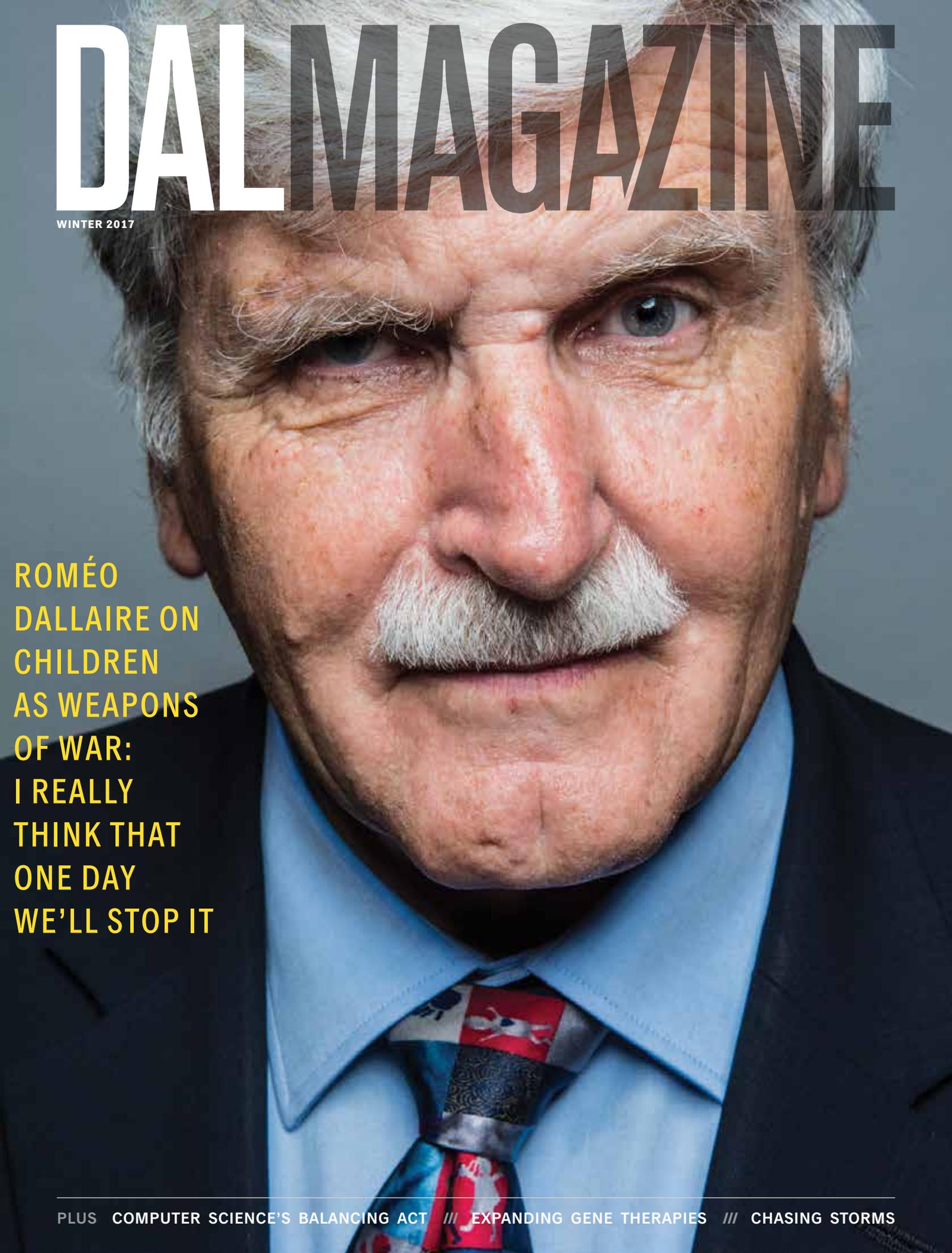


DAL MAGAZINE



WINTER 2017

ROMÉO
DALLAIRE ON
CHILDREN
AS WEAPONS
OF WAR:
I REALLY
THINK THAT
ONE DAY
WE'LL STOP IT

PLUS COMPUTER SCIENCE'S BALANCING ACT /// EXPANDING GENE THERAPIES /// CHASING STORMS



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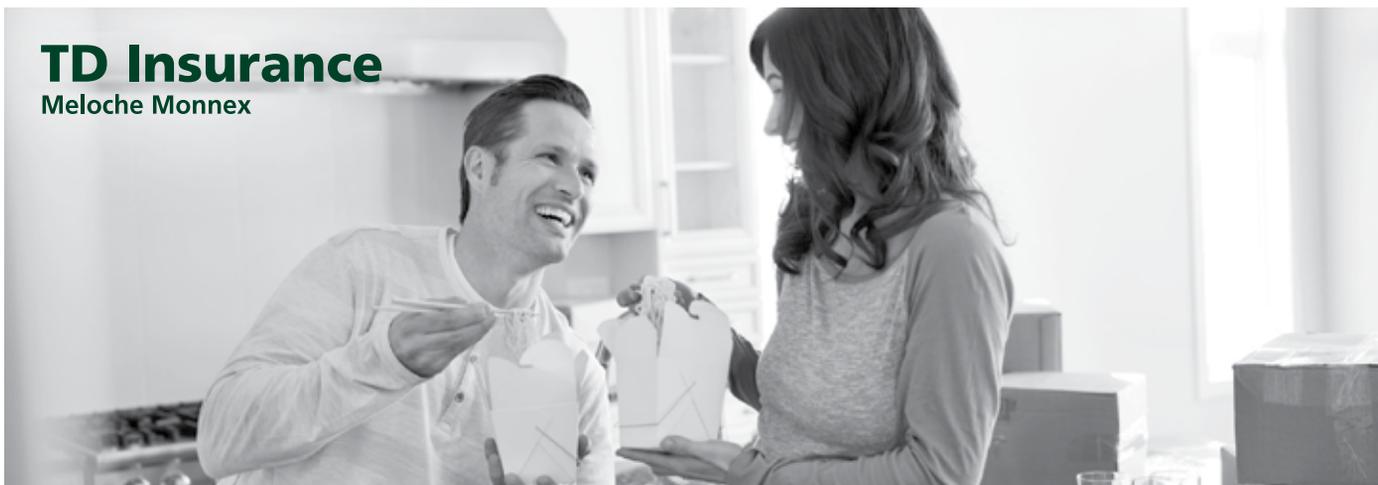


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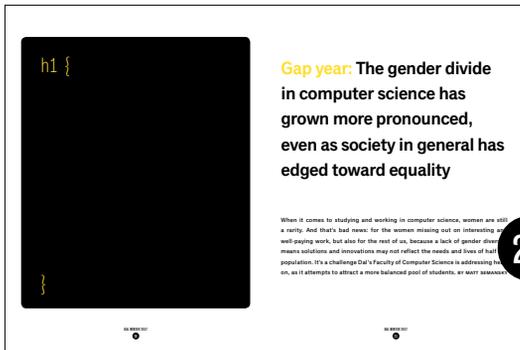
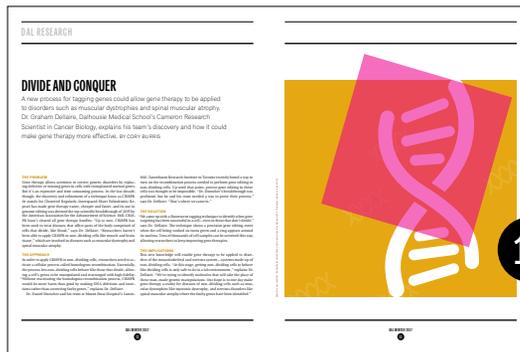
GAP YEAR When it comes to studying and working in computer science, women are still a rarity. And that's bad news, because it means that solutions and innovations may not reflect the needs of half the population. By Matt Semansky
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DALMAGAZINE



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UPDATE: In our Fall 2016 issue, we didn't name the architecture firm behind the Sexton Campus revitalization. It is DSRA Architecture.

EDITORIAL

WORKING FOR CHANGE

There is a line that is often said when people are looking for inspiring quotes to share with those dealing with tough times: What doesn't kill you makes you stronger. It's the Pinterest-friendly version of Nietzsche's "That which does not kill us makes us stronger," from his 1888 book *Twilight of the Elders*. And while those who pass it on surely mean it to be encouraging, there is a hint of "toughen up" in the line, a suggestion that if we just soldier on, all will be well.

But sometimes all isn't well. And suggesting that if we just persevere, we'll find a silver lining negates both the personal cost and the incredible strength required to get to the other side of adversity. Yes, some people do make good out of the challenges with which life presents them. But their ability to transform some aspect of adversity into wisdom shouldn't be a reason to accept adversity as necessary. Sometimes the battle that comes after we as individuals survive is the fight to ensure others don't need to face the same challenges.

Working to change the world for the better is a thread that runs through two of the features in this issue. In one, the stakes are literally life and death (*A Soldier's Peace Offering*, p. 14). In the other, the risks of inaction aren't as dramatic, but they do have real impact on the opportunities and the contributions that may be lost if change doesn't come (*Gap Year*, p. 20). And in both cases, we should be grateful to those who've chosen to work for change, rather than simply accepting the status quo as a given.



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.....

FEEL YOUR WORLD CHANGE **ONE MOMENT** AT A TIME

.....





SMART WORDS

**“Find something
you are passionate
about and
give it your all.”**

Adrian Dauphinee of the Department of Biology, a continuing Predoctoral Killam Scholar. The Killam awards include master's and PhD scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, and have provided more than \$170 million to support scientific research efforts at Dalhousie since 1965.



PG 7



PG 9



PG 10

From celebrating top researchers and Dal's newest Rhodes Scholar to accelerating startups and researching food prices, there's plenty to explore on the pages that follow.

DAL NEWS

EVENTS



Dalhousie had a big night at November's 14th annual Discovery Awards celebrating innovative and groundbreaking science and tech research in Nova Scotia. Dal winners included James Robar, Faculty of Medicine, Professional of Distinction Award; Alec Falkenham, Department of Pathology, Emerging Professional Award; Boris Worm, Department of Biology, Science Champion Award; and Jeff Dahn, NSERC/Tesla Canada Inc. Industrial Research Chair, Science Hall of Fame Inductee. Award recipients, L to R: Dr. James Robar, Dr. Jeff Dahn, Martha Tory, Dr. Boris Worm, Sophie Fraser, Alec Falkenham, Tim Cranston.

THE LIST

Top scholars recognized with Canada Research Chairs

The federal government awarded two new Canada Research Chairs at Dalhousie and renewed a third, as part of the national program that supports and attracts the world's best researchers in engineering and the natural sciences, health sciences, humanities and social sciences.

- Carolyn Buchwald, Assistant Professor, Department of Oceanography: Dr. Buchwald is the Canada Research Chair in Ocean Chemistry. Her focus is on the impact of fixed nitrogen in open ocean ecosystems and coastal ecosystems.
- Morgan Langille, Assistant Professor, De-

partment of Pharmacology: Dr. Langille is the Canada Research Chair in Human Microbiome. Microbiomes assist with the digestion of the foods we eat, and help keep our immune systems in check. Dr. Langille's research aims to improve the understanding of the human microbiome.

- Gerald White, Associate Professor, Department of English: Dr. White has been the Canada Research Chair in European Studies since 2011. His project engages with the cultural history of Europe's "small nations" and minority groups.
- Michele Charlton

#

BY THE NUMBERS

Accelerating startups

Take a problem, think about an opportunity to solve it and create a startup: that's the idea behind Startup Weekend, a global movement that includes events at Dalhousie under the Norman Newman Centre for Entrepreneurship's Launch Dal banner. The November weekend event included groups who developed an online mental health portal, a subscription service that provides an all-in-one resource for diabetes care, and the event's winner: a startup focused on smart jewelry that could notify emergency contacts when the wearer is in trouble. The winning group—who hadn't met until arriving at the event—took home \$3,000 to pursue their business idea. —Zoe Bell

54

Number of hours teams had to develop their startup ideas

60+

Number of people who participated in Startup Weekend at Dal

11

Number of pitches competing for prize money

WHY I DO IT

COMMUNITY CARE

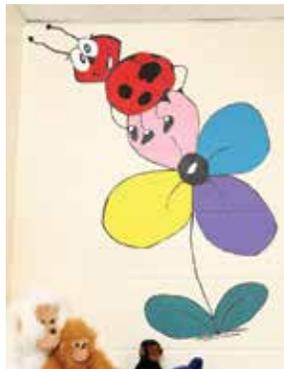
NAME: Juliette Thomas

POSITION/DEPARTMENT: Registered dental assistant and clinic coordinator at the North Preston Dental Clinic

HER BACKSTORY: In 1995, Juliette Thomas was a dental technician-turned-office worker living in Halifax’s North Preston community. While pregnant with her second child, she received a call: Dal and North Preston were preparing to open a dental clinic out of Nelson Whynder Elementary School and hoped to have a dental assistant from the community to run it. Would Thomas consider training as a dental assistant to fill the position? She jumped at the opportunity to be a part of a project that would benefit her community, and three months after her baby arrived, Thomas was back in school.

HIGHLIGHTS: The clinic opened with two dental chairs and a small desk space within one of the treatment rooms. This was Thomas’s office. Nearly 10 years later, a separate office and waiting area were added. “At that point, I knew the clinic would survive,” says Thomas. “That was a highlight!” In June 2016, the clinic celebrated its 20th anniversary.

WHY I DO IT: “I love my job,” says Thomas. “I’m in my community and I see the children of families I know receiving good care.” She also works at Dal’s clinic at the dental school, where she can be found in perio surgery or assisting chairside. She enjoys the variety, the people and the opportunity to keep her skills sharp. “I’m proud to work in a university teaching situation and I’m also proud that young people from the Preston communities are now starting to pursue dentistry as a profession. That’s a direct result of having the clinic in the community.” —Cheryl Bell



“I’m proud that young people from the Preston communities are now starting to pursue dentistry as a profession,” says Juliette Thomas, registered dental assistant and clinic coordinator at the North Preston Dental Clinic. “That’s a direct result of having the clinic in the community.” Thomas painted the cartoons on the clinic walls herself, to create a more welcoming environment for children.

DAL NEWS

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

New bursary for single moms honours student

In going back to school, Ngena Bernard was trying to change the course of her life and improve circumstances for herself and her children. A single mother of four, Bernard had completed Dalhousie's Transition-Year Program (TYP) and was a recipient of the Dalhousie Johnathan Skeete Award. She was enrolled at Dal with the dream of studying social work when she died of a heart attack in January of 2015 at age 36.

"When she died suddenly, it shocked all of us," says Candace Roker, Bernard's cousin and a two-time Dal Social Work graduate (BSW'98, MSW'00). Roker was determined to find a way to honour her cousin and created the Ngena Bernard Memorial Transition Year Program bursary for single mothers.

The \$500 award is administered through the Association of Black Social Workers and funded through donations. —Matt Reeder



Bernard had worked as a daycare teacher and had been deeply involved in community work with fellow African Nova Scotians from a young age. Nia, her eldest daughter, and Jarvis, her eldest son, attended the ceremony to present the award to recipient Katrina Jarvis.

L to R: Jarvis Bernard, Nia Bernard, Katrina Jarvis, Candace Roker



RESEARCH

HIGHER FOOD PRICES IN 2017?

Canadians can expect to pay 3-5 per cent more for food in 2017, an increase of as much as \$420 for an average family. That's the conclusion of the seventh edition of Canada's Food Price Report, published for the first time this year at Dalhousie. Built on the expertise of authors and advisors from four different Dal faculties—Management, Computer Science, Science and Agriculture—the report is led by Sylvain Charlebois, dean of the Faculty of Management. The popular annual report forecasts food prices for the upcoming year across different sectors and analyzes trends in Canada's food industries.

An increase of 3-5 per cent in food prices would be considerably higher than the rate of inflation (typically 1-2 per cent), and larger than 2016 (about 2.5 per cent). While dairy/eggs and bakery/cereal are expected to remain stable and within acceptable inflation rates, other foods could see much higher increases: fruits and nuts by 3-5 per cent; vegetables, meats and other food items by upwards of 4-6 per cent. "The biggest factor will be the falling Canadian dollar," explains Dr. Charlebois. "Given how many food products we import from abroad, our food economy is vulnerable to currency fluctuations."

Other drivers that inform the report's projections include La Nina weather patterns and the incoming Trump administration in the U.S. — which, while rife with uncertainty, suggests a forthcoming period of American protectionism that could initiate a "commodity super-cycle," raising food prices for Canadians. —Ryan McNutt

JUST THE FACTS

Nursing student named Rhodes Scholar

Hundreds of people have already benefitted from the passion and commitment of Dal's newest Rhodes Scholar, Maike Van Niekerk. The nursing student is the founder of a cancer support charity, Katrin's Karepackage, named in honour of her mother, who died of cancer when Van Niekerk was 15 years old. The charity has raised more than \$110,000 to help cover travel costs for cancer patients.

Van Niekerk is nearing the end of her Nursing degree at Dal, during which she's studied cancer rates and psychological distress among Canada's Indigenous people. She's won numerous major university and community awards, including being named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20. And now she's Oxford bound, set to become Dalhousie's 90th Rhodes Scholar.

The Rhodes is one of the most prestigious scholarships in the world. Eleven students from Canada each year are chosen to join a global cohort of 95 students to study at Oxford University in England. Worth in excess of \$100,000, the scholarship provides funding to cover travel and study at Oxford for two years, with an option for a third. Recipients must demonstrate character, commitment to others and potential to become a world leader. Van Niekerk is Dalhousie's fourth Rhodes Scholar in the past five years. —Ryan McNutt

INNOVATOR

RUDOLF UHER

PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY
CROSS APPOINTED TO COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

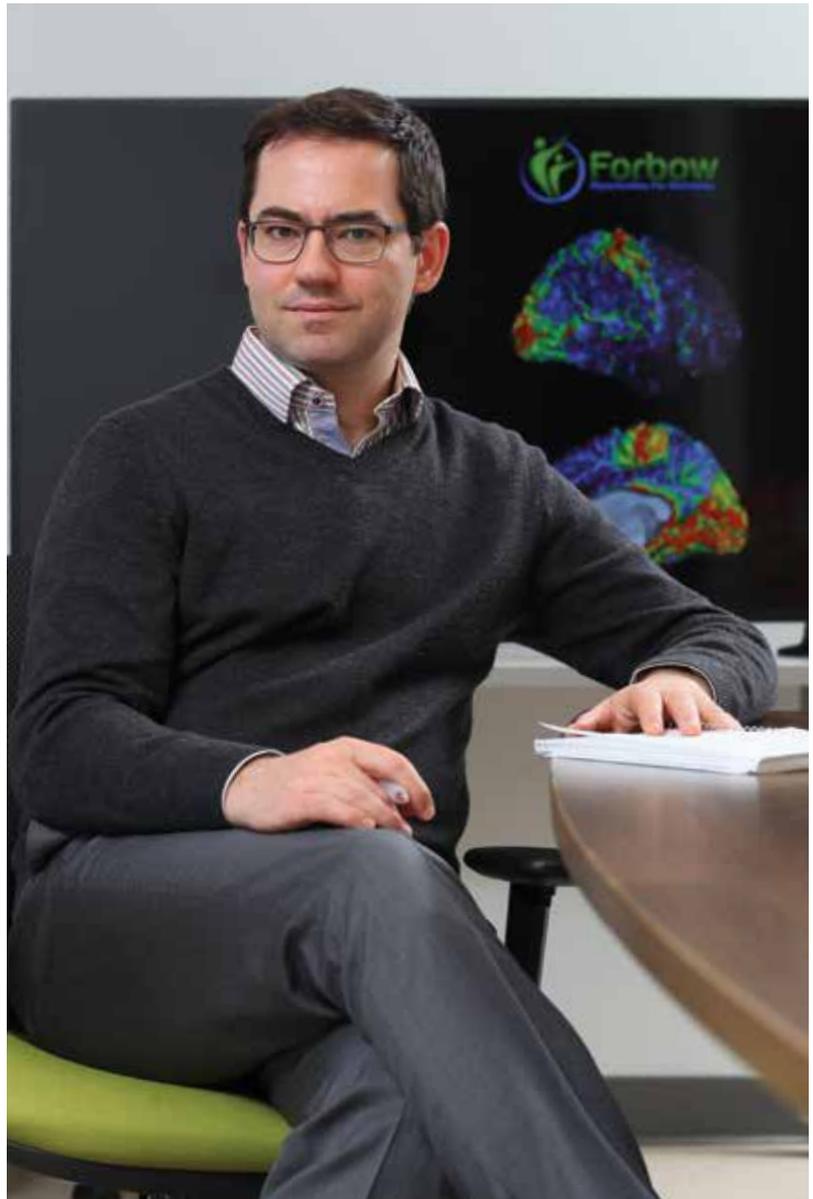
INNOVATION: Dr. Rudolf Uher’s research is making a difference on the lifelong impact of mental health by giving children the tools they need to counter issues like anxiety early on.

FOUNDATION: Dr. Uher’s research project, Families Overcoming Risks and Building Opportunities for Well-Being, is a new way to look at pre-empting mental illness. It examines genetic “sensitivities” in families with parents who have existing mental illnesses. Over the course of the next 10 years, Dr. Uher and his team will closely follow 300 children and adolescents to determine their susceptibility to three major mental illnesses: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and severe depression.

INSPIRATION: Throughout his career, Dr. Uher has mainly worked with adults. Many are parents who become concerned when they see some early warning signs of mental illness in their children. “They know that mental illness or the disposition to it runs in families. And some of them see some early signs, and say, ‘Oh, he’s just like me’ or ‘She’s just like me’ and are worried he or she will also develop this disease.”

IN HIS WORDS: “It was early on in my career when I realized that the mental side of health was so powerful that it will override everything else. This is really the core puzzle we need to solve now to improve the health of the whole population.”

WHY IT MATTERS In addition to the impact these mental illnesses have on people’s lives, there’s a financial price tag as well: these three major mental illnesses cost Canada more than all cancers combined. By identifying mental illness early on, treatment can begin earlier, providing a greater chance of altering a person’s life trajectory. —Michele Charlton



“This is really the core puzzle we need to solve now to improve the health of the whole population.”

DAL NEWS

NOTES



Members of the HRES team (left to right): Melissa MacKay, Hagar Akua Prah, Crystal Ragush, Jackie Dowling, Nicole McKeever, Lindie Colp-Rutley, Arig al Shaibah.

Emera support for ideaHUB announced

Dal President Richard Florizone used his keynote speech at the Halifax Chamber of Commerce’s fall dinner in November to share stories of Nova Scotian accomplishment, all of which emphasized what’s possible when people, communities and organizations come together in new ways. And Dr. Florizone closed his address by announcing a brand new partnership — one that will help kickstart Nova Scotian entrepreneurship.

It’s called ideaHUB: an engineering incubator/accelerator space designed to equip students with creative and entrepreneurial skills

while also providing support to local start-up companies and small businesses. Part of the larger IDEA project—a \$64-million revitalization of Dal’s downtown Sexton Campus announced in late September—ideaHUB is a partnership linking universities (including Dal, Acadia and NSCAD) with the corporate sector, entrepreneurs, venture capital and government.

“ideaHUB will be the most advanced engineering incubator and accelerator space in Canada,” said Dr. Florizone.

Joining Dr. Florizone for the ideaHUB announcement was Bob Hanf, executive vice-president of stakeholder relations with Emera. The local energy company is a founding partner

in ideaHUB, alongside organizations like Volta Labs, Innovacorp, Clearwater, Micco Companies and Build Ventures. In Emera’s case, they’re not only stepping up as a partner — they’re investing \$10 million to support the ideaHUB space and its programming.

“It’s not every day a project comes along that will make such an incredible difference in the way new ideas are fostered and developed in this province,” said Hanf. “We’re very proud to be part of this collaborative effort. It’s one I know will make an important difference for Nova Scotia students.” —Ryan McNutt

New name, revitalized mission

Human rights case management. Educational and employment equity. Sexual violence prevention and response. Conflict management. Dalhousie’s newly named Human Rights & Equity Services (HRES) does a lot of crucial work on campus — the importance of which has been emphasized not only in the priorities of Dal’s Strategic Direction, but in the recommendations

of several university-wide reports published over the past two years. Following a comprehensive consultation process, the unit not only has a new name (changed from Human Rights, Equity and Harassment Prevention), but also a new strategic framework to guide its work, as well as new staff to better support its revitalized mission.

One change is the unit’s leadership. HRES now reports through the Provost’s Office, with Dr. Arig al Shaibah (Vice-Provost, Student Affairs) appointed to serve as acting executive director. She’ll provide high-level direction while liaising with senior colleagues to advance institutional goals around diversity, inclusivity and equity. The new name—Human Rights & Equity Services—better reflects the unit’s mission: to be a focal point, a resource and a leader in the development of a respectful, equitable, diverse and inclusive campus community. Staffing changes and hires will also reflect that revitalized mission, with the unit’s complement increasing to seven in addition to the acting ED. Learn more about HRES at www.dal.ca/dept/dalrespect.html. —Ryan McNutt

Sustainability director celebrated

Rochelle Owen, Dal’s director of sustainability, received the 2016 Mobius Hall of Fame award from Divert NS, in recognition of her ongoing commitment to the environment and leadership in diverting waste from landfill. She is the first ever recipient of the Hall of Fame award, which was presented at a ceremony in Halifax featuring David Suzuki as its keynote speaker.

And only a few weeks prior, Owen was awarded the Bright Business Award for Leadership from Efficiency Nova Scotia, which recognizes an individual’s leadership, contribution and impact in energy efficiency.

Owen became Dal’s first director of the Office of Sustainability in 2008. Since her arrival, she has led the office in developing strategic plans around climate change, natural environment, food, transportation and waste. The university has earned a gold rating in STARS (the higher education ratings system for sustainability) and has met many of its targets in its Sustainability Operating Plan.

—Georgia Atkin



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DIVIDE AND CONQUER

A new process for tagging genes could allow gene therapy to be applied to disorders such as muscular dystrophies and spinal muscular atrophy. Dr. Graham Dellaire, Dalhousie Medical School's Cameron Research Scientist in Cancer Biology, explains his team's discovery and how it could make gene therapy more effective. BY CORY BURRIS

THE PROBLEM

Gene therapy allows scientists to correct genetic disorders by replacing defective or missing genes in cells with transplanted normal genes. But it's an expensive and time consuming process. In the last decade, though, the discovery and refinement of a technique known as CRISPR (it stands for Clustered Regularly-Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeat) has made gene therapy easier, cheaper and faster, and its use in genome editing was deemed the top scientific breakthrough of 2015 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Still, CRISPR hasn't cleared all gene therapy hurdles: "Up to now, CRISPR has been used to treat diseases that affect parts of the body comprised of cells that divide, like blood," says Dr. Dellaire. "Researchers haven't been able to apply CRISPR in non-dividing cells like muscle and brain tissue," which are involved in diseases such as muscular dystrophy and spinal muscular atrophy.

THE APPROACH

In order to apply CRISPR in non-dividing cells, researchers need to activate a cellular process called homologous recombination. Essentially, the process lets non-dividing cells behave like those that divide, allowing a cell's genes to be manipulated and rearranged with high fidelity. "Without reactivating the homologous recombination process, CRISPR would do more harm than good by making DNA deletions and insertions rather than correcting faulty genes," explains Dr. Dellaire.

Dr. Daniel Durocher and his team at Mount Sinai Hospital's Lunen-

feld-Tanenbaum Research Institute in Toronto recently found a way to turn on the recombination process needed to perform gene editing in non-dividing cells. Up until that point, precise gene editing in these cells was thought to be impossible. "Dr. Durocher's breakthrough was profound, but he and his team needed a way to prove their process," says Dr. Dellaire. "That's where we came in."

THE SOLUTION

"We came up with a fluorescent tagging technique to identify when gene targeting has been successful in a cell—even in those that don't divide," says Dr. Dellaire. The technique shows a precision gene editing event when the cell being worked on turns green and a ring appears around its nucleus. Tens of thousands of cell samples can be screened this way, allowing researchers to keep improving gene therapies.

THE IMPLICATIONS

This new knowledge will enable gene therapy to be applied to disorders of the musculoskeletal and nervous system—systems made up of non-dividing cells. "At this stage, getting non-dividing cells to behave like dividing cells is only safe to do in a lab environment," explains Dr. Dellaire. "We're trying to identify molecules that will take the place of these man-made genetic manipulations. Our hope is to one day make gene therapy a reality for diseases of non-dividing cells such as muscular dystrophies like myotonic dystrophy, and nervous disorders like spinal muscular atrophy where the faulty genes have been identified."



COLLAGE BY CAREN WATKINS; ICONS FROM THE NOUN PROJECT; MEAGHAN HENDRICKS, DINESH PAL GAUTAM



AARON MCKENZIE FRASER

A SOLDIER'S

peace

OFFERING

He's a retired Canadian Lieutenant-General trying to end the world's use of child soldiers. She's an academic who was brave enough to tell him, "You've been doing this wrong."

Together, Roméo Dallaire and Shelly Whitman have forged a powerful partnership aimed at ending the use of children as weapons of war.

BY RYAN MCNUTT

“IT’S LIKE I’VE GOT A TATTOO in the middle of my forehead that says, ‘You messed up because you didn’t see there were children being used.’”

That’s how Roméo Dallaire, retired Canadian lieutenant-general, describes his “sin of omission” in his first encounters with child soldiers. The words are spoken with an almost spiritual heft—a nod, perhaps, to the general’s Roman Catholic upbringing. But they’re also informed by the experience he’s best known for: witnessing the 1994 Rwandan genocide as force commander for a United Nations peacekeeping force, serving valiantly to try to save lives but proving ultimately powerless to stop the horror unfolding around him.

LGen Dallaire and his colleagues on the Rwandan mission certainly noticed, early on, that some of the soldiers they encountered appeared rather young. They also came across militia groups with children in their ranks, but they seemed more like street gangs to an officer like LGen Dallaire, trained for years to see “soldier” as a particular class of individual. It was only when the war broke out that it became clear these children were not just there to play war—they were weapons of war themselves, on the front lines of a massacre that killed hundreds of thousands.

“That sin of omission,” says LGen Dallaire, “that sin of ignorance, is the drive behind my continued fight to stop us getting sucked in and letting people under the age of 18 get recruited and trained to become soldiers, militia members and the favourite weapons of war in conflict today.”

It’s a drive that led the General to found the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, an international partnership that aims to eradicate the use and recruitment of child soldiers. Since 2010, the Dallaire Initiative has been hosted at Dalhousie University under the watch of Executive Director Shelly Whitman, who worked with the General during her time as a faculty member with Dal’s Department of Political Science. Together, the two have developed a novel approach to the issue of child soldiers, one that takes into account security sector actors often missed by traditional humanitarian efforts.

Today, the Dallaire Initiative is active across three continents and nearly a dozen countries in training, research and advocacy. It’s offered advice to NATO, drafted UN Security Council resolutions, consulted on new guidelines for Canada’s armed forces and assisted with the creation of a new policy on children for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, in the process becoming a leading global voice on the topic of child soldiers. Demand for its programs is growing rapidly as governments, military leaders and international bodies alike start to realize that traditional ways of addressing the use of child soldiers have failed to prevent their recruitment — and that a future without child soldiers isn’t a pipe dream, it’s within their power to achieve.

“What the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative is doing is absolutely extraordinary,” says humanitarian Stephen Lewis. “There is nothing like it internationally anywhere. They are fashioning a response to child soldiery that is utterly unique and is effective. It is almost beyond belief how effective it can be and is being. It is as it were, the gold standard to the response to child soldiers anywhere.”

LEWIS AND LGEN DALLAIRE HAVE crossed paths many times in their work, but Lewis’s most important contribution to the Dallaire Initiative might be his influence on Dr. Whitman’s career.

It was Lewis who recruited Dr. Whitman, fresh out of her PhD, to serve as a researcher on an African Union panel investigating the Rwandan genocide. That’s where Dr. Whitman first met the General in 2000. Soon thereafter she had her own first encounter with child soldiers,

when she was head of research for the facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, Former President Masire of Botswana, in the peace process for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

She recalls a moment when two children serving as her guard detail asked her for cigarettes, a request to which she responded with an almost “holier than thou” tone on the importance of her impartiality.

“I treated them like children but, afterwards, I realized that might not have been the smartest way to talk to them, given they were armed with AK-47s,” she says.

Meanwhile, after several years revisiting the Rwandan genocide in front of panels, politicians and people around the world, LGen Dallaire had come around to the one topic he admits he hadn’t really unpacked from his experience: the use of children. Having retired from the military, he had the chance to speak about child soldiers in Rwanda at an international conference on war crimes and children in 2000. That led to a cascading series of events that drew him further into the issue: working in Sierra Leone at the end of its conflict as an advisor with the then-Canadian International Development Agency; conducting research as a fellow at the Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy at Harvard; and, in 2007, starting the Dallaire Initiative.

In those early years, the Dallaire Initiative was doing a lot of theoretical and modelling work, working with former child soldiers, diplomats and academics to reinforce what was known about the massive and growing use of children in conflict.

“Not that children haven’t been used before in conflict,” says LGen Dallaire, “but what had happened was—starting in Mozambique in the late ’80s and early ’90s—children had become the *primary* weapons system, a favourite weapons system, which was a total complete change.”

It’s at this point that the General and Dr. Whitman once again crossed paths. At the time, Dr. Whitman was deputy director of Dal’s Centre for Foreign Policy Studies (now the Centre for the Study of Security and Development), and was trying to arrange for the General to speak on campus. Because of her research interests, she ended up being invited to contribute to the Dallaire Initiative at workshops and meetings.

Dr. Whitman and LGen Dallaire shared an interest in moving beyond the theoretical into a field-tested, practical toolkit to help reduce the use of child soldiers. They believed that targeting security sector actors—military leaders, soldiers, police officers, prison administrators—was the missing piece of the puzzle. A 2009



“We want to make it so disadvantageous to use children that you wouldn’t think to do it.”

training workshop in Botswana, spearheaded by Dr. Whitman, involving military, police and child protection workers from across southern Africa represented a key milestone in their work—a first proving ground for their ideas.

“You’ve been doing this wrong.” Some might have been reluctant to challenge General Dallaire’s approach so directly, but that’s what Dr. Whitman recalls telling him, pointing out that he’d been trying to create tools for use in the field without first getting the buy-in and insights from those working on the front lines. That realization led Dr. Whitman to create the Botswana workshop, where they drew in partners such as UNICEF, Save the Children and Montreal’s International Bureau for Children’s Rights as well as security sector representatives from Southern Africa. “We used it as an opportunity to gather information from the participants about the realities on the ground and to collaborate with other child protection experts and figure out what we needed.”

LGen Dallaire was deeply impressed by what Dr. Whitman was starting to develop, so much so that when it became clear the Dallaire Initiative needed an institutional home base—rather than simply being a loose or-

ganization of partners—it made sense to hand the reins to Dr. Whitman and base it out of Dalhousie.

“She’s the one who was able to break the code,” says LGen Dallaire, referring to Dr. Whitman’s shift from theoretical model to field research and application. “That’s become the breakthrough we were looking for to put something together that people could use.”

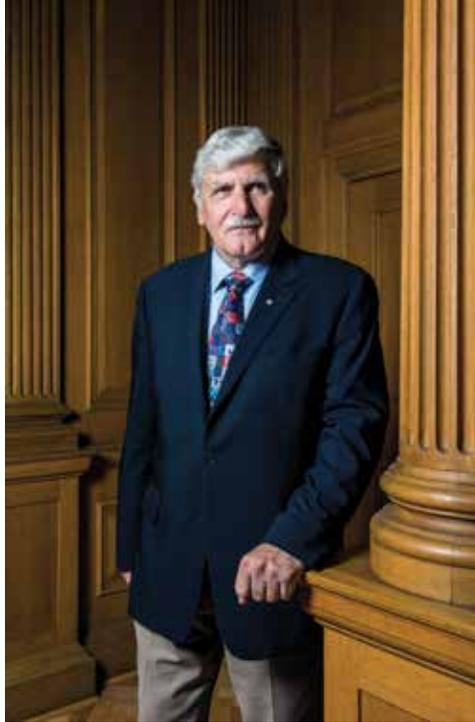
THERE’S A CLINICAL METHOD to the way both Dr. Whitman and LGen Dallaire describe their work. They speak of children in conflict as a “weapons system.” They refer to their methods as a “product.” For such an emotional, human issue as child soldiers, it’s an approach that may surprise some.

“‘Weapons of war’—there are a lot of people who work on an issue like child soldiers who might cringe at that phraseology,” admits Dr. Whitman. “But when the General uses a phrase like that, he’s not taking away from the humanity or agency of the child in such contexts. He’s helping us understand that we need to frame our approaches in another way as well, which is what the security-sector approach is focused on.”

To understand the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative’s approach, it’s helpful to think of child soldiers in terms of supply and demand. Much of the humanitarian and development work being done by various international agencies and NGOs is focused on supply: conditions of poverty, education and low quality of life in general that make children targets for recruitment into combat. But the dark secret of child soldiers is that they’re used not just because they’re available, but because those who use them believe they are *effective*. Children are fast, small and, with the decreasing size and weight of automatic weapons, can handle the weapons more easily. They’re easier to coerce, control or co-opt than adults, and in many countries it’s seemingly simpler to replenish depleted ranks with children than to try to recruit grown men and women to the front lines.

Addressing this demand and reducing incentives to use child soldiers means working with the sorts of individuals who’d use them in the first place: soldiers, generals, police forces, militias. And it also means training those who may end up encountering child soldiers on combat or peacekeeping missions on how to handle those situations in the field.

“We want to make it so disadvantageous to use children that you wouldn’t think to do it, because you’re not going to win,” says Dr. Whitman. “But right now the balance is the other way around: people who are using children are seeing it as a tactical and strategic advan-



“I feel as if I’m running out of time. But I really think that one day we’ll stop the use of child soldiers.”

tage, and those who need to counter that argument don’t know how to do so.”

The Dallaire Initiative’s flagship project to date has been its work in Sierra Leone, a country which had more than 10,000 child soldiers in use during its nine-year civil war but today is becoming a major peacekeeping force throughout Africa. The project has been deeply embedded within the country’s national security structure, leading training and support for soldiers while at the same time launching an education program for children. Sierra Leone is also the country in which the Dallaire Initiative conducted its first “train the trainer” course, which has now become the staple of its approach. And thanks to funding from Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Dr. Whitman has been able to properly evaluate the impact of the Dallaire Initiative’s programs.

“The idea was: could we build a preventative model for a country?” explains Dr. Whitman. Sierra Leone represents a great proving ground for the Dallaire Initiative’s work: not only has it had child soldiers in its recent past, but it’s a country looking to strengthen its role on the international stage. All three of Sierra Leone’s se-

curity services are on-board—prisons, police and military—complemented with the creation of education materials for children.

“It’s allowed us to build a bottom-up, top-down approach, a system we can then take and replicate in other contexts—including ones that are actively using child soldiers,” says Dr. Whitman.

ONE OF THE MORE ACTIVELY INTENSE regions the Dallaire Initiative has worked in over the past year is South Sudan. It’s a civil war rife with the use of child soldiers—numbers in the 20,000 range, although Dr. Whitman says based on what she saw on the ground she’d be shocked if that number wasn’t larger.

And yet, the Dallaire Initiative was able to make an impact with its approach. In one situation, it convinced a rebel commander to release the last 300 children from his ranks. In another, Dr. Whitman and LGen Dallaire were able to achieve something that had stymied other NGOs: face time with the country’s Minister of National Defence and Chief of Defence Staff. That led to an opportunity to present to nearly 40 senior officers in the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army (the national forces), making their case as to the tactical disadvantages to using child soldiers and the long-term impacts this has on overall peace and stability as well as the country’s economic growth.

To enter those sorts of conversations—in the case of South Sudan, sometimes with individuals who may well end up before the International Criminal Court on war crimes charges—takes courage, patience and credibility, all traits that LGen Dallaire brings to the table.

“I’ve been all over the world with him, and it’s always a joke between us when I say, ‘Let’s see how long it is before someone here recognizes you,’” says Dr. Whitman. “People have immense respect for him because of what he tried to do to save the people of Rwanda and how he’s continued to fight for issues such as preventing mass atrocities and genocide and protecting children. He’s viewed very highly as a humanitarian but, at the same time, has the military experience and background. He’s managed to walk across both of those worlds, which most former generals don’t.”

Not yet, at least. One of the major projects the Dallaire Initiative undertook this past summer is a new pilot program called VTECS: Veteran Trainers to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers. It’s the Dallaire Initiative’s first major program at home in Canada, conducted in partnership with Wounded Warriors Canada. Its goal is to train Canadian veterans to be able to deliver specialized

training to prevent the use of child soldiers—in other words, empowering other former military personnel like LGen Dallaire to be able to join the cause and make an impact.

Ken Hoffer, a retired naval officer based in Halifax, was involved in several operations in which he interacted with child soldiers, most prominently in East Timor. He heard about the VTECS program while working to create a new charity to support veterans, and saw contributing to the Dallaire Initiative’s work as an opportunity to build on his experiences.

“I think I’ve been sitting on the fence for too long, and I’d like to at least have the opportunity to contribute, to give back,” he says. “It’s also an opportunity to advocate for this child soldier initiative. I think the program is spot-on in terms of determining ways we can take preventive measures to stop the use of child soldiers.”

The VTECS program is another big step for an organization that’s grown significantly over the past six years, currently employing eight full-time staff, in addition to a roster of trainers around the world and the Dal students in programs like Computer Science and Management it often works with on select projects. But demand certainly outstrips resources at the moment: right now, LGen Dallaire and Dr. Whitman’s top priority is consolidating the success of their work so far and finding the partnerships and support needed to expand the Dallaire Initiative’s reach and impact.

“I want us to be an organization that’s part of Dalhousie, and on the global stage, for the long haul,” says Dr. Whitman. “We want to see this momentum continue to grow until it becomes the norm: that training and understanding about child soldiers is part of the standard doctrine of armed forces around the world.”

“We’re in phase one in a long-term attrition in the use of children as weapons of war,” says LGen Dallaire, acknowledging the value of what they’ve accomplished so far: an innovative, intellectually rigorous and field-focused package of skills, knowledge and experience that they can use to help convince security forces to stop using children in war. Now a senior fellow for the initiative that bears his name, with Dr. Whitman leading the Dallaire Initiative on strategy and operations, LGen Dallaire believes they’re truly on a path towards a world without child soldiers—though he knows it’s a world he might not get to see with his own eyes.

“I turned 70 this past year, which pisses me off,” he says, only half-laughing. “I feel as if I’m running out of time. But I really think that one day we’ll stop it. We’ll stop the use of child soldiers.”

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Gap year: The gender divide in computer science has grown more pronounced, even as society in general has edged toward equality

When it comes to studying and working in computer science, women are still a rarity. And that's bad news: for the women missing out on interesting and well-paying work, but also for the rest of us, because a lack of gender diversity means solutions and innovations may not reflect the needs and lives of half the population. It's a challenge Dal's Faculty of Computer Science is addressing head on, as it attempts to attract a more balanced pool of students. BY MATT SEMANSKY

The stereotypical computer scientist is a loner, whiling away hours in a darkened basement tapping out code, surfacing rarely and reluctantly for awkward interaction. And, invariably, he's male.

This may be an outdated archetype, but the misconception that computer science is a field for men is fed by inarguable gender disparity in its ranks. At Dalhousie, for example, only 17 per cent of current undergraduate students in the Faculty of Computer Science identify as female.

Being one of only a handful of women in a classroom can make the notion of computer science as an isolated discipline feel all too real. "It's a strange and not necessarily pleasant feeling at first," says Gabriella Mosquera, a PhD candidate and lecturer in the Faculty of Computer Science who says she simply had to "get used to" this feeling.

Mimi Cahill, a fourth-year Computer Science student, says that although female students are no more likely to struggle with the course material, they are more likely to feel as if they don't belong, or that any such difficulties are inherently due to gender. She cites "impostor syndrome" as a common affliction for women in the field.

"When we see such a large gap in gender, we know there's an underlying culture and there are reasons why we get this disparity," says Christian Blouin, associate dean, academic in the Faculty of Computer Science. That lack of gender diversity not only creates a self-perpetuating loop, making it more difficult for those women who do choose the field to succeed and less appealing for other women to enter it, it's also bad for the profession and those who rely on it (which these days, is most of us). Why? Because the solutions developed in a field tend to reflect the experiences of those creating them. Dr. Blouin says promoting equality and inclusion, in addition to being a moral imperative, will improve the Faculty's ability to serve its educational mission. "When there is a lack of diversity, things don't work as well and decisions can be made that are exclusionary."

The Faculty of Computer Science is attempting to break this exclusionary cycle with an ambitious program to close the gender gap in its undergraduate population. By the fall of 2018—the year of Dal's 200th anniversary—the Faculty aims to double the number of female undergraduates. By 2020, it is seeking to have women represent at least 40 per cent

of its undergraduate ranks. If successful, women will no longer have to "get used to" feeling isolated or feel like impostors in computer science. They'll reverse a decades-long trend and shatter stereotypes, simply by being computer scientists.

THE ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM

How did women come to be excluded from computer science? Answering that question means examining decades of cultural residue everywhere from toy store aisles to the halls of academia. And interestingly, the gender divide has grown more pronounced, even as society in general has edged toward equality.

Carolyn Watters, provost and vice-president academic at Dalhousie (and a professor in the Faculty of Computer Science), began a master's degree in computer science in the early 1970s and says about a quarter of her classmates were women. "But every year that I've been in computer science, the numbers of women have gone down."

Dr. Blouin says one trigger for this decline occurred in the 1980s, when video games began to drive the culture of computer science. He believes a simple marketing decision—placing most video games in the boys' aisles of toy stores—indirectly led to the marginalizing of women. The male skew of gaming culture led to a male-dominated computer science culture, a pattern that has only reinforced itself over the years.

Even the many examples of high-achieving women in computer science offer stories that illustrate, rather than refute, the problem of gender imbalance.

"I'm a pretty bold, outspoken person," says Cahill, who serves as vice-president external for the Women in Technology Society (WiTS). "I'm comfortable with making enemies." Despite this, Cahill says she has still experienced moments of feeling out of place, moments that would be magnified for students whose support networks are not as strong as hers.

Like Cahill, WiTS president (and student representative on the gender gap project) Emily Edwards believes her personality and experiences shield her against some of the systemic factors working against women in computer science. "I grew up hanging out with mostly males, so (the gender gap) didn't bother me as much as it would bother some people."

Like Dr. Watters, Bonnie MacKay, an instructor

h1 {

reality: A lack of gender diversity creates a self-perpetuating loop, making it more difficult for women who choose the field to succeed and less appealing for other women to enter it

}

h2 {

faculty: computer science
gender: male
percentage: 83%

}

who primarily teaches first-year students, migrated to computer science after obtaining academic and professional experience in other disciplines. “I was fortunate because I’d done a couple of degrees and came in with more confidence,” says Dr. MacKay.

In other words, gender is an obstacle more easily overcome by women who bring experience and strength of personality to their computer science education. “A lot of the successful women in our programs are exceptional. They’re trailblazers,” says Dr. Blouin. “But I don’t think it’s fair to expect people to be trailblazers, just because the gender that they identify with is underrepresented.”

What the Faculty wants instead is a program that more students—and more women—can see themselves in. It’s important to note that admission standards remain the same for all applicants and qualified men will, as ever, be welcomed and supported in their studies. “It’s about marketing the program properly to attract the women who are qualified and want these opportunities,” says Cahill.

THE PLAN FOR CHANGE

To promote a more inclusive culture, the Faculty of Computer Science has launched a number of initiatives, from forming its own Culture of Respect committee, to aiding the creation of the Women in Technology Society and adopting more rigorous standards of avoiding bias in faculty hiring. But to reach its ambitious targets for gender balance, the Faculty is also reaching out to partners in industry and government, asking for help in creating a more robust offering to potential female students.

Dr. Blouin and his colleagues believe these partners can bring real-world perspective and resources to the table and pitch in with mentorship and co-op opportunities, scholarships and the nurturing of entrepreneurial ideas. The organizations would also benefit from this engagement as a result of an increased number and quality of job applicants and more diverse perspectives that will make their products and services better. “Half the population is women,” says Dr. MacKay. “It only makes sense that we have a good representation of females when design is happening, because we may have different wants or needs.”

As far as reaching potential students, the solu-

tion involves turning one of the original causes of the gender gap problem—marketing—on its head. “There’s still this idea that it’s a very solitary career choice, but it’s not like that at all anymore,” says Dr. MacKay. “It’s probably the exact opposite. You have to work with people. It’s fluid and creative and you have to think outside the box all the time.”

Dr. Watters echoes the idea that computer science needs an image makeover. “We don’t think of computer science as a helping science,” she says. “But think about how you go through your day. Think about how much easier or better or more interesting it is because somebody designed a screen right.”

Students like Cahill also agree that computer science as they’ve experienced it hasn’t been properly communicated. “You have the technical side, but you also have business and marketing and communications, especially in the Applied Computer Science degree,” says Cahill. “I’ve really found my voice in this program.”

CHANGE THAT BENEFITS ALL STUDENTS

Helping more female students find their voice through computer science is, in part, a function of broadening the message about the discipline. But it also involves examining the actual content of computer science programs. “It takes a long time to lobby for a different sense of what is considered essential to computer science,” says Dr. Watters. “On one end of the spectrum I would say a computer scientist is really an engineer, and on the other end you’re really a social scientist.”

Dr. Blouin notes that part of the gender gap project is evaluating how the computer science curriculum is taught and graded. “We’re looking at what we do in the curriculum that has systemic bias,” he says. In fact, anything that could reinforce or ameliorate gender imbalance is up for discussion as the Faculty encourages more women to apply for and complete an undergraduate degree.

As that shift happens, they’re hoping to shelve the stereotype of the computer scientist as a solitary white male in a dark room for good. Someone once told Mimi Cahill that she “didn’t look like a coder.” But she does, because she is. And Dalhousie’s Faculty of Computer Science is looking for many more like her.

h1 {

solution: keep admission standards the same for candidates of all genders while taking steps to attract qualified women

}

h2 {

target year: 2020
goal: women make up 40% of computer science undergrads

}

Peers and mentors

Students, faculty and administrators all point to a sense of community as a key factor for success in computer science. In fact, the project to close the gender gap in the Faculty of Computer Science isn't merely about raising the numbers of women in its programs—it's also about creating more camaraderie among the women who choose the field.

The good news is that while women may not be represented in strong numbers in the Faculty yet, they are among the most engaged in student organizations. The Women in Technology Society (WiTS), for example, nurtures a network of female students and also puts on events showcasing women who have been successful in technology fields.

"The WiTS is a support system to let women know they can push through adversity and that other people are going through the same thing," says Emily Edwards, president of WiTS. The society is open to male students, a few of whom are even part of its executive group. "Equal opportunity for everyone is our goal and having male council members voicing their acceptance of the society helps us get heard."

Brandon Poole, president of the Computer Science Society, is one of the male members of the WiTS council. He says the two societies have formed a stronger partnership since WiTS was ratified as a constituent society of the CSS, meaning CSS can funnel funds to WiTS to support events and operations. "We just did a game jam, where a whole weekend was dedicated to students developing games. The theme this year was that the developers had to have a female protagonist in their games, which was a way to touch on gender issues in computer science."

Equally important is the emergence of more female role models at the head of the class. In addition to instructors like Carolyn Watters, Gabriella Mosquera and Bonnie MacKay, 11 of the teaching assistants in the faculty are women. "They're great mentors," says Dr. MacKay, noting that the reduced age gap between students teaching assistants makes the TAs' experiences more relatable.

Mosquera considers mentorship an essential part of her job. "If you want to increase the number of female students, you need to have role models for them to look up to."

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DAL WINTER 2017

“My hope is that Tanzania can reduce those unnecessary deaths, even eliminate them completely.”

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Birth right

Rose Mlay (BScN'91, MN'98) is working to make childbirth safer for the women and children of Tanzania.
By Mark Campbell

If Rose Mlay (BScN'91, MN'98) has her way, Tanzania will achieve a zero mortality rate for mothers during childbirth by the year 2018. The Dalhousie alumna admits it will not be easy. Unfulfilled government promises and a lack of public discussion on the issue have placed the nation among the top six internationally for mortality rates for years, with 24 Tanzanian women and 144 newborns dying each day due to childbirth-related complications.

“It’s a silent tragedy,” Mlay concedes. “By raising awareness, by starting conversations, my hope is that Tanzania can reduce those unnecessary deaths, even eliminate them completely.”

Mlay has been working toward that goal since 2005 as national coordinator of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood Tanzania (WRATZ). Part of a global initiative that unites people to demand safe childbirth for all women, under Mlay’s leadership WRATZ has been pushing for increased access to Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) nationwide and encouraging women to give birth at health facilities instead of at home.

Through her advocacy, Mlay inspired the formation of the Tanzania Parliamentary Group for Safe Motherhood that promotes the benefits of midwifery to government and has advocated for a Safe Motherhood Bill. She played a key role in convincing government to end a hiring freeze on health education graduates, effectively addressing shortages in childbirth expertise and services. She persuaded the government to create White Ribbon Day, an annual commemoration of the women and children who have died during childbirth. And through financial support from White Ribbon Alliance Global Secretariat she leads Wajibika Mama Aishi (Be Accountable so Mama Can Live), a WRATZ campaign that calls on government to honour a 2008 commitment to provide CEmONC at 50 per cent of the nation’s 700 health centres. Since the campaign’s launch, the government has expanded care to 113 of Tanzania’s health centres, and achieved a 50 per cent rate in the region of Rukwa, where 65 per cent of women now give birth at health facilities,

up from 30 per cent in 2010.

Despite this progress, mortality rates remain high, due in part to improved reporting on fatalities as more women give birth outside the home and a failure by government to provide sufficient funding for CEmONC. Mlay says WRATZ continues working with parliamentarians, non-government organizations, medical associations and communities so that “everyone will demand better access to life saving services. That is how we will make a change.”

A nurse-midwife and former lecturer at Muhimbili University of Health Sciences, Mlay knew she wanted to be a nurse from an early age, but it was her mother’s obstetric-related issues that sparked her interest in reproductive health. She studied nursing and midwifery at Muhimbili before gaining admission to Dalhousie, where she earned a BScN through the Tanzania Project and, later, an MN, thanks to financial support from the World Health Organization.

“The environment at Dalhousie was one where everyone was your friend, even the professors,” Mlay observes. “You would address them by their first names, they invited students into their homes for dinner and they conducted lectures like conversations. They encouraged self-confidence and exploration and I still draw on that to this day.”

That is evident in Mlay’s work as a mentor to Dalhousie students such as Keisha Jefferies, a Master of Nursing student who met Mlay through the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship and who actually travelled to Tanzania to see the situation there first-hand.

“She gave me incredible insights into the maternal health situation in Tanzania, particularly the political, community and social context involved,” Jefferies says. “It was helpful for my maternal health studies, but it was also inspiring to meet someone who is working to influence change for the better. I can follow her example in taking on issues related to maternal and newborn health.”

More than a decade since she became leader of WRATZ, Mlay is showing little signs of slowing down. If anything, she seems more am-



bitious than ever in advancing awareness and making progress to improve the health of women and newborns. She is campaigning to bring CEmONC to all of Tanzania over the next five years and has met with the nation's Minister of Health to discuss plans to secure \$40 million from the World Bank for the infrastructure to make that happen. She is meeting with members of parliament to encourage them to push for CEmONC for their constituents. And she is working with professional organizations to secure their support for zero tolerance to maternal and newborn deaths.

Yet Mlay is realizing that it is time for a new generation to take the reins of WRATZ and keep it vital for years to come. This would free her to pursue a new initiative, one that has been on her mind for some time: the launch of a community care organization dedicated to serving women in the home post-delivery. She says the idea was inspired by her time working with the Victorian Order of Nurses at Dalhousie.

"There is such overcrowding in hospitals and health centres that women are discharged within six hours of giving birth," Mlay says. "There is no one they can turn to when they have issues with breastfeeding or bleeding. We can help them make the transition to the home and prevent problems from occurring, so my goal is to make that happen."

TOP LEFT Rose Mlay received her BScN from Dal in 1991 TOP RIGHT Mlay speaking on Capital TV (Tanzania) in 2016 ABOVE RIGHT Announcing the WRATZ 2015 "Be Accountable" campaign RIGHT Twin boys born by c-section at Matai Health Centre, a successful birth because of CEmONC BELOW Mlay with the wife of the 4th President of Tanzania at White Ribbon Day 2004



For nearly 200 years, Dalhousie alumni have made extraordinary contributions that positively impact the lives of others. We're featuring just some of these graduates in our Building a Better World series. READ ABOUT OTHER INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNI AT ALUMNI.DAL.CA/BUILDING-A-BETTER-WORLD.

“John would have loved the idea of providing an opportunity a student otherwise wouldn’t have.”

DONOR PROFILE

Sustainable support

When John Watson (MArch'90) died tragically in 1998, his family and friends created a scholarship to celebrate his life.

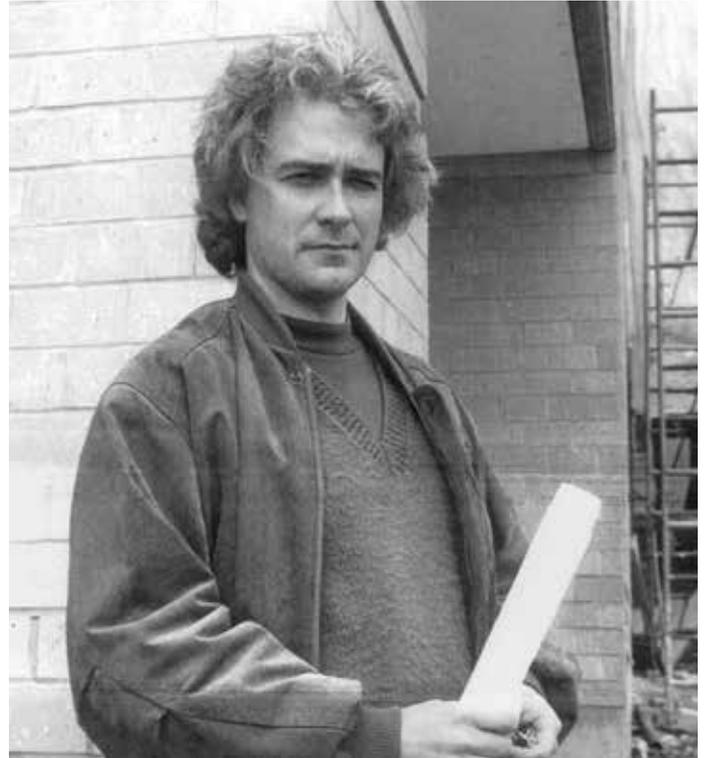
This summer, Larissa Roque (BEDS'14), a second-year Master of Architecture student in the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, set off to conduct research for her thesis project. She left with only a tent and a plan to visit First Nations communities along the Great Lakes. “I grew up on the Georgian Bay so the Great Lakes region is very dear to my heart,” says Roque, who is from Wahnapiatae First Nation. “I wanted to gain a better understanding of the people and existing infrastructure in the communities surrounding the Great Lakes that my future thesis project would be affecting.”

For Roque that meant analyzing the cultural appropriateness of the architecture in these communities, which she says should lend itself well to green technology given First Nations’ philosophies of environmental stewardship and local materiality. And thanks to the John D. Watson Memorial Scholarship, Roque was able to achieve more than she had hoped.

“I ended up visiting 14 communities, met countless people, gained first-hand understanding of the communities and ultimately narrowed the focus of my research. The experience was invaluable,” she says. “Even before I received the scholarship, I wanted to work towards improving the lives of First Nations people in this area. Along the way, I was also hoping to discover more of my ancestral Anishinaabe heritage.”

The scholarship was created by John Watson’s (MArch'90) family and friends after his untimely death in 1998 in Bermuda, where he had been working as an architect. It celebrates John’s life and advances sustainable architecture—a passion of his—by supporting students who are focusing on green design for their thesis project.

For Wayne Watson, John’s father, hearing about the students’ experiences and the way their education has been impacted means a great deal to him. “John was kind, well-liked, thoughtful and passionate about architecture and sustainable design,” says Dr. Watson. “He would have loved the idea of providing an opportunity for a student they otherwise wouldn’t have had.”



ABOVE John Watson as a student in the Faculty of Architecture and Planning RIGHT Larissa Roque, second-year Master of Architecture student, recipient of the John D. Watson Memorial Scholarship



It certainly enriched Roque’s experience.

After visiting many communities along the remote northeastern shoreline of the Great Lakes, Roque realized that the architecture is not reflective of Anishinaabe culture. “My own desire to learn more of my heritage was being felt across the region; the current school system does little to address the need,” she says. “Without my scholarship I wouldn’t have been able to travel to all of the places I visited, and may not have made this important discovery.” In the coming months Roque will be researching and exploring traditional Anishinaabe education techniques and how architecture can facilitate the needs of the communities she visited.

For Dr. Watson, it’s gratifying to know the award in John’s name is making a difference in the world. “When a parent loses a child, you’re left with a life unfulfilled. While John did great work as an architect, he was only in the industry for eight years before he died,” he says. “My hope through this award was to remember John while making a difference in a student’s education, and ultimately what they are able to achieve. It’s rewarding to know that is happening.” — Fallon Bourgeois

SUBMITTED: NICK PEARCE

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DONOR PROFILE

Giving big and staying home

Nova Scotia philanthropist John Risley donates \$25 million to oceans research at Dal

For much of his life, business leader and philanthropist John Risley has been travelling a path that connects Dalhousie, the ocean and the province of Nova Scotia. A long-time advocate for his home province, Risley is passionate about advancing Nova Scotia’s interests and its bountiful natural resources.

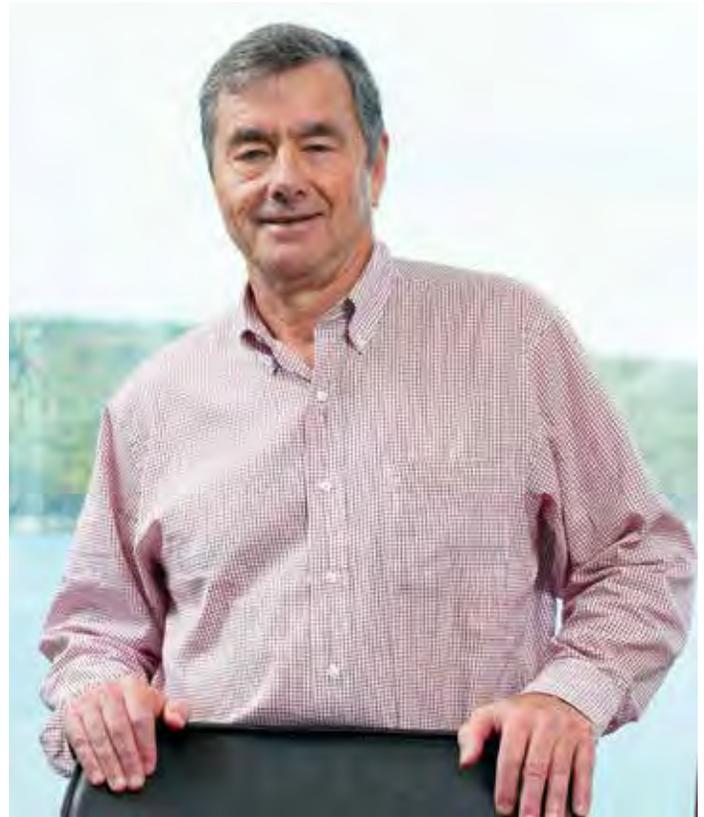
“Everyone from Nova Scotia feels that connection to the ocean,” says Risley, president of Clearwater Fine Foods Inc., Canada’s largest fishing company. Risley’s passion and respect for the sea is best articulated in his recent gift of \$25 million to the Dal-led Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI), an international collaboration that positions Canada as a global leader in oceans research. The gift is the culmination of his long-time association with Dalhousie University and its many stakeholders, both internal and external.

The Risley-Dal-oceans story dates back to the 1960s. “I took arts classes for a couple of years, but it really wasn’t for me,” he says. Nevertheless, Risley has been a vocal advocate for Dalhousie and oceans research for over 50 years, and has continued to serve his alma mater in a variety of roles, including 11 years as a senior advisor on Dalhousie’s Board of Governors.

Risley’s conversation is filled with references to home and the importance of honoring one’s roots. He also frames the conversation around oceans in terms of home. “This is a huge opportunity for our region to bring in new businesses and leverage our competitive edge in oceans research.”

It’s also an invitation for Nova Scotia to differentiate itself on the world stage. In the quest for \$94 million in federal funding, Risley understood it was essential for Dalhousie and its partner institutions to demonstrate a significant private-sector investment to give the proposal legs. “I was happy to serve as a catalyst for this investment,” he says of his personal \$25-million commitment.

With total funding of \$220 million, OFI will focus its efforts specifically on the Northwest Atlantic and the Canadian Arctic Gateway—a



region of the global ocean where changes happen first and fastest. Areas of impact will include major storm prediction and mitigation; improved management of ocean resources; more sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; and enhanced marine transportation policy.

“The Ocean Frontier Institute’s research will help us better understand these changes and contribute to the development of solutions for the sustainable use of the ocean off Canada’s coast and around the world,” says Risley. “It will also help us better understand the role of oceans in climate change and the race to mitigate some of those impacts.”

As the Ocean Frontier Institute embarks on its ambitious journey, there is already much to celebrate. “OFI aligns with the concept of an Atlantic economy strategy—one that’s based on the strengths of our different provinces and what we can work on collaboratively. We’re already working together for a common goal and that’s what OFI is all about,” says Risley.—Joanne Ward-Jerrett



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“It’s probably the most sensory experience you can ever have.”

SPOTLIGHT

Chasing the Wind

The terrible beauty of tornadoes has inspired Travis Farncombe (BA’07) in more ways than one

When Travis Farncombe (BA’07) was 12 years old, a tornado touched down near his cottage in the Kawartha Lakes region of Ontario. From that moment, he was hooked on extreme weather. He read about weather, watched videos and The Weather Network, but he would have to wait until the summer after his graduation from Dalhousie before he got the chance to do what he dreamed of: chase a tornado.

“It’s probably the most sensory experience you can ever have,” he says. “You are standing out there watching a storm develop, and you can hear the roar of hail smashing up against itself up in the clouds. You’re watching something very few people on earth will ever see—it just swallows up the entire sky, from out of nowhere. And once it dissipates, it’s gone. It’s just phenomenal in every way.”

Farncombe spent a couple of years learning the ropes with the tornado-chasing tour company Silver Lining Tours, which operates guided tours throughout what’s referred to as Tornado Alley, a huge cluster of states in central and eastern United States notorious for their tornadoes.

He now is a guide for Silver Lining Tours, and runs the storm chase website Highways and Hailstones. He estimates that he’s seen between 50 and 75 tornadoes in the six years he’s been chasing. Some of them have left their mark.

In 2011, a catastrophic tornado hit Joplin, Missouri. It was a mile wide and cut a devastating swath through the south end of the city. One hundred and fifty eight people were killed, more than 1,000 were injured and \$2.5 billion (US) in damage was done. Farncombe and all in his tour survived.

“The Joplin tornado I didn’t handle very well,” he says. “I wasn’t sure if I would chase again after that one because I was so upset by what had transpired. There’s this weird reconciliation that goes on where you have to respect them, and you have to have a good perspective on what you are watching and know that when you are down there they do affect peoples’ lives. They’re not just fun and games.”



TOP Travis Farncombe (BA’07) planning his next move in pursuit of a storm. **ABOVE** A storm chase in Kansas **LEFT** A tornado near Arthur, Ontario in 2013



Farncombe completed a Masters in Architecture at Massachusetts College of Art and Design following his graduation from Dalhousie, and is currently working with researchers from Kansas State University and the University of Western Ontario. They’re designing a weather-centric ranch that will allow people to experience the weather in what Farncombe calls “a heightened kind of way.”

“We’re looking at it from a structural and resiliency perspective,” he explains. Everything about the design is conceptualized in relation to the weather. “We’re looking at what resources and experiences the weather can offer, reexamining peoples’ relationship with the sky.”

Images of the weather ranch and more on the project can be seen at highwaysandhailstones.com. — Tina Pittaway

TRAVIS FARNCOMBE



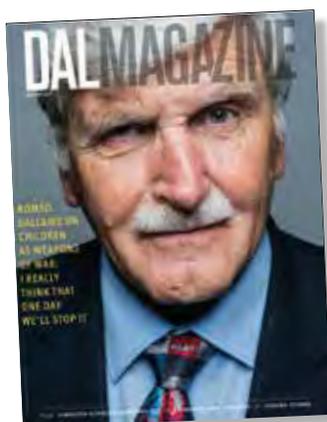
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Get in the picture at an upcoming alumni event

ALUMNI EVENTS

Diverse connections



TOP Alumni from the Calgary Chapter volunteered at the Calgary Food Bank, helping to pack 12,600 pounds of food ABOVE LEFT Bintou Kaira grabs a selfie with nearly 100 fellow students and local Halifax alumni who gathered for a holiday meal ABOVE RIGHT Photo booth fun at the Toronto reception RIGHT Byron Beeler (DipEng (Agriculture)'56) with wife Anna Hobbs and Agriculture Dean David Gray at the Agriculture dean's reception



The fall and winter were a time for celebration, learning and community impact. This year's alumni reception in Toronto took on a kitchen party feel, with live music from Lindsay Foote & Co. and a presentation from entrepreneur Mitchell Lesbirel (BMgmt'12). Alumni and their families attended Pink in the Rink on October 21 to cheer on the Halifax Mooseheads while supporting the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. On December 1, alumni gathered in Ottawa to reconnect and hear Dalhousie updates from deans Dr. Tom Boran and Dr. Sylvain Charlebois.

BUILDING COMMUNITY Alumni volunteers led a busy season of events including a fall lobster dinner in Vancouver and a wine and cheese night in Halifax on November 15, allowing alumni to learn about a new downtown development—MAPLE. The Women's Division of the Dalhousie Alumni Association promoted a safer environment for women on campus through the annual White Ribbon Campaign, in memory of the 14 young women who were murdered on December 6, 1989 at École Polytechnique de Montréal. Calgary Chapter alumni volunteered at the Calgary Food Bank on December 17 and attended Flames games all winter. On December 21 the Halifax Chapter, Women's Division, Dalhousie International Centre and several student associations brought together international and out-of-province students for a holiday meal, made possible by generous contributions from alumni worldwide.



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LEFT Janet Bennett (BA'50) with President Florizone at the Calgary Donor Reception ABOVE President Florizone, Judge Ann Janega (BComm'73, LLB'76, MEC'03), Elder Geri Musqua-LeBlanc and Const. Dustyn Durette celebrate with Engineering student Tristan Cayayao and his family at the first citizenship ceremony hosted at Dal

CELEBRATING DONORS In November, nearly 150 donors in Halifax and over 50 donors in Calgary joined President Richard Florizone at receptions celebrating philanthropy to Dalhousie.

FACULTY CONNECTIONS Alumni reconnected at faculty events including a reception at Toronto's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair on November 6, an Engineering reunion in P.E.I. on November 10, an Architecture and Planning event at the Art Gallery of Ontario, a holiday reception during the Halifax Parade of Lights and the 75th anniversary of the School of Social Work on December 9.

ALUMNI BACK ON CAMPUS Alumni went back to class for three public science lectures in November and two Faculty of Arts and Social

Sciences events in early 2017—"President Trump: Now What?" and the Shaar Shalom Lecture at Dalhousie University. Volleyball alumna Kim Hilchey Clark inspired the varsity women's basketball and volleyball teams and guests at the TD Women in Leadership Spotlight Dinner. On December 7, Judge Ann Janega (BComm'73, LLB'76, MEC'03) presided over the first Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada ceremony to be held at Dalhousie, which welcomed 40 new Canadians, including three Dal students.

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“I had an LLB and MBA from Dalhousie, which allowed me to compete with other top agencies.”

SPOTLIGHT

Ice Time

Thane Campbell's own on-ice career lasted into university—but his connection to hockey has continued as a player agent

In his Grade 12 yearbook entry, Thane Campbell (LLB'86, MBA'86) declared that he was either going to be a lawyer or a hockey bum. Both careers seemed a natural fit, given that he was passionate about playing hockey and a number of his family members were lawyers, including his father, James Melville (LLB'62), and an uncle, Alexander (LLB'58). (His grandfather and namesake was also a Dal grad, BA'15 and MA'17, and recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 1938.)

Instead, Campbell, who hails from Summerside, P.E.I., seriously considered becoming a chartered accountant, earning a business degree with an accounting major from the University of Prince Edward Island, where he played varsity hockey. But after obtaining a combined MBA and LLB degree from Dalhousie and playing hockey for Dal's Tigers, his professional fate was sealed.

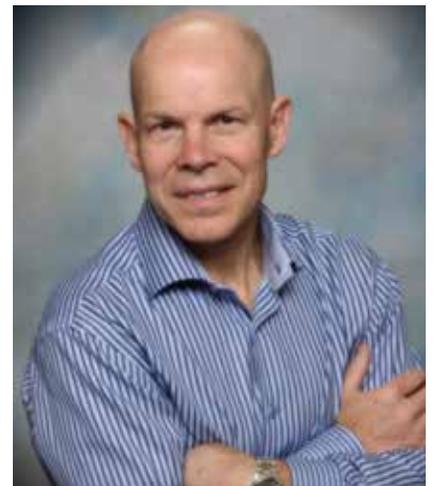
After practicing law on P.E.I., then working for about five years with Metropolitan Life/Trust Companies, Campbell entered private practice in Toronto in 1995. “I decided that in addition to practising law, I wanted to represent hockey players,” he says. The first player he took on was then-15-year-old Jonathan Cheechoo, who was playing in his second year of organized hockey since leaving his home on the Moose Factory Reserve in Ontario. (Soon Campbell would also represent Michael Ryder and Justin Williams, two upcoming NHL stars.)

One of the first questions Cheechoo's father, Marvin, a pastor, asked Campbell was why he and his wife, Carol, a teacher, should choose him to represent their son. “The parents respected the fact that I had an LLB and MBA from Dalhousie,” says Campbell. “This fact allowed me to compete with other top agencies.” Cheechoo ended up winning the Rocket Richard Trophy as top goal scorer in the NHL in 2006. Now married with a son, he stopped by recently for a meeting with Campbell on his way back from Belarus, where he plays in the KHL.

Signing Cheechoo, Ryder and Williams was the beginning of a successful career as a hockey agent, all the while practising law—a combination Campbell says “complements each other.” Campbell has been



ABOVE Campbell's first hockey client Jonathan Cheechoo is currently playing for Slovan (Bratislava) in the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL)
RIGHT Thane Campbell



a certified agent with the National Hockey League Players' Association since certification was formalized in 1996, and he continues to represent NHL players and prospects.

Campbell lives in Mississauga, Ont., with his wife, Jeannette, and their sons Colin, 15, and Alex, 12. Campbell laughs that both boys “try to use their alleged interest in becoming sports agents to ‘study’ by watching hockey games on TV with Dad. Really, I suspect they're trying to avoid doing their homework, but if in time it motivates them to take school seriously, then it's all good.” —Jane Doucet

ESPN: SUBMITTED

CLASS NOTES

1950s

'53

JOHN VACHAL, BEng, is enjoying his retirement from Boeing in Seattle. He studied mechanical engineering. John can be reached at jvachal@hotmail.com.

1960s

'60

Former Dal hockey team captains **DON HILL**, MD, and **DAVID WALKER**, BA'05, were introduced at a youth hockey game in Anaheim, Calif., by an acquaintance who knew of their shared Dal connections. Dr. Hill played on the Dal hockey team from 1954-58, serving as team captain from 1955-58, while Walker played for the Tigers nearly 40 years later, also serving as team captain.

'68

ROBIE MACDONALD, BSc, PhD (Chemistry)'72, retired from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in 2013 after 39 years. As an Emeritus with DFO, he continues to study Canada's oceans with students and colleagues at the University of Manitoba and the Institute of Ocean Sciences. He is a fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada, the Royal Society of Canada, the American Geophysical Union, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the Explorer's club. Dr. Macdonald's awards include the Canadian Polar Commission's Northern Science Award/Centenary Medal (2014) and the Polar Medal (2016) for his scientific studies in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent seas.

1970s

'72

DR. PAUL E. BELLIVEAU, PhD (Chemistry), published his third military history book since his retirement in 2000. *Percy Guthrie and the MacLean Kilties* is available at Lulu, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and pebmilitaryhistory.com.

'78

In his continuing efforts to support members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Honorary Col. **DAVID GOUGH**, BSc, joined the board of Canada Company as its Atlantic Chapter chair earlier this year. He helped launch the chapter on board HMCS *Ville de Quebec* in Halifax Harbour along with many Dal alumni.

DR. BATYA L. LUDMAN, BSc (Honours Psychology), and Dr. Mark Ludman, former professor of pediatrics at Dal, of Ra'anana, Israel announce the birth of their first grandchild, Mia Esther Sally, born to Einat and Aaron Ludman of Rishon LeZion, Israel on Oct. 19, 2016.

'79

STEVE MACDONNELL, BSc, BEng'81, was elected national president of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association at its annual general meeting held in London, Ont. on Oct. 29, 2016. The RCAF Association is a leading aerospace advocacy voice and community service organization with local organizations across Canada and in the U.S.

1980s

'80

CAROLYN HUGHES, BSc, BEng'82, and **DARRELL PARDY**, BComm'81, have been living in Yarmouth, Maine for 22 years. They recently opened a business consulting firm, Aventure Management LLC. With dual Canadian and American citizenship, they can help entrepreneurs expand into Maine and New England. Carolyn and Darrell have two sons.

DR. PATRICK REID STEWART, BEDS, BArch'83, PhD, is now an associate professor at the McEwen School of Architecture at Laurentian University.

'84

DR. ANDREA CHANDLER, BA (Hons), a professor in the Department of Political Science at Carleton University, has received a research achievement award from the

university for her recent work on Russian politics.

SUSAN JANEGA-BAIRD, BComm, retired from Imperial Oil after more than 32 years. She began a new phase of her career with 7-Eleven in Calgary in November, 2016.

'85

ANDREW AGER, BMus, has composed a work for choir and orchestra, "The Unknown Soldier," which is being presented as the finale to Vimy Week at the Canadian War Museum on April 9, 2017. The work is also being performed that week in London, England. Additionally, Andrew's music has been presented at Notre Dame de Paris. Andrew is based in Toronto and Ottawa and is a full-time composer.

'89

DOUGLAS LLOYD, Q.C., LLB, authored his second legal text, the *CPP Disability Pension Guide*, published by LexisNexis in March, 2016.

The text covers not only CPP disability pensions, but also the law on all benefits conferred by the CPP.

ROGER THOMPSON, BA, MA'94, a fellow of Britain's Royal Society of Arts, received kudos from Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) Admiral James Stavridis for his pioneering work teaching President Kennedy's civic philosophy at Kyung Hee University in Korea. Thompson's first book, *Brown Shoes, Black Shoes, and Felt Slippers: Parochialism and the Evolution of the Post-War US Navy*, which was based on his 1994 Dalhousie master's thesis, has been required reading for graduate students in political science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His second book on the U.S. Navy has been endorsed by the noted military reformer Pierre Sprey,



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CANADIAN HITS OF 1994

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ROD STEWART, STING

THE POWER OF LOVE, CELINE DION

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, BRYAN ADAMS

JANE, BARENAKED LADIES

COULD I BE YOUR GIRL, JANN ARDEN

who led the design team that created the U.S. Air Force A-10 Warthog and is a co-designer of the famous F-16 fighter jet.

1990s

'90

DR. JENINE ARAB O'MALLEY, DDS, was the recipient of the 2015 Progress Club Women of Excellence Award in Wellness and Sport. She was recognized for her valuable community and professional accomplishments.

Last summer, the federal government appointed **IAIN STEWART, BA, DMA'91, MPA'93**, as president of the National Research Council of Canada. Stewart began the position on Aug. 24, 2016. His previous experience in government includes roles with the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and Industry Canada. From 2009 to 2010, Stewart served as Dalhousie's assistant vice-president, research.

'94

At its annual conference in Toronto on Oct. 27, 2016, **LIA DABORN, BA, MES'97**, was appointed chair of the board of directors of the Canadian

Society of Association Executives (CSAE). Lia is the executive director for the New Brunswick Dental Society in Fredericton, N.B.

'97

ROBERT ASTROFF, LLB, is the founder and president of Astroff Consultants, an admissions consulting firm that specializes in assisting students to gain admission to competitive university programs including medicine, law, dentistry and business.

2000s

'03

PAUL BAILEY, BComm, MBA'05, returned home to N.S. after spending more than 11 years with General Motors of Canada. Most recently, Paul was the client lead and advertising manager for Chevrolet Canada. Since

returning home to Halifax, Paul has joined local advertising agency Chester+Company as director of client services, where he leads the team and provides strategic direction and day-to-day counsel. Paul's wife, **REBECCA BAILEY, BComm, MBA'04**, and two-year-old daughter, Mary-Grace, are also excited to be back home with friends and family.

In October, 2016, **DEVON**

CODE, BA, released his first novel, *Involuntary Bliss*. The novel was published by BookThug Press. Situated in modern-day Montréal during a weekend in late August, *Involuntary Bliss* follows two young men who come together to restore their friendship. From the streets of Montréal's Plateau to the mountainous hillsides of Machu Picchu and beyond, this high-spirited picaresque investigates themes of mortality, idealism and transgressive art from the perspective of young adults, in a novel comprised of incidents by turns comic, erotic, tender and harrowing. Code studied contemporary studies and English literature at Dal. More information can be found at devoncode.ca/involuntary-bliss.html or at BookThug.ca.

'07

KINLEY DOWLING, BM, graduated with a performance degree in viola. She plays in the band Hey Rosetta! and has just released her first solo album. Her PledgeMusic campaign raised funds to make a music video and help with the recording costs. Dowling's campaign also supported the charity Because I Am A Girl Canada. She also hopes the video will highlight the awesome film industry in her home province of P.E.I.

'09

MICHAEL ARCHIBALD, MBA, was awarded the insignia of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the

British Empire (O.B.E.) by Her Majesty the Queen on Dec. 31, 2016. The announcement was made in connection to the Queen's New Year's Honours list. Archibald was awarded the honour for his services to banking in Grenada as chief operations officer of Fast Cash.

2010s

'12

Pharmacology researcher **DR. ROBERT LAPRAIRIE, MSc, PhD'16**, was recently named the first choice for the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) fellowship program. This coveted spot goes to highly-qualified candidates who desire to continue performing health research in Canada or abroad.

PHOEBE MANNELL, BA, was selected as the Garth Wilson Memorial Fellow in Public History. Mannell, who is pursuing a master's degree in public history at Carleton University, will focus her research on the challenges and opportunities involved in curating maritime histories and technologies in 21st century museums. Over the course of the year-long fellowship, Mannell will have supervised access to the Canada Science and Technology Museum Corporation's (CSTMC) collection to research material culture. In addition to contributing to CSTMC's exhibit development, she will write a major research essay as part of her normal degree requirements at Carleton and will contribute to various presentations of her findings.

FALLEN MATTHEWS, BA, is a Black, Métis freelance writer and sociologist studying existentialism and supernatural folklore. She is enrolled in Saint Mary's University's women and gender studies master's program. She explores intersectional feminism, masculinity, male masochism, religiosity and reality versus rationality, in addition to cinema. Her

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first academic article was published in the *Journal of Comparative Arts*. When she isn't writing or raving about the futility in systemic oppressions and selections of her syllabi, she enjoys penning erotic novels, acknowledging that whilst her prose may incite the imagination, her sales rank inspires thoughts of tumbleweed.

In 2012, **JOE SHUCHAT**, BMgmt, started Winning Identity (WI), a fully comprehensive athlete management solution, predominantly focused on golf, for coaches and players to communicate through a variety of web and mobile functionalities. It grew to serve over 20,000 users and partner with groups such as Golf Channel, Under Armour and IBM Watson. In May 2016, WI was acquired by Blast Motion, a motion sensor company based in Carlsbad, Calif. Shuchat is now senior director of business development for Blast, where WI has been re-branded as Blast Connect

and a deal made with Major League Baseball to become its official bat sensor technology. Shuchat says his time at Dal helped prepare him for the 'real' world, for which he is appreciative. If he can help you out at Dal, please feel free to contact him any time.

'15

AGATHON FRIC, JD, was called to the Bar as a barrister and solicitor in and for the Province of Alberta on Dec. 15, 2016 before The Honourable Justice **C.S. BROOKER**, LLB'70. Fric served as a judicial clerk to Justices of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta before completing his articles at Norton Rose Fulbright in Calgary. He remains at Norton Rose Fulbright as an associate in the litigation group.

'16

AARON TAYLOR, BA, is one of 15 young Canadians selected for Prime Minister Trudeau's first Youth Council. Taylor is working toward his master's degree in European, Russian and Eurasian studies at Carleton University.

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IN MEMORIAM

JAMES ARTHUR STERNS, DPHRM'42, Pictou, N.S., on Aug. 24, 2016

EDWARD JAMES LONGARD, BSc'45, DED'47, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 4, 2016

M PAUL ELDERKIN, DDIP'46, Wolfville, N.S., on Nov. 15, 2016

GERALD JAMES MCCARTHY, BA'46, MA'47, Dartmouth, N.S., on Oct. 27, 2016

LEONARD R STONEHOUSE, DDIP'47, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 3, 2016

CYRIL WILFRED BUGDEN, BA'49, MA'51, MD'59, Dartmouth, N.S., on Nov. 4, 2016

WILLIAM EDMUND MACLENNAN, DDIP'49, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 12, 2016

JANET RICHAN (ROBERTSON) BENNETT, BA'50, Calgary, Alta., on Nov. 28, 2016

CRYSTAL JEAN (MERRICK) GWYNNE-TIMOTHY, BComm'50, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 7, 2016

MARY ISABEL (RETTIE) HENDERSON, BSc'50, MSc'52, Ottawa, Ont., on Sept. 28, 2016

JOHN JOSEPH LEYDON, BEng'50, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 8, 2016

JOHN POWELL PIKE, BEng'50, St. John's, N.L., on Sept. 6, 2016

GEORGE PATTERSON MILLER, BEng'51, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 27, 2016

JAMES FREDERICK ROSS, MD'51, Caledonia, N.S., on Aug. 31, 2016

HAROLD GREEN, BComm'52, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 1, 2016

VICTOR ALLISON MOSES, DDIP'52, New Minas, N.S., on Nov. 18, 2016

WILLIAM MCCURDY MURPHY, BSc'52, DDS'56, LLD'07, Liverpool, N.S., on Sept. 28, 2016

KEITH A CASEY, FRC'53, Centre Burlington, N.S., on Sept. 29, 2016

CYRIL FRANCIS POOLE, BA'53, St. John's, N.L., on Oct. 20, 2016

GEORGE ROBERT IRWIN POWER, MD'53, Ottawa, Ont., on Sept. 14, 2016

ANDREW GREGORY TRASUK, BEng'53, Cornwall, Ont., on Oct. 12, 2016

EDDY TUPPER, FRC'53, Stewiacke, N.S., on Sept. 11, 2016

ROBERT NEILL MACLEAN, BComm'54, Oshawa, Ont., on Aug. 26, 2016

GERALD ROY POND, BEng'54, Dartmouth, N.S., on Sept. 23, 2016

EVAN STUART WILES, DENGR'54, BSc'54, BEng'56, Western Shore, N.S., on Sept. 13, 2016

JOHN DAVID BROWN, DENGR'55, BSc'55, BEng'57, PhD'67, Wolfville, N.S., on Oct. 7, 2016

JOHN HENRY EMERSON THORPE, FRC'55, Canning, N.S., on Oct. 4, 2016

GEOFFREY HARFORD WILKINS, BEd'57, North Vancouver, B.C., on Nov. 19, 2016

HARVEY JOSEPH MACARTHUR, MSW'58, Truro, N.S., on Nov. 27, 2016

JOSEPH WESLEY O'BRIEN, LLB'58, Toronto, Ont., on Oct. 12, 2016

RAYMOND MALCOLM BELL, DPHRM'59, Tatamagouche, N.S., on Oct. 6, 2016

GERALD ROBERT BERRY, MD'59, Rosemere, Que., on Oct. 17, 2016

WENDELL EARLE FULTON, LLB'60, Fredericton, N.B., on Sept. 18, 2016

ROBERT CECIL HEBB, LLB'60, Lunenburg, N.S., on Oct. 5, 2016

DEREK STEPHEN JONES, LLB'60, Calgary, Alta., on Nov. 29, 2016

MITCHELL LEVINE, DDS'60, North York, Ont., on Oct. 13, 2016

LESLIE BRUNDAGE SLIPP, MD'60, Hubbards, N.S., on Sept. 1, 2016

JESSIE M (GEDDES) WILLIAMS, DPH'60, Great Village, N.S., on Nov. 28, 2016

JOAN FRANCES (MOSELEY) GREENE, BN'61, DTSN'61, Toronto, Ont., on Nov. 14, 2016

MARGARET RUTH (COOK) TODD, DED'62, Tatamagouche, N.S., on Oct. 8, 2016

EDWARD BORDEN COLP, BEng'63, MEng'65, Rose Bay, N.S., on Sept. 28, 2016

JOHN FRANK SHEARS CROCKER, BSc'63, MD'66, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 26, 2016

RETA LEOMA WIER DUNN, DEDJ'63, BA'65, BEd'66, Truro, N.S., on Aug. 17, 2016

RAYMOND BRUCE FRASER, BComm'64, Oldwick, N.J., on Aug. 23, 2016

HEATHER DAWN (FRASER) FRASER-DAVEY, DTSN'64, PhD'84, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 28, 2016

KAREN VIRGINIA MANN, BN'64, DTSN'64, MSc'78, PhD'86, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 28, 2016

BLANCHE THERESA KROETCH, DPH'65, Edmonton, Alta., on Sept. 11, 2016





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DONALD JAMES ARMSTRONG, DDS'66, Yarmouth, N.S., on Sept. 13, 2016

MICHAEL JOSEPH BURKE, BEng'66, MBA'79, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 19, 2016

JOHN SINCLAIR BURNS, LLB'66, Calgary, Alta., on Dec. 3, 2016

GORDON KEITH MACMICHAEL, BSc'66, MD'71, MHSA'89, Brampton, Ont., on Nov. 28, 2016

CHERYL ANNE (HIRSCHFIELD) GAMBERG, BA'67, MA'70, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 28, 2016

PHILBERT GERALD JAMES, BComm'67, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on Dec. 7, 2016

MARIANNE JOY (HAVERSTOCK) MACLEAN, BA'67, BEd'68, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 3, 2016

ANTHONY RANDALL SMITH, BComm'67, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 22, 2016

PENNEY ANNE (BARRETT) BATEMAN, DPH'69, Frankford, Ont., on Oct. 14, 2016

JAMES WILLIAM DURLING, BSc'69, BEng'71, Mount Uniacke, N.S., on Sept. 25, 2016

PETER STANLEY FLIEGER, DDS'69, St Stephen, N.B., on Nov. 1, 2016

LOUISE LYLA GHIZ, BA'69, MSW'71, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 23, 2016

HERBERT ROSS MYERS, MD'69, Liverpool, N.S., on Sept. 26, 2016

ANDREW GEORGE BOOTHROYD, MA'71, Orleans, Ont., on Oct. 20, 2016

ADRIAN BRENT POTTER, BA'71, Bear River, N.S., on Nov. 9, 2016

DAVID WILLIAM GEORGE THOMS, BA'71, BEd'72, Mahone Bay, N.S., on Oct. 22, 2016

THOMAS BERNARD AKIN, BSc'72, MBA'74, LLB'77, North York, Ont., on Sept. 28, 2016

JOHN JOSEPH CAMPBELL, MA'72, Dartmouth, N.S., on Sept. 4, 2016

EVELYN DUBINSKY CARNAT, BME'72, Englishtown, N.S., on Nov. 28, 2016

WILLIAM ANGUS MACLEAN, DSW'72, Annapolis Royal, N.S., on Sept. 5, 2016

STEVEN DOUGLAS PETTIGREW, BComm'74, North Vancouver, B.C., on Oct. 6, 2016

ADEL RACHAD DARWISH, MSW'75, Berwick, N.S., on Oct. 5, 2016

GARY A HENDERSON, DDIP'75, Scotsburn, N.S., on Nov. 24, 2016

WAYNE REGINALD MARRYATT, BComm'75, MSc'78, LLB'81, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 15, 2016

ROBERT BRUCE WALLACE, MD'76, Belmont, N.C., on Oct. 18, 2016

JOANN MARIE GRAY, BComm'78, Rocky River, Ohio, on Sept. 9, 2016

MICHAEL GEORGE MICHALOS, BComm'78, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 13, 2016

CLYDE EDWIN ROY SMITH, BComm'78, Fall River, N.S., on Nov. 23, 2016

JIM PRENTICE, LLB'80, Calgary, Alta., on Oct. 14, 2016

GORDON CAMERON SPURR, TECH'80, Kingston, N.S., on Sept. 28, 2016

MICHAEL EMERSON DUNPHY, LLB'81, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 11, 2016

JOSEPH WILLDRIDGE PETTIGREW, LLB'81, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 1, 2016

PAUL ALEXANDER ARBUCKLE, BComm'82, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 2, 2016

DAVID ALAN OTHEN, MBA'82, Dartmouth, N.S., on Sept. 21, 2016

DONNA JANE (MERRIAM-MORAN) MERRIAM, MPA'84, Dartmouth, N.S., on Nov. 27, 2016

JEAN MINETTA CAMERON, MD'85, PGM'86, Antigonish, N.S., on Sept. 11, 2016

STELLA MARIE GIRARD, BSW'87, MSW'92, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 11, 2016

ALLEN GEORGE EDWARDS, MA'88, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 25, 2016

SUSAN MICHELE HARE, BScOT'90, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 22, 2016

ANNE-MARIE HOLMWOOD, BEd'90, Kelowna, B.C., on Nov. 9, 2016

CARL PETRIE MCGREGOR, BScPH'90, Moncton, N.B., on Dec. 6, 2016

BRUCE DOUGLAS RUSSELL, BA'90, Dartmouth, N.S., on Sept. 5, 2016

JOSEPH A SPAMPINATO, MBA'91, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 2, 2016

ANNETTE CHRISTENE (GRAHAM) BEAUDREAU, BRec'92, Westbank, B.C., on Oct. 17, 2016

JOANNE ELIZABETH SIMPSON, BA'92, BSc'95, New Port Richey, Fla., on Sept. 12, 2016

DAVID JOSEPH LAHEY, TECH'93, Bridgewater, N.S., on Sept. 26, 2016

VICKI LYNN BURRELL, BScPH'95, Middle Sackville, N.S., on Nov. 30, 2016

BEVERLY LYNN GREENE, MN'96, Fredericton, N.B., on Sept. 16, 2016

SHAUN SCOTT MACMILLAN, BA'00, MA'01, LLB'09, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 27, 2016

MOIRA CAITLIN F BRADY, BA'06, Bradford, R.I., on Sept. 22, 2016

SARAH LESLIE DUBE, BA'11, MPlan'15, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 28, 2016

ARISHA GRABTCHAK, BSc'15, BScHCN'16, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 6, 2016

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THE POWER OF ROLE MODELS

Dalhousie University President Richard Florizone reflects on Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard's appointment to the Canadian Senate

I consider myself lucky to count Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard as a colleague and friend. And while she will be sorely missed on campus, I have no doubt that Wanda will be as passionate and dedicated a voice in our country's upper house as she has been at Dal – and can affect real change in Canada, just as she has on our campus. But perhaps her impact is best described by a student who wrote to Dr. Bernard following her appointment.

“As a Black young female and Dal grad student I'm writing to congratulate you on your appointment as a Senator! Even though I have not met you personally, I feel so proud and inspired by your accomplishments. In this achievement, you've shown us that whatever goals we set in our personal or professional lives are attainable, in spite of the numerous barriers we may face. I just started my masters and plan on going on to do a PhD, and I cannot count, neither do I want to focus on, the number of times I've faced racism, albeit covert, however there is no denying the sting and pain of it. Sometimes I wonder if this was a good idea. And then yesterday to read the news of your appointment, happening right here in our communities, brings me so much joy, strength, encouragement, determination to just keep pressing on! With much sincerity I am cheering you on this new path!”

A Dal alumna, Dr. Bernard (MSW'77) joined the Dalhousie School of Social Work in 1990, serving as its Director from 2001–2011, and teaching in the areas of anti-oppression, cultural diversity and research. Since February, 2016, Dr. Bernard has been special advisor on diversity and inclusion, and co-lead of the university's Strategic Initiative on Diversity and Inclusiveness. She was appointed to the Canadian Senate in November, 2016.



“You've shown us that whatever goals we set in our personal or professional lives are attainable, in spite of the numerous barriers we may face.”



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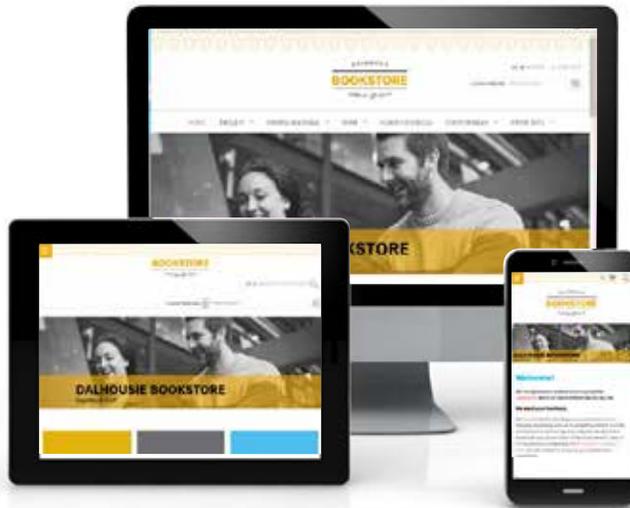
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