

DALMAGAZINE

FALL 2021

INSIDE:
Ramp up
resilience
Outward bound
New normals

In Fine Form

Arts Centre,
LSC and Killam
celebrate 50



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OUTWARD BOUND Universities are by nature civic institutions. But what happens when they become more intentional about their community impact? By Matt Reeder
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KEEP GROWING Moving on after a challenging time can seem daunting. But as in a fall garden, taking stock and looking ahead can help you bloom in the days to come. By Beth Hitchcock
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY DAL MAGAZINE FALL 2021

Cover photo by Nick Pearce of Ella MacDonald (BA'21, King's) performing on the Dunn Theatre stage at the Dalhousie Arts Centre.
Costumes: John Pennoyer; Set: Katherine Ryan; Lighting: Bruce MacLennan

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Together Again by AnnMarie MacKinnon

AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS of hunkering down and maintaining physical distancing measures, the Dal community is officially back on campus. And while sheltering in place and minimizing our in-person contacts to protect both those we care about and those we haven't met has for many fostered a tendency to look inward, a sort of collective fallow period, the return to campus this fall sees us once more directing our gaze outward. The time has come to take stock of what we've learned over the course of the pandemic and to decide how we will apply it to grow together.

In this issue of *DAL Magazine*, we look at how some of Dal's Brutalist architecture has forged connections between campus and community in its first 50 years and look ahead to the next 50 ("Set in Stone," p. 26); we consider what it means to be a civic university ("Outward Bound," p. 33); and we discover what it takes to cultivate resiliency in a time of ongoing flux ("Keep Growing," p. 38 and "Navigating the New Normal," p. 23).

We encourage you to share your growth by submitting a Class Note (email classnotes@dal.ca), by sharing your thoughts on our content (email editor@dal.ca)—and by sharing the stories you see here with others (you can find our content online at dal.ca/dalmag).

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Nominations are now open for the 2022 Aurum Awards.

Help us celebrate the innovators and visionaries
who are making a difference around the world.

Nominations close January 14, 2022

alumni.dal.ca/aurum2022



DAL ALUMNI DAYS

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MAY 26 – MAY 29, 2022

In-person and virtual events will be offered.

dal.ca/alumnidays





A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DR. DEEP SAINI

September 29, 2021



WHILE OUR RESPONSE to the pandemic continues, at Dalhousie and around the world, having our students return to campus this fall has brought a renewed sense of

optimism and momentum to the university.

Finally having the ability to return to in-person teaching and learning came on the heels of releasing our new five-year strategic plan, *Third Century Promise*, over the summer. The title of this plan has a dual meaning. It refers to the potential that our future holds, as well as our commitment to those we serve: our students, our people, but also our broader community. The idea that we can strengthen our impact in the region, across Canada, and around the world is central to this new plan.

While I encourage you to learn more about the plan in full (you may do so at dal.ca/strategicplan), there are two specific themes that relate to this issue of *DAL Magazine*.

The first is our commitment to lifelong partnership with our graduates. Through the implementation of our new strategic plan, we will strengthen learning and professional development opportunities for our graduates throughout their lives and careers.

The plan also recognizes the vital role that our alumni play in allowing us to deliver on our mission of being a civic university. Our graduates are both our greatest source of pride and our greatest allies. Working together, we can push Dalhousie to reach its highest potential for both service to our local communities and global impact.

The combination of gradually emerging from the pandemic, being back together again and setting our sights higher through a new strategic plan puts us in a truly exciting place. And now we are preparing to launch our next comprehensive fundraising campaign, which will allow us to make the most of this opportunity together, expanding our expertise, capacity and success in areas where we can become national and global leaders.

I hope that in reading this issue and reflecting on these themes, you will feel as optimistic as I do about the promise that this particular moment holds.

NEWS

Third Century Promise: Dalhousie's new Strategic Plan (2021–2026)

Dal President Deep Saini and Provost Frank Harvey unveiled *Third Century Promise* to the university community in June during a virtual launch event, offering faculty and staff their first full look at a plan that was more than two years in the making.

The new strategic plan, which was approved by Dal's Board of Governors in April, seeks to lay out the university's long-term ambition while providing clear, actionable strategy for the next five years.

This vision, in addition to the university's mission and values laid out in the plan, is underpinned by five key pillars of promise:

- **Exceptional student experience:** To be among the very best universities in Canada for student experience and success.
- **Inclusive excellence:** A thriving community of faculty and staff, where everyone belongs.
- **High-impact research:** Growing our research impact here in Canada and around the world.
- **Civic university with global impact:** Uplifting our province and region while expanding our global reach.
- **A foundation for**

inclusion and distinction: Modernizing and enhancing our physical, digital, and social infrastructure to support our drive for inclusion and distinction.

Each pillar is supported by a series of actions, which Dal will track to measure its success in unlocking the promise of each.

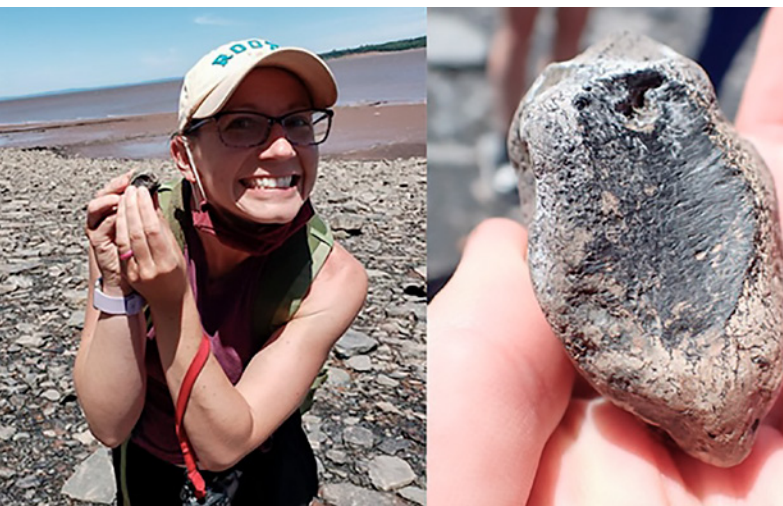
—Matt Reeder

Board approves Dalhousie Event Centre

After nearly a decade without an arena on campus, the university has announced that the Board of Governors voted to approve a new Dalhousie Event Centre on Studley Campus. Set to be built behind LeMarchant Place, in the same location as the former Memorial Arena, the Event Centre will feature an NHL-sized ice sheet with an alternate floor surface, a new state-of-the-art home for the Dalhousie Physiotherapy Clinic, and event spaces with catering capabilities. Opening date is targeted for the fall of 2023.—Ryan McNutt

Tuition waiver for former youth in care

A new program launched this fall at Dalhousie that aims to increase access



Dr. Frail-Gauthier shows off her rare tetrapod fossil find.

to university education for youth who have spent time in foster care. The initiative will cover tuition waivers for undergraduate studies for up to 10 former youth in care, enabling these students to attend the university free of tuition charges. Additionally, the program will provide other tailored institutional supports such as advising and counselling as part of a holistic approach to minimizing systemic barriers that disproportionately impact youth with a past in care.

“Former youth in care face unique and multiple barriers to accessing and persisting in post-secondary education,” explains Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan, who helped to coordinate the project launch. “These youth are hidden among the under-represented marginalized

learner groups, including Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ+ within Canadian higher education.” —*Matt Reeder*

Discovery of rare fossil

On a field trip to a beach near the Annapolis Valley in July with her coastal ecology course, Dalhousie biology instructor Jennifer Frail-Gauthier was combing through rocks on the beach when something stuck out.

With the help of Blue Beach Museum curator and fossil expert, Chris Mansky, that specimen was identified as the inside of a skull. And more importantly, the fossil was from a tetrapod, what Dr. Frail-Gauthier calls Blue Beach’s “holy grail.”

Blue Beach—located in Hantsport, Nova Scotia—represents the geological era known as “Romer’s Gap.” The gap refers to the lack of fossil records

from around 350 million years ago.

“During this time, tetrapods (four-limbed animals with fingers and toes) moved onto land, but we have no solid fossil evidence for it,” says Dr. Frail-Gauthier.

Tetrapod fossils like the one discovered on this field trip provide a clue to the link between life in water and life on land.

—*Stephen Abbott*

Top 300 globally

Dalhousie is now ranked among the top 300 universities globally in the three international rankings it actively participates in: Times Higher Education World University Rankings, QS World University Rankings and ShanghaiRanking’s Academic Ranking of World Universities.

Dalhousie maintained its 251-300 placement out of the more than 1,600 institutions across 99 countries ranked in this year’s Times Higher Education World University Rankings, positioning the university among the top 20 per cent worldwide. The results put Dalhousie in a tie for 12th place in Canada and mark it as the top-ranked university in Atlantic Canada.

The university climbed 19 spots to 272 out of the 1,300 institutions ranked globally in this year’s QS World University Rankings, the largest ever published by QS, which resulted in Dal taking its place among the top 21 per cent worldwide, 12th in Canada and as the top-ranking university in Atlantic Canada. Dalhousie ranked in the top 300 universities globally and among the top 12 universities in Canada in the ShanghaiRanking Consultancy’s 2021 Academic Ranking of World Universities. Dalhousie was one of more than 2,000 universities considered this year, and its ranking (201-300) places it among the top 15th percentile globally.

—*Stefanie Wilson*

Student wins Research Impact Canada award

When Perri R. Tutelman was 16 years old, she was a volunteer supporting families and youth facing life-threatening illnesses at the Canuck Place Children’s Hospice in Vancouver.

Now a graduate student in Dal’s Faculty of Science, Tutelman has been awarded the inaugural Research Impact Canada (RIC) award

based on her research in the understanding of pain in survivors of childhood cancer.

The award acknowledges research projects that follow engaged scholarship principles that lead to increased awareness of audiences beyond academia or changes in stakeholder actions, practices, guidelines or policies. Tutelman was the only awardee outside of Ontario.

Receiving the RIC award reaffirms Tutelman's commitment to following the principles of engaged scholarship throughout the next stages of her career. "My long-term goal is to become a clinician-scientist where I can build a research program focused on conducting research informed by the principles of engaged scholarship and then translate the findings to the clinical care of children and families," says Tutelman.

—Michael Murphy

2021 Aurum Award winners

The Aurum Awards celebrate Dalhousie alumni for their outstanding achievements and contributions in research and innovation, community engagement and leadership. This year, five



individuals were recognized who are helping to build a better world through their work and generosity on a local, national and global level.

Ayat El-Dewary (BA'04) fulfilled a childhood ambition of working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and now contributes to making a difference in the lives of displaced individuals globally. Her efforts have helped raise over \$200 million USD from donors and partners.

Dr. Irving Fish (MD'64) with his wife Ilene and others launched the Ethiopian School Readiness Initiative (ESRI) in 2007. The comprehensive non-profit program gives disadvantaged children ages three to six opportunities to thrive academically.

Teresa Mellish (Dip Agr'66) has planted her share of seeds over the years. But one that she helped plant in 1980 has had a significant impact among farm families in East Africa. That seed, Farmers Helping Farmers,

is a non-profit initiative that has conducted hundreds of development projects in Kenya to address food security, health and education challenges.

Doug Townsend (BCOMM'04) and Renée Lavallée, owners of Dartmouth-based The Canteen and The Little C Take-Out, wanted to address food security in the community. When their eateries closed, they worked with The North Grove to open The Canteen Community Kitchen, which has provided over 14,000 meals for people in need, and up to 500 a week at its peak.

Lee Cohen (LLB'80) was the lawyer who represented 174 Sikhs who arrived in Shelburne, N.S., in 1987, seeking to escape a civil war in Punjab, India. It was a lifechanging moment. The Halifax Refugee Clinic, which he founded in 2000, provides legal representation to people who claim refugee status in Nova Scotia and ensures their rights and

2021 Aurum Award winners, clockwise from top left: Dr. Irving Fish, Lee Cohen, Ayat El-Dewary, Doug Townsend and Teresa Mellish.

integrity are respected. "I can think of no better reason to be alive than to make life better for somebody else," Cohen says. —Mark Campbell

New AVP equity and inclusion

Barb Hamilton-Hinch (BSc'91, MA'98) has experienced Dalhousie from a variety of perspectives: as an undergraduate student, a graduate student, a member of staff, an assistant and associate professor, and an alum. And she's been fighting for equity and inclusion every step of the way. Now, she's started a two-year appointment as Dalhousie's assistant vice-provost equity and inclusion, which will enable her to extend her leadership of this critical work.

"I want to get us to action," says Dr. Hamilton-Hinch. "I want to start

seeing the results of the committees because there's no point in having a committee if it doesn't result in meaningful action. So, what I'm most excited about is developing an action plan that's realistic, putting measures in place to monitor what we said should happen and then re-evaluating it when it doesn't. I think we can always do a better job of evaluating and re-evaluating what we say we're going to do."

—Stefanie Wilson

Dal's newest Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Chairs

Researchers from the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Engineering, Science, and Health, were named as Dalhousie's newest Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Chairs. The Killam Chairs are awarded to academics of the highest distinction at Dalhousie with appointments of up to five years. Dalhousie is one of five recognized Killam Institutions.

Dr. Afua Cooper, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, is known best to the Dalhousie community for her academic pursuits, including serving as the past James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, leading the Black

and African Disapora Studies minor and chairing the Scholarly Panel on Lord Dalhousie's Relationship to Race and Slavery.

Dr. Kevin Plucknett, Faculty of Engineering, has 30 years of academic, national laboratory and industrial experience in advanced materials and manufacturing. His research in advanced engineering materials covers a variety of areas including advanced structural and functional ceramics, lightweight metals, energy materials and additive manufacturing.

Dr. Mita Dasog, Faculty of Science, is conducting internationally recognized research with the potential for significant global impact on issues such as our dependence on fossil fuels and access to fresh water. Her research group focuses on developing nanomaterials for sustainable fuel production, desalination, and water purification, all using sunlight.

Dr. Jeanna Parsons Leigh, Faculty of Health, is focused on enhanced health systems performance, health communication, and knowledge translation. She has honed this expertise to establish a successful cross-national research program focused on optimizing public health emergency preparedness

quoted.

Dal Experts in the news



CBC | \$1 device developed in Halifax that helps detect COVID-19 in sewers drawing global interest

"We were like, 'Wow, we kind of hit the big time by somebody at the Sorbonne being interested in what we're doing.'"

—Dr. Graham Gagnon, director of the Centre for Water Resource Studies

GLOBAL NEWS | Sea-level rise causing frozen grounds along Arctic coastlines to thaw, study suggests

"The natural world is filled with so many feedbacks that have potentially large implications for global climate and sort of the trajectory that we're facing in the coming years."

—Dr. Julia Guimond, Department of Civil and Resource Engineering

SCIENCE NEWS FOR STUDENTS | What biologists call a species is becoming more than just a name

"We deliberately didn't want something that sounded like a rank. We thought supergroups would be silly enough."

—Dr. Alastair Simpson, Department of Biology

in Canada for situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

—Michele Charlton

On-campus rapid testing

To make access to testing even more convenient for the Dal community, the university collaborated with Nova Scotia Public Health to offer a self-swab COVID-19 rapid screening program at Dalhousie, which launched in June and has continued into the fall.

The Faculties of Dentistry, Health and Medicine were chosen to lead the project and Liane Sandula, manager of facilities and safety within the Faculty of Engineering, was seconded to be project manager.

“The evolving nature of both the requirements and the flow of the centre made for an interesting start-up,” says Sandula. “However, the enthusiasm of all stakeholders involved, along with great site leads, has resulted in a very effective test centre.”

On campus testing clinics and take-home test kits have been available to faculty, students and staff at various locations across the university’s campuses.

—Jason Bremner

Cox Institute re-emerges

Three years after a fire ripped through the Cox Institute on Dal’s Agricultural Campus in Truro, a renewed and repaired facility has officially been turned back over to the university.

“This day has been a long time coming but is nonetheless exciting,” says Dr. David Gray, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and principal for the Agricultural Campus. “Our community, our university and our campus has rallied around the Faculty of Agriculture over the past three years and has helped to bring us here today. This was a group effort and the patience, hard work and resiliency of all involved has been truly remarkable. I’m excited for the future.”

The scope of work was significant, not only due to water and fire damage, but to also bring the building—constructed in the early 1960s—up to current building and fire codes. Stairwells were moved, layouts re-configured and equipment replaced and upgraded.

—Stephanie Rogers

 Get the latest Dal News at dal.ca/news





found.

Archiving Dal's history

Students returning to campus this fall were welcomed with culinary options ranging from sustainable seafood to halal hamburgers in Dalhousie's residence dining halls and at the many cafés and food outlets dotted across four of Dal's campuses. In the 1950s, dining at Dal had a different flavour. Although Shirreff Hall had been serving meals to female students in rather elegant surroundings since 1923, male students both lived and dined off-campus until after the Second World War. Until then, the only place to grab a cup of coffee and a bite to eat on Studley Campus was at Roy Atwood's canteen. Various iterations of the canteen survived until the Student Union Building opened in 1968 in response to the lack of places for Dalhousians to eat and meet. Even in 1948 there were complaints that the canteen could comfortably seat only 20 of the 1700 students on campus each day, and it was a rare issue of the *Gazette* between 1950 and 1966 that didn't contain some reference to the high prices, poor service, lack of choice or unsanitary conditions served up over two decades. Food for thought? At the very least, we can be grateful for the appetite for change.

—Jennifer Lambert

 Learn more about Dal's University Archives at dal.ca/archives

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

By Alison Auld, Michele Charlton, Jessica Dee Humphreys, Caitlyn MacQueen, Dawn Morrison



A new Dallaire Institute study looks at the psychological effects of interactions with child soldiers on military personnel.

Health

Children in conflict

Split-second decisions soldiers make in the fog of war have long-term consequences on their mental and moral well-being long after the soldier returns home. But little is known about this phenomenon, and no formal research has yet been undertaken to study the issue from the perspective of those who interact with children in armed conflict. It is this motivation that led Dal's Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security to begin a study in 2020, which has just been expanded through funding from Veterans Affairs Canada. The research project will be the first of its kind to explore the connections between morally injurious events and the recruitment and use of children as soldiers.

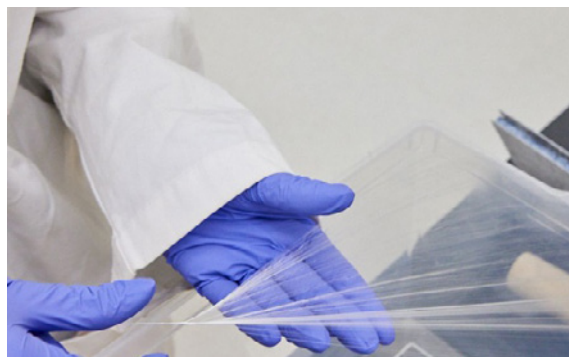
RESEARCHERS: Dr. Shelley Whitman and Dr. Catherine Baillie Abidi, Dallaire Institute

Science

Stronger, lighter, tougher

As a kid, Karan Chowdhry liked to ask, "Why?" That passion for understanding things has translated into developing technology that can solve real-world problems. Chowdhry is one of the founders of 3D BioFibR, a Dal spin-out company focused on the production of biofibre that has the type of quality and scale that is not achievable with current manufacturing methods. Some of the products 3D BioFibR has created include CollaFibR™ Tendon, which can serve as an excellent artificial tendon in both tissue models and medical applications; and SpidrFibR™, which has exceptional mechanical properties, and shows great potential for applications in the green textile industry and in bio-composite development for aerospace engineering and defence.

RESEARCHERS: Karan Chowdhry, 3D BioFibR



3D BioFibR has found a way to bridge the gap between production scalability and performance.

Health

Investigators track the vax

Members of the public were asked to play an important role in completing the largest study of vaccine safety in Canadian history. Jennifer Isenor, a researcher in the Faculty of Health, is a regional investigator on the study, which is examining adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines. The project is being coordinated by investigators with the Canadian National Vaccine Safety (CANVAS) Network, and may be reassuring in providing additional data on the safety of the vaccines and helping those who are vaccine hesitant decide to get the shot. Investigators are looking to enrol 400,000 participants per vaccine across the country, in B.C., Yukon, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and P.E.I. They also aim to register a control group of approximately 50,000 unvaccinated participants.

RESEARCHERS: Dr. Jennifer Isenor, Faculty of Health



The research partnership between Tesla and Dalhousie will continue until at least 2026.

Science

Building a better battery

Two outstanding scientists have become research chairs at Dalhousie and have joined the university's exclusive partnership with Tesla. Chongyin Yang and Michael Metzger are both working very closely with Jeff Dahn, Canada Research Chair in Materials for Advanced Batteries. Dr. Yang's research group will focus on developing high performance materials for advanced lithium-ion batteries. Dr. Metzger's group will focus on developing novel methods to study the performance and lifetime of advanced lithium-ion batteries, lithium metal batteries and desalination batteries. Work officially began with Tesla in 2016, and the partnership has been renewed until at least 2026.

RESEARCHERS: Dr. Jeff Dahn, Dr. Michael Metzger, Dr. Chongyin Yang, Faculty of Science

Medicine

One-shot wonder

One of the tools being used to fight COVID-19 has Dal roots. Mathai Mammen (BSc'89) and his global team of more than 13,000 scientists are responsible for the research and development of the single-shot Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine. "Within days of learning the sequence of the SARS CoV-2 virus, our team began work on a number of versions of that sequence, so that the researchers could... pick from those versions the best version that would cause the strongest multi-pronged immune response if it were made into a vaccine," says Dr. Mammen. "We were able to pick something that you were just able to give in a single shot, as opposed to multiple shots in order to create a robust and protective immune response against the virus," says Dr. Mammen.

RESEARCHERS: Dr. Mathai Mammen, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies

Environment

Major milestone

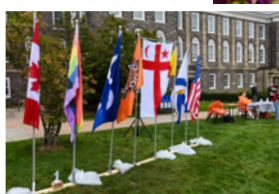
Researchers from around the world have developed a plan to safeguard more than 80 per cent of global habitats for endangered marine species, while also increasing fisheries catches and curbing carbon emissions by up to one billion tonnes per year. The study, co-authored by Dalhousie Biology professor Boris Worm, is a major milestone in achieving meaningful ocean protection of 30 per cent of marine area by 2030. The 26 authors also quantified for the first time the potential release of carbon into the ocean from bottom trawling, finding that the fishing practise releases hundreds of millions of tons of carbon into the ocean every year.

RESEARCHERS: Dr. Boris Worm, Dalhousie; National Geographic Society; University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara; Utah State University; Unité Halieutique de Manche et Mer du Nord; University of British Columbia; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel; Albert Ludwigs University; Quantitative Aquatics; Université de Montpellier; The Nature Conservancy; Marine Conservation Institute; University of Queensland; Oregon State University.

events.

Mawio'mi: A gathering to celebrate life

Dalhousie's annual Mawio'mi returned to Studley Campus in October (after a 2020 COVID-19 hiatus) with a colourful celebration of culture and community. Drummers Eastern Eagle and Smokey Point provided music for the Grand Entry and variety of dances.



The Stanfield Conversations

Dalhousie's newest signature event series, *Stanfield Conversations: Talking Democracy*, builds on the legacy of Rt. Hon. Robert L. Stanfield. The inaugural Conversation in September featured professors Charles Taylor and Simone Chambers. The host of CBC's *Power and Politics*, Vassy Kapelos (MA'06), was moderator. (*Learn more on page 19.*)

AND MORE!

Coffee Chats with President Saini and special guests focus on leadership

President Saini had several early-morning, online conversations about leading through challenging times. His guests included renowned alumni such as Dr. Bonnie Henry (MD'90); The Hon. A. Anne McLellan (BA'71, LLB'74); The Hon. Frank McKenna, PC, OC, ONB, QC; Karen Hutt; Carlos Palacios (BEng'08); and Wendy Davis Johnson (BA'72).

Season 3 of Open Dialogue Live wraps

In June, Dal wrapped its third season of *Open Dialogue Live*. Over the past 18 months, 23 episodes aired, featuring in-depth discussions on current topics and important issues like pain management and design consideration in health care. To view upcoming episodes and join the conversation, please visit alumni.dal.ca/opendialoguelive.

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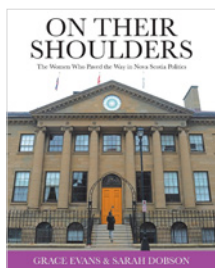
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6

1 BOOK

Where Beauty Survived

BY GEORGE ELLIOT CLARKE (MA'89, LLD'99)

This memoir from poet, novelist, playwright, librettist and scholar George Elliott Clarke is the story of long-kept secrets, complicated family life, the stress placed on Black families by white racism, and the unique cultural geography of the Black community in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

2 PODCAST

The Docket

WITH EMILIE TAMAN (LLB'04) AND MICHAEL SPRATT (LLB'04)

Hosts Emilie Taman and Michael Spratt discuss the intersection of law, politics and policy and how what happens in the courtrooms and corridors of power affects all of us.

3 BOOK

On Their Shoulders: The Women Who Paved the Way in Nova Scotia Politics

BY GRACE EVANS (BA'21) AND SARAH DOBSON (BA'17, JD'20)

Sarah Dobson and Grace Evans co-authored *On Their Shoulders*, sharing the stories of the first 50 women to serve as MLAs. Sales of the book will benefit the Women in Politics Scholarship, supporting students who identify as women with an interest in a career in politics.

4 PODCAST

Fac Dev Lounge

BY DR. SARAH GANDER

Fac Dev Lounge features casual conversations about the facts and opinions that affect development at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick and beyond.

5 PROGRAM

Safe Space for White Questions

BY AJAY PARASRAM AND ALEX KHASNABISH


Dr. Parasram, assistant professor of International Development Studies and History, encourages friendly and considerate conversation aimed at helping people better understand the impact of existing racial structures. Past sessions can be found on YouTube.

6 BLOG

Novel Readings

BY ROHAN MAITZEN

Since 2007, Dr. Maitzen, associate professor, department of English, has been posting to her blog, sharing her thoughts on all things books, academia, criticism and teaching.

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Mona Challa, Alumni (MPA'21, BSC'19)

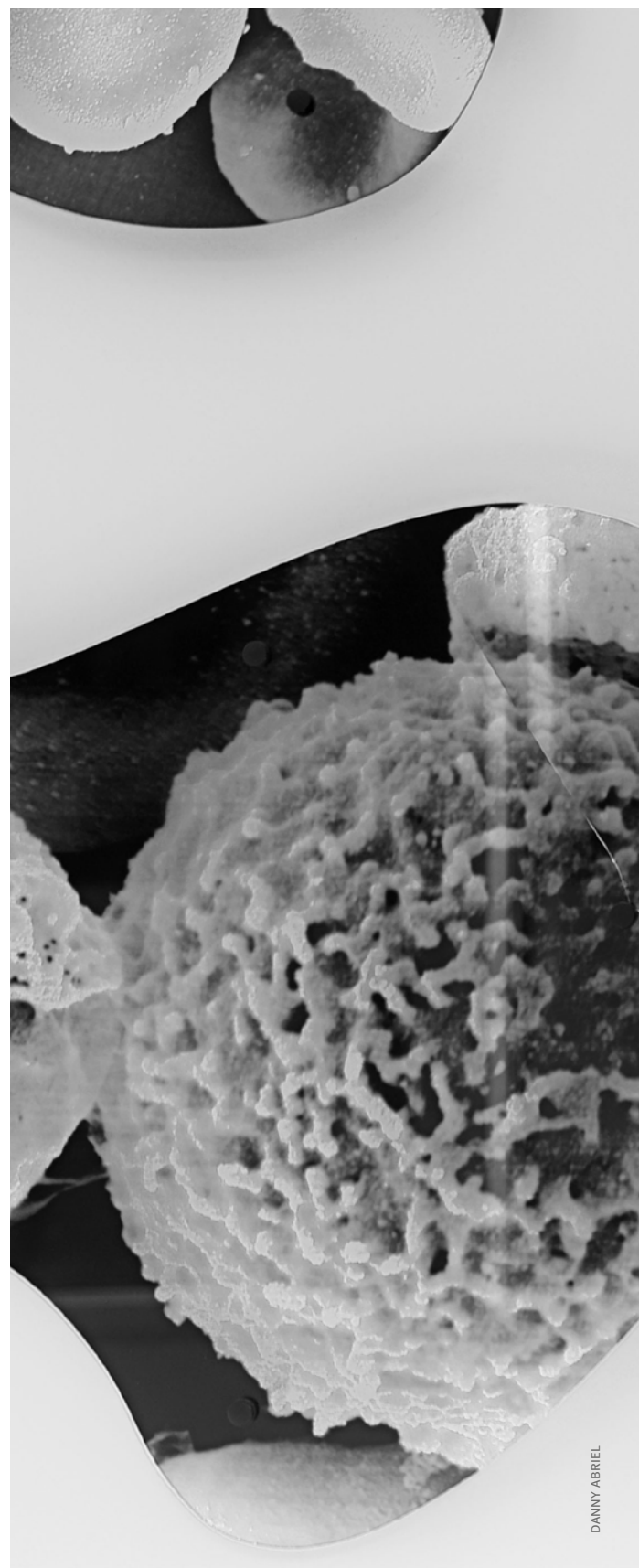
I knew from a young age that medicine was what I wanted to do. My dad is from a small village in India and he framed it like this: if you are a doctor then you can always go back and provide support and help out people that need that. I was like “Yeah, that feels good, being able to give back to the community in that way.”

Growing up, I was always fascinated with science, and when I heard that Dal had the medical sciences program I knew that’s where I wanted to go. I took a lot of courses in bioethics, sociology and global health. Doing those courses, I realized that we’re doing really great stuff when it comes to developing science but there are bottom-of-the-pyramid needs that we need to address like infrastructure and organizational design. I learned that the MPA program would teach me about policy work and about organizational design and evaluation. Those key elements that make the whole system work well. With a medical sciences and MPA background, and then med school after that, I would have a more holistic view. I’d be better able to advocate for what works and help introduce innovative ideas to Nova Scotia’s health-care system. I want to stay here and, as a physician, be able to address those systemic issues, hopefully as a public health officer one day.

If I’m having a hard day, I’m not really someone to voice it very much. I just want to be around other people. I think the biggest thing to realize is things are going to get better. That’s how I like to see it. Without those little down bits, you can’t really appreciate the happier times.

“Without those little down bits, you can’t really appreciate the happier times.”

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DANNY ABRIEL



PEOPLE

RENÉ BOUDREAU (BA'15) is an avid traveller and entrepreneur. She created Elevate & Explore Black Nova Scotia (on Instagram @elevateandexploreblackns) to promote Nova Scotia's rich Black history and culture while supporting Black-owned businesses.

24 HOURS

4 P.M. It's Friday afternoon and I'm finishing my day job at the Association of Black Social Workers. While I would love to go home and relax, I have a few last-minute things to do to prepare for the First Annual Black Excellence Boat Cruise tomorrow. It's an event I'm co-hosting with Change Is Brewing Co., a community organization that advocates for racial inclusion in the craft beverage industry through collaborations, education and community outreach (on Instagram @changeisbrewingco). I need more prizes for the event, so I reach out to two of my favourite local Black-owned businesses: Tricia Crawley Art, to purchase her popular Nova Scotia BLM t-shirt and Fire & Desire Candle Co. to purchase their scented eco-friendly soy wax candle.

5 P.M. I get a phone call from Ambassadors to confirm numbers and seating. Our event is sold out!

6 P.M. I have a busy weekend ahead of me but I try to visit my parents each day at their home in East Preston, one of Canada's oldest historic Black communities. My dad is barbecuing

salmon and ribs, and my mom is watching her home shows.

9 P.M. I take some time before bed to work on my *Elevate & Explore Wellness Colouring Book for Families*, which will focus on well-being and knowledge sharing.

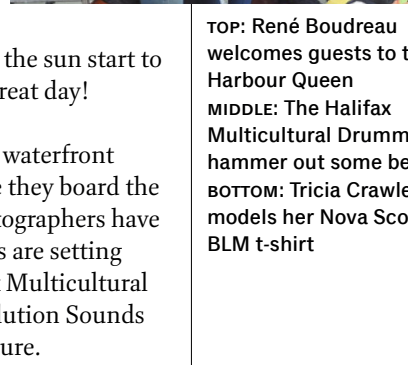
10 P.M. I have an early morning ahead of me, so I get ready for bed and say a special prayer that everything goes well tomorrow!

7 A.M. My alarm goes off and I wake up excited to start the day.

8 A.M. I'm getting my makeup done for the boat cruise and as I look out the window, I see the sun start to shine—it's going to be a great day!

12 P.M. I'm at the Halifax waterfront greeting passengers before they board the Harbour Queen. The photographers have arrived and the performers are setting up. We invited the Halifax Multicultural Drummers, Jah'Mila, Evolution Sounds and Rush! Bahamian Culture.

12:30 P.M. Everyone is boarding the Harbour Queen. The sun is shining, people are laughing and I'm feeling all the happiness. I hear the sound of the drums and I know it's going to be an amazing event celebrating Black excellence!



TOP: René Boudreau welcomes guests to the Harbour Queen
MIDDLE: The Halifax Multicultural Drummers hammer out some beats
BOTTOM: Tricia Crawley Art models her Nova Scotia BLM t-shirt



SPOTLIGHT

PAUL GAUTHIER (BSC'94) nurtures ideas into ways to simplify everyday life.

For Paul Gauthier the simple and complex go hand in hand. He takes complex disciplines like artificial intelligence, computer vision and augmented reality, and uses them to create applications that simplify everyday life.

Call him a tech wizard and you wouldn't be wrong, but Gauthier describes himself as an entrepreneur, investor and advisor whose passion is consumer internet products. What that translates to, he says, is "figuring out and looking out for new capabilities, then gathering up a good group of people and having some luck while working hard."

After completing his Computer Science degree at Dal, Gauthier earned a master's in the same discipline at the University of Washington. His enthusiasm for the field has allowed him to make a big impact. He was chief technology officer (CTO) at Groupon, and the founding CTO of Inktomi, a pioneer in algorithmic web search technology acquired by Yahoo! in 2002.

Currently he's VP of engineering at Geomagical Labs, which was acquired by IKEA in summer 2021, where he is developing computer vision technology that allows people to use their smart phones to

build and decorate 3D augmented reality versions of their homes. "I'm attracted to early-stage start-up experiences," says Gauthier.

Digital literacy and computer science education remain important to Gauthier, who was happy to learn about the province's \$13.3-million investment into Dal's Computer Science faculty in March 2021 to help it meet growing tech sector talent demands, an investment that has inspired a digital movement to establish Nova Scotia as one of Canada's top digital ecosystems in the next five years.

While internet industries could feasibly grow just about anywhere, they tend to blossom where there is an explosion of talent and opportunity. Gauthier's seen it happen in Silicon Valley and is watching the "tremendous explosion" in Halifax with interest. He cites Halifax-based Dash Hudson, a visual marketing software company founded by alumnus Thomas Rankin (MBA'04) as an example. Gauthier was an early investor there and continues to serve as one of its corporate directors.

Today Gauthier, who grew up nearby in Cole Harbour, lives in California but maintains many connections in Halifax.

"There are so many challenges, so many interesting problems," Gauthier says. He's grateful to his education for setting him on such a dynamic course. "A thriving computer science program is great for access to high-paying careers and industry. But helping to change how people think about the world is an even bigger benefit."

—Alison DeLory

Gauthier's work locally centres around his personal and philanthropic interests—running the Cole Harbour Foundation, which supports children's education from birth through post-secondary graduation, and protecting the 100 Wild Islands on the province's eastern shore through the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.



INNOVATOR

"Through Lab2Market, we learned that physiotherapists were most in need of accessible, non-invasive technology to monitor muscle atrophy, so they became our beachhead market. Now, we're working with a mentor in the Ready2Launch program to navigate the business challenges and soon we'll be looking to expand the team."

Postdoctoral fellow **RAFAELA ANDRADE** (PHD'15) is bridging the gap between science and society. With help from the Lab2Market and Ready2Launch programs, she's getting closer to turning lab discoveries into tools that will benefit public health.

INNOVATION: Dr. Andrade, Department of Pharmacology, and co-founder Dylan Deska-Gauthier, Department of Medical Neuroscience, are getting ready to put their molecular detection test into the hands of the people who need it. Myomar Molecular

aims to improve quality of life for the aging population with an accessible, non-invasive test that can objectively detect muscle atrophy.

FOUNDATION: "We believe that through the understanding of basic science, we can provide ways to improve and innovate health care. The test identifies molecules that are related to muscle atrophy. It works both as a painkiller and as a vitamin. As a painkiller because it gives a tool to health-care providers to improve therapy and better understand the patient's progress. And as a vitamin because it enables preventative measures that mitigate risk of injury."

INSPIRATION: "My own life experiences made me curious about that plateau you reach when losing weight that could be because of muscle gain, or not. It made me more interested in muscle research and inspired me to translate my research in a way that would benefit the community. Muscle health can contribute so much to your life and well-being by preventing injuries, helping you to be an active contributor to society and living longer. When I realized there aren't any tools to help us understand muscle development and health in a simple and objective way, the idea clicked into place."

WHY IT MATTERS: "With our aging population, everyone knows a senior who suffered a fall or injury and then saw their life quality deteriorate. We believe that we can orchestrate a healthy living process with the tools we're going to provide, so people at risk of a fall can better understand that risk and prevent it to ensure a longer, healthy life instead of spending a long time in bed or at the hospital recovering from a fall injury."
—*Stefanie Wilson*



WHY I GIVE

“Education is the key to all human progress. How lucky I was to have had Dalhousie as my mentor! As an aging alumnus, I want to do what I can to help our alma mater give new generations of young minds an outstanding education.”

GEORGE COOPER’S (BSC’62, LLB’65, LLD’04) leadership and support have elevated conversations about democracy.

Growing up in Halifax, George Cooper had a classmate named Sarah, whose father was Robert Stanfield (BA’36). Young George would visit the Stanfield home, crossing paths with the man who would become Nova Scotia’s premier from 1956–67, and federal Progressive Conservative Party leader from 1967–76. As Cooper matured, his admiration for Stanfield deepened. He still considers him an exemplar of respectful politics.

“Bob Stanfield was always a gentleman. He’d never make a sharp or unfair attack,” says Cooper.

It was fitting then that in 2019, while lamenting the erosion of political tone worldwide, Stanfield’s name was suggested as one around which a new lecture series focused on restoring democracy be built. The idea for what would become *Stanfield Conversations: Talking Democracy*—aimed at the highest levels of academic and public interest—was born.

His ambitious pitch captured then-Dalhousie President Richard Florizone’s

interest, and later aligned with current President Deep Saini’s vision for Dalhousie as a civic university with global impact.

The next challenge was to raise \$1 million to launch the endowed annual lectures. Luckily, Cooper was no stranger to giving at Dal. For 21 years, he was managing trustee of the Killam Trusts, which award prestigious scholarships and fellowships and helped establish Dal as a leading research institution. It wouldn’t be easy but Cooper, retired as president of the University of King’s College and managing partner at the law firm of McInnes Cooper, had Stanfield’s legacy as motivation. As the vision grew, Cooper’s Dal law classmate and former prime minister, Joe Clark, and former Deputy Prime Minister and Dalhousie Chancellor Anne McLellan (BA’71, LLB’74), agreed to co-chair the advisory board.

Cooper’s future aspirations are to grow engagement with young people and to extend the conversations’ reach through advanced digital technologies.

“I don’t think the university has ever been stronger than it is today—in absolute or relative terms,” says Cooper. “These conversations are a worthy project for a university of Dalhousie’s stature.”

Thanks to gifts he gave and secured, plus Cooper’s leadership, Dalhousie now hosts a series that is both catalyst and driver of important discussions about democracy on a national and international scale.

—Alison DeLory



WHY I DO IT

"We're looking at projects all over campus, so the lines are blurry as to what it means to be a curator nowadays. And that's why I'm here."

PETER DYKHUIS is fascinated with sparking cultural conversations not just within the four walls of the Dalhousie Art Gallery but campus wide, by tapping into the diverse creative and intellectual practices of all disciplines.

HIS BACKSTORY: Peter Dykhuis has been the director and curator of the Dalhousie Art Gallery (DAG) since 2007. Prior to this, he was the director of the Anna Leonowens Gallery at NSCAD University. Dykhuis is also an internationally exhibiting visual artist and critical writer.

HIGHLIGHTS: The pandemic has presented obstacles to all gallery spaces and the DAG's closure for construction on the updated Arts Centre presented

an additional challenge that might have thwarted any other director's plans. But Dykhuis has leveraged his tendency for divergent thinking into programming that works with challenges rather than against them. Case in point: conversations with Lukas Pearse, artistic director of Upstream Music; Tim Crofts, composer and lecturer at the Fountain School of Performing Arts; and Simon Docking, pianist and director of the Scotia Festival of Music, in which Dykhuis mentioned the gallery was housing the music department's grand pianos during their renovation. The resulting performances of *Herd of Pianos*, featuring between six and seven of the grand pianos at any given time, was possible because Dykhuis and others recognized the potential for a creative moment. "Getting the right people in the room and making it happen, that's my job right now," Dykhuis says.

WHY I DO IT: For the past 14 years, Dykhuis has headed up the Dalhousie Art Gallery and says working for a gallery within the university context is "wonderfully complicated" because art can and does happen all over campus. "I'm interested in university art galleries as places where you don't have to stick to the prescription. You can follow your curiosity, and that's what we do in universities. We do labs. We try things out. We ask critical questions." He emphasizes how important it is to stop thinking of fine art only in terms of European Western traditions and instead to consider how it relates to Mi'kmaq culture or to scientific investigation, for example. "It's really fascinating to be in a full-spectrum university where you can look at how, say, health issues tie into visual culture. And I'm always looking for people that are game, that want to go places other galleries may not," Dykhuis says. "Working as a curator is about the politics of display: how do you bring visual cultural material into a public dialogue? That's basically what fuels me, and university art galleries are the best place to play around with ideas, because people are curious."

—AnnMarie MacKinnon

THE NEW CHANGEMAKERS



Left to Right:
Amanda MacLean
Kate Arpin
Jack deGooyer

Empathy may not be the first word you associate with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). But for a new generation entering fields in STEM, research and responsibility go hand in hand.

Kate Arpin (BSc'21) says she strives to make a difference through “scientific inquiry, leadership and empathy.” For her master’s studies at UBC, Arpin is developing a DNA testing kit to help understand how a small mountain-dwelling mammal called the American Pika is dealing with climate change. “You don’t have to single-handedly save the world,” she says. “What’s important is doing what you can, being open-minded, and helping others. Just improving the world in any way you can.”

It’s an attitude echoed by Jack deGooyer (BEng'21), who studies nanowires and low-energy computing with light at the University of Waterloo. “Engineers in many ways are tool-makers, and I’m really interested in what tools you can develop using quantum mechanics,” he says. Beyond getting caught up in exciting research, says deGooyer, who did a co-op at Tesla’s battery-testing lab in Halifax, it’s important for engineers to acknowledge their social responsibility. “Engineers need to recognize that they are designing stuff inside larger systems and be careful about the way their work impacts others” as well as the environment and society.

Both deGooyer and Arpin received scholarships while at Dal from the Schulich Leader program, now in its tenth year. Schulich Leaders are nominated to apply by teachers at their high schools who look not only at academics but also community leadership. Arpin, for instance, led a research project in Grade 12 looking at the effects of local pollution on water fleas.

Another Schulich scholar, Amanda MacLean (BEng'14), came from a rural high school, where she was recognized for her wealth of volunteer activities. At Dalhousie, she promoted engineering as a career for women. Now a data analyst for the federal government, she continues to do outreach work as co-chair of Engineers Nova Scotia’s Youth Engagement Committee. “I hope to set an example for young women, but further, for young people, that engineering is an enriching, fulfilling career,” she says.

deGooyer is one of the younger students MacLean helped mentor. “She really helped me a lot through my undergraduate,” he says.

Helping others is part of the ethos that drives her and other young leaders in highly competitive fields. “I think my ultimate goal is always to leave somewhere better than when I came,” MacLean says. “I find most struggles I’ve encountered are worth the pain, as long as the next person struggles less.”

—Philip Moscovitch

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Navigating the New Normal

Individually and collectively,
resilience is key to forging
the “new normal.”

By AnnMarie MacKinnon

“Lockdown,” “asymptomatic”

and “pivot” are some of the phrases that have entered the vernacular over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic—phrases most of us would probably prefer to never hear again. It would also be a relief to no longer need the words “challenging” and “unprecedented” to describe the times in which we are living. But it’s the phrase “new normal” that we seem to struggle with most, perhaps because even as we begin to emerge from the pandemic, whatever the new normal is going to be is still a moving target. In response to this prolonged uncertainty, one word has risen to prominence: resilience.

Dalhousie’s Athletics and Recreation Department, headed up by Executive Director Tim Maloney, has focused on resilience throughout these difficult times. Recreation facilities at Dal normally see more than 700,000 visitors pass through the turnstiles each year and play an important role in the daily lives of people in the community both on and off campus. For rec facilities to comply with closure requirements and capacity restrictions, flexibility was paramount. “I think the team of coaches and staff quickly adopted the philosophy that we were going to make the very best out of whatever this situation presented,” Maloney says. At times, that meant operating at 25 per cent of usual capacity and by appointment only. It meant student athletes working out virtually with soup cans standing in as dumbbells and with backyards, chairs and sofas standing in as training grounds. Despite the frustration and sense of loss this occasionally caused, particularly among student athletes facing a cancelled final season of their careers, for the most part a positive mindset was the prevailing one. “For graduating students, that was the last time they were going to be putting on

a Dal jersey, so it was a difficult way to end their careers,” Maloney says. “But I think they were appreciative and understanding.”

One of these student athletes, Shamar Burrows (BA’21), #24 of the Dal Tigers men’s basketball team, might have missed his final season as an undergrad, but he’s returned for the 2021-22 season as a master’s student in Public Administration. He’s happy to be back to in-person classes and to be back on the court. “I’m excited to have team bonds and to get to know all of my teammates. We’re all excited about it.”

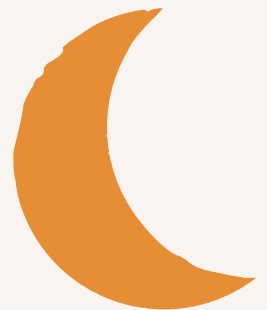
Burrows’ sentiments are echoed by many at Dal. The month of September is a rich and lively time on campus when the energy and excitement are palpable. For new students, leaving home and heading to university is a major developmental milestone. Because learning was all online last year in response to the pandemic, this year a double cohort made its way to campus for the first time. And students aren’t the only ones returning. Many of the faculty and staff who

worked away from campus throughout the pandemic have been leaving their home offices, makeshift or otherwise, and making the commute to campus, at least on a part-time basis. They're catching up with those who've never left, who've remained on campus for the entirety of the pandemic to keep the physical spaces of the university running and ready for the return. What this means is that everyone in the Dal community is in a period of transition—so, that along with the predictable excitement that comes with fall and the return to classes, there also lingers a sense of uncertainty and concern for the safety of the community, feelings that are much less predictable.

Part of what makes these times so challenging is that we derive meaning from our relationships with others, and nearly everyone has experienced moments of disconnection and isolation over the past two years. Dr. David Pilon, the director of Counselling and Psychological Services says there's a feeling of anticipation, that it's time to reclaim our world, but that people will need a chance to get used to fewer restrictions at their own pace. "Stress is the impact of difference," he says, "and how we perceive change informs whether we see difficulty or opportunity." There has certainly been no shortage of change during the past two years. In addition to the global COVID-19 crisis, we've witnessed watershed moments in terms of conversations around climate change, around race and civil rights. "There may be some challenging waves to come," says Dr. Pilon, "when we exhale and allow ourselves to think: *'What did I just live through?'*"

"[We] quickly adopted the philosophy that we were going to make the very best out of whatever this situation presented."

Dr. Pilon's advice on how to deal with the stress that comes with uncertainty and to foster more resilience? Vulnerability and compassion. He says the way forward is to allow ourselves to appreciate how we've responded, adapted and learned from our experiences over the past two years, and to approach ourselves and others with extra thoughtfulness. "We have a nurturing and caring community at Dalhousie. We need to be aware and mindful of where we are at both individually and collectively." Which means, as we make our way through a period when even commonplace situations feel unfamiliar, as we continue to navigate challenges, it's more important than ever that we give ourselves time and space to focus on resilience so we can contribute to forging our new normal.





Set in Stone

How three Dalhousie buildings—each marking 50th anniversaries this year—have forged stronger connections between campus and community over the decades.

By Ryan McNutt

Photography by Nick Pearce



A night at the Cohn is truly a rite of passage for any Halifax arts lover.

After all, the stage of the Dalhousie Arts Centre's Rebecca Cohn Auditorium has seen it all—from the perfect pirouettes of the National Ballet of Canada to the thunderous tenor of Luciano Pavarotti; from the anecdotes of Stuart McLean to the activism of Angela Davis; from the first shows of Leonard Cohen's acclaimed comeback tour to Gord Downie's final concert before his death. Not to mention the excited footsteps of the thousands of students who've walked across the stage to receive their Dal degrees.

One thing the Cohn hadn't seen yet: Music student Raquel Wasson.

In fact, despite being from nearby Fall River, Nova Scotia, Wasson was unfamiliar with the Dalhousie Arts Centre when she was growing up. Though she had a musical disposition, her focus in high school was on her plans to study nursing. At the last minute, she instead decided to pursue her passion for percussion and piano. It wasn't until she arrived on

campus to explore Dalhousie that she got her first glimpse inside Dal's home for the performing arts.

"My first impression was that it had a charming '70s vibe," she says. "The whole purple carpet, the Sculpture Court... I kind of liked the vintage aesthetic of it."

She's not wrong about the era. The Dalhousie Arts Centre first opened its doors in 1971, fifty years ago this year, part of an unprecedented building boom in Dalhousie's history to that point. Its two construction contemporaries from that same year, the Killam Memorial Library and the Life Sciences Centre, share a few things in common with the Arts Centre beyond their moment of origin, most notably their Brutalist design—a sometimes loved and oft-scorned architectural marker of their era.

But possibly their strongest common bond is the part they played in reshaping Dal's relationships with its broader community. Perhaps ironically, the story of these imposing concrete structures is one about Dalhousie becoming more open, to more people, than ever before.



LEFT: Students study on the fourth floor of the Killam Library
RIGHT: The Dalhousie Art Gallery has welcomed thousands into its space.



“The building itself is endlessly flexible as we listen to what the students, in particular, are looking for.”

IN the history of Canadian higher education, few transformations have been as dramatic as the post-war boom. Not only did Canada’s university-aged population nearly double in the immediate decades after the Second World War, the percentage of them who chose to attend university grew even more dramatically. At Dalhousie alone, enrolment more than quadrupled in 20 years—from about 1,500 students in 1950 to more than 6,600 in 1970. New universities were forged from nothing to meet the skyrocketing demand, while legacy institutions were forced to frantically scrape together what capital they could to construct new buildings at an unheard-of pace.

Dalhousie, with nearly 150 years of history by that point, fell decidedly into the legacy category. The physical campus, built for a much smaller student body, was practically bursting at the seams. Under the leadership of ambitious president Henry Hicks, Dalhousie launched a building boom to match the baby boom that necessitated it: seven significant new buildings funded and built in a 20-year span, including among them the Tupper Medical Building, the Weldon Law Building, the Student Union Building and Dalplex.

The three buildings that made up that era’s “Class of ’71”—the Arts Centre,

Killam Library and Life Sciences Centre—have similar origin stories, but each with its own twist. With the Life Sciences Centre, Dalhousie’s vision of a unified home for the psychology, biology and oceanography departments was propelled forward, in part, by funding for an advanced new saltwater research facility. Meanwhile, donor generosity was the impetus for what became the Dalhousie Arts Centre. The executors of the will of Rebecca Cohn, a Polish immigrant whose fortune was made in Halifax real estate, had suggested her 1962 bequest to the university should be used for a performance auditorium. But it would take several years and another gift—this one from future chancellor Lady Dunn, for a theatre in her late husband’s honour—to realize the full vision for a proper arts centre.

The Killam Library, meanwhile, was born of a mix of both organizational and donor imperative. Dalhousie had quickly outgrown the Macdonald Memorial Library, with both its stacks and reading room crowded beyond capacity and the university’s academic reputation at risk without more space for new acquisitions. But the drive toward—and the naming of—a new library would take a near-death-bed conversation between Hicks and one of Dalhousie’s greatest philanthropists to truly get underway.



IN 1965, Dorothy Killam was in the process of planning what would become perhaps the most significant gift Canadian higher education would ever receive: nearly \$100 million to create the Killam Trusts. As the leading university in her late husband Izaak's home province, Dalhousie was not only one of the five schools named as Killam institutions, it would receive the largest share of the funds.

Yet Dorothy also wished to establish another physical monument in tribute to Izaak, in concert with her donation to create the IWK (Izaak Walton Killam) Children's Hospital. In late July 1965, she spoke with President Hicks, who suggested a new library as Dalhousie's greatest need at that point. Dorothy began the process of updating her will but ran out of time—she passed away only five days later. But Hicks and university leadership were determined to ensure that some of the Killam gift was used to follow through on that final request.

Construction on the Killam Memorial Library began in 1966. Its architect was Leslie Fairn, but a great deal of the vision was owed to new University Librarian Louis Vagianos. "Make the library serve the students," was his thinking, and it drove the move toward a structure that was, for its time, designed for maximum flexibility while exemplifying modern

architectural and decorating features. After construction delays, it was officially opened with a ceremony in March 1971. It remains the largest academic library in Atlantic Canada to this day.

Librarian Karen Smith has worked in the Killam since 1977, arriving when it was still a relatively new building. She still recalls fondly the custom-built rosewood fixings, the efforts to grow the collection into the available stack space, the beloved Special Collections reading series, and the general enthusiasm for what the building meant for Dalhousie and the community.

"It's the hub of social science and humanities research in the region, quite frankly," she says. "And over time it's adjusted to people's needs in an almost organic way. It can be reconfigured, and has been reconfigured, almost on a dime. The building itself is endlessly flexible as we listen to what the students, in particular, are looking for."

Indeed, though the building's rigid exterior looks much as it did 50 years ago, inside the Killam much has changed. The academic departments that originally found temporary homes in its unfilled stacks have all moved elsewhere, while academic support units like Student Affairs, the Centre for Learning and Teaching, and Information Technology Services have moved in.



The Life Sciences Centre is home to multiple departments and the Aquatron Laboratory aquatic research facility.



BRUTAL DESIGNS

EMERGING FROM THE mid-century modernist movement, Brutalism is a term derived from the French for “raw concrete” (“béton brut”)—a style defined by unadorned concrete, strong geometric structures and freestanding sculptural forms set in tightly integrated landscapes. This “rough and ready” style, as Dal Architecture Professor Christine Macy refers to it, caught the imagination of architects in Europe as they sought cheap, efficient materials to meet the urgent demand to rebuild housing after the Second World War.

In North America, the enthusiasm for Brutalism was more about creating monuments and institution building—hence, its popularity in museums, arts centres and rapidly expanded university campuses. Over time, this enthusiasm waned; by the time Dalhousie’s next big building boom took place in the early 2000s, new construction like the Goldberg Computer Science Building, the Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building and the Rowe Management Building couldn’t have seemed more different from the buildings from the ‘60s and ‘70s, despite their interest in creating shared community spaces.

Today, Dalhousie—like many other universities—is tasked with upgrading, maintaining and adding to its Brutalist buildings, as is the case with the Arts Centre expansion. “Renovating these projects demands attention to their legacy and unique attributes,” said Dr. Macy in a lecture earlier this year for the Killam’s 50th, “while also addressing the environmental and construction deficiencies of these facilities.” This “adaptive re-use,” she posits, is the best way to celebrate and continue the important legacy of these buildings.



Special Collections—now the University Archives and Special Collections—has called nearly every floor of the building home at one point or another. The first floor has now been reconfigured to focus on learning commons spaces to meet the needs of a modern, tech-powered student body. And then there’s perhaps the most significant change of all: the closing of the open courtyard that was a hallmark feature of the building. A glass roof was added in 1996, turning the weather-worn stone atrium into an interior space for meeting, dining and coffee breaks.

“Louis [Vagianos] was Greek and had this vision for a Greek courtyard, which ultimately didn’t work as well on the shores of the North Atlantic,” says Sarah Stevenson, who has worked with Dalhousie Libraries for 20 years and is currently head of the Killam. She says the library has changed, in no small part, because students have changed.

“We’re seeing more foot traffic than ever, but they’re not asking the same sort of questions at the reference desk,” she says as an example. “Google has a lot to do with that. Wikipedia has a lot to do with that. So the requests we’re getting now are a lot more difficult and complex.”

Other changes are based on a desire for more open hours, more collaborative and tech-rich learning spaces, and improved accessibility. And, perhaps most tellingly of changing eras, what was once one of the go-to smoking destinations on campus is now smoke-free (like all Dal buildings).

“The idea that you could smoke in the library is pretty funny now,” laughs Stevenson.



The unusual layout of the Life Sciences Centre has confused generations of students.

WHILE the Killam Library represented the progression of Dalhousie eastward down what is now University Avenue, the Life Sciences Centre was an infill building, one that had to fit around a neighbouring building at the west end of campus. Designed by Ray Affleck of the Montreal firm Affleck Desbarats, it was laid out with each of its primary occupants—the Departments of Biology, Oceanography and Psychology—having a wing of their own, with a suite of shared university classrooms in between. Its interior was equal parts utilitarian and labyrinthine, a layout akin to a real-life psychology experiment for the generations of students tasked with navigating its halls (and, according to rumours, even a possible ghost in the psychology wing).

But when it opened its doors just in time for the fall 1971 term, the new Life Sciences Centre (or LSC, as it is commonly known) contained some of the most unique

facilities in Atlantic Canada—spaces that not only made it a destination for researchers across disciplines, but for generations of school kids on field trips ready to be inspired by the possibilities of science. A great deal of the building's design and mechanical systems supported the Aquatron—the region's largest university aquatic research facility and a world leader in the field. With the ability to transport salt water straight up from the Halifax's Northwest Arm, its tanks have hosted countless types of saltwater and freshwater species and hundreds of complex oceanographic and aquatic experiments over the years. Other popular school tour destinations have included the eighth-floor greenhouse or the Thomas McCulloch Museum on the third floor, featuring the naturalist collection of Dalhousie's first president.

A less likely tour stop: the building's nuclear reactor. Yes, beginning in 1976, the basement of the LSC hosted the SLOWPOKE reactor, short for "Safe Low Power Critical Experiment." It was decommissioned in 2011 after 35 years of safe, successful research use. The room where it was located is now includes a drill core lab space used by Professor Grant Wach and other faculty for teaching and research. Dr. Wach, an earth scientist and director of the Basin and Reservoir Lab, has been a resident of the LSC since 2000; he notes his Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, then called the Department of Geology, was only added to the building as an afterthought. He admits the building is not without its confusing charms.

"You say to someone, 'I'll meet you on the ground floor.' Well, there are three ground floors—because it was built on a hill!" he explains.

His personal hope for the future of the LSC is for the university to build on displays like the McCulloch Museum, by including touch tanks, rock cabinets and photo displays to make the space even more open to the community—a living museum of sorts, inspiring not only the building's residents but groups of future young scientists.

"We have this amazing scientific community here, and we can do even more to put its great work on display and encourage the next generation of scientists to come to Dal."

"This [building] has all these curves and these textures and these allusions to musical instruments and seashells and all of this. It's like poetic Brutalism."

COMMUNITY has been at the heart of the mission of the Dalhousie Arts Centre from its very beginning. After Dalhousie's leaders struggled for a vision of how artistic performance could fit into the university's mission, the model for the Arts Centre as both a home for Dal's programs in music and theatre, as well as a destination for performers and artists, took shape. Hicks envisioned it as a "lighthouse" for the Halifax community, attracting all sorts and tastes, and would later describe it as one of his greatest achievements. Designed by the architecture firm C. A. E. Fowler & Company, the Arts Centre included the 1000-seat Rebecca Cohn Auditorium along with the smaller Sir James Dunn Theatre for live theatrical performances, practice and rehearsal spaces for students, classrooms and offices, an open Sculpture Court for gathering and performance, and a permanent home for the Dalhousie Art Gallery.

"I've always loved how the building's design is different from classic Brutalism [and its] concrete block buildings with little detail," says Peter Dykhuis, the Dalhousie Art Gallery's director. "But this one has all these curves and these textures and these allusions to musical instruments and seashells and all of this. It's like poetic Brutalism."



The construction was slow and problematic. A leaky roof, changes to auditorium capacity and disputes over furnishing all delayed completion. But the Rebecca Cohn was able to host its first official performance in January 1971, featuring cellist Gary Karr and the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, followed by an official opening for the Arts Centre in November of that same year with a week of cultural events and a special convocation presenting honorary degrees to several leaders in Canada's arts community.

The impact to the city's arts was enormous and near-immediate. The Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, for one, had a home, to be succeeded by Symphony Nova Scotia, which performs to thousands of people in the Cohn to this day. Bookings in the Cohn proved broad in genre and taste, and within five years the venue was hosting 65 shows a year and growing, with an estimated seven per cent of the Halifax population going to the Arts Centre at some time each year.

"It's really the only theatre of its type and size in the region," says Shirley Third-Genus, the Arts Centre's current executive director. "It serves our community, both Dalhousie and the broader community. And it does it all very well. It's a fully professional theatre with incredible technicians, incredible equipment. It's an all-around exceptional facility in a city of this size."

Third-Genus credits, in part, the diversity of bookings for making the Arts Centre such a successful venue. From big lectures like Dal 200's *Belong Forums* and the *Stanfield Conversations*, all the way to rock concerts, comedians and even the construction of a squash court *on the stage*, the Cohn has proven incredibly versatile over the years.

"There's not many events you really couldn't put on in the Cohn—maybe diving," says Colin Richardson, the venue's technical director. "Everyone who works at the Cohn has a dedication to excellence. This is the pinnacle. If you live in this area, you want to work at the Rebecca Cohn, and once you're here you're part of a team that won't accept anything less than excellence. That's just what we do."



Work in progress on the \$38.5 million Dalhousie Arts Centre revitalization project.



EVEN the most imposing structures are full of change—especially when there are new generations of students, staff and faculty to support.

In the case of the Life Sciences Centre, a multi-year, multi-million-dollar retrofit earlier this decade has made dramatic improvements to the building's interior infrastructure systems and environmental footprint, while the addition of the Wallace McCain Learning Commons, opened in 2015, has created a new student hub. Meanwhile, in the Killam, some of the more recent changes have focused on reconciliation efforts, including the launch of the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Legacy Space and development of an Indigenous Community Room comparable to one that exists on Dal's Truro Campus.

But the biggest transformation among the three buildings marking 50 years this year is currently underway in the Dalhousie Arts Centre. In Fall 2019, construction began on a \$38.5 million expansion that will add a three-story performing arts wing featuring new practice rooms, a rehearsal studio, space for Dal's Costume

Studies program and a 300-seat concert hall named in honor of Joseph Strug, son of Holocaust survivor and business leader, Morris Strug.

"This will be life changing for our students," says Jerome Blais, director of the Fountain School of Performing Arts. "More broadly, the Fountain School is already a very important partner in the cultural life of Halifax and the Arts Centre is already a hub, but with this new equipment and space, I think we'll be able to go even further in having the Fountain School as a major player in the artistic life of Halifax and Atlantic Canada, bringing people together."

With the help of donor contributions to the Fill the House campaign, as well as funding from the provincial government and others, the Arts Centre expansion is set to open next year. For student Raquel Wasson, it can't come soon enough.

"This past year has been really difficult for everyone, being away from the Arts Centre [during COVID]," she says. "To be back and seeing all the changes is really exciting."

OUTWARD BOUND

Universities are by nature civic institutions. But what happens when they become more intentional about their community impact?

By Matt Reeder





TOP: "We are on the water all the time, but our knowledge can be easily dismissed because it's not validated by an academic system," says Darren Porter.

BOTTOM: The American eel is considered an endangered species.



DARREN PORTER spends about 250 days a year on the water, navigating the rivers of central Nova Scotia that flow out into the upper Bay of Fundy. It's this network of waterways that provides a livelihood to him and the other local fishers and Mi'kmaq communities nearby.

Porter's long days on the boat have left an indelible imprint. The ebb and flow of the tides, the spawning grounds and seasons of different aquatic species, the human footprint on the land and water: it's all been etched into his brain. Porter's knowledge and understanding, gained through the fishing and research operation he runs with his daughter, Erica, have brought many to knock on Porter's door over the years.

The Mi'kmaq Conservation Group, a program administered by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, calls on him regularly to partner on conservation research linked to culturally important species in the Fundy watershed. And, on several occasions, he's been invited to Dalhousie to swap stories and knowledge with students and academics similarly passionate about marine matters.

During one such visit to campus, Porter met Fred Whoriskey, executive director of the Ocean Tracking Network—a Dal-based research organization that deploys Canadian-made acoustic receivers and oceanographic monitoring equipment to tag, track and monitor the movements of marine animals. Not long after this meeting, Porter was working on a survey project with a Mi'kmaq community and needed tracking tags to get the job done. He called Dr. Whoriskey to see if he could assist.

Within two days, Porter had his receivers.

It was the beginning of a powerful partnership. Now, years later, the two are working together on Apoqnmulti'tk, an NSERC-funded study tracking valued aquatic species in the Bay of Fundy and Bras d'Or Lake in Cape Breton. The uniqueness of the initiative lies in the intention underpinning it: to learn from the strengths of each other's perspectives and guide and develop the research together.

"We are on the water all the time, but our knowledge can be easily dismissed because it's not validated by an academic system," says Porter.

The Apoqnmulti'tk project, by contrast, has created more formal pathways to bring different knowledge systems—Mi'kmaq knowledge, local knowledge, Western knowledge—together to produce science that inspires trust among everyone involved.

"We're ending conflict by working together on a shared resource, not in a silo. We're not using data as a commodity—data is shared information to protect and look after ecosystems," says Porter. "It's a true social license. It's trusted. Before, the science was not trusted."

Apoqnmulti'tk—Mi'kmaq for "we help each other"—is a powerful example of a partnership rooted in shared priorities. And it's these kinds of collaborations with local communities that Dalhousie is aiming to build more of in the years ahead.

UNIVERSITIES ARE CIVIC institutions by design. They attract aspiring learners to the cities, towns and regions where they are located, they shape the landscape and culture of those places with their infrastructure and facilities, and they train people entering the workforce.

Without Dalhousie, for instance, Halifax and Truro—where the university's four primary campuses are located—would no doubt be very different places. The same could likely be said about thousands of communities around the world that serve as home base for post-secondary institutions.

But what happens when universities become even more intentional about their civic role, when the passive benefits they pass on in the natural course of operations are coupled with initiatives expressly created to help meet the needs of communities nearby?

Cast a glance across the Atlantic Ocean to the U.K., and you'll discover an entire national network of universities emerging to test these very questions. Universities there have formalized partnerships with governments, community organizations and the private sector in recent years, creating impact agreements and strategic investments centred around specific, shared priorities. To Canada's south, civic-mindedness lies at the very heart of the mission of universities in the "land-grant" tradition—institutions first created through the transfer of U.S. federal lands to states after 1862 in return for a promise to use any proceeds from their sale to establish and endow colleges to teach subjects that helped the

country meet the needs of its rapidly industrializing regions.

“We can learn a lot from both of those traditions,” says Matt Hebb, vice-president of government and global relations at Dalhousie.

Hebb is at the forefront of Dalhousie’s own efforts to develop a more deliberate approach to supporting the communities and regions of Nova Scotia. While Dalhousie has carried out some form of a civic mandate since its founding more than 200 years ago, a more intentional approach is needed now in order to harness benefits for local communities as the university becomes increasingly global in scope, he says.

“Our own future as an institution is completely intertwined with the future of the province,” says Hebb. “We can’t imagine a bright future for ourselves as a university in the absence of also imagining a bright future for our province.”

Third Century Promise, the university’s new five-year strategic plan released this past summer, essentially codifies this ethos in one of its five main strategic pillars: ‘Civic university with global impact.’

As executive lead of the pillar, Hebb will play a pivotal role in bringing key players from the university and community together to discuss shared priorities. In some cases, the groundwork for these discussions has already been laid.

Consider Imhotep’s Legacy Academy (ILA), a Dal-based mentorship program that uses engaging activities and meaningful mentorship to encourage more youth of African heritage in Nova Scotia to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. ILA is a prime example of how the university has worked along with governments and schools in an intentional way to help improve access to higher education among communities that historically and currently face barriers—one of the action items in Dal’s strategic plan.

ILA’s after-school outreach, online tutoring and scholarship programs have proven a winning mix with learners who often stick with the program from their junior high days through high school and beyond. Sidney Idemudia, the group’s executive director, has attributed ILA’s success to two things: keeping learners engaged over an extended period and its emphasis on hiring mentors who are themselves of African heritage and relatively close in age to mentees.

After close to 20 years in service, ILA just keeps getting stronger. In the last five years, ILA has served more than 1,100 students per

year on average across the province and recently expanded some of its programs to be offered in French.

Ibrahim-Khalil Yaffa, a 15-year-old Haligonian ILA participant in Grade 11 with family roots in Sierra Leone, is unambiguous in describing ILA’s importance to him.

“You could ask me ‘What has ILA done for you?’ and my response would be, ‘What has ILA *not* done for me?’” He says the program has enhanced his confidence, improved how he interacts with people, and taught him important lessons not only in STEM but in life more generally. “I’ve had lots of trouble in many different things, whether it be choices I’ve made or my studies in school, and knowing that I have a community, a family like Imhotep behind me has really helped.”

Hebb sees ILA as a potential model for further outreach activities in subjects beyond STEM, an idea Asher Trim-Gaskin (BSc’17), the group’s current program manager and a Dal Biology alum, finds intriguing as well. Trim-Gaskin says he could imagine a similar mentorship program set up for business, planning, architecture and other social sciences.



Erica Porter has worked on the Bay of Fundy and Minas Basin since she was 16 years old.



Third Century Promise, the university’s new strategic plan, codifies Dal as a “civic university with global impact.”



“The key is continuing to keep the mentorship aspect of ILA where university professors mentor university students, and then, in turn, university students mentor junior high and high school students. We need to keep that representation through all three stages and keep the positive cycle going.”

Dal’s Transition Year Program and the Schulich School of Law’s Indigenous Blacks & Mi’kmaq Initiative are two other distinct, long-standing successes in this arena that provide access to higher education. The Sankofa Scholarships for Black students and the tuition waiver program that offers free tuition for youth formerly in foster care, both launched by Dal this year, extend the idea even further.

Together, they illustrate momentum. Now, says Hebb, is the time for Dalhousie to be even more intentional and directed in conversations with communities about such efforts. He is leading the development of an impact charter with community partners, a document that will frame priorities and tactics.

“Something like an impact charter gives us an opportunity to knit different initiatives and relationships together into a platform for really intentional social and economic impact in Nova Scotia.”

THE FIRST LAND-GRANT colleges established in the U.S. launched in the 1860s with a mission to focus on subjects with practical applications. Agriculture, engineering, science and military science were four key fields of study, in stark contrast to the Ivy League’s often heavy emphasis on the liberal arts. The economy was changing and therefore education needed to follow suit and provide people with the skills they needed to be of use in the workforce, went the logic.

Today, many U.S. land-grant institutions have grown to become more comprehensive universities with a full slate of academic offerings and research expertise that stretch well beyond their original areas of focus. But there’s a kernel of that original mission that continues to shine through and serve as a guiding light for these universities in the land-grant tradition. Purdue University in Indiana, Ohio State University, the University of Illinois (Urbana), and the University of Wisconsin (Madison)—all now considered among the top public universities in the U.S.—are well-known land-grant schools that remain embedded in communities across the states where they reside

LEFT: Students at Imhotep’s Legacy Academy on their way to becoming tomorrow’s STEM experts.

RIGHT: Dalhousie’s Goldberg Computer Science Building.

It’s a tradition that continues to inspire other universities, including Dalhousie. The addition of two land-grant founding disciplines—engineering and agriculture—at Dal within the last 25 years provides greater impetus and scope for the university to influence Nova Scotia’s economic trajectory.

And this recognition that post-secondary institutions can play an important role in driving regional economic activity continues to evolve—especially when rapid changes are afoot

Take the tech boom currently underway and the digital firms redefining nearly every sector of the Canadian economy. Nova Scotia and Halifax, in particular, have suited up to ride the wave, bolstered by a steady supply of talented tech workers graduating from universities across the province.

There’s a problem, though: there’s not enough of them.

To meet demand and grow its digital footprint further, Nova Scotia has partnered with post-secondary institutions across the province, investing \$16.8 million to help expand and enhance computer science education. Dalhousie, where student enrolment in the Faculty of Computer Science has more than doubled since 2016, was offered \$13.3 million of the funds as part of the project

“Look at the moment we are in now as we begin to transition out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Software technology has enabled us to manage and, in many ways, thrive through this period,” says Andrew Rau-Chaplin, dean of the Faculty of Computer Science and Dal’s lead on this initiative. “Computer scientists are in demand across all industries and sectors, and roles in tech allow you to live and work anywhere.”

The province’s investment will benefit Dalhousie directly by attracting additional talented faculty members to the university. Many new hires are expected as part of the project.





This will help the Faculty meet the enrolment boom and push teaching and research into new areas, but as Dr. Rau-Chaplin says, it's about much more than Dalhousie's needs.

"Really, in large part this investment is not a reaction to the needs of the Faculty or the needs of Dal, but a response to how we connect to the economic and social well-being of Nova Scotia," he says.

That means working closely with partners ranging from the private sector to the P-12 education system to ensure the development of a robust digital talent pipeline for the province.

"I think the biggest mistake we could make would be overly Dal-centric about this. We have to do this with partners," he says. "It's not just about producing more talent, it's the right talent with the right education. It's not just about producing more students, it's about students from diverse backgrounds and diverse perspectives that can really represent us as a whole society."

INTEGRATING DALHOUSIE'S GOALS more intimately with those of the communities it touches will take time. It will also require the continued support of government, the private sector and other players as priorities shift. While a flourishing economy remains an important collective good for all, Dalhousie's effectiveness as a civic partner obviously means a lot more than that these days, explains Hebb. "To me, it's impossible to imagine any of these ambitions or objectives being achieved if we're not taking on the important work of reconciliation and inclusion, diversity, accessibility. These priorities are critical and there's no more important place to do this than at a university, which is fundamentally about taking people through transformative processes and setting them up to go forth in productive ways into other parts of society and the economy."

NICK PEARCE, DANNY ABRRIEL

City Shaper

How Dal's facilities foster stronger social bonds and community well-being

Dalhousie's facilities serve the university community day after day. But they've also proven beneficial to those beyond the university's campuses—to campus visitors and, of course, to people sharing the neighbourhood. Below, we explore a few of Dal's most popular public destinations and how they've served as a powerful force for good.



Dalplex and its siblings

Deep within the heart of Dalplex, the university's flagship fitness and athletics complex, lies the fieldhouse. It's there, on one of four full-sized basketball courts that professors, students, staff and neighbours alike assemble weekdays between 11:30 and 1:30 to battle it out over some ball. Noon Hoops is a drop-in, pick-up, co-ed basketball league that's open to anyone who wants to play. Founder Herb Gamberg, who ran the league for close to 50 years, told *The Coast* "It's the sheer pleasure of having something to do in the middle of the day, without stress" that accounts for the league's longevity. Noon Hoops is one of dozens of programs open to the public at Dal's fitness facilities, including children's camps.



Wagon stop ahead

Each summer, the Faculty of Agriculture invites the public to enjoy the relaxed splendor of its bucolic campus situated on farmland near Truro, Nova Scotia, on Community Day. People hop on a wagon for a ride, sample culinary pleasures from the BBQ and ice cream freezer and tour the many gardens, pastures and animal facilities on campus—making memories that will last well after the tractor has been parked for the day.



A place to be inspired and entertained

The Dalhousie Arts Centre turns 50 this year (see feature on page 26), and while COVID-19 may have upended the performing and visual arts, concertgoers and entertainment lovers will soon get a glimpse of what comes next on the centre's many stages and in its gallery. A new concert hall—slated to open in late spring 2022—promises to bring even more vibrancy to the programming at the centre, a hub of excellence for the arts in Atlantic Canada.

Moving on after a challenging time can seem daunting. But as in a fall garden, taking stock and looking ahead can help you bloom in the days to come. *By Beth Hitchcock*

Keep Growing



WHETHER YOU'RE REELING from a bad-news day or staring down an existential crisis, learning to bounce back isn't just nice, it's necessary. After all, our ability to lead a meaning-filled life depends on drowning out the sad-trombone sound in our heads and changing the soundtrack—but how? “It’s very human to focus on what’s wrong and poke holes,” says Heather Cray of Dal’s School for Resource and Environmental Studies. “But the concepts of restoration and resilience give us the tools to move beyond challenges into solutions.” Here’s what three experts shared about tried-and-true coping strategies:

Plug in to nature

It’s all too easy to spend hours doomscrolling through negative online news headlines or shaking our fists at the TV, but that wasted time doesn’t boost our bounce-back potential. “We hear a lot about increased levels of hopelessness and helplessness these days, and it’s no wonder,” says Kent Williams of Dal’s Rowe School of Business. “We’re living inside a pandemic while we watch dystopian zombie movies and observe the realities of climate change.” His solution? Disconnecting from the virtual world and entering the nature that surrounds us, whether that means a wilderness hike or stroll through an urban park. “Research shows that when we experience nature, things change; these activities decrease cortisol, and add to our perspective and connectedness.”

Celebrate small victories

After stints studying re-vegetation in the Arctic, where permafrost disturbances

meant witnessing significant positive change would take hundreds of years, Dr. Cray had an epiphany: she could switch her specialty to tallgrass prairie ecosystems and be able to participate in building a more immediate before-and-after. “It’s amazing to watch life return to an old abandoned piece of lawn,” she says. “Seeing that I could affect tangible change in five-to-ten years felt empowering. It taught me that it’s necessary to do the long work, but also important to dig into the short work and take the little wins.”

Join the animal world

Pets help release stress in numerous ways: they provide companionship, force us to be more active, and elevate our levels of calming dopamine and serotonin. So, it’s a good-news story when pet adoptions skyrocket, as they did in 2020. “We know that human-animal bonds are beneficial to our health, but resilience is systemic,” says Haorui Wu, an assistant professor at Dal’s School of Social Work. “When we protect animals, both as pets and as co-inhabitants of our planet, it improves our own resilience capacity.” He cautions, though, that pet ownership is a long-term commitment. If you’re not ready for the work and responsibility of a furry friend, consider donating to an animal-welfare charity for a dose of instant feel-good instead.

Look forward

Having a roadmap for success and happiness is key, but expect a few detours along the way—especially when it comes to transformation. “If you don’t have clear and realistic goals

for what you want to change in your life or the world, it’s easy to get lost in the process,” says Dr. Cray. In her own field of research, for example, it wouldn’t be realistic to turn an urban park into an old-growth forest in five years, but she *could* hope to add biodiversity and enhance the sense of place. “What restoration teaches us is to make a plan, then constantly assess, monitor and modify. This way, your goal isn’t perfection but forward momentum—and that’s how we build a better and more functional world.”

Ditch the fear of failure

It’s time to broaden our definition beyond profit and into purpose, says Dr. Williams. “In our industrial world, we position graduates of business school for ‘success,’ but that’s code for ‘How can I make more money?’” he says. “But we need to talk about other definitions of success and one of them is embracing failure. Failure is a starting point for personal and societal growth, and that’s where our biggest learning can be.”

Know thyself

Developing—and then flexing—our self-reflective muscle can help us both personally and professionally, according to Dr. Williams. “Slowing down and spending some conscious time with yourself can be a powerful gateway to seeing things differently,” he says. In business settings, heated interactions escalate quickly when we react to someone else’s emotions. Our mirror neurons pick up on the other person’s energy, which in turn leads us to make assumptions and pivot to rebuttal. But when we mirror calmness and empathy, a

productive dialogue is possible. “If you can be a leader and say, ‘I see that you’re upset, can you help me understand why?’ and then listen deeply, you begin to understand where the other person is coming from in their perspective, or they might tell you what’s really going on. And that’s dialogue, and the connective tissue of resilience.”


Get involved

In times of loneliness or isolation, frustrations build when we focus on what Dr. Wu calls “top-down” strategies—in other words, government responses to our own crises. He says flipping the script and taking power into our own hands with community engagement is directly related to our ability to recover. “We know that the elderly community has been vulnerable in this pandemic, but we’ve seen many good actions in support of this community, like retired nurses returning to hospitals, or elderly people activating their own networks to help deliver groceries or medicine,” he says. “When we tap into shared resources and expertise, we improve our outcomes.”





CLASS NOTES

 **Tell classmates what you've been up to:** Email classnotes@dal.ca or go to alumni.dal.ca/class-notes

1960s

'65

Three-time Dal grad **Porter Scobey** (BSc, MA'69, PhD'77) started his 53rd year of teaching mathematics and computing science at Saint Mary's University. Porter has also taken the pandemic opportunity to "restart" his long-dormant recording career. His most recent effort (12 musicians and 3 background singers) is a tribute to New York City, based on a true story from a long-ago visit. He shares his musical links on his SMU homepage: cs.smu.ca/~porter.

'68

After **Carol Morrison** (MSc, PhD'71) completed her master's in zoology and then her PhD, she worked for the Halifax Laboratory of DFO until it was closed in 1997. She continued working as a consultant and obtained her BFA from NSCAD in 2005. Carol's portraits were in a group show at the Ice House Gallery in Tatamagouche, N.S.,

which opened in July. In September, she also had a solo show of paintings of Brier Island at Visual Voice gallery in Truro, N.S.

1970s

'77

John Devlin (BEDS) had work in three concurrent art exhibitions in three venues in three countries: *PHOTO | BRUT* at the American Folk Art Museum in New York, N.Y., displayed three pieces; *Making Space* at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in Halifax, N.S., had six pieces; and *Zeichnungen XVI – Welten* at Galerie Parterre Berlin in Germany had 15 pieces.

'79

After writing for Music Publishing in Nashville and Los Angeles for many years—and practicing medicine on the side—noted Canadian songwriter, lyricist and composer, **Robert Thomas Evans** (BSc, MD'83, PGM'91) has formed a new band last year with his favourite co-writers and sidemen. They are releasing new, original tunes as Robert Thomas and the Session Men. Check

out the new single "Jacksonville" on YouTube or Spotify.

1980s

'80

Marc Belliveau (BSc, LLB'90) recently came out of retirement to join Aqualitas Inc., an award-winning Nova Scotian organic medical cannabis producer, in a regulatory compliance role. Marc remains a trademark agent, publishes original music online and is the drummer in ska-reggae band The Oxfords.

Lori (Abbass) Gosselin

(BA) published her second book in 2017, *Sounding the Drum: Community Building in the Digital Age*. After graduating with a Master of Organizational Management from Crandall University in Moncton, N.B., she founded a company, Kalliergo Community Building Corporation, where she teaches leaders how to build a community culture in their organizations.

'81

Clifford J. Shaw (LLB) had his book *Aspects of Banking and Financial Services Law* published by LexisNexis Canada in 2021. Though the main objective

of the book "is to inspire more lawyers to do legal writing for publication and professional and personal enjoyment," it also provides an enlightened look at a wide variety of intriguing issues in banking and financial services law.

'85

Brian McConnell (LLB) is pleased to announce that he published a new book in February 2021 entitled *The Loyalists of Digby*, the first book of its kind to deal exclusively with the United Empire Loyalists and Black Loyalists who arrived as refugees to settle the town and county of Digby, N.S., in the 1780s. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.

'87

Susan Fullerton (BA, JD'90) has worked for the Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto since her call to the bar. She became the deputy public guardian and trustee, program policy in the fall of 2019. Susan was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder in 2016, and Parkinson's disease in 2017. In early 2021, she was one of four patients selected to

be involved in phase one of a clinical study in which MRI focused ultrasound was used to open the blood brain barrier around one side of the putamen, while a drug, Cerezyme, was administered. She hopes that this will help advance the treatment of PD.

1990s

'90

As the author of 15 children's picture books, **Dawn Doig** (MSc) is trying to help brighten the life of one individual and his family. Proceeds from her picture book sales will go toward the purchase of an eye-tracking communication device for a father of two. Her picture books cover a variety of topics including childhood hearing loss (written while working in Kuwait as part of the Kuwait-Dalhousie Project), dysgraphia, anxiety and worry, OCD, and positive self-image. Visit dawndoig.com.

'91

John Van Rys (PhD) has just published *Moonshine Promises*, a set of linked stories (sometimes called a "novel in stories"). One of these stories,



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“In the Hills and Valleys of Perche,” was first published in *The Dalhousie Review*.

'95

Donna Paris (BA), now a retired teacher, is still impacting the lives of many as co-founder of InTheBlack:Canada, and creator of the *I Am Black History Project*. Both projects aim to shed light on what it means to be Black in Canada and the rich but little-known histories that had a role in shaping the country. With her new

podcast, *I Am Black History* (anchor.fm/donna-paris), now up and running she is definitely keeping busy! While she now lives in Toronto, ON., Nova Scotia will always be her home.

'98

KPMB Architects announced the expansion of its leadership team to include alumnus **Bruno Weber** (BEDS, MArch'00), who was named partner with seven other senior members alongside the company's three

founders. Weber joined KPMB in 2000. He is committed to making architecture that cultivates community and brings together diverse groups to work together for a better world. KPMB's reputation has been enriched by Bruno's influential contributions to a series of winning design competitions.

'99

Faten Alshazly's (BScCS) commitment to community development continues in her

newly appointed role as vice-chair of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce. Faten seeks to focus further on diversity, inclusion, and fostering collaboration and connection between businesses of all shapes and sizes to help them come together and celebrate their unique offerings. Faten is founder and chief creative officer of WeUsThem.

2000S

'00

Cora Cole (MSc) is

founder and CEO of GreyLit Inc., a publishing platform that allows front-line research and information to be searched, shared, reviewed and collaborated on around the world. GreyLit has won several start-up awards and competitions and is mobilizing information in various verticals, while getting ready to launch a new tool that extracts information from listservs making that body of information searchable as well.



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'02

The Canadian Venture Capital Association (CVCA) appointed **Brenda Hogan** (MBA) to its Board of Directors. She is the chief investment officer at Ontario Capital Growth Corporation and was a member of Dalhousie's Board of Governors.

'03

Devon Code (BA) shares news of a novella, *Disintegration in Four Parts*, forthcoming from Coach House Books. Co-authored by Jean

Marc Ah-Sen, Emily Anglin and Lee Henderson, the book is described as, "Four writers, four different perspectives on the problematic notion of purity."

Dr. Sura Hadad (DDS), practicing dentist in Halifax, was the PC candidate for the constituency of Bedford South in Nova Scotia's latest provincial election. As a believer in giving back to communities, she has volunteered with many local organizations such as

Souls Harbour and Feed Nova Scotia, and in Africa as a dentistry professional.

'04

The Anaheim Jr. Ducks have promoted long-time coach **David Walker** (BA) to Tier 2 Director of Coaches. David, entering his ninth season of coaching with the club, has directed two AAA teams to berths at the USA Hockey Youth Nationals and served as an assistant coach on a third Nationals-bound Jr. Ducks team. He will again serve

as the head coach of the 15U AAA team this coming season. Walker himself played professionally for nine seasons.

Ameeta Vohra (BA) was named a finalist for this year's Atlantic Journalism Awards in the category of Atlantic Magazine—Best Profile Article, for her work "Thunderstruck," a profile of Halifax Thunderbirds captain Cody Jamieson, in which he candidly explains the personal and

cultural significance of lacrosse: halifaxmag.com/cover/thunderstruck

2010S

'13

Alex (Amar) Sangha (MSW) produced the upcoming feature documentary *Emergence: Out of the Shadows* due for release this year. The film will be broadcast across Canada on OUTtv and made available worldwide on its streaming site OUTtvGo. Alex is a recipient of the



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📷 @dalalumni

Questions?

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Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada. He's founder of Sher Vancouver, a non-profit society for LGBTQ+ South Asians and their friends, families and allies in Metro Vancouver, and Sher Films (sherfilms.ca).

'18

Samuel Levac-Levey (BEng) has developed a board game called *Solutions* about hope and action for the climate. *Solutions* is an intense, non-traditional game

based on discussion (like *Cards Against Humanity* but for climate change!). Designed for and tested with gamers, non-gamers, educators, climate experts, and general audiences with no background in climate. You can learn more about the game, which is live on Kickstarter, at solutionsthegame.com.



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DECEMBER 5, 2021

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To learn more about the volunteer opportunities available to alumni and community members, visit **alumni.dal.ca/get-involved**.





FACULTY NEWS

Agriculture
Architecture & Planning
Arts & Social Sciences
Computer Science
Dentistry
Engineering
Graduate Studies
Health
Law
Management
Medicine
Open Learning and Career Development
Science
University Libraries

Appointments & Retirements

Professors **Judith Thompson** (English), **Shao-Pin Luo** (Chinese Studies) and **John Kirk** (Spanish & Latin American Studies) have retired from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as of June 30, 2021. Dr. Kirk has been appointed professor emeritus.

The School of Planning welcomes its newest tenure-track faculty member, **Jeff Biggar**, who recently joined as an assistant professor. Dr. Biggar's experience includes research affiliate with the Civic Sandbox at Ryerson University and a senior planning advisor at Metrolinx.

The Faculty of Dentistry is delighted to announce its

first Canada Research Chair in biomaterials. **Dr. Anjali Sharma** joins Dalhousie from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The Faculty of Engineering is pleased to announce several Canada Research Chair Appointments. **Dr. Ghada Koleilat** received the Canada Research Chair in Advanced Materials for Energy Application, **Dr. Ali Nasiri** the Chair in the area of Ocean Engineering and **Dr. Pedram Sadeghian** received a CRC renewal for his work in Sustainable Infrastructure.

The Faculty of Management welcomes two Canada Research Chairs: **Dr. Stanley Asah** (School for Resource and Environmental Studies) in Social Dimensions of Clean Technology and **Dr. Sherry Pictou** (School of Public Administration and Faculty of Law) in Indigenous Governance.

Eileen Denovan-Wright has been appointed associate dean, research in the Faculty of Medicine, for a five-year term. In announcing Dr. Denovan-Wright's appointment, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to **Dr. Roger McLeod** for his tireless efforts and dedication to the research community over the past four years. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

In the Faculty of Science, **Dr. Sophia Stone** has been announced as the new chair of the Department of Biology and **Dr. Katja Fennel** has been announced as the new chair of the Department of Oceanography.



The Faculty of Computer Science, housed in the Goldberg Building, was awarded with Dalhousie's 2021 Healthy Workplace Award.

Awards & Honours

Architecture professor **Cristina Veríssimo** and School of Architecture director **Diogo Burnay** were appointed chief curators for the sixth edition of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale, which will take place in 2022. The duo have dedicated three years to preparing the Triennale 2022, beginning with an exploratory period for research, a team definition phase, a phase of structuring the program design, ending with its implementation.

Israat Haque from the Faculty of Computer Science was listed in the 2021 N2Women: Rising Stars in Networking and Communications. This global list recognizes junior

researchers in the networking/communications field. Dr. Haque also received a 2021 President's Research Excellence Award.

The **Faculty of Computer Science** was awarded with Dalhousie's 2021 Healthy Workplace Award for integrating wellness as a core operational function within the faculty through events, communications and advocacy.

The School of Dental Hygiene's **Dr. Leigha Rock** was elected to the Canadian Association for Dental Research executive council, the first dental hygienist to hold this position in the organization's history.

Two Faculty of Law professors received a 2021 President's Research Excellence Award.

Dr. Naomi Metallic was recognized as an Emerging Investigator. Her research seeks to harness the law to advance the well-being of Indigenous peoples. **Dr. Elaine Craig** was recognized with a Research Impact award for her work toward a theory of sexuality that could foster law's capacity to promote justice.

Faculty of Medicine resident **Dr. Jasmine Mah** has been selected as one of 15 leading doctoral researchers from across Canada and around the world who have been selected for the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation's leadership program as 2021 Scholars.

The Faculty of Medicine congratulates four researchers recognized with 2021 President's Research

Excellence Awards.

Dr. Jeanette Boudreau (cancer research), **Dr. Leah Cahill** (cardio-metabolic diseases) and **Dr. Shahsi Gujar** (cancer immunotherapy) were each recognized as Emerging Investigators. **Dr. David Kelvin** was awarded the Research Impact for his work in the fight against COVID-19.

2021 President's Research Excellence Awards were also given to Faculty of Science researchers **Dr. Saurabh Chitnis** (Emerging Investigator) for his work designing molecules containing heavy p-block elements and **Dr. Mark Obravac** (Research Impact) whose lab develops next-generation materials and innovative processes for producing Li-ion batteries.

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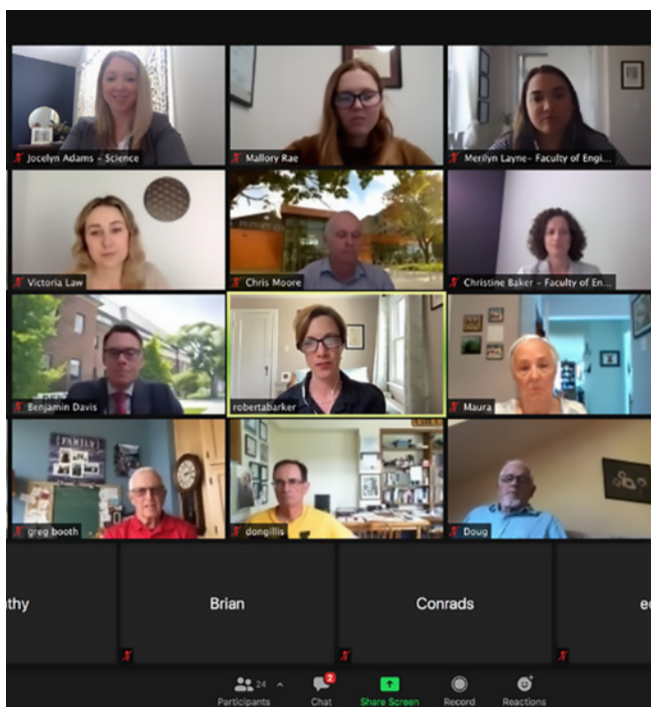


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Members from the class of 1961 join with faculty and staff from the Faculties of Science, Arts, Health and Management.

Community & Connections

The Faculties of Science, Arts, Health, and Management hosted a **virtual reunion for the class of 1961**. Attendees joined in to remember their time at Dal and to hear about how things have changed at Dalhousie. Guest speakers shared updates on each faculty and alumni reminisced about their favorite memories!

On May 27 the Faculty of Engineering hosted the first event in its new series: **Engineering Impact**. The live event focused on the contributions of engineers in health care and brought three professional engineers working in the health-care

space together to share their stories on their careers and the industry.

In October, the Faculty of Agriculture Blue & Gold Awards celebrated **Niki Jabbour** (BA'95, DipAgr'96) as Distinguished Alumnus 2021—the first woman to receive this distinction in the award's history. **Geneve Newcombe** (BScAgr'86) was recognized as Alumni Volunteer of the Year and **TJ Harvey** (DipAgr'02) was given the Young Alumni Achievement Award.



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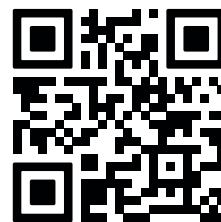
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IN MEMORIAM

**We remember
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sorrow the following
Dalhousie alumni
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received between
January and August
2021).**

1940s

Arnold B Blenkhorn,
AGFY'41

Laura Marie Leighton,
BSC'44

Roderick Glencross
Macdonald, MD'45

Julian Cyril Scott
Bloomer, DENG'46,
BSC'46

Katherine Louise
Knight, BCOMM'47

Robert D. Stirling,
FRC'47

Margaret Lillian
Horsfall, BA'49

Joan Maureen
Lawrence, DED'49, BA'48

Reginald Lloyd Mollon,
BENG'49

Doris Maude Roe, BA'49

Marie June Smyth,
BM'49, LCMUS'47

David John Waterbury,
LLB'49

1950s

Cecil St. Clair Hebb,
BA'50

Paul Fullerton
McNichol, BENG'50

John David Nickerson,
MSC'50

Vernon Bruce Wallace,
DED'50, BA'49

Frederick Arthur Walsh,
DDIP'50

William Carter Durant,
DDIP'51

Mary Elizabeth Hudson,
BSC'51

Donald Cameron
Lamond, BENG'51,
AGSY'48

Harry Peter Poulos,
MD'51, BSC'47

William P. Abraham,
FRC'52

Gordon Malcolm Ritcey,
BSC'52

Elizabeth Lee Ross,
MD'52

Joseph Arthur Smeltzer,
BENG'52

Donald Ross Barteaux,
BENG'53

David Arthur Nichols,
LLB'53

Diane Mary Smith,
DED'53, BA'52

Ronald Vaughan
Colpitts, DDIP'54

Freeman Eaton, FRC'54

Fintan Joseph Aylward,
LLB'55

William Carl Harris,
BENG'55

Ruth Ann Marks, BA'55

Leonard Aynge Martin,
LLB'55

Gerald Ernest Nelson,
BENG'55

David Norman Ogilvie,
FRC'55

Hugh Brian Vincent,
MA'55, BA'53

Gordon Beecher Weld,
BENG'55

John Archibald
Withrow, DPHRM'55

John David Furzer
Elliot, LLB'56

Alasdair MacLean
Sinclair, BA'56

Eric Manning Wright,
BENG'56

John Edward Andrews,
BENG'57

Denis Joseph Morris,
BENG'57

James Harold Peters,
DDS'57

Robert Douglas Balcom,
DDIP'58

Edwin Thomas Bonn,
BENG'58

Douglas George Pittet,
LLM'58, LLB'57

Robert Alexander
Bennett, DDIP'59

Natalie Louise Bourke,
BSC'59

C. Elizabeth Flinn, BSC'59

James Wilson Gogan,
BCOMM'59

Dennis Gordon Holland,
BCOMM'59

William Allen
MacCannell, MD'59

Bernard Michael
MacKinnon, BENG'59

Stephen Clair MacLeod,
MD'59

Michael Garin Meacher,
BENG'59

Sherman Archibald
Williams, DDIP'59

1960s

Ilze Folkins, BSC'60

Donald Frederic Leroy
Hamilton, LLB'60

Donald Joseph Murphy,
LLB'60

George Hughes Randall,
LLB'60

Phoebe Winona Roper,
BA'60

Melvin Ian Townsend,
BENG'60

Nicholas Thomas
Catanuto, MD'61

David Edward Cushing,
BENG'61

Donald Garth Evelyn,
BENG'61

Vincent Leonard
Heighton, BSC'61,
DPHRM'59

Donna Marie O'Leary,
DPHRM'61

Gary James Pretty,
FRC'61

Lawrence Eugene Allen,
DPHRM'62

Barbara E. Martin,
DDIP'62

Margaret Susan
Whiteside, BA'62

Laura Constance
Mailman, DDH'63

Harold George Pheeney,
BENG'63

Donalda Barber, DPH'64

Peter C. Dekker, DDIP'64

Lois Patricia Russell,
MA'64, BA'61

Frances Janet Audain,
DCP'65, MA'63, BA'60

Wilfred P. Deveau,
DDIP'65

Gabriel Raymond
Doucet, BENG'65

Donna Claire Farrell,
DPH'65

Grace Irene Hicks,
BN'65

Robert McDonnell,
MENG'65

Donald W. Cameron,
DDIP'66

Robert Murray William
Colwell, BED'66

Ronald Chapman Giffin,
LLB'66

Herbert Loyal MacLean,
BED'66, BA'65

Ruth Mary Mahen,
DNSA'66

John Frederick Miner,
DDS'66

Peter Richard Nichols,
MD'66

David Harold Joseph
Parker, BENG'66

James Clayton Withrow,
BCOMM'66

Janet M. Alexander,
BED'67

Bernard William David
Badley, PGM'67

Leota Maie Daniels,
DTSN'67

Paul Samuel Hartt,
BENG'67

Allen Lorne MacLean,
DDS'67

James Fraser MacLeod,
BSCPH'67

Lanier Bishop Rice,
BA'67

Peter Oswald Brackett,
BENG'68

Marilyn Louise
Nickerson, DTSN'68

Marilyn S. Sedgewick,
DNSA'68

Donald Frederick
Brown, BED'69

Sherwood Fillmore
Crawford, MENG'69,
BENG'63

Karen Margaret Pearce,
DNSA'69

R. Alexander G. Ritchie,
MENG'69, BENG'66,
DENG'62

Carl Bruce Wiseman,
BENG'69

1970s

Audrey Iver Maw,
DNSA'70, BPH'63

Jacqueline Marguerite
McMahon, BED'70,
BSC'69

Iris Victoria Elizabeth
Peeples, BED'70,
BA'69

Donald Murray Albert
Trider, MA'70, BED'67,
BCOMM'66

Hunter Neil Windsor,
BENG'70

Gary Wilson Yorston,
BSCPH'70

Charles Dewitt Cahill,
BA'71

Charles Read Lorway,
LLB'71

Norma Agnes Meek,
DPH'71

Robert Charles
Murrant, LLB'71

William Alexander
Sutherland, LLB'71

John Robert Wojcik,
BENG'71

Richard Joseph
Girouard, MSC'72

Paul Douglas Schaller,
BA'72

Richard Ross
Chabassol, BA'73

Marlene Vivian De Rose,
BPE'73

David Andrew Gass,
MD'73

Vernon David Johnson,
BA'73

Elaine Amy Rillie,
MLS'73

Gary Donald Tupper,
BARCH'73

Marla Florence Clark,
DPH'74

Valentine Henry
Conway, MD'74

John Ronald Creighton,
LLB'74, BA'71

David Eugene Dooks,
BCOMM'74

Dorothy Jane Hammill,
BA'74

Graeme Lewis King,
BA'74, BED'74

Paul Gregory MacIsaac,
LLB'74

Robert Kirkman Mohn,
PHD'74, MA'70, MSC'68

John Alexander
O'Keefe, LLB'74

Anna Louise Freeman,
BNRN'75

Gordon Cameron Hall,
BSC'75

Edward Michael
Hartigan, TECH'75

Mary Heather
Robertson, LLB'75, BA'69

Deborah Ann Whitman,
BA'75

Rachel Jean Armstrong,
MD'76, BSC'72

Rosalie Anne Courage,
BA'76

Alvin Julien Landry,
LLB'76

Gerald Hugh Munro,
MBA'76

Keith Charles Stickings,
MA'76, BED'61

Clair Gartley, BENG'77

Jean Elizabeth Hennan,
BCOMM'77

Ian Ross MacIntosh,
MLS'77, BA'75

Ian Robinson
MacKeigan, BSCPH'77

Wendy Janice Roos,
MBA'77, BSC'75

John Alexander Black,
LLB'78

Edward Alan MacLeod,
BSC'79

Alan David Hack Scott,
BA'79

1980s

Martin S. M.
Abenheimer, PGM'80

Borden Loraine Conrad,
BED'80, LLB'71, BA'69

Morris Wayne Duncan,
BARCH'80, BEDS'79,
BSC'75

Judith Elizabeth
McAlden, MED'80

Sheila Lorraine
Chisholm, BSCPH'81

Louisa Jane Patterson,
MN'81

Nancy Elizabeth Ripley
Hood, LLB'81

Christopher John Tilley,
BCOMM'82

Deborah Ann Abbott,
BSW'83

Murrin A. Leim, MPA'83

Derek Anthony Lugar,
BCOMM'84

Douglas Alden Watt,
MD'84, BSCHC'80, BSC'79

Heather Marie Boyd-
Kinnie, LLB'85

Brian Ernest Fisher,
BAHC'85, BA'81, BSC'79

Kirby Watson Moore,
DDS'85

Nancy Elizabeth
Richards, BN'86,
DRNA'71

Gregory Peter Donald
Timmins, BA'87

Anne Marie Cleary,
BCOMM'88

Patricia Lynn Braden,
MHSA'89, CPA'84

Theresa Glen Martin,
BSW'89

Peter Francis Mullally,
MSW'89, BCOMM'75,
MA'79

Weston Arthur Rayner,
BENG'89

John Hardy Sawler,
BSC'89

1990s

Alan Swim, MED'90

Hilary John Keniston
Atherton, BA'91

Kimberly Lynn Thorpe,
BSCPH'91

Michael Paul Folk, BA'92

Rina Nasreen Hoque,
LLB'92

Rachelle LeBlanc,
BSCN'92

Susan Leslie
MacKenzie, BSCPH'92,
BSC'80

Freda Shields Hemeon,
MA'93

Colin Jay Bustard,
MBA'94

Jessie Winnifred Knox
Smith, BSW'95

Theresa Stapleton,
DDH'95

Marie Ellen MacEwen,
BREC'96

Marilyn T. F. McLaren,
DCS'96

Bonnie Heather Crowe-
Schooten, BSC'99

2000s

Kenneth Jenner
Carlyle Armour, LLB'00

Christina Marie
McNamara, MN'01

Renee Marie Lisette
Rudolph, BSCPT'02

Gordon Curtis Trites,
BA'03

Virginia Christine
Barbosa, BSCPH'04

Nichole Cashin, BSW'05

2010s

Matthew John Brady,
BSCPH'10

Budge MacGregor
Wilson, LLD'10, DED'53,
BA'49

Lisa Catherine
Callaghan, BMGT'13

Graeme Melcher, JD'17

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Reason to Sing

I imagine it: The opening notes of a song ring out. A chill runs down your spine. You begin to move your body as the music swells. You feel connected, inspired. If first-year Bachelor of Music student Sophia Cuni-Hall has her way, this is how fans will feel when she performs. Sophia sees a degree in music at Dal as a key to unlocking new skills that will help her supercharge her songwriting and propel her prowess as a performer. “I feel like there’s a piece missing,” she says of her songwriting now. “I have the words and I have the chords, but I’m looking for that connection: What do the notes mean? How do melodies combine?” Sophia’s plans almost didn’t pan out though, as she struggled in recent years to save for university following the sudden passing of her father in 2016. She spent much of her senior year at Citadel High School in Halifax applying for scholarships with her mother’s help. When Sophia found out she was one of three inaugural recipients of Dalhousie’s new Sankofa Scholarships (designed to address systemic barriers faced by students of Black and African descent) one morning before class, she could barely contain her excitement. Leaping from her desk, she called her mom and ran around the school telling her friends and guidance counsellor. Later that day at home, as the good news began to sink in, she broke down in tears. “I was so grateful,” she says of receiving the scholarship, worth \$32,000 (\$8,000 renewable annually). “This is all that I’ve ever wanted. I wanted to go to school. I love music and have for my entire life. The fact that I wouldn’t have even been able to go was terrifying, so I was really relieved and grateful to get that scholarship.”

—Matt Reeder



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