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Dalhousie

vol.24 no.1 spring 2007

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Minds

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On our cover

Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed (MD'99) was recently photographed at the Sir Charles Tupper Building by Danny Abriel.

Photo: Pearce

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Minds

Dalhousie, The Alumni Magazine
Dalhousie is the official periodical of the Dalhousie Alumni Association and appears three times a year.
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Photo: Abriel

Scanning the night sky

This summer, while many of us turn our thoughts to swimming at the lake, winning a softball game or cultivating the ultimate garden, others will be taking the quest for knowledge to the frontier of Mars.

That includes a team of researchers in Physics and Atmospheric Science, led by Dr. Tom Duck, who are counting the days now: 66 days, 11 hours, 52 minutes and 43 seconds. As I'm writing, that's the tally on the countdown to the launch of NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander 2007. The mission is transporting lidar technology developed on campus to measure the structure of the dusty atmosphere of Mars.

Their passion will produce new knowledge to inform the age-old question: could life exist on Mars? You can actively follow the countdown to launch day by connecting with a website created to share the excitement in Physics and Atmospheric Science: http://www.dal.ca/mars/.

Next, we get down to earth and practical. We're celebrating a technical milestone with the centenary of homegrown engineering education in Nova Scotia. Dalhousie's Faculty of Engineering connects with a long and proud tradition reaching back many generations. This expertise has provided leadership in building essential infrastructure and driving the province's economy. Finding solutions for these and other complex problems remains the focus. Today's students and professors are responding to emerging community needs for clean water, energy and air. You can catch up with some of the innovative research and programs happening on the Sexton Campus during anniversary celebrations this fall.

You may not be thinking about her, but she's probably thinking about you. At the very least, she's concerned about your well-being. The collective health of the community is the focus for Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed, whose caseload could include anyone in Halifax. While overseeing public health issues for the entire population of Halifax, she still finds time to teach at the Dalhousie Medical School.

This summer during your campfire, glance up at the night sky and reflect on how the Dal researchers are the latest to pursue an ancient fascination with our closest planetary neighbour.

Enjoy your holidays.

Sincerely,
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Our contributors

Charles Crosby (BA'92) is Dalhousie's manager of media relations as well as a playwright and published novelist. He met Gaynor Watson when both were young politicos but both grew up and returned to the real world.

Cathy Nicoll is a Halifax writer with 27 years experience as a reporter with a daily newspaper. She's written about subjects as diverse as politics and crime, and everything in between. Her father, Hubert Nicoll, graduated from Tech in 1952 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Marilyn Smulders writes in this issue about Dalhousie's connection to outer space. She is a big Star Trek fan and prefers Capt. Picard to all other starship captains.

Marie Weeren (BJ(K)'93), of 10th Floor Solutions in Halifax, reflects on what she has gained by writing the profile of Dave Shannon, LLB'91: admiration for his achievements, and stronger conviction that each person in life has a unique contribution to make.

A towering legacy

Just inside Dal's Life Sciences Centre is a modern tribute to a career that continues to reverberate shock waves through the scientific community and the corridors of political power.

Students and colleagues of Dr. Ransom Myers (1952-2007) created the tribute to his academic accomplishments by posting the pages of his peer-reviewed scientific papers on the walls of the Biology Wing stairwell.

It is one thing to hear about a prodigious publishing record, it's quite another to see it towering over six floors. At the apex is the Science *article that appeared in one of the world's most prestigious and respected journals on March 31, the week of Dr. Myers' death. In a fitting recognition of his continuing stature and influence, the controversial findings made global headlines and news broadcasts around the world.*

Below, we share some reflections from William Barker, the President of the University of King's College.

In 2003, Dr. Ransom Myers and grad student Julia Baum collaborated on an influential paper on the decline of shark species. Keith Taylor, Dean of the Dalhousie Faculty of Science, believes Dr. Myers' greatest legacy is his mentorship. "The students and post-docs in his research group just leapfrogged to the centre of the world stage," says Dr. Taylor. "He really brought out the best in people."

Last March, we lost an enlivening figure from our academic world. Ransom A. Myers, or Ram as he was known to many of his friends, was the Killam Professor of Ocean Studies in the Biology Department at Dalhousie. He was fifty-four, with a young family. He still had a lot to give.

I met Ram almost 20 years ago on a flight from Toronto to St John's. He was one of those intellectuals for whom the work goes everywhere, and the mind never stops boiling over with observations and new ideas. I loved the boldness. Looking back, I have to say his nickname, though made up of his initials, was not an accident.

Ram worked for the Department of Fisheries where he was part of a program to monitor fish stocks, just at the time of the collapse of the fishery. The discussion in Newfoundland was continuous, robust, and painful. Ram was a key voice. But the official bureaucratic position did not respond well to his arguments, and he moved to the university world, where his research could be more easily continued.

That's the background. But I want to stress a personal and professional accomplishment I especially admired in Ram — the way he moved his research out of the relatively narrow world of the specialist into the public arena.

Ram was, for a self-described "quantitative fishery population biologist," relatively famous. You can find him listed in a recent edition of *Fortune* between the U.S. Senator Barack Obama and the founders of Google and Wikipedia as one of 10 interesting people to watch in the years to come.

Ram clearly loved the notice, and enjoyed the ironies of this celebrity. But being in the spotlight helped his cause — which was focused on the decline of the fish stocks around the world, especially the worrisome decline of larger predatory fish, such as sharks.

Ram was exceptional in the force of his message. If you want to see how he did this, one of the best places is his 2003 testimony to the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation (it's on the web). Here Ram presents his advice on the decline of fish stocks. His summary of an ongoing massive meta-analysis of data from around the world clearly demonstrates the vastness of the ecological failure through overfishing. From this general view he moves back to the particular, to offer practical advice on the management and replenishment of specific stocks. The clarity, urgency, and hope in his testimony are exemplary.

He knew the value of publicity, of getting in the news. The Dalhousie web page devoted to his memory mentions that his work made the front page of *The New York Times* "above the fold." This of course is pure Ram, and all his friends will get the joke. He was delighted that he had appeared "above the fold" because he knew he had captured the ultimate piece of real estate in world print journalism.

Many academics have important messages that should be heard by the public. Sometimes these messages are too nuanced or too obscure for public discourse, which is not terribly refined or precise. How to attain that knowledge transfer is a huge issue for universities and our research funding agencies, who want the public informed and the discoveries to be used.

Now and then, however, there are academic experts who are able to maintain a sophisticated research agenda and who at the same time can translate the work into terms that can be quickly grasped by the general public. When their ideas get out there, they help to shape necessary public debate. This is important work, and deserves recognition. Ram was one of the masters.

[Published in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, Sunday, 1 April 2007]

From anticipation ...

Photos: Pearce

... to jubilation

CONVOCATION CEREMONIES are full of surprises. Sure, they're full of the things you'd expect too: a parade of more than 3,100 black-robed graduates across the stage, inspirational speeches, smiles and photographs.

Photo: Pearce

Computer science professor Srinivas Sampalli and Erik Demaine, BSc'95, LLD'07

But they're not above a little fun, like the shouts of "Woohoo!" and "Way to go!" that erupt occasionally from the audience.

In his convocation address, honorary degree recipient **Erik Demaine** (BSc'95, LLD'07) urged graduates to embrace fun in their lives — "to follow your heart … to do what you're passionate about."

"Don't worry, be happy," he added with a disarming shrug, his lanky 6'2" form hunched over the lectern. "Wear sunscreen."

And for his advice, another surprising turn of events: he got a standing ovation.

The 26-year-old Dr. Demaine was Dalhousie's youngest graduate. The Halifax native came to Dalhousie when he was just 12 years old (and "a lot shorter"). Graduating two years later in 1995, Dr. Demaine says he never cracked a textbook when he was at Dal, but he never missed a lecture either.

Attending Dalhousie was "wicked fun," says Dr. Demaine. "I was hacking around on computers. I was learning mathematics. It was all so cool. It was the best time. I absorbed it all like a sponge."

He says Dal nurtured his love of collaboration. He'd get together with scientists across the university to work on common problems. "Here I was, a computer scientist, working with a mathematician, an oceanographer, a physicist, a geologist …" he says, pausing to laugh. "That sounds like the start of a joke. And then they went into a bar together, um, except for me. Too young."

Dalhousie computer science professor Srinivas Sampalli remembers him from those days. "I thought he was someone's kid brother, but he kept coming back. Everything he did was A+ quality. He blazed through university in two years. And not only that: he published two journal papers out of his undergraduate thesis. You don't see that very often."

From Dalhousie, Dr. Demaine went on to the University of Waterloo, graduating with his PhD in 2001. By then, he was already on staff at MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. When he was 22, he was awarded what's known as the "genius grant," a $500,000 MacArthur Fellowship. Just don't call him a genius. "That's a loaded word, but I'm just fine with 'geek'."

Besides Dr. Demaine, other distinguished Canadians conferred with the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, include: arts journalist Eleanor Wachtel; occupational therapist and educator Barbara O'Shea; scientist Dr. Roderick McInnes; human rights activist William Schabas; CIHR president Alan Bernstein; philanthropists Cynthia Fuller Davis, Wallace and Margaret McCain; engineers Wesley Campbell and Marshall Williams and entrepreneur Louis Deveau.

New beginnings: Class of 2007

Occupational Therapy

Amanda Morrison, from Sydney, N.S., had a limited knowledge of the diversity of the occupational therapy profession. That quickly changed once she arrived at Dalhousie.

She was always drawn to a health-related field, and chose occupational therapy for the interaction with patients and the ability to make a difference in their lives. "You seem to get to know people a bit more in this field, and are able to play a role in promoting independence for people."

Photo: Abriel

During her time at Dalhousie, she completed diverse career placements that gave her invaluable clinical experience. These ranged from working with orthopaedic patients recovering from injuries or surgery, to organizing a day camp for children with learning disabilities in Newfoundland.

Post-graduation, she has been hired by a nursing home in Cape Breton and looks forward to taking her new skills as an occupational therapist back to her home community.

— Dawn Morrison

Photo: Abriel

Medicine

Medical graduate **Daniel Boudreau** received more than just a solid academic foundation at Dalhousie for his career in medicine. During his time here, the native of Arichat, N.S., has also had life-changing experiences that have altered his world view.

He travelled to Tanzania for the East Africa Study Tour, which familiarized him with the medical and school systems there and gave him exposure to community groups like the Kimara Peer Educators, who deal with HIV-related issues. He also worked at an HIV clinic in East London, South Africa in 2004 as part of a group aimed at creating a permanent relationship between the Ikhwezi Lokusa Wellness Centre and Dalhousie Medical School. He brought donated medications to Africa, to date raising $5,000 for the clinic and the Kimara Peer Educators.

"Nothing really prepares you for some of the things you see, or the stories you hear. Your whole world paradigm shifts," he says. Being able to assist impoverished areas and gain an understanding of their medical systems was invaluable to Daniel. He plans to specialize in family and emergency medicine and would like to continue with international work relating to health care.

Community Design

Erica Chisholm-Keith nailed a job as an environmental planner with a local consulting firm even before she graduated. That's the beauty of an honours degree in Community Design —grads of the unique program are in demand. She says the program's strength is its small size, the personal attention lavished on students by professors and the electives available to tailor your degree.

"You have to work independently, but you won't get lost in the shuffle, ever," says Ms. Chisholm-Keith.

The program was created when two small planning schools at NSCAD and Dal were combined into a department at Dalhousie, explains Jill Grant, director of the School of Planning. "We couldn't have picked a better time. The job prospects for students have never been as good as they are right now," she says.

Photo: Pearce

Canadians are increasingly concerned about the environment and wondering how lifestyle impacts the planet. Issues such as sustainable transportation and healthy communities are at the top of the public agenda, and effective planning is more important than ever.

Students study subjects including physical geography, architecture, environmental studies, economics and landscape ecology. "We focus on the metro area as a laboratory of study," says Dr. Grant.

They say married people start to look like each other, but dress like each other? For Michael Charette and Ellen Boudreau, it makes perfect sense. During spring convocation, the couple who met and married while studying for their PhDs sported matching black gowns faced with yellow silk and velvet birretums with golden tassels. Both are pursuing post-doctoral fellowships at Yale University School of Medicine. This spring, Dal graduated 53 PhDs, the largest class to date.

Photo: Pearce

Tuition frozen

Dalhousie has frozen 2007-2008 tuition at current rates for all professional, graduate and undergraduate programs. In addition, in agreement with the province, Nova Scotians will see a $500 tuition reduction.

Dalhousie students are delighted with this cold snap. "I would say it's a historic budget," says Mike Tipping, DSU president. "It's starting to address the very real problems of access and debt load faced by students at this university."

The university has another fully balanced budget – the 20th consecutive. The $252-million annual operating budget increases spending on scholarships and other student assistance. Total financial assistance available to Dal students this year will top $40 million, while the university will collect $89 million in tuition fees.

In order to continue to attract top-flight doctoral candidates, Dalhousie will waive fees for qualified PhD students. The international differential fee for graduate students in thesis programs has also been frozen. International undergraduates and non-thesis international graduate students will pay a long-planned $810 differential fee increase.

President Tom Traves said it comes as a welcome relief to see students get a financial break. Prior to 2005 and for the better part of two decades, provincial funding levels to universities flat-lined. As a result, more of the cost of post-secondary education shifted to students themselves, and Nova Scotia's universities became among the most expensive in Canada.

Dr. Traves added a cautionary note: "Tuition stability is welcome, but it's only half the equation. In the future, the government also must address the even more important question of proper funding to ensure the high quality of education we offer."

– Jim Vibert

Photo: Peace

Tutu much? Audiences were in for a visual treat as student actors, set designers and costumers staged Molière's *The Bourgeois Gentleman* to cap off DalTheatre Productions' 2006-07 season. The witty 17th century French comedy played to full houses in the Sir James Dunn Theatre during the spring.

Understanding the early history of life on earth

Another Dalhousie star is born. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) has awarded molecular evolutionary biologist Andrew Roger an E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship. The prestigious award is given to "outstanding and highly promising researchers."

Dr. Roger is the only researcher east of Ontario to receive the award. He points to the unique research his group is conducting as a reason for the recognition.

"My group has been making important contributions to the understanding of the early history of life on Earth, as well as conducting interdisciplinary research into developing computer-based statistical models of how genes and genomes of organisms evolve," he says.

Photo: Abriel

A winning combination

Dal students took first prize nationally in the Business Development Bank of Canada's Enterprize 2007 Business Plan Competition. Their business plan was based on commercializing a cutting edge chemical catalyst technology developed by Dalhousie researchers. The team combines expertise from Pharmacy, Chemistry, Science and Management. They also took first prize in the prestigious IBK Capital - Ivey Business Plan Competition at the University of Western Ontario, worth $25,000.

Photo: Abriel

(Front, l.-r.) Reagan Davidson, Tayze MacKenzie and David Roach, Director, Norman Newman Centre for Entrepreneurship; (Back, l.-r.) Sydney Davidson, Ashley Blackman.

Strange bedfellows

On the cover of Ann Martin's book, Red Riding Hood comes upon the Wolf tucked into her granny's canopied bed. He's dressed in granny's nightgown, cap and reading glasses, with the covers pulled up to his furry chin.

But rather than be scared off, Red looks like she just might ask Wolf to shove over.

"That's the beauty of fairy tales," says Dr. Martin, assistant professor in the Department of English at Dalhousie. "Children can read tales in one way, an adult reader in another, and a writer in yet another way. Fairy tales make space for everyone."

In her book, *Red Riding Hood and the Wolf in Bed: Modernism's Fairy Tales* (University of Toronto Press), Dr. Martin explores representations of fairy tales in the works of modernist writers. Allusions to fairy tales in works such as James Joyce's *Ulysses*, Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, and Djuna Barnes' *Nightwood* signify the intersection of pop culture and high modernism.

Or, as Martin puts it: "The author and source text become bedfellows. There's an exchange and an encounter."

And, just as the modernists gave classic fairy tales their own spin, contemporary storytellers continue to take the well-trodden path to the literary well for new takes on old tales. The popularity of fairy tales continues unabated — *Shrek 3* is doing blockbuster business at the multiplex, while *Beauty and the Beast* holds down the fort at Neptune Theatre. Critically acclaimed writers, Margaret Atwood, Emma Donoghue and Angela Carter among them, are also finding rich fodder in the stories that entranced Charles Perrault in the 17th century, the Brothers Grimm in the 18th century, and Hans Christian Andersen in the 19th century.

"Fairy tales are dead until the listener brings them to life by interacting and interpreting them to apply to their own situations," she says. "And, if you don't like one version, don't worry – there's always another version to explore."

– Marilyn Smulders

A whole new ball game

Photos: Pearce

Wheelchair athlete Anthony Purcell takes Ultimate Borden Ball for a spin. Kinesiology students (l-r) Alan Dalton, David MacNutt, Sara Rendell and Gerard Bray invented the game as a project for their Adapted Physical Activity course and recently took the top award in MOTRIN® IB's My Game My Pain national campus challenge. They donated their prize of $2,500 to the Abilities Foundation of Nova Scotia, for a specialized sports wheelchair.

Could a 'Celtic Tiger' roar in Atlantic Canada?

Economist Michael Bradfield looks to Ireland and Wales for regional development parallels

Every time a company pulls out of Atlantic Canada or employment figures take a dip, you'll hear the refrain — Why don't we cut corporate taxes and attract more foreign investment? After all, it worked for Ireland.

Or did it? In a paper to be published in the upcoming *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, Dalhousie economics professor Michael Bradfield argues the grass isn't greener on the Emerald Isle. And, if Atlantic Canada is to take lessons from abroad, perhaps Wales provides a better example.

"If Ireland is the model for Nova Scotia to follow, then you have to be honest and say, 'Well, what happened in Ireland?'" says Dr. Bradfield, an economist who specializes in regional development.

Through much of the 1990s, Ireland's economy – dubbed the Celtic Tiger — roared as foreign companies arrived to get access to the much larger and prosperous European Union market. The accepted logic is that the Celtic Tiger earned its stripes when Ireland slashed corporate taxes to make itself more business friendly to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

But in the paper "Foreign Investment and Growth vs. Development — A Comparative Study of Ireland and Wales," Dr. Bradfield takes a closer look and discovers most of Ireland's rapid growth came only after it raised — not lowered — corporate taxes.

"For those who claim that the zero corporate tax is key, it is inconvenient that the surge in FDI occurred after corporate taxes on foreign investment were increased because of pressure from the EU," writes Dr. Bradfield.

He continues: "Thus, it is logical to argue that the Irish experience shows that rising taxes (and the provision of government programs they finance) are crucial to attracting foreign investment!"

Dr. Bradfield maintains that Ireland benefited by massive subsidies from the European Union. These funds helped the country build up its infrastructure, provide services to businesses, wrestle down debt and most important, offer benefits to its citizens, such as free university tuition. When foreign companies came calling, Ireland could offer a well-educated populace eager to work. Moreover, ex-pats who left the country in search of work were able to return home.

> "If Ireland is a tiger, it is a paper tiger."

But while more people are working, they aren't taking home more money. That's because the Irish government sweetened the pot for foreign companies by imposing a nationwide wage cap and keeping unions out.

"If Ireland is a tiger, it is a paper tiger," contends Dr. Bradfield. Because of its reliance on foreign investment, Ireland's rapid GDP growth looks good on paper, but it hasn't translated into across-the-board improvements for its people.

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Find what ails you

Nova Scotians now have access to a medical database considered the gold standard for information on the effectiveness of medical treatments. It covers not only hundreds of conditions, but also injury prevention, alternative remedies, and natural treatments.

The Cochrane Library, a collection of regularly updated evidence-based sources, is made available through the Dalhousie-based consortium Atlantic Health Knowledge Partnership.

To find out how to access the Cochrane Library, log on to http://www.library.dal.ca/kellogg/ahkp/ahkp.htm.

Meanwhile, across the Celtic Sea, Wales was attracting foreign capital, but without making the same kind of concessions that Ireland did. Wales, moreover, provides a better model for Atlantic Canada because of the similarities; like Nova Scotia, and Cape Breton in particular, Wales has had to reinvent itself into a service economy after traditional industries such as coal mining and steel declined.

"Wales was effective in designing its own growth strategy. The government there decided to put the focus on developing local enterprise," says Dr. Bradfield, a Dalhousie professor for 39 years. "They have done quite well doing that."

The example of Wales shows that an emphasis on building the local economy may not be flashy, but it does work, he says. It's an approach that builds on a country's own strengths and needs without pandering to outside influences. And that's the real lesson for Atlantic Canada.

"It amazes me how people get caught up in the next 'big idea' — whether that's a casino or the Commonwealth Games… I'm sorry, there is no gold ring, but there are little things that we can do. We can build on our own resources, culture, lifestyle, and needs. If we develop these things for ourselves, others can use them too."

– Marilyn Smulders

Banding together to combat bullying

Threatening glances in the hallway. Heckles and jeers in the lunchroom. Harassing instant messages on the computer. A black eye in the bathroom.

In his work as a pediatrician, **Dr. John LeBlanc** regularly comes face to face with kids who are victims of bullying or are engaged in bullying themselves. He's not certain if bullying is on the increase — attempts to statistically measure the behaviour only date back 15 or 20 years — but he does think that society's views on bullying are changing for the better.

"I think we're realizing now that people get hurt," says Dr. LeBlanc, who is a professor of pediatrics, psychiatry and community health and epidemiology with Dalhousie and a clinician at the IWK Health Centre. "Bullying isn't just a 'school of hard knocks' that kids have to go through as they grow up. Both bullies and their victims are more likely to suffer from mental illness, depression and anti-social behaviour as they enter adulthood. Plus, we know that kids learn better in safe and secure environments — it's a win-win."

As the public clamours for schools, governments and community organizations to tackle the problem of bullying, Dr. LeBlanc and other researchers from across the country are banding together to provide the expertise needed. Dr. LeBlanc sits on the executive committee for PREVNet, a national network of researchers, non-governmental organizations and governments working together to promote safe and healthy relationships for all Canadian children and youth.

"You can't deal with issues like bullying without being interdisciplinary. There's not one simple solution to these problems."

PREVNet's website provides parents, professionals and youth with a number of resources, including online toolkits and background information on bullying. The network has also established working groups across the country targeting specific areas of interest, including social aggression and cyberbullying. PREVNet, which just celebrated its second anniversary, is also striving to become a policy resource that governments can rely on for evidence-based advice.

"You can't deal with issues like bullying without being interdisciplinary," Dr. LeBlanc explains. "You need teachers, researchers, community groups, governments and more. There's not one simple solution to these problems."

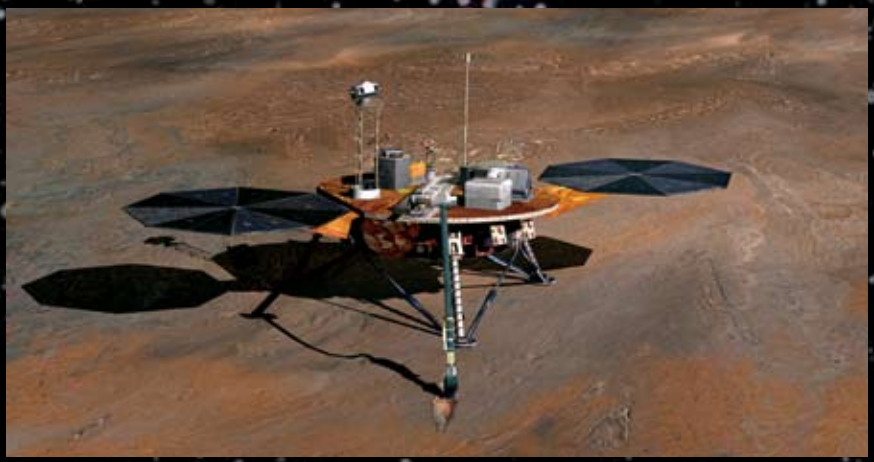
Dr. LeBlanc stresses that combating bullying requires strategies that go beyond targeting the symptom and strike at the larger systematic and interpersonal dynamics that lead to threatening behaviour. "Our solutions won't be found in the simple assignment of blame and punishment," he elaborates. "We need to develop interventions that recognize the wealth of factors at play, focus on changing systems such as schools and encourage healthy relationships in general."

PREVNet was established through the National Centre of Excellence program, part of the federal government's Innovation Strategy to foster partnerships between universities, government and industry to develop Canada's economy and improve the quality of life for Canadians. For more information, visit www.prevnet.ca.

– Ryan McNutt

Countdown to Mars

by Marilyn Smulders



A lidar similar to the instrument built at Dalhousie by Dr. Tom Duck will travel to Mars aboard the Phoenix lander

From the Dunn Building to deep space

THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION about whether there is (or was) life on Mars is closer to being answered with the imminent launch of the Phoenix Lander Mission.

This next U.S.-led scout mission to Mars will take along Canadian-built meteorological instruments that will provide the first daily weather measurements from the surface of another planet.

The Canadian weather station — including a lidar developed, built and run using the expertise of Dalhousie researchers — will blast off in early August as part of the Phoenix Lander Mission from Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The mission is being coordinated for NASA by the University of Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory. Senior Research Scientist Peter Smith serves as Phoenix's principal investigator.

It will take the Phoenix spacecraft 10 months to reach the fourth planet from the sun, arriving on Mars' polar region in late May of 2008. Landing on the surface can be a tricky business. Phoenix's predecessor, the Mars Polar Lander, crashed and left behind a crater in 1999. If all goes according to plan this time, thrusters will cushion the descent and make for a soft landing.

"Mars is our closest celestial neighbour. Since the beginning of time, people have looked to the stars and asked if there's anything else out there," says Tom Duck, 36, co-investigator of the meteorological (or MET) weather station and the lidar specialist, in his office at Dalhousie University's physics and atmospheric science department. The Canadian team also consists of members from York University and the University of Alberta, as well as members of the space engineering industry, namely MacDonald Detweiler and Associates.

"We're compelled to explore; it's a part of human nature," says Dr. Duck. "In the past, we set off on sailing ships to find undiscovered countries. But now that we understand our planet better, Mars is the next step on this journey of exploration."

Phoenix's mission statement is: "Follow the water" — water being the key ingredient to sustaining life. The Canadian weather instruments include a pressure sensor, three temperature sensors, located on a vertical mast, a wind speed indicator at the top of the mast and the lidar. Phoenix also comes equipped with a robotic arm for digging through soil into ice, a robotic arm camera, a surface stereo camera, a descent camera, a high-temperature oven, a mass spectrometer, a powerful atomic force microscope and a miniature wet chemistry laboratory.

The entire lander, about the size of a kitchen table, will be powered by two solar panels. One reason for landing on the Martian Arctic is, like Canada's northern region, it is exposed to sunlight 24 hours and 40 minutes each Martian day during the summer. Once the season changes, the area will be enveloped in darkness and the lander will eventually run out of power.

If water really does exist on Mars — either in the atmosphere, underground or frozen in ice at the surface — the implications for human exploration and eventual colonization of the planet would be far-reaching, says Victoria Hipkin, program scientist for planetary exploration with the Canadian Space Agency. Phoenix will collect data to help scientists understand Martian climate and weather, past and present.

"Mars, at one time, was very Earth-like. For the first two billion years, Mars and Earth were very similar and that's when life originated. So it makes sense for us to want to look more closely at our closest celestial neighbour," says Dr. Hipkin. The Canadian contribution for

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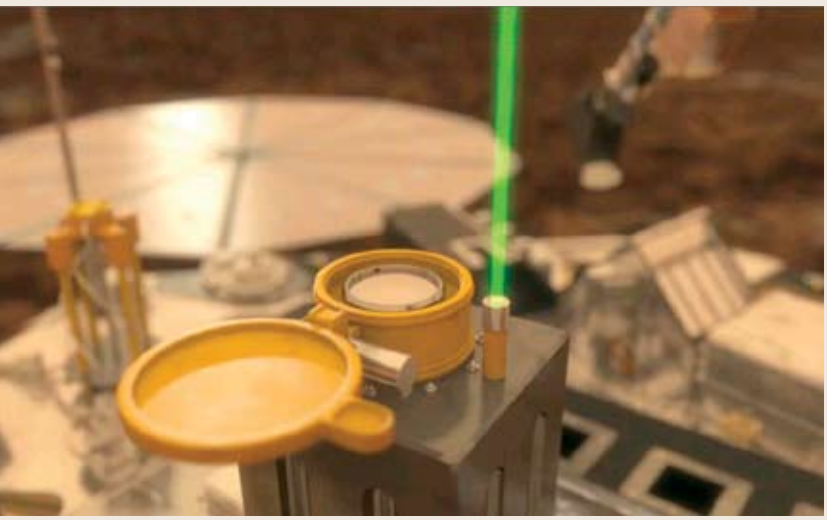

The Canadian lidar instrument in operation on the lander module (NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, University of Arizona)

the Phoenix mission is $37 million out of a total mission cost of $411 million.

So what is lidar anyway? Lidar — the word is an acronym for Light Direction and Ranging — works like other remote sensing techniques such as sonar and radar. With lidar, a pulse of light (like sonar's ping of sound) is directed straight up and any molecules, dust or clouds will cause the pulse to bounce back to the detector.

For the past few summers, a green laser beam of light has pulsed over the sky of Halifax from the roof of Dalhousie's Sir James Dunn Building. The lidar provides valuable insight into the atmospheric conditions above the city by measuring aerosols, clouds, water vapour and temperatures. In 2004, for example, the lidar detected smoke from forest fires in Alaska that blew across the continent and ended up over Nova Scotia, which Dr. Duck calls "the tailpipe of North America." This summer, as well as having a lidar on the Dunn Building, Dalhousie researchers will be operating another one in the Arctic.

On Mars, a much smaller lidar, weighing just 6.5 kg, will detect the presence of dust, fog and ice clouds in the lower atmosphere. Fine dust — "think of a talcum powder storm," says Dalhousie's Cameron Dickinson (BSc'98, PhD'03) — is an important feature of the Martian atmosphere for its impact on the radiative balance in the atmosphere, which affects atmospheric temperature structure and dynamics. Dust also acts as a host for condensation in the formation of the water-ice clouds.

As a trial run, Dr. Dickinson and Dr. Duck will travel to Australia's red desert near Ayers Rock this fall, to see how dust behaves in the atmosphere.

"It is an analogous environment to Mars — very, very dusty. We'll work through some of the fine details and make sure our measurements are as good as they can be," says Dr. Duck. Meanwhile, they'll have to contain their excitement as they wait for the Phoenix to make its dash through the Milky Way to Mars.

Once the Phoenix touches down, the Dalhousie scientists will remotely operate the lidar from mission control in Tucson, Arizona.

"We'll talk to the spacecraft and it will send us back data," explains Dr. Dickinson, 33. Commands will be transmitted to a satellite in orbit around Earth, which will then go to a satellite around Mars, and then to the lander.

"The question I'm most often asked is, 'What do you expect to find?'" says Dr. Duck. "Well, that's not really why we do research. It's the unexpected that's so interesting. It's the unexpected where all the excitement comes from.

"We'll see things we haven't seen before. We're definitely going into uncharted territory."

Space walker motivates the next generation of scientists

More than anything, Kathryn Sullivan would love to walk on the dusty surface of Mars.

"I WAS BORN TOO SOON. I won't get to be the one to go to Mars," laments Dr. Kathryn Sullivan (PhD'78, LLD'85) good-naturedly on the phone from Columbus, Ohio.

"I'm fascinated with the place because of the volcanoes, the out-there geology. The scale and drama of the place are all pretty irresistible.

"I want to stand on the rim of Victoria Crater. Better yet, I'd love to be in a small airplane and fly over the northern plains of West Utopia, or take in the view of Cape Verde."

With the possibility of humans on Mars still many years away, the Dalhousie graduate, oceanographer and former astronaut will have to be content with being the first American woman to walk in space. She spent three and a half hours outside the shuttle Challenger in 1984. One of the first six women named to the U.S. space program, Dr. Sullivan also flew on the Discovery in 1990 for the Hubble Space Telescope deployment mission and on the Atlantis in 1992 for the ATLAS-1 Spacelab mission.

After 15 years with NASA, she served as chief scientist at the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where she oversaw a wide array of research and technology programs ranging from climate and global change to satellites and marine biodiversity. From NOAA, she went on to build and run the hands-on science learning centre COSI (Center of Science & Industry) in Columbus. She recently moved to lead a new math and science education policy centre, the Battelle Center, at Ohio State University.

"I'm getting to start up something else," she says. "It's a fabulous opportunity, a blank sheet of paper. They've basically

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told me, 'How do we educate our students for the century ahead? Go on, be clever.' "

She's always up for a challenge. That's what brought her to Halifax in the early 1970s, a big-city gal from the Los Angeles sprawl eager for ocean-going adventures and learning opportunities. She remembers landing "in the trees" at Halifax airport with her bicycle and suitcase wondering what she got herself into.

"Everything — from the scale of the landscape, the wild colours of the wooden houses, and all that space — was so brand new. I was swamped with all these emotions — curiosity, bewilderment, mild terror. It's a long way back to California, so I guess I'm staying."

But Dalhousie, which had caught her attention for its research on plate tectonics, didn't disappoint: "I showed up and awfully quickly was given some interesting responsibilities." As a grad student in Earth Sciences, she was leading expeditions at sea, conducting research projects on the Mid-Atlantic ridge and making detailed maps of deep-sea regions. She credits her Dalhousie experience for making her consider NASA's space program when it went looking for recruits in the 1980s.

"When I was applying to NASA, I made a couple of simple parallels. NASA was about running expeditions. Hey, I'd already done that. I totally get that." dal

NASA photo

Astronaut Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, veteran of three NASA missions, is the first American woman to walk in space. (Debbie Rowe photo)

Caring for 370,000 patients

Halifax's new public health officer oversees disease control, environmental health issues, and injury, suicide and substance abuse prevention — all in a day's work.

by Charles Crosby (BA'92)

A Halifax mumps outbreak made national news headlines this spring, just before students headed home for the summer. For the few dozen affected students at Dalhousie – part of a population demographic that hadn't received a second booster vaccine as children – the timing found them at the end of the academic term. Having learned from a small outbreak the previous year, the university quickly rearranged exams for them and set up a voluntary isolation wing in a residence near campus health services. Every effort was made to restore their health and contain the spread of the highly contagious virus.

Communicating about mumps cases on campus was one of my least favourite activities as the university's media manager. Attending a meeting to discuss the outbreak, I was pleasantly surprised to find Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed (MD'99). While she would soon become well known as the face of public health in Halifax, I hadn't seen her in years.

When I first met Gaynor in the early '90s, we were both idealistic university students involved in youth politics. She was never the fire-breathing radical, nor the ambitious social climber, but she was the one I always knew would achieve great things. Methodical, determined and one of the smartest people I ever met, the only question that remained: in what direction would the winds carry her?

As it happened, I found out when our paths crossed again, oddly due to a centuries-old infection that had virtually disappeared with the arrival of vaccines 40 years ago.

While Gaynor was never one to seek out the spotlight, her role as Halifax's Medical Officer of Health has made her a local celebrity of sorts. With mumps spreading across the region, Dr. Watson-Creed has been front and centre. In her measured tone, she calms the waters and explains efforts to minimize community risk.

Whether volunteering for youth politics, working in a wellness clinic or mentoring the next generation of doctors, her concern with strengthening communities continues to motivate her.

She is the eldest daughter of Jamaican immigrants, and her father became a sociology professor at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). Together with her sister Adrienne, she was among the few African Canadian kids in the area.

"Growing up in Charlottetown definitely coloured our view on what a multi-ethnic society can look like," she says. "Because the minority communities in P.E.I. were so small we all banded together. And so, my playmates as kids and my peer group were all the other ethnic minorities in Charlottetown — and there weren't that many of us. My sister and I recognize there was a shared experience there that we bonded through.

"In many ways, what we went through in P.E.I. was difficult because you were a minority in a very homogenous society, but it was also very educational and it really has shaped my view of what a multi-ethnic society can be."

After graduating from UPEI, where she met her future husband Philip Creed, they went to Guelph for graduate work in biochemistry. She wanted to do something that allowed her to work in the community and that motivation brought her to Dalhousie for medical training.

Next, she continued with a residency in public health at McMaster, although it was an unexpected choice. "If you had asked me in med school if I ever thought I would be in public health, I would have laughed. I would have said no way, that's for bureaucrats and politicians. I didn't have a concept of what community medicine as a specialty was. But it was my kid sister who was a year ahead of me in medical school, who pointed me in the right direction. I was really struggling with what I wanted to do next," she recalls. "Adrienne in her typical way said 'Oh, for God's sake, just apply to community medicine already. It's so you!' And I looked at her and I was mortified. I said, 'How could you say that? I want to be a real doctor! I'm so insulted!'"

She had already done international community health work in Jamaica, and a project looking at health procedures in the black community in Nova Scotia. She cared about issues like marginalized populations and socialized medicine and realized that her sister was right: "That's me."

After five years at McMaster, she licensed as a family doctor in 2001 while she continued her community health training. To this day, she manages to do three

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Photo: Abriel

Sisters Dr. Adrienne Watson (MD'98) and Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed (MD'99) at their alma mater, Dalhousie Medical School.

shifts a month at a local Family Focus group women's clinic.

She took a year off when she had her son Kiernan in 2003, and then completed the program in 2005 before returning to Halifax where she took on her high profile role as Medical Officer of Health.

The job is a busy one, especially in the midst of an outbreak. When asked how she balances her family (daughter Amel was born in 2006) with these demands, she thinks for a moment, looks down into her lap and finally says, "I don't know." She points out that she holds her down-time as sacrosanct. "If I get down-time scheduled, I take it."

They don't have much in the way of family in Halifax other than Adrienne, who is a family doctor in Clayton Park. "It's not always easy when you don't have family around," she points out. But she and Philip, a commanding officer in the militia, continue to put family first and their tight bond makes it a little easier.

Both sisters were pushed hard by their family. Their parents always encouraged them to strive for excellence. "Immigrants come here with an expectation that they are going to have to work hard for everything and they instill that in their children as well. And if you are an immigrant and a visible minority on top of that, the message is, you are going to have to work double hard and triple hard. These kids aren't going to do well, they're going to do great, because they have to and that's how we establish ourselves in this country," she says.

She is clearly driven, but she says there are days when she thinks she would just like to stay home and do nothing. After saying this she pauses and takes it back. "Well, I really like projects, so how about, 'there are days when I'd really like to just paint the front door.'" Another pause. "Yeah, I guess I am driven."

While no longer actively involved in politics, Gaynor remains vested in making her community a better one. She no longer considers herself an idealist. "What drives me now is cynicism," she says with a slight smile. "Cynicism about process. I don't see due process in this area a lot of the time. In my day-to-day work the thing that really gets me going is confronting that."

She points out the biggest difference between a family doctor and a medical health officer is one of scope. "As a medical officer, my patient population is 370,000 and I'm interested in anything and everything that makes them sick in groups or has the potential to make them sick in groups," she says. "The scope is huge and if there are boundaries I haven't found them yet and I don't think I ever will. The issues are so broad and so complex. It's everything from injury prevention to suicide prevention to substance abuse prevention to communicable disease control and environmental health and dental health — there's pretty much nothing that doesn't have some public health component. The job is all-consuming — it is what it is, it's big."

When asked if work ever slows down she slowly says "yes," but she is not at all convincing as she does so. But the chance to be a creative problem solver in a collaborative team environment makes it all worthwhile.

She says she's glad to be back in Halifax and it feels like she's come full circle. She happily notes that her training at Dalhousie prepared her well for her new role as a problem solver.

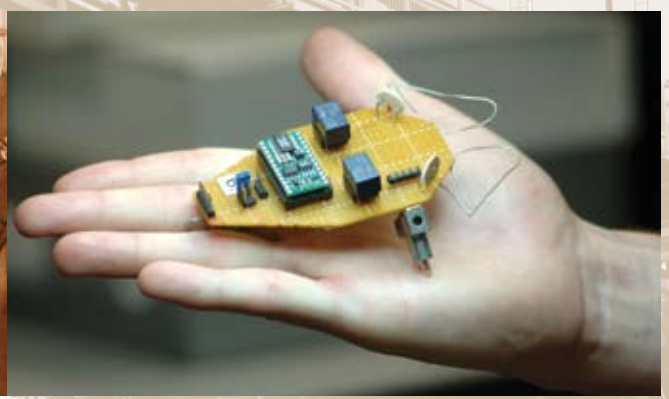
"It feels good now, it feels right. I never felt like my training at Dal let me down," she says. The circle was fully complete when she took on the role of adjunct professor in Dalhousie's Department of Community Health and Epidemiology.

While issues like mumps aren't fun for anyone, there's something comforting about having someone so committed, so focused and so determined to make this a safer, healthier community. With Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed at the helm, we know we're in good hands. dal

by Cathy Nicoll

Spanning a century

‘Hands on’ expertise that built this province



EVERY TIME YOU DRIVE SAFELY over a bridge, gaze at a pleasing building or stand on a wharf around the province, take a moment to consider how that structure got there.

Chances are a graduate of Dalhousie's Faculty of Engineering had a hand in building it. The faculty is celebrating 100 years of educating engineers this year.

"We have educated the engineers who have really built Nova Scotia," says Dr. Joshua Leon, PEng, (BSc '80, MSc'82, PhD'88), dean of Dalhousie University's Faculty of Engineering.

"There aren't many projects that our graduates haven't had a hand in, in some way or another."

The other big contribution, he says, is the ongoing research that professors and engineering students carry out every day on campus. That encompasses everything from developing new technology such as steel-free decking for bridges to creating biodiesel — a mix of fish oil and diesel used to power Metro Transit buses in Halifax.

Dr. Leon, who has been dean since the fall of 2005, sees more valuable contributions in the coming years. The environment is quickly becoming the key area of study, he says, and Dal has one of only five environmental engineering programs in Canada.

"We're attracting excited students who are working closely with the province on clean air, clean water and clean land," he says. "Students are coming out of here with a very clear idea of the environment and how we interact with it. This isn't a fad that we just jumped into; it's something that we've been into for a very long time and it just happens that the rest of the world is now very interested in the environment, too."

> "We're attracting excited students who are working closely with the province on clean air, clean water and clean land."
>
> Dr. Joshua Leon, Dean

Environmental concerns may attract more women to the profession, says Dr. Corinne MacDonald, PEng, (BEng'89, PhD'06), assistant professor of industrial engineering. She was one of seven women out of a class of 35, when she completed her undergraduate degree.

"I think the way we're going to see more women in engineering in future is the realization that engineering is a profession that has a profound impact on society," Dr. MacDonald says, "especially now in the 21st century where we're dealing with issues like global warming."

Rosalie Hanlon was doing a degree in geology and chemistry, with an interest in community water treatment work, when it was suggested to her that she should enroll in the environmental engineering program. She hesitated, fearing engineering would be too difficult.

"But I'm very happy with my decision — it's been a pretty intense number of years. The profs are absolutely wonderful, they're very supportive," Ms. Hanlon says.

"They do a lot of interesting research, and there are a number of them that really make the extra effort to engage with their students."

Dr. Leon is very proud of the faculty's hands-on approach to learning. Students spend hours in design labs building and developing actual projects. Students are encouraged to work as teams and enter design competitions.

"How do you solve the problem? It's no different than it was in 1907, when you set about to teach a student how to

(from left): Civil Engineering prof Dr. John Newhook researches 'smart' structures; mechanical engineering student completes year-end project; chemical engineering boiler, ca. 1951; internetworking program student

Photos: Pearce

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Mechanical Engineering grad Jack Flemming visits with Dean Joshua Leon at Sexton Campus

break a large problem down into manageable pieces, how to gather the important information they need to solve each of the pieces, and finish it off," says Dr. Leon.

"That's what we do; we take science and scientific knowledge and use it to solve real world problems."

Dr. John Newhook, PEng, (BEng'89, MASc'92, PhD'97), associate professor of civil engineering, has already built steel-free bridges with instruments embedded in them to monitor wear and tear.

Now, he's looking at building even smarter structures.

"You build a structure with sensors and components, and those components can actively change the condition of the structure, based on the types of loads being applied at any time, such as large storms," he says.

"We're starting a research program looking at that concept. It's a very intriguing idea that maybe our future structures will not always be so passive."

Twenty years ago, Ajith Rai, PEng, (MASc'84) (TUNS) founded Suprajit Engineering Ltd., in Bangalore, India. It has grown from one small unit into the largest automotive cable company in India, with global reach. With 1,500 employees and a manufacturing capacity of about 75 million cables, Mr. Rai expects gross revenues of $70 million (CDN) this year.

"Our vision is to become a global major in the automotive cable business by developing a global footprint of supply chains across North America, Europe and Asia," Mr. Rai says.

He credits TUNS and his mentor, Eldon Gunn, PEng, professor of industrial engineering, for his success, teaching him to think independently and "take rational and logical decisions."

"It helped me to visualize, plan and execute. It taught me that 'I can, if I think I can.' I could challenge myself, motivate myself, set goals and execute," Mr. Rai says.

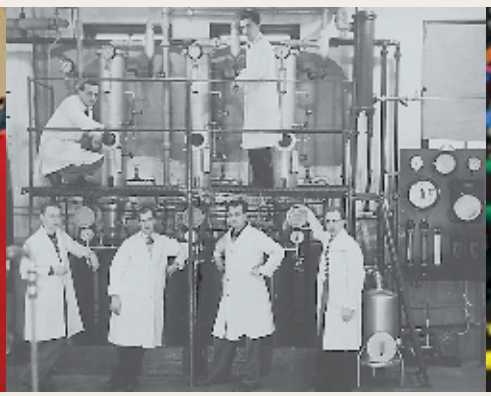
"In short, I got a solid foundation for my future years. I can safely say that the wonderful grounding that I got at TUNS, in a large measure, is responsible for my business success."

Jack (John George) Flemming, PEng, (BEng'62 (NSTC, Mechanical), DEng'06) says the quality of education has always been excellent because of the small size of the faculty.

But the owner and president of Ocean Contractors Ltd. in Dartmouth says alumni will have to step up over the next few years to pay for upgrades to the faculty's infrastructure.

"The quality is still there, but the equipment and labs have to be renewed," Mr. Flemming says. "I can see a financial campaign, dedicated just to engineering."

Amalgamating with Dalhousie has had a positive effect, he says, both financially and in establishing a worldwide reputation.



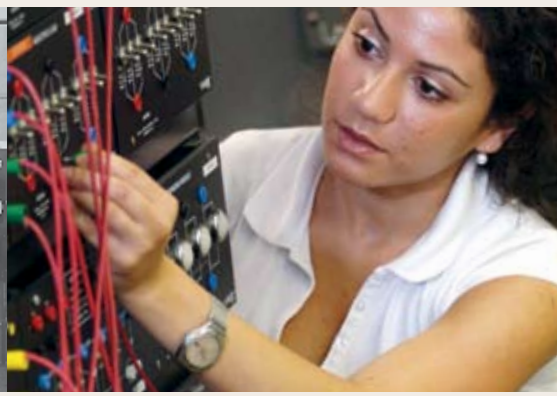


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Photo: Abriel

Dr. Allan Marble digs into the history of engineering studies in Nova Scotia

IT WAS A FIGHT for provincial funding that forged the beginnings of the Technical College of Nova Scotia 100 years ago.

It began in the late 1890s when the University of King's College, Dalhousie University and St. Francis Xavier University were all petitioning the government for money to support mining engineering programs, says Dr. Allan Marble (PEng, BEng'62, MASc, PhD (TUNS) professor emeritus of electrical engineering at Dalhousie University.

Dr. Marble is researching the history of engineering studies in Nova Scotia for a book to coincide with the centenary of engineering education in Halifax.

Mining the past

The need for mining engineers also drove the decision to set up Tech, he says, because 45 per cent of the province's revenue came from the sale of minerals in 1900. Coal mining was a thriving industry.

"You can plot the origin of Tech to that figure," Dr. Marble says. "Once the government realized that, and there was no place for training mining engineers in Nova Scotia, they decided, 'OK, we really have to do something about this.'"

George Murray, the Liberal premier at the time, tabled legislation in 1906 to set up the special college devoted to mining, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering.

Construction began in 1907 on Tech's original building on Spring Garden Road. It is now occupied by Dalhousie's Faculty of Architecture and Planning. The first class of engineers arrived in 1909.

In 1980, Tech became the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) and in 1997, TUNS amalgamated with Dalhousie University. About 12,000 engineers have graduated since 1907.

Some other nuggets mined from Dr. Marble's research: C.D. Howe, perhaps best known as the federal minister of munitions and supply during the Second World War, moved to Halifax in 1908 to become the first professor of civil engineering at Tech.

The original designer of the Canso Causeway was Charles Fowler, PEng, a 1914 graduate in civil engineering, and an architect. Although he passed away prior to construction, his legacy continues to this day.

The Angus L. Macdonald Bridge, Queen Elizabeth High School and the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building in Halifax were all built with the help of engineering graduates.

James Kinley, PEng, a 1948 graduate of mechanical engineering, served as Nova Scotia's lieutenant-governor from 1994 to 2000.

The first woman to graduate was Norma Eddy in 1958, with a degree in chemical engineering. Today, about 28 per cent of engineering students are female. dal

MASTERMINDS LECTURE:

Have humans wrecked our coasts?

Estuaries and coastal seas are hotspots of diversity and productivity that have attracted people for settlement and resource use since earliest times.

"Because of that," says **Dr. Heike K. Lotze**, "human influences on the nearshore ocean are as old as civilization yet have dramatically accelerated over the past 150 to 300 years."

Dr. Lotze fascinated an audience of about 100 alumni and friends with the history of human-induced changes in estuaries and coastal seas, with a particular emphasis on the Bay of Fundy during her MasterMinds lecture on February 2.

Dr. Lotze

"I'm attempting to reconstruct the history of human-induced changes in coastal seas, to disentangle the cumulative effects of multiple human activities and to analyze the consequences of changes on the structure and functioning of ecosystems," says Dr. Lotze of her research.

Holding a PhD in biological oceanography from Kiel University in Germany, Dr. Lotze came to Dalhousie in 1999 as a post-doctoral fellow. She was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Marine Renewable Resources in 2006.

Details of next year's MasterMinds lecture series are coming soon.

Glyn Berry — an exceptional alumnus

A new scholarship funded by alumni, professors, colleagues and friends of Glyn Berry will support political science scholars while honouring the legacy of one of Canada's fallen heroes.

On April 2, 2007, President Tom Traves and the Honourable Peter MacKay (LLB'90), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, announced the **Glyn R. Berry Memorial Scholarship in International Policy Studies** at Dalhousie.

Dr. Berry completed his doctoral degree at Dalhousie in 1981. During his nearly 30-year career with Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), he served with distinction around the world. He was serving as political director with the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when he was killed in the line of duty in January 2006.

"Glyn Berry was a dedicated peacemaker and peace builder, and an outstanding Canadian," said Dr. Traves.

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Back east, down south and out west

Over the winter and spring months, Dalhousie alumni and friends reconnected and reminisced at get-togethers in Florida, California, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria.

Vancouver Pub Night

Watch for summer/fall events in:

- **Halifax**
- **Ottawa**
- **Toronto**
- **Calgary**

Be sure to check our events schedule online: www.dal.ca/alumni

And let us know what you've been up to: alumni.records@dal.ca

Victoria Reception

14
Convocation ceremonies

11,000
invited guests

3,100
new Dal alumni

Congratulations, Class of 2007! We're proud of you.

"We decided we would honour the contributions of this exceptional alumnus by establishing this scholarship, in partnership with Foreign Affairs."

In his remarks, Minister MacKay noted that Mr. Berry "touched the lives of so many people and made an indelible impression." He added, "He was taken away while doing what he loved to do." As a sign of affection and respect, he said, within days of his passing, people at Dalhousie were discussing ways of honouring his legacy, and the idea of a scholarship began to take shape.

"Where better to house this scholarship than at Dalhousie, where Glyn had so many wonderful friends and experiences? For years to come, we're confident that with the help of this scholarship, students will achieve what he achieved: inspiration, and the will to propel people forward to have an impact."

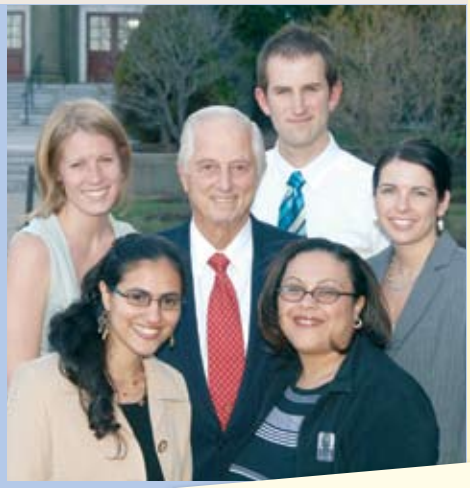
A PhD candidate in political science will be recognized annually with this full graduate scholarship, beginning in 2008. Eligible candidates will specialize in an area of study addressing Canada's role in international affairs.

Funding of the scholarship is shared between DFAIT and Dalhousie University. Dalhousie is also grateful to the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers, Export Development Canada and others for their generous support of the scholarship. To make a contribution to the scholarship, visit **dal.ca/giving/glynberry**

– Dawn Morrison

At the Chancellor's Dinner – May 2

President's Circle medals were presented to Judith A. Grant (MacCallam Grant Charitable Foundation), Edith Mingo (BA'47, MSW'82) and Jean & Robbie Shaw (LLB'66), in recognition of their cumulative lifetime giving to Dalhousie. Heritage Society plaques were presented to Debora Matthews, Pauline McKendrick (BSc'74) and Carolyn Nobes (BRec'85). The Heritage Society recognizes those who have included Dalhousie in their estate plans.



Chancellor Dr. Richard Goldbloom is joined by graduating students (clockwise from left): Laura Alvey, Ben Duinker, Susan Conrod, Cynthia Jordan, and Azza Abouzied.

Calgary Lobster Dinners

Flow-through shares enhance your tax benefits

Effective May 1, 2006, the federal government made changes to the tax law making it more attractive to donate qualifying securities to charitable organizations. The taxable capital gains resulting from the donation of qualifying securities were reduced to zero.

Flow-through shares are a unique class of securities that can enhance the tax benefits of contributing securities to a charitable organization, such as Dalhousie. Packaged in Mining or Oil and Gas Limited Partnerships, they are common shares of Canadian resource companies. The common shares are used to finance the exploration and development of resource properties.

Through the use of Canadian Exploration Expenses (CEE) and Canadian Development Expenses (CDE), the mining industry has been given special treatment under Canadian tax law to make investing in flow-through shares more attractive for potential investors. The CEE and CDE enable most or all of the money invested to be deducted from income for tax purposes. The adjusted cost based on the flow-through limited partnership units is generally zero, and when the units are sold, the proceeds of the disposition are classified as capital gains. If the flow-through shares are donated in-kind, the capital gains may be eliminated and the donor will receive a tax credit.

Your charitable gifts are working hard

We would like to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, those alumni and friends whose commitment to Dalhousie University supports our academic and research mission.

During the 2006/07 fundraising year, the legacy program received $1.7 million in gifts ranging from $100 to $247,000 from estates, external trusts and other sources; the annual fund generated $2.1 million in resources to improve the student experience; and more than $5.8 million was given through major gifts or capital projects.

Gifts like these enable Dalhousie to continue to provide students and faculty with the best environment in which to teach, learn and explore.

Thank you!

1962

Ronald C. Gilkie, DENG'60, BSC'60, BENG(NSTC), MENG'64(NSTC), was honoured by the Dalhousie Faculty Association as a pioneer for his contributions over the years, especially for his service on the former TUNS Faculty Association. The DFA presented Dr. Gilkie with an engraved pewter stein at a reception in the Dalhousie Faculty Club.

1963

Gerald Charles Cullen, MD, recently retired from the University of California where he was a senior ophthalmologist of the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic for 22 years. During Dr. Cullen's time at Dalhousie, he lived at the medical fraternity, Phi Rho Sigma and was active in the medical society, the Newman Club and Phi Rho's academic affairs. He credits the excellent medical education provided by professors Dixon, Saunders and Steeves for his academic advancement internationally and his successful ophthalmologic career.

1967

Mary L. Barker, BA, HF(K)'97, was honoured by the Canadian Public Relations Society with its prestigious Lamp of Service Award for her contributions to the profession both nationally and locally. Mary is a senior communications consultant in Halifax specializing in public relations for professionals.

1968

Moira Stewart, BSC, director for the Centre of Research in Family Medicine at the University of Western Ontario, was guest lecturer at Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands in October and November, where she delivered two named lectures: the Valhof Lecture and the Franshuggen Lecture. After the lectures, she and her husband, Dr. Tom Freeman, took a train trip along the Rhine to the Alps, stopping in Salzburg and Vienna before traveling to Australia to visit their daughter, Amy.

1971

Hugh A. Siddall, MD, was awarded the Stand up for Kids Award by the Child Protection Agency of Child Care. Toronto mayor David Miller presented the award on Oct. 26, 2006.

1972

Bernie Legatto, DDS, has been appointed president of the Association of Prosthodontists of Canada. Bernie completed a post-graduate program in fixed prosthodontics at the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1979. Dr. Legatto has been in full-time specialty practice devoted to prosthodontics and implant dentistry in Kelowna, B.C., since 1983.

Thom McKenzie, MSC, professor emeritus, San Diego State University, has been appointed to the Science Board, President's (U.S.) Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. He received the Curriculum and Instruction Honour Award from NASPE (National Association for Sport and Physical Education) in April 2006 and the Dudley A. Sargent Award from NAKPEHE (National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education) in Jan. 2007.

1973

Richard (Rick) Hand, BA, BSC'83, was hired by Air Canada as a passenger agent in Halifax. Rick also runs his own wine agency, Handmarsh & Sims (wine and spirits) Agency.

1974

Janet H. Stacey, BA, MA'77, has joined the Research Board of Advisors of the American Biographical Institute, Raleigh, N.C. As a member, she submits names of people worthy of nomination by the Institute. She was awarded Woman of the Year (2006) and named a Great Woman of the 21st Century for Voluntary Service (2006) by the American Biographical Institute. Her biography will appear in *Great Women of the 21st Century* (2006) and in *Women of the Year – A Celebrated Collection of Biographies 1990-2006* (American Biological Institute, 2006).

1979

Keith R. Evans, LLB, Q.C., has recently moved from Halifax to Edmonton, Alta., to become the general counsel of Lilydale Inc. Keith resigned from the Nova Scotia Law Reform Commission (for which he served as president until the summer of 2006) but continues to serve on the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

Wheeling across Canada for equality

Dave Shannon (LLB'91) has long been inspired by Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Nelson Mandela, so it's not surprising that they are prominently quoted in his newly-released book, *Six Degrees of Dignity: Disability in an Age of Freedom*.

"They've been part of creating the framework for freedom that is the ideal for what the book promotes," Mr. Shannon says. "They have made the connection from the most sophisticated legal analysis to the most concrete needs of an individual who is deprived of the basic needs."

Mr. Shannon, who has quadriplegia as a result of a rugby accident at age 18, advocates for the rights of people with a disability. He has wheeled some 9,000 kilometres across Canada to raise awareness of the potential of people with a disability, practised in the area of health and civil law, and participated in legal reform.

Northern Ontario's Dave Shannon is an advocate for the rights of people with disability

"Right now efforts surrounding disability are not being made in a comprehensive manner and that has resulted in continued appalling levels of poverty, unemployment and abuse visited upon the disability community," says Mr. Shannon, who is seeking the Liberal nomination in the federal riding of Thunder Bay – Superior North. "Other than a very select few – and I count myself amongst them – it is a Third World reality for people with disability, and they're right in our communities, but it's ignored or thought acceptable."

In his law school days he played a key role in the Dalhousie community – a community he was first introduced to in the late 1970s when his father, Bill, was a health education professor at the university. Mr. Shannon served as student union president in 1989-90, and recalls his election to the position as a moment of "pure elation."

"For me, my time at Dalhousie was the great leap forward," says Mr. Shannon, who went on to complete graduate law studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. "It was a leap forward respecting my skills and employability, but also to be part of the Dalhousie community was critical socially."

"Other than a very select few – and I count myself amongst them – it is a Third World reality for people with disability."

The importance of inclusion is underlined in *Six Degrees of Dignity* (Creative Bound International Inc.), a book Mr. Shannon hopes will encourage discourse and debate. He draws upon his background in law and policy as well as his personal experience to present a framework for achieving equality for people with a disability.

He advocates a holistic approach which encompasses dignity in public perception; dignity in the community, dignity in law, dignity in public policy, dignity of self and dignity in future, which points to the promise of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Shannon was involved in the drafting of the convention as a representative of the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres. He also looks ahead to advocating for a new royal commission on persons with a disability, and a Canadians with disabilities act.

He recognizes that change happens over time. In his 1997 cross-country awareness tour, he spoke directly to school, community and corporate groups, and reached many more through media coverage.

Mr. Shannon says he felt a letdown after the tour ended. "Having so intensely promoted that goal, I guess when it was over I had an overwhelming sense of having achieved very little," he says. "The world had not changed. There were no new policies to point at, no new programs to point at, certainly no new laws, and I had absolutely no clear sense of what the outcomes were...."

His view of the experience has since changed. "I see that during that time where I mistakenly thought that it could be an end in itself, it was just a seed. It was really just the beginning."

— Marie Weeeren

Spencer H. M. Lai, BCom, retired in Sept. 2006, as the head of the Department of Business Administration at Chu Hai College of Higher Education in Hong Kong, where he has spent 25 years on tertiary education.

Catherine (Cathie) Watson, BN, graduated from the University of Toronto with a MHSc (Bioethics) in June 2006. Cathie began the program at the same time both of her sons entered their first year of university. Cathie resides in Pictou County and is a nurse manager at Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow, N.S.

1981

Clifford J. Shaw, LLB, Q.C., recently graduated with a Master of Laws specializing in banking and financial services from Osgoode Hall Law School of York University and he continues to practice in the areas of banking and insolvency with the law firm of Faber Gurevitch Bickman in Calgary.

1985

Sara Gordon, BA '81, DDS, associate professor and director of oral pathology graduate studies, Department of Oral Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, was elected president of the Canadian Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and Oral Medicine at the annual general meeting on April 18, 2007, in San Diego. The organization is the academy for all specialists in the Canadian specialty of oral medicine/pathology. Dr. Gordon was also appointed as a consultant to the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation, as newsletter editor for the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, and to the American College of Prosthodontists' Oral Cancer Education/Screening Task Force.

Stephen J. Phillips, PGM, and physiotherapist **Alison M. McDonald,** BScPT'81, received awards from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada in Ottawa on Feb. 18, 2007, for their years of work on stroke prevention and effective post-stroke care. Dr. Phillips received the foundation's Award of Merit and Allison received the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Phillips took his medical degree at U. of London (UK) before coming to Dal for post grad work in neurology.

1986

Barbara Tiller, MD, and **Rune T. Russenes,** PGM'97, are overjoyed to announce the birth of their twin daughters, Ingrid Elisabeth and Nancy Ann Russenes. They were born Dec. 12, 2006, in Vancouver, B.C.

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1988

Blaise Baxter BSc'84, MD, a neuroradiologist in Chatanooga, Tenn., escorted U.S. President George W. Bush on a tour of his clinic at the Erlanger Centre in February 2007. Dr. Baxter leads a team that uses intervention radiology to remove blood clots from the brain following a stroke.

1989

Robert Boulay, BSc'85, MD, was recently named New Brunswick's family physician of the year by the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Winners are chosen by their peers and patients for providing top care and for making meaningful contributions to their communities. Dr. Boulay has been recruiting New Brunswickers home to practice for the past two decades in addition to maintaining his family practice.

1990

Tory S. Thorkelson, BA, stepped down as President of Seoul's KOTESOL chapter after a very successful two-year term. He published an article in the Seoul Fine Arts Commission magazine's Dec. 2006 edition

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– the first non-Korean ever to do so – and has taken an assistant professorship at the Hanyang University's English Language and Literature Department where he will create and teach courses.

1994

Karen (Reyno) Simpson, BScN, and **C. David Simpson,** BSc'97, BEng'00, were married on Sept. 23, 2006, in Dartmouth, N.S. Both are employed at the IWK Heath Centre, where Karen is a registered nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and David is completing his pediatric residency after graduating in 2004 with his medical degree from Queen's.

Arthur Roger Thompson, MA, has been declared "the leading scholar in the sociology of naval institutions" by military sociologist Dr. Charles Moskos. Thompson's new book *Lessons Not Learned: the US Navy's Status Quo Culture,* was published in April 2007, by U.S. Naval Institute Press and features an afterword by best-selling author Col. Douglas A. MacGregor. Mr. Thompson currently lectures at Kyung Hee University in South Korea.

Sean Tibbetts, BSc, MSc'99, and **Shannon Scott-Tibbetts,** BSc'93, announce the birth of their first child, Evyn Daniel, Nov. 30, 2006, weighing 4 lb., 14 oz.

Lionel Roberts, BEng (TUNS), was awarded the R.L. Piehl Citation on March 14, 2007, during the NACE International conference (Corrosion 2007) in Nashville, Tenn. The award recognizes the contributions of an individual to furthering materials and corrosion knowledge in refining. Lionel has worked at the Irving Oil Refinery in Saint John, N.B. as the refinery metallurgical engineer for the past eight years, and has recently moved to the position of mechanical integrity group leader.

1996

Cynthia Sayat-Geis, DDS, and husband, Eric, are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Olivia, born on Jan. 22, 2007. Olivia has an older sister, four-year-old Sophie.

Marni Tuttle, BA, BSc, and **Shane Turner,** BSc, are pleased to announce the arrival of Jane Elizabeth Turner Tuttle Jan. 11, 2007, at the IWK Health Centre. Jane has made big sister Ada, age two, very proud. Marni and Shane invite friends to reach them at *turner@chebucto.ca* and *tuttle@chebucto.ca.*

1998

Jenny (Greer) Styles, BSc, and her husband David are pleased to announce the birth of their second son, Dawson Hartley, on Oct. 16, 2006. Dawson is also welcomed by big brother Robert David (Jan. 15, 2002). The happy family lives in Belmont, N.S., and would love to hear from friends at *dandjstyles@eastlink.ca*

2000

Mathew Cameron, BA, who has been teaching in England, will move on in August 2007, to accept a teaching position at Chiang Mai International School in Thailand.

2001

Stacy (McIntyre) Barrett, DipDH, and husband Rob announce the birth of their first child, Olivia Karen. She was born on Sept. 29, 2006, weighing 8 lb., 6 oz. They live in Hampton, N.B. where Stacy is a dental hygienist with Brunswick Square Dental Clinic in Saint John, N.B

2002

David H. Izett, LLB, his wife Tasha and daughter Camden have recently moved to Muscat, Oman where David will be working as legal counsel for Occidental Oil and Gas. The family is expecting their second child in June and can be contacted at *dhizett@yahoo.com.*

2003

Shaunessy Harper, BA, is pursuing a nurs-

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ing degree in Calgary and will graduate in September of 2008.

2006

Kate Jacobs, BEng, is training to participate in an endurance event as a member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team Kate's goal is to have $5,000 raised by June 2007. Check out her progress and updates at *www.active.com/donate/tntcal/tntcalKJacobs*

IN MEMORIAM

Agnes W. Muschamp, BA'31, Manassas, Va., on Sept., 21, 2006

Nancy P. D. Forrest, BA'32, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 16, 2006

Margaret H. Ryan, BA'33, Halifax, N.S., on Mar. 10, 2007

Arrilla M. Cameron, BA'34, DED'35, MA'53, on Jan, 7, 2007

Arthur Shain, BSc'35, DDS'39, New Rochelle, N.Y.

Dorothy B. Clark, BA'36, Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 12, 2007

Annie L. Geizer, BA'35, MA'36, BLS'57, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 12, 2006

Willa Gillespie, BA'38, Ottawa, Ont., on Aug. 20, 2006

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Kathleen Lodge, DED'38, on Feb. 27, 2007

Peggy Thompson, BA'40, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 15, 2007

Harry Hilchey, BA'41, Etobicoke, Ont., on Nov. 17, 2006

John H. Molloy, MD'43, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 23, 2003

Murray M. Davis, BA'41, MD'44, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 6, 2006

Harold P. MacCormack, DDS'45, Truro, N.S., on Jan. 22, 2007

Abraham Sheffman, BA'44, LLB'46, Miami Shores, Fla.

Peter McColough, LLB'47, MBA'49, LLD'70, Greenwich, Conn., on Dec. 13, 2006

Gerald A. Mosher, BA'46, MA'47, Halifax, N.S., on Mar. 5, 2007

Jim Oakley, DENGR'45, BENG'47(NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 21, 2007

Nancy Jane Dauphinee, BSC'48, Fredericton, N.B., on Aug. 3, 2006

Frederick C. Emenau, DPHRM'48, BSC'48, Liverpool, N.S., on Feb. 17, 2007

Cyril Gaum, DDS'48, Boston, Mass., on Mar. 2, 2007

Frederick M. Thistle, BCOM'48, Bedford, N.S., on Feb. 7, 2007

Harold W. Legere, BENG'49(NSTC), Bedford, N.S., on Apr. 6, 2007

Joseph H. Lesser, MD'49, Indian Wells, Calif., on Jan. 15, 2007

Robin MacLean, BCOM'49, BED'66, London, Ont., on Nov. 14, 2006

Daniel H. McKeough, BSC'47, DENGR'47, BENG'49(NSTC), MENG'53(NSTC), New Glasgow, N.S., on Mar. 5, 2007

Douglas C. Ferguson, BSC'50, MSC'56, PHD'68, Silver Spring, Md.

Fred L. LeBlanc, BENG'50(NSTC), Cheticamp, N.S., on Feb. 25, 2007

Jean A. MacPherson, LLB'50, Q.C., Antigonish, N.S., on Mar. 17, 2007

Leonard A. Hennessey, BEng'51(NSTC), Etobicoke, Ont.

Bruce R. McDade, LLB'51, Q.C., Sydney, N.S., on Mar. 13, 2007

Frank E. Newbury, BENG'51(NSTC), Gananoque, Ont., on Sept. 30, 2006.

Geraldine F. Theakston, BA'51, Markham, Ont., on Nov. 15, 2006

Stan Nichols, BENG'51(NSTC), Scarborough, Ont., on Jan, 24, 2007

Robert W. MacQuarrie, LLB'52, BSC'52, Q.C., Gloucester, Ont.

John W. Shields, DENGR'50, BENG'52 (NSTC), Port Dufferin, on Feb. 20, 2007

H. Lloyd Smith, DPHRM'52, Wallace River, N.S., on Mar. 6, 2007

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Colin F. Boyd, BEng'54(NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on Mar. 10, 2007

Mary J. Vincent, DPH'54, Saint John, N.B., on Feb. 19, 2007

Donald C. Torey, LLB'55, BA'58, Larchmont, N.Y., on Mar. 27, 2007

Bert Zebberman, BCom'55, Encino, Calif.

W. Stuart Huestis, MD'56, Kentville, N.S.

Norm E. Pullin, BSc'53, BEng'56(NSTC), P.Eng, P.Geoph, Comox, B.C., on Feb. 10, 2007

Norman Ross Belliveau, BEng'57(NSTC), Fredericton, N.B., on April 1, 2007

Sheila J. Bonn, BA'56, BEd'57, Sarnia, Ont.

Jacques Lefebvre, BEng'57(NSTC), Quebec City, on Sept. 7, 2006

Stan G. Lannon, MD'57, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 19, 2007

Gordon C. MacDonald, BCom'56, LLB'58, Q.C., Wolfville, N.S., on Dec.11, 2006

William N. Mason, DDS'58, Paisley, Scotland on Oct. 22, 2006

Clarence W. Vause, LLB'59, Swift Current, Sask.

Neil J. Campbell, DPhrm'61, Sydney Mines, N.S., on Feb. 27, 2007

Cyril G. White, DEngr'57, BSc'59, MSc'61, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 7, 2007

Nicholas P. Meagher, BSc'49, DPhrm'50, MA'62, Halifax, N.S., on Jun. 28, 2003

William P. Gillies, LLB'63, St. John's, Nfld.

Arthur W. Tacreiter, PGM'64, Merrickville, Ont.

John R. Umlah, BCom'67, Coldbrook, N.S., on Apr. 8, 2007

David R. Shaffelburg, BA'68, MEd'76, Port Williams, N.S., on Nov. 25, 2006

Elizabeth A. Sullivan, BA'68, BEd'69, on Mar. 28, 2007

Eric T. Dalzell, DDS'70, Martin's River, N.S., on Feb. 14, 2007

John E. Mouland, BSc'68, DEngr'68, BEng'70(NSTC), Utica, N.Y., on Apr. 20, 2006

Mary M. Casey, BA'46, LLB'71, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 24, 2006

John E. Gibb, BSc'71, Dartmouth, N.S.

Peter M. McCulloch, BSc'71, Oakville, Ont.,

Olaf McLetchie, MD'72, Dedham and Walpole, Mass., in June 2004

Robert W. Newman, BA'69, LLB'72, Lower Sackville, N.S., on Jan. 7, 2007

Shirley A. Conover, BA'51, MSc'54, PhD'74, on Jan. 8, 2007

James B. Fay, LLB'53, LLM'74, Halifax, N.S.

Augustus Wedderburn, BEd'57, BA'57, MA'61, LLB'74, Halifax, on Feb. 24, 2007

Lynn F. Irlam, BEd'73, MSW'75, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 20, 2006

Thomas A. Peacocke, MD'75, Kanata, Ont., on Dec. 25, 2006

Donna M. Burchell, BA'78, BSW'80, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 29, 2007

David W. Seale, MSc'67, MBA'81, Toronto, Ont.,

Ransom A. Myers Jr., BSc'74, MSc'80, PhD'83, Halifax, N.S, on Mar. 27, 2007

Mary I. Thoren, BA'83, Dartmouth, N.S., in April 2007.

Alan A. Blinn, BSc'80, MD'84, PGM'91 Mona Vale, Australia

Sylvia J. MacIntosh, LLB'84, Whitehorse, Yukon on Jan. 22, 2007

Mary E. Smith, MSc'85, Dartmouth, N.S., on Apr. 6, 2007

Alice Cerny, BSc'86, Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 25, 2007

Edward A. Sutton, BA'86, Yarmouth, N.S., on Nov. 1, 2006

Philip J. Dunsworth, BSc'84, DEngr'84, BEng'87(TUNS), on Feb. 4, 2007

Cecily A. Honig, BA'57, BSc'84, MSc'87, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 24, 2006

David B. Froom, BSc'88, MSc'90, Stillwater Lake, N.S., on Oct. 31, 2006

Linda J. Putnam, LLB'90, Calgary, Alta., on Jan. 22, 2005

James C. Bartlett, BA'89, DPAD'98, Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 14, 2007

Wanita C. Lopeter, MD'99, Edmonton, Alta., on Jan. 11, 2007

The art is in the bone

Medical illustrator mixes art with a passion for paleontology

Photos: Pearce

Name: Tim Fedak
Education: BFA (fine art) NSCAD; PhD'07 in developmental biology
Research: Collecting and examining the oldest dinosaur specimens in Canada, the 200 million-year-old prosauropod
Exciting achievement: Discovering one of the richest dinosaur sites in North America – a bone bed near Parrsboro, N.S.
Jobs: Freelance medical illustrator; researcher with the Nova Scotia Museum

"In paleontology, the fossils are encased in stone, so you're like Michaelangelo, chipping away to slowly expose the specimen."

I was always interested in visual art. I was studying art when someone from the Royal Ontario Museum invited me to go on a fossil expedition for the summer. That's when rocks became something more than just rocks for me. • Each of the dinosaur specimens required about two years' worth of work, under the microscope, chipping away. You would expose an area the size of your thumbnail in a day. • You have to have very strong three-dimensional visualization skills. My topics dealt with how does bone grow, evolve, and what do the specimens tell us about evolution. • My academic research and field training lead directly into my medical illustration work. Because I understand anatomy, I can talk with medical professionals. Plus it's a way for me to keep learning. • The art and science feed into each other. I think any discipline you look at – geology, medicine, paleontology, cell biology – you'll find a lot of people who have a strong interest in art.

– Research: Jane Lombard

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Join fellow Dalhousie alumni and friends as biology professor and Canada Research Chair Dr. Jeffrey Hutchings takes us on an exciting undersea adventure. The Dalhousie Alumni Association will also recognize the outstanding contributions of the 2007 award winners.

Thursday, October 4, 2007
6:00 for 7:00 p.m.
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Halifax, NS

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Dalhousie External Relations
902.494.1697 or 1.866.225.8043
E-mail: alumni.events@dal.ca
Online: www.dal.ca/alumni
Please order tickets by September 21, 2007

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