

DAL MAGAZINE

WINTER 2018

EPIC ACHIEVEMENT:

Poet George Elliott Clarke
captures Dal's 200-year history



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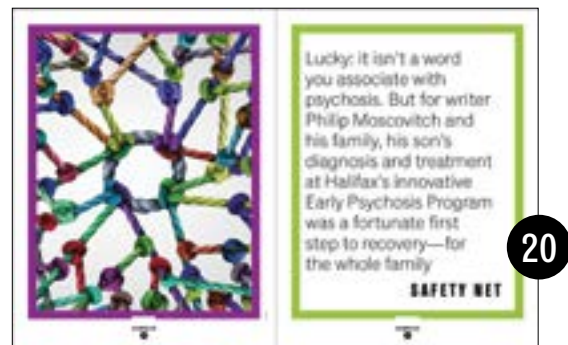
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DALMAGAZINE

MASTHEAD

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EDITORIAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

I have a friend who shamelessly declares her entire birth month as an annual opportunity for celebration and enjoyment. As a slightly more uptight, celebration-in-moderation type, I on the other hand lean in the “quiet dinner with friends” direction on my birthday. And while on the surface, our celebrations may look very different, I know that we both share the impulse to use those dates as an opportunity for reflection. How did we do this year? What do we want to do in the next year? What's working? What needs to change?

That reflective impulse is especially strong on the “important” birthdays. For most of us, that's the big whatever-o dates: 3-o, 4-o, 5-o, 6-o and so on. (Confession: Because I'm a planner, for me it's the whatever-9 dates—I like to start worrying about the decade shifts a year in advance...)

For institutions, of course, the significant birthdays come at the 10s, the 25s and even the 100s, and even markers that exceed single human lifetimes. Still, as with the passage of individual lives, they are moments that offer both the opportunity for celebration and reflection. As Dalhousie heads into its 200th year, you'll be seeing both on *DAL Magazine's* pages: celebration of the people, moments and achievements that mark the university's history, as well as reflection on where we have been—and are going. In this issue, you'll find the story of George Elliott Clarke's creation of an epic poem about Dalhousie's history, one that interweaves Clarke's own personal history with a pull-no-punches exploration of the university's story (Story Teller, p. 14). It is, truly, an epic achievement—and one that inspires thought about our future as well. Happy birthday, Dal—today, and all year long!



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FUTURE ALUMNI

Chasing his passion

Jeremy Stroud loves the agri-food industry. "I have never come across a group of individuals with more spirit, benevolence and vision than those in agriculture," says the fourth-year International Food Business student. "Food will always be vital to our society, yet it's the people working to produce this food who prompt my enthusiasm for the industry." While Jeremy's love for agri-food is genuine, his true passion is travel. A native of Ontario, Jeremy has been fortunate to visit 37 countries over five continents. "Relating with individuals who stem from entirely different backgrounds, immersing myself with new social constructs and taking in the vivid beauty of unfamiliar environments are among my favorite recollections from travelling," Jeremy says. "I have learned so much through these experiences." As for Jeremy's next adventure? He hopes to develop a healthier alternative to packaged beverage products using a by-product coffee farmers now throw away. "I had the chance to work in the coffee industry last year in the Netherlands as part of my European internship," Jeremy explains. "The first thing I learned is that the coffee bean we all know is not a bean at all; it is actually the seed of a fruit. The fruit around the coffee bean is known as Cascara and is often discarded by farmers as a perceived waste material." Through Cultiv8, a collaborative workspace on the Ag Campus that permits students' access to mentors and entrepreneurial resources, Jeremy is working to create an iced tea beverage using Cascara and other natural ingredients such as honey and lemon with the aim to bring the product to market once he graduates in the spring. *—Emma Geldart*



DAL NEWS



Pounding drums and powerful choruses cascaded around Dalhousie's Studley Quad in October as the campus was transformed into a powwow arena for the university's eighth-annual Mawio'mi. Dozens of dancers and drummers converged on the upper portion of the quad to participate in the colourful celebration to mark Mi'kmaq History Month. "It goes much deeper than what the eye can see. Why we dance has a story," said Chief Gerard Julien, co-chair of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, adding that the Mawio'mi represents a crucial ceremony in passing down teachings and lessons between generations. "It is a time to learn and share."

#

BY THE NUMBERS

Investing in innovation

The Honourable Scott Brison, president of the Treasury Board, and Andy Fillmore, member of parliament for Halifax, came to campus to announce a significant investment in new infrastructure projects that involve world-class researchers from Dalhousie. "The investment made by the Government of Canada will allow them to continue to make a significant impact in Nova Scotia, Canada and beyond, and train the next generation of world-class scientists", said Alice Aiken, vice-president research at Dalhousie University. The funding, which is part of the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) Innovation Fund, will support important research happening at Dalhousie that ranges from seismic imaging and innovative viroceuticals to tidal energy and everything in between. —Michele Charlton

\$13 million

Amount of funding directed to projects involving Dal researchers

8

Number of Dal projects funded

61

Number of Canadian universities, colleges and research hospitals receiving funding

WHY I DO IT

VETERAN RESEARCHER

NAME: Alice Aiken

POSITION: Vice-President Research

HER BACKSTORY: Dal's new head of research earned her physiotherapy degree at Dal with the financial support of the Royal Canadian Navy, where she served as a ship's navigator. She returned to the Navy in a clinical capacity following her degree, before starting up a private practice that she ran for eight years while simultaneously doing her masters and doctorate. "Academia was my third career," she says. "But when I got into academia, what I loved about it was research and being able to advance your own thought processes and ideas and build teams to move research agendas forward."

HIGHLIGHTS: As a health services and policy researcher and faculty member at Queen's University, Dr. Aiken was invited to present to federal committees overseeing military and veterans' health. Some of her early work led to changes in the way ill and injured veterans are compensated. "To actually see research get implemented into policy or change a system was extremely motivating for me," she says. In 2010, she co-founded the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research as a way to further coordinate research in the field. "We built this entire research enterprise from the ground up in an area that wasn't necessarily a priority for Canada."

WHY SHE DOES IT: Since returning to Dal in the summer of 2016 as dean of the Faculty of Health (she stepped into the role of VP Research in September, 2017), Dr. Aiken has been consistently inspired by the collaborative spirit at Dal. "People really want to collaborate here. That's what's going to be our strength. That's what's going to set us apart from other universities as we move forward." —Matt Reeder



"What I love doing is networking and bringing people together so they can have important conversations and figure out solutions."

DAL NEWS

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Hope through music

Musicians from Dal's Fountain School of Performing Arts and the local community came together in the fall to perform in Mysterious Barri-
cades, a cross-Canada concert event to raise awareness about suicide. A live performance held at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium was recorded and streamed as part of a coast-to-coast musical journey to mark World Suicide Prevention Day.

The Halifax concert, organized by Fountain School voice professor Marcia Swanston, was one of 15 performances that spanned 21 continuous hours of music, beginning at sunrise in St. John's, Newfoundland, and ending at sunset in Victoria, British Columbia. "We asked the musi-

cians to perform material that is uplifting," said Swanston, an opera singer.

Held in partnership with Mysterious Barri-
cades and the Nova Scotia division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Halifax performance showed off the diversity of local musicians and artists, and included Catherine Martin, a filmmaker, drummer and singer from Millbrook First Nation; pianist Peter Allen; opera singer Lucas Hernandez Nascimento; spoken word poet El Jones; jazz singer Erin Costello performing with the Blue Engine String Quartet; and Scott Macmillan, guitarist, composer and conductor who performed with percussionist D'Arcy Gray. —Zoe Bell

JUST THE FACTS

STEM leaders celebrated

Faculty of Computer Science assistant professor Dr. Rita Orji and assistant professor of Chemistry Dr. Mita Dasog have been selected as being among the top 150 Canadian Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) by the non-profit hErVOLUTION. Dr. Orji was chosen in recognition of her efforts in and out of the classroom to advance technology; Dr. Dasog was cited for her work developing technologies for a sustainable future (for more on Dr. Dasog, see *Innovator*, p. 9).

Toronto-based hErVOLUTION exists to create opportunities for the next generation of women in STEM, connecting them with leaders in the industry. Their 150CanWomenSTEM initiative is celebrating outstanding women, both past and present, who make the world a better place using the power of STEM.



"It's important that we celebrate women in STEM to continue to encourage and inspire young females to become the leaders of tomorrow," says Dr. Orji.

Dr. Orji, a researcher in human-computer interaction, has produced more than 50 peer reviewed papers in only five years, along with taking part in over 20 media appearances and receiving in excess of 500 Google Scholar citations. She is also the founder of Education for Women and the Less Privileged. She recently joined Dal-

housie from the University of Waterloo.

—Rebecca Rawcliffe



RESEARCH

MS FATIGUE RESEARCH

For people with Multiple Sclerosis, one of the most common and debilitating symptoms is fatigue. Not only does it have a significant impact on quality of life, it can also be a profound barrier to participation in meaningful activities.

A group of researchers from Dalhousie University, Case Western Reserve University, and Queens University recently received almost US\$4.9 million from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Unit (PCORI) to compare effectiveness of face-to-face, online and teleconference based adaptations of a non-pharmacological program to reduce fatigue and improve quality of life.

Dalhousie's Tanya Packer, a professor with the Faculty of Health, wrote the original program protocol, and will be the lead investigator for the online portion of this study. Roughly 2.3 million people worldwide have MS, a progressive disease damaging nerves and disrupting the communication to the muscles. To date, no drugs for MS fatigue have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and medications prescribed for the condition show only a modest effect.

—Michele Charlton

INNOVATOR

MITA DASOG

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OF CHEMISTRY

INNOVATION: Mita Dasog's work focuses on discovering and developing cheaper, safer and more efficient materials and technologies for use in harvesting and storing solar energy.

FOUNDATION: Rather than focussing on a single aspect of the energy-storage problem, Dr. Dasog's research covers the whole gamut from creating semiconductors that can better absorb sunlight to finding earth-abundant catalysts for use in converting that energy into storable fuels and other chemical feedstocks.

INSPIRATION: A trip to Germany in 2013 to receive a "Top 25" Global Young Scientists in Sustainable Research Award was a turning point for Dr. Dasog, then still a PhD student. Discussions with policy makers, industry insiders and other scientists from around the world left her with a deeper appreciation for just how negatively some countries have been affected by climate change, particularly those dependent on agriculture or vulnerable to extreme weather.

IN HER WORDS "We take inspiration from nature and photosynthesis. During daylight, plants take sunlight and use that sunlight to convert carbon dioxide into carbohydrate materials, storing energy in chemical bonds. Next to nuclear energy, chemical energy is the densest form of energy available to us. That's the idea behind what we do."

WHY IT MATTERS Technology requires long-term thinking, says Dr. Dasog, noting that material choices have to be abundant and non-toxic. While there are a couple of large-scale plants using similar processes already in operation, she says they are very expensive to run. "For more people to use a given technology, things have to be very cheap," she says. "We are fighting against the cost right now, but hopefully in the next five years we will get there."

—Matt Reeder



"We take inspiration from nature and photosynthesis."

DAL NEWS

NOTES



The Nova Scotia Co-operative Education Summit was the first gathering of its kind in the province.

Co-op education conversation

Close to 200 people gathered at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel last fall to share ideas about the impact of co-op education on the future of Nova Scotia's workforce and economy. Dalhousie teamed up with the provincial government and other universities in the region to bring post-secondary co-op students, employers and other supporters together for the Nova Scotia Co-operative Education Summit, the first gathering of its kind in the province.

Conversations throughout the day centred on the value of co-op and work-integrated learning and some of the many challenges and barriers to growth, including employer development and recruitment.

"Co-op isn't just about putting the student into a job, it's about the intersection between the workplace and the classroom and understanding that what you can learn in class can be transferred and used very actively in the workplace," said Anna Cranston, interim assistant dean in Dal's Faculty of Management, during a noon-time panel discussion moderated by Dal President Richard Florizone.

Bringing workplace experience back into the classroom is equally important, added Cranston, noting that faculty need to help support students to reflect on what they learned. Dr. Florizone highlighted the continued growth and success of Dal's own co-op and work-integrated learning options, noting that 100 per cent of the university's programs

now offer some kind of experiential learning opportunities. —Cherry Au

Major medical research pledge

Esteemed physician, former Nova Scotia Minister of Health and beloved Dalhousie faculty member Dr. Ronald Stewart has pledged \$1.3 million to the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF). The funds will support the establishment of the Ronald Stewart Symposium in Emergency Medical Services Research and provide seed funding for a chair in the same field. This pledge, announced in October, will be paid out over the next ten years.

DMRF CEO Brian Thompson calls the gift

"transformational," saying that it "will underscore the impact of our Emergency Health Services program, ensuring we are taking an evidence-based approach to delivering superior emergency care to this region. That's a win for all Nova Scotians."

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation is an independent funding agency that supports innovative, life-saving medical research taking place at Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Stewart is an accomplished physician, politician and researcher who studied and worked at Dalhousie's Medical School. A leader in health system reform, Dr. Stewart established the highly-recognized current Emergency Health Services (EHS) system and a major expansion of home care services. —Staff



Dr. Ronald Stewart has pledged \$1.3 million to the Dalhousie Medical Research Fund.

Schulich School of Law among world's best

Dalhousie's Schulich School of Law isn't just a national leader in legal education—it's an international one as well. *Times Higher Education* (THE), one of the most prominent global university rankings, evaluates research-intensive universities across their core missions: teaching, research, citations, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The 2018 rankings mark the first time law has been included as a subject ranking, and the Schulich School of Law placed 74th in the world, the first time Dalhousie has ranked in the top 100 in the THE subject-specific ranking.

Dalhousie's Schulich School of Law ranked sixth in the country—one of only nine Canadian law schools to be ranked in the top 100. In terms of the specific indicators that make up the THE ranking, the Schulich School of Law excels in academic citations, placing an impressive second in Canada and 12th in the world among law schools. It also ranked third in Canada for international outlook. —Lindsay Loomer

NEW GRADS BOOST BUSINESS

BY COREY AALDERS

Pinto Engineering Limited has a new go-to person for innovation.

Jason Landry, a recent graduate from the Civil Engineering Technology program at NSCC, is bringing new ideas, new technology skills and new business to the Halifax-based engineering firm, Pinto Engineering Limited, and he's changed some company thinking while he's at it.

"When Jason joined our team, our view on hiring a young person changed," said Malcolm Pinto, President and CEO.

Pinto hired Jason with the help of the Graduate to Opportunity (GTO) program.

Before the GTO program, Malcolm says he may have considered hiring a recent graduate, but the program encouraged him to give it serious consideration.

**THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY
TO SUPPORT YOUNG GROWING
MEMBERS OF NOVA SCOTIA**

GTO provides salary incentives, 25% of the first year's salary – 35% if the new grad is a member of designated diversity group – and 12.5% of the second year's salary.

Malcolm says the program is great because it does two things. First, it requires the employer to take a risk, and second, it requires the employer to commit to the process for two years.

"This is a wonderful way to support young growing members of Nova Scotia, said Malcolm. "Through GTO our graduates become employed and stay in our province."

Jason says the opportunities at Pinto are vast and that he continues to learn.

"Employment at Pinto has exposed me to various projects like concrete, steel and wood building design, bridge and wharf design, as well as restoration of buildings and wharfs. What I learned in school I am applying towards these projects and, at the same time, adopting new skills," said Jason.

This opportunity has been a game changer for Jason. In addition to the new job, the money saved has allowed Pinto to buy the office equipment he needs to do his job, and says without GTO the costs to hire and provide that equipment might be too high.

Malcolm says Jason will have a job at Pinto as long as he wishes and their workload permits.

"Jason is young, smart, and capable but more importantly wants to do well. In my eyes, Jason is a long-term employee," said Malcolm.

The GTO program is one of many ways government is helping prepare young Nova Scotians for work and helping them get a foot in the door to land good jobs here at home. The program encourages employers to take a chance on a recent grad and provide them with the experience they need to grow and succeed here in Nova Scotia.

Explore the benefits of Graduate to Opportunity at novascotia.ca/GTO



Nova Scotia's George Elliott Clarke, pictured in his classroom at the University of Toronto, has created an epic poem exploring Dal's 200-year history.

STORY TELLER

Canada's parliamentary poet laureate
George Elliott Clarke (MA'89, LLD'99) honours—and challenges—Dalhousie
in his latest creative offering,
penned to mark the university's 200th anniversary.
By Ryan McNutt

George Elliott Clarke is a man of many words.

That's the sort of trite platitude Clarke would probably eschew in his own work—or perhaps deploy with a healthy sense of irony. After all, you don't become one of Canada's most beloved poets and authors by going with the most obvious words available to you.

But, to shamelessly co-opt another turn-of-phrase: if the cliché fits, wear it. One-to-one, Clarke is a generous conversationalist, answering seemingly simple questions with insightful, detailed responses fusing personal experience with broader perspectives. His voice, crackling with enthusiasm, leaps tones and timbres, boundless in its delight for the spoken word. In his bountiful works, spanning genres and media, he has brought the African Canadian experience to life—in particular, those of the Black Canadian communities of the Maritimes he calls “Africadia”—in a way few, if any, other authors can claim.

And most recently, as Canada's parliamentary poet laureate, Clarke turned his talents towards the events and occasions of the nation, large and small alike. Over the past two years, he's written dozens of poems about the passing of public figures (Stuart McLean, Leonard Cohen), major anniversaries (the Halifax Explosion, the proclamation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms) and even government business (forthcoming marijuana legislation).

“I've always believed in the public presence of poetry,” says Clarke, as he reflects on his wide-ranging work. “I'm happy to publish my work wherever it can be published, but I've also been involved with theatre, opera, screenplays—and I've tried to infuse those other genres with poetry as well.”

It's in that spirit of public poetry that, just over a year ago, Clarke agreed to take on another commission of note: penning a commemorative poem to mark Dalhousie University's 200th anniversary.

“I was thrilled and excited by the honour,” he says. “And I also felt it would be a serious challenge... I felt I was taking on a weighty responsibility as an artist in trying to write something that would do justice to the history of the institution, and also allow me to understand better, for myself, what difference Dalhousie has made.”

The resulting work, *The Story of Dalhousie; Or, The University as Insurgency*, is no small tribute. Spanning 34 pages when printed, with 25 divisions and nearly 4,500 words, the poem is a sprawling account of the university, its history and its legacy—not unlike *The Lives of Dalhousie*, books by Dal historian P. B. Waite that served as Clarke's primary research texts. And just like Waite's two volumes of university history, the poem is surprisingly intimate, breathing intense spirit into small moments and details.

“It's a remarkable work,” says Dalhousie President Richard Florizone. “George's poem captures beautifully the scope of who we have been, are and can become as a university. In its artful, graceful telling of our history, it echoes the themes of inclusion, community engagement and regional contribution that define our university through to this day. I think George's work will reverberate in great ways we cannot yet imagine.”

One of those reverberations will echo through the halls of the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium in early February (just as this issue of the magazine makes its way to readers). The poem will serve as a guiding text at the Bicentennial Launch on February 6—200 years to the day that Lord Bathurst approved Lord Dalhousie's request to create a new college in Nova Scotia. Clarke and others will read excerpts from the poem as part of a broader reflection on Dal's past, present and future to help kick off the university's anniversary year.

For Clarke, born in Windsor, NS but raised in Halifax, the event and the poem represent a homecoming of sorts, an opportunity to reflect on the university and city that have played such a key role in his own personal and artistic journey.

Clarke's most obvious links to Dal are as an alumnus: earning his Master of Arts in English in 1989, receiving an honorary degree 10 years after that and, last year, being presented with the Dalhousie Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. (See “DAA Award Winners,” Fall 2017 issue, p. 28.)

But Clarke traces his Dal experience back even further: visiting the Dalhousie Dental Clinic as a child to get teeth filled or extracted; having future NDP

leader Alexa McDonough, a Dal alum and Maritime School of Social Work faculty member, as his teacher in a kid-start program at Cornwallis Street United Baptist Church; gathering on campus with different youth groups, ones that met in spaces like the Arts Centre and the Student Union Building, to discuss theatre, poetry, shared experiences as Black youth.

“So from my earliest days, I had a connection to Dalhousie—an important formative connection,” says Clarke.

Years later, after completing his BA at the University of Waterloo, Clarke returned to Halifax and Dalhousie for his master’s degree. By this point, the poetry bug had bit him hard. He published work in the *Dalhousie Gazette*, including an early poem about Weymouth Falls, the African Nova Scotian village that would inspire his 1990 book-length poem *Wylah Falls*. And he enrolled in what he considers the most influential course he’s ever taken. He remembers the title verbatim (“Tradition and Experimentation in Modern Poetry, 1880–1920”) and that it was identified in the Academic Calendar as “a good course for poets.” The instructor, John Fraser became more than just a teacher and mentor to Clarke—he became a lifelong friend.

“He’s also given me a lot of editing assistance over the years with my novels and my poetry,” says Clarke. “I’ve been blessed by receiving some awards and prizes and good reviews every now and then, but one of the best reviews for me, still, is when John Fraser writes me an email or letter and says ‘That is a very good poem.’”

By any objective measure—limited only, perhaps, by his own polite modesty—Clarke has written many “very good” poems. Among the awards and honours he’s received over the course of his career thus far are the Portia White Prize for Artistic Achievement (1998), the Governor-General’s Award for Poetry (2001), the National Magazine Gold Medal for Poetry (2001), the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award (2004), the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Fellowship Prize (2005) and appointment to the Orders of Nova Scotia (2006) and Canada (2008).

His most recent work, aside from his parliamentary duties, might be his most daunting yet: a massive three-part project called “Canticles.” The epic

poem’s first part, “Canticles I”—years in the making and released in two volumes in November 2016 and April 2017—is 916 pages of poetry critiquing the transatlantic slave trade and European and American imperialism. He’s currently working on “Canticles II,” which will reframe Biblical scripture and other religious texts in a sort of folk theology informed by the African slave perspective. (He expects it be complete by 2021.)

“I WAS LOOKING FOR DETAILS THAT SPOKE TO ME.”

“What I tried to do in putting together ‘Canticles I’ was to digest swaths of history and boil down historical narratives into what I consider to be the most salient, illuminating moments,” says Clarke. “And that’s what I tried to bring to the story of Dalhousie as well.”

An epic poem is a lengthy, narrative piece—think “Beowulf,” Homer’s “Odyssey” and “Iliad,” or Virgil’s “Aeneid.” It’s a form well suited to a large, unfolding story, or to chronicling the heroic achievements or tragic plights of larger-than-life characters. But what do you do when your protagonist is a 200-year-old institution of higher learning?

Clarke considered many different formats when tasked with writing a poem for Dal’s anniversary year, but his reading of Waite’s histories, his experience writing “Canticles” and his own admittedly Aristotelian views on the format’s superiority drew him towards epic poetry.

“I was trying to take up what the poet Ezra Pound

would call ‘luminous details,’” says Clarke. “I was looking for details that spoke to me, both as a poet and as a Dalhousie graduate.”

The poem begins in 1818, with Lord Dalhousie using war bounty to establish a non-sectarian college in Halifax. What follows is an account that covers many of the formative and most well-known events in Dal’s history—George Munro’s university-saving donation, the Halifax Explosion and two World Wars, the 1960s campus expansion—but which also has its share of quirky asides, like contrasting Dal’s first campus with its next-door brewery (“proffering ale for every ailment / and profs on tap”) or capturing the sentiments of the Jazz Age (“upsy-daisy, dippy-doodle cavorting”).

“I wanted to be a little irreverent,” says Clarke. “I

This lens—one that brings the relationship between race and the academy into focus—might be Clarke’s greatest contribution to a consideration of Dal’s history.

“Waite’s history is brilliant and fantastic, but he doesn’t spend a whole lot of time worrying about when the first Black student showed up, for example. And he gives just a passing referenced to TYP which, to me, is a major innovation in Canadian universities. So those are areas where I wanted to go outside his work to find some instances, some luminous details, to frame as part of Dal’s overall history.”

The poem closes with a personal reflection in which Clarke writes in his own voice, sharing some of his formative Dal experiences and bringing his core thesis full-circle: that, from its very origins as a non-sectarian college besieged and stymied by sectarian adversaries, Dalhousie has been an “insurgent” institution, pushing knowledge forward and challenging its region, its province, its country.

“I think a good university is an insurgent complex, full of people who are brought together to think profoundly and argue vigorously about options for understanding whatever it is they pursue,” Clarke explains. “I think Dalhousie has been an extremely important complex of potential catalysts and improvisers for many different avenues of progress and change—the vast majority of them, for the better.

“If I can mix metaphors here, Dalhousie has been a lynchpin catalyst for change, for progress and for development across a whole slew of disciplines and schools... it has been the lodestone touchstone for promoting various avenues of development.”

“Lodestone touchstone”—the sort of phrase only someone with Clarke’s joyful sense of wordplay would come up with. In bringing his talents to bear for his alma mater, he’s provided the university with a thoughtful, powerful reflection on what it means to have a 200-year legacy, and the lessons that legacy offers for the centuries to come.

“It’s a work I’m very proud of,” say Clarke. “And it’s one I hope people enjoy.”

To read “The Story of Dalhousie; Or, The University as Insurgency” in full and to watch a video of George Elliott Clarke performing the piece, visit dal.ca/200poem.

CLARKE’S POEM IS A POWERFUL REFLECTION ON DAL’S LEGACY.

have a lot of reverence for Dalhousie, and I think it comes through in the poem, but you know, I’m a 21st century guy and a Dalhousie graduate, so I’m allowed to be a bit irreverent, I think.”

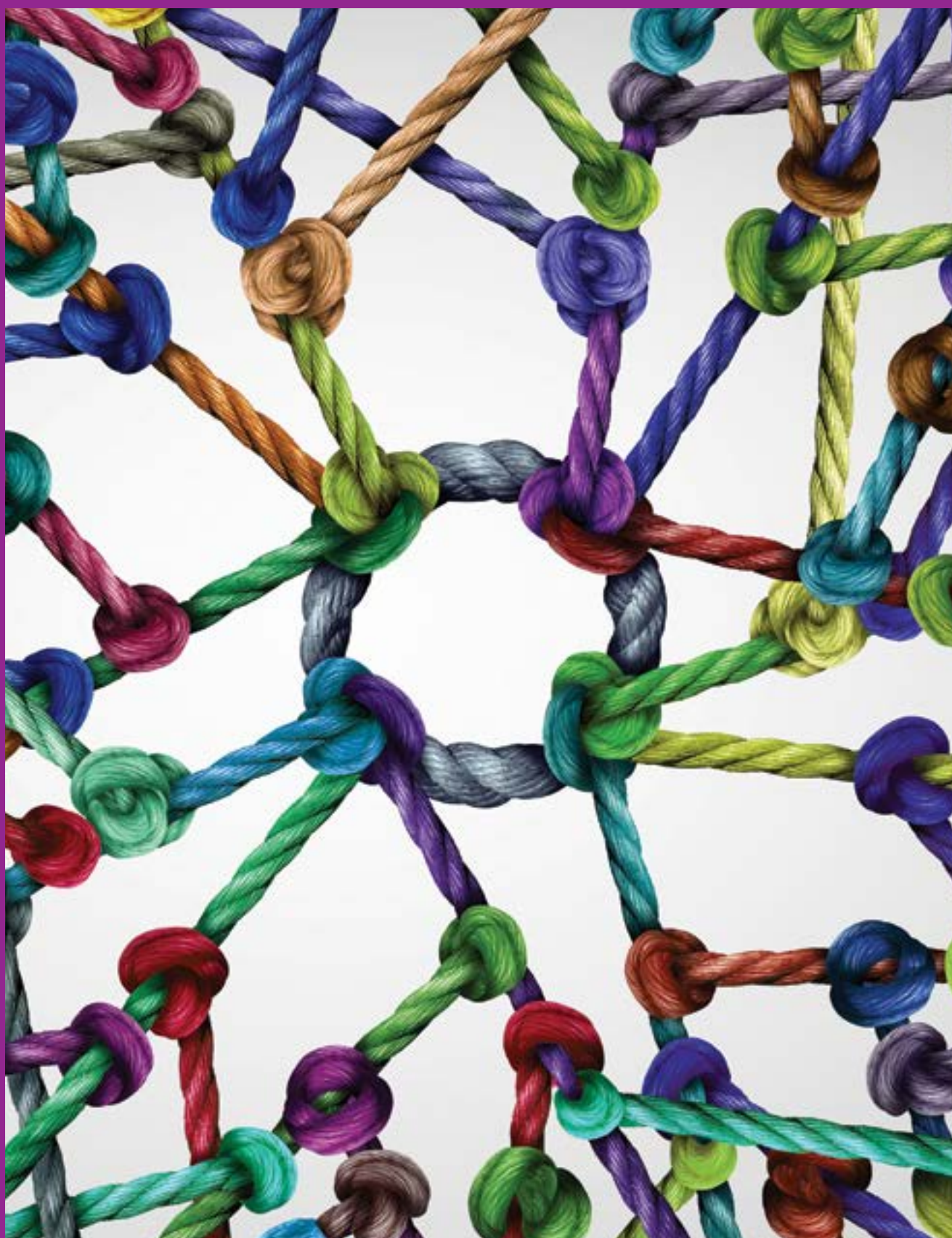
The poem doesn’t pull its punches, either. In one section, Clarke calls out how the research of Dal’s faculties in urban planning and social work was used to justify the expulsion of Africville. He contrasts the protesters who occupied President Henry Hicks’ office in 1970 with the work of Burnley “Rocky” Jones and others to create the Transition Year Program (TYP) and the Indigenous Black and Mi’kmaq Law Initiative, questioning which was truly the more “radical” approach.



Excerpt from The Story of Dalhousie; Or, The University as Insurgency

I.

Named for a Scottish castle at two streams where trout and salmon
flicker and gleam and splash,
and named for George Ramsay, whose prowess at Waterloo—
cannonading and negating Napoleon,
got him dubbed Lord,
“Dalhousie” originates as a trophy—a profit—of War,
as actual booty—
the 12,000 Halifax-£ boodle
snatched from Brit-conquered Castine in Maine
and eyeballed in the Nova Scotia colony—
for paving stones, a garrison library, et cetera;
except that Lord Dalhousie—
now His Majesty’s Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia
(due to his sorties and flourishes contra “Boney”)—
noticed the New Scottish colony lacked a college
capable of sprouting its own Christian ministers
who’d spout—he prayed—open-door-fresh-air,
open-minded, but godly precepts—
inspired by the porridge, salmon, and whiskey of Edinburgh—
the Scottish Enlightenment, Rabbie Burns ecumenicalism
and Adam Smith firm-hand and clear-eye of Edinburgh—
and the brogue and Gaelic of grey-beige but baggiped Edinburgh—
and the chill fog, dour granite, and indomitable thistle of Edinburgh—
and tolerate no spite, but be suave, urbane:
Was that the meaning of the corn, oil, and wine,
Lawd Dalhousie spilled on the cornerstone of his Haligonian university,
two years after the Prince Regent’d bleated “Oui,” bureaucratically,
assenting to the eccentric notion of an ocean-side,
Scotian, non-sectarian college—
as of February 6, 1818?



ISTOCK

Lucky: it isn't a word you associate with psychosis. But for writer Philip Moscovitch and his family, his son's diagnosis and treatment at Halifax's innovative Early Psychosis Program was a fortunate first step to recovery—for the whole family

SAFETY NET

The call came before midnight. Sara and I had been worried about our then-21-year-old son for a while. When we'd last seen him at a farmers' market a few weeks earlier he'd seemed distant and uncommunicative—unlike his old chatty self. Eerily thin, he seemed to almost stare through us as we sat across the table from him drinking our coffees.

Something was wrong, but we had no idea what. Was he upset? Tired? Or was there something more going on?

Then, the call: it was from an RCMP officer in Digby, a coastal town in southwestern Nova Scotia. Our son was down by the water behaving oddly, she said, and she wondered if he had any mental health issues. The officer convinced him to go with her to the nearest ER.

We got into the car and started driving, frightened and unsure about what we would find.

At the emergency room in Yarmouth, the psychiatrist on overnight duty suggested admitting our son. The hospital was a three-and-a-half hour drive from our home on St. Margaret's Bay. We'd rather go back, we said, and see about getting care in Halifax.

Sara and I knew little about the mental health care system, but we had heard of the Nova Scotia Early Psychosis Program (EPP) through a family member with a friend who worked there. Sara called the program. Our son met their criteria: a first episode of psychosis—which, in his

case, included hallucinations and hearing voices—in someone between the ages of 15 and 35. Within a couple of weeks he was an outpatient in the program, under the care of a nurse and psychiatrist.

I didn't realize until much later—as over the next couple of years our son went through a dramatic recovery—how lucky we were that he was being seen at Early Psychosis, and how special the program was.

JENNIFER (NOT HER REAL NAME) IS A PROFESSIONAL in her mid-30s who lives in Halifax. When she first started experiencing psychotic symptoms—broadly defined as a set of experiences that involve a loss of contact with reality—in her youth, she was scared she would be “locked up in the psych ward... shuffling down the hall in bunny slippers drooling, and that would be my life.”

Instead, she eventually wound up an outpatient at the Early Psychosis Program (EPP).

The clinic is a leader in understanding psychosis as a condition that has several discrete phases, and in tailoring treatment to each one. While the EPP is part of the Nova Scotia Health Authority, it is an active teaching centre for the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine.

For decades, schizophrenia—the diagnosis for most of the people seen at the EPP—was seen as an only minimally treatable illness. Patients could be managed, but there wasn't much hope for recovery and a “normal” life. But advances in brain imaging, along with a new generation of anti-psychotic drugs and the development of early intervention programs like EPP have changed that view dramatically.

“I think early psychosis programs are wonderful, because they are the cutting edge of sane wraparound care,” Jennifer says. “They acknowledge the importance of having a very holistic, balanced approach—with rec therapy, nurses, psychiatrists and other programs. They have a lot going on, and that's necessary because people need so much support in the early stages to be able to get on their feet and go forward.”

“It's a bit of a new approach,” says Dr. Phil Tibbo, who has been director of the EPP since 2009 and holds the Dr. Paul Janssen Chair in Psychotic Disorders at Dalhousie. “The whole thing about early intervention is identifying early signs of illness. So when you're able to define that phase, you can have phase-specific treatments as well—some of the treatments we deliver within this group might be different from what you would do with someone in their forties or fifties.”

Over the course of their lifetimes, about one percent of Canadians will experience at least one episode of



Early psychosis programs, like the one offered by the Nova Scotia Health Authority, acknowledge the importance of a holistic, balanced approach to treatment.

NICK PEARCE



On the third Thursday of every month, family members gather at the Abbie J. Lane Building in Halifax, where the EPP is housed, for the family support group. Other family services include regular family education sessions and social worker support.

psychosis. Psychotic disorders generally first become apparent in the teens and twenties—right around the time many young people are in school, moving out, developing lasting relationships. Through research-based interventions, Dr. Tibbo says, “what we are trying to do is make sure people get back to all that.”

When our son arrived at the clinic, he was in the third phase: acute untreated psychosis. (The other phases range from experiencing minor psychotic symptoms to treated psychosis, in which symptoms no longer disrupt people’s lives.) He didn’t trust Dr. Michael Teehan, his psychiatrist, “because I didn’t understand that I had psychosis or what that implied. I had no idea that I would have to spend a couple of years trying to figure that out. It took Dr. Teehan a while to convince me that I had psychosis, and then it took him another while to convince me that I could heal from psychosis. But he

works really subtly. He doesn’t tell you this is what you need to do, but you start to put the pieces together.”

But putting the pieces together for individual patients isn’t the only work being done at the clinic. When I meet with Dr. Tibbo in mid-2017, he is working on a model of care that would see early psychosis services available throughout the province. He describes his goals as we sit in his office at the EPP, just past a six-foot tall poster that says, “Psychosis is treatable, the sooner the better.”

“People are recognizing the benefits of early intervention,” says Dr. Tibbo, explaining the advantages. “Greater reduction in symptoms, higher remission rates, greater retention in treatment—so patients are better engaged, they have greater rates of medication adherence, reduced rates of relapse, improvement in quality of life, and cost savings to the health system. What this really all equates to is reduced suffering for patients

and families, as well as a benefit for society at large.”

Dr. Tibbo says that the Nova Scotia EPP, founded 20 years ago, is “at the leading edge of what care should be.” It was among the first early psychosis programs in Canada; today, every province but PEI has one.

Patients can remain part of the clinic for up to five years. During that time, they benefit from what Dr. Tibbo calls “integrated care”—a mix of medication, cognitive behavioural therapy and programs including gardening, cooking and basketball groups, and the services of a social worker and an occupational therapist. “Whatever the individual needs,” he says.

What the individual needs—and, in many cases, what the family needs as well. For our family, the EPP has become a part of our calendar: on the third Thursday of every month, Sara and I head down to the Abbie J. Lane Building in Halifax, where the EPP is housed, for family support group. In the waiting room of the clinic, we sit on comfortable couches and share our experiences. The clinic social worker asks us how we are doing: some better, some dealing with setbacks or, occasionally, relapse and hospitalization. We listen to each other and try to reassure the new people who have the shocked, exhausted look that we once did.

The EPP puts considerable energy into serving families. In addition to the monthly support group, the clinic offers programs including regular family education sessions and has a social worker available to meet with loved ones. Initial assessments for new clients include separate sessions for parents, where possible, and—with patients’ consent—family members can be included in meetings with psychiatrists, nurses and other staff. And any time we had questions or concerns, we could call our son’s nurse, Nicole Collins, and would hear back almost right away.

As we sit in his office, Dr. Tibbo shows me a slide from an upcoming talk he is giving in Saskatchewan, outlining the four critical factors predicting relapse. One of them is criticism from caregivers. It can be difficult caring for a loved one with psychosis, and sometimes family members get frustrated—particularly about what they may see as a lack of motivation. Dr. Tibbo says it’s not uncommon for family members to say things like, “All you have to do is go back to school, get out of the basement, get off the Xbox. What are you going to do with your life?” But ultimately, that’s not helpful. He says when families understand psychosis better, they can offer more support and be less critical—and that helps with recovery.

One of the challenges with psychosis is what are

known as negative symptoms – decreased experiences of pleasure, loss of motivation, sometimes a drop in cognitive abilities. While they are not as dramatic as symptoms such as hallucinations, they can be far more persistent and challenging to treat. Just down the hall from Dr. Tibbo’s office, basketballs spill out of a reusable grocery bag on the floor of occupational therapist Lachlan MacDonald’s office. Behind his desk, a bookshelf is filled with pamphlets for groups supporting people with mental illness, copies of Canada’s food guide and books on healthy living. A plate showing ideal portions of vegetables, starch and protein sits above a handbook on living with mental illness. MacDonald, who is trained in cognitive behavioural therapy as well as occupational therapy and has been with the EPP just over three years, plays a key role in helping the clinic’s clients with an array of life skills and specific tasks.

It’s been nearly two years since our son’s diagnosis, and Sara and I are here with him to talk to MacDonald and find out what supports are available when he goes back to school in the fall. MacDonald goes through the process of applying for financial aid, and spends time explaining what additional funding is available to help people with mental illness.

As well as helping with specific tasks such as how to find a job or get help with school, MacDonald also runs a recreation group (bowling, yoga, library trips, walks in the park), and a weekly basketball group. He says what sets the EPP apart is “a culture of working with people as they are, focusing on the things that are important to them, doing things quickly and efficiently—and having the resources available to be able to do that. When people encounter long wait times, what could be a more manageable problem becomes a larger problem. The whole purpose of the clinic is to see people quickly, to determine if there is something related to psychosis going on and then to treat that as quickly as possible and either get them back to what they were doing or onto their new path.”

He adds, “So if someone comes in and says I want to find a job, I just focus right in on that. Where are you on that? Do you have a resume? Do you know how to do a job search? What skills do you need to work on and what plans do we need to help you accomplish your goal? I might work with them once and do something basic, or I might work with people longer and more in-depth. It just depends.”

This kind of approach—long-term, with close attention from doctors, nurses and other staff—does not come cheap. (That’s one of the reasons Dr. Tibbo says



This kind of approach—long-term, with close attention from doctors, nurses and other staff—does not come cheap. But research shows it is worth it, correlating to lessening of symptoms and lower risk of suicide.

the US lags behind in early intervention care: “It’s expensive, and sometimes the people that need the help don’t have the insurance.”) But it’s worth it, Dr. Tibbo says, pointing to research showing that the kind of care the EPP offers correlates to significant reductions in the duration of untreated psychosis (a risk factor for relapse), a lessening of symptoms, lower risk of suicide and a higher rate of compliance with medication.

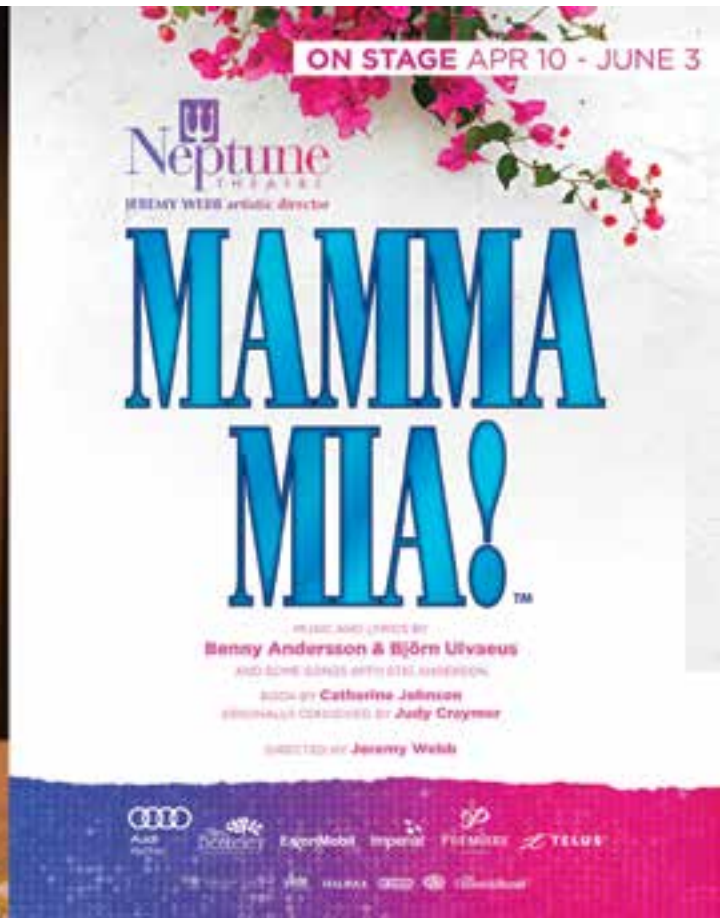
Just over two years since he started in the program, my son and I are driving back from Bridgewater, where he is studying heritage carpentry at the Nova Scotia Community College. We talk about his experiences in the Early Psychosis Program, and he says, “I’ve had some really emotional appointments and Nicole listened really well, respected what I was experiencing, and was totally non-judgmental. Just providing support. I had to do the legwork. I always have to do the legwork—but

they’re there to catch you. Which is great. The EPP gave me a platform to heal.”

Dr. Tibbo, who grew up in Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, hopes that platform can be extended throughout the province—not with standalone clinics like the EPP, but with teams that can recognize early psychosis and deliver appropriate care. “I don’t expect every region to have a standalone clinic like this—the numbers don’t support it. But there has to be a way to have a team there to make sure people are recognized early enough and getting the key components of care that are necessary,” he says.

“I’ve always been very passionate that we shouldn’t disadvantage a youth just because of where they live. If they want to come to Halifax, fine. But if they want to stay in Yarmouth, they should stay there. I just want to make sure they get the right care.”

NICK PEARCE



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Since Dal's earliest days, donors have strengthened the very fabric of our university.

PHILANTHROPY

Extraordinary women

Many have left their mark on Dalhousie through their generosity and leadership, including countless inspiring women. By Elizabeth MacDonald and Fallon Bourgeois

Scholarships and bursaries that enable education and provide a brighter future for students. Gifts that impact world-leading research and technology. Funds that enhance diversity and inclusion in our classrooms and community. These are just some of the ways that philanthropy has enriched and transformed Dalhousie throughout its first two centuries.

Since its earliest days, donors have strengthened the very fabric of our university, including countless inspiring women whose leadership and kindness has helped to create rich learning opportunities and experiences. From builders to mentors, visionaries to coaches, they've each left a mark on Dalhousie and those who have benefitted from their kindness.

THE VISIONARY

Well before she made her mark as a businesswoman and philanthropist, Jennie Shirreff Eddy was a nurse. In fact, her first introduction to Dalhousie came in 1892 when she arrived in Halifax to work at the Victoria General Hospital, just a few blocks away from the university. Soon after, the Chatham, N.B. native would meet and marry Ezra Eddy, owner of E.B. Eddy, a lumber and paper company. After the death of her husband in 1906, she acquired majority shares in the enterprise and under her guidance, E.B. Eddy would grow into one of Canada's most successful and best-known companies. It was ultimately a fate that would transform Dalhousie.

When Shirreff Eddy decided to turn her considerable talents to philanthropy, the university was one of her first beneficiaries. She'd remembered the place fondly from her nursing days, calling it "the outstanding university of the Maritime provinces."

In a tribute to the women of Dalhousie, Shirreff Eddy chose to build a student residence. The \$300,000 gift in 1920 was one of the largest donations to a Canadian university by a woman at that time. Her vision was an elegant residence that felt like a home: warm and cozy with fire-

places in the public areas, study rooms on the upper floors and a library with plenty of light. Completed in 1923 (two years after Jennie Shirreff Eddy died), Shirreff Hall still stands on the Dalhousie campus: an enduring testament to the power of women helping women succeed.

THE BUILDER

Referred to by many as Dalhousie's "guardian angel," Lady Dunn (LLD'67) is one philanthropist in Dal's history who has left a significant imprint on the university.

Born Marcia Anastasia Christoforides in Surrey, England, in 1909, she served for many years as personal secretary to Canadian financier and industrialist, Sir James Dunn, a Dalhousie Law School graduate, whom she married in 1942. Unfortunately, her husband died the following decade. Devastated by her husband's death, she began directing her philanthropic energies toward his alma mater.

The centrepiece of her considerable legacy is the impressive Sir James Dunn Science Building. Not only did she fund the project in its entirety, she also took a direct interest in ensuring its design reflected her vision for a modern university campus. And her generous support for the Law School—including the law library and the prestigious Sir James Dunn Scholarships in Law—was instrumental in ensuring Dalhousie's national leadership in legal education.

THE COACH

Throughout her distinguished 40-year career as a coach, administrator, educator and sports medicine expert, Cathy Campbell's (BPE'75, MSc'77) Dalhousie links have remained intact—and strong. A stellar student athlete, Dr. Campbell excelled in track and field, field hockey, cross country, basketball and volleyball.

Often referred to as a caring, committed and knowledgeable mentor, she helped many young athletes reach championship levels of performance when she herself was still a student. Just as she did back in



the 1970s, Dr. Campbell continues to inspire and lead by example. As thanks to the university that helped develop her skills and set the course for her career in medicine, Dr. Campbell remains a steadfast supporter of Dal and its student athletes. “I want to make sure that other young adults have the same opportunities or better than I had.”

Her affinity to her alma mater and desire to support student athletes is most evident in the Dr. Cathy J. Campbell Track and Field Scholarships.

THE EDUCATORS

For Nimmi Kanwal (MA'77) and her husband, Teji (MA'72), nothing is more important than access to education for women. The Kanwals spent their careers as educators. “We strongly believe in education and want to help women wherever we can,” says Nimmi.

Their passion for education led them to create the Nimmi and Teji Kanwal Bursary at Dalhousie to support female students. “It is very gratifying to know the (Dalhousie) students are using money for their education and to build a good life for themselves,” the couple agree. “We sleep better knowing we’ve done a bit of good in the world.”

STRONGER TOGETHER

Like these four extraordinary women, there are countless others in Dalhousie’s history who are worthy of celebration. As we embark on our third century, we will continue to share the stories of Dalhousie donors, partners and friends whose support has enabled us to harness the transformative power of education.



Dal’s philanthropic women include Jennie Shirreff Eddy, who funded Shirreff Hall (TOP LEFT); Lady Dunn (TOP RIGHT); Nimmi Kanwal (MA’77), shown with her husband Teji (MA’72) (ABOVE) and Cathy Campbell (BPE’75, MSc’77) (RIGHT).



“A lot of people felt very strongly that they owe much of their success to the opportunity they had to work with Jeff.”

DONOR PROFILE

Powerful surprise

The Jeff Dahn Bursary in Physics was created to celebrate the beloved professor in honour of his 60th birthday and offer support to first-year physics students. By Fallon Bourgeois

For more than 35 years Jeff Dahn (BSc'78) has been at the forefront of research and innovation in battery technology. His impressive track record in the field has earned him numerous awards, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council's (NSERC) Herzberg Canada Gold Medal in January 2017. In June 2016, Dr. Dahn began a five-year research partnership with Tesla Motors/Energy as an NSERC/Tesla Canada Industrial Research Chair. There's no denying that he has created a legacy at Dalhousie.

And now thanks to the efforts of many current and former students who wanted to express their appreciation for their professor, another legacy has been created: the Jeff Dahn Bursary in Physics.

In late 2016, with Dr. Dahn's 60th birthday approaching, Leah Ellis (BSc'11, MSc'13), a PhD student who works in the Dahn Research Lab, heard about a “big surprise party” that was being planned.

“A fellow Dahn Lab researcher told me a celebration was in the works,” she says. “He also mentioned one of the biggest surprises was former students who were coming to celebrate Jeff because of the incredible influence he had on their education and careers.”

That sparked the idea of creating a meaningful gift reflective of Dr. Dahn's impact.

Leah worked closely with the Office of Advancement to create the bursary. The original goal was to raise \$25,000 to create an endowment fund. “Endowing a fund ensures its permanency. We felt that was very important considering Jeff's legacy at the university.”

In the two decades Dr. Dahn has been teaching at Dal, he's taught first-year physics classes every year and has trained dozens of graduate students who have gone on to careers in the battery materials or lithium-ion battery space. So, it was no surprise that as word spread about the initiative (mainly through social media and word-of-mouth) former and current students were quick to jump on board.

“Dr. Dahn is an amazing professor. He's very giving of his time,” says Ellis. “A lot of people we heard from felt very strongly that they owe

much of their achievements and success to the opportunity they had to work with Jeff. Supporting the bursary was their way to say thanks and give back.”

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

From current students to faculty members, individual to corporate donors, and even some Tesla fanatics, it was a collaborative effort.

“People who had received scholarships themselves were keen to give because they understood the value in supporting a student. There were

“I was stunned,” says Dr. Dahn.

“What a great gift.”

undergrads in our lab who gave their coffee money toward the fund. Everyone was so kind,” says Ellis.

They also had help from a local business owner who has no connection to Dr. Dahn, but recognized the importance of the fund and its ability to support and motivate students. “We were interested in giving to an initiative that values science, education, and gender equality,” says Mazen Kishawi of Atlantic Prepaid Inc. “For every \$20,000 raised, we will donate \$10,000 to the bursary fund.”

The bursary quickly surpassed its original goal of \$25,000, doubling in size in only a few months.

FIRST-YEAR SUPPORT

The bursary is earmarked for first-year physics students from Nova Scotia who demonstrate financial need. Additionally, every second year it is to be awarded to a female student.



Ellis says when developing the criteria, the group wanted to ensure it was reflective of Dr. Dahn's values.

"Jeff could work anywhere in the world, but he chose Nova Scotia, which is why we decided to include that in the criteria. He's also enthusiastic about getting students excited about physics and research."

So, what does the namesake think of it all?

"When Leah first began to talk about the surprise gift at my birthday party, I was a bit worried it would be something non-essential. But as she continued to describe the bursary, the way, and from whom, the funds had been raised, I was stunned. What a great gift," says Dr. Dahn.

"I look forward to meeting those students every year when they take my first-year physics class. I hope they will become interested in research and move in that direction for their careers."



"Dr. Dahn is an amazing professor," says Leah Ellis (BSc'11, MSc'13), a PhD student who works in the Dahn Research Lab and spearheaded the creation of a bursary in Dr. Dahn's name.

“Because we work on a small island, we’re able to see the impact of what we do.”

SPOTLIGHT

Preserving paradise

Farah Mukhida (BSc’95) thought she’d have a career saving lives. Instead, interests ignited at Dal have led her to focus on protecting Caribbean ecosystems

Farah Mukhida (BSc’95) is passionate about preserving paradise for future generations.

When Mukhida, executive director of Anguilla’s National Trust, started her studies at Dalhousie, she thought that she was headed to a career in medicine. The teachers and courses that she was exposed to at Dalhousie changed that, leading her to a life in the Caribbean, preserving fragile ecosystems in the most beautiful of settings.

While studying biology, Mukhida took courses in International Development Studies, and connected with a professor who she says changed her life. John Kirk, in the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, supervised her honours thesis and in her third year set her up to do a semester in Cuba that integrated development work with environmental conservation. “From there I was sold,” Mukhida says, “and knew what I wanted to focus on.”

After graduating with a degree in Biology and International Development Studies, Mukhida interned at the Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries in Trinidad and Tobago. “Most of the work focused on management of the Buccoo Reef Marine Park, as well as environmental education,” she explains.

After getting her masters in Environmental Studies (Coastal Zone Management) at York University, she worked in the Philippines and then took a position with the Anguilla National Trust. Within two years, Mukhida took over as executive director of the Trust in 2007.

The Trust’s mandate is to protect the culture, heritage and environment of the island. Anguilla is home to two important Amerindian sites, including one underground cave with a 1,400 to 1,600 year old carved stone god that wouldn’t be out of place in an Indiana Jones movie, and a grotto where the Amerindians carved faces into the rocks to symbolize important births and deaths.

Mukhida describes seeing these artifacts as a surreal experience. “People find artifacts when hiking, or in the sands. It’s crazy to think that somebody actually made this 1,600 years ago and put so much impor-



tance on this, and then you think, what are we leaving behind?”

The Trust’s work is wide-ranging: it organizes tours and educates visitors about the Amerindian sites while also tackling projects such as the removal of rats from Dog Island, a small island off the coast important to nesting populations of seabirds. Rats arrived on the island 100 years ago, when it was home to a plantation, and were threatening the seabird population as well as the reptile and sea turtle populations—and even the island’s vegetation.

“We got rid of the rats in 2012, and since have seen continuous improvements in terms of the ecosystem and biodiversity,” Mukhida says. “People call Dog Island the Galapagos of the Caribbean, because over 200,000 birds are there over the nesting period.”

Despite gaps in funding in a country where tourism dollars often take priority over preserving the very environment that draws tourists in the first place, Mukhida and her staff—many of whom started as interns with the Trust when in the Environmental Club at the island’s only high school—are striving to protect Anguilla for future generations.

“Because we work on a small island, we’re able to see the positive impacts of what we do—whether it’s sparking an interest about wildlife and wild spaces amongst children, or helping to save a species or restore habitats,” she says. “We know that some things will take time, but we believe in what we’re doing and this reassures us.”—by *Lola Augustine Brown*

Editor’s note: Anguilla was hit hard by hurricanes in 2017. If you would like to help further the work that Mukhida is doing, especially in the aftermath of those devastating storms, email the Trust at kg.axatrust@gmail.com.



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The Montreal native arrived in Halifax with no defined plan, only a vague notion that he liked to read.

SPOTLIGHT

Word by word

Larry Gaudet (BA'85) has spent his work life in pursuit “of writing good sentences.”

In the fall of 1979, a then 19-year-old Larry Gaudet (BA'85) landed on the shores of Dalhousie University after having been recruited to play varsity basketball for legendary coach Doc Ryan. Like many new students, the Montreal native arrived in Halifax with no defined plan, only a vague notion that he liked to read. “I arrived as a jock and with the idea that I could turn on the ability to read and to write and to do well in school,” he says now of those early days on campus. “My academic performance when I arrived at Dal—to say it was undisciplined or indifferent would be an understatement.”

And while it did take a few extra years to get his degree—taking a couple of breaks to earn some money and deal with the death of his mother—Gaudet has gone on to make good on the early promise an aunt saw in him when she dubbed him a great reader, and curious about everything and everyone. The Toronto resident, who also has a home on Nova Scotia's South Shore, has made a career as a writer of many things.

After flirting with the idea of continuing on at Dalhousie in architecture or theatre, he took the Canadian Securities Course when becoming a stock broker seemed like a good idea. Then, the wannabe “literary dude” applied his machinist father's blue-collar work ethic to the task of becoming a writer, taking early writing jobs for trade magazines, spinning out press releases and ad copy, crafting features for magazines like *Equinox*, developing speeches and IPOs for captains of industry, as well as penning three novels and three works of nonfiction. As well, he helped his wife Alison Smith research and mount exhibits at her Toronto art gallery. And now he also spends several months a year in Los Angeles pitching ideas for television shows to network executives.

As Gaudet puts it, he has spent his adult life in pursuit of writing good sentences, a talent that was germinated at Dalhousie, particularly in classes taught by professor Andy Wainwright. Their relationship has evolved into a lasting friendship. “Classes were small and there was something about the fact that you didn't feel like you were being processed out in some way,” he says. “It was a good environment to ap-



preciate something that you would come to love. There were a couple of teachers who were very good at what they did and opened the world up to you.”

Gaudet even gave up basketball after his first year at university with the notion he was going to be a poet—a career path, he laughingly admits, with very limited economic upside. “But learning to read and write, and having that nurtured, gave me an enormous advantage in the long-term in the competitive marketplace. I've made my living at this for a very long time.”

So what in this varied career has made Gaudet most proud? Well, all of it, he says. “The existence of the books, the scripts, the art projects, the journalism, even some of the brand work and speeches—that's accomplishment enough. It's also the plain fact of having survived as a writer, still eager for what comes next, especially creatively, that's most meaningful to me.” —Pat Lee



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BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Paying homage

For five years, the Building a Better World series has featured remarkable Dal alumni who are creating positive change in the world.

For 200 years, Dalhousie alumni have made extraordinary contributions that positively impact the lives of others. And over the last five years, the Building a Better World series has told the stories of 50 exceptional Dal graduates, people who are truly making the world a better place.

Their stories are inspiring and their contributions—professionally and personally—are remarkable. They come from every faculty and diverse areas of impact. The profiles include alumni like Jemima MacKenzie (MD'1904, LLD'40), a medical missionary whose pioneering passion shone through the Indian hospital she built and the descendants of the 44 children she adopted; and Zoe Caron (BSc'07) and Jennifer Corson (BArch'91), who are tackling issues of climate change and sustainability.

Others, like Sara Austin (BA'98) and David Gonsalves (BComm'01) have established foundations and not-for-profit organizations to support children and at-risk youth around the globe. Similarly, through the non-for-profit she co-founded, Cari Minogue (BA'07, MBA'16) is helping kids in East Africa access quality secondary education which would otherwise be beyond their reach.

We've learned the stories of health-care advocates like Senator Sharon Carstairs (BA'62, LLD'13), who has done pioneering work in the field of palliative care; addictions medicine specialist Christy Sutherland (MD'08), who works with marginalized populations in Vancouver's East Side; and Luke Disney (BSc'92), whose network of African health centres serves 280,000 patients a year. And there are physicians like Allen Eaves (MSc'67, MD'69), Sultan Darvesh (MD'88) and John Akabutu (MD'67) whose contributions and research into diseases like cancer, leukemia and Alzheimer's disease have led to new insights, groundbreaking discoveries and life-changing breakthroughs.

Meanwhile, Pamela Palmater (LLM'99) works tirelessly for Aboriginal rights, while George Elliott Clarke (BA'89, LLD'99) and Rebecca Thomas (BA'09, MA'13) use their words to inspire change and lend their



FROM TOP Dr. Sultan Darvesh (MD'88), Jemima MacKenzie (MD'1904, LLD'40), Jennifer Corson (BArch'91), Senator Sharon Carstairs (BA'62, LLD'13), Dr. John Akabutu (MD'67)

dynamic voices to conversations about fundamental social justices.

Throughout Dalhousie's bicentennial anniversary year, we will continue to pay homage to remarkable Dal alumni across the globe. Two hundred years of existence is an incredible milestone, and one that is attributed to the thousands of Dalhousie graduates who have strengthened and enriched Dal throughout its history.

To view a full listing of our Building a Better World recipients, please visit: alumni.dal.ca/buildingabetterworld. —Fallon Bourgeois



ABOVE David Gonsalves (BComm'01)
 ABOVE RIGHT Sara Austin (BA'98)
 AT RIGHT (L-R) Dr. Christy Sutherland
 (MD'08), Pamela Palmater (LLM'99),
 Luke Disney (BSc'92)



GONSALVES: LES JONES; AUSTIN, PALMATER, BILL PETRO; SUTHERLAND: STEVEN ERRICO; DISNEY: ALEXANDER STUKENBERG

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“I grew up going on field trips with my mother.”

SPOTLIGHT

Ocean explorer

Susan R. Eaton (BSc'80) has been deemed one of Canada's Top 100 modern-day explorers. And that's just one of her accomplishments.

To call Susan R. Eaton (BSc'80) a trailblazer would be about as apt a description as you could find. On land or beneath the water, she's forged new trails for women and girls who, like herself, have a fascination with the natural world.

Eaton was a certified scuba diver at 16, one of the first women geologists hired by Imperial Oil, recently deemed one of Canada's 25 greatest female explorers and on the list of Canada's Top 100 modern-day trail blazers and explorers by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

But wait. There's more. Along with her honours degree from Dalhousie, with a double major in geology and biology, Eaton has a Bachelor of Journalism Honours degree from Carlton University and a M.Sc. in petroleum geology and geophysics from London's Imperial College. And that's just scratching the surface of her varied and wide-ranging career since graduating from Dalhousie and taking her first job in the oil and gas industry in Calgary, a place she's primarily called home since 1980.

Eaton, the eldest of four girls growing up in Dartmouth, says her love of science comes from her mother Ann Eaton, a pioneering marine mammal specialist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. “I grew up going on field trips with my mother,” she remembers. “I'd skip high school and do very exciting things like whale counting in the North Atlantic aboard big military aircraft or visiting seal colonies.”

Dad David Eaton was a recreational diver who passed the love of exploring the depths below onto his daughter. “At age 16, I thought if Jacques Cousteau was going to hire me, I needed to be a scuba diver,” she says.

Eaton's love of geology and biology has evolved into her leading or participating in a number of polar expeditions in both the Canadian Arctic and Antarctica. She's also written extensively about her adventures, publishing articles in a range of Canadian and American newspapers and magazines.

After a diving incident in Belize landed her in a hyperbaric cham-



Eaton's love of geology and biology has evolved into her leading or participating in a number of polar expeditions in both the Canadian Arctic and Antarctica.



ber and led to a diagnosis of a heart defect, she replaced compressed air tanks with snorkeling gear. Switching to exploring oceans from the top down has given Eaton a whole new perspective on its inhabitants—including snorkeling with salmon in British Columbia's Haida Gwaii and among narwhal whales in the north—along with a whole new passion: extreme snorkeling.

How extreme? How about leading snorkeling expeditions off Labrador and Greenland or mounting a snorkel relay across Canada's Northwest Passage with Team Sedna, a group of women explorers, filmmakers, scientists and divers who she's mobilized to document climate changes in the polar region. “We've snorkelled in 9,000 feet of water in the Davis Strait between Labrador and Greenland, and across the Arctic Circle at night.”

Eaton is also working with young women in the north to pass on her love of science, the ocean and conservation initiatives, along with getting them in the water, something that does not come naturally to them in such an extreme environment. “We put Inuit girls and young women in dry suits and led them on snorkel safaris of Frobisher Bay, despite the fact that they don't swim.”

Eaton said that when she turned 50, she vowed to live out the rest of her life in an adventurous and meaningful way. Mission accomplished.—Pat Lee



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CLASS NOTES

1950s

'59

ALLAN PACE, BComm, president of Sydcos Fuels Limited and Scotia Propane Limited, received the Irving Schwartz Businessperson of the year award, presented by the Sydney and Area Chamber of Commerce during Small Business Week in October, 2017.

1960s

'65

COLIN DUERDEN, BSc, PhD (Oceanography)'72, published his second novel,

Fried White Grunts, a series of linked short stories told from the perspective of a young boy growing up in Bermuda in the 1940s. He has had sold out readings in Bermuda of this and his earlier thriller, *Bloodwater*, as well as very successful readings in the Tantallon and Main Public Libraries. Both books are available from Chapters, Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

1970s

'72

COLIN LEVINGS, PhD (Oceanography) has written *Ecology of Salmonids in Estuaries Around the World* (published by UBC Press in 2016), which has been well received. See colinlevings.ca for reviews and endorsements. Colin has been busy giving

book tours in B.C. and Washington state. It was an honour to have the book presented by colleague Dr. Vladimir Karpenko to the Kamchatka Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography in Russia, on the occasion of the institute's 85th anniversary in October, 2017.

'76

RON NORMAN's, BA, debut novel, *Slouching Towards Innocence*, was released in October, 2017 by Now or Never Publishing of Vancouver. Set in the quirky, combative, and darkly comic world of British Columbia politics—where your friends can be more dangerous than your enemies—*Slouching Towards Innocence* traces Malcolm Bidwell's rise as he becomes the "go-to guy" for every political mess that needs cleaning up. For two decades Ron was a reporter, columnist and editor before going to work for the B.C. government. In his 11 years in government, Ron worked at every level, eventually becoming deputy minister and head of communications. In that role he provided communications counsel to the premier, cabinet and deputy ministers and led a staff of more than 200. He lives with his wife, Joan Young, in Brentwood Bay, a small seaside community outside of Victoria.

'78

FRANK SHE, MBA, retired in 2016 from Scotiabank as senior vice president and head of information technology and systems. Frank joined Scotiabank as an analyst in 1980. He is currently enjoying retirement in Toronto, Ont. and spending as much time as possible with his two grandsons, Ryan and Aaron.

TOP 5 SONGS OF 1989

LIKE A PRAYER, MADONNA
RIGHT HERE WAITING, RICHARD MARX
THE LIVING YEARS, MIKE & THE MECHANICS
SOWING THE SEEDS OF LOVE, TEARS FOR FEARS
GOOD THING, FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS

1980s

'84

LEO J. DEVEAU, MEd, MLIS'03, recently published a book, *400 Years in 365 Days, A Day by Day Calendar of Nova Scotia History* (Formac Publishing) and would love every Dalhousie graduate near and far to purchase a copy to refresh their memory and knowledge of some very interesting events and personalities in Nova Scotia history (some of whom include Dalhousie and Dalhousie graduates!). The book trailer can now be seen at vimeo.com/238324819. The book is available at Chapters, on Amazon and in selected independent bookstores. With such a work, Leo is spending some of his time visiting bookstores and doing talks. He is also beginning work on his next book—which will be the regimental history of the Princess Louise Fusiliers to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019. Parallel to this, Leo is preparing a book on the 1872 Sandford Fleming Expedition from Halifax to Victoria, in his effort to determine how a railway could be built across the country and dauntingly, through the Rockies (working titled *Before the Last Spike*). Leo appreciates all the work *Dal Magazine* does to try to connect the Dalhousie family across time and special memories.

HAROLD FRENCH, BASc (TUNS), is eager to reconnect with fellow graduates from the TUNS mining classes of 1983 and 1984.

'89

YOUSSEF ABDUL-MASSIH, BEng (TUNS), MASC (TUNS)'91, is the consultant project director at Addis Ababa International Airport Project in Ethiopia. He was previously the construction and engineering manager at Muscat and Salalah International Airports Project in Oman.

1990s

'97

After three years living in Malaysia and exploring Southeast Asia, **STEPHANIE DEMMONS-O'BRIEN**, MSc, has returned to Houston, Texas and a (relatively!) normal life.

MEHNAAZ MOMEN's, MPA, book *The Paradox of Citizenship in American Politics: Ideals and Reality* was recently published and can be found on Amazon.com.

JASON WHITEHEAD, BRec, continues his stand-up career in Hollywood and was recently hired as a writer on Comedy Central's *Jim Jeffries Show*.



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2000s

'09

DEBORAH VIEL, BScN, (nee Strom) completed the Arctic Nursing program through Nunavut Arctic College (Dalhousie's satellite program in Iqaluit). Since her graduation she has worked in public health in northern B.C. and Nunavut, completed her Masters of Public Health at the University of Waterloo, served on numerous boards and contributed to the Canadian Nurses Association Choosing Wisely Canada, a list of things nurses and patients should question. Now a nurse entrepreneur, Deborah works on contract with government, non-government and community organizations to build capacity for public health. Deborah maintains a strong connection with Nunavut through her current contract aiming to reduce barriers to education for Inuit community-based population health staff. She also serves on the Public Health Association of Nova Scotia board. Deborah resides in Yarmouth, N.S. where this fall, she enjoyed the opportunity to invest in a new generation of nurses through Dalhousie School of Nursing Yarmouth Site.

mandated organization responsible for the development of resources, educational opportunities and the overall safe space for Nova Scotia's LGBTQ2+ youth.

'17

For **DIVYA DOLA**, MACSc, moving to Canada for education was the best decision of her life. From a master's project with Boeing Inc., to becoming a research assistant for GEM Labs, to pursuing entrepreneurship and then becoming a full-time IBMer, she has never felt more empowered and encouraged. This is only the beginning, and Divya is looking forward to all the great things life holds for her. She will keep you all posted!

SUZANNE LIVELY, BA, started the Friendly Divas Campaign to raise \$15,000 to buy 500 Diva Cups to help give dignity to low-income women in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Suzanne organized Diva Cup Drives in her community and encouraged fellow alumni to participate in her campaign leading up to the December holidays. More information about the Friendly Divas Campaign is available at livelyfriends.com or in the article "Friendly Divas wants to buy 500 Diva Cups before 2018" in *The Coast*. Suzanne can be reached on Twitter @livelyfriends or on Facebook at [facebook.com/LivelyFriends](https://www.facebook.com/LivelyFriends).

2010s

'14

LYLE QUINN, BA, is pleased to announce his appointment as chairperson to the Youth Project's board of directors. The Youth Project of Nova Scotia is a provincially-



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IN MEMORIAM

ETHEL FERGUSON DILLON, MSW'47, Bridgewater, N.S., on Sept. 10, 2017

DONALD GORDON PENTZ, DDS'47, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 26, 2017

KENNETH ALLAN DAUPHINEE, BComm'48, Moncton, N.B., on Aug. 21, 2017

TERENCE FREDERICK HEENAN, BEng'49, DEng'80, Vancouver, B.C., on Aug. 3, 2017

PHYLLIS BARBARA (SCOTT) WOOD, BA'49, North York, Ont., on Nov. 6, 2017

W. DAVID JAMIESON, BSc'50, DEng'50, MSc'51, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 19, 2017

CHARLES WILLIAM MACINTOSH, BA'50, LLB'52, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 30, 2017

PETER JOHN DALLIEN, BEng'51, Port Hawkesbury, N.S., on Oct. 31, 2017

MARGARET ELIPHAL (NICHOLS) BISHOP-TOMBLESON, BA'52, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 25, 2017

KENNETH NICHOLSON BURN, BEng'52, Ottawa, Ont., on Oct. 31, 2017

EDITH ESTER HATFIELD (HILLS) KAY, BA'52, London, Ont., on Sept. 30, 2017

ROBERT GRAY MCKEAN, DPhrm'52, New Glasgow, N.S., on Oct. 2, 2017

CHARLES FRANCIS REARDON, BEng'52, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 17, 2017

JOHN ALPHEUS SMALLMAN, BComm'52, Fredericton, N.B., on Oct. 13, 2017

IAN LESLIE MCCULLOCH, BA'53, LLB'54, Chester, N.S., on Sept. 2, 2017

RICHARD BEN SORENSEN, LLB'53, Manotick, Ont., on Oct. 11, 2017

JOHN EDWARD BEGIN, DDS'54, BEng'58, Dartmouth, N.S., on Sept. 29, 2017

MARGARET RUTH CRICKARD, BA'54, Bedford, N.S., on Aug. 26, 2017

GERALD WILLIAM ARCHIBALD, MD'55, Mississauga, Ont., on Nov. 6, 2017

LAWRENCE RICHARD BEDFORD MARSHALL, BComm'56, Tech'72, Sussex, N.B., on Nov. 10, 2017

DONALD ARCHIBALD MACDONALD, BEng'57, Dartmouth, N.S., on Oct. 9, 2017

CARL LOCKHART SHERMAN, BEng'57, Whycocomagh, N.S., on Sept. 18, 2017

FABIAN CORNELIUS FARRELL, BEng'58, Merigomish, N.S., on Oct. 27, 2017

DAVID ARCHIBALD STEWART, LLB'59, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 18, 2017

JAMES ALLISON SPROULL, BSc'60, New Glasgow, N.S., on Oct. 21, 2017

MERLYN RALPH BACON, BEng'61, Barrie, Ont., on Aug. 27, 2017

JANE LEE (GRIFFIN) WESTROPP, BEd'61, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 22, 2017

JOHN ARCHIE CHISHOLM, DDip'62, Seabright, N.S., on Oct. 12, 2017

ANNIE MALENA MCSWEEN, DNSA'63, Sydney, N.S., on Sept. 3, 2017

GERALD FRED SIMISTER, BA'63, BEd'64, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 28, 2017

GEORGE EDEN BOYD, MD'64, Sydney Forks, N.S., on Nov. 3, 2017

SUSAN LYNN PROUDE, BA'64, BEd'65, Wolfville, N.S., on Nov. 2, 2017

CAROLE H. (HENDERSON) CARPENTER, BSc'66, Etobicoke, Ont., on Oct. 18, 2017

GEORGE DAVID CRAIG, BComm'66, MBA'73, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 22, 2017

FLORENCE MARY CAMPBELL, DNSA'68, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 20, 2017

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THERESA LYNN ELIZABETH (KEMP) BACHYNSKI, BComm'77, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 12, 2017

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PRASANTA KUMAR SARKAR, PhD'78, Willowdale, Ont., on Sept. 30, 2017

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ANITA LOUISE GRAHAM, BSW'80, Glace Bay, N.S., on Nov. 2, 2017

KEVIN BRIAN LANGILLE, BEng'80, Milton, Ont., on Sept. 12, 2017

DOUGLAS NORMAN BROWN RIGG, BEng'83, Dartmouth, N.S., on Sept. 20, 2017

KEITH CASTLE QUIRK, PGM'83, Orillia, Ont., on Oct. 11, 2017

PAMELA CHRISTINE STEWART, BSW'83, Flatlands, N.B., on Sept. 6, 2017

ROBERT GEORGE HALEY, MEd'85, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 6, 2017

SHIRLEY ANN FAWCETT, BSW'87, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 9, 2017

BRIAN EDWARD LEWIS, BA'88, Kingston, N.S., on Aug. 29, 2017

DONALD SCOTT SUTHERLAND, BA'88, BComm'90, Vancouver, B.C., on Oct. 2, 2017

PATRICIA HEALEY, MLIS'89, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 23, 2017

JOYCE ANNE NORRIS, BScN'89, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 31, 2017

RODNEY ANTHONY BURNS, BComm'90, Lower Sackville, N.S., on Nov. 9, 2017

WILLIAM ROY MILES, BA'90, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 7, 2017

PAULA EILEEN (BAMBRICK) CULLYMORE, BScPH'96, Middle Sackville, N.S., on Sept. 9, 2017

CINDY ANN MCCORMICK, DDS'97, Upper Loch Lomond, N.B., on Oct. 22, 2017

BEN COTTER, BEDS'01, MARFP'03, Pictou, N.S., on Aug. 15, 2017

WORK IN PROGRESS

Workplace experience helps make students real-world ready, even Rhodes scholars, writes Dalhousie President Richard Florizone.


Dal's newest Rhodes Scholar (our 91st) is an author, engineer-in-training, playwright, community volunteer and all-around exceptional individual.

Nayani Jensen is also one of nearly 2,000 Dalhousie students each year who take part in co-operative learning—workplace experiences that help make our graduates real-world ready from the moment they cross the Convocation stage. Nayani has completed three co-op terms during her Mechanical Engineering degree and says co-op helped her better understand her field and discover her passion for research.

She's not alone in her enthusiasm. A study from the Maritimes Provinces Higher Education Commission found that co-op graduates are more satisfied with their financial situation after they leave university, and are more likely to say their program prepared them for the workforce and that their education was worth the investment. No wonder, then, that co-op is becoming increasingly popular at Dal, growing by 18 per cent over the past three years.

For some academic programs, co-op is a great fit. For others, different kinds of experiential opportunities can enhance the learning experience. A growing area of emphasis at Dalhousie is work-integrated learning, where activities like simulations, practicums and other additions to the curriculum give students hands-on experiences in their field. Last year, more than 225 courses at Dal (teaching 4,200+ students) involved work-integrated learning in some fashion.


In total, across the university, 100 per cent of our students have access to some sort of experiential learning during their studies, and the vast majority (86 per cent) take advantage of it. That means our graduates leave Dal not just eager to make a difference in the world, but ready and able—music to the ears of students and prospective employers alike. —Richard Florizone


Richard Florizone
 @DalPres

Follow


Very pleased to share the news that [@DalEngineering](#) student Nayani Jensen selected as one of Canada's Rhodes Scholars for 2018!

She is Dalhousie's 91st Rhodes Scholar, and one of only 11 students selected from across Canada.



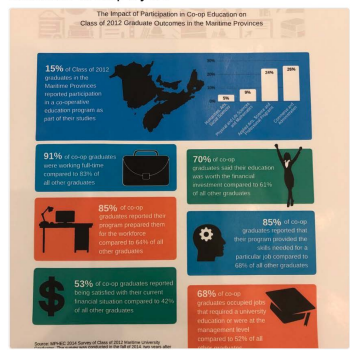
Literary designs: Mechanical Engineering student Nayani Jensen wins Rhodes...
 An Engineering co-op student who's written a novel and several plays during her studies, Nayani Jensen is headed to the University of Oxford next year as [dal.ca](#)

9:15 AM - 20 Nov 2017


Richard Florizone
 @DalPres

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Thanks to all co-op educators and supporters at today's [@nscopsummit](#). Terrific work increasing opportunities for NS students & employers



The Impact of Participation in Co-op Education: Class of 2012 Graduate Outcomes in the Maritime Provinces

- 15% of Class of 2012 graduates from Maritime Provinces received participation in a co-operative education program in one or more of their studies.
- 91% of co-op graduates were working full-time compared to 52% of all other graduates.
- 70% of co-op graduates had time to pursue their own interests compared to 41% of all other graduates.
- 85% of co-op graduates reported that they were prepared for the workforce compared to 64% of all other graduates.
- 85% of co-op graduates reported that they were prepared for a particular job compared to 64% of all other graduates.
- 53% of co-op graduates reported their financial situation compared to 42% of all other graduates.
- 68% of co-op graduates reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their education compared to 56% of all other graduates.

Source: NSCOP 2012 Survey of Class of 2012 Graduate Outcomes in the Maritime Provinces

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Co-op is becoming increasingly popular at Dal, growing by 18 per cent over the past three years.



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