

# DALMAGAZINE

WINTER 2019



## Saving the world

How Dal researchers are tackling the planet's biggest problems

Dr. Stefanie Colombo and her team are developing innovative approaches to aquaculture nutrition

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL PM4190103

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# DALMAGAZINE

## MASTHEAD

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## EDITORIAL

# A BRIGHTER FUTURE

A university is an inherently optimistic place, filled with people of all ages pursuing knowledge, enlarging their understanding, connecting with ideas—and each other—across nationality, religion, class, culture and other differences. The knowledge of the past forms the foundation, but it is clearly—and always—a foundation that is being expanded and built upon, as students, faculty and staff seek answers to today's pressing problems and try to anticipate and head off tomorrow's.

Today, optimism is sometimes in short supply. There are those who might even suggest it's naïve to foster it at all. Political difference, cultural divides, economic and environmental threats dominate our news cycles and news feeds, our conversations online and in person. In this environment, pessimism can pass for wisdom, and cynicism can look like clarity.

But is it really? I'll admit, I sometimes wearily succumb to a bleaker outlook. But then I look at the work being done across Dal's campuses and beyond, and my optimism is renewed. Need proof? Read about Hayam Mahmoud-Ahmed on p. 3, Dr. Amy Bombay on p. 5 and Prof. Jennifer Llewellyn on p. 7. Check out our Dal's research stars—and stars of tomorrow—in Global Impact on p. 16. And see how Dal alumni are making a difference, in profiles throughout the Alumni section and on our new back page Spotlight. Their energy is contagious—and their optimism inspiring!



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# CHANGE THE WORLD ONE CLASS AT A TIME.



**You want to make a difference. So do we.**

Like you, we're motivated to address some of the world's biggest challenges—ending hunger, fighting inequalities and tackling climate change. At Dalhousie, you'll have plenty of opportunity to get up close and hands on with the experiences and knowledge you'll need to contribute to a better and more sustainable future.

**CREATE THE FUTURE YOU WANT TO SEE.**



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## FUTURE ALUMNI

## Innovating to a degree

Hayam Mahmoud-Ahmed never imagined she'd be involved in a project that crossed the fields of computer science, neuroscience and business. "If you asked me a year ago if I would be going near any of these fields, I wouldn't have believed you," she says. But then Dr. Aaron Newman, the director of the Rehabilitative and Diagnostic Innovation in Applied NeuroTechnology (RADIANT) program introduced her to the Neurotechnology Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship (NICE) course. During a project Mahmoud-Ahmed and two of her classmates, Manar Abeid and Batlah Alnemer, developed a device that would help retrain muscles for individuals who have experienced a stroke. "We decided on a more flexible sleeve because everything on the market has a bulky frame. We believed we could build something functional but elegant. People forget that it's not just mobility that people lose, but also their confidence." That prototype was the start of Neuro Amel Technologies, the business that Mahmoud-Ahmed hopes will bring their automated brace to market. "Neuro is for neuroscience. Amel means hope in Arabic. I'm Egyptian and my cofounders are Saudi so we thought we want to keep our Arab roots in it, and so...Amel," she explains. Mahmoud-Ahmed, who is a double major in Neuroscience and Computer Science, feels fortunate that she's been able to get involved with such a breadth of programming. "Being able to experience all these amazing fields of study is truly eye opening." —*Stefanie Wilson*



## DAL NEWS



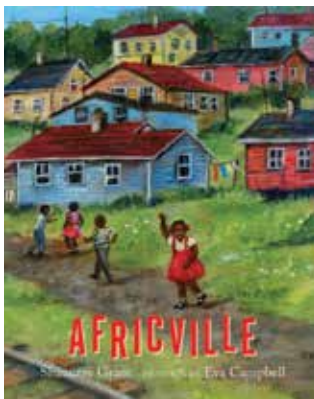
Students in Dal's School of Architecture, with support from the Faculty of Engineering, were inspired by Dal's 200th anniversary when designing the 2018 Dalhousie float in the Halifax's Chronicle Herald Parade of Lights, opting for an hourglass lit up to represent the power of knowledge.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## Prof brings Africville history to life

It's difficult not to be struck by Shauntay Grant's humility. As the award-winning author of children's literature and assistant professor and creative writing coordinator in Dal's Department of English speaks of the creation process of *Africville*—the new book she published in collaboration with illustrator Eva Campbell—she speaks softly but passionately. "I love language and writing, and I love telling stories," she says.

The book was nominated for a 2018 Governor General's Literary Award and went as far as being in the list of finalists. Grant, a descendant of Black Refugees—a group with historical ties to



*Africville*—wrote the poem on site at Africville and later developed into the children's book. Grant also had a play, *The Bridge*, make its debut in 2019 on Neptune Theatre's mainstage.

—Cecilia Khamete

## #

### BY THE NUMBERS

## Computer science gender shift

In 2017, the Faculty of Computer Science set an ambitious goal: to double the number of female students entering undergraduate programs in September 2018. The effort has paid off: the number of female students entering first-year Computer Science is up 144 per cent versus 2016. The efforts were aimed at increasing diversity within the classroom in a field where women are still in the minority. That lack of diversity in tech fields is "bad for society generally," says Christian Blouin, associate dean, academic. "Technology impacts everyone, every day. If the creators and influencers behind technology are not diverse, technology cannot truly reflect and serve society." —Rebecca Rawcliffe

144

percentage increase in number of first-year female students in Computer Science

32

number of female undergraduate who received one of the new Women in Technology Scholarships

120+

number of female high school students from across N.S. who attended Dal's second annual Women in Tech Day in November

WHY I DO IT

## PATH FINDER

**NAME:** Amy Bombay

**POSITION:** Assistant Professor in Dalhousie’s Faculty of Health (School of Nursing) and Faculty of Medicine (Department of Psychiatry)

**HER BACKSTORY:** Anishinaabe (Rainy River First Nations) researcher Dr. Amy Bombay explores the intergenerational effects of the Indian residential school system on Indigenous well-being. As part of her teaching duties at Dal, Dr. Bombay has worked with a team of faculty from Health, Medicine and Dentistry to develop a curriculum on Indigenous health that will be piloted to students in winter 2019. Dr. Bombay has also been involved in the establishment of the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network, which supports the mentorship, training and development of the next generation of Indigenous health researchers. “I mentor as many Indigenous students as possible. It is very important to build research and other related skills in today’s generation of Indigenous youth.”

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Dr. Bombay and her research partners’ findings served as the basis for a submission to the Human Rights Tribunal against the federal government for underfunding child welfare services for children on-reserve. The tribunal ruled that First Nations children were being discriminated against. “Our research was recognized as playing a significant role in the ruling,” Dr. Bombay says.

**WHY SHE DOES IT:** Dr. Bombay’s interest in Indigenous health began in high school when, seeking to learn more about her family history, she interviewed her grandmother for a research paper on the Indian residential school system. “I could see the impact of the residential school experiences on my grandparents’ lives and on those who were intergenerationally affected,” Dr. Bombay says. This early project fueled her interest in psychology and led to further study on the determinants of mental health outcomes of Canadian Indigenous peoples. —Terry Murray-Arnold



**“The more I researched, the more I could see the impact of the residential school experiences on my grandparents’ lives.”**

## DAL NEWS



Ken Kam, staff, Faculty of Architecture and Planning in front of his photography displayed at the 65th annual Dalhousie Art Gallery Student, Staff, Faculty and Alumni Exhibition.



### RESEARCH

#### BLUEBERRY BOOSTER

The blueberry industry has been facing serious financial challenges, as fruit prices are low and production costs are high. Now, the Precision Agriculture Research Team at Dal's Faculty of Agriculture is assisting growers in shifting that equation. The team looks at the variables in farming practices that can make farming more efficient, accurate, controlled and profitable when it comes to growing and cultivating crops. Their research, under the leadership of Dr. Qamar Zaman, has led to the creation of a provincially funded program called the Wild Blueberry Harvester Efficiency Program, under which Nova Scotian blueberry producers can apply for funding assistance to improve the efficiency of their harvesters. In the research leading to the development of the program, the Precision Agriculture team developed technologies to improve harvester efficiency, increase berry yield and quality and reduce the cost of production. —Emma Geldart



### THE LIST

## Big night at Discovery Awards

It was a clean sweep for Dal researchers at the 16th annual Discovery Awards, held in Halifax in November. Dal researchers won all four major categories and were also among the finalists. Retired Dal faculty member Dr. Gerhard Stroink was also inducted into the Nova Scotia Science Hall of Fame.

*Dal's winners included:*

#### **DR. PATRICK MCGRATH, PROFESSIONAL OF DISTINCTION**

Co-founder of the Strongest Families Institute and internationally known for his research in pain management and treatment in children and adolescents.

#### **DR. ERIN BERTRAND, EMERGING PROFESSIONAL**

Canada Research Chair in Marine Microbial Proteomics. Her research is helping understand how warming temperatures and other stressors may change the nutrient requirements of

phytoplankton, and shows how the tiniest of things can have a global impact.

#### **DR. KEVIN HEWITT, SCIENCE CHAMPION**

Professor in the Department of Physics & Atmospheric Science and chair of Senate at Dal, co-founder of Imhotep's Legacy Academy, a STEM outreach program for African Canadian students from junior high to university.

#### **DMF MEDICAL, INNOVATION**

A company created by Dr. Michael Schmidt and Dalhousie colleagues Dr. David Roach and Florentin Wilfart, with the goal of making anesthesia safer by preventing the death of brain cells during general anesthesia.

Other Dal researchers who were finalists were Dr. Graham Gagnon, Dr. Sultan Darvesh, Dr. Mita Dasog, Emma Finlayson-Trick and Charged Engineering Inc., created by Dr. Lukas Swan. —Staff

INNOVATOR

## JENNIFER LLEWELLYN

YOGIS AND KEDDY CHAIR  
IN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW,  
SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW

**INNOVATION:** Through her work and research in restorative justice, Professor Jennifer Llewellyn has led transformations in criminal justice reforms, human rights protection, discipline processes in workplaces and schools and more. "Restorative justice is about repairing or addressing the harm caused to social relationships when wrongdoing happens," she says. Prof. Llewellyn recently won a 2018 Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Impact Award in the Connection category.

**FOUNDATION:** Early in her career, Prof. Llewellyn established the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Community University Research Alliance, which led to the establishment of a collaborative network supporting local alliances around the world and to fair, just and meaningful restorative justice processes and outcomes in Canada and other countries.

**INSPIRATION:** While in law school, Prof. Llewellyn worked with South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. "I was confronted with a core breakdown of how we treat one another and how we could do better in order to have a more just future."

**WHY IT MATTERS:** Restorative justice processes offer more satisfying experiences and results for victims, offenders, their supports and communities than traditional adversarial approaches. In Nova Scotia's Restorative Approach in Schools project, for example, student suspension rates dropped and attendance and achievement rates improved. "It is not just about what happens in the office or even the classroom," says Prof. Llewellyn. "A restorative approach is also for the playground, the bus and at home. There are many webs of intersecting relationships." —Jane Doucet



**"My work is a vocation. It's encouraging to see the difference that restorative justice makes in people's lives—what's possible that wasn't possible before."**

# DAL NEWS

## NOTES

### Dal's new interim president

Dalhousie announced the appointment of R. Peter MacKinnon, OC, QC, as interim president and vice-chancellor, effective January 15, 2019 and continuing through June 30, 2019, as the university continues the search for Richard Florizone's successor as President and Vice-Chancellor.

"We are grateful Peter has agreed to leave his home in Alberta to return to his alma mater as interim president," says Dal Board Chair Larry Stordy. "Having someone of his calibre, experience and reputation in the role will help ensure continued momentum as we begin the dawn of our third century of academic excellence."

MacKinnon, past president and vice-chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, is a Dalhousie alumnus (BA'69, History and Political Science) with Maritime roots, having grown up in Prince Edward Island. He served as a faculty member, dean of the College of Law and acting vice-president academic at the University of Saskatchewan before serving as president

from 1999 until 2012. Under his leadership, the university rose to new heights in research and innovation, and underwent a significant restoration of campus and facilities to better meet the needs of its students and researchers.

"I am thrilled to return to Dalhousie and Halifax," says MacKinnon. "I'm looking forward to joining an excellent team in advancing Dal's strategic plan and continuing that success through to the appointment of a new president." —*Staff*

### Public scholars debut

After several months of training, Dalhousie's first cohort of Public Scholars has debuted. With a mandate to share their research with the wider world, the seven Interdisciplinary PhD (IDPhD) students aims to become influencers in the community with the skills to inform public discourse and policy.

"We do a great job of learning from each other, but we need to do a better job of sharing with the community at large," says Associate Professor Lynn Robinson, director of Dal's IDPhD program,



Dal's first cohort of Public Scholars. Standing, left to right: Jenny Weitzman, Lindsay Wallace, Colin Conrad, David Foster. Seated, left to right: Grant Sullivan, Emily Pelley, Madumani Amararathna.

who established the Public Scholars initiative to fill in gaps in communication that separate the university from the public and the public from an evidence-based reality. She says researchers can play a key role in adding a dose of reality in a world where people increasingly get news from unverified and unreliable sources.

The scholars are Jenny Weitzman, Colin Conrad, Grant Sullivan, Emily Pelley, Madumani Amararathna, Lindsay Wallace and David Foster. To find out more about their specific areas of scholarship, got to [www.dal.ca/faculty/gradstudies/idphd/public-scholars.html](http://www.dal.ca/faculty/gradstudies/idphd/public-scholars.html).

The group attended workshops focused on media training, story development, social media strategy, public engagement and infographic design, all leveraging the expertise of Dal faculty and staff. Over the next year, the Public

Scholars will share their research in mainstream media outlets, maintain active social media presences and take part in public lectures.

—*Andrew Riley*

### First Nations lead new study

Natural science research has long been led by academics, but a community-level approach is seeing Indigenous peoples and resource stakeholders who rely on their local aquatic species take increasingly more ownership over research design. A new aquatic study through the Ocean Tracking Network (Dalhousie University) is taking this approach to heart: the NSERC research award partners universities and First Nations groups at the grassroots level.

The idea is to empower communities by co-developing research,

incorporating traditional and local knowledge systems with western knowledge systems and feeding results back to communities.

The Mi'kmaq Conservation Group (Bay of Fundy and Minas Basin region), the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Acadia University and OTN are leading the \$1 million, three-year research program to study culturally and commercially important fish species in Nova Scotia. The largest grant of its kind in the Maritimes, it places First Nations partners at the core of the research program and will measure how community integration enhances the research program and aquatic stewardship. Results will be made accessible to end-users, to be applied in a variety of ways, from community members through to government policy.

—*OTN Staff*

## BRING THIS NEW CONCERT HALL TO LIFE

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**DAL**  
IN THE HEART OF TORONTO

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(Presently on leave of absence, serving as a Member of the Parliament of Canada.)

**Fiona Campbell**, Associate (LL.B. '10)



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# KNOWLEDGE SURGE

Dal's latest innovation sandbox focuses on science-based research and innovation. By Niecole Comeau

A once under-the-radar workshop between the Steele Ocean Sciences Building and the Life Sciences Centre has been transformed into a student space where big ideas about science and innovation will thrive. In January, the Government of Nova Scotia joined students, faculty, staff and industry partners to officially announce \$1.05 million in funding and the opening of Dalhousie's newest innovation sandbox: SURGE.

Short for Science Unleashed: Research Growing the Economy, SURGE joins nine other sandboxes in Nova Scotia all working to foster talent development and economic growth in the region. The new sandbox is nestled between two core facilities in the Faculty of Science, a natural location to pipeline talent into provincial science-based sectors such as oceans, clean technology and life sciences.

### MAKING CONNECTIONS

Sandboxes are collaborative spaces that bring together multidisciplinary teams to develop innovative solutions to local and global problems. SURGE is the fourth sandbox to launch at Dalhousie. Others include ShiftKey Labs (Faculty of Computer Science), IDEA Sandbox (Faculty of Engineering) and Cultiv8 (Faculty of Agriculture). A fifth sandbox in health innovation is underway.

Each year SURGE will offer a range of courses, workshops and events for both undergrads and graduate students, as well as faculty members and industry partners. Programming began in January with a new innovation course for fourth-year students (SCIE 4705: Science Innovation,

Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship). The course is taught by Aaron Newman, a professor of psychology and neuroscience and the new director of SURGE, who passionately delivered a snippet of the course in a mini-lecture following the announcement. "Students will get hands-on experience building solutions based on their own ideas and backed by science," said Dr. Newman. "They're the next generation of leaders and sandbox initiatives help these students turn lessons learned in classrooms and labs into companies and products that can benefit society."

### RAMPING UP IN 2019

SURGE already has its first few "Deep Dive" events scheduled, beginning with a hackathon that will explore science-focused augmented (AR) and virtual reality (VR) applications, similar to how Dal's Ocean School uses VR to teach junior high students about ocean science in classrooms across Canada (see page tk). Dr. Newman describes these events as immersive sessions that span days, sometimes weeks, and focus on a single theme. In a way, they lead up to the annual Innovation Bootcamp challenge, which takes place each summer and involves all provincial sandboxes. In the future, SURGE will also host a residency program designed to support promising teams of students as they move to turn their innovative ideas into reality through refining their business model, developing prototypes, validating hypotheses and seeking initial funding and traction with investors.



PLAINPICTURE/WESTEND61/UWE UMSTÄTTER

# DEEP



Oceanschool.ca provides students with a free immersion in the world of ocean science.

# DIVE

DALHOUSIE AND THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD TEAM UP ON  
OCEAN SCHOOL, AN INNOVATIVE ONLINE EDUCATIONAL DESTINATION THAT  
TAKES KIDS OUT TO SEA—VIRTUALLY. BY MICHELE CHARLTON

For a group of middle school students from Halifax, October 4 was far from an average school day. Through the use of 360-degree videos, virtual reality experiences and interactive games, they were transported from the atrium of Dal's Steele Ocean Sciences Building right into the world's underwater ecosystems. It was all via Ocean School, an innovative online tool that combines leading educational technologies with compelling storytelling techniques to immerse youth in the world of ocean science and culture.

Guided by young explorers and Dal's own Dr. Boris Worm, Ocean School's scientific director and a faculty member in the Department of Biology, students were able to join ocean experts as they tackle the complex and increasingly urgent challenges of understanding and protecting the global ocean. Founded by Dalhousie University and the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), Ocean School operates in partnership with Ingenium (Canada's museums of science and innovation) and under the auspices of Dal's Ocean Frontier Institute. It is also supported by a variety of additional partners, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

"As an international leader in ocean research, Dalhousie is proud to be a part of this ground-breaking initiative that will immerse youth across the country in ocean science and culture," said then-Dalhousie President Richard Florizone at the opening. "Ocean School is playing a critical role, not only in increasing ocean literacy in Canada, but also in fostering the next generation of marine experts."

The first unit of Ocean School, which became available on October 4, is based on scientific expeditions in the Canadian North Atlantic. Students utilize a wide range of learning tools and experiences throughout the unit, such as piloting an underwater robot in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and discovering the history of cod through the eyes of an Indigenous artist. Additional Ocean School units filmed in the Canadian North Pacific and off the coast of Costa Rica are currently in production, and will become available to learners in 2019. Content filmed in the Canadian Arctic and around the world will follow. Content is fully bilingual, and freely available at oceanschool.ca.

"Ocean School showcases creativity and innovation," says Claude Joli-Coeur, government film commissioner and chairperson of the NFB. "This learning experience will improve our knowledge of the global ocean as it gives young Canadians the tools they need to become agents of change."

Founded by Dal and the National Film Board, Ocean School's partners include Ingenium (Canada's museums of science and innovation), the Ocean Frontier Institute, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.



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Left to right, Stefanie Colombo, Ghada Koleilat, Debbie Martin and Megan Bailey

# GLOBAL IMPACT

**Dalhousie researchers are tackling some of the planet's most complex and urgent challenges.**

**By Ryan McNutt Photography by Aaron McKenzie Fraser**

---

End poverty in all its forms.

Ensure healthy lives and education for all.

Take urgent action on climate change.

Achieve gender equality.

Say what you will about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, but modest they are not. The 17 goals, adopted in 2015, outline a path forward for Earth and its inhabitants that leads directly through some of the most pressing, urgent challenges we face. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called them “a social contract between the world's leaders and its people” and “a blueprint for success.”

Dalhousie has been working on a blueprint of its own over the past year: a new Research Strategic Direction, titled *Impact Together*. It's a plan that underlines Dal's important role as the leading research university in Atlantic Canada—with over \$150 million in funded annual research—while also drawing connections between what's happening in labs and offices across campus (and beyond) and what's happening on a global scale.

That's why you'll find references to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals throughout the Strategic Direction, and why each of the plan's five signature research clusters and two cross-cutting themes are tied to specific UN goals.

“By aligning our strategic direction with the same goals that leaders from around the world have committed to, we are able to leverage our greatest research strengths to partner with others around the globe and focus our efforts on solving some of the most complex global issues of this century,” says Dr. Alice Aiken, Dalhousie's vice-president of research and innovation.

Each of Dal's signature research clusters represents the work of hundreds of faculty, staff and students at all levels tackling those complex global issues across disciplines. In this article, we'll introduce you to a few of them, and how their research is reshaping our world as we enter Dal's third century.

## Clean Tech, Energy, The Environment

**Ghada Koleilat** Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering / Process Engineering and Applied Science

**UN Sustainable Development Goals**  
Affordable and Clean Energy  
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure  
Climate Action

“Research is 90 per cent failure,” says Ghada Koleilat, an assistant professor in Dal’s Faculty of Engineering. “You’re looking for that 10 per cent when you end up with something great, and then trying to understand how it can be used.”

She’s describing her team’s work on photovoltaic energy conversion—solar cells, primarily. Increasing the longevity of solar cells is key to the world moving away from fossil fuels as our primary energy source, and doing so will take new solution-processed materials that can be easily integrated with silicon, the most popular semiconductor used in solar cells. Dr. Koleilat’s widely interdisciplinary team works on every stage of that research process: identifying new materials, fabricating them, testing them and working with industry on potential applications.

“It’s lovely to find a discovery on the fundamental scale, but it’s also worthwhile to see your inventions or the materials you create in the lab having a real-life impact, affecting people’s lives,” says Dr. Koleilat, adding that what’s so exciting about the work is its cutting-edge aspects. “It’s exciting because we’re doing innovations nobody has done before. We’re discovering something unique every day.”

## Culture, Society, Community Development

**Naiomi Metallic** Chancellor’s Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy

**UN Sustainable Development Goals**  
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

During 10 years practising law, Naiomi Metallic often encountered just how little scholarship there is in certain areas related to Aboriginal and Indigenous rights. “That lack of scholarship prevents us from being able to educate members of the bench and other counsel in putting a case forward,” she explains, noting one example

during her master’s studies when she had to figure out whether she could cite her own, just-written academic work in a court case.

So when she joined Dalhousie’s Schulich School of Law to serve as the inaugural Chancellor’s Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy, she arrived determined to improve the research available to lawyers, judges and Indigenous communities. Some of her areas of focus include essential services in First Nations communities, Indigenous self-government, Aboriginal language revitalization, and reconciliation. “It’s exciting when I see my work is helping people, whether it’s lawyers looking to make arguments in court, or Indigenous peoples furthering their jurisdiction or raising general public awareness. It means we’re advancing the law itself.”

## Food Security

**Stefanie Colombo** Canada Research Chair, Aquaculture Nutrition

**UN Sustainable Development Goals**  
Zero Hunger, Life Below Water

When Stefanie Colombo went searching for work after her undergrad, she found many of the places hiring Marine Biology graduates were aquaculture companies on Canada’s East Coast. The Brantford, Ont. native had never been to Nova Scotia before, but interested to learn more, she accepted a position with Scotian Halibut Limited in Clarks Harbour.

“Being in the industry helped me think about things differently than had I stayed in academia,” says Dr. Colombo, now the Canada Research Chair in Aquaculture Nutrition at Dal’s Faculty of Agriculture in Truro. “It gave me a different perspective, and made me realize I was really interested in research and this intersection with industry.”

It’s a mindset that’s stuck with Dr. Colombo as she now tackles one of the world’s most pressing challenges: how do we feed a rapidly-growing global population? Aquaculture already accounts for half of the world’s seafood, and is expected to grow to 60 per cent in a decade.

Dr. Colombo and her team are developing new, innovative approaches to aquaculture nutrition—including using microalgae as a food source—to improve not just the health of farmed seafood, but its overall sustainability. “A lot of people don’t see ocean culture in relation to ocean substantiality, but it really is,” she says. “If we don’t have aquaculture to meet our food demands, and we continue to rely on captured fisheries, that will have a huge impact on the ocean. For me, I see the long-term goals of aquaculture and I want to be part of that.”



Ghada Koleilat, Assistant  
Professor, Electrical and  
Computer Engineering / Process  
Engineering and Applied Science



Megan Bailey, Canada Research  
Chair in Integrated Ocean and  
Coastal Governance

## Sustainable Ocean

**Megan Bailey** Canada Research Chair in Integrated Ocean and Coastal Governance

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

Zero Hunger  
Life Below Water

From transportation to food production, our dependence on the global ocean is longstanding and obvious—as is, especially in recent decades, the environmental impact of our interactions with it. But in trying to create a “blue economy” alongside a sustainable ocean, there are other important issues raised, says fisheries management researcher Megan Bailey.

“For me, I’m interested in equity,” says Dr. Bailey. “How much fish comes out of the ocean is a hugely important part of fisheries management. But how does taking fish out of the ocean benefit people, and who does it benefit?”

She calls this a question of “blue justice,” and it drives her work, whether it’s attending global governance meetings or working directly with local fishermen. “It’s taking national and globally-recognized governance frameworks for marine resources—specifically fish—and trying to understand what that means for equitable outcomes in how resources are used.”

That means looking at who’s at the decision-making table, and how those decisions flow through the supply chain from the people on the ground working in fisheries to those eating seafood around the globe. Dr. Bailey says her research space is a fluid one—no pun intended—existing between global and local and deeply interdisciplinary in its engagements with other researchers.

“It affords me a wonderful collaborative space, and it’s great to work with all kinds of inspiring people.”

## Cross-cutting theme: Big Data

**Rita Orji** Assistant Professor, Computer Science

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

Good Health and Well-Being  
Quality Education  
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Facebook scandals, data mining, “fake news”—it’s easy to get dark and dreary about technology’s role in society. But count Rita Orji among the optimists. Her work in human-computer interaction is finding ways to use digital tools to help people help themselves and help build a better world.

“How do we harness the power of ubiquitous tech-

nology that’s already everywhere, like mobile phones, games, social media, to design things that will empower people to achieve behaviours that will benefit them and their communities?” says Dr. Orji.

Take, for example, her team’s work on a mobile app to educate African youth about sexually transmitted diseases—breaking through ignorance with a game-centred design that allows young people a private way to get important sexual health information. Other projects in her lab focus on topics like mental health, fitness, climate change and more.

“It’s about agency,” says Dr. Orji, noting how her work uses similar thinking to the private sector, but with one key difference: a focus on empowerment. “It’s about motivating people, using the power in these interactive technologies to help them to improve their lives and the lives of those around.”

## Cross-cutting theme: Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**Louis Beaubien** Associate Professor, Rowe School of Business

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

Good Health and Well-Being  
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

A chartered professional accountant by trade, Louis Beaubien’s personal experiences in the health-care system drove him towards health-based research—with a particular emphasis on technology and innovation. “There’s a lot of research you can do on understanding the health system better from a metrics perspective,” explains Dr. Beaubien, an associate dean in Dal’s Faculty of Management.

And while much of that research involves numbers and analysis—such as looking at trends in health spending across Canada—it can also involve in-depth qualitative work on improving health systems. One such collaboration, for example, has him working with faculty in Dal’s School of Nursing to assess how technology can be used to improve health care for newborns and children.

He’s also academic lead of Creative Destruction Lab Atlantic, hosted in Dal’s Rowe School of Business, where he not only teaches young entrepreneurs about innovation but helps them understand how research can close the gap between ideas and real-world applications. “Bench science is hugely important, and applied research is hugely important. But we can’t just assume that if we create something great, the world will find out. We have to be very deliberate about mobilizing this work in such a way that the science is validated and what comes out of that science is valued by society.”

## Healthy People, Healthy Communities, Healthy Populations

**Debbie Martin** Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Peoples Health and Well-Being

**UN Sustainable Development Goals:**  
Good Health and Well-Being

It may seem unorthodox for a health researcher to be working on a renewable energy study. But it's exactly the sort of discipline-spanning, holistic approach that Debbie Martin believes is necessary when tackling health issues faced by Indigenous communities. "The work that we do is community driven, community based and often times community led," says Dr. Martin, the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples Health and Well-Being. "The research priorities we work on are often priorities communities have identified themselves, and the methodologies we use are developed based on how communities want us to engage in the research."

It's an approach that's led to collaborations with colleagues in Dal's Faculty of Dentistry on the oral health of Southern Inuit children on Labrador's coast, and how to dive deeper into the linkages between sustainable approaches to energy development and health outcomes in those same communities.

Dr. Martin also leads the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network, which offers small seed grants and mentoring to Indigenous researchers at the undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral levels. "We're about to make transformative changes to Indigenous health research because we're building capacity. We've got support. We've got a growing number of Indigenous scholars that are contributing. That's really exciting."

## STRATEGIC THINKING

Over the course of two centuries, Dalhousie has transformed from a local centre of learning to an institution with global impact. Key to that transformation has been a focus on research and innovation.

"The world-class researchers that call this university home have made—and are continuing to make—significant contributions that are not only impacting our province, but our country and the world," says Alice Aiken, vice-president of research and innovation.

The Research Strategic Direction, titled *Impact Together*, is focused on ensuring Dal remains and enhances its status as a hub of world-leading research and innovation in Atlantic Canada. It will serve as a guide for the allocation of research and innovation resources in the years ahead, and ensure that Dal's research activities have an even stronger influence on the local, regional and global landscape.

The plan's five-year vision will come to life through the work of the university's researchers and staff, guided by four pillars: working together to propel research and innovation excellence; advancing an integrated research culture; partnering with the world's best and expanding relationships locally, regionally and internationally; and finally, leveraging research to drive social, culture and economic development.

"The goals that have come from the development of our strategic direction are ambitious. Dalhousie researchers are up to the challenge and excited to be changing the world," says Dr. Aiken.

Review the full plan at  
[dal.ca/research](http://dal.ca/research)



**Debbie Martin, Canada  
Research Chair,  
Indigenous Peoples Health  
and Well-Being**



ABOVE Faculty of Engineering, Sexton Campus. LEFT Studley Campus viewed from Henry Hicks Arts & Administration Building. RIGHT Cumming Hall, Agriculture Campus, Truro.

SEXTON, NICK PEARCE; STUDLEY, SKYLINE STUDIOS



# N E X T

Across Dal's campuses, we're looking forward to our third century. By Stefanie Wilson

W

hether it was through proclamation or conversation, artistic creation or a shift in perspective, many of Dal's 200th anniversary events were really just the beginning of things to come, contributing to a richer experience and introducing a new way of seeing and doing things. The year began, for example, with the Faculty of Computer Science announcing that it was going to **CLOSE THE GENDER GAP** in its undergraduate population. This ambitious goal has changed the classroom landscape—the number of first-year students who identify as female is up 144 per cent versus 2016.

Other endeavours with lasting impact were wide-ranging. The university officially proclaimed the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent at Dalhousie, a pledge to **RECOGNIZE THE DIVERSE HERITAGE AND CONTRIBUTIONS** of, promote respect for and strengthen the agency of all people of African descent at Dalhousie. At convocation in 2018, graduates received a stunning keepsake visual history book that begins with a full reproduction of former Canadian parliamentary poet laureate George Elliott Clarke's adventurous take on Dal's first 200 years in verse. They also left the ceremony humming a new tune. The

new convocation anthem, composed by alum Paul St-Amand after a competition process that reviewed over 20 submissions from across the country, will be enjoyed by audiences for many years to come.

And there were many **MOMENTS OF INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY**. For example, when the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education came to Dalhousie for their 2018 conference, the speakers commemorated the 200th anniversary by donating their fees to contribute to the Association of Black Social Workers' Ngena Bernard Transition Year Program Bursary. The bursary will help African Canadian graduates of the College of Continuing Education's Transition-Year Program who are single mothers go on to pursue a social work degree at Dalhousie University.

So many of us were inspired (live or through livestream) by the year's **BELONG FORUMS**, which brought internationally respected thinkers to campus to respond to the question, "What would it take for us to create a community where we all felt like we truly belong?" It's a conversation that's far from over: one of the final forums was actually just a beginning. When iconic African-American activist and scholar Angela Davis gave her address, it was as the first speaker of the Viola Desmond Legacy Lecture series that will ensure this important discussion continues into the future.

Speakers for upcoming **LEGACY LECTURES** will be decided upon by a committee of leaders who represent student, employee and community perspectives. And though the speakers will change, the format will follow that of the popular Belong Forums: free public lectures centred around the theme of creating belonging, that are followed by a workshop for Dalhousie students, faculty and staff.

"Each one of these speakers has inspired us in some way to think differently about belonging," says Catherine Bagnell Styles, assistant vice-president of Communications and Marketing and chair of the 200th Anniversary. "The learning, and hopefully understanding, that begins from hearing someone else's perspective, it's so rich. We've started important conversations so if we can continue them and keep the space open for them, that's a great legacy."

In addition to making space for conversations, Dalhousie's 200th celebrations included

"WE'RE LOOKING  
TO THE **FUTURE**  
BUT RECOGNIZING  
THE PAST."

Nathan Rogers, assistant  
director of capital planning with  
Facilities Management

## “WE’VE STARTED IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS.”

Catherine Bagnell Styles,  
assistant vice-president of  
Communications and Marketing and  
chair of the 200th Anniversary

the openings of many new and revitalized physical spaces on our campuses, both in Truro and Halifax. These new buildings and facilities will take us into our third century by transforming the way we learn and engage on campus.

**THE IDEA PROJECT**, which has transformed Dal’s downtown Sexton Campus, sets a new standard for engineering, architecture and planning education. In September, students were welcomed with two new buildings in addition to renovated spaces. The Emera IDEA Building houses workshops and prototyping labs for the Faculty of Engineering and innovation studios focusing on hardware-based entrepreneurship. The Richard Murray Design Building includes a 450-seat auditorium, a design commons featuring bookable meeting rooms, and studio space for the Faculty of Architecture and Planning.

The Studley Campus’s **DALPLEX** was given a multipurpose expansion that was planned by listening to the improvements required by our athletes, students and members. The bright and welcoming 57,000-foot fitness centre includes one of the largest cardio and strength-training rooms in Halifax. On our Agricultural Campus, a **STUDENT LEARNING COMMONS** has created flexible study space on the top floor of the MacRae Library. And on the Carleton Campus, the Dentistry Building hosted a grand re-opening of the **DR. WILLIAM MURPHY DENTAL CLINIC** during homecoming. In addition to these new spaces, there were facility upgrades, renovations to classrooms and, thanks to student, employee and alumni volunteers, 200 trees planted across our Halifax campuses.

But that’s not all—a few projects are still in the works. Patrons and performers alike are looking forward to the curtain rising on the much-anticipated expansion to the **DALHOUSIE ARTS CENTRE**, which just got a \$10 million funding boost from the Province of Nova Scotia. And the vision for the **BICENTENNIAL COMMON**, which will re-envision the Killam Loop, has just recently been shared with the community.

Nathan Rogers, assistant director of capital planning with Facilities Management, says the Bicentennial Common project is designed around three main themes: place (recognizing the past, present and future), culture (ensuring all Dal people, who come from over 120 countries of origin, feel comfortable) and the natural environment (how do we show sustainability?).

After 25 stakeholder meetings, an online survey of the Dal community and eight pop-up sessions, they’re ready to start making a physical change to the space but Rogers says it won’t ever really be complete.

“In facilities we’re planning the space and will make a physical change to the space that will make it a place where people want to be for a variety of reasons, but it’s going to be the community that’s going to take it and make it theirs. It’s got to be flexible so people feel comfortable interacting with the space and it will change with how it’s used.”

The lasting impact of the project also extends beyond the physical transformation. For one group of students in particular, the experience has had a ripple effect. “We did a design input session with a busload of 48 students from the Faculty of Agriculture Landscape Architecture program,” Rogers explains. “That piece is really important because we were able to tie it to academia. The students have assignments related to the project. And they’re using their experience on this project to apply for scholarships and such.” Rogers adds that the process for the Bicentennial Common will also change the way the university undertakes big projects.

“The level of engagement on this is unprecedented compared to other projects. We’re setting the bar high, which will create a lasting impact on capital planning for major new infrastructure,” says Rogers. “We’re looking to the future but recognizing the past—and making sure that everyone has a place where they feel they belong on this campus.”

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# Dalhousie Alumni



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“There is a whole community of people who want me to succeed.”

## PHILANTHROPY

# Staying focused

Carly Vande Weghe found herself in urgent financial need. But an On Track Microbursary ensured she didn't lose sight of her dream. By Fallon Bourgeois

**W**hen Carly Vande Weghe received an On Track Microbursary during a trying time last fall, it provided much more than financial assistance. It gave her the reassurance that she wasn't on her journey alone. And that was all she needed to dig deep and forge ahead.

Hailing from Dresden, Ontario (a small town of 2,000 people), Vande Weghe had spent nearly eight years in Toronto before she decided to stop putting off the dream she'd had for years: to study law. “I worked as a law clerk, but I've known for a long time that I wanted to go to law school,” she says.

To get there, she'd first need to complete an undergraduate degree. A trip to Halifax to visit a friend last year affirmed it was time to act. “I fell in love with the city and the East Coast and could see myself living and studying here.” She began her studies in September and quickly fell for Dal the same way she did Halifax.

Yet despite all the positives, leaving a full-time job and adjusting to life as a student came with its challenges. “I was looking for a part-time job while trying to adapt to a lot of changes, including being away from my support system. Then unforeseen costs arose, and it suddenly felt like too much,” explains Vande Weghe. “I contemplated reducing the number of courses I was taking, and I also considered switching to classes that were less expensive rather than the ones that would be valuable for pursuing law.”

### MEETING THE NEED

Luckily, Vande Weghe had been meeting regularly with Terra Bruhm, a student success advisor in the Bissett Student Success Centre, who recognized that she was making decisions based on financial stress that could impact her academic goals. Bruhm encouraged her to submit an application for a bursary.

Last spring, the On Track Microbursary program was created for this exact reason: to ensure students have the support they need to be

successful. It was a cause that resonated with many people—alumni, faculty, staff and existing Dal donors—who collectively gave \$165,000 to launch the On Track Microbursary fund. It means that first- and second-year students in urgent financial need can receive up to \$500 each term.

### PART OF THE CONVERSATION

While Vande Weghe's story is her own, it's not unique. Each year hundreds of students find themselves in similar situations. In fact, as of December 2018, more than \$85,000 was awarded to students, highlighting the immense need.

“The On Track Microbursary has opened our eyes to the financial issues our students face,” says Heather Doyle, senior advisor on retention and director student academic success. “Often times the focus is stu-





dents' academic and personal needs, which are extremely important, but advisors weren't talking about finances. The financial aspect has become part of our conversation to ensure students have the proper resources in place to help them be successful academically."

And Doyle feels that above all the initiative offers a sense of institutional support to students, which as Vande Weghe can attest, is invaluable to their success.

"Receiving the bursary affirmed that I made the right choice in coming to Dalhousie. It made me feel like I'm not on my own and there is a whole community of people who want me to succeed, especially Terra and everyone who generously gave to the bursary fund."

**TOP** First-year student Carly Vande Weghe with Terra Bruhm, advisor in the Bissett Student Success Centre LEFT Vande Weghe shared her story with donors and friends at the Donor Recognition Event in November 2018



#### BY THE NUMBERS

The On Track Microbursary fund provides up to \$500 (per term) emergency funding to Dal students.

**\$85,650**

Amount awarded in the fall term—58 per cent of the total raised

**176**

Number of students supported in the fall term

**3**

Top funding needs: living expenses, academic resources, health and wellness

To support the On Track Microbursary fund, visit: [giving.dal.ca/otmb](http://giving.dal.ca/otmb)

“We support anything that helps global understanding.”

## DONOR PROFILE

# Global connections

Motivated by careers spent mentoring graduate students, Timothy Shaw and Jane Parpart fund a new graduate scholarship. By Fallon Bourgeois

Timothy Shaw and Jane Parpart have led storied careers. Globally recognized scholars, researchers and administrators, they’ve dedicated their lives and professions to international development with an eye to Africa. But it’s their decades of mentorship that stands as their greatest accomplishment. The couple has created and nurtured a dynamic international network of scholars, policy makers and administrators who are making a difference in areas ranging from the United Nations to leading world-renowned educational institutions.

And now their legacy of support will continue through the Timothy Shaw & Jane Parpart Scholarship in Political Science, earmarked for master’s or PhD students in political science and/or international development studies. The scholarship will provide financial support to one or more students annually. “We’re delighted to create this scholarship given all the benefits we’ve received from this network over the last several decades,” says Dr. Shaw, who spent nearly 30 years at Dal as director of the Pearson Institute, the International Development Studies Program, the Centre for African Studies and the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies. “We hope to inspire the next generation of socially conscious, politically informed and globally aware researchers at Dalhousie.”

Like Dr. Shaw, Dr. Parpart also spent much of her career at Dal, first in the Department of History and eventually as the Lester B. Pearson Chair in International Development Studies. She was also a key player in the development of the Gender and Women’s Studies program. She knows first-hand the value of providing financial support to graduate students, many of whom are new to Canada. “A lot of these scholars tend to be mature students who have their own families. It’s been very important for us to help them get established. In turn, many of them are continuing the same tradition of giving back because they recall the good experiences they had and want to do the same for others,” says Dr. Parpart. “I hope our legacy and commitment to international perspectives on life and work will continue to be a good model.”

## CONNECTION TO AFRICA

Drs. Shaw and Parpart’s connection to Africa began during their own graduate school days (although the two wouldn’t meet until nearly 20 years later.) For Dr. Shaw it was the three years studying for his master’s degree in Uganda in the late 1960s. “Africa got into my blood and has never left.” And for Dr. Parpart, it was the reputation of Boston University’s African Studies Center that piqued her interest and subsequent

“IT IS CRUCIAL TO HAVE AFRICAN AND OTHER ‘GLOBAL SOUTH’ STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM.”

David Black, chair, Political Science

“fascination with the continent.” Thus began fascinating careers that have spanned five decades and the world.

In addition to their professorships at Dal, Dr. Shaw directed the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and the Institute of International Relations at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago, and Dr. Parpart was a visiting professor at the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies, to name just a few of their accomplishments.

In Dr. Parpart’s words, they like to “stay involved and engaged,” though that may be putting it lightly. They continue to make a global impact through visiting professorships, research and writing, and each currently serves on more than a dozen PhD advisory committees. Both currently hold professorships (visiting and adjunct) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Carleton University and University of Ottawa.



#### BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

While Drs. Shaw and Parpart have an impressive list of accomplishments and accolades, they are humble and quick to bring the conversation back to the PhD students they've mentored, one of whom is the current chair in the Department of Political Science, David Black (MA'86, PhD'92). "I can't overestimate Tim and Jane's generosity and their ability to bring people together," says Dr. Black, who credits Drs. Shaw and Parpart for attracting him to the Centre for African Studies.

"One of the most important roles in mentoring young African students, and other students interested in Africa, is providing them with adequate support. It can be challenging to recruit and fund these students to come to Dal, but there is a huge benefit in doing so. It's crucial to have African and other 'global South' students in the program to enable a rich and diverse collective learning environment," remarks Dr. Black.

#### "THE ONLY WAY FORWARD"

For Drs. Shaw and Parpart the influence of creating an international environment goes far beyond the scholars and the university. "We believe this is a global world. We support anything that helps global understanding and a commitment to a global perspective—we think it's the only way forward," says Dr. Parpart. "We hope that this scholarship will facilitate that."



**TOP** Donors Jane Parpart and Timothy Shaw **RIGHT** David Black, current chair in the Department of Political Science

“It’s difficult to witness the scale of suffering that happens.”

## SPOTLIGHT

# Wild words

National Geographic writer Natasha Daly (BA’07) focuses on shedding light on mistreatment of animals

**O**n a recent trip to Thailand to cover a story on wildlife tourism, *National Geographic* writer and editor Natasha Daly (BA’07) encountered animals in situations that she says brought her to her knees. “I knew I would see upsetting things and people engaging in harmful animal behaviour, but I wasn’t prepared for what I did see,” says Daly, who had to stay mum on many details as the story won’t be published until spring 2019.

Animal welfare is not an easy subject to cover. “It’s difficult to witness the scale of suffering that happens, but that’s what motivates me to share these stories and help create awareness,” says Daly, who has been with *National Geographic* since 2015. The iconic magazine has 49 million print and digital readers in 37 languages and boasts the top media brand on Instagram with over 90 million followers, providing Daly with a far-reaching opportunity to educate readers and followers about animal welfare.

“There is always a responsibility to share stories fairly, accurately and completely. With such a massive audience, I feel it’s heightened. If I can play a part in bringing to life the many sad, misunderstood animal stories all over the world, I can go home every day proud of my work.”

Daly was named Reporter of the Year by the Humane Society of the United States in April 2018, recognized for her investigative reporting on animal tourism in the Amazon rainforest, specifically Brazil, Colombia and Peru. (The same topic drew her to Thailand in 2018.) Her work revealed animal suffering fueled by ‘selfie safaris.’

“I encountered sick animals who had been snatched from the jungle and held in captivity for tourists to take selfies with. When the story published I had a lot of feedback from people who hadn’t realized that these photo opps were harmful to animals,” she says. “These stories are important because they are issues that people can relate to, and in turn, hopefully it forces them to confront their own behaviour. To me, that’s what it’s all about.”

A native of Toronto, Daly revered *National Geographic* writers and



**TOP** Natasha Daly on assignment in northeast Thailand in June 2018, researching a story on wildlife tourism  
**RIGHT** Daly visited Iceland in 2015



photographers growing up, but she never considered the prospect of working there for a very practical reason: “When the magazines you grow up reading aren’t in your country, it doesn’t seem like a very attainable goal.” But it became a more realistic goal when Daly and her Virginia-born husband Kyle Daly (whom she met while both were teaching in Korea in 2007) moved to Washington.

With a lifelong passion for writing, Daly credits her studies at Dal with helping to hone her skills and develop as a writer. “History and English involved a ton of writing; focusing on subject matter I enjoyed made me fall more in love with the craft. Although I didn’t know upon graduation where my writing would take me, looking back, that experience set me up for what I hope to do for the rest of my life.

“If my stories have a legacy I hope that they’ve made people learn something they didn’t even know was an issue, and ultimately, help create positive change for animals.” —Fallon Bourgeois

“I always believe that if you put something out with beauty and with love, that it will come back to you in that way.”

## SPOTLIGHT

# Vocal hero

Polaris Prize-winning musician Jeremy Dutcher (BA'12) celebrates his Indigenous vocal history while adding a contemporary spin

The first voice you hear on Jeremy Dutcher's (BA'12) remarkable album *Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa* is his own, a rich and powerful tenor singing in his native Wolastoqey language over a solitary piano.

But by the time the opening track (titled “Mehcinut”) reaches its massive orchestral peak, another crackling voice begins to sing its refrain. It's a recording of the voice of a Wolastoqiyik man named Jim Paul, collected over 110 years ago by anthropologist William H. Mechling and stored on wax cylinder in the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec for decades.

“It's some of the earliest sound-capturing technology, used to collect the songs of my ancestors,” says Dutcher, a member of the Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick who now resides in Toronto.

It was one of his community's elders, Maggie Paul, who tipped him off about the collection when he was pursuing research as part of his dual BA in Music and Social Anthropology from Dalhousie. He struggles to find words for how powerful it was to hear the recordings for the first time, saying the experience made him feel “almost outside the realm of time.” And it inspired the project that's making Dutcher a very big deal in the music world.

Released in April 2018, *Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa* is an album sung entirely in Wolastoqey, the language of the Wolastoqiyik, whose traditional lands lay alongside the Saint John River in New Brunswick. The language is endangered; there may be fewer than 100 fluent speakers still alive. But though the words of Dutcher's songs may be inscrutable to most listeners, his music's power transcends language. Each of the album's 11 songs is based on one of the traditional melodies found in Mechling's recordings. Dutcher incorporates those recordings as samples, but explodes them, orchestrally, in thrilling new directions.

The album has been featured in outlets such as *Billboard*, *NPR* and the *New York Times*, has earned Juno and East Coast Music Award nominations, and in September 2018 won what is perhaps Canada's



**RIGHT** The album cover for Dutcher's *Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa* was inspired by a 1916 photograph of an ethnographer recording native song to wax cylinder. The cover art includes Cree visual artist Kent Monkman's painting “Teaching The Lost” as a backdrop and features a jacket by Wolastoq designer Stephanie Labillios



most prestigious music award: the critic-voted Polaris Music Prize.

“The reception [to the record] has been really beautiful, to be honest; lots of people reaching out from home and giving their congratulations,” says Dutcher. “I always believe that if you put something out with beauty and with love, that it will come back to you in that way. That's sort of what this experience has shown me.” —Ryan McNutt

“Everywhere we go, there are differences in reaction to the piece.”

## SPOTLIGHT

# Stock players

Theatre director Christian Barry (BA'01) brings Halifax production to New York

**O**n a sunny day in late March, Christian Barry (BA'01) and Hannah Moscovitch take a break in a cozy Brooklyn cafe called Sit & Wonder.

The pair, who are married, haven't had a whole lot of time to sit and wonder lately. Their play, *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*—written by Barry, Moscovitch and klezmer musician Ben Caplan, and directed by Barry—is just over a week into an off-Broadway engagement at the midtown 59E59 theatre, with *The New York Times* naming it a critic's pick, and *The New Yorker* calling it “darkly funny and moving.” And a Toronto company has just opened a new production of the 2016 play, *What a Young Wife Ought to Know*, written by Moscovitch and directed by Barry.

Barry, who studied acting at Dalhousie, is artistic co-director of Halifax-based 2b theatre company. The company's previous experience in New York was limited to two brief showcase runs. *Old Stock* is different. “New York City is New York City. It's the big leagues of English-speaking theatre, and it's exciting. It does definitely put 2b on the world stage,” he says.

Barry describes *Old Stock* as “a music-theatre hybrid between a Ben Caplan concert and a 2b theatre company play that tells the true story of two Romanian Jewish refugees [Moscovitch's great-grandparents] coming to Canada in 1908.” It premiered in Halifax in May 2017, then played Ottawa and Edinburgh before coming to New York. “The show seeks to expose what we feel to be the universal experiences of refugees: people fleeing a war-torn country, looking for a safe place to call home, fall in love, and raise a family,” says Barry. “But it feels like everywhere we go, there are subtle differences in the reaction to the piece—probably more related to the context where we're presenting it than the show itself.”

He says reaction in Ottawa was “deeply emotional” while “in Edinburgh it was more like a party, with people having a few pints while they were watching it.” In New York, “responses feel a little more charged.



By and large it has been positive, but we have had the odd person stomp out.” The audience had a bit more of a Canadian flavour on April 7, when the theatre hosted Nova Scotia in New York night, with a kitchen party following the play. The Dalhousie Alumni Association was there too, with a couple of dozen ex-pat grads attending.

Barry is thrilled with the New York response to the play, not only for his company, but because it may open doors for more Canadian productions. “I think 59E59 are quite seriously looking at a Canadian festival. That's a direct result of the success of this show. They've gone, oh, there's high-quality theatre right there, really close to us.” —Philip Moscovitch (Editor's note: no relation to Hannah)

**ABOVE** Christian Barry (BA'01) **RIGHT** The cast of *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*. From left to right: Jamie Kronick, May Fay Coady, Ben Caplan, Chris Weatherstone and Graham Scott



ALEJANDROSANTIAGO: JAMIE KRONICK

“I love problem solving and helping people.”

## SPOTLIGHT

# Tax included

Christie Henderson (BA'93) credits the writing skills she developed at Dal with her success in penning a popular Canadian tax guide

Christie Henderson (BA'93) went to the same private all-girls school in Oakville, Ont. from kindergarten through Grade 13. So when it came time to choose a university, she high-tailed it for the East Coast. “I couldn’t wait to be done,” she says now, with a laugh.

In fact, Henderson was the first student from St. Mildred’s–Lightbourn School to opt for Dalhousie University instead of more predictable Ontario institutions. “I was looking for an adventure and to do something new,” she says from her home in Oakville. “Subsequently, there have been tons and tons of kids who go (to Dalhousie) now, which is great.”

Henderson has gone on to have a successful career in finance, a route that was also not a straight path. Since 1998, she has been a partner with Henderson Partners LLP, a firm her father founded, and managing partner since 2005. The boutique accountancy firm in Oakville specializes in tax and wealth management as well as estate and trust planning. She’s been deemed a top female entrepreneur by RBC and others, sits on various national and regional boards, is often called on by media as an expert on tax and personal finances, and is author of the best-selling guide *Taxes for Canadians for Dummies*.

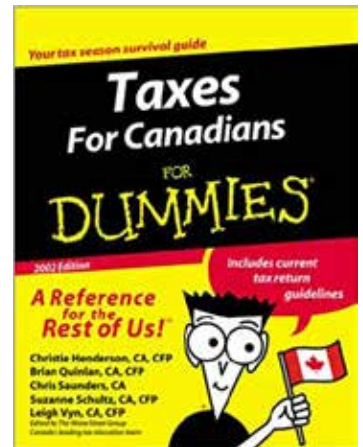
And she graduated from Dalhousie with what? Henderson admits her Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in History and Economics did not necessarily point to a career as an accountant. But a post-university job with the accounting firm Ernst & Young proved a pivot point. She had been accepted into law school at University of New Brunswick and was all set to become a lawyer. But one day someone at the firm sat her down and convinced her to ditch law and instead enter the world of chartered accountancy.

She hasn’t looked back since.

“I love problem solving and helping people,” she says. “I think of the law and chartered accountancy as a tool set and I think I could have done it with either tool set.” Henderson, who achieved her chartered



Christie Henderson (BA'93) is one of the authors of *Taxes for Canadians for Dummies*



accountancy designation while at Ernst & Young, credits her BA from Dalhousie as being a great launching pad for her career. Her writing and presentation skills, for example, set her apart from other young associates at the large firm and led to her book deal and other opportunities.

Henderson’s relationship with Dalhousie has come full circle: in September, the eldest of her three sons, Charlie Biggar, started the commerce program at Dalhousie. “I’m so thrilled about that,” she says. —Pat Lee

## ALUMNI EVENTS

# Sharing and giving

Alumni gather to give, to reflect and to celebrate



**T**hough we've officially begun our third century, there were a number of noteworthy celebrations in late 2018.

The Faculty of Agriculture held its annual Blue & Gold Awards on November 1, recognizing three alumni who have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to Dal, their communities and beyond. The event is one that many in the AC community look forward to each year as it also serves as an opportunity for Dal donors to meet many of the students they support through scholarships, bursaries and awards.

On November 3, over 1,200 people from Dal's medical community—alumni, students, residents, faculty, staff, donors and friends—attended the Medicine 150th Gala. To top off the grand finale of the milestone year, the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association presented its 100K Cup to the class of 1970 who raised \$100,000 in support of the medical school. And for the first time ever, the 200K Cup was awarded to the class of 1983 to acknowledge their generous \$200,000 gift in what Dr. David Anderson (MD'83), dean of the Faculty of Medicine, expressed as “continuous efforts to give back to your communities.”

**TOP** The 200th Wrap Party in December featured a time capsule filled with contributed items, and scheduled to be opened in 2068 **ABOVE LEFT** Honorees at the Agriculture Blue & Gold Awards night: (L-R) Chair, Agricultural Campus Alumni Association Colette Wyllie ('10), Distinguished Alumnus John Tait ('66), Young Alumni Achievement Christopher Oram ('11), Alumni Volunteer of the Year Rayanne Frizzell ('03) and Campus Principal Dr. David Gray **ABOVE RIGHT** Members of Dal Medicine Class of 1983 accepting the 200k Cup

In December alumni joined 200 international students for the 4th annual International Student Holiday Dinner, an event funded by alumni around the globe. “Having so many countries of origin in one place to break bread and celebrate a season of peace and goodwill restores faith in the oneness of the human family,” said Cynthia Pilichos (BED'75), a volunteer with the Women's Division who attended the dinner.

The final event of the 200th was a particularly special celebration—bringing together faculty, staff and students, along with alumni from several decades. The 200th Wrap Party featured the unveiling of a time capsule, and Halifax's choir group The Big Sing leading a singalong of Fleetwood Mac's future-focused anthem *Don't Stop*. The event also gave

those in attendance the opportunity at a first glimpse at the vision for the Bicentennial Common—a proposed redesign of the Studley Quad to create an exciting public space, leaving a Dal 200 legacy and home to the time capsule and all the great items that were contributed during the event. The capsule will be opened in 2068 to celebrate the 250th anniversary.

**RIGHT** Dr. Ivan Joseph, vice-provost Student Affairs, welcomes guests to the fourth annual International Student Dinner **BELOW LEFT** Dalhousians join in a 200th wrap 'Big Sing' **BELOW RIGHT** Alumni represent their respective decades at the 200th Wrap Party



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## CLASS NOTES

### 1950s

'57

**PETER FILLMORE**, BSc (Honours Mathematics) and Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, has been named a Fellow of the Canadian Mathematical Society. This award recognizes significant contributions to mathematics in Canada.

### 1970s

'76

**THERESA (WAKEHAM) MCDONALD**, BA, JD'80, was appointed to the Provincial Court of Manitoba in October 2018. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1998, inducted into the Bertha

Wilson Honour Society in 2012 (Schulich School of Law), in 2015 received the Equality Award of the Manitoba Bar Association and in 2017 the Isabel Hunt Award, also from the Manitoba Bar Association. In 2017 she was the recipient of the Cecilia Johnstone Award of the Canadian Bar Association in Calgary, Alberta. Theresa and her husband, the Honourable Judge Malcolm McDonald, have two sons, Donald and Graham.

### 1990s

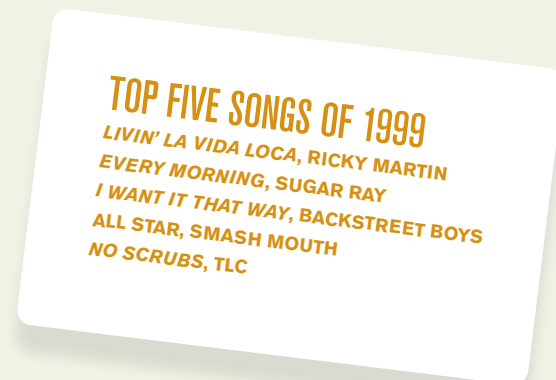
'97

**MEHNAAZ MOMEN**, MPA, has published a book *Political Satire, Postmodern Reality, and the Trump Presidency: Who Are We Laughing At?* The book attempts to grasp

the recent paradigm shift in American politics through the lens of satire.

'99

**FATEN ALSHAZLY**, BSc, Halifax-based entrepreneur, mentor and CCO of WeUsThem has been named, for a second time, among Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women, this year as a Trendsetter and a Trailblazer. In addition, Faten was also named the Female Executive of the Year in Canada by the Stevie Awards celebrating women internationally. Faten dedicates her free time to mentoring, teaching and growing the community. She volunteers as a mentor for students—specifically for Women in STEM and for professionals looking to make their mark in executive positions. Faten was invited by local universities, the Chamber of Commerce and



other organizations along with the President of Egypt to address the World Youth Forum, attended by 6,000 delegates from over 45 countries to speak on Women in Leadership circles.

'99

**SASCHA HOOKER**, PhD, and **LUKE RENDELL**, PhD'04, are both on faculty at the University of St. Andrews and study marine mammals. At a recent convocation ceremony at St. Andrews, Dr. Rendell was there to support the MSc cohort and Dr. Hooker was there to be invested in a highly prestigious professorship. Both donned Dalhousie robes of black and gold.

English (Creative Writing Program), a former Halifax poet laureate (2009-2011) and recent nominee for a 2018 Governor General's Literary Award. An exploration of faith, family and forgiveness, *The Bridge* is set in a rural Black Nova Scotian community and explores the complexities of a relationship between two brothers strained over 20 years of secrecy, sin and shame. Secrets are revealed one by one from the brothers themselves, as well as a trio of community gossips who provide the musical backdrop for this gospel-infused tale.

### 2000's

'02

**SHAUNTAY GRANT**, BMUS, premiered her new play *The Bridge* at Neptune Theatre's Fountain Hall in January, a 2b theatre company and Neptune Theatre co-production in association with Obsidian Theatre Company. Grant is an assistant professor in Dalhousie's Department of

'04

**IAN BEZANSON**, BCSC, owner of Bits—a Halifax marketing and website development company—announces the purchase of his company Twist by Trampoline, a subsidiary of Trampoline Branding, forming a new agency. The new agency, co-branded Twist & Bits is now one of the region's largest direct-to-execution marketing partners. Ian will be on the senior management team as the director of technology.

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## IN MEMORIAM

**LORING OWEN PULSIFER**,  
BEng'45, Ancaster, Ont., on  
August 19, 2018

**LLOYD LEAMAN MARSHALL**,  
BEng'47, Unknown, on  
October 28, 2018

**DOUGLAS EVERETT  
SAWYER**, BSc'47, DipEng'47,  
BEng'49, Halifax, N.S., on  
December 5, 2018

**JOHN ERNEST MOORE  
DAWE**, BEng'49, Shelburne,  
N.S., on October 2, 2018

**GERALD LEMONT WEST**,  
BSc'50, DipEng'50, Largo,  
Fla., on October 8, 2018

**DONALD CARLYLE PUGSLEY**,  
BEng'50, Halifax, N.S., on  
November 20, 2018

**ANTHONY VINCENT GINLEY**,  
BComm'50, Amherst, N.S., on  
November 24, 2018

**HIEMIE SIMON SAMUELS**,  
BSc'51, MD'55, Gainesville,  
Fla., on October 25, 2018

**NEIL DOUGLAS REID**, MD'51,  
Belleville, Ont., on November  
7, 2018

**JACQUELINE (DENHAM)  
DALE**, BSc'52, Dartmouth,  
N.S., on October 8, 2018

**RODERICK ANGUS MACRAE**,  
BEng'52, Baddeck, N.S., on  
October 11, 2018

**BILL MURDOCH CHISHOLM**,  
MD'52, Calgary, Alta., on  
October 26, 2018

**LORNE ALLISTER PUTNAM**,  
DDIP'53, Unknown, on  
October 11, 2018

**YVONNE MAXINE (VAN  
BUSKIRK) WRIGHT**, BSc'53,  
Marlborough, Conn., on  
November 5, 2018

**EDMUND RUSSELL HAINES**,  
AGSY'53, Pennfield, N.B., on  
November 24, 2018

**DAVID EVERETT MACLEOD**,  
MD'54, West Porters Lake,  
N.S., on November 15, 2018

**JULES JEAN CHARLES PICOT**,  
BEng'55, Fredericton, N.B., on  
September 10, 2018

**JAMES MALCOLM JOHN  
RIPLEY**, DDIP'55, Truro, N.S.,  
on October 1, 2018

**GORDON HENRY GOOD**,  
BEng'55, Toronto, Ont., on  
October 30, 2018

**WILMA RUTH (WOOD)  
MACLEAN**, BA'56, Toronto,  
Ont., on November 12, 2018

**JOHN GRAHAM MCCLEAVE**,  
BSc'58, MD'63, Fredericton,  
N.B., on October 6, 2018

**LOUIS ANSLEM LEBLANC**,  
BEng'58, Dartmouth, N.S., on  
November 25, 2018

**DAVID OLDING HEBB**,  
BEng'63, Dartmouth, N.S., on  
September 30, 2018

**JAMES EDWARD COCHRAN**,  
BComm'63, BEd'65, Halifax,  
N.S., on October 13, 2018

**MARLENE MACMILLAN**,  
DDIP'63, St Andrews, N.S.,  
on October 19, 2018

**MURRAY CECIL STEELE**,  
BEng'64, Burlington, Ont., on  
August 20, 2018

**ROLAND WILBUR MAJOR**,  
BEng'65, Brossard, Que., on  
October 14, 2018



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**ANTON ORLIC**, BEng'65, MEng'69, Halifax, N.S., on October 26, 2018

**DAVID GERARD MACNEIL**, BEng'65, MEng'67, N.B., on November 29, 2018

**TIN-YU SIN**, BEng'65, Dartmouth, N.S., on December 5, 2018

**GWENDLYNE LOUISE TERRISS**, DDS'67, St Albert, Alta., on October 2, 2018

**HENRY PETER BARKHOUSE**, DDIP'67, Oxford Junction, N.S., on October 12, 2018

**DAVID ALBERT LEY**, MD'67, Montreal, Que., on October 18, 2018

**ELIZABETH ANN REID**, DTSN'67, River John, N.S., on November 24, 2018

**ALICE CECELIA (LETHBRIDGE) ROBBINS**, DPH'68, BN'70, Lockeport, N.S., on October 13, 2018

**WILFRED LLOYD ALLAN CUDE**, MA'68, West Bay, N.S., on October 23, 2018

**JAMES PAUL LORDON**, LLB'69, Ottawa, Ont., on August 28, 2018

**DOUGLAS EDWARD MACLEOD**, MA'69, Unknown, on September 24, 2018

**PAUL FREDERICK MASON**, BEd'69, Fall River, N.S., on November 3, 2018

**ROBERT JAMES HAMILTON**, LLB'70, Meaford, Ont., on August 29, 2018

**ANDREW CLARKE SMITH**, BPE'70, Kennetcook, N.S., on October 3, 2018

**GEORGIA (CARLSON) HENDERSON**, MA'70, Unknown, on October 5, 2018

**SAMUEL CHARLES FACEY**, LLB'70, Westville, N.S., on November 21, 2018

**MICHAEL ANTHONY SANAGAN**, BA'71, Fort McPherson, N.W.T., on October 28, 2018

**LLOYD JOHN BEVERLY**, MBA'71, Toronto, Ont., on November 19, 2018

**CHRISTOPHER KEITH PARKER**, BA'73, LLB'77, Greenwood, N.S., on November 13, 2018

**CORDELIA MORRISON DUNN**, BA'73, BEd'74, Halifax, N.S., on October 29, 2018

**CATHY A. WOODROFFE**, TECH'74, Middleborough, Great Britain, on March 13, 2018

**NORMA JEAN MURPHY**, BN'75, Unknown, on August 21, 2018

**MARY AILEEN (WHITE) GODUTO**, BN'75, Sydney, N.S., on October 20, 2018

**MICHAEL IRWIN STOBER**, LLB'78, Montreal, Que., on August 24, 2018

**JOHN MICHAEL SEARY**, PGM'78, St. John's, N.L., on August 26, 2018

**DOROTHY JEAN (CARROLL) ANDREWS**, BA'78, BEd'79, Halifax, N.S., on October 22, 2018

**JOHN RUSSELL LEVANGIE**, MPA'79, Prospect Bay, N.S., on October 27, 2018

**LORRAINE RUTH TEDFORD**, TECH'84, Truro, N.S., on October 1, 2018

**LINDA GRACE HARPER**, BN'86, Ottawa, Ont., on July 20, 2018

**NADENE IVIS (PRINCE) MACAULAY**, MSW'87, Timberlea, N.S., on December 1, 2018

**PAUL CARSON CLEMENTS**, BComm'93, Calgary, Alta., on September 27, 2018

**TERRI A SABATTIS**, BSW'94, MSW'96, Oromocto, N.B., on November 25, 2018

**RACHEL L CURRIE**, MSc'98, St Andrews, N.S., on December 1, 2018

**DARRYL SHAWN MACPHERSON**, BA'00, BAHCN'03, MA'06, Dartmouth, N.S., on November 11, 2018

**JENNIFER-LYNN PECK LAHEY**, BA'07, Bedford, N.S., on October 8, 2018

**LUCAS JOHN PARAFIANOWICZ**, MBA'09, MEng'09, Kingston, Ont., on November 20, 2018

**OWEN HUGH THOMAS**, LLB'10, Bridgewater, N.S., on November 1, 2018

**MIKE SURETTE**, BEng'12, Lower Sackville, N.S., on October 31, 2018

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# FACT CHECKER

Timothy Caulfield (LLM'93) advocates for facts and science in a post-truth world

What's the strangest thing Timothy Caulfield (LLM'93) has done in the name of science? "It was probably that time I ate a snake gallbladder," he laughs.

Caulfield is fascinated by the intersection of health and celebrity culture—specifically, the power of celebrities to influence health decisions about alternative therapies. But rather than study this trend from a distance, Caulfield takes a first-hand approach: he tries these diets and therapies himself, and talks to those who feel the approaches work for them.

It's a tactic Caulfield, the Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy and faculty member at the University of Alberta, used in his 2015 book *Is Gwyneth Paltrow Wrong About Everything? When Celebrity Culture and Science Clash*. Caulfield continues his exploration in a new documentary series just released on Netflix. *A User's Guide to Cheating Death* casts light on controversial health practices that promise health benefits, everything from cryotherapy to something called "nappercise" (which is exactly what it sounds like—napping).

"Gwyneth Paltrow or Tom Brady can say whatever they want without any scientific evidence to back it up—and they say it with absolute conviction. It convinces people that what they're saying is true. They make these definitive statements about nonsense," he says.

To combat misinformation, he says it's important for scientists to be part of the discussion, and to use the same tools, like social media. "That's not to say we fight anecdote with anecdote. We always have to strike a balance between wanting to be brief and direct, and at the same time not simplify the research. I really hope that more and more academics get involved in the public discourse around these issues," he says.

Caulfield is thrilled that Netflix has picked up his documentary series, which has already been shown in 60 countries. "I'm very proud of the show. I was worried at first that the science would be taken out of it, but the whole team has been committed to making it science based."

He says the focus on the show is not to ridicule those who trust in these wellness practices and products. "We try to show a variety of perspectives and really get an understanding of why people want to follow these treatments."

Dalhousie's Faculty of Health hosted Caulfield and Dr. Monika Dutt for a Fireside Chat during the Healthy Living, Healthy Life conference in September, 2018. Caulfield says he was happy to return to Dalhousie for the conference, as his time at Dal was one of the best in his life. "It's a fantastic university and I'm thrilled that I was able to come back to help celebrate Dalhousie's 200th." —Dawn Morrison



**Timothy Caulfield's Netflix series *A User's Guide to Cheating Death* aims to shed light on the claims of controversial health practices.**



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