



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

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## STAY CONNECTED

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## FROM THE CHAIR – 2019

### 2018/19, STRADDLING THE PASSAGE

between Dalhousie's second and third century, has been a busy year of transitions and renewals. In the midst of it all, we were able to remind ourselves of the exceptional foundation on which we continue to build and the many achievements of our graduates at the Department's "Third Century Symposium" in February (see p. 2).

We experienced a deep loss with the passing of Gil Winham at the start of the new year. Gil will be fondly remembered by many readers of this newsletter, as a former Chair and Director of the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, and an outstanding scholar, teacher, athlete, and friend. Further afield, many department members and graduates will have felt the loss of an inspirational member of the Canadian Political Science community, Alan Cairns of UBC.

On the other hand, after many years of working hard to hold our ground in terms of student and faculty numbers, we have been able to significantly renew our faculty complement with several new appointments. Last year, we were fortunate to add Leah Sarson from Queen's, who brought new specializations in global indigenous politics and feminist International Relations while reinforcing the department's longstanding strength in Canadian Foreign Policy. This year, we recruited Scott Pruyzers, a graduate of Carleton University, as an excellent addition to the department's small but mighty group of Canadianists, and (as a junior Canada Research Chair) Kiran Banerjee from the University of Toronto via Saskatchewan, who brings welcome strengths in global justice, international migration, and political theory. We are delighted to add these outstanding young scholars to our community.

In the meantime, you will see from their reports that our (relatively) old department members continue to distinguish themselves through



*David Black, Political Science Chair*

their scholarship, their leadership of academic institutes and networks, and their commitment to undergraduate and graduate teaching.

We also continue to benefit from the outstanding contributions of limited-term and part-time members, including but not limited to the stellar teaching of Marcella Firmini. And, in the long tradition of vibrant student groups, this year's editions of the Undergraduate and Graduate Political Science student societies stood out for their enthusiastic orchestration of a series of dynamic and well attended events, including the second annual Political Science gala, which rocked a rainy March night at the St. Mary's Boat Club!

In the meantime, we continue to follow with pride the diverse contributions of our graduates, in policy work, civil society, advocacy, journalism, the law and yes, even the academy. Several are featured in this newsletter, and in the report on the Third Century Symposium. The department benefits immensely from the support of our student and faculty alumni including, this year, the exceptional contribution of former Professor Tim Shaw to the training of graduate students from, or focusing on, the Global South (see p. 2). Many thanks and best wishes to you all!

# DALHOUSIE POLITICAL SCIENCE “THIRD CENTURY SYMPOSIUM”

**THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT** marked Dalhousie's 2018 200th anniversary (just a little late!) by looking back, to the department's exceptional traditions of collegiality, teaching, and scholarship, and ahead, at how these traditions can and should be adapted to meet the challenges of the next century. We were delighted to welcome back many former students who have gone on to impressive careers within and beyond the academy. They in turn welcomed the opportunity to engage with our current faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students, who were active participants in both the formal and informal portions of the program.

There were many highlights. In our opening session, we reflected on the legacies and impact of a number of the department's 'builders', leaders and mentors, including Jim Aitchison, Peter Aucoin, Murray Beck, David Braybrooke, Ken Heard, and Gil Winham. Paul Evans from UBC delivered a compelling and challenging Glyn Berry Lecture on "Living with China in an Era of Great Power Rivalry: Canadian Options" [dal.ca/news/2019/02/26/living-with-china.html?utm\\_source=dalnewsRSS&utm\\_medium=RSS&utm\\_campaign=dalnews](http://dal.ca/news/2019/02/26/living-with-china.html?utm_source=dalnewsRSS&utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=dalnews). Current and former graduate students (now at Queen's and Waterloo, respectively) reflected on issues of security and development in a variety of domains: water, natural resources, civilian protection, and the Arctic. Former undergraduates talked about their dynamic careers in civil society, the federal government, as Dal's Legal Counsel, and in municipal politics. And we were able to celebrate the launch of the Timothy Shaw and Jane Papart Scholarship for students from and/or studies of the global South.

On the Canada-focused day two, Herman Bakvis delivered a keynote reflecting on the long engagement between Political Science and Public Administration, within and beyond Dalhousie. Current and former students and faculty discussed and debated the changing focus of Canadian Constitutional Politics; Atlantic Canadian challenges and opportunities in health, higher education, social



*Dr. Paul Evans, UBC, Glyn Berry Lecture*

development, and regional economic development; and Dal's contribution to the study of Canadian international policy. Finally, a panel of outstanding current undergraduate students reflected frankly on their experiences in Political Science, and on the ways it has equipped them to deal with contemporary challenges, but also requires adaptation to meet the challenges of both curricular and 'real world' relevance.

We were delighted to be joined by former department members, including

David and Margaret Cameron, Florian Bail, and Margot Aucoin. Throughout the symposium, we were reminded of the distinctive blend of informality, openness, and rigour that has distinguished the department, and we were challenged to build on and adapt this tradition. Warm thanks to the many students who embraced the event and both participated and volunteered, as well as Tracy Powell and Mary Okwesé without whom this event (like so many others) would never have happened.

## THE TIMOTHY SHAW AND JANE PARPART SCHOLARSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

### ALUMNI OF A 'CERTAIN AGE'

will remember the energetic presence of Tim Shaw, who directed the Centre for African Studies, Pearson Centre, Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, and initiated International Development Studies (IDS) while holding down his 'day job' in Political Science over the course of his three decades at Dalhousie. Tim attracted scholars and graduate students from all over the world, but particularly Africa and elsewhere in the global South. In History and IDS, his wife and partner Jane Parpart was doing the same thing. Their former students form a globe-spanning network of Dalhousie graduates that have made important contributions



in a diverse array of countries and institutions.

Tim and Jane are still supervising PhDs from several institutions and are still active (some might say hyper-active!) scholars. But they have also now made a major contribution to



# OUR FACULTY

**DR. PETER ARTHUR** served on the department's graduate committee during the academic year. In this role, he and other members were responsible for the admission of graduate students to the department. He also served on various Faculty committees (Research Ethics Board, and Student Matters Committee) during the academic year. Along with these, his paper, "ECOWAS, Regional Security and the Implementation of Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P): Rhetoric or Reality?" has been accepted and will be published in the forthcoming edition of the journal, *Africa Insight*. Additionally, he is also currently working on articles relating to how disruptive technologies impact governance in Africa, as well as on the operations and activities of small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs). Furthermore, he supervised an Honours student, as well as a Master's student in International Development Studies (IDS), who both successfully defended their theses. In addition, he served as the external examiner for a PhD thesis

at the University of Ghana. Finally, he presented one of his ongoing research works, "Democracy, Governance, Technology and National Elections in Africa: Back to the Future?" at the Annual Canadian Association for African Studies (CAAS) Conference, 16-19th May 2019, University of Montreal, Montreal.



**DR. BRIAN BOW**

has been on sabbatical for 2018-19, hosted by the Centre for Global Studies at University of Victoria. He's been carrying on with work on two book projects—one on discursive contestation of "North America" as a regional integration project after the Cold War, and the other on the political management of transgovernmental networks for security policy coordination. The "Generations" project, co-organized with Andrea Lane, recently received word that its edited volume has been formally approved by UBC Press, and will be published in early 2020. At the same time, he has been co-managing (with Bessma Momani) the pilot-project version of the Canadian Network for Defence and Security Analysis (CNDSA), which hopefully will be extended next year. He will be returning as director of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development

for 2019-20 and has just signed on for a second 3-year term as editor-in-chief for *International Journal*.



**Kendra Wilcox, Dr. Louise Carbert, and Conor Lewis**

In June 2018, **DR. LOUISE CARBERT** testified to the standing Parliamentary Committee on the Status of Women in Ottawa, at the invitation of the Committee. She presented research on recent changes in Canadian women's electoral prospects across the rural / urban spectrum. It was there, while testifying, that Louise recognized two of her former students who were "on the job." Kendra Wilcox was attending as Assistant to Bernadette Jordan, M.P., South-Shore St. Margaret's. Conor Lewis was attending as Assistant to Pam Damoff, M.P., Oakville North-Burlington. Seeing them in action was exceptionally gratifying.

**DR. KATHERINE FIERLBECK** hosted an international Jean Monnet Health Law and Policy workshop on pharmaceutical

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sustaining their legacy of graduate education and mentorship for students from, and/or focusing on, the global South here at Dalhousie. Through a major donation for graduate scholarships in Political Science and IDS, they will help us recruit top students for the coming five years, whose interests and presence will play an important role in sustaining the department's long tradition of graduate training and research on issues related to the political economy of global development. The department is very grateful for this generous contribution, and looks forward to recruiting outstanding Shaw/Parpart scholarship holders in the years to come. Thank you, Tim and Jane!



**Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck, Maureen MacDonald, Prof. Marc-André Gagnon, Kevin Quigley**

## OUR FACULTY *cont'd*

policy in July ... on the hottest day of the year! She also co-organized a Summer School on health human rights in Santander, Spain in September (which was, despite being in Spain, much more temperate than the one held in Halifax.) In November she hosted a Pharmacare public panel for the MacEachen Institute, which included former provincial Health Minister Maureen MacDonald, Diana Whalen, a member of the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare, and Professor Marc-André Gagnon from Carleton University. She will be organizing a workshop on the Social Future of Europe in Copenhagen for the JM Network in June. Dr. Fierlbeck presented her research at the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) in May, and at a CIHR-funded round table on the Politics of Public Health in Toronto in June. Her latest book, *Nova Scotia: A Health Systems Profile* was published by the University of Toronto Press this past June. She is especially proud of two of her graduate students, Tari Ajadi and Kinnar Power, both of whom completed and defended their MA degrees in under a year.



**DR. ROBERT FINBOW** took over as Honours Coordinator for the department and had an enjoyable experience steering some top students to successful completion of the Honours project. With funding from a FASS Undergraduate Research Award, he worked with political science student Noel Guscott to research the emergence of right populist political rhetoric in the “five eyes” states. This research award allows a talented undergraduate to work with faculty to learn research and analytical techniques through practical engagement. Based on this research Dr. Finbow will present on “Populism as

a Response to Globalization in Anglo-Saxon States: Comparing Populist Approaches to Trade and Migration:” at the Canadian Political Science Association annual conference in Vancouver in June.

He continued work on his Erasmus+ project on CETA Implementation and Implications, building toward the concluding conference in fall 2019. The conference will hopefully lead to a book covering the implementation process and early effects of CETA. He continued as Deputy Director of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence and represented the JMEUCE at a meeting of the Jean Monnet centers in Ottawa at the EU Delegation, with EU Ambassador H.E. Peteris Ustubs, where a revived trans-Canadian network for the centers was discussed. In June he will spend 2 weeks as visitor at the University of Antwerp Consortium on the Organization of Rulemaking and Multi-level Governance in Europe (ACTORE).

He continues projects with UQAM’s Centre d’études sur l’intégration et la mondialisation (CEIM). He participated in a Colloquium on the instruments of a socially responsible trade policy in a context of commercial tensions in Montreal and presented on “NAALC’s Legacy: Improving Labour provisions in CUSMA and CETA?” He will contribute on this theme to an upcoming book project. The Colloquium was notable for including a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the International Labour Organization, with speakers from several continents assessing the ILO’s contributions to labour rights and standards. He also presented at the ISA conference in Toronto on “Right Populism as a Barrier to more socially responsible changes to trade agreements”. He published “The Canada European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement: securing a comprehensive deal in the populist era” in a Special Issue on “Inter-regionalism and the EU New Trade Strategy” of the *Asia Pacific Journal of EU Studies* 16 (1), 79-109.

**DR. KRISTIN GOOD** returned to work in February after an 18-month maternity and parental leave. Her current research is on the politics and governance of immigration in Canadian

cities. She just published a ‘state of the art’ piece on this topic in Tizianna Caponio, Peter Scholten and Ricard Zapata-Barrero’s edited book, *The Routledge Handbook of the Governance of Migration and Diversity in Cities*. She was also involved in an initiative to promote *Federal governance*, an online graduate journal of federalism. As part of this initiative she published a research note entitled “Municipal ‘Immigration’ and ‘Diversity’ Policymaking in Canada: A Comparative Research Agenda and Call for the Empowerment of Municipalities.” She has also resumed her work on a textbook (with co-author Dr. Jen Nelles, Visiting Associate Professor, City University of New York – Hunter College) on comparative urban governance that is under contract with the University of Toronto Press. Dr. Good continues to serve as the series editor (with co-editor Martin Horak, Associate Professor and Director of the Local Government Program, Western University) of a book series published by McGill-Queen’s University Press entitled *Studies in Urban Governance*.



**DR. ANDERS HAYDEN** received a SSHRC Connection grant (with Jeff Wilson and Céó Gaudet) to organize a workshop on “Beyond GDP: International

Experiences, Canada’s Options” in May 2019, which builds on his existing SSHRC-funded work on the political and policy impact of alternative prosperity indicators. He has been working as a co-editor of the upcoming *Routledge Handbook of Global Sustainability Governance*, for which he has contributed a chapter on the concept of “sufficiency.” He also began preliminary work on a project on “sufficiency: a missing ingredient in a low-carbon transition?” During the academic year, he delivered presentations at the conferences of the International Society for Ecological Economics in Puebla, Mexico; the International Studies Association in Toronto; the Environmental Studies Association of Canada in Vancouver; and the International Sustainability Transitions Conference in Ottawa.



He also led a webinar on “Maryland’s Experience in Measuring ‘Genuine Progress’” hosted by the United States Society for Ecological Economics. He continues to be involved with the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative, transitioning from the executive to the advisory board. In April, he joined the Steering Committee of United for Climate Justice, an initiative of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies. His teaching continues to centre on courses in the Politics of Environment and the Politics of Climate Change, which he finds fascinating to teach, but also challenging in light of students’ growing concerns over the deterioration of climate and environmental conditions. Dr. Hayden has been serving as the Interim Director of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development, as the department’s Undergraduate Advisor, and on a number of departmental, faculty, and College of Sustainability committees.



In her first year as a faculty member in our department, **DR. LEAH SARSON** spent the year teaching new courses, researching and writing, and

engaging in several collaborative projects. Her teaching included a senior seminar on Indigenous global politics offered for the first time at Dalhousie, which she hopes to expand over the coming years. In the last few months she has published two articles, the first of which is a co-authored piece that explores the pedagogical and diplomatic outcomes of a model Arctic Council that she helped organized at Dartmouth College in 2017 and the second of which examines Indigenous leadership in North American trade negotiations. She anticipates the publication of several book chapters over the coming months, including a chapter in a forthcoming volume on Canadian foreign policy edited by Dalhousie’s own Dr. Brian Bow and PhD candidate Andrea Lane and a chapter celebrating the tenth anniversary of Women in International Security (WIIS)-Canada, for which she is the Director of Operations. Dr. Sarson dedicates much of her time to WIIS-



**Dr. Leah Sarson presenting at a conference.**

Canada, a national network promoting women’s leadership in international security through mentorship and professional development. She is co-organizing this year’s twelfth annual WIIS-Canada workshop in Toronto and is laying the groundwork for a Halifax chapter of the organization. She is also a founding member of the Fulbright Canada Advisory Council, helping to guide programming decisions for Fulbright Canada. This year she spoke at several international conferences on Indigenous global politics and is co-organizing a workshop on the topic in Montreal in the fall along with several colleagues. She expects to spend her summer completing a book on the relationship between Indigenous global politics and Canadian foreign policy and was delighted to receive a SSHRC Explore Grant from the

university in support of the next phase of this research. Dr. Sarson would like to express her appreciation to her new colleagues for their warm welcome to the department, the university, and the city. After a year of commuting between Halifax and Toronto she will be on leave for the 2019/2020 academic year but is already looking forward to moving her growing family to Halifax and the chance to keep building new partnerships and connections at Dalhousie.

**DR. RUBEN ZAIOTTI.** A “Chair.” When I told my young kids that I had become one last summer, they looked at me with puzzled eyes. “You don’t look like a chair, daddy. You still have only two legs...” They had a point, but... What I was trying to tell them is that I had

*Continued on next page*



**Dr. Ruben Zaiotti speaking at a workshop on digital diplomacy of international organizations.**

## OUR FACULTY *cont'd*

been awarded a new position in the department. (Academic jargon is definitely not user-friendly, especially if you are dealing with little people!) I am now officially the Jean Monnet Chair in Public Diplomacy at Dalhousie University. This professorship is offered through a grant from the European Union to support teaching and research on the EU. In the next three years I will, therefore, build on, and expand, my ongoing work on the Old Continent and its relations with Canada. In my first months as JM Chair, I have organized a workshop on digital diplomacy of international organizations and developed a new course on social media and politics. The latter has been particularly popular with students, and I look forward to engaging local and international practitioners and experts to come and share their experiences in the classroom. Since last summer, I have not just been sitting on my (ehm) 'chair'. I have continued to be the director of the Jean Monnet EU Centre of Excellence. If you are interested in knowing more about all the exciting events we have organized (and, yes, we did talk a lot about Brexit!), please read the dedicated article in the newsletter. You can also follow me on Twitter at @JMChairPublicDiplomacy. Will my kids ever appreciate my accomplishments as chair? I will let you know next year!



**DR. GREGG FRENCH,**  
**Part-time**

**Instructor** joined the Department of Political Science in January of this year. Dr. French received his

Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario in 2017 and since graduating, has been teaching in the Halifax area and preparing his manuscript for publication. During the winter semester, he taught POLI 3581: Diplomacy and Negotiation. Throughout the course, he and his students engaged in discussions and debates, which brought contemporary diplomatic events to life inside his classroom.

Earlier this year, Dr. French received a Global Scholars and Diversity Grant

from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAHR). During the summer, he will be attending the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Council Meeting in Ottawa and will be presenting at SHAHR's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

He also has two forthcoming chapters that will be published next year. The first chapter explores the personal relationships that formed between U.S. and Spanish representatives during the American Revolution. This work will be part of an edited volume, which is entitled *Spain and the American Revolution: New Approaches and Perspectives* and will be published with Routledge. The second chapter examines the domestic and foreign pressures that American diplomats faced in the years following the Civil War. This work will appear in *Reconstruction and Empire* and is slated to be published with Fordham University Press.

### **DR. ANN GRIFFITHS, Part-time**

**Instructor**, carried on with a busy schedule of teaching, editing and writing in 2018. As usual, she taught Exploring Global Conflict and Violence (POLI 3596) in the fall term and Building Peace and Democracy (POLI 3520) in the winter term. She also supervised a BA Honours thesis and served as a reader for another BA Honours thesis. As well,

she continued editing *Canadian Naval Review*, in its 15th year of publication, and now published out of the Mulroney Institute of Government at St. Francis Xavier University. She was invited to go to sea with the Canadian Navy as part of the Canadian Leaders at Sea Program. This happened in November 2018 on a very chilly and rough day. To create links between the navy and students in political science, she organized a Canadian Students at Sea program which organized tours for students of navy ships – a frigate, maritime coastal defence vessel and a submarine – and arranged for some of the students to go on a day sail. When not editing other people's work, she wrote several articles and commentaries in 2018. She wrote a chapter on federalism in St. Kitts and Nevis to be included in *The Handbook of Federal Countries*, produced by the Forum of Federations – and then was asked by the Forum to edit the book, to be published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2019. She wrote an article for the *Royal Navy's Naval Review*, summing up the themes in Canadian naval issues, published in November 2018 (Vol. 106, No. 4). She wrote a variety of pieces for *Canadian Naval Review*, most recently on the legal implications of Russian claims to the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov, and the 25 November 2018 capture of Ukrainian navy ships and sailors.



**Dr. Ann Griffiths at Sea with the Canadian Navy as part of the Canadian Leaders at Sea program.**



**DR. HEATHER SMITH, Visiting Scholar and Part-time Instructor,** joined the Department of Political Science in the summer of 2018 as a Visiting Scholar. I'm at Dalhousie for two years while I'm on administrative leave and sabbatical from my home institution, the University of Northern British Columbia. During the past year, I've reengaged with my teaching and Political Science related research after 6 years as the Director of the UNBC Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology. A lot of my work over the last year was still related to teaching and learning. I was a BC Campus Scholarly Fellow and worked with a team of three on issues related to power and the students as partners approach. The team presented its work at the BC Campus Symposium in Vancouver in October 2018 and in Bergen Norway at the International Society of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL), also in October. A book chapter, with Roselynn Verwoord, on the P.O.W.E.R. framework and the students as partners approach is now under review. I'm also one of the VPs for Canada for ISSOTL and together with Jessica Riddell (Bishops) we created and implemented the ISSOTL Fellows Program – an international fellowship for those engaged in the scholarship of teaching and learning. The first cohort of fellows will be announced in June of this year. I also initiated a contribution to OpenCanada on teaching in a time of flux which also lead to a contribution to the Canada and the World Podcast series. In terms of my Political Science related research, I've started working on questions related to a feminist foreign policy and have a piece, with Rebecca Tiessen, under review. I also presented a Global Affairs in March 2019 on silences in Canadian foreign policy. This past year I was also the President of the Prairie Political Science Association and organized the annual conference held at the lovely Banff Centre in September 2018. Finally, this year I taught Canadian foreign policy here at Dalhousie and also facilitated a studio course of the Centre for Learning and Teaching on the scholarship of teaching and learning. It's been a great year and I'm appreciative of the opportunities being in Halifax has afforded me.



*Dr. Heather Smith*

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

**DR. LARISSA ATKISON, Part-time Instructor, Model UN (POLI 3532) and Practicum Placement (POLI 4390)**

This fall and winter, POLI 3532 (Model UN) and POLI 4390 (Practicum Placement) students took part in a number of rewarding experiential learning activities. POLI 3532 students practiced their skills as UN country delegates while debating global issues such as human rights and global warming during in-class simulations. A number of these students went on

to represent Dalhousie at regional and national conferences, such as MtAUN (at Mount Allison) and McMUN (at McGill); we are also proud of our students for hosting the Inaugural Internal Model UN conference here at Dal this spring. Meanwhile, students in POLI 4390 wrapped up a semester of successful placements throughout the city (including one in Lunenburg!) in a well-attended Open House and Poster Session in early April.



*POLI 4390 Practicum Placement Open House*

# CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT (CSSD)

## THE 2018-19 ACADEMIC YEAR HAS

been one of continued transition at the Centre. Andrea Lane completed her term as deputy director, having made a very valuable contribution to the CSSD. She passed the torch to Adam MacDonald, who has already made his mark by organizing a number of events. Mary Okweshe returned to the Centre, taking on the role of Administrative Secretary. Meanwhile, Brian Bow has been on sabbatical leave. He will take over the reins again as CSSD director on July 1, 2019.

The Centre hosted and co-sponsored a wide range of public talks this year in collaboration with a number of different partners. Topics included: the lasting legacy of 9-11, the challenges of applying ethical values in politics at home and abroad, the impacts of artificial intelligence on war and military strategy, opportunities and challenges related to careers in global security and development, the evolution of international development aid, the role of women in peacekeeping and the military, the war in Yemen and the role of Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, the new US-Mexico-Canada trade and agreement, the Trudeau government's foreign policy record, new surveillance and censorship technologies and their impacts on human rights, and Arctic security.

The Centre once again co-sponsored a panel during the Halifax International Security Forum in November—hosted this year at Saint Mary's University—on the topic of "Discord, Disruptions, Disorder: A World Without International Institutions?" In February, the CSSD and the Political Science department, with support from the Canadian International Council, hosted the annual Glyn Berry lecture—this year coinciding with the department's Third Century Symposium. Paul Evans from the University of British Columbia delivered an insightful and provocative talk on how Canada could better manage its relationship with China in the emerging world order.

The above-mentioned events indicate how the Centre has been

continuing to broaden its focus.

While conventional military and security concerns remain a key part of our mandate, wider conceptions of human and environmental security are increasingly part of our focus, as are issues of development—including an examination this year of what we mean by development and how we measure it.

A major focus of the Centre's work in the first half of 2019 has been the organization of a workshop, on May 23 and 24, on the theme of "Beyond GDP: International Experiences, Canada's Options." The two-day event included presentations by many leading international and Canadian researchers and practitioners, including a keynote talk by John Helliwell, professor emeritus in economics at the

University of British Columbia and lead author of the annual World Happiness Report. Concluding sessions discussed next steps in Canada and develop recommendations for governments. The event was funded by a SSHRC Connection grant. We have benefited from close collaboration with Engage Nova Scotia in organizing the event and from the support of a number of other community partners. For more details, see: <https://www.beyondgdpindicators.com/workshop-1>

For further updates on Centre activities, check out our website at [dal.ca/sites/cssd.html](http://dal.ca/sites/cssd.html), or follow us on Twitter at @dalcssd

**By Anders Hayden, Acting Director**

## LIST OF CENTRE AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SEMINARS/EVENTS, 2018-19

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2018** *Echoes of 9/11 in the Trump Era*. Panel: Aisha Ahmad, Brian Bow, Stefanie von Hlatky. Co-sponsored with MacEachen Institute for Public Policy

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2018** *Doing the Right Thing at Home and Abroad: Why Values Matter*—Bob Rae. Co-Sponsored with Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs, MacEachen Institute for Public Policy, and Canadian International Council

**OCTOBER 10, 2018** *Artificial Intelligence and War*—Peter Layton

**OCTOBER 22, 2018** Working across boundaries: the challenges of a career grappling with issues in global security and development—Jenny Baechler

**OCTOBER 26, 2018** *Working in the Global South - Learning about Development Partnerships with the Coady International Institute*. Co-sponsored with the International Development Studies (IDS) department

**OCTOBER 31, 2018** *The Changing Faces of Aid: Challenges in financing the Sustainable Development Goals*—Brian Tomlinson. Co-sponsored with the International Development Studies (IDS) department

**NOVEMBER 1, 2018** Panel on USMCA  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2018** *Changing EU Schengen Visa Regime: Biopolitics, Risk Management, and Network Databases*—Can Mutlu

**NOVEMBER 8, 2018** *Bulwark of the Revolution - The Roles of the Cuban Armed Forces Today*—Hal Klepak

**NOVEMBER 15, 2018** *Discord, Disruptions, Disorder: A World Without International Institutions?*—Panel: Daouda Sembene, Ayman Mhanna, Kenan Rahmani, Antonio Ramalho da Rocha. Co-sponsored with Halifax International Security Forum and Saint Mary's University



# THE JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

## THE JMEUCE HAS WRAPPED UP

another eventful year of events and activities promoting the advancement of EU studies. The Centre has been busy welcoming new guests, scholars and students as well as facilitating ongoing research activities. This year, the Director of the JMEUCE, Dr. Ruben Zaiotti, was awarded a Jean Monnet Chair in Public Diplomacy. The JMEUCE would like to congratulate him on this achievement!

## EVENTS ACTIVITIES

Over the past year, the JMEUCE has continued a long-held tradition of hosting a speaker's series that invites established and emerging scholars and practitioners to present on key topics.

This year, we hosted several events including:

- **The European Union and Global Ocean Governance** – Jan-Stefan Fritz, German Marine Research Consortium
- **The Nine Circles of Brexit: A Guided Tour of Britain's Path out of the EU** – Ian Cooper, Brexit Institute, Dublin City University
- **Cannabis and the Canada-EU trade agreement: Opportunities and Challenges** – Hon. Darrell Dexter, Global Public Affairs
- **Changing EU Schengen Visa Regime: Biopolitics, Risk Management, and Networked Databases** – Can Mutlu, Department of Politics, Acadia University

- **EU and Asia-Pacific Relations: an Overview** – Hungdah Su, Professor & Jean Monnet Chair, National University of Taiwan
- **The Economic Impact of Immigrants: What do Europeans really think?** – Zeynep Ozkok, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, St Francis Xavier University

We also welcomed guests from other Jean Monnet Centres to foster ties and creating long lasting connections with our friends and partners. In addition, the centre welcomed the European Economic and Social Committee, the Latvian ambassador, as well as Bernard Blazkiewicz from the European

*Continued on next page*

**NOVEMBER 16, 2018 *Gender and Peace Support Operations***–Panel: Jenny Baechler, David Black, Isabelle Caron, Maya Eichler. Co-sponsored with Balsillie School of International Affairs and multiple other groups

**NOVEMBER 19, 2018 *The War in Yemen and the Saudi-led Military Intervention***–Panel: Farea Al-Muslimi, Spenser Osberg, William Fenrick, Brian Bow. Co-sponsored with the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies and Canadian International Council

**JANUARY 16, 2019 *USMCA? Is the New Deal Merely the Old NAFTA, But Less?***–Robert Wolfe. Co-sponsored with the Canadian International Council

**JANUARY 23, 2019 *Ethical Considerations for International Volunteers and Interns***–Rebecca Tiessen

**JANUARY 31, 2019 *Assessing the Trudeau Foreign Policy Record***–Kim Richard Nossal

**FEBRUARY 7 -8, 2019 *Department of Political Science Third Century Symposium***

**FEBRUARY 8, 2019 *Living with China in an Era of Great Power Rivalry: Canadian Options***–Paul Evans. Glyn Berry Lecture, part of Department of Political Science Third Century Symposium

**FEBRUARY 26, 2019 *Insights on Saudi Arabia and the Middle East***–Dennis Horak. Co-sponsored with Canadian International Council

**MARCH 6, 2019 *Women and the Canadian Military***–Panel: Brigadier-General Josée Robidoux, Gaëlle Rivard Piché, Andrea Lane. Co-sponsored with Women in International Security Canada, Gender and Women's Studies, Canadian International Council

**MARCH 18, 2019 *Watching the Watchers: How Commercial Surveillance Opens Spies to Scrutiny***–Bill Marczak. Co-sponsored with the Law and Technology Institute and School of Information Management

**MARCH 26, 2019 *The Opening Arctic: The Security-Development Nexus and Implications for Canada***–Panel: Adam Lajeunesse, John Newton, Bai Jiayu, Wendall Sanford, Sara Seck. Co-sponsored with the Canadian International Council, Marine and Environment Law Institute, and Marine Affairs program

**MAY 23-24, 2019 *Beyond GDP: International Experiences, Canada's Options*** - Workshop. Co-sponsored by Engage Nova Scotia, Green Analytics, the Canadian International Council, and the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI)

## JEAN MONNET *cont'd*

Commission. Last but not least, in April 2019, the Centre hosted a workshop on International Organizations and Digital Diplomacy. The event featured 14 guest speakers to Dalhousie to discuss how international organizations are making use of emerging social media tools in this new digital age.

### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Centre continues to host two Jean Monnet Activities: The CETA Implementation and Implications Project and the Health Law and Policy Network. The CETA Project is led by JMEUCE Deputy Director, Dr. Robert Finbow. It brings together scholars, policy experts and civil society to investigate the impacts and implications of the Canada-EU trade deal. It is now in its final year, and ramping up preparations for the CETA Implications Conference, to be held on September 27-28th, 2019.

The Network is headed by JMEUCE Associate, Katherine Fierlbeck and continues to host a series of events centered on EU Health Policy. In September, the Network funded an intensive training seminar in Spain that provided a comparative overview



*Participants and volunteers of the JMEUCE Annual Day of Debate.*

of current challenges regarding EU health law and policy. The Network also launched a Speaker Series, beginning with two events in Italy and Spain. The Network is now preparing for an upcoming workshop in Denmark that will investigate the tensions and challenges facing health care systems in a changing Europe.

### STUDENTS ACTIVITIES

The Centre is pleased to report that two JMEUCE-funded students headed out in

May to participate in the EU Study Tour, one of which stayed on for an internship at the European Centre for Electoral Support. We wish both the best of luck! Finally, the Centre hosted the annual Day of Debate in April, welcoming nearly 40 International Baccalaureate students to Dalhousie University to discuss important topics including terrorism, Brexit, populism and migration (see picture). The event was well attended and featured some lively debate!

## THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE

**THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN AS SOLDIERS** continues to be a pervasive problem globally. According to the UN Secretary General's most recent report on Children and Armed Conflict released by the UN's Special Representative of the Secretary General, more children than ever before are living in conflict-affected areas and are at risk of violence and death. Children around the world continue to be recruited and used by adults as weapons of war. There are 56 non-state actors and 7 state armies that still recruit and use children as soldiers around the world.

### CHILDREN'S RIGHTS UPFRONT (CRU) APPROACH

Over the past year, the Dallaire Initiative has crystallized and refined

the Children's Rights Upfront (CRU) Approach into our advocacy strategy. The Dallaire Initiative believes that by actively putting children's rights upfront, it will generate more political will and resources to enhance the protection of children that can contribute to overall peace and security globally.

A CRU Approach seeks to elevate children's well-being higher up on the international peace and security agenda both in terms of making it a priority for all actors, as well as by ensuring children and youth participate in peace processes that impact their future. In the first instance, efforts focus on creating points of collaboration by highlighting the need to protect the rights of society's most vulnerable – children.

By agreeing to make children a priority, this approach can build bridges between parties in peace processes, within political debate and policy making that leads to creating spaces for dialogue in what may appear to be an intractable conflict or across divergent political opinions.

### OUR VISIBILITY

The Dallaire Initiative is increasingly recognized for providing a critically important perspective on issues related to Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC). This was exemplified in a number of new partnerships and advocacy initiatives throughout the year, culminating in a high-profile event in New York City at the new

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location of the Canada's Permanent Mission to the UN (PRMNY), in which one of the rooms has been named after General Dallaire. On 5 December 2018, more than 80 government representatives, INGOs, UN agencies and Dallaire Initiative supporters gathered at PRMNY to mark the one-year anniversary of the Vancouver Principles (VPs), supported heavily by INTACT financial corporation, who announced \$1 million at the event to support our work. Today, 81 countries have endorsed the VPs, a political commitment to take a more assertive stance on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers during peacekeeping operations. The landmark initiative was jointly launched by the Dallaire Initiative and the Government of Canada in November 2017. The thought-provoking event was organized by the Dallaire Initiative with Canada's and Rwanda's Permanent Missions to the UN.

This increasing visibility has led to our expertise and unique perspective being sought by a range of audiences. Notably, in January 2019, General Dallaire and Executive Director Dr. Shelly Whitman were invited to the Vatican for a private audience with his holiness, Pope Francis, to discuss our mission of preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers around the world and in particular the need for sustained peace in South Sudan. Pope Francis has expressed deep concern on the issue of child soldiers and we were proud to stand with him in



**Pope Francis, General Dallaire, and Dr. Shelly Whitman**

support of his call for a more peaceful world: one where the use of children as weapons of war is unthinkable.

### **A CHILD RIGHTS UPFRONT APPROACH FOR SOUTH SUDAN: PROTECTING CHILDREN AND BUILDING DIALOGUE**

In April 2018, the Dallaire Initiative was granted a 3 year, \$3M CAD project from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) to conduct work to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers in South Sudan, and to help sustain the peace agreement in the country. This was a huge milestone for the organization and is currently our largest multi-year government grant.

The project builds upon the mutual priorities of the Dallaire Initiative and GAC on gender and child protection, but with a focus on ending grave violations against children, and in particular the recruitment and use of child soldiers. We focus on this grave violation because we believe it is a key

factor in reducing children's risk to the remaining 5 violations.

The project is designed around three sets of interconnected activities that enhance and fill gaps in child protection efforts underway in South Sudan. Overall the project seeks to enhance child rights within the overall peace process, strengthen knowledge and skills of security sector actors to improve encounters with boy and girl child soldiers, and works with civil society to protect at-risk boys and girls from being recruited as child soldiers within communities.

### **WORKING WITH DALHOUSIE GRADUATES**

The Dallaire initiative continues to expand both in our areas of operation and ultimately the number of our staff, and these expansions have provided jobs and internship opportunities for graduates of our host university, Dalhousie. Statistics from the last three years illustrate how the Dallaire Initiative has provided students with unique opportunities that have enriched their learning experiences on campus and across Faculties. We have hosted six practicum students; worked with several computer science classes on special projects (reaching an estimated 100 students); supported student groups, including 18 members of Management without Borders; collaborated with Computer Science students on a video game that earned national recognition; engaged Dal Law interns on the Dalhousie Marine Piracy Project; and currently, have a Dal Law student who is volunteering to review the legal aspects of our research on migration and the Vancouver Principles. We have also employed summer and part-time students each year. In fact, at least five current full-time employees are Dalhousie graduates and we have one fourth-year Dalhousie student who has been working with us part-time since June 2017. Our 2018 summer student was a June graduate of the International Development Studies program and served as an Evaluation Assistant on the Research and Learning team.

**By Amara Bangura,  
Communications Officer, Roméo  
Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative**

2018-19

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD/PRIZE WINNERS

**ISABELLE FLACK**, BA Candidate: Major in Political Science with a Minor in Security Studies has been awarded the *Commonwealth Political Science Prize*. This prize is awarded annually to the student who receives the highest grade in Political Science 2410 and 2420. The Commonwealth Prize was established by John Beveridge, who graduated from Dalhousie University in 1971.

**LYDIA A. MACKAY SWIATKOWSKA**, BA Graduate, May 2019: Honours in Political Science with Minors in Management and French has been awarded *The Eric Dennis Gold Medal Award*. Founded by Senator William Dennis and Mrs. Dennis, this medal is awarded upon graduation to the student who stands first among those taking First Class Honours in Government and Political Science. This is the University Medal in Political Science.

**JOANNA LUND**, BA Candidate: Major in Political Science with a Minor in Contemporary Studies has been awarded *The H.B. McCulloch Memorial Prize*. This prize is awarded annually to the student who, among all the first- and second-year students registered in introductory classes in Political Science, is judged to have written the best essay in the second term.

**CHRISTOPHER WIECZOREK**, BA Graduate, May 2019: Honours in Political Science and History and Certificate in Indigenous Studies has been awarded *The James H. Aitchison Award*. In 1979 Colleagues of Dr. J.H. Aitchison established a fund from which an annual prize would be awarded in recognition of the best undergraduate Honours essay. The fund was established to honour Professor Aitchison who was instrumental in founding the department.

# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

**MUCH OF THE WORK OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR** involves helping students with course selection and navigating their way through their degree choices, reviewing their plans to study abroad for a semester or two, and answering questions from prospective students and occasionally parents. In addition to those recurring activities, this year the department has taken steps to do more outreach to first-year students to ensure they know of the advising services available to them—and there is still more that we can do in that area in the years ahead. Another role of the undergraduate advisor is to contribute to the recruitment of students to the department. Recruitment events in the past year included the Open House

for high-school students, the Program and Major Expo for current Dalhousie students considering program options, and the annual advising luncheon for King's College students. We continue to find that current undergraduate and graduate students, as well as those who have graduated from the department, are the best ambassadors at such events, as they are able to share their experiences of how Political Science has benefitted them. If you have your own thoughts about the value of a Political Science degree that we could share with prospective students, please send us your thoughts ([anders.hayden@dal.ca](mailto:anders.hayden@dal.ca); [psadmin@dal.ca](mailto:psadmin@dal.ca)).

**By Anders Hayden**  
*Undergraduate Advisor*



## THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY (DUPSS)

**THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY** built on the momentum we created last year to bring a variety of events and programs to the undergraduate political science community during the course of the 2018/2019 academic year. In the Fall semester we had several community building events such as our ice-cream social or our ever-popular Polibeers. These events provided an awesome opportunity for everyone in political science to meet new people, catch up with friends, and talk politics. This year we coordinated our Polibeers with the Graduate political science society, allowing undergrads and graduate students to meet and learn from one another. To give incoming majors and existing majors a chance to interact with the entire polisci faculty we held a "Meet the Profs" event, where students could meet profs they hadn't yet had in their academic career. The Fall semester ended with a bang, with a fully packed viewing party for the 2018 US Midterm elections at the Grawood, complete with three rounds of US political trivia.

After a deserved Christmas break, we started the Winter semester strong, with the launch of our newly created Dalhousie Political Networking Initiative (DPNI). DUPSS has to thank our VP of Student Opportunities, Noel Guscott, for his hard work in creating an amazing program that gave political science students an opportunity for work in politics. This program worked to pair undergraduate applicants with political offices in the HRM at the provincial and federal level. It was an absolute success with nine students getting paid positions for the winter semester, and some getting summer jobs through the program. DPNI had a lot of positive feedback from participating students and offices, and it will definitely become a recurring DUPSS feature. During the Third Century Symposium DUPSS organized an undergraduate panel for the final day of the conference. Through this panel current undergraduates and alumni interacted in a fascinating exchange of ideas. Looking ahead to the

*Continued next page*



# E-INTERVIEW

## with Christopher Wieczorek

*BA Honours in Political Science and History, Undergraduate Certificate: Indigenous Studies, May 2019*

*2018-19 James H. Aitchison Award Winner for best Honours Thesis*

**1. This award was created in honour of Professor Aitchison who was instrumental in the founding of the POLI Department and was the head of the Department from 1949-1973. How does it feel to be the recipient of this prestigious POLI award?**

It's definitely an honour to receive this award! I'm grateful to Professor Aitchison, and everyone else who came after him, for building such a great department. It's interesting, and a bit humbling, to go back and see the names of POLI alumni – and to see many of my peers, who I was so fortunate to learn with – who are doing incredible things today. I don't think I could have chosen a better spot to spend the last four years, and I'm thankful for everyone who made it such a positive experience.

**2. What helped you with your decision to take Political Science? Was there anything or anyone who inspired you?**

Growing up, my parents were both current events teachers and CBC was on in our house 24/7, so I think it's



fair to say that the decision to take Political Science was pretty much a given; one of my first memories is my Mom pulling me out of elementary school so that she could take me to vote with her in a federal election,

which I suppose is equal parts cool and embarrassing. I've also been fortunate to have friends and role models who are politically minded and engaged, and I think that probably helped to provide some reassurance that I would enjoy taking POLI as my major.

**3. Is there a particular area of Political Science that interests you most?**

All of it! That's a bit cheesy, but also, I think, a testament to the breadth and quality of teaching in the Department. Starting my degree, I was most interested in Canadian politics, and although that hasn't changed, I've also really enjoyed my time in International Relations, Political Economy, and Political Philosophy courses. Dr. Hayden's course (3385) in Environmental Politics was also a synthesis of many of my interests and an area that I'm excited to further explore.

**4. What are your plans after you graduate in May? Any long-term plans or goals?**

I'm not 100 percent sure. I've been fortunate to spend the last few months working in my home province of BC in a job related to my interests [Eds. Note: working for the provincial government], and it's proving to be a great learning experience. I'm also planning to do my Masters, or maybe a law degree, in the near future – we'll have to see! Long term, I'd love to find a career at the intersection of my interest in environmental decision-making and my interest in harnessing political engagement to get results that improve our shared quality of life. I'm not sure what that will look like yet, but I'm excited to hopefully find out.

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## DUPSS

*cont'd from pg 12*

2019 Federal election we hosted an All-Party Pizza Party with the main political parties on campus in attendance. This event had presentations by various parties, attendance from different politicians and lots of pizza. Finally, we organized a return of our Polisci Gala and Journal Launch at the Saint Mary's Boat Club. There was about a hundred people in attendance, with several faculty members and graduate students attending. The Gala provided a chance for students to celebrate another year in political science at Dalhousie. The Podium, our annual undergraduate

journal, was also launched with eight authors being published. We would like to thank our incredibly supportive department; we couldn't have had such a successful year without their assistance. We would also like to thank all the members of DUPSS for their hard work and creativity and congratulate all those who are graduating! Finally, we are excited to welcome a new DUPSS executive and we wish them all the best for the next academic year!

**By Alex Johnsen Howkins**  
**DUPSS President**

# HONOURS PROGRAM

**IT WAS A PLEASURE TO WORK THIS YEAR WITH THE HONOURS STUDENTS,** who were a very social and collegial group of some of our best senior undergraduates. It was a learning experience for me on the administrative side, complete with changes and disruptions in the registrar's office, but all got sorted out eventually. The subject matter for the Honours projects was diverse with a wide range of academic approaches and themes. I send out my appreciation to the supervisors and examiners, especially Marcella Firmini and Ann Griffiths who are LTA and PT Instructors and went above and beyond to support the program. Congratulations also to Chris Wieczorek who won the James H. Aitchison Award for best Honours essay; and to Lydia MacKay MacKay Swiatkowska who won the Eric Dennis Gold Medal for the highest GPA in the Honours graduating class this year.

**By Robert Finbow**  
**Honours Coordinator**

## POLITICAL SCIENCE TRAVEL FUND

For our graduate and honours students, field research (whether in Canada or internationally) and the opportunity to present their ideas at conferences and workshops are vital forms of educational and professional development. Yet supporting these invaluable opportunities for research and conference travel has always been a challenge for the department and our students, since there are few sources of financial assistance within or beyond the university. Now, thanks to generous alumni contributions, we have initiated a new fund to support graduate and honours student travel, to a maximum of \$1000 in Canada, and \$2000 internationally. This will allow our students to undertake vital interview, archival, and participant observation research, and to share their ideas with audiences of peers and senior scholars. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please go online to [alumni.dal.ca](http://alumni.dal.ca) giving or contact Tracy Powell, Admin Assistant at [psadmin@dal.ca](mailto:psadmin@dal.ca). Thank you for your support!



### SARAH CRAWLEY

*Democracy and Political Institutions: Comparing Canada's Constitutional Monarchy with the United States Presidential System of Government*  
Supervisor: Dr. Marcella Firmini

### CASSANDRA HAYWARD

*Student food security: a case study of the University of King's College*  
Supervisor: Dr. Peter Arthur

### ELI HOWARD

*Talking Firms: A Deliberative Democratic Critique of the Citizen's United Decision and Its Implications for American Democracy.*  
Supervisor: Dr. Robert Finbow

### ANN ELIZABETH MACINTOSH

*Taking Advantage of Hindsight: Lessons to be learned from the Bosnia War and the Dayton Peace Accords for modern multinational conflicts*  
Supervisor: Dr. Ann Griffiths

### LYDIA MACKAY SWIATKOWSKA

*Revisiting Confederation: How the structures of Canadian federalism have under-served the Maritime provinces, and what Canada can learn from the proposals of Maritimers at Confederation*  
Supervisor: Dr. Marcella Firmini

### PETRA REGENI

*The Rubik's Cube of Jihad: An Analysis of the Differing Interpretations of Jihad among Radical Islamic Movements*  
Supervisor: Dr. Ruben Zaiotti

### CHRIS WIECZOREK

*In the Market for Solutions: Examining Current Efforts to Increase Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa Through Agricultural Development*  
Supervisor: Dr. David Black



**Honours luncheon at the Dalhousie University Club.**



# GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

**WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE** that Mary Okwese is now the administrative assistant in charge of the graduate program. While she has the daunting task of taking over from Tracy Powell's wonderfully efficient administration of the program, we are all delighted to be working with her. The other major announcement is the commencement of the Timothy Shaw and Jane Parpart scholarship for graduate students working on the global south. This scholarship is worth up to \$25,000 per year and will continue to be offered for the next four years.

Our 2018-2019 cohort had an impressive record for success with external scholarships: congratulations go out to Tari Ajadi and Julia Rodgers for securing Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships; to Tristan Cleveland for winning a Special Provost-Alumni Scholarship; Amy MacKenzie for winning the Keens-Morden Scholarship; Richard Saillant for winning a SSHRC doctoral fellowship, a Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship, and a President's Award; and to Peter Velasco for the Margaret Meagher Scholarship.

*By Katherine Fierlbeck, Graduate Coordinator*

## KEENS-MORDEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT Amy MacKenzie (MA Candidate)



**IT HAS BEEN A GREAT HONOUR TO BE** the Keens-Morden Scholarship recipient at Dalhousie this year. After 8 months in the

MA program, my coursework is complete, and I am working towards completing my thesis. My research, supervised by Dr. Zaiotti, focuses on understanding the effects of the European Union's asylum policies on a vulnerable population - unaccompanied minors. The number of children seeking asylum without a guardian is an increasing phenomenon globally and despite international responsibilities to protect these minors, research shows that they frequently go missing from EU reception centres due to negative experiences at borders. My research examines why EU member states are shirking their international responsibilities to these children.

Outside of my studies, I was fortunate to be involved in several events including the department's 3rd Century Symposium and the Jean Monnet EU Centre's workshop: International Organizations and Digital Diplomacy - both of which offered great learning experiences, exposure to new

ideas, and networking opportunities with academics and practitioners in the field. Additionally, I worked as a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Sarson's and Dr. Pessoa's undergraduate IR classes, which were both valuable experiences. I was also fortunate to work with Tracy and Mary in the Political Science office during the winter term as a student assistant.

I also participated in a Twitter conference hosted by Women in International Security - Toronto, which pushed me out of my comfort zone in the early stages of my thesis. It was a great experience that led to a successful application to present my thesis research at a conference hosted by WIIS Canada at University of Toronto this June. I'd like to thank Dr. Sarson for encouraging me to submit applications for both events and my supervisor, Dr. Zaiotti, for his guidance throughout the year.

Overall, it has been a challenging, but rewarding year. I'd like to thank my professors, the PhD Candidates and my colleagues in the MA cohort for your support and guidance this year. I would also like to thank the department and the Keens-Morden family for my scholarship as I would not have been able to pursue an MA without their generous support. I am both thankful and proud to be the Keens-Morden Scholarship recipient this year.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO DEFENDED THEIR RESEARCH THIS YEAR:

#### PhD:

**DAVID BEITELMAN:** Strategic Trust: Re-thinking U.S.-China Military Relations (Supervisor: Brian Bow)

**JOHN MITTON:** Rivalry Intervention: Why International Rivals Intervene in Civil Conflicts (Supervisor: Frank Harvey)

**DAVID MORGAN:** The Humanitarians: Understanding the Crisis of the Humanitarian Field (Supervisor: David Black)

#### MA:

**TARI AJADI:** What gets counted gets done: A Policy Analysis of the Barriers and Opportunities for Provincial Governments to Collect Disaggregated Race-Based Health Data (Supervisor: Katherine Fierlbeck)

**MOHAMMED EL-GAYAR:** The Next Cold War: Are the United States and China undergoing a power transition through proxy wars? (Supervisor: Brian Bow)

**NICK PHIN:** Immigration Discourse in Cities: Examining the Effects of Local Immigration Partnerships in Richmond and Surrey (Supervisor: Kristin Good and Ruben Zaiotti)

**KINNAR POWER:** Idle, Able-Bodied and Undeserving: The Persistence of Undesert in Western Political Thought (Supervisor: Katherine Fierlbeck)

**CALLEE ROBINSON:** From Policy to Practice: Evaluating Consultation Policy in Nova Scotia. (Supervisor: Robert Finbow)

### THE DORIS BOYLE GRADUATE PRIZE WINNER

#### AMY MACKENZIE, MA CANDIDATE

has been awarded *The Doris Boyle Prize* for Best Graduate Essay. The prize is awarded for the best essay written by a graduate student in the area of international relations. Doris Boyle served for many years as Administrative Secretary of the Centre for the Student of Security and Development (formerly Centre for Foreign Policy Studies), from its creation in 1971 until her retirement. The prize was created by faculty and research staff of the Centre to honour her contributions to the activities of the Centre.

# 2018-19 GLYN BERRY SCHOLAR

## Nafisa A. Abdulhamid (PhD Candidate)

### IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO BE

recognized as the *Glyn Berry scholar* for the second year in a row. Dr. Berry's dedication to humanitarianism and post-war reconstruction in the Middle East have been fundamental to my personal assessment of humanitarian intervention efforts, especially as I work towards my doctoral thesis proposal.

This has been a busy, exciting and fulfilling year for me. I spent the fall semester studying and preparing for my comprehensive exams, which Adam MacDonald and I successfully completed in December 2018! I remember getting on a flight back to my hometown, Mombasa, the day after I wrote my minor comprehensive exam, and treated myself to a four-week, well-deserved, break on the beach with my family.

I came back to Halifax in January eager to adjust to what I call the "post-comp life." In February 2019, our department hosted the Third Century Symposium as a way of reflecting on the contributions of Dalhousie Political Science students, faculty and alumni. One of the sessions at the Symposium focused on the



importance of mentors, past or present, who shape our professional and personal lives. The subject of mentorship resonated deeply with me as I realized that, whether consciously or inadvertently, I had already sought out great mentors in my second year of being at Dalhousie University. The inclusive culture of the Symposium enabled me to

present the first draft of my doctoral thesis proposal, where I received constructive feedback from Dalhousie alumni, and where I established important connections for the future. I was also fortunate to present at a graduate student conference at McMaster University with Catherine St-Jacques in March 2019.

I am excited for what the next phase of my PhD entails, including presenting on a panel at the Canadian Association for African Studies (CAAS) with Dr. Peter Arthur in Montreal in May, and attending the annual Women in International Security (WIIS)-Canada workshop in Toronto in June. I am also hoping to begin field research in East Africa over the summer.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to extend a special thank you to Adam MacDonald for his unwavering compassion and kindness as we continue to go through this academic journey together. I would also like to thank my supervisor, Dr. David Black, the faculty, Tracy and Mary, and my fellow graduate students for all the advice, laughter, and support throughout the year.



*Third Century Symposium Panel on International Security and Development.*



*Catherine St. Jacques & Nafisa A. Abdulhamid at the McMaster Graduate Student Conference.*



# MARGARET MEAGHER SCHOLARSHIP

## Peter P. Velasco, MA Candidate

### AS I HAD EXPECTED, THIS HAS BEEN

a tremendous year of learning - from delving into the underpinning theories of political science, to exploring the discipline's "interdisciplinarity," to examining important current and evolving issues. I have expanded my awareness and knowledge of political science as an academic field, and the importance of advancing the field to address real-world issues. As an American, it isn't lost on me that there is likely no better time to beef up one's knowledge of politics and political science.

While I've learned a lot about political science, I've also learned a lot about myself. My journey to Dalhousie's MA program is likely not the typical trajectory. A far cry from what most would consider a recent undergraduate, I last called myself a student more than 20 years ago. I've spent these intervening years (decades) working outside of academia, most recently as a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State. In fact, many of the important theories we studied in our program were non-existent or in their infancy when I finished my undergraduate degree in the early 90's. Returning to the academic world after all of this time has provided me with ample opportunities to explore my own strengths and challenge myself by examining my weaknesses. I am extremely grateful to have had this opportunity for personal growth.

I want to express my utmost gratitude for the support I have received from the Margaret Meagher Scholarship. As a member of the foreign service community, it is an honour to be associated with such an important figure in Canadian foreign policy history.

As well, I wish to express my appreciation to the Department, in particular to Dr. Black for his wisdom, Dr. Fierlbeck for her guidance, and Dr. Finbow for his courage in agreeing to serve as my thesis advisor. Additionally, I am thankful to Tracy and Mary for their infinite patience and consistent willingness to provide answers to my many questions. (Most of which were in the handbook - but they very politely still humored me by answering each and every one.)

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn and to grow through my studies, but the most gratifying aspect of this year has been getting to know my fellow MA candidates - Amy, Ksenia, Davis, Tegan, Jill and Jeremie. Initially I was thankful that Dalhousie offered a 12-month program, since it fit well into my "life-schedule." As it comes to a close, my only regret is that the program isn't longer - not only because I welcome the chance to continue learning, but specifically because I would relish the opportunity to continue learning with and from my MA family. We are a diverse group, each of us having taken very different paths to arrive at this moment when we all happened to land on the same lily pad. It's because of these different paths that I have been enlightened by your perspectives and world views. So, to my fellow MAers I offer a most sincere "thank you." Thank you for sharing your insights and intellect. Thank you for

being supportive. Thank you for being accepting and welcoming - and for creating an environment that not only was conducive to learning, but in fact enhanced my learning.

Ambassador Meagher's accomplishments as a diplomat are truly impressive. She would concur that international accords don't negotiate themselves. While diplomacy is about relationships between nations, Ambassador Meagher's many successes were a testament to her understanding that diplomacy is first and foremost about relationships between people. As our program winds down and we scatter to our next adventures, what I value most from this experience are the connections we have made. And, with Ambassador Meagher as an example, I look forward to hearing about the successes of my MA colleagues - successes derived not only from their intellect and minds, but successes resulting from their compassion and hearts.

## POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS

### TARI AJADI (PhD Candidate)



This academic year has been full of rewarding experiences for me. I defended my Master's thesis, entitled "What Gets Counted Gets Done:

A policy analysis of the barriers and opportunities for provincial governments to collect disaggregated race-based health data" on August 15th, before continuing on to start my PhD coursework in the Department in September. I have been fortunate enough to receive the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship, as well as an appointment as a Junior Fellow at the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance this year.

The support of these scholarships has facilitated my attendance at several conferences this year including the

Qualitative Health Research Conference and the Bell Chair Graduate Student Conference in Canadian Parliamentary Democracy. I was also able to convene and chair a panel on the SNC-Lavalin Affair that featured Dr. Lori Turnbull, The Honourable Darrell Dexter, and Dr. Sara Seck via my appointment at the MacEachen Institute.

Aside from those commitments, this year has been littered with opportunities for personal and professional growth. I have become increasingly involved in advocacy efforts within communities of African descent across the province. I recently became a member of the Board of Directors of the Health Association of African Canadians, as well as a member of the Steering Committee for the African Nova Scotian Health Strategy initiated by the Nova Scotia Health Authority. I wrote an op-ed entitled "Thinking Differently About

*Continued on next page*

## POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS *cont'd*

Black History Month” for Canadian Government Executive in their March/April issue that summarizes some of my findings from this community work.

This summer, I intend to prepare for my comprehensive exams in the Fall semester, and I will be presenting two papers at the Canadian Political Science Association’s 2019 Conference with the generous support of funds donated to the Department. My thanks go to those alumni and other figures who have made it possible for me to attend the conference in Vancouver - your kindness and generosity are much appreciated.

### TEGAN BELROSE (MA Candidate)



I arrived at Dalhousie in the fall having only completed my BA at Bishop’s about four months prior with no idea what to expect for the year ahead. I can now happily say that it was equal parts challenging and rewarding. My courses have exposed me to theoretical approaches that were once unfamiliar but have become instrumental to my research. Dalhousie has provided me with opportunities to hear from a variety of professionals including local politicians, policy analysts, and federal government officials as they discussed their own experiences working in the political field. I also had the privilege of volunteering with the 2018 Halifax International Security Forum. During the Forum, I was given a front-row seat to some of the fascinating panel discussions that included international relations experts from across the globe.

As I continue my thesis and explore the complicated world of gender in peacekeeping, I’d like to acknowledge those who have supported me thus far. The professors of the Political Science Department have offered me valuable advice and guidance in both my coursework and my own research. I’d

also like to thank the members of my cohort who are always there to provide assistance and encouragement.

### JILLIAN HATCHER (MA Candidate)



This past year has been academically invigorating. After completing my undergraduate degree in Political Science at Dalhousie in 2017 and then taking

a gap year, it has been rewarding to return to campus to complete my Masters. With stimulating coursework and excellent thesis supervision from Dr. David Black, the past two semesters have been simultaneously challenging and fulfilling. I also had the experience of speaking at my first conference, where I was a panelist at the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students Conference in April 2019, and I spoke about my ongoing thesis research regarding the relationship between conflict and climate change. Further, I had the wonderful opportunity to provide assistance during the Third Century Symposium event in February, where Dalhousie alumni discussed their research and previous experiences as students at Dal. I am looking forward to continuing my thesis research over the next few months and defending my thesis in the autumn. This experience has been especially enjoyable as my fellow MA and PhD candidates have provided personal and intellectual support that has been invaluable, and I would like to thank everyone for their wonderful company over the last year.

### ANDREA LANE (PhD Candidate)

2018-2019 was a very busy year for me. I completed my comprehensive exams and have started work on my dissertation proposal, and I am very excited to be getting started on my research, which will involve both archival work and interviews. I have had several chances this year to present on aspects of my dissertation research, which is looking at Canadian women in peacekeeping from a feminist perspective. Whether presenting here at Dalhousie or at conferences elsewhere, I am pleased to see the public interest in issues

of sex and gender in the Canadian military, and my research is enriched by the questions and comments I have received as feedback at these presentations.

Another research project I have been involved in, the “Generations in Canadian Foreign Policy” project with Brian Bow, is coming to fruition this year with the decision by UBC Press to publish our edited volume. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work on this project with academics from across Canada who all share an interest in—or opinions on!—Canadian foreign policy as an academic discipline. My interest in this field was sparked by my time as an undergraduate at Dal in the early 2000s, where I studied CFP under one of the grandfathers of the field, Denis Stairs. The Generations project has sparked many interesting and passionate conversations about the future of the field, and I look forward to learning more about how my colleagues envision the discipline moving forward, as we wrestle with ideas of the Canadian state, decolonization and Indigenization of the academy, diversifying the professoriate, and adjusting to the Trumpian world order.

On the personal side, this past year has brought with it challenges, as my partner’s Navy career has meant I am frequently a solo parent to two tweenage girls. I feel that



Andrea Lane

being a mature student has brought with it numerous professional benefits, but the drawbacks of trying to juggle progress on my PhD with family life are real. We also unexpectedly welcomed a litter of Ibizan hounds this spring, which resulted in a two month “puppy sabbatical!” while I raised 8 energetic babies. It does sometimes feel as if graduate school was designed to suit only single people in their early 20s! One benefit of being a feminist scholar is being able to incorporate not only larger normative discussions around the challenges facing women and the workplace, whether in academia or the military, into my dissertation, but also my own experiences as a mother and military spouse. The feminist theories of politics and international relations I read as part of my comprehensive exams preparation resonate with my scholarship and with my everyday life—something that made preparing for my comps an unexpected pleasure.

As I go forward in my research I am grateful for the community of scholars and friends in the Political Science department. There is always someone here that I can count on for a book recommendation, the answer to a methodological problem, or a cup of coffee and a chat about my progress.

### **MICHELLE LEGASSICKE** (PhD Candidate)

I had a very exciting year and continued to work towards the completion of my dissertation. I was able to secure funding from the SSHRC Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship to support my 6 months of field work in West Africa from October 2018 to March 2019.

Part of my field work included an appointment as a visiting scholar with the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAITPC) in Accra, Ghana. During my time at KAIPTC, I was able to work on research projects related to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and the role of terror and rebel groups in peacebuilding environments. The highlight of my time at KAIPTC was my participation in a two-week Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration course with practitioners from across the continent. This was a great opportunity to learn and network with experts in the field.

During my time in West Africa, I spent a month collecting data in Sierra



**Michelle Legassicke**

Leone for my dissertation on civil war recurrence. This was an incredible experience, and I was able to see a lot of the country through the trips I took outside of my base in Freetown. My research included speaking to many different actors working on peacebuilding in the country, one of which was members of the Talking Drum Studio, where the picture featured was taken.

I returned to Canada in late March to present my paper “Shifting Loyalty: The Use of Post-Conflict Hybrid Structures in Breaking Rebel Networks” at the International Studies Association conference in Toronto. I will be returning to Halifax in late May to teach for the second time in the department, this time POLI 2520: World Politics. Looking to next year I will be writing my dissertation with the hope of completing in Spring 2020.

### **ADAM P. MACDONALD**



**(PhD Candidate)**

I had a very busy, exciting and rewarding second year in the Department. Much of Fall semester was consumed by preparing for and passing Comprehensive Exams. Special thanks to Susan, Nafisa, the

comps committees and administrative staff for all your help, guidance, and encouragement in ensuring they were a success. I am here to help those doing them this year in whatever way I can.

In the Winter semester I took over as Deputy-Director of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development where I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Hayden (Interim-Director) and Mary in organizing and advertising several interesting Centre events. One of my personal highlights was being involved in the 3rd Century Symposium, specifically showcasing and incorporating graduate and undergraduate students throughout the program. I, also, was a TA for Dr. Firmini’s POLI 1103 course, having the pleasure of teaching the IR section. Other notable achievements include completing both my language requirement (including receiving a certificate de mérite from the French Department) and the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Course (CNLT 5000). I was able to publish a few articles, including being the winner of the 2018 Canadian Naval Memorial Trust Essay Competition with my article published in the Canadian Naval Review. Finally, I just received some great news that I have received a Killam Scholarship beginning this summer.

Over the summer I will be presenting at numerous conferences across North America and Europe as well as preparing my thesis proposal to defend in the fall. I am looking forward to next year, where I will be continuing my work in the CSSD, with a special emphasis on showcasing graduate student research, and preparing to co-teach with Nafisa POLI 2530. Finally, a big thanks to the faculty, administration staff and the undergraduate and graduate students for contributing to a positive and inclusive culture with lots of social activities and FUN!

### **SUSAN MANNING (PhD Candidate)**

Susan has had a busy third year in the PhD program. She defended her dissertation proposal in the fall, taught her first course (POLI/GWST 3426: Sex and the State), and served on the department’s Canadian Politics probationary tenure track position

*Continued on next page*



# POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS *cont'd*



**Susan Manning**

search committee and the graduate admissions committee. She presented a paper at Congress in May at the Women and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes. One of Susan's most productive projects this year was as the lead author on a report written by a team from the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women and commissioned by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA). The report, Strengthening Impact Assessments for Indigenous Women, will inform CEAA's policy guidance on the proposed Impact Assessment Act should Bill C-69 pass in the Senate over the summer. The report has also resulted in a number of other positive opportunities for public engagement, including a presentation to CEAA staff, an interview with the National Post, an op-ed in Policy Options, two submissions to the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, and appearing as a witness to a meeting of the Committee. Susan also took on two new positions with Girl Guides of Canada, as a member of the National Programming Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Action Group for Nova Scotia, and started volunteering with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog program with her dog Juno.

**KSENIA MYKULA (MA Candidate)**



My year at Dalhousie has been a year of growth, both academically and personally. Coming from a Communications background, Political Science presented a new and

fascinating challenge for me, one I was eager to dive into. Combining the two fields, my thesis focused on the effects of social media on public perception during times of conflict in Ukraine. More than simply attending classes or conducting research, throughout the MA program I was able to attend a variety of conferences, gain valuable teaching experience, and work with the Jean Monnet EU Centre. All of these experiences are invaluable and will serve me well throughout my life. As this year is coming to a close, I would like to thank the faculty and staff of the Political Science Department, who supported and encouraged me, as well as my fellow cohort members. We laughed together and we cried together, and I would not have been able to do this without them.

**JULIA RODGERS (PhD Candidate)**



My first year at Dalhousie has been busy, but extremely successful. To begin the 2018-2019 year, I received a Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship. Though I dedicated the majority of this year to completing my course requirements, I have been involved in a number of interesting projects. I had the pleasure of presenting at the Atlantic Conference on Public Administration, as well as working with Dr. Hayden on various projects. I recently became a member of the SafetyNET-rx research team, a quality improvement initiative aimed at increasing patient safety, reporting, and learning in the Canadian context – rooted within the Rowe School of Business but spanning many regional and international institutions.

I want to thank everyone in the department for supporting my studies and professional growth this past year. I look forward to collaborating on new and exciting projects – after my comprehensive exams!

**DAVIS YUZDEPSKI (MA Candidate)**



I am an MA Candidate in Political Science here at Dalhousie. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Saskatchewan, where I was fortunate to forge many great relationships with faculty, each of whom played a role in my development as a burgeoning political scientist. My current research examines the impact of internet voting implementation on several markers of electoral health, including voter turnout, youth participation, trust, and engagement. While this may sound like a rather prosaic endeavour, it is in fact a desperately under-explored research area which deserves greater scholarly attention as many jurisdictions in Canada adopt novel voting methods utilizing modern communicative technologies (including here in the HRM). More broadly, my research interests include democratic theory, political behaviour, the politics of climate change, and critical animal studies. I was lucky enough to be published recently in the International Journal of Human Rights, coauthoring a paper with University of Saskatchewan Professor Matthew Mitchell examining the nexus of land tenure, violence, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Sub-Saharan Africa.

My time here at Dalhousie has been thoroughly enjoyable. The current MA cohort is populated by interesting and accomplished scholars, and likewise, the faculty in the Department of Political Science more than lives up to its reputation as collegial, knowledgeable, and supportive. I hope to build on the department's legacy by contributing in some small way during my graduate studies.

# DALHOUSIE GRADUATE SOCIETY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (DGSPS)

**THIS YEAR HAS BEEN VERY EXCITING,** busy, and fulfilling for our graduate students. We welcomed five new PhD and seven MA students into our program in September. In the early fall, DGSPS took the graduate students to Point Pleasant Park for a picnic as a way to welcome them to both the department and Halifax.

DGSPS, together with Dr. Zaiotti, held our first “Minds and Politics” brownbag lunch in September. We hoped to offer a relaxed and safe space for graduate students to convene, to get to know one another better, and to discuss pressing political topics or issues that we encountered in our academic work. We are thankful to Dr. Zaiotti for agreeing to facilitate this event, and for acknowledging the importance of mental wellness among graduate students.

One of the highlights of our year is our flourishing relationship with the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society (DUPSS). We would like to thank Alex, Taline, and DUPSS for co-hosting two Poli-beer socials with us this year. These mixers gave graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to get to socialize and unwind during stressful periods of the year. In addition, DUPSS was instrumental in helping both DGSPS and the Department of Political Science with the Third Century Symposium in February 2019. Thank you, DUPSS, and great work this year!

A central aspect of our roles as graduate students is in the form of service and administrative commitments to the Department. DGSPS would like to extend a thank you to Susan Manning for sitting on the Canadian Politics probationary tenure-track hiring committee, and the Graduate Admissions committee. DGSPS would also like to acknowledge Adam MacDonald as the new Deputy-Director for the Center of the Study of Security and Development (CSSD), and all the events he organized and facilitated this year. Lastly, we would like to acknowledge Tari Ajadi’s work with the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, especially in organizing and executing a very successful panel on the SNC-Lavalin Affair.



**Above: Susan, Tari, Nafisa, Julia and Adam at the Third Century Symposium in February 2019.**



**Above: Tegan, Ksenia, Amy, Davis, Peter, Jill, Adam and Julia at an axe throwing social.**



**Tari, Nafisa and Adam at the SNC-Lavalin Affair event hosted by the MacEachen Institute.**

Lastly, we would also like to congratulate Tari Ajadi, Kinnar Power, Callee Robinson, Mohammed El-Gayar, and Nick Phin for graduating from the MA program. We would also like to congratulate David Morgan, David Beitelman, and John Mitton for graduating from the PhD program. Lastly, DGSPS would like to congratulate Adam MacDonald and Nafisa A. Abdulhamid for successfully completing their comprehensive exams.

The graduate students would like to extend a very warm thank you to our faculty, Mary Okwese, Tracy Powell, the CSSD, and the Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence for all the support and opportunities you provide for us.



**Ksenia, Amy, Tegan and Davis during the Polibeer social in February 2019.**

It has been a wonderful year – congratulations to all our graduate students! Have a great and restful summer, everyone!

**By Nafisa A. Abdulhamid, DGSPS President**



# ALUMNI

## **GAVIN CHARLES (BA Honours in Political Science and History, 2011)**



When I decided to major in Political Science, it was because I wanted to study the things I read about in my spare time.

That's the same

approach I've tried to take since then, in my graduate studies and in my work. I feel very privileged to have been able to continue learning and thinking about issues that matter to me.

After I graduated from Dalhousie in 2011, I moved across the proverbial pond to study for a Master's in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. I got my first taste of "doing" politics through an internship with a Member of Parliament in Westminster. I enjoyed my time engaging in policy research and advice behind the scenes, and that got me thinking about a poster I had first seen the year before outside the Political Science Department in the Henry Hicks Building. I applied to the Parliamentary Internship Programme, and was lucky enough to be selected for one of the best years of my life. The non-partisan Programme – now celebrating its 50th year – is an amazing opportunity to work on both sides of the House of Commons while studying Parliament and policymaking.

I ended up staying on Parliament Hill for three years as the legislative assistant to the official opposition critic for foreign affairs, Paul Dewar. I wrote speeches and press releases, analyzed and helped amend legislation, and engaged with a wide range of people and perspectives. In 2015, politics happened. Paul wasn't re-elected, and we both left Parliament Hill. Paul was one of my most important mentors, and we remained close until his passing earlier this year.

For the past few years, I've been working at the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC). The Council is a coalition of 80+ Canadian international development and humanitarian assistance organizations. Our membership includes most of the well-known names in this sector – the Red Cross, World Vision, Oxfam, Save the Children, Amnesty

International, and so on. We have a small core secretariat of 15 staff, but together our members represent thousands of Canadians working in these areas, supported by millions more Canadians.

CCIC doesn't run programs internationally, though all of our members do. Our focus is here in Canada. The Council is the national independent voice of Canada's international development and humanitarian sector, as well as the sector's key convenor and coordinating body. We do our own policy analysis and advocate on issues affecting the sector as a whole, as well as bring our members and others together to build common ground and understanding.

I now lead a policy team that engages with our membership and the federal government to enhance Canada's international cooperation agenda. We write briefings, analyses, op-eds, policy submissions, and reports. I've testified before parliamentary committees, and engage regularly with national and international decision-makers. I'm able to see the impact of my work in legislative, policy, and regulatory reforms that reflect the input from CCIC and its member organizations. These changes have helped ensure that Canada's international assistance is accountable, effective, and rooted in both evidence and human rights.

Indeed, one of the most significant takeaways from my experience in both a political office and in civil society is that policy influence is widely dispersed. There are opportunities for real policy impact throughout government, civil society, and industry – not just in the biggest, most well-known places. That should be reassuring for political science students seeking meaningful work. More broadly, I think it's good for anyone who wants decisions in our democracy to be shaped and informed by the wisdom and perspectives of many voices, and not just the (s)elect few.

## **JENNIFER CHISHOLM (BA Combined Honours, Political Science and International Development Studies, 2010)**

After nearly 10 years since graduating from Dal, it was a real pleasure to return to campus this past winter to be part of the Third Century Symposium.

In February, this event brought together current graduate students, PhD candidates, professors and alumni to discuss diverse topics in political science and to reflect on issues such as mentorship and career opportunities. I was part of an alumni panel geared towards current political science students thinking about 'careers beyond the academy.' I was asked to share my perspective as a policy analyst with the Government of Canada.

At the Symposium, it was fun and inspiring to be back in a lecture hall—particularly knowing there would be no papers to write or mid-term exams to study for afterwards. It was fascinating to hear about the research being done by graduate students and professors in diverse areas of political science. A real highlight was reconnecting with former classmates and professors and having the opportunity to meet some of the current POLI Sci undergrad students. As cliché as it sounds, in some ways it really does feel like just yesterday that I was in their shoes. I remember well what it felt like to hand in my final Honours thesis (thank you Dr. Black!) and to be looking ahead to graduation, uncertain about exactly what I wanted to do next.

After graduating from Dal, I first worked as an intern with a municipality in rural Nova Scotia through a program meant to recruit potential public sector leaders. Having focused on international and Canadian issues in my undergrad, I learned a lot about local government through this experience. After that, I put the writing and communication skills I gained through my POLI Sci degree to work at Fisheries and Oceans Canada where I worked in the busy communications branch.

After some overseas travel (with my now-husband who is also a Dal POLI Sci grad), I came back to Canada and started working in communications at



**Jennifer Chisholm**



the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax. While I enjoyed my work at the museum, I knew that I wanted go back to school. I considered law school or a Master's degree in international affairs but in the end decided to focus on domestic policy issues. I said goodbye to Halifax and moved to Ottawa where I completed an MA in Public Administration at Carleton University.

At Carleton, I was lucky to meet people from across Canada who had been drawn to studying public policy in the national capital. During my Master's degree, on top of the economics, research methods, and foundational courses in policy analysis and public administration, I took courses in social policy, health policy, Indigenous policy and social finance. Coming out of grad school, I joined the federal public service through the Advanced Policy Analyst Program (which I highly recommend to all recent Master's grads out there!).

Through this program, I had the opportunity to take on challenging files and gain diverse work experience in a relatively short amount of time. At the Privy Council Office, I worked on justice and Indigenous issues. I had the opportunity to sit-in on Cabinet meetings to record the discussion among Ministers on the files that I had helped shape. At the Department of Finance, I analyzed funding proposals and provided Budget advice to the Minister of Finance. At the Treasury Board Secretariat, I worked on infrastructure files, helping ensure that funding flowed to provinces for investments in public transit. At Employment and Social Development Canada, I worked in federal, provincial, and territorial relations, supporting the work of social services Ministers across Canada. I learned an immeasurable amount about how government works in practice, building on what I learned in the classroom at both Dal and Carleton.

Today, I work on issues related to children and families, developing policy proposals to support the Government's social policy agenda. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to help think through the implications of policy proposals and to work with people who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of Canadians.

When I reflect on it, what continues to draws me to my work as a policy analyst is also what I value about my experience in Political Science at Dal—the community, the opportunity to be

exposed to so many different issue areas, and the ability to challenge yourself to think through complex problems.

### **ZACK TAYLOR, MA Political Science, Dalhousie University, 1996**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Director, Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance, University of Western Ontario

It was a great pleasure to return to Dal for the Third Century Symposium in February. It had been 23 years since I finished my MA and 11 years since I was last in Halifax. Both the Political Science Department and the city are much changed, yet both have retained what makes them great: their human scale, conviviality, and rootedness in a long yet vital tradition.

When I arrived at Dal, fresh out of undergrad in Montreal, I did not have a clear idea of where my future would take me. Neither I, nor likely my excellent professors—the late Peter Aucoin, David Cameron, Herman Bakvis, Jennifer Smith, Denis Stairs, Bob Finbow, Katherine Fierlbeck—would have predicted that I would someday become a professor of political science and public administration. It was 1995, the year of the Quebec independence referendum. I was seized with the existential ferment of Canadian politics, eating, breathing, and sleeping constitutional theory and history, federalism, nationalism, and language politics. Writing a thesis on the theory and practice of asymmetrical federalism was a great experience but seems pretty anachronistic from the vantage point of 2019.

A lot had changed, both in Canada and in my own interests, by the time I returned to school at the University of Toronto a decade later. I, like Canada, but maybe not yet Canadian political science, discovered cities. In the interim I had found my way into a career in urban and regional planning, which sensitized me to a number of things that hadn't been a part of my earlier political science schooling. I had gained a deep appreciation of the urban built environment—how it is incrementally produced not only through public regulation and investments, but also countless decisions by households and businesses, and all of this in the context of long-term macroeconomic and technological processes. I also witnessed and became fascinated by conflicts over urban places and spaces—over who gets to use them, what they mean

to people, and what they are going to become. I came to understand that place is political because it is intertwined with our lifestyles and patterns of mobility and consumption.

My own urban awakening paralleled new public attention to the importance of cities to the Canadian economy and society. At the federal level, the later Chrétien and early Martin governments rediscovered the local with their New Deal for Cities and Communities. At the same time, several provincial governments began overhauling their municipal and land-use planning legislation and devolving new responsibilities and autonomy to local governments. We have seen an extraordinary amount of place-based and city-focused innovation in multi-level policymaking and delivery in diverse fields—immigration, economic development, indigenous affairs, infrastructure, addictions, and so on—innovation that mobilizes resources and policy knowledge across the federal, provincial, and local levels toward policy outcomes. After being dissolved for a generation in federal-provincial conflict, cities have become an important subject in national policy debates.

I returned to university because I wanted to study the changing place of cities in the national political economy and in national policy, the provincial-municipal politics of urban development, the multi-level governance of urban space, and place-based political conflict within cities. Fast-forward 13 more years, and this is exactly what I'm lucky enough to be doing as a professor at the University of Western Ontario.

I am currently working on two major SSHRC-funded projects. The first, with Jack Lucas at the University of Calgary, is called *The City in Canadian Political Development*. American political scientists working at the intersection of American Political Development and urban political economy have done a lot of work on the effect of urbanization on national politics since the 18th century. We are going to do this for Canada by charting the changing representation of cities in Parliament, cabinets, and government and opposition party caucuses, and analyzing the relationship of representation to party platforms and throne speeches since 1867. This project will reveal how urban centres have been over- or under-represented in federal institutions and political parties over time, including shifts in urban-suburban-rural cleavages between the parties.

## ALUMNI *cont'd*

We expect this will generate new ideas about the nature of political conflict and party system change in Canada.

The second project, with sociologists Dan Silver and Jan Doering, examines the spatial basis of electoral conflict in three large municipalities—Toronto, London, and Chicago. We find that enduring political cleavages are deeply entrenched in space, and that individual attitudes are influenced by neighbourhood location in ways that are independent of their individual characteristics.

It was great to return to Dal and Halifax for the Third Century Symposium. I am sure the department will continue to grow and change in exciting ways, and that new generations of students will experience what I did almost 25 years ago: a learning environment that is challenging, collegial, and rooted in the best of the Canadian political science tradition.

### **ALEX WILNER, MA POLI (Dal), 2004 and PhD POLI (Dal), 2009**

I can still remember the first time I sat down in Prof. Frank Harvey's IR class in September 2003. I had just moved to Halifax to start my Master's at Dal Poli Sci. It was the first week of school. None of the students knew each other. Most were new to the city. Prof. Harvey needed an icebreaker: "Tell us your name, where



**Alex Wilner**

you come from ... and what you think of the Iraq War." That question set the class in motion, and we never stopped moving. The debates we had that year about the war, about counterterrorism, about U.S. power and Canadian national interests, motivated me. I stayed at Dal the following year to start my PhD – with Prof. Harvey as my supervisor. I planned to update deterrence theory for counterterrorism. I went on to establish and chair the DGSPS – the Dalhousie Graduate Society of Political Science; we held our first meeting over beers at the old Grad House on LeMarchant, charting out a funding path so that we could host our first grad conference. Later, I picked up a few scholarships. Later still, I met my future wife, picketing

down University Ave with other Dal TAs. [Dal News covered that episode in a Valentine's Day special in 2013.] And with that, the adventure really began. Our family now includes three girls, ages 7, 3, and 4 months. After I finished my PhD (in 2008/9), I was awarded several post-docs, including one that took me (and my new wife) to Europe. I worked at the Centre for Security Studies at the ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) for several years. Zurich was amazing, both professionally and socially. [I got to work with Thomas Schelling!] That was followed by visiting fellowships at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), at the University of Maryland, outside Washington, DC, and at the Munk School of Global Affairs, at the University of Toronto. Eventually, via the Canadian federal government's Recruitment of Policy Leaders (RPL) program, I moved to Ottawa to work at Policy Horizons Canada – Canada's strategic foresight laboratory. That was eye opening. Soon afterwards, I was offered a faculty position at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University, where I remain today. I love my job. I still work on deterrence. And I start every class of every new school year asking my graduate students: "Tell us your name, where you come from ... and what you think of ..." It never gets old.

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### **DALHOUSIE POLITICAL SCIENCE (WITH THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT)**

offers an excellent undergraduate program (with Honours option) and graduate programs (MA and PhD) in a collegial, small department. Our professors are known internationally for their outstanding research. We offer a congenial social environment, enhanced by the entertainment and environmental amenities of the City of Halifax. We offer courses and degree programs in four sub-fields:

- Canadian Government
- International Relations and Foreign Policy
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## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

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*Know of a former classmate who is doing something exciting and newsworthy?*

Email us at: [PSADMIN@DAL.CA](mailto:PSADMIN@DAL.CA)