

The Alumni Magazine

# Dalhousie

vol. 23 no. 1 spring 2006



## A new face of justice

Engineering safety on the roads  
A 'kindred spirit' in song  
Straight from the Trailer Park

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## On our cover

**Naomi Metallic** (BA(Hon)'02, LLB'05) was photographed by Tony Caldwell at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa. Behind her looms the statue *Justicia*, representing justice.



Photo: Lemmy

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Naomi Metallic (BA(Hon)'02, LLB'05), first Mi'kmaq law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada, plans to specialize in aboriginal law.

by Marie Weeren (BA(K)'93)

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Photo: Peirce

Engineering's Vehicle Safety Research Team has found ways to make our vehicles and roads safer for the past three

decades. Now, it's asking us to take a good look at ourselves, as research increasingly focuses on driver behaviour.

by Marla Cranston

### 18 Lyrical tribute links Island writers across time

Songwriter Nancy White found a kindred spirit in Lucy Maud Montgomery, creating a musical tribute to the popular Prince Edward Island novelist. What else do they have in common? Dalhousie, of course.

by Nancy White (BA'67)

### 20 A walk in the park

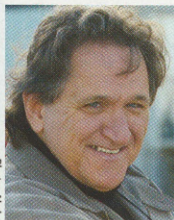


Photo: Avriel

A hit TV show. A summer movie. Straight talk from the character Ray on *Trailer Park Boys* – alias Barrie Dunn, producer and lawyer.

by Dawn Morrison (BA(K)'93)

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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. Editorial deadline for the next issue is July 28, 2006.





Photo: Anriell

**Slightly more than a year ago a small group of alumni,** myself included, were driving from a book club weekend in New Brunswick. Our van was in good repair, our driver was focused, the weather was sunny, and the road was dry.

We began climbing the Cobequid Mountains, which rise just over 300 metres in a band linking the Minas Basin and the Northumberland Strait. Sharp winds were knifing through the valleys at right angles to the highway. A truck was lumbering its way up an incline, so we started a routine pass. Just as we were pulling even, both vehicles were rocked by a blast of wind from the side. Simultaneously, the road beneath us turned white.

As the truck driver wisely backed off, the van began to fishtail, heading directly toward a guardrail and precipitous drop-off, then at the last moment snaking back toward the dividing median. When the tires bit gravel, the van lofted into a rolling sequence. The longest few seconds you can imagine later, four of us were hanging from our seat belts inside the flipped van. Moments later, I was euphoric to walk away with my friends – shaken but intact, picking glass out of my palm.

Almost everyone has a story about how they – or someone close to them – have been touched by an accident. For 34 years, Engineering's Vehicle Safety Research Team has helped to improve our safety on the roads (see "Driven to distraction," page 14). It's just one example of the meaningful research that takes place on campus every day. In addition, we're sharing a special section on "Research that Matters" for the first time in your alumni magazine, building on an outreach initiative by Dr. Carl Breckenridge, Vice-President (Research). This fascinating look into the world of diverse researchers was prepared by Julia Watt, editor of Dal's new research magazine *OutFront*. The Research that Matters section contributes to making this the largest edition of your magazine to date.

Spring brings all the pageantry of convocation to campus, as we celebrate together with our 3,035 most recent graduates (see "Meet the class of 2006," page 7). We welcome them into the alumni family and hope to follow their lives in years to come as they encounter unlimited possibilities. Our cover profile is of an outstanding young alumna, Naomi Metallic (see "A new face of justice," page 12), who caps her academic career with a clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Sincerely,

AMANDA PELHAM, Editor

P.S. – Know any high school students considering university? Dalhousie is hosting an Open House on October 20; this is a great opportunity to encourage anyone you know to visit the campus. Discover the Unexpected, the Open House, will let students experience hands-on activities, engaging lectures, residence life and much more. Watch [www.dal.ca](http://www.dal.ca) for details.

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**Our contributors**

**Marla Cranston** is editorial manager with the Communications and Marketing team. Amidst racing around the Armdale Rotary to buy a home in Purcell's Cove, she wrote her first feature for *Dalhousie* on a topic that matters to us all – safety on the roads.

**Dawn Morrison (BJ(K)'93)** enjoyed her assignment for this issue, discussing the finer points of the *Trailer Park Boys* with producer Barry Dunn. Dawn is a communications manager and the editor of *Dalhousie News*.



**Marilyn Smulders** has recently joined Dalhousie's Communications and Marketing team as a web writer and editor and can now negotiate the subterranean hallways for her coffee fix all by herself. A resident of Bedford, she enjoys cycling, fitness classes, sewing and being the mom/chauffeur of three terrific kids.

**Marie Weeren (BJ(K)'93)** is president of 10th Floor Solutions, a Halifax business specializing in public relations writing and editing. In this issue, she explores the worlds of diamond exploration geologist Joe Kidston and Supreme Court of Canada law clerk Naomi Metallic.

**Nancy White (BA'67)** went on from playing Katisha in *The Mikado* at Dal to writing topical songs for the CBC radio show *Sunday Morning* for 15 years. Her recordings include *Momnipotent: Songs for Weary Parents*, *Pumping Irony*, *Gaelic Envy*, *Nancy White: Unexpected and Stickers on Fruit*. She lives in Toronto with her two daughters.







# Developing potential

Alumni leader moves on

Photo: Abriel

**D**ALHOUSIE TOOK A RISK. According to Dale Godsoe (BA'65, BEd'66, MEd'87, LLD'97(MSVU)), 10 years ago when it selected a community volunteer of 30 years to become the next Vice-President (External Relations), the university's search committee did something she herself today empowers others to do – be a risk taker.

Whether she's looking back on her time at Dalhousie as a student or on her career as she retires, Dale has nothing but fond memories. It hasn't been without its challenges but, "Dalhousie has played a very, very important part in the ability to live my life in an inspiring way. It's where my life and my passion for education were integrated at a personal level," she says.

She is proud of the integration she helped lead, combining Alumni Relations and Fundraising, Public Relations and

Communications and Marketing. Most of all she is proud of the people she's worked with and their work as a dynamic team. She has enjoyed working collaboratively with others on campus, specifically building relationships with senior "wise women" leaders. "Things that wake me up and make me happy are spotting the potential in people and helping them to realize it," she says.

Dalhousie recognized the potential in her just as Dale has recognized the potential in so many others, and helped them realize it, both in the university community and the wider Halifax community. Dale empowers others every day to discover the possible and to explore the unexpected.

Looking forward, Dale has always been concerned with developing the potential in women. This is an area that will continue to remain high on her priority list as will governance, policy devel-

opment and organizational development. She looks forward to a deeper community involvement, both locally and nationally.

At the same time, Dale is excited about further advancing her own education and enriching her cultural side, specifically in music, art and theatre. As her time at Dalhousie comes to a close, she's identifying new personal agenda items: travelling to India, indulging her love for fly fishing and spending time with her family.

– Keri Irwin



## He knows where you've been

Researcher **Daniel Rainham** is tracking the daily movements of some Halifax residents with the help of a pair of Global Positioning Systems and 24 satellites. While he can't tell how many trips you've made between the fridge and couch, he can determine the stores you shop at regularly, the bars you frequent, the park you walk your dog in, and your usual route to work. (Phew – while he knows you went to a video store, your *Dirty Dancing* secret is safe.)

In short, he'll figure out how wide your world is. "The purpose is to try and examine the relationship between the quality of neighborhoods and people's spatial extent and health," explains Mr. Rainham, a PhD student specializing in population health.

CBC Radio reporter Jack Julian (BA(K)'94, BJ(K)'98) tried out the tracking system as part of the pilot study and was surprised to discover how routine his movements are.

"There were smudges of activity here and there – like when I went to the Annapolis Valley for a story and to the Bedford Institute of Oceanography," says Mr. Julian. "But if it wasn't for my job as a reporter, it was just home to work, home to the grocery store, home to Point Pleasant Park to walk my dog. "I turned out to be a very patterned guy."

Using data from 80 volunteers, the pilot study is testing how well the technology performs. For a week, volunteers are tagged with a GPS unit that looks like a small camera case with a shoulder strap. The GPS receiver sits on top of the shoulder strap, while the battery pack and data logger are in the case. A chip takes information beamed down from satellites, recording latitude and longitude, time and speed. Mr. Rainham downloads the info into a Geographic Information System and provides a visual picture of the person's activities over an entire week.

It's proven surprisingly accurate, with a few funny glitches. (Like one volunteer who appeared to hang out on top of Dingle Tower or another – sans boat – in the middle of Halifax Harbour.) "I can see where you've been within 15 feet," says Mr. Rainham, 35.

He's set to embark on the larger study in the summer. He hopes to randomly recruit 250 to 300 subjects – both healthy and unhealthy – within HRM and the Annapolis Valley.

The study could have wider ramifications beyond his purposes – useful for urban planners designing healthier communities or economists interested in people's buying habits.

- Marilyn Smulders

Photo: Pearce



*Daniel Rainham's GPS-based research study tracks daily movement patterns*

## Informatics degree: a Cana

People, information and technology will come together this September when Dalhousie launches the Bachelor of Informatics degree, the first of its kind in Canada. Informatics is the study of how people transform technology, and how technology transforms us. With an innovative curriculum and co-op terms, this program will prepare students from diverse backgrounds for careers with unlimited possibilities.

### Where the jobs are

The Bachelor of Informatics, designed with input from the corporate and public sectors, will fill a major gap in the IT workforce, which requires people with strong technical skills and a broad knowledge of other fields. Employers recognize the important role of creative problem-solving, innovation, teamwork and communications skills.

## Stopping to smell the flower

*A hiker's guide to the native plants of the Bluff Wilderness Trail just outside Halifax has been written and illustrated by two Dal biology students.*

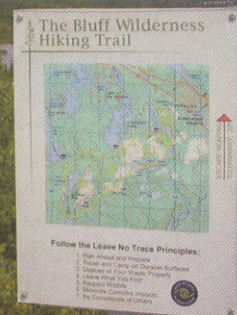


Photo: Mealia



## Indian first

"Companies need technically capable people who work well in teams, take initiative, and are creative problem-solvers and leaders. The students...will be the leaders of the technology industries of tomorrow," says Kelly Lyons, PhD, Centre for Advanced Studies, IBM Toronto Lab.

### Students set their own course

The program will feature a broad educational scope. Students will study technical subjects like interface design, database management, research methods and privacy and security. Bachelor of Informatics graduates will also be specialists. The program currently offers majors in Health Informatics, Software Systems and BioInformatics, and this will expand.

### Collaboration is key

Courses will be team taught, emphasizing concepts linking arts, computer science,



humanities, health professions, mathematics and the sciences.

Computer science Professor Ernst Grundke likens the new degree to the DISP program in science and the King's Foundation Year Program in the arts.

"The good news is that it's not just a first-year program. We continue this approach through all four years," he says.

For more information, visit [www.informatics.dal.ca](http://www.informatics.dal.ca)

—Alexandra Grant-Paul

## rs

Months spent scrounging through the wilderness, carefully and meticulously examining rare plant species ... was this some foreign excursion to the middle of nowhere? Hardly. Dalhousie students **Krystle Olson** and **Dave Mealiea** were only a bus ride away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Halifax.

The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail, near Timberlea, cuts through almost 30 kilometres of untouched nature. Much of the land is unsuitable for development and as a result has been left wild. The trail provides an opportunity for hikers to witness some of the province's most elusive flora and fauna. "I was absolutely floored by how beautiful it was," says Ms. Olson. "It literally took my breath away."

They spent all last summer collecting samples and taking notes to complete a hiker's guide to the plants of the trail. The guide describes 17 different species that travellers might encounter, from the common Huckleberry and Rhodora shrub to rarer specimens like

the Downy Rattlesnake Plantain and Mountain Sandwort. In addition to writing the text, Ms. Olson and Mr. Mealiea also demonstrated their artistic skills by drawing the pencil sketches accompanying each description.

"It's interesting to have such beautiful landscape so close to our city, and when people realize what's out there, the reaction is always great to see," says Mr. Mealiea. "Krystle and I put a lot of work into the guide to increase our community's awareness of what is actually very nearby and worth protecting."

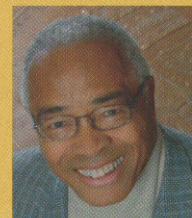
The project was supervised by Dr. Mark Johnson of Dalhousie's biology department and made possible by grants from the Shell Environmental Fund and the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps. The final guide was presented to the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust to ecstatic praise and is now available at tourist information centres in the area and online at [www.fivebridgetrust.ca](http://www.fivebridgetrust.ca).

— Ryan McNutt

## Senator Oliver wins Human Rights Award

Senator **Donald Oliver, Q.C.**, (LLB'64, LLD'03) was awarded the 2006 Human Rights Award by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission and Partners Against Racism (PAR) on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Senator Oliver was recognized for his tireless work improving the quality of life for visible minorities around the world. He is a former president of the Halifax Children's Aid Society, and founding president of the Society for the Protection and Preservation of Black Culture in Nova Scotia. Senator Oliver was a part-time professor at Dalhousie Law School for 14 years and was awarded an honorary degree from Dalhousie in 2003.





## Food is the new sex

Media overkill has made sex a very dull topic, says Dr. **Jerome Barkow**. A much zestier issue is raising ethical debates these days: food.

“Food is the new sex,” argues the social anthropologist. “I don’t think anyone would have ever believed we could get bored of sex but thanks to the modern media, we’re inundated with it in every possible way. We now need other things to fight about and talk about.”

Eating meat is a morality choice rather than a dietary issue in certain circles – some hardcore vegans choose friends, partners and roommates based on their eating habits. Worldwide opposition is mounting against genetically modified crops, and passions are heating up for organic and locally-produced food choices. North Americans who don’t subscribe to the “thin is in” mentality can meet with extreme disapproval in society, yet girth still signifies wealth and



commands respect in some cultures.

“Food is dividing people and defining people like never before,” says Dr. Barkow.

Meanwhile, public attitudes about sexuality and sexual preferences have become far more open and accepting. Sex is no longer the taboo subject it once was, yet food remains a very private issue in the obesity epidemic and for sufferers of eating disorders. Much like sex, food can be both a physical and psychological need.

Dr. Barkow shared his theory in a recent lecture at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, and the topic generates much discussion in his course, “Food and Eating Across Cultures.” Food provides fodder for a number of academic disciplines: sociology and social anthropology, economics and trade, psychology, biology, health care, ethics, gender issues, political science and environmental, cultural and religious studies.

“I’ve taught many things and there’s no easier subject to talk about than food. Everyone has an opinion, and there’s no problem getting students interested in the subject,” says Dr. Barkow.

– Marla Cranston

## Feminist philosopher earns Killam Prize

Dr. **Susan Sherwin** is among five national researchers honoured with the 2006 Killam Prize, Canada’s most distinguished annual award for outstanding career achievements. The \$100,000 awards were presented by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Dr. Sherwin is an internationally acclaimed scholar in the field of feminist bioethics. In 1992, she published *No Longer Patient: Feminist Ethics and Health Care*, the first book to deal specifically with feminism and health care ethics. In 2000, she received the Sarah Shorten Award for her contributions to the status of women in Canadian universities. In 2004, she was named Distinguished Women Philosopher of the Year by the Society for Women in Philosophy in the United States.

## Elite athletes recognized

The Department of Athletics and Recreational Services recognized elite athletes, dedicated coaches and tireless volunteers at the 52nd Annual Black and Gold Athletic Awards Banquet this spring. Dal’s outstanding athletes of the year were Kiera Aitken (CIS silver medal for backstroke); Janice Ashworth (CIS silver medal in cross-country) and Jeff Weiler (led men’s volleyball to a fourth-place finish at the CIS). The President’s Award for academics, athletics, leadership and community service was presented to Leah Kutcher, of the women’s hockey and soccer teams. The coach of the year award recognized Lesley Jordan, of the women’s hockey team.

– Teri Lake



Photos: Pearce

(left) President’s Award winner Leah Kutcher, hockey and soccer. (above) Swimmer Kiera Aitken and cross-country runner Janice Ashworth won the Class of ’55 award and Jeff Weiler (volleyball) won the Climo Award.



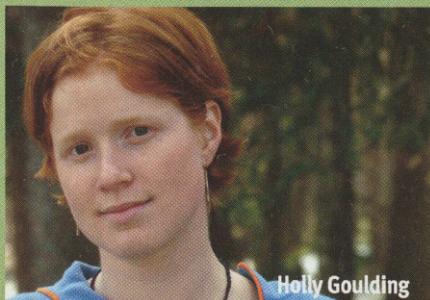


## The Class of 2006: You're our pride

Law graduate Laura Marr

Dalhousie University offers both congratulations and thanks to all of our 3,035 spring graduates. We hope they have been as inspired by their experience here as we have been inspired by their enthusiasm, dedication and talent. Each graduate from the Class of 2006 is unique. Here are some of their stories:

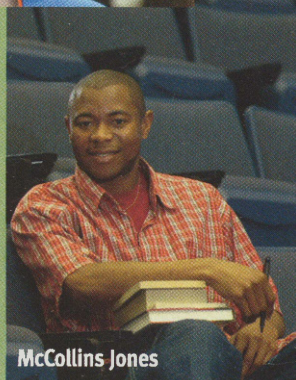
Since childhood, **Holly Goulding** has been inspired by a love of nature and a duty to ensure its preservation. Holly has followed her passion and is now an environmental engineer. Engineering provides her with the skills to help preserve ecosystems, both locally and around the globe.



Holly Goulding

Her involvement with Engineers Without Borders has centred around education and capacity-building in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion in Mali.

When the civil war broke out in Sierra Leone, West Africa in 1991, **McCollins Jones** was unable to finish community college. McCollins used his talents as a track-and-field star to help child soldiers, by working to get them out of the war and involved in sports programs. Nova Scotia has historic ties to Sierra Leone, and a family connection brought him to Nova Scotia and Dalhousie's Transition Year Program. He says that living in Nova Scotia has allowed him to "fulfill a dream." McCollins plans to enroll in the Bachelor of Management (Recreation) program at Dalhousie.



McCollins Jones

Award-winning research marine biologist **Shane Gero's** favourite moment at Dalhousie didn't happen in a classroom; in fact, it didn't happen on campus at all. While conducting underwater research, he found himself face-to-face with a sperm whale mother and baby. "Dalhousie provided me with hands-on opportunities to work with whales and dolphins that I wouldn't get anywhere else," he says. His research has taken him from Nova Scotia to the West Indies.

## Community leaders receive honorary degrees

During Spring Convocation ceremonies, held May 23 to 31, Dalhousie also awarded honorary degrees to nine prominent Canadians in recognition of their significant accomplishments.

**Jack Flemming** (BEng'62), founder of the leading construction company Ocean Contractors Limited, is an active philanthropist working on a variety of causes supporting young people with exceptional needs.

**Derek Brown's** (LLB'69) distinguished career in investment banking has included providing leadership in the privatization of Air Canada and Nova Scotia Power. At the Rotman School of Management, business students have voted him "most popular professor."

**Mary Lou Finlay** is one of Canada's most respected journalists. She began hosting *Sunday Morning* on CBC Radio in 1988, and by 1997 she joined *As It Happens*, one of the most successful programs in Canadian radio history.

**Alan Grant** (BSc'71) is a marine geologist and geophysicist who is a pre-eminent authority on the geology of the East Coast offshore. His extensive research has been published in *Nature* and *Science* magazines.

**Gary Hack** is recognized internationally as one of the most important urban designers and planners in the world. In 2002, his collaboration with architect Daniel Libeskind won an international competition for the design of the redeveloped World Trade Center.

**Stephen Lewis's** distinguished political and diplomatic career has led to meaningful policy changes. In Africa, he has focused on HIV/AIDS and the impact of armed conflict on children.

Chairman and CEO of Centennial Group Limited, **Ralph Medjuck** (LLB'54) has been the driving force behind some of the most innovative development on the Halifax peninsula for the past 50 years. An active leader in the voluntary sector, he's worked on behalf of human rights, mental health and community support, among other interests.

**Barbara Newman** (BA'61), together with her late husband Norman Newman, helped to shape a hugely successful retail grocery, drugstore and restaurant industry in this region. The Norman H.

Newman Centre of Entrepreneurial Studies at Dalhousie's Faculty of Management will foster future generations of entrepreneurs.

**Frank Sobey** is Chairman and Vice-President of Development, Crombie Properties Ltd., and he is on the board of directors of Sobeys Inc., Fisheries Products International and Wajax Limited. Mr. Sobey is keenly interested in post-secondary education in the region and has made major contributions to the Dalhousie community. As the force behind the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, he has significantly advanced medical research.



## Rock on into the future

Many of the finest psychology minds say that past behaviour is the best predictor of future behaviour. Dr. **John Gosse** buys into this theory wholeheartedly when it comes to his passion of analyzing the imprint of cosmic rays on rocks.

Dr. Gosse, Canada Research Chair in Earth System Evolution, says cosmic rays bombard the earth and everything on it constantly. When these rays hit exposed rocks, a change in the rock's chemical makeup can occur, producing atoms with different physical properties. These changed atoms are called isotopes. Measuring isotopes can determine how long the rock has been exposed, providing vital clues as to how the earth has changed and how it may change in the future.

"My research technique is akin to looking at the redness of a sunburn to determine how long you've been in the sun," Dr. Gosse explains. By analyzing these isotopes, Dr. Gosse and his team can help predict when a region might be hit by an earthquake, or whether climate change and melting glaciers will threaten coastal cities.

## Leading the wireless age

**Dr. Zhizhang (David) Chen** is in a race. It's one that tests intellectual speed rather than physical strength. He's competing against researchers around the world in a quest to develop smaller, more efficient and less expensive wireless applications that can be commercialized for practical use.

Dr. Chen "races" everyday at the new Microwave and Wireless Laboratory at Dalhousie University. His lab is equipped to take an idea from the conceptual stage to design, construction and then the testing phase.

## Seeking out energy

We need oil and gas to make just about everything. We use it to run our cars and also to construct plastics, pave roads and make pharmaceuticals. Without it, life as we know it wouldn't exist.

Knowing this truly heightens the reality that the supply of oil and gas isn't limitless. To be sure, it is getting more and more difficult to locate crude and each failed drilling attempt can cost oil and gas companies up to \$30 million.

This sense of urgency is what makes the work of researchers Drs. **Djordje Grujic** and **Juergen Adam** so significant. In their laboratory, they simulate the rocks "living" beneath the earth's surface and reproduce their movement.

"We know that the crustal plates typically shift only a few millimetres each year. But multiply that

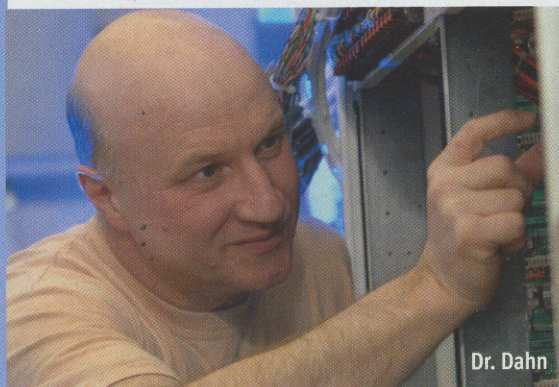


by millions of years and the movement is hugely significant," says Dr. Grujic.

Dr. Grujic and Dr. Adam recreate this very slow change by using physical materials such as silicone (to mimic salt) and silica sand (to mimic crustal rocks) and exposing them to tectonic movement patterns imposed by a computer-controlled machine. They can recreate millions of

## Powering the world

There's no question that Dr. **Jeffery Dahn's** (PhD'82) research is powerful. As one of the people who pioneered the lithium battery used today in cellphones, laptops and many digital cameras, he has spent the last 25 years creating material that will help power the world well into the future.



Dr. Dahn feels that a stable supply of energy is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. "We only have about a 50-year supply of fossil fuel," he muses. "Wind and solar are renewable options, but you need some way to store them in order to have a constant supply."

It is these types of storage challenges that

Dr. Dahn, Canada Research Chair in Battery and Fuel Cell Materials, explores by developing and testing new materials. And, because of a unique apparatus he and his team developed, Dr. Dahn's lab is doing this testing faster and better than most other researchers around the world. "We've adopted methods which allow us to test over 60 material compositions at the same time under the exact same conditions," says Dr. Dahn. "We're leaving many other labs in the dust when it comes to material development."

Everyday, people are working more efficiently and using less fossil fuel-based energy because of his and other successful materials science research. The construction industry benefits from tools running on a battery that is more powerful, longer lasting and quickly recharged. A taxi driver uses a hybrid of battery and gas to power his car.

For Dr. Dahn, this work is fun. "Identifying sources of primary energy for the future and how that energy will be stored and used is like a 4,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. If my research group can put a few pieces in the right spot, I will feel happy about what we've done."





Dr. Grujic and Dr. Adam

years of sediment deposition and the earth's crust movement in just one week.

But what does this have to do with finding oil and gas? "Over a very gradual period of time, the movement results in organic material decomposing to become crude oil, which settles into the pores of the surrounding rocks," explains Dr. Adam. "These are the areas the oil and gas companies want to explore."

## The politics of food

Corn is to Mexico as cheese is to Holland – but the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement has changed rural values and practices. The Mexican government no longer encourages "food self-sufficiency" in maize at the national level, but rather is importing cheap U.S. corn.

Research by social anthropologist Dr. **Elizabeth Fitting** focuses on the impact of economic policy on a society and its people. Dr. Fitting studied the Tehuacan Valley of Pebla and found the rural community reacted differently than anticipated – they continued growing the crop on a small scale – she calls it "food security."

"Corn provides a kind of security or buffer during times of economic hardship for Mexicans," she says. Even though maize is still being grown, there have been significant changes to the family's internal workings. Because of the absence of young men (migratory workers) older residents are farming the corn and the younger generation is disinterested in agriculture.

"Only time will tell how globalization and trade liberalization will affect these rural households and maize agriculture in the long term," she says.

## Ceramic – more than teacups and saucers

Although his title, Canada Research Chair in the Degradation and Failure of Advanced Materials, means Dr. **Kevin Plucknett** spends a lot of time wearing out and breaking things, an intrinsic part of his work is producing new materials based on this research.

He primarily works with ceramics which, surprisingly to many, are important in the production of such things as golf clubs, helicopters, and oil and gas pipelines. Unlike metal or wood, ceramics can sustain high temperatures without melting or catching on fire, so they're extremely valuable – especially to the transportation industry.

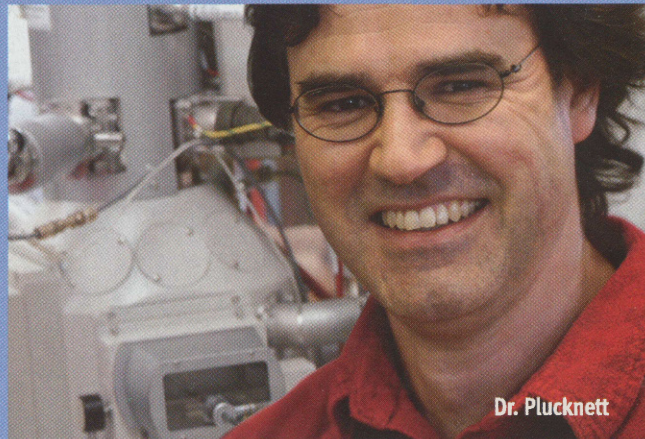
"Using ceramic components means you can increase the operating temperature of an engine, which improves its efficiency," explains Dr. Plucknett. "We're working to make ceramic even more durable and lightweight, which could prove very useful for something such as space travel in the future."

Ceramics are typically made by mixing several powders, a technique that can be quite expensive. Dr. Plucknett is interested in finding a way to create the material more cheaply, using renewable, organic material. One approach he is investigating is akin to an alchemist turning lead into gold.

"We can take a piece of oak and heat it up at a very high temperature in a vacuum. Wood is just carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. We remove the last two ingredients so you just have a carbon structure left," says Dr. Plucknett. "Then we take metallic silicon, heat it until it melts and inject it into the wood. We eventually end up with a low-cost ceramic material which can potentially be heated up to 1,300 degrees Celsius without catching fire."

While having durable, heat-withstanding material under the hood of a car is important, it isn't something one is consumed with everyday. Not so for Dr. Plucknett. He has always been interested in the physical side of things and likes the tangibility of materials over the more theoretical research. And he has always been fascinated by ceramics.

"The fact that you can put something into a 1,500-degree-Celsius furnace, come back after a week, take it out and it still looks more or less the same is something that I find impressive," laughs Dr. Plucknett.



Dr. Plucknett



## Clean water: the unsexy alternative to bridge building

There's no other way to put it. Dr. **Graham Gagnon** deals with a lot of waste. Literally. It's his job to deal with the problems the rest of us would rather flush away. "From battery acid to fish guts to hog manure – you name it, we've seen it all," he exclaims proudly.

Dr. Gagnon is Dalhousie's Canada Research Chair in Water Quality and Treatment. He's researching new ways to provide clean drinking water to communities and to treat wastewater so it has less of a negative impact on the environment and public health.

"Sure, as an engineer it's much sexier to point to a bridge and say, 'look what I did!'" he says. "But it's a lot harder to point to the treatment plant that no one ever sees, or to show someone a lake and say 'hey, there are fewer pollutants in

there because of me'."

Supported by a group that includes a full-time research associate and about a dozen graduate students, Dr. Gagnon has two main areas of research. One involves looking at innovations to improve drinking water, such as the best way to reduce dangerous pathogens like E. coli or chemical contaminants like arsenic. The other is treating industrial effluent from small and medium-sized communities and resource-based industries, such as seafood processing plants.

Even though the results of his research may not be immediately apparent, the impact is enormous, especially on a community's health. The work isn't just about



Dr. Gagnon

engineering – there are political, environmental, health, economic and social consequences.

"Without clean drinking water, everything else is secondary," he says. "An unsafe water supply can cost a town substantially, not just in money but in unhealthy residents."

## Breaking new ground in ocean data collection

No matter where you are, the evening news has a standard format. Breaking stories first, human interest next, a bit of sports and then the weather report. In the future, Dr. **John Cullen** expects an ocean forecast will be added to that mix – one that provides real-time tracking of storm surges, strong currents and blooms of plant life in the sea.

Like the weather report, an ocean forecast would be based on predictions of com-

puter models. In order to accurately predict, you must first have reliable, comprehensive data. As well, ocean forecast data must contain measurements from the ocean's entire interrelated ecosystem – biological, physical and chemical.

To date, getting these measurements has proven time-consuming, expensive and intermittent. This is because the traditional methods involve people going out and physically-taking measurements.

Dr. Cullen and his team are developing a system that will revolutionize the data-collection process. They have established the Marine Environmental Prediction System using automated tools to take measurements from moorings and satellites, for direct use in simulations of the ocean. They hope to enhance the system with robotic sensors that stay in the ocean for months and "talk to us" upon request.

"We have systems that can measure all day and night over an extended period of time," says Dr. Cullen. This has hugely

positive implications for safer navigation. Warnings of storm surges and harmful algal blooms (red tides) could mitigate the impact on coastal communities and aquaculture farms. Climate change, currents, sea level, water temperature and sea life become much easier to study and interpret.

"We have more detailed maps of the moon's surface than we do of the ocean's bottom. As our research progresses, we hope this will change."

### On ocean patrol

In 1996, Dr. **Ron Pelot** and his team created a risk analysis that continues to help the Canadian Coast Guard in Nova Scotia make better search-and-rescue decisions on the water. The team created MARIS (Marine Activity and Risk Investigation System), software which could be put on every Coast Guard manager's desk, to view traffic levels at various locations, and monitor accident rates based on vessel type and time of year.





## What we stand for

Nationalism is what defines a country. It can also be what dramatically divides a country. Today, what forms a nation is usually based on similar language, cultures, people and a set of values. But this wasn't always the case and it doesn't have to be the guideline in the future.

"The definition of nationalism is not based on a rule of physics, it is based on a set of ideas," says Dr. **Julia Wright**, Canada Research Chair in European Studies. "And because they're ideas, we can change them."

She studies nationalism as it was conveyed through literature and draws upon her knowledge of philosophy, cultural studies and political science to take a piece of text and "unpack it." She explains: "I read through the metaphors, symbolism and historic referencing to get out the levels of meaning that aren't immediately obvious."

She specifically studies Irish literature from the 19th century, focusing on works in which authors wrote about the nation's construction, nationalist discourse and the idea of nationhood. Nationalism was used to push an agenda but, in arguing for political sovereignty, ideas of the Irish national character were developed, providing the basis for stereotypes and prejudice that persist today.

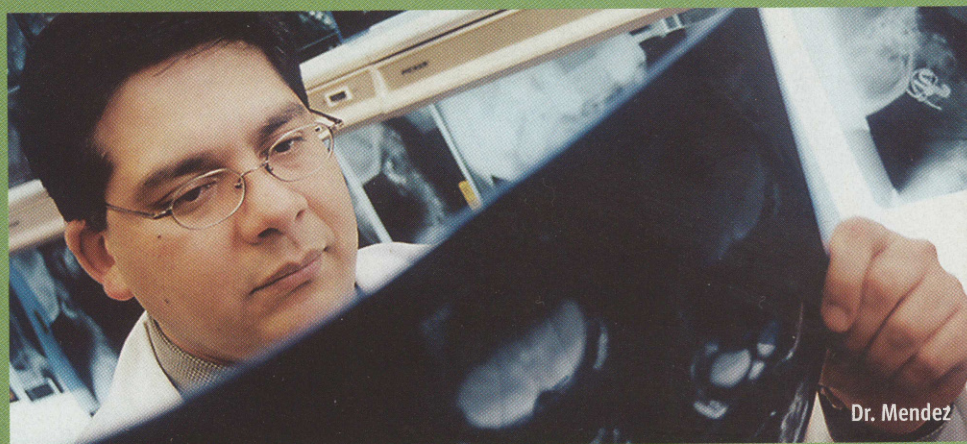


Dr. Wright

## Working to cure the incurable

The brain is the only vital organ in the body that can't be transplanted. Unlike the heart, kidney or lung, when the brain fails, it can't be replaced and the results are usually permanent and drastically debilitating.

This highlights the importance of the Brain Research Centre (BRC) in Halifax, which is overseen by Dr. **Ivar Mendez**, the BRC's chair and lead of the Neurosurgery Division at Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine and the QEII Health Sciences Centre.



In just three short years, the BRC has established itself as a powerhouse in neurological research and provides a real-time study lab for treating patients. Whether it's implanting dopamine cells into brains of Parkinson patients to alleviate their tremors or seeking cures for the so far 'incurables' such as Alzheimer's or Huntington's, Dr. Mendez's leading edge work has huge implications for thousands of people.

Much of this is due to the fact that Dr. Mendez has been extremely effective in integrating technology into his clinical work. It has allowed him to successfully implant electrodes – powered by a tiny computer placed under the skin near the chest – into a Parkinson patient's brain. The computer produces an electrical current that interferes with the abnormal brain signals that cause tremors.

Just two years ago he made medical history in Halifax, when he and his colleague, Dr. David Clarke, used a robotic arm equipped with specialized cameras to guide two surgeons in removing a brain tumor from a patient on an operating table in Saint John, N.B., more than 400 kilometres away.

It's not just his savvy use of technology that has given Dr. Mendez an international reputation. His work in stem cell research puts Canada at the vanguard. With the BRC situated at Dalhousie University, just blocks away from the hospital, he can quickly work out the best treatment for his patient. "We can examine the patient, figure out his needs, go to the lab and develop a customized solution for him. This process ensures a very high level of care and maximizes his chances of recovery."

What does his future hold? "I dream of helping someone who's paralyzed to walk again. I want to cure the incurable."



# Unprecedented: Mi'kmaq legal perspective

Meet Naomi Metallic, whose journey has taken her from the Listuguj Mi'kmaq First Nations in Gaspé to the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa

by Marie Weeren (BJ(K)'93)

IT WAS A FRIGID FEBRUARY DAY in Ottawa, but Naomi Metallic (BA(Hon)'02, LLB'05), didn't notice the cold. She was standing outside the Supreme Court of Canada, filled with excitement, having just been interviewed for the position of law clerk, to take effect after her studies.

Now, less than two years later, Ms. Metallic has completed her law degree from Dalhousie and wrapped up a civil law degree at the University of Ottawa. She recently began a one-year clerkship with the Honourable Mr. Justice Michel Bastarache. Ms. Metallic, who believes she is the first Mi'kmaq law clerk at the Supreme Court, is pleased with the achievement and what it represents.

"I think it's important to have more native people involved in different areas of the law so that you have different perspectives and people from different backgrounds informing the development of the law," she says. "And also to facilitate non-aboriginal people understanding aboriginal people and where they're coming from...."

The route that led Ms. Metallic, 25, to the Supreme Court was influenced by her Dalhousie years. After high school, she left Listuguj Mi'kmaq First Nation on the Gaspé coast of Quebec to attend Dalhousie and experience life in Halifax.

Like many who go on to professional school, she found that her combined hon-

ours degree in English and philosophy was good preparation for law. She says English provides an opportunity to "work on your writing and philosophy shapes your mind, works your mind to the extent that you can deconstruct problems."

In 2002, Ms. Metallic enrolled at Dalhousie Law School through the Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq Initiative. She was president of the Dalhousie Aboriginal Law Students Association when the group organized an aboriginal law conference, as well as a full-day session for Mi'kmaq high school students to encourage them to pursue post-secondary education.

Ms. Metallic, whose mother worked as a nurse for 30 years and whose father

Photo: Caldwell





is a linguist, was always encouraged to realize her academic goals. She says that is not the case for all First Nations youth because “sometimes there’s not as much value put on formal education in native communities.”

She says, “I think that this attitude towards education has to change big-time for more positive things to happen in our communities and that’s why we did that session for the kids.”

Things have changed, and continue to change. Last summer, Ms. Metallic received a scholarship from an organization in her home community, the Mi’gma’we’i Mawiomi Secretariat.

“I was pretty choked up about it ... because sometimes I felt that what I

was working towards in order to help my community went unnoticed. It was really nice to feel the community’s support.”


Ms. Metallic is also grateful for support from the Dalhousie community, including her law professors and Employment Equity Officer Bonnie Best-Fleming, with whom she worked as a student researcher in the Employment Equity Office.

Another important influence in Ms. Metallic’s life is husband and former Dalhousie employee Allan McPherson. It seems appropriate they first started going out on the university holiday, Munro Day. Mr. McPherson, who was a library staff member, is now attending

Le Cordon Bleu Paris Ottawa Culinary Arts Institute.

“It’s really fun because we’re both doing very different things but we’re both very passionate about what we’re doing,” Ms. Metallic says. “I think we’re able to share it with each other and that makes our relationship very good.”

After her clerkship, Ms. Metallic will article with Burchell Hayman Parish in Halifax. One reason she was drawn to the firm was its work in aboriginal law, the area she wants as a specialization.

She says, “I want to work for aboriginal people; it’s where my interests lie and I always try to bring what I’m doing back to how it can be used to help aboriginal people.” 





**A**N INTERNATIONAL FUROR erupted when Britney Spears was spotted driving her SUV with her infant son in her lap. Pop stars are easy targets for criticism, but just watch any busy roadway and count the drivers gabbing on their cellphones. Or drinking coffee. Reading maps. Applying makeup. Fiddling with stereos. Scolding fidgety kids or pets. Even answering e-mails!

"One of the most frequent causes of accidents now is driver inattention, and we're all inattentive at some point when we're driving," says Dr. C. Robert Baird (D'Eng'55, B'Eng'57(NSTC)), director and principal investigator of Dalhousie's Vehicle Safety Research Team (VSRT).

Located in the Faculty of Engineering,

the VSRT is one of eight university-based teams across the country, operating on a non-profit basis under contract to Transport Canada. Since its creation in 1972, the Halifax team has spearheaded a number of important national programs, crash studies and vehicle recalls. The late Dr. Charles H. Miller, who cofounded the team with Baird, helped draft the rationale behind Nova Scotia's seat-belt legislation, the first of its kind in Canada. Lately, much of the VSRT's research focus has shifted to driver psychology, reflecting the biggest hazard on the roads today.

"Vehicles are much safer now than they used to be. Mechanically and ergonomically, they've improved so much," Dr. Baird explains.

But drivers now have more gadgets and tasks competing for their concentration. Eighty per cent of polled motorists admitted to multitasking behind the wheel, in a 2003 Canada Safety Council survey. The council's files contain a litany of bizarre situations – a Quebec motorist eating a plate of spaghetti right before his fatal head-on collision with an 18-wheeler, and an Ontario driver with a laptop computer duct-taped to his steering wheel, to name a few.

A U.S. government study released in April suggests driver distraction is a factor in nearly four out of every five crashes, and diversions such as dialing a cellphone can triple your chances of collision. During his time as an NDP MLA Jerry Pye, a



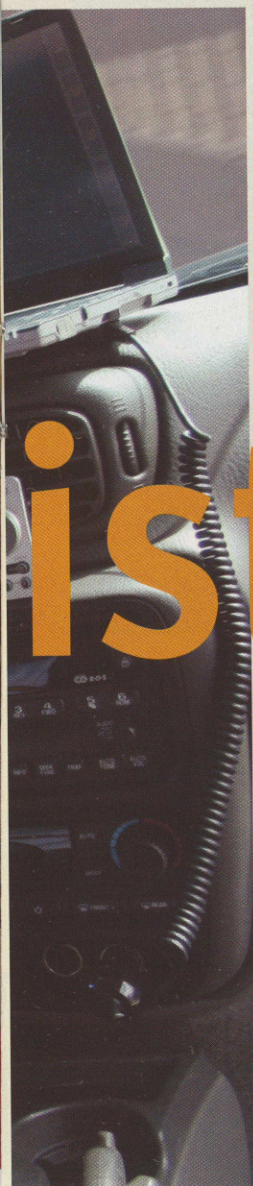


Photo: Pearce

# Driven to distraction

**Multitasking is our new reality. It's inescapable at work and home – but is there any room for it in a moving vehicle?**

**by Marla Cranston**

former Dal employee, repeatedly urged the Nova Scotia government to follow Newfoundland's lead in banning the use of cellphones while driving.

**D**rivers also vastly underestimate the importance of properly maintaining their automobiles, says Richard Woodroffe (DEng'83, BSc'83, BEng'85).

"The main contact between the vehicle and the road is the tire," says Mr. Woodroffe, who works in Toyota's Arizona Proving Ground. "In order for a car to operate safely, it's crucial to have safe tire pressures, proper tread wear and manufacturer-recommended tires on the car."

While studying mechanical engineering and science at Dalhousie and the for-

mer Technical University of Nova Scotia, Mr. Woodroffe chose his electives with the auto industry in mind. After graduating, he took up road racing and worked for Ford in Ontario before landing a job at the GM Proving Ground in Arizona. Now he's manager of Toyota's Vehicle Dynamics Development group, which develops Toyota suspensions, tires and brakes to build safer vehicles by improving driver controllability.

In Canada, federal transport officials consult regularly with their network of vehicle safety teams to chart trends and determine research priorities. Dr. Baird and his colleagues, Dale Faulkner and Sherry Norton, often share their expertise with police and RCMP in evaluating

severe collisions in Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and Newfoundland, and occasionally stage crash simulations at a national testing facility in Blainville, Quebec.

Accident reconstruction specialist Mike Peck (BSc'93, BEng'96) works for Sintra Engineering Inc., Alberta's largest forensics engineering firm. Along with his ongoing research projects, he investigates collisions for insurance adjusters and law firms trying to determine liability.

"It's unfortunate that we come in when somebody's had a tragic event," he says from Calgary, adding excessive speed is often a factor. After a crash, he examines the damaged vehicles, police data and witness statements, and also documents evidence at the scene, such as debris, skid



marks and fluid spills. During the analysis, computer animation can help clarify the sequence of events.

With more people on the roads than ever before, collision stats are climbing. However, fatalities have actually declined over the past 20 years, something Mr. Peck attributes to vehicle safety improvements such as air bags, better seat-belts and softer dashboard materials.

“Certainly there’s more of an emphasis on safety, and cars are being manufactured now to better withstand impact,” he says.

Dalhousie’s VSRT contributes to this evolution, assessing autos for possible defects and design problems, from door latches to steering columns. The ultimate

*Engineering grad Richard Woodroffe went from road racing to safety testing Toyotas*



objective is to help Transport Canada reach its goal of making Canada’s roads the safest in the world. Driving conditions vary greatly across the country, and Nova Scotia has particular safety concerns due to harsh weather and salt on the roads.

“A few years ago, a component was rusting out in Atlantic Canada, but it wasn’t an issue elsewhere,” says Dr. Baird.

The corroding cradle bolts were affecting steering, so the team initiated a regional recall. In another investigation, an ignition switch shorting problem was causing vehicle fires and resulted in a national recall of some 800,000 vehicles.

The Halifax team shares its data with experts as far away as Australia, and initiated the first Canadian Multidisciplinary

## Reducing the risk to children

Road traffic injuries are the second leading killer of children and youth globally, and a Dalhousie Medical School researcher aims to shed light on the issue.

Dr. Jeff Pernica is conducting a study in Lima, Peru, as part of his residency training in the Department of Pediatrics. He became interested in international child health issues during undergraduate study terms spent in Kenya and Cuba, where he witnessed many close calls on crowded roadways.

In Lima, streets are extremely congested with cars, buses and human-pulled carts, and there is very little safety regulation by police or traffic lights. Vendors take up sidewalk space, so pedestrians often have to walk on the roads. Dr. Pernica hopes to find out if socioeconomic status, substance abuse, behavioral disorders, school absenteeism and other factors influence a child’s risk of being struck by a vehicle.



“When you’re there, it’s hard not to notice what goes on in the roads,” he says. “You see people running through four lanes of busy traffic to jump on a bus that doesn’t even stop. Unfortunately, road traffic injury prevention programs designed in North America and Europe aren’t that useful in developing countries such as Peru, since the nature of the problem is so different.”

Data is being collected in the emergency ward at the Specialized Institute for Child Health, Lima’s main children’s hospital. Patients injured by motor vehicles will be compared with those admitted for other reasons, to see if certain characteristics are more common among the vehicle-injured group.

Ultimately, Dr. Pernica hopes his research will facilitate public education and other preventative intervention measures targeted at high-risk groups of children. Funding has been provided by Dalhousie Medical School, the IWK Health Centre and the American Academy of Pediatrics.



Road Safety Conference in 1983. The biannual event is now recognized as one of the world's pre-eminent gatherings of motor vehicle safety experts. The Dal researchers attend design shows in Detroit to keep track of new technology and cars of the future – the growing popularity of hybrids and vehicle electronics is breeding new safety issues.

Local education and public outreach are also important – team members assist with child-seat inspection clinics and make presentations at schools, police academies and utility companies with large auto fleets. A local advisory committee provides an ongoing link with medical staff, police and provincial transportation authorities. Dal's VSRT also provides financial and moral support to student engineering projects such as the Fuelathon and Bi Hi Buggy, and helps with library and equipment purchases.

Dr. Baird received an Honorary Life Membership from the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia in 2001. In addition to his research in vehicle safety, the Dalhousie and Nova Scotia Technical College (NSTC) graduate served as Head of the Electrical Engineering department from 1986 to 1994. The vehicle safety unit was launched in the former NSTC.

“There's a lot of satisfaction in contributing to the general improvement of a vehicle. We think we've helped and I'm quite proud of what we do.


*Dr. C. Robert Baird, Vehicle Safety Research Team*

“There's a lot of satisfaction in contributing to the general improvement of a vehicle,” he says. “We think we've helped and I'm quite proud of what we do.”

Seat-belt legislation is a perfect example, he says, because “the surest way to die in an accident is to not wear a belt ... people were very reluctant to accept the law at first, but now there's high seat-belt usage in Canada.”

Cars allow humans to be highly mobile and independent, but we need to maintain a healthy respect for the constant potential for peril. Regardless of auto and roadway improvements, collisions will always happen, says Mr. Peck.

“It's always a risk. Certainly you can minimize that risk by trying to always be a good driver,” he says, offering the following tips:

- Don't speed.
- Follow the rules of the road.
- Always use common sense.
- Be attentive and aware of your surroundings.
- Use your peripheral vision, don't just look straight ahead.
- Be a defensive driver, but not so defensive that you're a burden to other drivers.
- All new drivers need driving lessons, taught by professionals.
- Keep your options open – for example, don't get too boxed in on a busy roadway.
- Don't follow too closely behind other vehicles.
- Pull over and stop if you need to use the cellphone. 

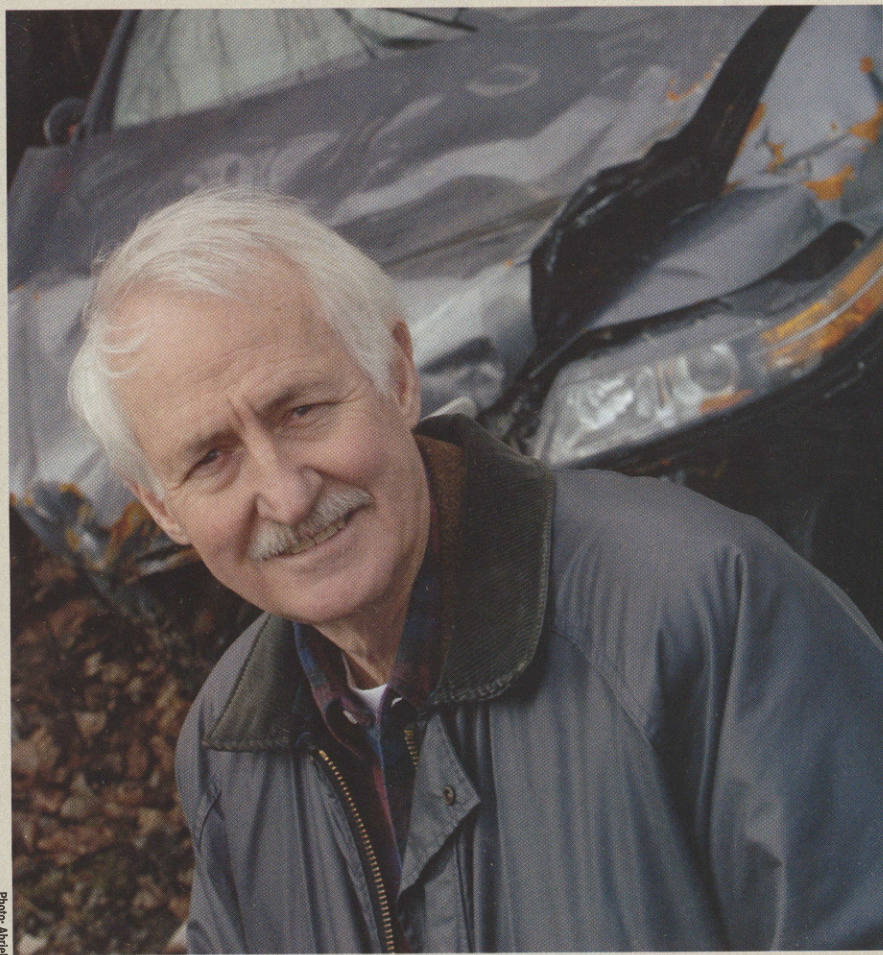


Photo: Avriel



# Lyrical tribute links Island writers

Musical's setting is fictitious Redmond University from Lucy Maud Montgomery's famous novels.

by Nancy White (BA'67)

**D**ID YOU KNOW THAT ANNE of Green Gables went to Dal?

Well, she did, and she got excellent marks and she shared a dear little house near Point Pleasant Park with a bunch of her college chums.

Anne's creator, Lucy Maud Montgomery, also went to Dal, but only for a year, in 1895-96. She followed a self-designed course in English literature under Dr. Archibald MacMechan, and she boarded at the Halifax Ladies College.

Like Lucy Maud, I was a Prince Edward Islander who'd gone to Prince of Wales College. And I, too, came to Dalhousie, in the late 1960s. Even took a Canadian literature course although, ridiculously, Lucy Maud wasn't included in it. I was at Dal when the theatre department was started by Dr. John Ripley, and though I was more involved in music than theatre over the years, singing in the Dal musicals did give me a taste for drama.

When Lucy Maud was at Dal, she published some poems, and wrote an article called "A Girl's Place at Dalhousie College," for the *Halifax Herald*. When I was at Dal, I wrote a column called "From the Vestals' Temple," all about life in Shirreff Hall, for the *Dalhousie Gazette*.

I'd spent a year as a reporter for the *Charlottetown Patriot* in 1964. That summer the Confederation Centre Theatre opened, and the next summer, something thrilling happened there: a musical called *Anne of Green Gables*, written by Don Harron, Norman Campbell and Elaine Campbell, opened to wild applause and a success that continues to this day.

Because I was working at the *Patriot* again after my first year at Dal, and because the arts were considered so unimportant that the most junior reporter was forced to cover them, I reviewed *Anne of Green Gables*. Not surprisingly, I loved the show, and I still do. I could not believe there was an actual living, breathing musical about our place and our heroine.

Years later, after a long career as a performer, I'm one of the writers of *Anne and Gilbert*, the musical that's playing this summer at the Harbourfront Jubilee Theatre in Summerside, P.E.I.

The show is based on Montgomery's second and third Anne books, *Anne of Avonlea* and *Anne of the Island*. The book writer Jeff Hochhauser, who's a New Yorker, did a big compression job. During the nine years we were working on it, we

did lots of workshops and eventually lost the parrot, the twins and the old Irishman, and focused the show mainly on the love story of Anne and her would-be beau Gilbert Blythe.

**G**ilbert went to Dal, too. L.M. Montgomery called it "Redmond University," but it was definitely Dal. She called Halifax "Kingsport," but we all knew what she meant.

Much of the show's second act is set at Dal/Redmond, and it opens with a big medley number called "The Days Ahead." (I didn't write that one; it was done by Hochhauser and the show's other composer/lyricist Bob Johnston.) The frosh sing about their hopes and their fears about starting life at college – and you can just imagine how daunting that would have been for a young farm girl from P.E.I. in the late 1800s!

The students sing:

*"I should be thrilled to be in college  
for wisdom, for knowledge,  
for a Redmond resumé,  
I want my mother,  
(Anne: And I want Marilla)  
I'd rather run away  
Than face this day."*



# across time



*Island writer L.M. Montgomery in Halifax while working at the Halifax Daily Echo in the early 1900s*



*Songwriter Nancy White during a dress rehearsal for a student production of *The Mikado* at Dalhousie in the late '60s*

Anne graduated from Dal, and so did I, but Lucy Maud, the brilliant writer, could study for only a year. She had to go back to P.E.I. to take care of her grandmother, but at one point, she did spend a year in Halifax proofreading, and writing for the *Halifax Daily Echo*.

As writers of *Anne and Gilbert*, Bob, Jeff and I have tried to be faithful to L. M. Montgomery. We've used her own words where possible, and I suppose having a woman/Maritimer/Dal grad on the team helped a bit with authenticity. The

music has a Celtic flavour, and I have insisted that McPherson be rhymed not with "Grierson," but with "worsen," as happens on P.E.I.

The musical's world premiere was last summer in Victoria-by-the-Sea, P.E.I., in the Victoria Playhouse, an excruciatingly charming old theatre – the kind of place where Lucy Maud Montgomery did readings. It was small (154 seats) and the performers had to exit by a back door and run around to the front and go through the lobby

for some entrances. The Jubilee Theatre in Summerside has about 500 seats, so this summer's cast will not be dreading rainy nights!

But it would be a dream come true for me if one day Dalhousie would do a student production of *Anne and Gilbert*. Although Montgomery once wrote in an article: "I don't care for dramatized novels. They always jar on my preconceptions of the characters," I would hope the ghost of that early Dalhousie co-ed would be hovering in the wings with a laugh on her lips and a lump in her throat.

*Anne and Gilbert*, the Summerside production, runs July 12-Sept. 3 



# A walk in the

Love 'em or hate 'em, the Sunnyvale *Trailer Park Boys* are a runaway hit, produced by Barrie Dunn





# park

by Dawn Morrison (BJ(K)'93)

**B**ARRIE DUNN (LLB'98) was at the airport recently when a 10-year-old came up to him and asked a question: "So, what's it like living in a dump?"

The award-winning producer of the *Trailer Park Boys* good-naturedly laughs when he shares the story. The youngster was referring to Barrie's recurring role as Ray – a character who indeed lives in an old car in a junkyard – on the runaway hit series.

Mr. Dunn takes the recognition in stride, a testament to the massive popularity of the show. Once a Canadian cult hit, *Trailer Park Boys* has gained worldwide recognition and mainstream success. Currently in its sixth season on Showcase, the Gemini-award-winning show has the highest ratings of any indigenous comedy series on Canadian specialty television.

Shot mostly around the Halifax-Dartmouth area, *Trailer Park Boys* has earned a loyal fan base across Canada, and is now seen on the Paramount Comedy Channel in the U.K., and in Scandinavia, Spain, Italy and Israel. A feature film produced by Ivan Reitman (*Animal House*, *Ghostbusters*, *Old School*) will open in theatres this summer.

Barrie Dunn has more than 20 years experience in the television and film industry. In addition to his work as co-writer and co-producer on *Trailer Park*

*Boys*, he has worked on more than 30 television and film productions, including the film *Margaret's Museum* and television show *Black Harbour*.

*Trailer Park Boys* has come a long way since Mr. Dunn first viewed a short film of the same name by the show's creator, head writer and director, Mike Clattenburg at the Atlantic Film Festival. Together, they pitched the series to Showcase where it found its niche, and the rest is history. The show centres around the misadventures of goof ball Ricky (Robb Wells), leader Julian (John Paul Tremblay) and cat-loving Bubbles (Mike Smith), along with a cast of supporting characters in fictional Sunnyvale Trailer Park.

**"It's a real catch-23 situation"**  
– Ricky

**M**r. Dunn says he always knew the show would be successful. He still has a copy of the letter he wrote to Mike Clattenburg in which he recognizes the show's potential as "groundbreaking television." But he never quite imagined the extent of the show's popularity.

The reason for its success is simple, says Mr. Dunn, and perhaps surprising. In a show that Maclean's affectionately calls "the rudest show on the dial," he describes its central themes succinctly: "Family. Friendship. Loyalty. Love."

The show's underlying sweetness accounts for its success, he says. Despite the pot smoking (and sales), liberal use of the "f" word and the occasional gun battle, international media and fans around the globe often use words like "loveable" and "endearing" to describe the show and its characters.

"We've all grown up with these guys, whether we live in a big city, or a small town," he says. "As bizarre as it sounds, amid all the craziness of this world we've created are some very sound core values. The swearing in the show, for instance, is never meant in a vile or obscene way. It's never vulgar, and that's a tribute to Mike Clattenburg's writing."

Despite the swearing and petty crime, the characters never do anything really offensive, he says. It is this theme of 'honour among thieves' that appeals to fans and critics, alike. "We love these characters because even though they have their battles, there's a sense that they wouldn't do anything to really harm anyone, even their arch-enemies."

**"Who...doesn't have problems? Who doesn't have a drink too many once in a while, and maybe even winds up passed out in their own driveway?"** – Mr. Lahey

**I**n addition to his work in the entertainment industry, Mr. Dunn is a practising



## Lights, camera, action: Dal alumni in film

lawyer and refers to both law and producing as “fields of the imagination.”

“Getting my law degree was the best thing I ever did,” he says, noting that he came to his law career somewhat later in life than most. “I was not one of those kids who knew what I wanted to do at 15.”


He was attracted to Dalhousie in part because of the law school’s national reputation. “Dalhousie Law School is one of the best in the country so, automatically, there is a certain prestige attached. The other thing I liked about Dalhousie and law training is that I learned to think critically here, to be analytical, to ask questions. This laid the groundwork for my work in producing and in law. Essentially, they are both about being proactive, anticipating challenges and problem-solving.”

**“You made your bed and now there’s lions in it.” – Ricky**

Now on a leave of absence from McInnes Cooper (a firm he describes as tremendously supportive), Mr. Dunn shows no signs of slowing down. A self-confessed “hockey fanatic,” he just finished a mini-series on the 1972 Canada-Russia hockey summit, which aired on CBC in April. Production begins in the summer on the seventh season of *Trailer Park Boys*, and the feature film will be released internationally in mid-August.

“The film is as crazy and as funny as the series,” he says. “I’ll put it this way: Julian comes up with a plan, Ricky screws it up and Bubbles tries to save the world,” he laughs, describing perfectly the essence of each television episode. As with the series, the movie will show the characters chasing the “one last job” that is going to make them rich forever – or as Julian refers to the strategy: “Freedom 35.”

Does he think his characters will ever sail off into the sunset on their oft-talked about retirement “cruise?” Will they ever find their “Freedom 35?”

“We are all looking for a happy ending, and I think they have as much a shot at it as anybody else,” he says thoughtfully, adding: “I think the characters will find true happiness. In some ways, they already have.” 

**Michael Donovan**, BA’74, LLB’77, earned an Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2003, as producer of Michael Moore’s *Bowling for Columbine*. In 1983, he and brother **Paul Donovan**, BSc’75, co-founded Salter Street Films, one of Atlantic Canada’s most successful film and TV production companies. They recently created the new Halifax Film Company.

**Floyd Kane**, LLB’96, is creator and producer of *North/South*, a new daytime television series expected to launch this summer. Dubbed Halifax’s answer to *Coronation Street*, the fictional show follows a spectrum of people in the construction industry, from Preston to south-end Halifax.

**Chip Sutherland**, LLB’88, is a leading entertainment and media lawyer, who teaches part-time at Dal. His legal practice with McInnes Cooper has clients in Toronto, New York and Los Angeles. His TV clients have included the recent *Juno Awards*, *The Canadian Antiques Roadshow*, and *Trailer Park Boys*.

**Philip Alberstat**, BSc’85, BA’86, specializes in film finance and served as executive producer on numerous film and TV projects, such as *Hooligans*, *Secret Society*, *Bad Faith* and *Crimetime*. His credits also include *Naked Lunch*, *The 51st Estate*, *Goodbye Mr. Steadman* and *The Incredible Mrs. Ritchie*.

**Brad Horvath**, BSc’03, is an in-house producer at Thom Fitzgerald’s Halifax-based production company, emotion pictures. Their latest feature film, *3 Needles*, starring Lucy Liu, Chloë Sevigny, Sandra Oh and Stockard Channing, made its recent U.S. premier at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He has produced and directed a number of short films, and was the 2005 recipient of the CBC/NSFDC Bridge Award for Emerging Producers.

**Christopher Sprague**, smitten by the annual Nova Scotia High School Drama Festival held at Dalhousie, enrolled in our

technical theatre program in the early 1980s. Now based in Calgary, he works on major film sets as a gaffer (head of the lighting department). Recent projects were *X-2*, *Rollerball*, *K-19: The Widowmaker*, and Oscar-winner *Brokeback Mountain*.



Theatre grad **Jennie Raymond**, BA’94, won a 2003 Gemini for best supporting actress for her role in the series *Blue Murder*. She also starred in the TV shows *Pit Pony*, *The Associates*, *Earth: Final Conflict* and *Show Me Yours*. She recently returned to Halifax to be co-artistic director/producer of Shakespeare by the Sea, filling a void left by the late acting professor Patrick Christopher-Carter.



Filmmaker **Eric Bednarski**, BA’99, is reaching audiences near and far with his provocative historical exploration of the legacy of the Second World War in such films as *Postcard from Auschwitz* and *The Last Witness*.

**Richard King**, BME’87, is senior recording engineer at Sony Music Studios in New York. He has several Grammy engineering awards for such albums as *Bernstein* (arr. Brohn & Corigliano): *West Side Story Suite* and the soundtrack for *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*.

**Andrew Killawee** and **Colin Hudson**, both BM’01, are on staff at Halifax’s Arcadia Films, which produces ocean-related documentaries for specialty channels such as Discovery and History Canada.

– Marla Cranston



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## MasterMinds lectures

While most of Dalhousie's campus was closed and quiet on Munro Day, Feb. 3, 2006, the McCain Building was abuzz with close to 100 Dalhousie alumni, faculty, staff and friends who gathered for the sixth instalment of the MasterMinds lecture series: "Intergenerational Justice and the Common Good: Challenges for Health Care," presented by Dr. **Nuala Kenny**.

Health care in all developed countries is in crisis, Dr. Kenny explained. Canada and the United States each face their own crises based on their different existing policies, and developing these policies is no easy feat. "Health care is of moral, ethical importance," noted Dr. Kenny. "Why is it such a hot topic? Because it protects our opportunity to pursue goals; it reduces pain and suffering; and it prevents the premature loss of life."

On April 19, the MasterMinds lecture series continued with "Can you hear me now? How animals communicate in a noisy world" presented by Dr. **Marty Leonard** - Dalhousie's "bird lady." A biology pro-

fessor and ornithologist, Dr. Leonard described our world of screeching brakes, blaring music and pounding surf from a bird's point of view.

Dr. Marty Leonard

Some birds, to avoid being drowned out completely, are making more of a racket themselves. How does this affect the bird-land? Leonard says a chick's begging signals relay important information to its parents. Begging takes a lot of energy. "If calling loudly adds to that cost," says Dr. Leonard, "then when nestlings are forced to shout above urban noise, they might have less energy for growth. If so, they could leave the nest in poor condition." Perhaps, a lesson in living a quieter gentler life for all of us.

MasterMinds will resume October 2006. See the fall issue of *Dalhousie* for more details.



Donald MacRae,  
varsity basketball  
1929

## Dalhousie athletics a family affair

When Duncan MacRae left the coal mines of Cape Breton to become a doctor in the early 1900s, he couldn't have known that he'd be kicking off a family tradition that would carry on for more than a hundred years.

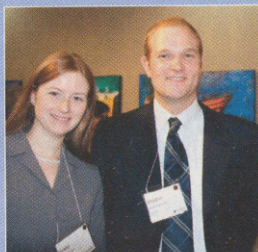
Duncan's enthusiasm for science and medicine was matched only by his drive to excel on the playing field. These two passions have become a cornerstone in the list of MacRae family traits.

Following in his father's footsteps, son Donald (BSc'30, MD'34) came to Dalhousie University to study medicine and while here played varsity basketball, rugby and ran track.

## Meet-and-greet out West

We headed west for get-togethers in Calgary and B.C. A good time was had by all!

### Vancouver reception



At the Winsor Gallery: (top) Krista Simon (LLB'02) and Shadrin Brooks (LLB'03); (above right) Curtis Cartmill (BSc'97) and Andrea Smith (BScK'99); (right) Paul Hemsley (MBA'89), David Stratton (MBA'90), Doug Boyce (MBA'90) and host Christopher Zed (BSc'87, MBA'90, DDS'94)



### Watch for fall events in the following cities:

Halifax • Truro • Ottawa • Toronto

Halifax: Dalhousie Annual Dinner - October 19, 2006

If you need information in planning a reunion for **Fall Reunion 2006 (October 19-20)**, e-mail [alumni.events@dal.ca](mailto:alumni.events@dal.ca) or call 902.494.8801 or 1.800.565.9969.

For other events, make sure to check our events schedule at [www.dal.ca/alumni](http://www.dal.ca/alumni) And let us know what you've been up to: [alumni.records@dal.ca](mailto:alumni.records@dal.ca)



## fair

His skill on the basketball court would lead to his becoming team captain in 1932.

Donald's inherited love of basketball would prove to be a welcome diversion from the rigours of his medical practice and clearly rubbed off on daughters Donna (BSc'62, MD'67) and Libby (BA'60, BEd'61). Donna captained the women's team in 1962 (as did her daughter Libby (BA'93) in 1992). Donald's other three daughters Helen (CPA'88), Peggy (MD'77) and Mary (BA'67, BEd'67) are also proud Dalhousians.

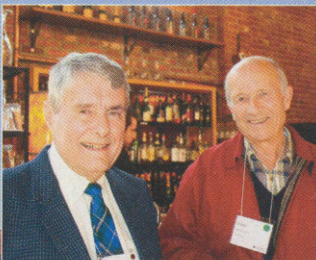
Now 96 years of age, and in the same year his granddaughter Leslie Leighton will

graduate from Dal with a BSc in kinesiology, Donald's love of sport endures. Through a recent gift of \$100,000 to Dalhousie's Athletic Endowment campaign, he has created the Dr. Donald M. MacRae Basketball Scholarship. The scholarship is a fitting legacy to this outstanding Dalhousie family.

You can now make your gifts to Dal on-line. Check it out at [www.dal.ca/giving](http://www.dal.ca/giving).

### Victoria reception

At the CANOE Brewpub, Marina and Restaurant: (left) host Vic Burstall (BCom'53, LLB'55) and Alan Clarke (BEng'59); (below) Jane Hollis (BEEd'66) and Audrey Madden

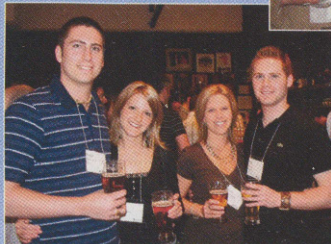


### Calgary lobster dinners

Sarah Palmer Plunkett (LLB'94), Tom Plunkett (MBA'94) and Rhonda Wishart (BSc'76, MSW'78, LLB'81)



Roger Connolly (BEng'05), April MacKinnon, Diane Chambers and Phil Perry (BEng'03)



### Too many cooks?

Stephen Morrison (BEng'94), Jon MacConnell (BEng'97), Sid Isnor (BEng'95) and Ralph McNeil (BEng'80)



Wendy Mullane (MBA'02)



## Annual Fund update

Congratulations ... it was our best year ever! Alumni and friends generously donated over \$1.924 million to the **2005 Annual Fund**. Annual Fund gifts are used by faculties and departments to improve and enhance the Dalhousie student experience. Hundreds of students will benefit thanks to you.

### Donating from the U.S.?

If you are a citizen or resident of the United States who is currently enrolled or was once a student at Dalhousie University, or who has had a family member (including spouse, child, grandchild, parent or sibling) enrolled at Dalhousie University at any time, you may donate online to Dalhousie at <http://alumniandfriends.dal.ca/usdonors.htm>.

### Bissett honoured

Dalhousie is pleased to share the news that David Bissett (LLB'62, LLD'03) has received the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAEE) Clearlight Wealth Management Friend of Education award. The award honours outstanding service or commitment to post-secondary education by a volunteer, organization, foundation, corporation or publication. We congratulate this long time friend and supporter of Dal on this much deserved recognition.

### Pharmacy '95 reunion



#### The College of Pharmacy Class of 1995

held its 10-year reunion in September 2005. The event was organized by Allison Callaghan and Michael Tucker and hosted at the Rodd Crowbush Resort on P.E.I. The weekend started with a meet-and-greet and slide show, followed by a weekend of activities such as golf, swimming, shopping and spa treatments. Nineteen alumni attended the weekend and all had a wonderful time reminiscing about days gone by!



## 1 9 5 4

**Nancy (Wickwire) Fraser**, BA, has published *Mysterious Brockville 2*, an enlarged, second edition of her original book of ghost tales. Friends can contact her at, [nwfraser@ripnet.com](mailto:nwfraser@ripnet.com).

## 1 9 5 8

**Mani Sundaram**, MENG (TUNS), DENG (TUNS)'84, was the sole recipient of an honorary doctor of philosophy degree (PhD) from the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirapalli, India, during its first convocation held in July. Mani works as a management consultant in the education, energy and environment industries.

## 1 9 6 2

**Penny Bennett**, BA, BED, BJ(K)'82, is returning to Africa as a WUSC volunteer where she will be working in Ghana as Gender Advocacy Advocate for Girls' Education. In 2004, Penny returned from Zimbabwe where she had lived and taught for the previous 22 years. Friends will be able to reach her at [penny.ghana@yahoo.ca](mailto:penny.ghana@yahoo.ca)

## 1 9 6 3

**Herman Cohen**, BA, received an honorary doctor of divinity (DD) on Nov. 17, 2005, at a special convocation at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. After 15 years of service, Rabbi Cohen recently retired as Jewish chaplain of the Bergen Regional Medical Centre and has a private practice as a licensed therapist and marriage counsellor in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

## 1 9 6 5

**William Bezanson**, BSC, BENG'67 (NSTC), MENG'69 (NSTC), published his first novel, *Why are Gas Prices So High?*, ([www.trafford.com/robots/05-3106.html](http://www.trafford.com/robots/05-3106.html)). William lives in Ottawa and can be contacted at [bezanson@sympatico.ca](mailto:bezanson@sympatico.ca).

## 1 9 7 3

**Lourdes Romano-Jana**, PGM, would like to say hello to everyone, especially to Dr. J.F.L. Woodbury, Dr. Langley and Dr. Davis. Since returning to the U.S., Dr. Romano-Jana practiced rheumatology and retired in 2001. Now living in Erie, Pennsylvania, Dr. Romano-Jana teaches part-time at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## 1 9 7 5

**Darlene Brackenreed**, BA, went on to pursue her BEd and MEd from Brandon University and just completed her PhD in April 2006 at the University of Regina.

## 1 9 7 8

**Allan Fairhurst**, BCOM, has moved from Sydney to Melbourne to take on the general manager role with SAP Australia. Allan recently spent three years at EDS and prior to that, 24 years with IBM. He is happily married to Julie (21 years) and has three children, 15, 12 and nine. Classmates and friends can contact him at [allan.fairhurst@sap.com](mailto:allan.fairhurst@sap.com).

## 1 9 8 2

**Kim Keohan**, BSC, is currently working for a cabinet minister in the Alberta provincial government. Kim moved to Alberta in 2003 after working for the Nova Scotia government for 14 years. She and her husband Rob own three retired greyhounds.

## 1 9 8 3

**Amy Campbell**, BED, has been posted by the Canadian Forces from Halifax to the 17 Wing Winnipeg as the Wing Ground Training Officer, one of just a couple lieutenants (Navy) in a sea of Air Force blue.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

### Tiger, Tiger burning bright: Karen Moore wins A.J. Sandy Young Award

It is 5 a.m., and as most of the world sleeps, **Karen Moore's** feet are already on the floor. This self-described 'golf addict' arranges her day so she can play 18 holes before work and, even with a young family and a full-time job, plays 35 to 40 rounds each summer.

Now recognized with the A. J. Sandy Young Award for her contribution to Nova Scotia sport as both an athlete and a coach, Karen (Fraser) Moore (BCom'86) is living her passion every day. The associate director of Dalhousie's department of Athletics and Recreational Services has had a long career in sport, first as an athlete competing for the Dalhousie Tigers and the national team, next as a coach and in her current role as an administrator.

Sport is her passion, participation in sport helped to shape her into the person she is today. "I learned so much about life, leadership, teamwork, time management, commitment and how to really work hard," she says. "Elite sport teaches you that you are capable of much more than you ever would have thought possible." It is this work ethic, drive and determination that she continues to pour into her everyday life and into the success of the athletic teams. She attends almost every sporting event Dalhousie hosts, and enjoys watching all the teams compete.

Winning the 1982 CIAU National Championship as the underdog team to a packed house at Dalplex was definitely a highlight for Ms. Moore, as was competing in the 1984 Olympics. "Marching into the stadium for the opening ceremonies . . . it was pretty emotional," she recalls. She was inducted into the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame in 1996 and again in 2002, as a team member of the 1982 Dalhousie Tigers volleyball team. Ms. Moore continued her commitment to volleyball through coaching, taking the helm of the Dalhousie women's program from 1986 through 1990.

Her own coaches were a big influence in her success, building up her self confidence, and promoting hard work. But she is quick to acknowledge her parents' role. "My parents were the most influential people



Photo: Pearce

in my life," she says. "I was very fortunate to have incredible support from home for all my activities, whether it was sport, school or personal development."

Speaking as a role model for today's youth, given that many could benefit from adopting an active lifestyle, Ms. Moore comments on another reward: "It gives them an automatic group of friends and teaches them how to get along with others through participation in team sports – a lesson all kids should learn."

– Keri Irwin

#### 1 9 8 6

**Murray Baillie**, MLS, is retiring as librarian at Atlantic Institution, a maximum security prison in Renous, N. B. For 17 years, Murray has operated the library with the help of inmate employees incarcerated for everything from murder to break and enter.

#### 1 9 8 7

**Lori MacLean**, BSc, BA'88, and Stephen Guy of Halifax are thrilled to announce the arrival

of their daughter, Olivia Belle, on Jan. 31, 2006. Dalhousie friends can connect with the MacLean-Guys at [macguy@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:macguy@hfx.eastlink.ca).

#### 1 9 8 9

**Edward "Ted" Cook**, MBA, was awarded a CFA designation in 1993, and then returned to complete an LLB in 1997. Ted is currently a tax consultant at the Department of Justice and his latest book, *Canadian Tax Research*, was published in December 2005.

He also teaches tax courses at the University of Ottawa Law School and resides in Ottawa with his wife and two daughters.

#### 1 9 9 0

**Bruce A. Gorman**, BSc, recently graduated from Syracuse University in New York with a master of science degree in information management and a graduate certificate of advanced study in information security management. He was honoured as an international scholar



and has authored an internationally published article on information security. In addition, he recently accepted the position of director of systems and technical services with Halifax Public Libraries.

**1 9 9 2**

**Charles Crosby**, BA, was short-listed in the first book category at the Atlantic Book Awards in April for his novel, *italics, mine*.

The novel, published by Norwood Publishing, is available in bookstores everywhere. More information: [www.charlescrosby.ca](http://www.charlescrosby.ca)

**1 9 9 3**

**Jennifer Purcell Martin**, CCS, and her husband Paul are proud to announce the birth of Clara Anne Mackenzie on Aug. 29, 2005, a sister for Jacob, aged three. Jennifer lives in Toronto and works as a freelance costumer.

Friends can contact them at [pfmartin@idirect.com](mailto:pfmartin@idirect.com).

**1 9 9 4**

**Michael Bowser**, BSc, has received the 2005 ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry Young Investigators in Separation Science Award for his contributions to capillary electrophoresis theory, high-speed separations and aptamer selection. Dr. Bowser was presented with this

## SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

### ‘Diamond Joe’ of the Canadian Arctic

Diamond exploration geologist **Joe Kidston** (BSc(Hon)'03) knows the beauty and the risks of working in Canada's North.

Camping six to eight months of the year, he has slept under the midnight sun and watched the northern lights dance across the sky. His favourite memory is time spent on Ellesmere Island.

"There are fossils and petrified tree trunks everywhere and there are just the most amazing mountains and glaciers and icebergs..." says Mr. Kidston, who works for Stornoway Diamond Corporation, a Canadian company based in Vancouver, B.C. "There were muskox galloping through the fields and there were polar

bears swimming through the waters, and just so many beautiful sights to see."

Mr. Kidston says the North has experienced a diamond rush since the early 1990s, "and there's still a lot more work to be done." He hikes the tundra, mapping rocks and sampling glacial till. The goal is to find kimberlite, the rock in which diamonds may be found.

He has experienced danger. Returning to camp in northern Quebec, a blizzard rolled in and his helicopter crashed into a river bank. Pilot and passengers huddled in what was left of the aircraft. On the third day, the storm abated and they were rescued.

While he was shaken, Mr. Kidston has since returned to the field. "I'll chalk that crash up to life experience and I'll chalk it up to sort of the true nature of the job up North."

"I loved it, I loved Dal," says Mr. Kidston, who fondly remembers his student days, particularly an honours field trip to Newfoundland. His honours thesis won him a gold medal in a national student essay competition sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum. This led to an introduction to his current employer.

When home in Spryfield, N.S., Mr. Kidston enjoys time with friends and family, including his twin brother, Art, a Dalhousie Earth sciences student (BSc'07) and his father, Art, a Dalhousie geology alumnus (BSc'75).

– Marie Weeren (BJ(K)'93)

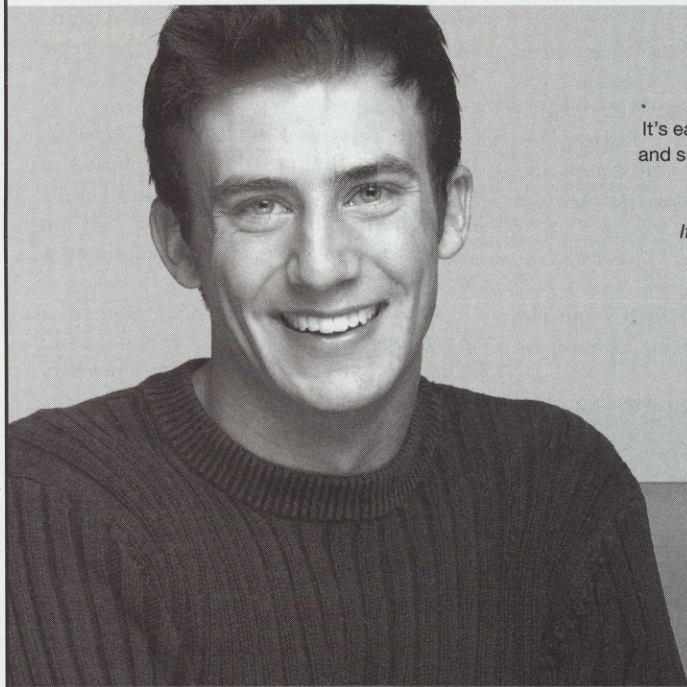


Photo: Abriell

Earth sciences grad Joe Kidston hikes the far North searching for kimberlite.



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award at a symposium in his honour at the 2006 PittCon meeting in March and is currently an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Minnesota. Michael would be delighted to hear from friends and classmates at [browser@chem.umn.edu](mailto:browser@chem.umn.edu).

**Andrea Pilichos**, BA, and **Stephen Graham**, BScPH'97, are happy to announce the birth of their son and brother for Nicoas, Andrew Stephen Graham, on Sept. 20, 2004, in Halifax, N.S.

## 1 9 9 6

**Darren MacDonald**, BScK, has been accepted into the Master of Science in ergonomics at the University of Derby (U.K.) starting in September 2006. Darren lives in Sydney, N.S., with his wife Susan and would love to hear from old classmates at [ddarrenmacdonald@mac.com](mailto:ddarrenmacdonald@mac.com).

## 1 9 9 7

**Sue Haywood**, BA, MA'05(RMC) and **Ian Davis**, LLB'98, were married in Copenhagen,

Denmark in May 2004. Sue is the Atlantic human resources manager for the Pepsi Bottling Group. Friends may contact her at [susan.haywood@ca.pepsi.com](mailto:susan.haywood@ca.pepsi.com).

**Angela Jones-Rieksts**, LLB, and husband, **Mark Rieksts**, LLB, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Cecilia Marie, born at the IWK in Halifax, N.S., on July 2, 2005, weighing 11lb 7oz, a little sister for Markus (3).

**Andrew James Kizas**, BA, completed a master's degree in music theory and a PhD in music graduate school at the University of Western Ontario. Andrew then completed his BEd at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, and is currently teaching music for the Toronto District School Board.

## 1 9 9 8

**Kathy Ann (Griffen) Losier**, BScPH, BSc'95, and husband **Pierre Losier**, PhD'95, announce the arrival of Noah Griffin on July 6, 2005, a little brother for Dominic Gilles, born on Apr. 5, 2003. Kathy Ann is the store manager/pharmacist at Lawton's in Shelburne, N.S., and Pierre is a process chemist at Bowater Mersey Paper Company in Liverpool. The Losiers reside in Port Mouton and invite friends to contact them at [bigblue@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bigblue@ns.sympatico.ca).

**Hessam Taherian**, PhD, is now the dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering for the University of Mazandaran, located in Babolsar, a city north of Iran. Hessam would like to say hello to all of his friends at Dalhousie.

**Marc Warner**, BA, and his wife, **Jody (Fitzpatrick) Warner**, BENG'98, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Luc Patrick, on Jan. 4, 2006, in Milton, Ontario. Friends can contact them at [marc\\_warner@hotmail.com](mailto:marc_warner@hotmail.com).

## 2 0 0 0

**Mary Ann (Kent) Haines**, MD, BSc'96, and **Craig Haines**, BCOM'97, are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first child, Shannon Kathleen, born Jan. 26, 2006. The Haines family currently lives in New York City, where Craig completed his MBA at Columbia University (2004) and is employed with Morgan Stanley. Mary Ann is a family physician with Motefiore Medical Group.

**Allison (Tooton) Himmelman**, BA, married Stephen Himmelman on Aug. 27, 2005, in St. John's, Newfoundland. After spending the past five years in Calgary, they have moved back to Halifax, where

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## Rx for a legacy of learning

**Gordon Duff's** quiet disposition and gentle manner belie the strength and depth of his commitment to Dalhousie's College of Pharmacy.

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Dr. Duff studied science and pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan before becoming one of only a few Canadians in the 1950s with a PhD in pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Florida '58).

After three years of teaching at the University of Saskatchewan, he was invited to Dalhousie in 1961 to become the first director of the newly established College of Pharmacy.

"Those early days were tough," says Dr. Duff, reflecting on the absence of a prepared curriculum and the shortage of supplies for the laboratories. "I was always impressed with the patience of the students. They were so eager to learn, they didn't seem to mind that we were still getting things set up." Dr. Duff remembers with a chuckle running to the Capitol Store nearby – where so many Dal students did their shopping in the '60s and '70s – to buy cleaning supplies and other necessities for the school.

When not in the classroom, Dr. Duff spent countless hours combing through drug store basements, storerooms and barns across Atlantic Canada retrieving an impressive collection of pharmacy-related artifacts.

His wonderful collection, which features everything from rare roots and herbs, to early medicinal preparations and even an old contraption for making suppositories, is now on permanent display in the J. Gordon Duff Pharmacy Museum.

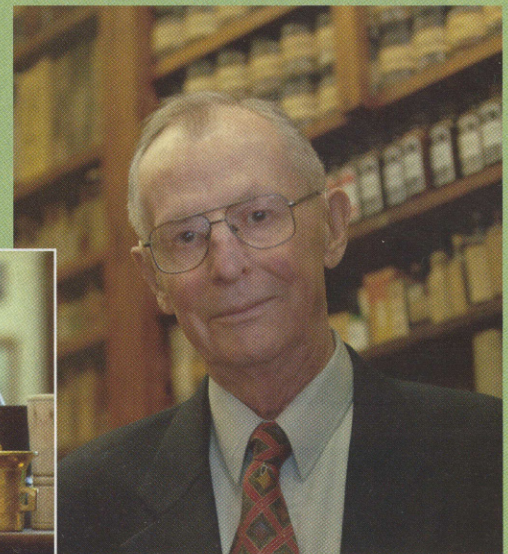
"The collection is truly a treasure," says the College's present-day director, Rita Caldwell. "Thanks to Gordon's tenacity and patience the

College can now ensure that every student will get a first hand look at where we've come from as a discipline and as a science. This will give them tremendous perspective as they move through their studies."

Dr. Duff has made provisions in his estate plan to ensure the museum will benefit future generations of students as they grow to become tomorrow's pharmacists.

The museum is located on the first floor of the Burbidge Building on Dalhousie's Carleton Campus.

– Ian Murray



Photos: Abriel

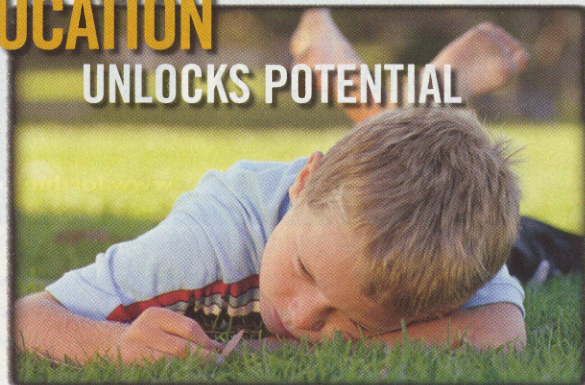
Allison works as alumni officer with Dalhousie's External Relations department. Allison looks forward to connecting with fellow alumni in her new position and can be reached at *Allison.Himmelman@dal.ca*.

**2 0 0 1**

**Keri (Irwin) Isenor**, BA'98, BCOM, married Andrew Isenor on May 13, 2006, at Ashburn Golf and Country Club in Halifax, N.S. The happy couple resides in Falmouth, N.S., where Andrew is the golf pro at Avon Valley. Keri is employed with Dalhousie as a communications and marketing manager and is a member of the Junior League of Halifax. Friends can contact her at *Keri.Irwin@dal.ca*.

**Carol Serroul**, BCSC, and her husband John would like to announce the arrival of Rilla Josephine on Nov. 13, 2005 – a little sister for Bronwyn.

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**Amy (Durant) Theriault**, BA, and **Denis Theriault**, BSc'00, were married in Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 8, 2005. Friends can contact them at [dgtheria@hotmail.com](mailto:dgtheria@hotmail.com).

### 2 0 0 2

**Dawn MacDonald**, BScK'99, BScR, is president of the Therapeutic Recreation Association of Atlantic Canada for 2006-2007. Dawn is a recreation therapist (C.T.R.S.) with Mental Health Services at Capital Health in Halifax, N.S.

### 2 0 0 3

**Sandy Lancelot**, PhD, and her husband, Chris Lock, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Morgan Victoria Lock, on Sep. 10, 2006, weighing in at 8 lbs.

## I N M E M O R I A M

**Alan MacKenzie "Mack" James**, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, West Vancouver, B.C., on Jan. 21, 2006.

**William Y. Mannette**, MEDICINE, Dartmouth, N.S., on Dec. 22, 2005.

**Gertrude Irene (Phinney) (Young) Beattie**, BA'29, Wolfville, N.S., on Mar. 8, 2006.

**Norman Gerald Gray**, BENG'29 (NSTC), Ottawa, Ont., on Sept. 27, 2005.

**Austin Everett MacDougall**, BA'30, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 28, 2006.

**Arthur Alexander Baird**, BCom'33, BA'62, Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 26, 2006.

**Joseph Gesner Kerr**, BENG'36, Ladner, B.C., on Apr. 24, 2006.

**Leonard Arthur Kitz**, LLB'38, LLD'80 (K), Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 30, 2006.

**Donald William Ramsay**, MD'38, Calgary, Alta., on Aug. 15, 2005.

**Brian O. Black**, MD'41, Lethbridge, Alta., on Dec. 23, 2000.

**Elaine Allison Borden (Dickie) MacIntosh**, DED'42, Toronto, Ont., on Jan. 22, 2006.

**Donald Archibald Burris**, DENGR'43, BENG'45 (NSTC), Vancouver, B.C., on Dec. 4, 2005.

**Verne Allister Graham**, DENGR'44, BENG'45 (NSTC), Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on Feb. 26, 2006.

**Burnell "Burnie" Cox**, BENG'44 (NSTC), Calgary, Alta., on Feb. 25, 2006.

**Roberta Bailey (Campbell) Miller**, MSc'45, Toronto, Ont., on Nov. 9, 2005.



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**Keith. C. Bishop**, BENG'45 (NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 29, 2005.

**Raymond Vincent "Ray" Beck**, BENG'46 (NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on Mar. 25, 2006.

**Athena D. Morgan**, BSc'47, DED'49, Halifax, N.S., on Mar. 13, 2006.

**Frederick Donald Butler**, BENG'48 (NSTC), Carbonear, Nfld., on April 24, 2005.

**Irvine I. Tingley**, BSc'48, MSc'49, Wisconsin, U.S.A., on Dec. 10, 2005.

**Bernard T. Burke**, BENG'49 (NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 7, 2006.

**Newcomb S.J. Bloomer**, BA'50, MA'51, Duncan, B.C., on Mar. 6, 2006.

**Gerald Frederick Mader**, PENG, BENG'50 (NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on Apr. 30, 2006.

**James Donald Reardon**, LLB'50, Yarmouth, N.S., on Apr. 30, 2006.

**John Darrell "Jack" Dunn**, BENG'51 (NSTC), Castlegar, B.C., on Jan. 30, 2006.

**Harold Vernon MacKay**, MD'51, Peterborough, Ont., on Feb. 7, 2006.

**William K. "Bill" Murphy**, BENG'51 (NSTC), Sydney, N.S., on Dec. 10, 2005.

**Roy Walcott Davis**, DDS'52, Truro, N.S., on Feb. 22, 2006.

**John "Henry" Fraser**, MD'52, New Glasgow, N.S., on Mar. 22, 2005.

**J. Fraser Mooney**, DPHRM'52, Yarmouth, N.S., on Jan. 5, 2006.

**J.A.B. "Sandy" Bannerman**, DENGR'53, BENG'55 (NSTC), Montreal, Que., on Feb. 2, 2006.

**Arthur Stuart "Art" Blanchard**, DENGR'53, (NSTC), Lunenburg Co., N.S., on Dec. 8, 2005.

**Raymond Leslie Bugden**, MD'53, Saint John's, Nfld., on Nov. 26, 2005.

**James Donald Hodd**, BENG'56 (NSTC), Kettleby, Ont., in July 2005.

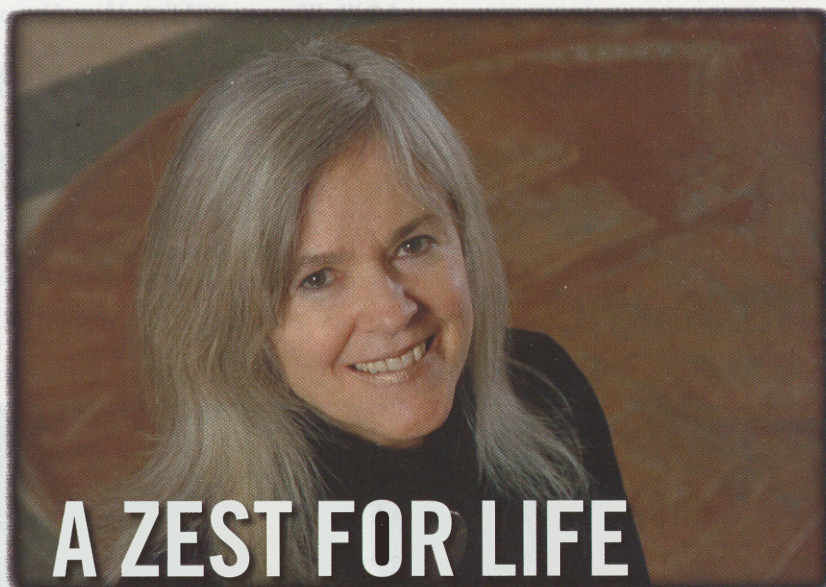
**James Allen "Mac" McCarthy**, BCOM'57, on Mar. 29, 2006.

**Natalie Hope Watts**, DPHRM'59, Fredericton, N.B., on Nov. 20, 2005.

**Gerald Keohan**, BENG'60 (NSTC), Oakfield, Ont., on Mar. 20, 2006.

**Anna O'Neill**, PGM'60, Bridgewater, N.S., on Feb. 7, 2006.

**Ian Douglas Rae**, BENG'60 (NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 3, 2006.



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**Donald Melville Aitken**, MD'61, Toronto, Ont., on Jan. 20, 2006.

**Barbara O'Neal**, BED'61, Ottawa, Ont., on Mar. 15, 2006.

**Jean Johnston**, DPH'62, Saint John, N.B., on Oct. 29, 2004.

**Gordon N. Kent**, LLB'62, DENG'04, Halifax, N.S., on Jun. 21, 2005.

**Kevin Francis McManus**, BENG'62 (NSTC), Calgary, Alta., on Dec. 13, 2006.

**J.R.W. Wynne**, PGM'62, West Vancouver, B.C., on Jan. 6, 2006.

**Leo James Hobin**, BED'64, Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 11, 2006.

**Dennis Ross Thompson**, DED'64, BED'69, BA'69, Herring Cove, N.S., on May 17, 2005.

**Patricia "Pat" Dunn**, DPH'65, DNSA'71, Bathurst, N.B., on June 23, 2005.

**Donald William MacLean**, BSc'66, BED'66, MA'71, Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 26, 2006.

**John Edward Howard**, MD'67, Antigonish, N.S., on Mar. 13, 2006.

**Rene Anthony MacEachern**, BENG'67 (NSTC), MBA'68, Bedford, N.S., on Mar. 9, 2006.

**Robert Fletcher Shaw**, DENG'67 (NSTC), Montreal, Que., on Mar. 22, 2001.

**Louise H. Simmons**, BSc'67, Kingston, Ont., on May 3, 2006.

**Peter Bruce Gunn**, LLB'69, Sydney, N.S., on Feb. 16, 2006.

**Michael Cooke**, LLB'71, Q.C., Halifax, N.S., on Feb. 11, 2006.

**Wayne Patrick Cooke**, MSCPE'72, Glace Bay, N.S., on Mar. 16, 2006.

**Sandra Louise (Humphrey) Lewis**, BA'72, BED'74, MED'83, Halifax, N.S., on May 1, 2006.

**Gregory Ian North**, LLB'73, Q.C., Halifax, N.S., on Mar. 13, 2006.

**Heather Lynn MacLeod-LaFosse**, BSc'74, Coxheath, N.S., on Mar. 18, 2006.

**John Barry Powell**, BA'74, BED'76, Moncton, N.B., on Mar. 3, 2006.

**Leslie Katharyne Embrett**, BA'75, BED'76, Ottawa, Ont., on Mar. 27, 2006.

**Brian Ouellette**, MSW'75, Saint John, N.B., on Dec. 9, 2005.

**Michael Bernard Bryden**, BENG'77 (NSTC), Sydney, N.S., on Jan. 22, 2006.

**Mary Arabel (Ross) Felderhof**, DPH'78, Truro, N.S., on Feb. 27, 2006.

**Andrew Deverne Lloy**, BCOM'78, Dartmouth, N.S., on Mar. 1, 2006.

**Alexander W. "Sandy" MacDougall**, PGM'82, Duntroon, Ont., on Feb. 22, 2006.

**David John Gibbs**, MBA'82, Victoria, B.C., on Dec. 25, 2005.

**Glyn Berry**, PhD'81, Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Jan. 15, 2006.

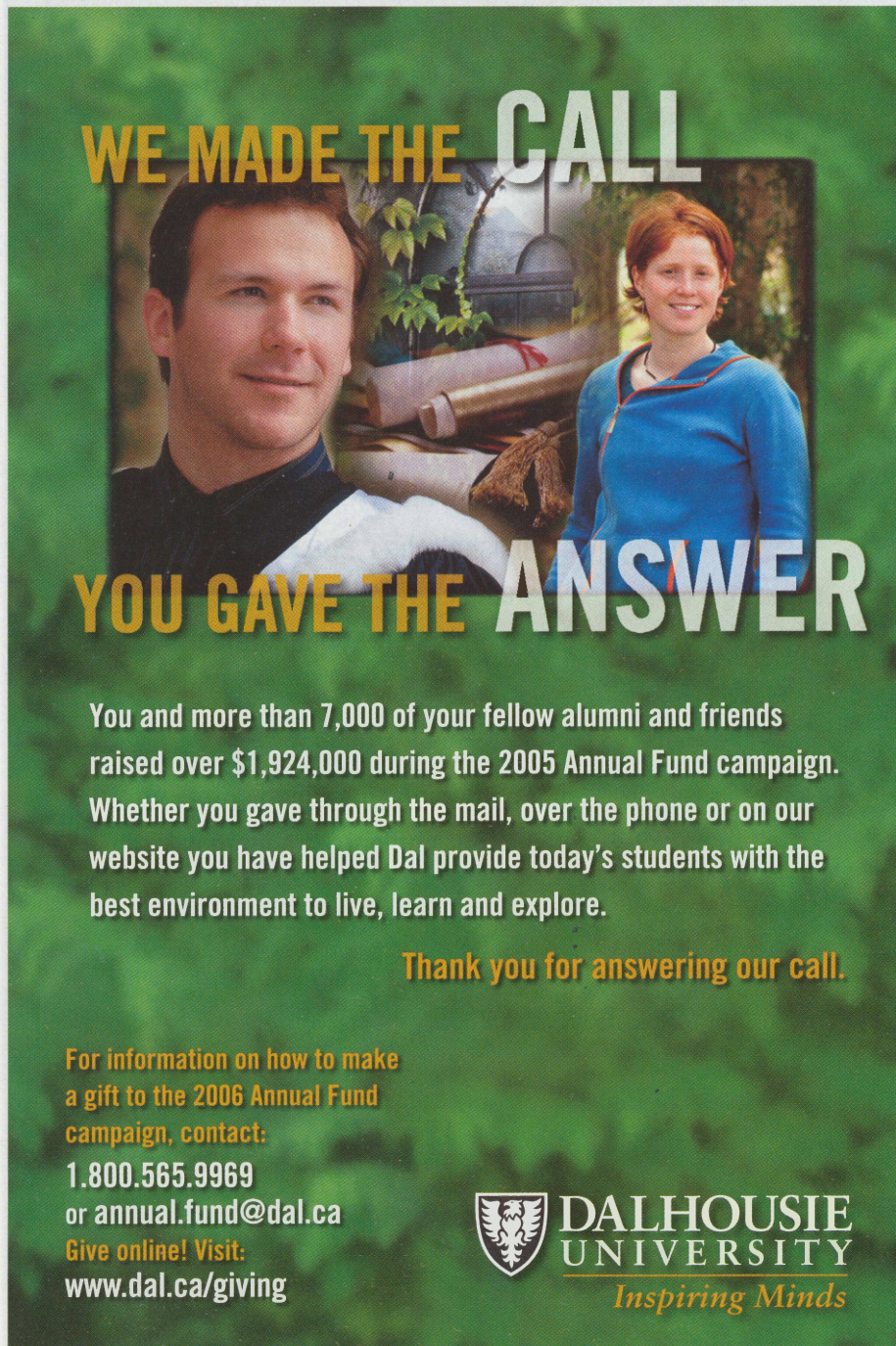
**Roy Brent Amero**, BSc'80, Sherwood Park, Alta., on Feb. 16, 2006.

**Susan Louise (Dauphinee) Wood**, BA'80, Halifax, N.S., on Mar. 17, 2006.

**Barbara (Muss) Morrison**, MAT'91, Truro, N.S., in December 2005.

**Tarel Quandt**, LLB'93, Vancouver, B.C., on Feb. 25, 2006.

**Nicholas Shackleton**, LLD'96, Cambridge, Great Britain, on Jan. 24, 2006.




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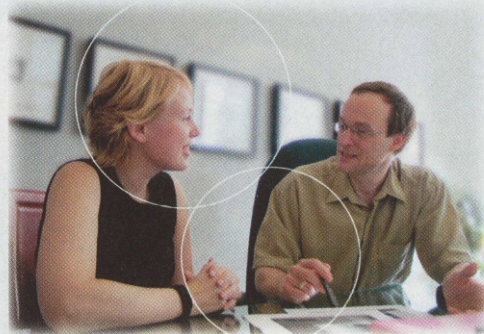
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## Building balance

High-altitude architect finds his muse in nature and culture

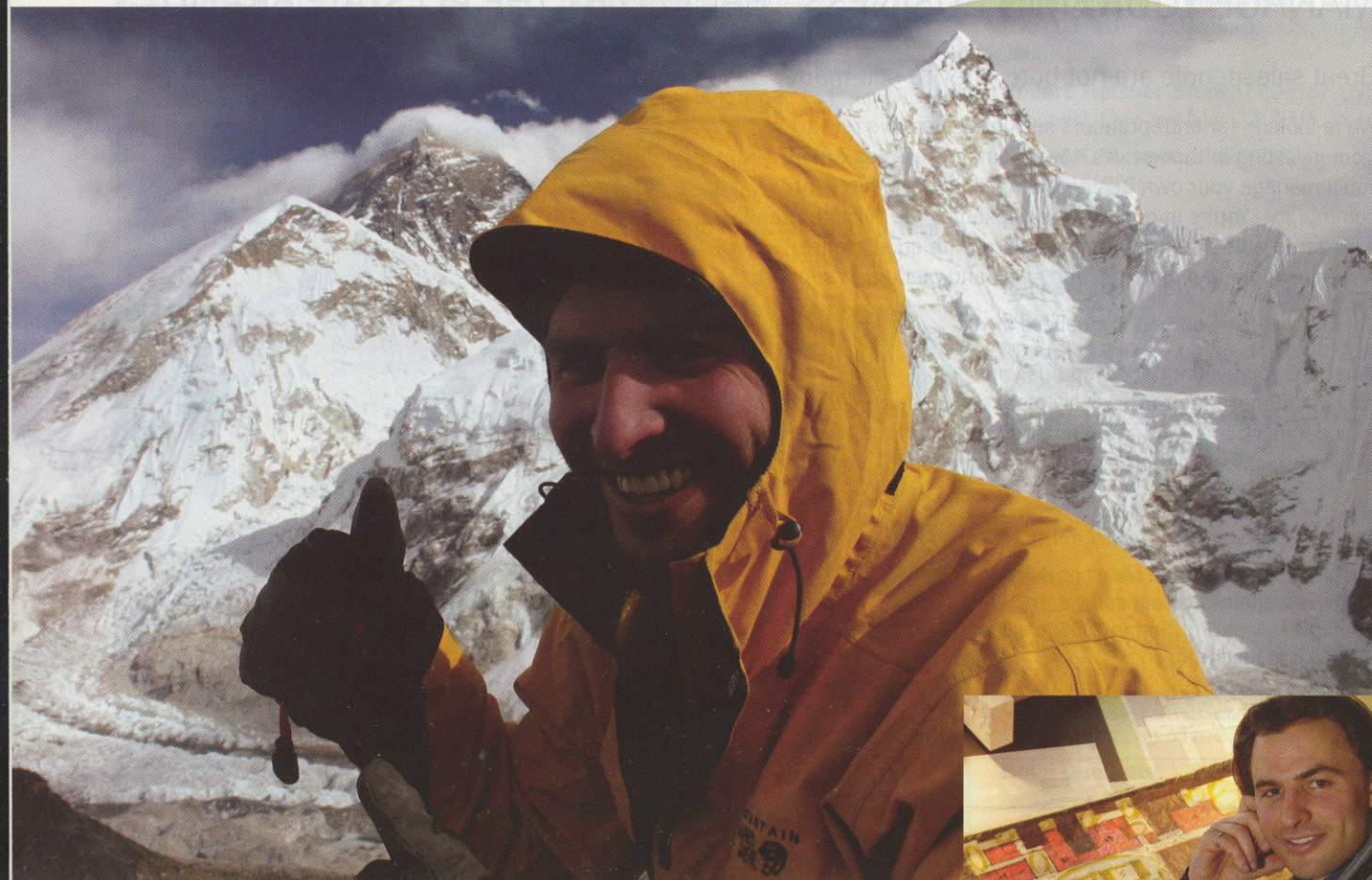


Photo: Lamontagne



Photo: Abriel

**Name:** Etienne Lemay  
**Hometown:** Montreal, Québec  
**Personal Passions:** Canoeing, swimming, biking, sailing, singing, dancing; travel and mountain climbing – even Mount Everest (base camp) and soon, Kilimanjaro!

**Notable Achievements:** Top national award with Dal architecture team that built Le Théâtre Petit Cercle, an innovative children's amphitheatre in Cheticamp; work terms with famed architects Brian MacKay-Lyons in Halifax and Balkrishna Doshi in Ahmedabad, India; 2005 AIA Scholarship.

**Next up:** Working this summer in Maasai Mara area, Kenya, building a children's amphitheatre with Free the Children, a community development organization.

**"I love being active, outside. It's about peace and balance, and it's good for the brain and the heart. It's easier to work hard when you're taking care of the other stuff."**

I like to think architecture is about care and love – creating harmony among humans and with nature. • My thesis rethinks housing density within existing infrastructure, using laneways as new urban habitats where people can interact and share space. It's my reaction against suburban growth and the extensive use of cars. It's about physical and mental health. • I strongly believe in sustainable architecture and recycled building materials, reusing things people throw away. • My role models are Rural Studio cofounder Samuel Mockbee, who built structures with license plates and car windshields, and Dal professor Richard Kroeker, who works closely with the community to use local ideas and building materials. His approach is really rooted in the place and the people. • Design has the power to change things, and we are here to make this world a better place to live.

*Research: Marla Cranston*



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† As of January 2005, there were 2.47 million self-employed Canadians out of a total of 16.057 million in the labour force. There was also a 1.6% increase in self-employment from January 2004 to January 2005. Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, February 2005.

\* Not available to Québec residents.

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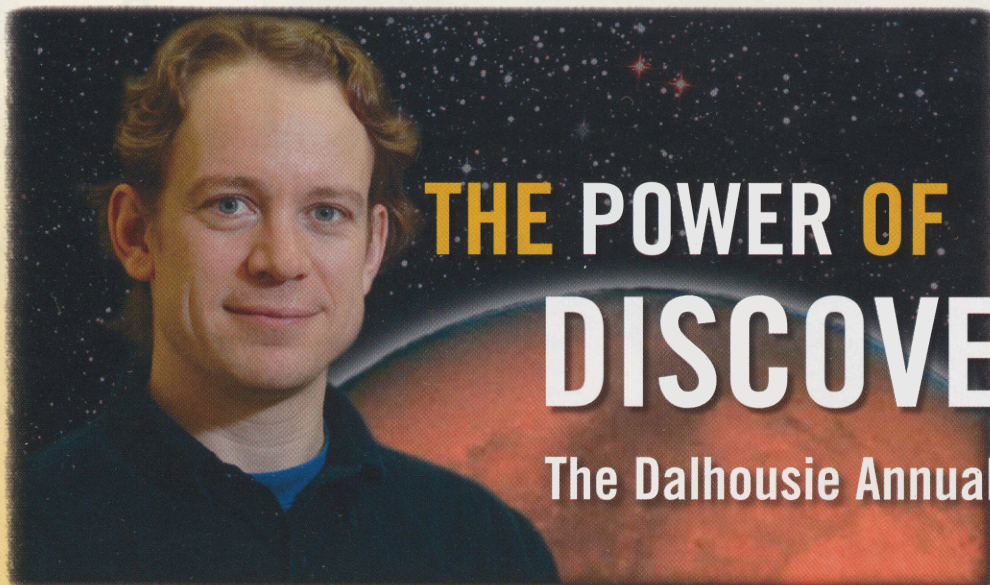
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