada’s most prestigious science award. Its only rival in that regard is the Killam Prize—and, incredibly, two of Dal’s Herzberg winners have received that award the past two years as well.

That Ford Doolittle, Axel Becke and Jeff Dahn are worthy of such acclaim is hardly news to the mentors, colleagues and students who’ve worked with them over the years. We spoke with some of them to help unpack what makes Dal’s Herzberg trio such an impressive set.

THE SCIENCE

Ford Doolittle has no qualms about courting controversy. At multiple stages in his career, he's floated ideas and research findings that raised eyebrows and dissents among his peers: proving a much-debated hypothesis for the origin of chloroplasts; suggesting that most DNA is "selfish" and serves a parasitic function; arguing for gene-swapping as crucial to early evolution, a finding that metaphorically hacked apart Darwin's "Tree of Life" concept.

Today, each of these are widely accepted tenants of the field—and Dr. Doolittle is one of the most renowned molecular geneticists in the world. His 300-plus articles have earned him national and international awards, and leadership roles on global projects in genetics and microbiomes. Through his meticulous, thoughtful research into the basics of cell evolution and the forces that structure genomes, he's shed new light, time and time again, on the building blocks of life itself.

THE IMPACT

Dr. Doolittle invested half of his Herzberg prize funding back into Dalhousie's Centre for Comparative Genomics and Evolutionary Bioinformatics (CGEB), helping the acclaimed interdisciplinary centre hire more graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and aiding his own pursuit of conceptual problems in evolutionary biology—an ongoing project. And in May 2017, he added another esteemed award to his list of honours: the prestigious Killam Prize in the Natural Sciences, presented by Canada Council for the Arts.

IN HIS COLLEAGUES' WORDS...

"He's highly committed to the value of pure scientific research—research that doesn't have a specific goal other than answering a big and important question. But he believes, as I do, that it contributes to an increasing body of knowledge that other people will be able to put together in quite unanticipated ways. And Ford is a disruptor. He doesn't hesitate to challenge existing dogma, and he does it in quite a systematic but persistent way. He's very much committed to a combination of excellence and rigour in scientific research with a philosophical approach." *Michael Gray, professor emeritus at Dalhousie, who worked alongside Dr. Doolittle for nearly 40 years in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.*

THE NEXT GENERATION...

"Ford was always emphasizing the big picture of your project, and he always wanted to address really big questions. He never shies away from the broadest level questions about evolution such as why our genes and genomes are structured the way they are and what is the true nature of the tree of life. So many people argue that biology and biochemistry are a data-driven science, and that's true enough, but a lot of people don't think enough about the bigger picture—the bigger 'why' questions. I think that's what first attracted me to work with Ford and has inspired me over the years." *Andrew Roger, who came to Dalhousie to work with Dr. Doolittle as a PhD student in the early 1990s and is now director of the CGEB.*



Ford Doolittle

THE SCIENCE

In 2014, the scientific journal *Nature* published a list of the most-cited academic papers of all time, across all disciplines. Chemistry Professor Axel Becke had not one, but two papers in the top 25, the highest ranked number eight. Those papers—remarkably, both single-author studies—account for a sizeable portion of his impressive (and growing) total of 120,000-plus citations.

Why has Dr. Becke's scholarship become such a reference point? Because his computational work has dramatically expanded the application of the "density-functional" theory of electronic structure—a speedier, simpler method to calculate the properties of chemical systems and materials. Almost all computational chemistry software programs in the world now use his formulas, and it's a safe bet that your home is filled with new products whose design is aided by calculations based on his methods.

THE IMPACT

Like Dr. Doolittle, Dr. Becke also added the Canada Council's Killam Prize in the Natural Sciences to his litany of honours, receiving the award last year. And he also donated a sizeable portion of his Herzberg winnings to support further research at Dal by creating the Herzberg-Becke Chair in Theoretical Chemistry (now held by his former student Erin Johnson), a donation which allowed the Department of Chemistry to hire an additional researcher in theoretical chemistry.



Axel Becke

IN HIS COLLEAGUES' WORDS...

"He has a natural aptitude and talent. He's very knowledgeable and skilled in applied mathematics, and has a very strong background in physics... someone could be a very good chemist but they wouldn't be able to do the type of work he does without that mathematical ability and insight and the strong knowledge of physics. He works on a very fundamental level. He has taken theoretical formalisms that could not really be implemented in a very practical way for calculations, and he came up with methods that allowed those calculations to actually be feasible. The work he's done has impact across the whole spectrum: pharmaceutical companies, organizations like NASA, they all do calculations based on Axel's theories."

Russell Boyd, professor emeritus at Dalhousie, who supervised Dr. Becke's Killam postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Chemistry in 1981 and then helped bring him back to campus as a Killam Chair in 2006.

THE NEXT GENERATION...

"He's such an excellent, clear scientific speaker and has a unique way of looking at problems. He has an excellent physical intuition so that, if he's confronted with a new problem, he can reduce it to a simple picture and present his science in a way that others can easily visualize. His contributions are so very fundamental to all of chemistry. The methods that he developed can be applied to model all kinds of chemical problems... Pretty much any chemical system you'd want to model theoretically, you're going to be using methods that Axel developed, or techniques based on those methods." *Erin Johnson, a former PhD student of Dr. Becke's who now works alongside him on campus as the Herzberg-Becke Chair in Theoretical Chemistry*

Jeff Dahn



THE SCIENCE

From cell phones and laptops to electric cars, the lithium-ion battery powers our modern world. And for more than three decades, Jeff Dahn has been helping make lithium-ion batteries safer, longer-lasting and more powerful. An inaugural recipient of the Governor General's Award for Innovation in 2016, Dr. Dahn and his team have patented nearly 70 inventions, and compounds developed together with his postdocs and students are licensed for use in power tool batteries, electric vehicles and other devices worldwide.

For nearly his entire career, Dr. Dahn has collaborated with companies like 3M and Tesla Motors, allowing his team to apply its talents directly to the battery industry's most pressing problems. That experience helps explain why so many of his students end up in major roles with battery and energy companies after graduation—or starting their own. It's one more way Dr. Dahn's leadership is helping shape a more sustainable energy future.

THE IMPACT

In 2016, Tesla Motors signed its first ever university partnership. The five-year exclusive collaboration with Dalhousie focused on increasing the lifetime, decreasing the cost and improving the energy density of lithium-ion batteries. Tech developed by Dr. Dahn's lab could be incorporated into the company's vehicles as early as later this year.

IN HIS COLLEAGUES' WORDS...

"There are a lot of people in materials research who talk about applications, but the application is so far out there that it's not going to happen in their lifetimes. And then there's Jeff, who's the opposite: it's going to happen in a very short timeframe, maybe just in the experience of a single PhD student in his lab working on that particular problem. Sometimes when you're working so closely with industry, as Jeff does, it can become more development than research. But in Jeff's case, the research really drives development. He's a serious scientist... he cares about this planet and what we're doing to it, and he wants to do something about it."

Mary Anne White, professor emerita in the Department of Chemistry and founding director of Dalhousie's Institute for Research in Materials.

THE NEXT GENERATION...

"He's an excellent scientist, but it's also his approach to science. Because he's worked with industry for so long, his approach to problem solving is slightly different. With Jeff's lab, you're introduced to a real-world problem and your job is to fix it or try to understand it. There's a lot of drive towards a specific goal, which I think is what makes our research so successful. He doesn't rest on his laurels, or stick to his expertise. Once an area in batteries emerges which seems to be a limiting factor to the lithium-ion battery's energy density or cycle life or capacity, he'll move to that area. He brings together a diversity of talents to attack a problem from multiple angles."

Leah Ellis, currently a PhD student in Dr. Dahn's lab



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DAL SPRING 2017

“I love the science of genetics and I’m fascinated by human performance.”

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Performance enhancer

For Dr. Jeremy Koenig (BSc’03, PhD’09) and his team at Athletigen, improving athletic performance involves DNA-level analysis. It’s technology he thinks could be used to enhance the health of all.

By Mark Campbell

For Dr. Jeremy Koenig (BSc’03, PhD’09), seeing the Canadian men’s 4x100 metre relay team claim the bronze medal at the 2016 summer Olympics was an emotionally charged moment.

It was more than patriotic pride that Dr. Koenig was experiencing. He had worked closely with team member Akeem Haynes and his training organization, ALTIS, based in Phoenix, Ariz., to build the first performance genomics app, appropriately named Iris because it allows athletes to see information about their genetics and training data that can help spur podium finishes like these in the future.

“Haynes is one of the most stoic, well-spoken and profound thinkers I have ever met,” Dr. Koenig says. “To be there and see him speechless, to see the joy in his eyes as he achieved his dream, that was amazing.”

A former Dalhousie track and field team captain and Academic All-Canadian, Dr. Koenig is the founder and CEO of Athletigen, a Halifax company that is revolutionizing the way athletes train by exploring the dynamics of human potential and genetic influence. Using proprietary DNA insights, Dr. Koenig and his team analyze potentially millions of human performance markers to develop precision insights that are helping athletes such as Jeremy Dodson, Lacey Henderson and Tori Pena—who all competed at the 2016 Olympics—to improve their performance by targeting everything from nutrition to injury prevention.

“I love the science of genetics and I’m fascinated by human performance, so this was a way to bring those passions together,” Dr. Koenig says. “Look at the way a ballerina moves or what it takes to hit a home run. All of that is underpinned by our genetics to some extent. What Athletigen has done is build a technology so athletes can access this information about themselves, consider it in the context of their daily lives and act on it.”

Dr. Koenig’s interest in human genetics, health and performance began at an early age. “My mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis,” Dr. Koenig explains. “There aren’t too many 14-year-olds who can talk about eicosanoid balance and anti-inflammatory pathways. That’s

why I ultimately studied molecular biology and genetics at Dalhousie: I wanted to do it for her sake.”

The Toronto native says it was the calibre of the program and faculty that drew him eastward to Dalhousie, and it is easy to see the university’s influence in Athletigen’s DNA. “There were so many brilliant professors doing great work, including my honours thesis supervisor (and one of the first Canadian women to be awarded the Rhodes Scholarship) Dr. Melanie Dobson (BSc’77), as well as 2014 Herzberg Medal recipient Dr. Ford Doolittle, my PhD supervisor. They gave me the trust to figure things out for myself and they emphasized that it’s not necessarily the best answer you’re looking for: it’s the best question. That continues to motivate me.”

Dr. Koenig also learned the value of building a strong team around you, which he has done, bringing renowned geneticists, engineers, physiologists and former pro-athletes from around the world to work at Athletigen. In that way, he’s helping to reverse the brain drain that Nova Scotia has experienced in recent years, while contributing to the province’s economic growth.

Although he is location agnostic, Dr. Koenig says there are compelling reasons to be based in Halifax beyond the fact that it was the birthplace of Oswald Avery, who helped determine that DNA was the building block of genes and chromosomes.

“Being here forces you to be creative in finding money, attracting talent and designing a world-class company,” Dr. Koenig says. “We’ve had great support from organizations such as ACOA and Bionova, and we have collaborations with Dalhousie, such as the co-op students and interns we hire. We may travel a lot to meet with athletes, but we can build and leverage that network from here and, in parallel, manage remote satellite locations in Toronto and Los Angeles. To do this effectively, we must be diligent in how we operate as a company and be better focused in strategically allocating how we spend our time.”

Dr. Koenig has a clear vision for how he wants to spend his time:



Dr. Jeremy Koenig (left) has worked with athletes like Olympian Akeem Haynes (bottom left). He credits Dal professors such as Dr. Melanie Dobson (bottom right) for teaching him that it's not the best answer you're looking for, it's the best question. **BELOW** A workout area at Athletigen in Halifax

making genetic information accessible so that everyone can strengthen their 'performance'—their lives—in some way. It could be data that helps your immune system fight off a viral infection, or how to use cellular biology to mitigate your risk of developing cancer. He emphasizes that we are entering the age of digital health and health management is becoming a collaboration between patient and caregiver, which means it is proactive instead of reactive. But his motivation remains the same: to honour his mother and the inspiration she provided for his passions.

"This is about asking the best questions, and the question here is: 'What do I want my legacy to be?' My motivation to better understand the human body started with her. If what we learn through our work at Athletigen provides us with more insights on not only athletic performance but also things like auto inflammatory diseases such as MS, that would be rewarding for me. I see every cellular division in our bodies as a performance event and, indeed, life itself is the ultimate performance."



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CAMPAIGN

Setting the stage for the future

Dalhousie Arts Centre expansion draws support from Canadian artists of every stripe

When the Dalhousie Arts Centre opened its doors in 1971, it was welcomed as the premier performing arts venue in Halifax. Community arts stakeholders finally had a space where both symphonic and rock music could be at home, where both emerging and accomplished artists could share their talents. Today, more than four decades later Dalhousie is on the cusp of realizing an extraordinary opportunity to enhance the performing arts scene on the east coast through a newly revitalized and expanded Dalhousie Arts Centre.

The \$27.7-million capital project will act as a springboard and home for the Fountain School of Performing Arts, while expanding the impact of academic programs and community space that play vital roles in Atlantic Canada's vibrant arts and culture scene. The Arts Centre expansion will feature a three-story performing arts wing, the centerpiece of which is a new 300-seat concert hall—a much-needed addition to performing arts infrastructure in Atlantic Canada.

The planned expansion is already generating lots of buzz and excitement across the country, with a large group of high-profile performing artists led by Grammy and Juno award-winning artist Sarah McLachlan publicly endorsing the expansion.

So, why all the excitement? "With arts programs across Canada struggling to survive, this investment in the Dalhousie Arts Centre and the Fountain School of Performing Arts signals that the arts really do matter," says Jane Archibald, a Juno Award-winning operatic soprano and project supporter. "Those of us who dedicate our lives to the performing arts do so because art is essential to the human experience and not a mere luxury or frill."

In addition to the new concert hall—which will be named the Joseph Strug Concert Hall—the Arts Centre expansion includes new practice and rehearsal spaces for voice, music and theatre, as well as modern and airy costume studies studios which will accommodate students and their cutting tables, sewing machines and other equipment. A revital-



"I grew up in Halifax and am proud to support the Dalhousie Arts Centre/Fountain School of Performing Arts as I feel it's so important for people to have art education in their lives, and music in particular. Music brings us closer together and gives us the opportunity to be able to feel, communicate and better understand ourselves and each other."

Sarah McLachlan, Honorary Celebrity Chair, Vancouver, BC

ization of the existing building's systems, as well as a re-vamp within the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium are also in the works.

"The relationship between the physical environment and artistic development is an important one," says Jacqueline Warwick, director of Fountain School of Performing Arts. "Making that investment in improving the environment signals that the arts matter to Dalhousie. For our students, it speaks to the significance of what they're trying to do."

As to the broader community, Archibald notes that there is a real hotbed of talent in Nova Scotia and that we've always been good at making do with the limited facilities we have. "It will be so nice for some of our up and coming performing artists to have the ability to train at home in a revitalized performing arts centre. My hope is that this project will have a domino effect; that other communities on the national scene will see what's happening at Dal and it will plant the seed for them to do something similar." —Joanne Ward-Jerrett

“We started in a basement office.”

SPOTLIGHT

High flyer

Dal grad Pavankumar Chirmade (MEng'15) is flying high at Canada's first drone repair company



In May 2015 Pavankumar Chirmade (MEng'15) received an intriguing email from Eddie Habib, who was inviting Dalhousie's entire graduating Master's of Engineering class to apply to a new firm specializing in drone repairs. The business would be run, for now, from Habib's basement.

Chirmade, who specialized in robotics and control systems during his degree, knew he had the technical skills. And drones are about as cutting edge a technology as there is, with tremendous growth potential. Goldman Sachs forecasts a \$100 billion market potential for drones between now and 2020, up from less than a billion dollars a few years ago.

The only question was how Chirmade wanted to use his talents. He was excited by the idea of working for a start-up company in an emerging industry, but at a large firm like IBM he would be focused only on assigned tasks. “The difference being,” he says, “at a startup I get to learn and handle tasks that sometimes are not in my job profile, yet are very interesting. In the end, I sent my resume, got interviewed twice and Eddie hired me.” He hasn't regretted the decision and loves that he is part of a five-person team running Dr. Drone, “the first drone retail, repair and customization centre” in Canada.

Habib's story was simple. He bought a drone, flew it, crashed it and couldn't find anywhere that could fix it. His entrepreneurial senses tingled and he sought the best engineering mind he could find. That turned out to be Chirmade.

Habib's nose for opportunity proved correct. Demand for repairs grew rapidly. Within a year the company was looking for retail space and DJI, the Chinese civilian-drone manufacturer and worldwide industry leader, took interest. They wanted a store in Canada and suggested that their recognized brand name would improve Dr. Drone's reach.

The store, located in Dartmouth, now thrives under the DJI banner, and Chirmade supervises a small team of technicians using DJI components to make custom-built drones for a fascinating array of clients in the public and private sectors.

Pavankumar Chirmade (MEng'15) says he enjoys the rapid pace of development and change in the drone industry



“A lot of our government clients use them for inspections of rooftops, power lines or wind turbines,” Chirmade says. “Surveying and search and rescue are big. Kennebecasis Regional Police Force uses one equipped with a thermal camera for night vision, for search and rescue.”

Film companies have also benefitted from drones. Rather than rent a chopper for \$10,000 a day, companies like Dartmouth's Skyline Studios—which recently shot the television adaptation of Stephen King's *The Mist*—can permanently own an easy-to-operate drone for around \$15,000 and get dazzling overhead footage of crowds, creatures or creepy vistas.

The drone's ability to go where humans can't has been used by conservationists for monitoring wildlife and lands as well as the poachers who try to profit from their destruction. For Chirmade, these diverse applications have removed any chance of boredom from his life. And the uses change as rapidly as the tech itself. “Cutting edge technology today is outdated next year,” he says.

That means this engineer has to stay on top of market trends—the re-launch of the previously recalled GoPro Karma into the drone market is one potential game changer—as well as customer interests and changing regulations. But Chirmade's favourite part of working at a start-up is watching it move slowly toward that maturity. “We started in a basement office and I've seen it grow into a storefront and the industry is still growing fast. It feels great.” —Chris Benjamin

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“There were these new Macintosh computers in the computer lab and I really wanted to know how they worked.”

SPOTLIGHT

Speeding along the information superhighway

Ian Hamilton (BSc'87) has been a pioneer in internetworking and security for more than two decades

In a thousand years, we'll likely look back on the period between 1985 and 2015 as one of the most dramatic technological shifts in human history. From mainframe computers to PCs, telephones to smartphones, encyclopedias to the Internet, the world has changed in a big way, and right in the middle of that change has been Ian Hamilton (BSc'87).

Hamilton is now the chief technology officer and one of the founders of Signiant, a Massachusetts-based leading developer of file transfer software, but 30 years ago he was a Dal undergrad. What set him apart from most of his peers, however, was his growing interest in local area networks and this new thing called “the Internet.”

“There were these new Macintosh computers in the computer lab and they were all connected with a wire called AppleTalk, and I really wanted to know how they worked,” he remembers over the phone from his office in Ottawa. “So that was it, that was what started it for me.”

That interest launched Hamilton into a career at the forefront of the digital revolution. After writing an honours thesis on networking and graduating with a math degree, his first job was building an internal network to connect Bell-Northern Research (BNR) employees to each other and the Internet, one of the earliest companies to have such access.

From there he founded ISOTRO Network Management with two co-workers from BNR and went on to senior management positions at Bay Networks and Nortel. During this period he worked on numerous technical firsts including new ways to manage and dynamically configure hosts and routers on the Internet. Now commonplace, things like firewalls didn't even exist then. “We built our own inside BNR to protect the internal network from the outside Internet,” he says. “Security is a big issue now but that concept of needing separation between your private network and the Internet wasn't front and center back then.”

Next was Signiant, a company that spun out of Nortel in 2000. Since then, it has led the development of software for moving large data sets over networks securely and quickly for many of the media and enter-



Ian Hamilton's company Signiant received a 2014 Emmy for Technology and Engineering, awarded for software developed for the media and entertainment industry

tainment industry's largest companies, including Apple, NBC, Disney and ESPN. Signiant's work has been so innovative that it won a 2014 Emmy Award for Technology and Engineering, handed out by none other than Alex Trebek.

As for Signiant's next innovations and the evolution of internetworking, the future is in the cloud, says Hamilton. “The big change in the media industry is cloud-based systems, so our focus has gone from licensed software our customers lay on their networks to software infrastructure that's run on cloud infrastructure that we operate.”

And as for his future? “There will be another company that I'll help start.” He's staying tight-lipped on any details, but based on his track record, it's likely it—and he—will be at the vanguard of the next phase of the information age. —Jordan Whitehouse



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ALUMNI

“We remove barriers that others can’t. We are open when others are not.”

SPOTLIGHT

Phone support

Dr. Patricia Lingley-Pottie (BN’88, PhD’11) is the force behind an award-winning program for young people and families facing mental health issues that puts support as close as the nearest phone

Of the thousands of families helped by the award-winning Strongest Families Institute (SFI), a particular case stands out to Dr. Patricia Lingley-Pottie (BN’88, PhD’11). “I remember one 14-year-old in particular. When he came to us, anxiety was keeping him from doing all the things he wanted to do. After the program, he became more social, more confident—he even started going to school dances!”

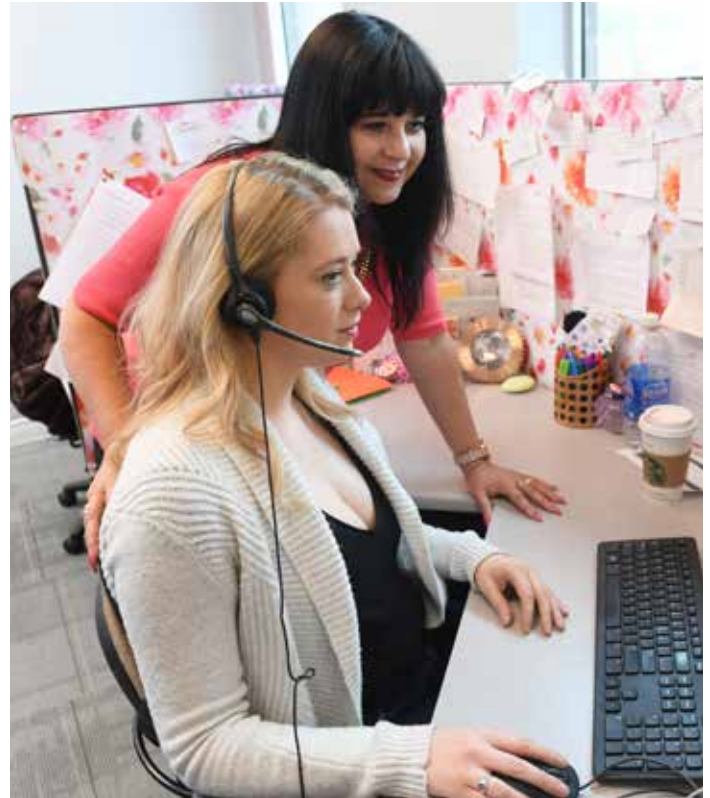
Success stories like these are common for SFI, a not-for-profit organization based in Halifax that provides mental health support to families and young people. Dr. Pottie is president and CEO. “Our mandate is ‘no wait.’ Everyone who reaches out to us is called back within 48 hours,” she says. This approach provides relief for families used to long wait lists for support, and who often have been dealing with a loved one’s mental health issues on their own.

Through SFI, children and teens who struggle with anxiety phone in for weekly coaching sessions and group phone chats, eliminating barriers to treatment like cost and travel. Parents receive support and tips to help with issues affecting their children, from disruptive behavioural problems to bedwetting and more.

Dr. Pottie started developing these programs in 2000 with Dr. Patrick McGrath, former head of the Clinical Psychology department at Dal and now chair of SFI’s board. After seven years of rigorous clinical trials aimed at developing an evidence-based program that was fully integrated with the health care system, in 2011, SFI became a federally-designated nonprofit organization.

In their first year of operation, 700 children were helped. This year, it will be 4,000. More than 85 per cent of families report resolution of issues most affecting them and improved academic success. While most mental health programs have a drop-out rate of between 40 and 70 per cent, SFI has a drop-out rate of less than 10 per cent.

The institute provides quick ramp-up to reduce existing waitlists, alleviates the strain on the mental health system and provides immediate



ABOVE Dr. Patricia Lingley-Pottie assists a Strongest Families phone responder
RIGHT Dr. Patricia Lingley-Pottie and Patrick McGrath (not pictured) were recent recipients of a Governor General’s Innovation Award for their work in creating the Strongest Families Institute



help to thousands of families. SFI’s reach goes far beyond Atlantic Canada with services extending nationally and internationally in Finland and Vietnam. Dr. Pottie is grateful for support from the Bell Let’s Talk Community Fund which augments government funding, allowing the institute to help to more families each year.

She says in providing the tools young people need to meet mental health challenges head-on, the institute sets them up for future success. “If you have a 13-year old plagued with anxiety and you can reach that person quickly with support and give them valuable life skills, they might never have to access the mental health care system again. How wonderful is that?”

Find out more about the Strongest Families Institute by visiting their website strongestfamilies.com or you can follow the institute on Twitter @SFI_info. —Dawn Morrison



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ALUMNI EVENTS

Connecting around the globe



TOP Coldstream Clear Distillery's Riley Giffen pours a sample LEFT The Toronto panel of business leaders: Kim Brewer (BA'98), Brenda Hogan (MBA'02), Greg Bertrand (BComm'88), Gayle Murdoch (BComm'04, MBA'06) and Robert Balcom (LLB'87, MBA'87) RIGHT Attendees at the Calgary Chapter AGM BELOW Cheering on the Tigers in the Scotiabank Centre at Final 8

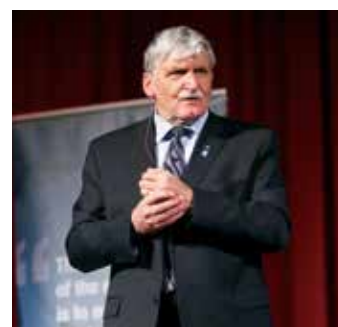


Alumni volunteers have been busy across Canada holding events, including the Women's Division Annual Luncheon, a lobster dinner hosted by the Calgary Chapter, and the Atlantic University Pub Night hosted by the Ottawa Chapter. In Toronto alumni business leaders shared career advice at a moderated panel discussion with Toronto Chapter attendees. The Calgary Chapter wrapped up a successful year and dove into planning for the upcoming one during its Annual General Meeting on February 8 with 30 alumni in attendance.

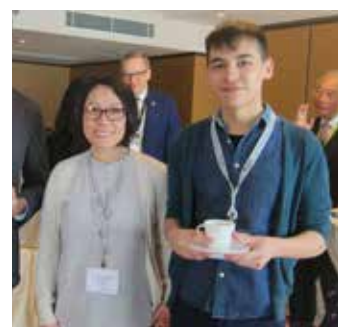
Dal alumni also reconnected at faculty events. The Faculty of Agriculture invited alumni to 'Sip and See' at Annapolis Cider Company on February 23 with co-founder and assistant professor Sean Myles and at Coldstream Clear Distillery with owner Riley Giffen (DipEng (Agriculture)'14, BEng'16) on April 20. Dean David Gray led a discussion about how the growing liquor industry is good news for agriculture. Agriculture alumni also got together in St. John's on March 9 for an alumni reception. The Faculty of Dentistry hosted its alumni reception in Vancouver on March 9. Dr. Tom Boran was in attendance, providing alumni an opportunity to celebrate and recognize his tenure as Dean of the Fac-



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TOP and **ABOVE** Alumni, family and friends check out exhibits at the new Discovery Centre **ABOVE RIGHT** Roméo Dallaire giving his address **RIGHT** At the reception in Hong Kong: Irene Shek (BEng'07), Ben MacLeod (BCD'12) **BELOW** Alumni and friends at the gathering in Sarasota, Fla.



ulty of Dentistry. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in partnership with Shaar Shalom Synagogue hosted its annual lecture on April 5. This year's lecture "All Humans are Human" was presented by Lieutenant General the Honourable Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd).

GLOBAL GATHERINGS President Florizone hosted alumni events in Hong Kong on February 11 and Sarasota, Fla. on March 20. The events provided opportunities for alumni to learn about what's happening back at Dalhousie as well as connect with fellow Dal grads.

TIGERS SUPPORTING TIGERS In March, the Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team took on Canada's best as the university hosted the Final 8 national championships at Halifax's Scotiabank Centre. Alumni and friends kicked off the tournament with a pre-game pep rally at the Auction House before cheering on the Tigers at their home opener on March 9. The Tigers pulled off a thrilling, final-second 67-65 win over Alberta in the quarter-finals before a packed house of Dal fans. The Tigers went on to win a bronze medal—a great end to a terrific season and tournament.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS NIGHT AT THE DISCOVERY CENTRE Hundreds of alumni, family and friends had a blast exploring and learning at Halifax's Discovery Centre on April 21. The Discovery Centre, which opened its new location in February, brings STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) to life through fun, interactive learning experiences for all ages. Faculty and staff were on hand to answer questions about the exciting science and research happening at Dal.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT Spring is a time to explore new opportunities, including getting involved with your local alumni chapter. Chapters in Ottawa, Halifax, Edmonton and Vancouver hosted volunteer recruitment events in their respective cities to provide interested Dal grads an opportunity to learn about alumni chapters and ways to get involved. Chapter volunteers play an important role in local community events, as well as planning for Homecoming and Dal's exciting bicentennial celebrations. Learn more at alumni.dal.ca/connect.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

'60

LLOYD HICKS, BEng, and Eleanor (MacLeod) are happily retired and living in a gated retirement community in Guelph, Ont. They would be pleased to hear from former classmates by email at LdeaHicks@gmail.com.

'61

On Dec. 2, 2016, **JOHN MONTGOMERIE**, BComm, BEd'62, BA'76, MA (English)'84, launched "Adieu to the Organ," a CD recorded at the Dawn Oman Art Gallery,

formerly Gordon Providence United Church, in Bridgetown, N.S. Before the 2014 sale of the church, local musician Caleb Miles offered to record the 1902 Casavant Freres pipe organ opus 163, which had been in St. Andrew's United Church in Halifax until 1952, thinking that the organ would be dismantled. At the launch, he played excerpts from the CD; a noon-hour concert on Dec. 23 ("Home for the Holidays") was also well attended. His mother Mary had been organist from 1950-86 at the church; John took his organ lessons from Murray Vanderburgh at St. Andrew's from 1960 to 1964. In light of the loss of many pipe organs with the recent closure of churches, the restoration of this pipe organ is a success story indeed.

'64

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage has recognized the historical importance of 75 of **JOHN CHRISTOPHER**'s, BSc, colour slides, which it plans to archive. These slides from 1962-63 are representative of a unique body of research in Arctic marine mammals and fisheries. Christopher is a writer, singer, songwriter and marine biologist hailing from Newfoundland. He has performed the piece "Molasses Bread and Tea," which tells the story of his childhood in St. John's, Nfld., at museums including Halifax's Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. He also expects to be performing at the Aliant Arts Festival in Iqaluit during Nunavut's Canada Day celebrations from June 29 to July 3, 2017.

'65

DR. F. COLIN DUERDEN, BSc, PhD (Oceanography)'73, has published *Bloodwater*, a murder mystery set in Bermuda in the 1980s. His depiction of his homeland in *Bloodwater* makes a vivid backdrop to this thriller. One reviewer said of the novel, "the pace and power of a James Bond novel, haunting secrets, a sizzling plot, *Bloodwater* doesn't disappoint."

DOUGLAS BARBOUR, MA (English), has published *Listen. If*, a collection of technically innovative poems. In this new collection, Barbour experiments with rhythmically intense open form. *Listen. If* presents technically innovative poetry that invites the reader to join in some serious play. Barbour's vivid, ekphrastic poems engage an ongoing conversation among artworks—not only classic

CANADIAN HITS OF 1979

THE LOGICAL SONG, SUPERTRAMP
HEART OF GLASS, BLONDIE
MY SHARONA, THE KNACK
LEAD ME ON, MAXINE NIGHTINGALE
KNOCK ON WOOD, AMII STEWART

paintings but also popular music—while his lyric poems astutely and accessibly evoke places, moments, and feelings. This is poetry that takes up language both as the already-said and as a playground for brilliant technique. Leaping from love to landscapes, politics to jazz, Keats to Milne to Monk, these poems yearn to be spoken aloud for the pure joy of sound. Barbour is the author of several books of poetry and criticism, including *Continuations* and *Continuations 2* (UAP). A long-time resident of Edmonton, Alta., he was inducted into the city's Arts & Culture Hall of Fame in 2003. Learn more about Barbour's work by visiting his blog at eclecticruckus.wordpress.com.

'68

DAVID JONES, BA, MA'73, wrote an article for *Ancient Origins* titled, "The King Who Made War Illegal! Challenging the Official History of The Art of War and the First Emperor –Part I," published on March 31, 2017. David is a retired government executive and university teacher. Fellow of the University of King's College, he was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal, and holds an officer's commission in the Canadian Army. He has been studying the origins

of the Chinese empire for two decades. In the case of China's founding, David sees the "official histories" often contaminated by myth and sometimes outright fabrication. Read the article on www.ancient-origins.net.

1970s

'79

ED COLLISTER, MLS, has been awarded a Master of Arts degree in ethics from the Université du Québec à Rimouski. His thesis research was in the area of organisational ethics, focused on how managers of community organisations express their ethical leadership.

1980s

'82

VICKI GRANT, BA, is an award-winning screenwriter and author of sixteen young adult novels. Her latest book is called *36 Questions That Changed My Mind About You*. International rights to the YA mystery/romance were recently sold to publishers in the U.S.A., Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Korea and Indonesia. The book is also being represented in Hollywood by Paradigm Talent Agency. To learn more about Grant's work, visit her website at vickigrant.com.



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DR. KAREN TROLLOPE-KUMAR, MD, recently published *Cloud Messenger*, a memoir about the 11 years she spent living and working as a physician in the Himalayan foothills of North India. The memoir has received great reviews. Learn more about Dr. Trollope-Kumar's work by visiting her website at karentrollopekumar.com. *Cloud Messenger* is available for purchase from Amazon, Kobo, Kindle, or Friesen Press. She is looking forward to her reunion in September!

'85

LAWRENCE RUBIN, BSc, has moved back to Halifax upon being appointed director of the Lawyers' Insurance Association of Nova Scotia, effective January, 2017. Rubin earned his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of New Brunswick after finishing his Bachelor of Science at Dalhousie.

1990s

'98

CB Wetlands & Environmental Specialists, co-founded by **TONY BOWRON**, BSc, MES'06, and **NANCY NEATT**, BSc'03, MMM'04, was awarded the bronze award for Innovative Business of the Year 2017 on Jan. 26, 2017 as part of the Halifax Business Awards.

2000s

'00

HANNY ALSHAZLY, BSc (Computer Science), reflects on how he and his peers studied at Dalhousie in order to obtain a specific dream job, only to graduate a few years

later and realize that they found their own dream jobs or careers in a field that did not even exist at the time.

On Jan. 31, 2017, **STEVEN COTE**, BScK, Brooke, Cole and Connor welcomed a new addition to the family, Caitlin Ainsley Gemma Cote. Cole and Connor couldn't be more enthused to have a little sister, while Steven and Brooke continue to happily learn to shift from "man on man" to "zone defense."

01

KEITH CRAIG, MURP, is completing construction of a new commuter rail station in the Allston Brighton neighborhood of Boston. Boston Landing Station is one of the first public/private partner infrastructure projects in the state and is the lynchpin to the 15-acre mixed-use redevelopment that NB Development Group has spearheaded. Search for "Brighton Development" on www.bostonmagazine.com.

'05

LIZ-ANN MUNRO LAMARRE, DDH, is relocating and expanding her dental hygiene clinic into a more accessible and visible location with three operatories and two rooms for allied health professionals. The Smile People dental hygiene clinic, established in 2009, is located in Salmon Arm, B.C. This is a unique practice opportunity for like-minded dental hygiene professionals who are passionate about client care, eager to learn new things and keen on having the freedom to practice according to the high standards they were taught. Those interested can benefit from the team's experience, build a client

base, choose their working hours and live in one of the most beautiful places in Canada.

DARREN STEEVES, MSc, and **SUE COMEAU**, BScK'90, have published a new book about discovering and charting a path toward the life you want to live. *Are You Ready? Stop Wishing it Was Friday* is available on Amazon. Comeau is a former Dalhousie professor and Steeves is currently an adjunct professor in Dalhousie's School of Health and Human Performance.

'07

In May, **DAN CLARK**, BSc, graduated with a Ph.D. in entrepreneurship and international business from Indiana University. He has accepted a position as assistant professor of entrepreneurship at IE Business School in Madrid, Spain. Clark's research

explores how entrepreneurs make decisions about international expansion, and it integrates the honours research he did at Dalhousie with the exciting field of international entrepreneurship.

TOP 10 MOVIES OF 2005

KING KONG

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

STAR WARS: EPISODE III REVENGE OF THE SITH

BATMAN BEGINS

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

PRIDE & PREJUDICE

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SIN CITY

V FOR VENDETTA

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

Source: IMDB.com



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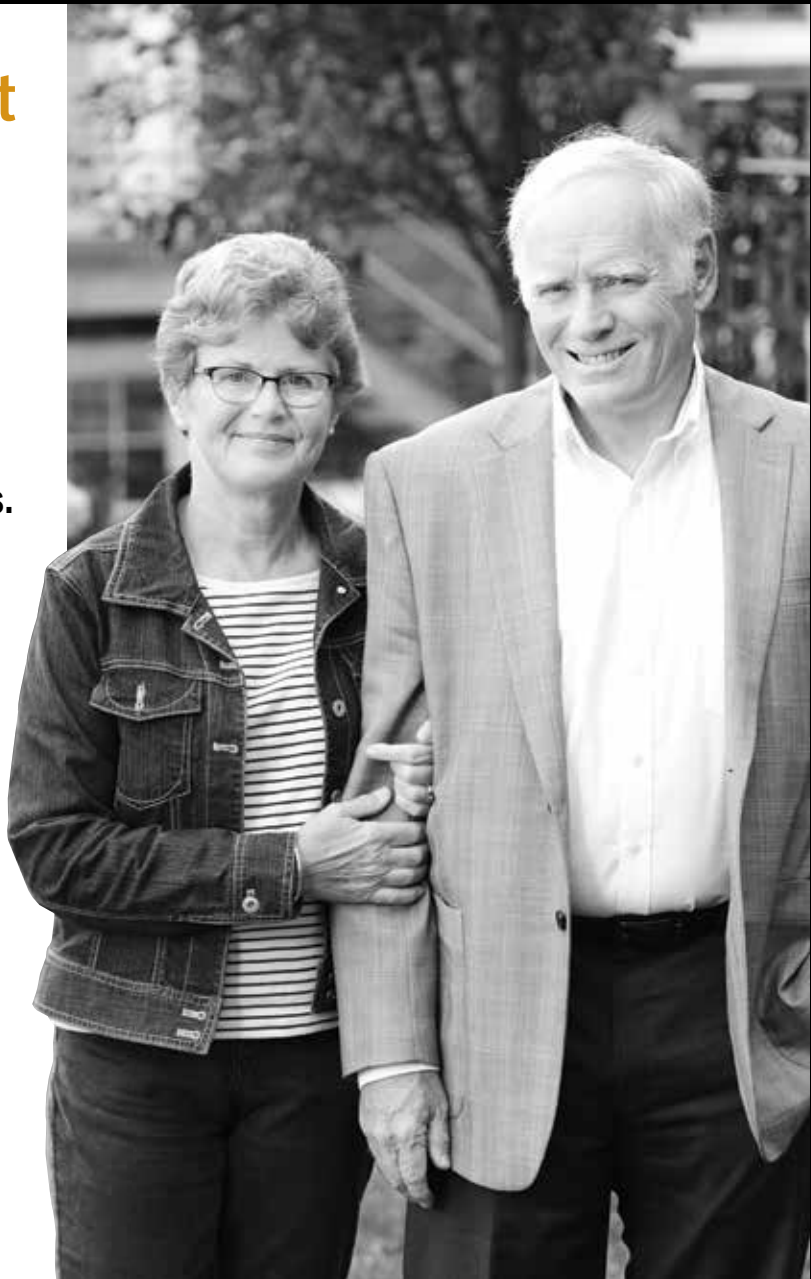


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IN MEMORIAM

MARION ELIZABETH (MACDONALD) BROWN, BSc'40, MD'43, Toronto, Ont., on Dec. 31, 2016

IRVING ABRAHAM PERLIN, BSc'40, MD'43, Toronto, Ont., on Dec. 31, 2016

NELSON HENRY AMIRO, BA'43, DEd'45, Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 24, 2017

PETER Y HAMILTON, DDIP'44, Dartmouth, N.S., on Jan. 29, 2017

VICTOR LANCELOT CLARKE, BSc'45, DENG'45, BEng'47, North York, Ont., on Jan. 23, 2017

JOAN EMMA (VAUGHAN) FORSYTH, BA'45, Fredericton, N.B., on Feb. 26, 2017

MARJORIE CLARE (MITCHELL) BARTEAUX, LCMUS'48, Dartmouth, N.S., on March 6, 2017

GEORGE ERIC HARVEY, AFR'48, Newport, N.S., on Dec. 30, 2016

DONALD EDGAR HILTZ, BEng'48, Kentville, N.S., on Dec. 20, 2016

MELVIN STUART HARRIS, FRC'49, Dartmouth, N.S., on Jan. 23, 2017

EDWIN ADLARD LEBLANC, BComm'49, LLB'52, Glen Haven, N.S., on Jan. 10, 2017

FRANK LESLIE ROGERS, BComm'49, Yarmouth, N.S., on Feb. 22, 2017

ELIZABETH GRACE (MARSTERS) MCDADE, DEd'50, Truro, N.S., on Dec. 20, 2016

JOHN ANGUS STEWART, BSc'50, Burlington, Ont., on Jan. 6, 2017

GEORGE WALTER CAINES, BSc'51, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 29, 2017

JOHN R NICHOLS, BA'55, LLB'57, Digby, N.S., on March 17, 2017

WYLIE FOSTER VERGE, MD'55, Dartmouth, N.S., on Dec. 17, 2016

DAVID IGNATIUS JONES, LLB'56, Dartmouth, N.S., on March 2, 2017

WILLIAM PAUL WARREN, BSc'56, BA'58, MD'61, Toronto, Ont., on March 10, 2017

CORNELIUS TERRENCE GILLESPIE, MD'57, Halifax, N.S., on March 23, 2017

JAMES ALFRED HOPKINS, BSc'57, BEng'59, Truro, N.S., on Dec. 25, 2016

JOHN ALEXANDER MACKINNON, DPHRM'57, Waverley, N.S., on Dec. 28, 2016

WELDON CARTER TRAVIS, FRC'57, Amherst, N.S., on Feb. 6, 2017

EARL HARRY ARTHUR MACKINNON, BEng'58, Coldbrook, N.S., on Jan. 25, 2017

DANA NAIKAUSKAS, DDS'58, Windsor, Ont., on Jan. 11, 2017

GLENDA FAYE (CONROD) NIEFORTH, BSc'58, Dartmouth, N.S., on Dec. 17, 2016

JOSEPH MICHAEL PELRINE, LLB'58, North Vancouver, B.C., on March 12, 2017

CUTHBERT MONTRAVILLE SEBASTIAN, MD'58, LLD'98, Bassetterre, Saint Christopher and Nevis, on March 25, 2017

PATRICK JAMES KAVANAGH, MD'59, Invermere, B.C., on Jan. 15, 2017

WILLIS ROY WELLMAN, LLB'59, Surrey, B.C., on Jan. 3, 2017

DAVID HENRY FOX, BComm'62, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 10, 2017

DAVID BISSETT KEDDY, MD'62, Lillian, Ala., on March 8, 2017

MARINUS A VAN DE SANDE, AGSY'62, Truro, N.S., on Jan. 10, 2017

FRANK WILLIAM CULLEN, DENG'63, BEng'66, New Glasgow, N.S., on Jan. 11, 2017

CHARLES VERNON HILTZ, DDIP'66, Riverview, N.B., on Jan. 23, 2017

DONALD WILLIAM HOOPEY, DENG'66, BEng'69, Lower Sackville, N.S., on Jan. 15, 2017

GEORGE NEIL JOUDREY, MA'67, Bridgewater, N.S., on Feb. 7, 2017

NEIL ALEXANDER MACLEAN, BA'67, BEd'68, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 29, 2010

MARY ELIZABETH SMITH, DNSA'67, BSc'74, Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 5, 2017

MICHAEL HICKMAN, DPH'69, Middle Sackville, N.S., on Feb. 26, 2017

DAPHNE ROSE HOCKINGS, DNSA'69, Shilo, Man., on March 8, 2017

HELEN SKUGGEDAL REED, BA'69, Evansville, Ind., on March 19, 2017

ALLAN HINGLUN LEE, PhD'70, on Feb. 20, 2017

EUGENE VEINOTTE, BEng'71, Bridgewater, N.S., on March 21, 2017

JAMES LEE MACAFEE, TECH'72, Truro, N.S., on Jan. 14, 2017

ANN WERDER (MACGREGOR) MACGREGOR-STRUM, BA'72, MLS'76, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 8, 2017

JOHN H MACNEIL, DDIP'72, Trenton, N.S., on March 20, 2017

KENNETH GEORGE ANDERSON, BSc'73, BEng'76, Port Hawkesbury, N.S., on Jan. 20, 2017

FERGUS FLANAGAN, BEd'73, San Rafael, Calif., on Dec. 17, 2016

PAUL DAVID MILLEN, BSc'73, Bedford, N.S., on Dec. 13, 2016

HEATHER ANN THERESA (MASON) ABRIEL, BA'74, Mahone Bay, N.S., on Feb. 2, 2017

ALAN KINGSLEY PEASE, PhD'74, BEd'77, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 24, 2016

DIANNE LOUISE MARIE POTHIER, BA'74, BAHC'75, LLB'82, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 3, 2017

ASTRID GERTRUDE VIK, BN'74, DPH'74, MN'79, MHSA'90, Halifax, N.S., on March 21, 2017

DAVID LEONARD ABRIEL, BSc'75, MD'81, Mahone Bay, N.S., on Feb. 2, 2017

DAVE DUMAN CHADEE, BSc'76, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, on June 21, 2016

REGINALD JAMES DALRYMPLE, BScPH'77, Mount Uniacke, N.S., on Feb. 2, 2017

NOEL JOHN FOWLER, BEDS'78, BArch'79, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 13, 2016

DAWN LORRAINE ROSS, BSc'78, MD'82, PGM'87, Tantallon, N.S., on Jan. 15, 2017

KATHLYN SEMPLE, DPH'78, Courtenay, B.C., on Dec. 13, 2016

DAVID ALLEN PASK, MEng'84, Morgantown, W.Va., on Dec. 16, 2016

COLIN HUNTER MACLEAN, BA'86, BEd'87, LLB'90, Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 21, 2017

ROBERT BRUCE ROGERSON, DPA'86, Bedford, N.S., on March 14, 2017

JOHNNY MICHAEL LAUREIJS, DDS'87, New Glasgow, N.S., on Feb. 18, 2017

JACQUELINE G HYNES, BA'88, MA'94, Lawrencetown, N.S., on March 21, 2017

ALAN CLIFFORD CHEVERIE, LLB'89, Charlottetown, P.E.I., on Jan. 31, 2017

DEBORAH ANN MERRY, BRec'91, Dartmouth, N.S., on March 29, 2017

KATHRYN JOAN LOMAX, BSc'94, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 20, 2017

EMILY ELIZABETH MACNAUGHTON, BA'94, Ancaster, Ont., on Dec. 18, 2016

GRAEME VICTOR RUDDERHAM, BEng'94, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 22, 2017

LISA ANNE (RILEY-CHALKLEY) HAMPSON, MEng'95, Upper Tantallon, N.S., on March 19, 2017

TIMOTHY MALCOLM BROWN, MLIS'96, Elmsdale, N.S., on Dec. 13, 2016

JENNIFER LOUISE TANTON, BScK'98, Dartmouth, N.S., on Jan. 29, 2017

ROBERT JOHN MCNAUGHTON, BA'04, North York, Ont., on Jan. 12, 2017

MATTHEW JAMES AMYOTTE, BA'06, Dartmouth, N.S., on Jan. 28, 2017

MUSICAL SUPPORT

Dal team channels their inner country crooners, and raises over \$100,000 for mental health

Some of Dal's senior executives and administrators transformed themselves into classic country music stars in March, raising more than \$100,000 for mental health in the process.

Dal President Richard Florizone, VP Advancement Peter Fardy and AVP Communications and Marketing Catherine Bagnell Styles belted out a set of country hits as part of the 14th annual "A Different Stage of Mind" fundraiser in support of the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia.

"We all went into this with some apprehension, but we knew we couldn't say no," says Fardy, who adopted the persona of Willie Nelson for the night. "Mental health is just too important an issue."

Bagnell Styles donned a fringe shirt and sparkly belt for her performance as Patsy Cline. "Channeling my inner Patsy Cline was more fun than I ever imagined, albeit in a sometimes terrifying kind of way," she says. "But like talking about mental health, the more we practised, the more comfortable we got."

"It was a great evening for a great cause," said President Florizone, who slung a guitar around his neck and wore a cowboy hat to play the part of bandleader Glen Campbell. "A big thank you to everyone involved in the performance."

The trio was joined onstage at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax by a chorus of 16 backup singers, all leaders from across the university, in a reimagining of the Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour—a network television music and comedy variety show that aired in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The team raised a total of \$109,266 in the lead up to the event, funds that will make a difference in the lives of Nova Scotians living with mental illness and their families. —Matt Reeder



"Like talking about mental health, the more we practised, the more comfortable we got."



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in more ways than one.”

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