HOW RELEVANT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE? To the extent that power is a constant that exerts itself across and within communities, the study of power is evergreen. To the extent that the discipline focuses on processes and institutions that mitigate the crude exercise of power, there is more cause for dismay. As the world holds its breath watching the US veer toward an unprecedented electoral showdown, we see a growing social acceptance across the ideological spectrum for gaining power at any cost with less concern for the democratic ideals that, for a very brief period historically, seemed to provide a calm and orderly modus operandi for an increasingly diverse population. But as concern for democratic norms such as transparency, accountability, mutual respect, and good will evaporate in the face of the quest for power, so does governability fester and decay. As Rousseau warned, as soon as the disillusioned say, “What does it matter to me?”, the state may be given up for lost. The test of our discipline, then, will be whether we engage with this disillusionment, or merely exacerbate it.

Dr. Katherine Fierbeck, Political Science Chair
and infrastructural investment in West Africa: Implications for political and environmental governance in the region,” at the annual Canadian Association for African Studies (CAAF) Conference, to be held between 12 to 16 June 2024 at McGill University, Montreal.

Finally, Dr. Arthur will be presenting one conference paper this spring—one on America’s commitment to an “engagement” strategy with China during the 1990s, and one on government responses to the COVID pandemic and their impact on elite debates over industrial policy. He is developing a new 3000-level course on status and markets in the world economy, which he hopes to roll out in the winter 2026 term. He was Honours program coordinator in 2023-24, and again found that very rewarding, but will be handing off to Anders Hayden for 2024-25. He begins a three-year term as department chair this summer and is looking forward to working closely with colleagues in preparation for the upcoming department review.

Dr. Christian Banerjee: During his fifth year as a faculty member in the department, Dr. Banerjee spent the academic year teaching courses in the classroom, researching and writing, preparing several grant applications, as well as engaging in a number of collaborative research projects at the national and international level. His class offerings featured the third-year undergraduate course “Refugees, Migrants, and International Order: Understanding the Politics of Global Mobility” as well as an upper level undergraduate and graduate course “Democracy, Human Rights, War, and Peace: Ethics in International Affairs.” He also acted as an MA thesis supervisor, as well as supervised two honours theses projects. Banerjee also had the opportunity to serve on both the FASS and Departmental EDIA committees over the course of the past year, served on the Scholars at Risk Committee at Dalhousie, as well as reprend his role as one of this year’s Stanford Fellows. In addition, Dr. Banerjee has been involved in several new grant submissions. As this academic year comes to a close, he would like to express his thanks to the staff and his colleagues in the Department of Political Science, as well as his students across all his classes.

Dr. Brian Bow has been working on two conference papers this spring—one on America’s commitment to an “engagement” strategy with China during the 1990s, and one on government responses to the COVID pandemic and their impact on elite debates over industrial policy. He is developing a new 3000-level course on status and markets in the world economy, which he hopes to roll out in the winter 2026 term. He was Honours program coordinator in 2023-24, and again found that very rewarding, but will be handing off to Anders Hayden for 2024-25. He begins a three-year term as department chair this summer and is looking forward to working closely with colleagues in preparation for the upcoming department review.

Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck: As Katherine Fierlbeck’s eleventh book, Public Policy Challenges in Rethinking Public Health, comes out later this month, she will be using her winnings this year by visioning to begin writing her twelfth, as well as producing outputs from her CHIR grant on comparative public health responses to COVID. She has had a busy year with many invited talks, including a presentation for the OurCare exercise on public health care for the University of Europe, the US and Canada to discuss the latest research and developments on the transatlantic economic relationship in turbulent times. He was hampered this year by vision issues, which improved after surgery. His chapter on “Asymmetry and Civil Society Backlash: Changing European Calculations in Trans-Atlantic Investment Relations from CETA to TTIP and Beyond” was published in Elaine Fahey (ed.) Representation, and Social Science (FASS) Research Development Committee (RDC). Finally, Dr. Arthur will be presenting one of his ongoing research works, “China and infrastructural investment in West Africa: Implications for political and environmental governance in the region,” at the annual Canadian Association for African Studies (CAAF) Conference, to be held between 12 to 16 June 2024 at McGill University, Montreal.

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Dr. Robert Finbow hosted an International Workshop on European Union Trade and Economic Relations: Transatlantic and Global Challenges. This workshop, hosted for the Jean Monnet EU Centre of Excellence, brought together scholars from Europe, the US and Canada to discuss the latest research and developments on the transatlantic economic relationship in turbulent times. He was hampered this year by vision issues, which improved after surgery. His chapter on “Asymmetry and Civil Society Backlash: Changing European Calculations in Trans-Atlantic Investment Relations from CETA to TTIP and Beyond” was published in Elaine Fahey (ed.) Representation, and Social Science (FASS) Research Development Committee (RDC). Finally, Dr. Arthur will be presenting one of his ongoing research works, “China and infrastructural investment in West Africa: Implications for political and environmental governance in the region,” at the annual Canadian Association for African Studies (CAAF) Conference, to be held between 12 to 16 June 2024 at McGill University, Montreal.

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Our Faculty

Dr. Peter Arthur served as Undergraduate Advisor during the 2023/24 academic year when Dr. Anders Hayden went on sabbatical leave. In addition to assisting students with course selection, he provided advice to students regarding various academic matters. He participated in the Open House organized by the University in November 2023 for High School students who were planning on attending Dalhousie University. Along with this, he published a paper, “Extricative Sector Regulations in Africa: Old Practices & New Models for Change,” in Hany Besada, Cristina D’ Alessandro & Tefhi Golla edited collection, Routledge Handbook of Natural Resource Governance in Africa, Abingdon, Oxfordshire: Routledge. He is also a part of a group of scholars (Vanessa Tang, Korbi P. Puplampu and Kobena Hanson) who have submitted a proposal for an edited book, Green Development and Finance in a Globalized Africa, to Palgrave MacMillan and which is currently under review. Furthermore, he supervised the thesis of an Intensive Development Studies (IDS) Honours student, as well as served as the external examiner for a PhD thesis at the University of Ghana. Moreover, he served as a reviewer for the Journal of Asian and African Studies. Besides these, Dr. Arthur chaired the Department’s Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee. The Committee focused on incorporating EDIA issues into the various aspects of the department’s activities as colleagues, educators, and mentors. Additionally, he continued his membership in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Research Development Committee (RDC). Finally, Dr. Arthur will be presenting one of his ongoing research works, “China and infrastructural investment in West Africa: Implications for political and environmental governance in the region,” at the annual Canadian Association for African Studies (CAAF) Conference, to be held between 12 to 16 June 2024 at McGill University, Montreal.

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The Department of Political Science is very pleased to give a warm welcome to new scholars who will be joining our team effective July 1, 2024. Dr. Marion Laurence has taken on the role of Assistant Professor, Limited Term for 3 years, and Dr. Heather Tasker has taken on a joint role of Assistant Professor in both the Department of Political Science and Law, Justice and Society Program.

During the fall 2023 semester Dalhousie hosted the third annual Stanfield Conversation: Talking Democracy. The series builds on the legacy of Rt. Hon. Robert L. Stanfield, a long-serving former Premier of Nova Scotia and celebrated former leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party. This ongoing series focuses on critical challenges to democracy and imaginative and inspiring responses to them.

The third annual Conversation, titled “Can Democracies Meet the Challenge of Climate Change?”, took place on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, and featured leading figures from civil society, the academy, and government; Megan Leslie (President & CEO of World Wildlife Fund Canada), Dr. Mark Jaccard (Professor at Simon Fraser University & CEO of the B.C. Utilities Commission) and Naheed Nenshi (former Mayor of Calgary & current candidate for Alberta’s NDP leadership). The moderator of the 2023 Conversation was CBC Radio Host, and Dalhouse alum, Jeff Douglas.

Accompanying the public lecture, graduate students at Dalhouse were invited to a special ‘Master Class’, with Leslie, Jaccard, and Nenshi leading a seminar. More than a dozen graduate students from Political Science, Public Administration, History, and International Development Studies participated in an engaging discussion that centered on one of the most important challenges facing contemporary democratic politics: the crisis of climate change. The conversation that followed, which was informed by key texts provided by Leslie, Jaccard, and Nenshi, offered participants a chance to critically engage with and provide their own perspectives on key issues, such as whether existing liberal democracies have the tools, and even capacity, to agree on and implement sufficiently strong and consistent policies as to meet the challenge of climate change.

As with previous iterations, the Master Class was a tremendous success. A community building experience that brings together graduate students from a variety of disciplines across the faculty, the Master Class will continue to be a staple of future Stanfield events for years to come, serving as a crucial ‘warm up’ for the main public conversation itself.
DALHOUSSIE POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MODEL SENATE 2024 AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Students not highlighted here who attended Model Senate 2024 and were financially supported by the Department of Political Science were Evan Colclough (BA: Major in Political Science with Minor in History), Sarah Johnson (BA: Major in Political Science), John McConnell-Grant (BA: Major in Political Science with Minor in International Development Studies), and Jack Kielbowich (BA: Major in Law, Justice & Society and Political Science). A sincere thank you to our donors who make these invaluable opportunities possible for our students.

Jessica Duffney, BA: Honours in Political Science and Law, Justice & Society (Graduated May 2024)

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the Political Science Faculty, I had the opportunity to participate in Model Senate 2024. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity as I got to meet Canadian senators and simulate the senate process whilst sitting in the red chamber (and the green room of the House of Commons). The experience was inspiring and allowed me to practically apply what I have learned studying political science.

Kristen Barnes, BA: Major in Political Science

I was honoured to represent Dalhousie University at the SENgage Model Senate in Ottawa. This is a yearly event where university students across Canada come together to simulate Senate and Committee sittings. My role this year was as a Senator who would debate in the second and third rounds of readings of the bill. I would also like to thank our valued donors to the Political Science department for their financial support.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS IN OUR POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES

Dr. Natalie Ghosn, Esq., taught POLI 2215.03 and POLI 2210.03 this year and was very pleased and thankful to be able to have several guest speakers in her classes. Some of those special guests are highlighted below.

Poli 2215.03: Indigenous Politics in Canada.
Students welcomed 12 Indigenous speakers to the course this semester including Chiefs from Glooscap First Nation and Mi’kmaq First Nation.

Poli 2210.03: Unity and Diversity: The Federal Dynamics of Canadian Politics.
Students welcomed US Consul General Lyra S. Carr to discuss how US-Canada relations are affected by Canada’s federal structure.

Students in the Canadian Federalism class send Mi’kmaq language notes and photos to Karl Hele, Professor at Mount Allison University, New Brunswick who was interviewed for their group project.

Dr. Kristin Good taught POLI 2220.03 (The Structures of Parliamentary Government in Canada) for the first time this year. She enjoyed engaging with the students on the fundamental constitution laws and principles of the Canadian regime and discussing current events in class. Her class was enriched significantly by four distinguished guest speakers including former Prime Minister Right Honourable Joe Clark and former Deputy Prime Minister (and minister in several other portfolios) Honourable Anne McLellan who generously agreed to participate in an interview-based and conversational style event that allowed them to share personal experiences in public service that brought the course material to life for the students. Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard also spoke to the class offering insights into the Senatorial appointment process and the work of the Senate in such a personal way that inspired the students. The class also enjoyed a lecture given by James Charlton, the Chief Clerk of the Nova Scotia Legislature who was able to highlight some of the differences in parliamentary procedure between the federal Parliament and the Nova Scotia legislature. What an amazing experience these talks were for our students!

Right Honourable Joe Clark and Honourable Anne McLellan with the POLI 2220.03 Class.

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CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT (CSSD)

Dr. Leah Sarson, CSSD Director

THIS YEAR MARKED MY FIRST YEAR AS Executive Director of the Centre, an appointment I was delighted to accept from my predecessor, Brian Bow. My thanks to Brian, Centre administrative secretary Mary Okwese, and the Centre’s stalwarts and friends for their assistance during the transition. Over the next few years, I plan to focus on supporting and expanding the CSSD’s community of scholars, students, practitioners, and activists creating innovative research in the areas of security and development, broadly understood.

Over the past year, the CSSD hosted eight events that brought together more than fifty experts from across Canada and internationally from academic, government, military, and non-governmental sectors. Our events provided a forum to connect interdisciplinary scholars and specialists collaborating on various projects, introduce students to prominent thinkers and change-makers, and contend with current political events and crises at home and abroad.

Our events this year included a two-day workshop in August, “Untangling the Climate Change/Migration/Security Nexus” with funding from the Department of Defence, a November early career researchers’ forum on engendering discussions with partners at Dalhousie and beyond, reflecting the community-building ethos at the heart of our mandate.

You can find photos and information about these and future events on the CSSD’s new Instagram account, cssd_dal. You can also hear me representing the Centre in an interview on CBC radio’s Halifax drive-home program Mainstreet in which I discussed Canada’s engagement in NATO and the organization’s future.

David Black will helm the Centre over the next year while I am on sabbatical. Please check the CSSD website for updates and events.

JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (JMEUCE)
Madeleine Coffen-Smout, Centre Coordinator

The Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence continues to provide a focal point for academic, outreach and networking activities relating to the EU. The academic year began with an international workshop on European Union Trade and Economic Relations: Transatlantic and Global Challenges. Led by JMEUCE Deputy Director, Robert Finbow, this hybrid event brought together a multidisciplinary selection of participants from Europe, Asia and North America.

The autumn also featured a line-up of guest speakers giving public lectures on a range of topics. David Haglund (Queen’s) spoke on France-US Security and Defence Cooperation: Strategic Culture and Cognitive Antinomies; Tobias Schminke (Europe Elects & Dal) and Paulo Ravocca (SMU) led a round table on European and Latin American Populisms; Heather MacRae (York) explored Gender, Inequality and Intersectionality; The European Union at a Crossroads; while Russell Foster (King’s College London & Carleton) presented on Europe and Europe – Ukraine and the Identity War.

Around 60 people took part in this year’s EU Day of Debate in February, when the Centre collaborated again with the Dalhousie-King’s Debate Society on a weekend competition for local schools. In-person speakers at Trade Workshop (15th Sept. 2023, Dalhousie)

The Centre also provided support for Dal student research and mobility. This included offering the annual EU Essay Prize – congratulations to Grace Alberts for her winning paper – and enabling participation in both the Model Europe and EUrope – Ukraine and the Identity War. Finally, the JMEUCE continues to value the opportunity for networking and collaboration with international scholars at all stages of their careers. We have therefore been pleased to host Erasmus Mundus Professor, Krishna Kumar Saha (Ghent University, Belgium), visiting undergraduate Kateryna Korpalo (Hyv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine) and PhD student, Bakhtawar Nizamani (University of Sassari, Italy).

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Dal delegates Alexandra & Massimo at the Model EU (3rd-5th May, Toronto)

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Serving as undergraduate advisor in the Department of Political Science has meant dealing with and responding to various inquiries from students. Among the main issues I have been involved in my capacity as undergraduate advisor has been to assist students with issues pertaining to course selections, as well as on plans relating to going on exchange programs abroad. During the academic year, the department was involved in the recruitment of potential new students through the University organized Open House for high-school students. With assistance from my colleague, Dr. Kian Banerjee, as well as members (Isobel Cameron, Emily Laffoquette, and Kate Walker) of the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Student Society (DUPSS), we conveyed to potential students what is entailed in the discipline of Political Science and their future prospects with a degree in that field of academic study. Along with the Open House, the Department of Political Science, with assistance from Dr. Margaret Denike, was involved in the Advising Fair organized by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Programs in March 2024.

2023-24 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD/PRIZE WINNERS

MADDY BURD, BSc: Major in Neuroscience, 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.

CORA FLETCHER, BA: Honours in Political Science, has been awarded the Eric Dennis Gold Medal. 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.

MIRA POSLUNS, BA: Major in Political Science, has been awarded the Commonwealth Political Science Prize. This prize is awarded annually to the student who receives the highest grade in Political Science POLI 2410 and POLI 2420. The Commonwealth Prize was established by John Beveridge, who graduated from Dalhousie University in 1971.

COBY STEER, BA: Major in Political Science and History, has been awarded the Rear-Admiral F.W. Crickard Prize in Political Science. This award is given once a year to the undergraduate student who has been nominated by a faculty member for the best FR paper in a Political Science course.

KATE WALKER, BA: Honours in Political Science, 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.

THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY (DUPSS)

Isobel Cameron, DUPSS President

The Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Student Society’s (DUPSS) 2023-2024 academic year was full of exciting new initiatives, and a growing council that helped make it all happen! With over twenty attendees at our Fall Annual General Meeting, we started the year off with a bang, and kept the momentum going with numerous events, both returning favourites and new ones! Over the year, the society hosted bingo, trivia nights, study sessions, the Honours panel, the Dalhousie Political Networking Initiative, and our annual gala. On top of these annual events, we introduced several new initiatives. We hosted an EU book club with the help of Dr. Zaiotti and put together a 2024 reading list (which can be found on our Instagram!). With the help of alumni Dong Ngo, we brought back the Political Science Alumni Networking Initiative, wherein students were matched with an alumni mentor.

Inspired by past DUPSS events, we brought back the headshot fundraiser, and provided a number of students with headshots while raising $150 and collecting non-perishable food items for Hope Cottage here in Halifax. Another returning classic DUPSS initiative that we were happy to carry on this year was the Podium Journal, which featured a cover designed by renowned political cartoonist Michael de Adder!

The cover, and the winning essay submissions, were celebrated at the 6th annual Political Science Gala that was hosted this March at the Oxford Taproom. This event (pictured) was an amazing opportunity for students and faculty to get together and celebrate all the accomplishments of the year, both for DUPSS and the larger Dalhousie Political Science community. The events and initiatives would not have been possible without such a dedicated executive team and the unwavering support of the Political Science department, especially Dr. Fierlbeck and Tracy. Last of all, we would like to thank all the students that came and supported our events, their support is what keeps the society running. We are looking forward to another successful and exciting year!
HONOURS PROGRAMME REPORT
Dr. Brian Bow, Honours Coordinator

THE HONOURS PROGRAMME HAD a cohort of 10 students for 2023-24, pursuing research in a wide variety of areas (see thesis titles listed below). All of this year’s theses were very strong, but Kate Walker’s was judged best and awarded the James H. Aitchison Prize for this year. Cora Fletcher won the Eric Dennis Gold Medal for the highest GPA over the 4-year degree programme. We’re sorry to see them go, but very proud of their accomplishments so far, and looking forward to seeing what they’ll do next. On their behalf, sincere thanks to all of the faculty members who served as supervisors and second readers, and to Tracy Powell, for administrative support to the programme.

JAMES CHADWICK, “Northeast New England: Political-Cultural Unit?” (supervisor Robert Finbow, second reader Brian Bow)

JESSICA DUFFNEY, “Exceptionality Versus Essentiality: Canada’s treatment of Temporary Foreign Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic” (supervisor Kiran Banerjee, second reader David Black)


Allison Hedges, “Calling the Shots: China and India’s Approaches to Vaccine Diplomacy in the COVID-19 Pandemic” (supervisor David Black, second reader Brian Bow)

LYNN PHILLIPS, “From the International to the Local: Considerations for Engaging with Non-State Armed Groups Who Recruit and Use Children in Armed Conflict” (supervisor Kiran Banerjee, second reader Kate Swanson)

Caroline Quad, “Bureaucratic Legacies: Explaining Differences in Post-9/11 Counter-terrorism in Western Europe” (supervisor Ruben Zaitoti, second reader Robert Finbow)

Massimo Rigatto, “Democracy European Style: Euroscepticism, NGOs, and Democracy Promotion in Ethiopia and Kenya” (supervisor Ruben Zaitoti, second reader David Black)


Kate Walker, “Drugs and Money: Regulatory Capture at the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board” (supervisor Katherine Fleribeck, second reader Sharon Batt)

CAROLINE QUAID, “Bureaucratic Legacies: Explaining Differences in Post-9/11 Counter-terrorism in Western Europe” (supervisor Ruben Zaitoti, second reader Robert Finbow)

James H. Aitchison Award for Best Honours Thesis
Kate Walker, BA: Honours in Political Science (Graduated May 2024)

I feel very humbled and grateful to be this year’s recipient of the James H. Aitchison award. In the fall, I set my sights on writing the best possible thesis I could, and to be considered for this prestigious award is an honour. Of course, receiving this award would not have been possible without the support of my incredible supervisor, Dr. Katherine Fleribeck, whose passion, and expertise in health care policy was instrumental in every step of this process. I also want to thank Dr. Brian Bow for his continued support in both current and future academic endeavours, as well as this year’s Honours cohort. Everyone’s hard work and dedication to the arduous process of writing a thesis was inspiring and I feel lucky to have worked alongside this talented group of students.

My decision to take Political Science stemmed directly from conversations my family had around the dinner table when I was growing up. Both my parents studied political science at Dalhousie, and they have always instilled in me a desire to engage in tough and sometimes uncomfortable conversations, while also holding space to listen to other perspectives and learn from them. My first year at Dalhousie was chaotic to say the least given the pandemic and the limited opportunities to meet peers due to social distancing measures, so I wasn’t exactly sure what I wanted to study. When I started my second year, however, my passion for political science was solidified, particularly in Dr. Fleribeck’s Political Thought class, where I also met some of the friends I still have today!

I honestly can’t choose which is my favourite area of study within the discipline of Political Science. I became quite familiar with healthcare policy while writing my thesis (which I thoroughly enjoyed!) and I am also passionate about the study of international relations and foreign policy more broadly. While I have enjoyed all the political science classes I have taken at Dalhousie, one of my favourite classes was Contemporary Security Studies taught by Allison Chandler, which sparked in me a desire to learn more about conflict studies in general.

After I graduate in May, I will be heading to the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University where I will pursue a graduate degree in International Affairs with a specialization in conflict analysis and resolution. While I am very sad to leave behind Dalhousie and the wonderful people in the political science department, I feel well positioned for a new academic adventure in Ottawa!

Both my parents studied political science at Dalhousie, and they have always instilled in me a desire to engage in tough and sometimes uncomfortable conversations, while also holding space to listen to other perspectives and learn from them.”

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. 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/giving.
The past year has been challenging, but at the same time, colorful. As a part of the Political Science department at Dalhousie, and as the recipient of Glyn Berry Memorial scholarship, I am grateful to have the support of the scholarship, as well as the help I received from our faculties.

Throughout this year, I’ve encountered various experiences. I undertook additional TA responsibilities, assisting in four courses in total. Despite the increased workload, I found genuine enjoyment in these tasks, interacting with young undergraduate students, which makes me feel young and passionate for my work. I want to thank Dr. Leah Sarson, Dr. Rachael Johnstone, and my supervisor, Dr. Brian Bow, for their guidance and patience during my TA duties, I am so thankful to work with them as they have taught me and guided me on how to be a good educator.

I also participated in my first conference this year. In October, I presented my paper at the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Conference at St. Thomas University, where the conference was hosted. Although my paper was not perfect, but it was an excellent experience to participate in academic events as meeting with other scholars and building to academic network is an important aspect of my PhD studies. I want to express my appreciation to Dr. Shaun Narine from St. Thomas University for providing constructive feedback and support during my presentation at the conference. Furthermore, I am thankful to Dr. Robert Finbow for providing me with the opportunities to work as an assistant at the workshops hosted by our department. It enhanced my professional skills and confidence for future endeavors.

Another important thing I did in the past year was returning to China. After four long years of travel restrictions, I finally got a chance to return to China and reunite with my parents. I am so grateful that my parents have always supported me. Despite the twelve-hour time difference, their unwavering support has kept me grounded and motivated throughout my PhD journey.

This year marks my tenth year in Canada. The world has changed a lot in the past decade. Ten years ago, the Crisis in Ukraine started, now, the war is still ongoing and even getting worse day by day. Ten years ago, Justin Trudeau was preparing to challenge Stephen Harper for the upcoming election, now, it’s the opposite and Pierre Poilievre is getting ready to challenge Trudeau for the next election. What has changed in the past decade? Why did that happen? These questions are waiting for me to answer, and as a political science major PhD student, it is my responsibility to find the pattern and solution to build peace, and to make our world a better place.

Glyn Berry Scholar
Xinyu Gong (PhD Candidate)
Liam McCarthy (MA Candidate)

**MARGARET MEAGHER FELLOWSHIP AND KEENS-MORDEN SCHOLARSHIP**

I am deeply honored to be the recipient of both the Margaret Meagher Fellowship and the Keens-Morden Scholarship for the 2023/24 academic year. Margaret Meagher was the first Canadian woman to serve as an ambassador, and Reid Morden and Margaret Meagher families have enjoyed successful careers as civil servants and professional scholars. Jane and Tim are very kind and generous people whom I had the pleasure of meeting when I arrived in Canada. In addition to being distinguished faculty, administration, and students at Dalhousie, I still remember nervous introductions and chatting and debating anything and everything political, from upcoming elections to heated discussions about international relations. While I thoroughly enjoyed coffee breaks on campus, the Halifax waterfront, the break on the Halifax waterfront, and the Canadian criminal justice system, and the vibrant nightlife downtown, some of my fondest memories were made in class. The passion for political science that our cohort shared extended into our classrooms, where we learned and collaborated with undergraduates and other graduate students from the History, International Development Studies, and Public Administration departments.

I am excited to continue my education as I begin at Osgoode Hall (York) Law School after completing my Master’s degree this summer. With the support of the Keens-Morden and Margaret Meagher Scholarships, the guidance of Dalhousie’s Department of Political Science and the encouragement of my new colleagues and friends, I feel confident and well-prepared for the next chapter of my academic journey. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities these scholarships have provided and eager to continue my research focus on the intersection of Indigenous politics and the Canadian criminal justice system.

Patricia Porto de Barros Ayaz (PhD Candidate)

**SHAW-PARPART SCHOLARSHIP**

I am also deeply grateful for receiving the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Being acknowledged for my contributions to initiatives that enrich the graduate student experience at Dal brings me immense joy. In this regard, I owe special thanks to Mabel Ho, an inspiring individual who has significantly contributed to my personal and academic development over the past couple of years. I greatly value her trust in my potential and the nomination for this award.

Throughout the entire academic year, I have been engaged in various volunteer, teaching, and learning activities. This season of my life has been busy yet delightful. It marks my second year as the President of the Graduate Society of Political Science and as the Student Representative on the Admission Committee of my department. As well as my third year as a judge for the Political Science Graduate Students Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. These experiences demonstrate my enthusiasm for playing an active role within our department. Speaking of which, I would also like to express my gratitude to the supportive individuals in our academic community, especially our coordinator, Dr. Kristin Good, and my supervisor, Dr. Ruben Zaittou. Moreover, in 2023–24, I volunteered as an organizer for Dalhousie’s Black Health Awareness Week. I also continued my role as a mentor at Together@Dal (GradEd) and as a political science graduate student leadership academy program, reaching a crucial milestone towards completing my PhD, and began working on my research project. Lastly, I am working as a research assistant for the Dalhousie Centre for Learning and Teaching, and eager to discover what 2024–25 holds for me.
THE DORIS BOYLE GRADUATE PRIZE WINNER
ALIZA CHOW, 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 International Relations. Doris Boyle served for many years as Administrative Secretary of the Centre for the Study 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.

GRADUATE STUDENTS VISIT AFRICVILLE MUSEUM
Tobias Schminke (PhD Candidate)

On 6 October 2023, a group of graduate students and faculty from Dalhousie University, with the kind sponsorship from AshMeg Seafoods Ltd., visited Halifax’s Africville Museum. For most of them, it marked their first visit to this historical site.

The museum remembers the African Nova Scotian community of Africville, which has roots dating back to at least the early 19th century. In the 1960s, a so-called “urban renewal project” force-fully dismantled the community’s homes and public spaces to make way for a dog park and the then-yet-to-be-built A. Murray MacKay Bridge.

The visiting group included master’s and Ph.D. students in political science, as well as history graduate students. A highlight of their visit was the insightful and personable conversation with Bernice, a former resident who shared personal insights into Africville’s rich history.

Beyond its historical significance, the museum plays a crucial role in reconciliation efforts, raising awareness about systemic racism, and ensuring that Africville’s legacy endures. Despite facing challenges like the absence of government funding and limited transportation infrastructure, the museum ensures the preservation of Africville’s historical legacy.

This visit marked the third consecutive private visit by a graduate cohort, with the first occurring with the master’s student cohort in 2021.

The trip was concluded with a lunch get-together at the Brawta Jamaican Jerk Joint.

DALHOUSIE GRADUATE SOCIETY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (DGSPS)
Pатricia Porto de Barros Ayaz (PhD Candidate)

This year, our society has accomplished important milestones and has been through exciting experiences. To begin with, we welcomed four enthusiastic MA students into our program. We also ratified our society under the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), which allowed our executive members to receive training and develop essential skills to manage our society. At least one of our members completed the Primary Event Organizer (PEO), the Treasurer, and the Anti-oppression training. Other than enabling us to deal with bureaucratic matters, these workshops have provided us with the tools and skills necessary to create a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

Moreover, with the graduation of our former treasurer, Caira Mohammed, our society has appointed Mirriam Mensah as our new treasurer. Through-out the year, the DGSPS has planned and hosted events that allow students to interact, have fun, and create lasting memories. Like last year, in the fall term, Dr. Kristin Good invited all graduate students to the Grawood, and the new cohort got a chance to engage with older graduate students and learn about our department and Dalhousie as a whole.
The past year at Dalhousie has been amazing professors, and some of the experience filled with wonderful people, students. Her encouragement has Good for being a pillar for us graduate honors I could not have achieved without ing me for the Doris Boyle award, an annual Review. I couldn't have done it without the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship, which helped fund my MA, including their interaction with democracy. As my first work with Dr. Scott Pruysers is now published, I am working with him and Gala Palavicini Jauregui on a paper that explores the interconnection between personality and climate change denial. Beyond that, I navigate them with determination and resilience. As I set sail into the coming year, I am excited about the opportunities for growth and success that await. the Department’s Graduate Students Society, where I contribute to fostering a welcoming and supportive community. Further, winning the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship stands as a shining achievement in my journey, affirming my dedication to scholarly excellence. While my path has presented challenges, I navigate them with determination and resilience. As I set sail into the coming year, I am excited about the opportunities for growth and success that await. three months in the stove- and sink-less Dartmouth casa). Lastly, after organizing a cross departmental trip to Afrikville and participating in PASS’s weekly Ph.D. pizza corner book club, I passed my Canadian citizenship test, signalling the dawn of a new chapter focusing on the membership selection processes of Europarties, I also assisted Dr. Pruysers in teaching a statistics course, while Dr. Louise Carbert and the department generously trusted me to teach the Canadian parties’ class between October and December. Lastly, some jovial stories off the democratic battlefield: My spare time was consumed by living in and DIY-renovating an entirely Gutted house with my partner in Dartmouth North, earning us a self-awarded degree from YouTube university. Unexpectedly, this also involved my participation in a whooping cough study, which was not only a paid writing retreat for my now-pas sed PhD proposal (three week isolation in an air tight hospital room) but also funded our kitchen (after having relied on Costco poutine and hotdogs for almost three years).
Adams, “I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.” After grad school I took a humanities and social sciences teaching position at a university in Beijing to complement my thesis research on China’s national oil companies with street-level experience. I spent three and a half years in the PRC, writing numerous articles on Chinese politics and society. I then watched the country change for the worse when Xi Jinping took power and subsequently returned home. I was eager for more challenging direct experiences, this time in my home country, and so trained as a Primary Care (PCP) and later Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) to serve my home community in a grassroots way and develop strength of character in the process. I spent close to eight years leading inter-agency emergency response teams and providing high-level prehospital emergency care to the community of Greater Sudbury while raising my two young daughters. My ability to think critically and navigate public systems were in demand. While raising my two young daughters. My ability to think critically and navigate public systems were in demand. Although there are times when I reflect how much more comfortable my life may have been if I carried on to do a PhD or seek public sector policy work in my 20s, I would not trade all the comfort in the world for the confidence and insight that my atypical work experiences have given me, or the tremendous good I have managed to bring to my community. If you do follow your own path, you may mystify the vast majority of people, but my experience is that you can always find those rare spirits in the majority who will see the method behind your madness and will value you all the more for it. To have come full circle from a Dalhouse MA, to a broad range of unusual experiences and to find myself in a mid-career policy role with DND after it all is a wonderful validation of the art of doing things differently. Perhaps it is finally time to get started on that PhD!

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
If you wish to share your alumni story in our next issue of the Political Science Annual Newsletter, please reach out to psadmin@dal.ca

ALUMNI VIGNETTES

CHARLES HUMPHREY
BA (Com ’99) in 2006 and MA in 2009, Political Science (Dal)

Fifteen years after completing my MA at Dal’s Political Science department, I am thrilled to be reconnecting with the department as I prepare to move my family from Sudbury to Halifax to start a new position as a Mental Health Policy Analyst with the Department of National Defence (DND). My journey post-grad school was atypical, reflecting my strong intuition and critical thinking skills, but also that there was an experiential dimension to life that I was missing. At the time I endured much while on route from Dr. Davis, my thesis advisor to get on with the business of a PhD or job in finance or government, but to borrow from Douglas Adams, “I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.” After grad school I took a humanities and social sciences teaching position at a university in Beijing to complement my thesis research on China’s national oil companies with street-level experience. I spent three and a half years in the PRC, writing numerous articles on Chinese politics and society. I then watched the country change for the worse when Xi Jinping took power and subsequently returned home. I was eager for more challenging direct experiences, this time in my home country, and so trained as a Primary Care (PCP) and later Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) to serve my home community in a grassroots way and develop strength of character in the process. I spent close to eight years leading inter-agency emergency response teams and providing high-level prehospital emergency care to the community of Greater Sudbury while raising my two young daughters. My ability to think critically and navigate public systems were in demand. Although there are times when I reflect how much more comfortable my life may have been if I carried on to do a PhD or seek public sector policy work in my 20s, I would not trade all the comfort in the world for the confidence and insight that my atypical work experiences have given me, or the tremendous good I have managed to bring to my community. If you do follow your own path, you may mystify the vast majority of people, but my experience is that you can always find those rare spirits in any organization that will see the method behind your madness and will value you all the more for it. To have come full circle from a Dalhouse MA, to a broad range of unusual experiences and to find myself in a mid-career policy role with DND after it all is a wonderful validation of the art of doing things differently. Perhaps it is finally time to get started on that PhD!

MATTHEW GOODWIN
BA 2005, Political Science (Dal)

Since my time at Dalhousie’s Political Science department, I have had a varied career that has taken me from the City of Toronto civil service, active political roles in Canada and the UK at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. I have also spent time in academia, receiving a PhD in Public Policy from University College London and publishing a book on British and Canadian foreign policy. I remember distinctly my first week at the department as I prepare to move my family from Sudbury to Halifax to start a new position as a Mental Health Policy Analyst with the Department of National Defence (DND). My journey post-grad school was atypical, reflecting my strong intuition and critical thinking skills, but also that there was an experiential dimension to life that I was missing. At the time I endured much while on route from Dr. Davis, my thesis advisor to get on with the business of a PhD or job in finance or government, but to borrow from Douglas Adams, “I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.” After grad school I took a humanities and social sciences teaching position at a university in Beijing to complement my thesis research on China’s national oil companies with street-level experience. I spent three and a half years in the PRC, writing numerous articles on Chinese politics and society. I then watched the country change for the worse when Xi Jinping took power and subsequently returned home. I was eager for more challenging direct experiences, this time in my home country, and so trained as a Primary Care (PCP) and later Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) to serve my home community in a grassroots way and develop strength of character in the process. I spent close to eight years leading inter-agency emergency response teams and providing high-level prehospital emergency care to the community of Greater Sudbury while raising my two young daughters. My ability to think critically and navigate public systems were in demand. Although there are times when I reflect how much more comfortable my life may have been if I carried on to do a PhD or seek public sector policy work in my 20s, I would not trade all the comfort in the world for the confidence and insight that my atypical work experiences have given me, or the tremendous good I have managed to bring to my community. If you do follow your own path, you may mystify the vast majority of people, but my experience is that you can always find those rare spirits in any organization that will see the method behind your madness and will value you all the more for it. To have come full circle from a Dalhouse MA, to a broad range of unusual experiences and to find myself in a mid-career policy role with DND after it all is a wonderful validation of the art of doing things differently. Perhaps it is finally time to get started on that PhD!

ROGER THOMPSON
MA 1994, Political Science (Dal)

is in his final days at Kyung Hee University in Korea. He taught civic education, ethics in science fiction films, and English for 18 years but it is time to come home. During his time at KHU, one of the top 50 universities in Asia, his work garnered praise from Admiral James Stavridis, former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, the iconic Hollywood director Ralph Senensky, who directed several episodes of Star Trek, as well as best-selling author and movie producer Mark A. Altman and Susan Sackett, who was the late Gene Roddenberry’s executive assistant on Star Trek for many years. Teaching in Korea for so long was both challenging and rewarding, and he looks forward to the next chapter in his life, back where he belongs, Halifax!
DALHOUISIE 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 and Politics
- International Relations and Foreign Policy
- Comparative Politics
- Political Theory

Financial Aid: Full-time MA and PhD Students are eligible for prestigious prizes, awards, and scholarships. These include the Glyn R. Berry Memorial Scholarship in International Policy Studies, Killam Memorial Scholarship, Margaret Meagher Fellowship in Political Science, Keens-Morden Scholarship, and other Graduate Scholarships and Teaching Assistantships.

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