

Dalhousie

M A G A Z I N E

THE doctors GIACOMANTONIO

LIFE AND
DEATH
MATTERS

DYLAN
FOREVER YOUNG

RESEARCHING FOR
BETTER
HEALTH

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On our cover

It's a family affair for medical specialists Mike, Carman and Nick Giacomantonio. The family photo session was shot by Nick Pearce, of Dalhousie's Creative Services.

10

Family ties

At various times, brothers Mike, Carman and Nick Giacomantonio have all studied at Dalhousie Medical School, where they are currently teaching. That's in addition to their clinical practices. Mike is a pediatric surgeon, Carman is an oncology surgeon and Nick is a cardiologist. The trio share humour and insights about family life in Whitney Pier.

by Marilyn Smulders



14

Lessons from the departed

Students are learning life-saving procedures in emergency medicine, surgery and anaesthesia by practising critical skills on cadavers, a new method of teaching anatomy and clinical skills. Issues of ethics and morality relating to identity, sex, gender, life and death will be examined by students in a new course: "Embodying the Body: The Human Body for Anatomists and Humanists."

by Cindy Bayers



16

Ballad of a Thin Man

Some influences remain iconic even while the times they are A-changin'. Now the Millennial generation is connecting with one of the most influential voices in 20th-century popular culture by signing up for "English 2250: Bob Dylan and the Literature of the '60s." And you say, "Who is that man?"

by Sandy MacDonald

DEPARTMENTS

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| FROM THE EDITOR | 2 |
| UPFRONT ON CAMPUS | 4 |
| DALUMINI | 28 |
| CLASS NOTES | 34 |
| THE BACK STORY | 40 |



20

Research that matters

Across the university, research teams of professors and graduate students carry out investigations that will improve human health – from understanding the root causes of heavy drinking, to the prevention of bacterial food contamination. A closer look at these and other intriguing studies is provided from the latest edition of *OutFront* magazine, produced by Research Services.

by Julia Watt



From the Editor

Laugh lines

My father's over-the-top rendition of *Green Eggs and Ham* used to bring down the house. Of course, the house was just me and my two younger sisters, but we made up for our numbers with enthusiastic encore 'requests' for Sam-I-Am. I'm sure my father could recite the lines from memory even now.

That's the whole idea behind a lively approach to teaching ancient languages. Classicist Christopher Grundke has literally taken a page from well-thumbed children's books to demonstrate that language acquisition can be mindful and light-hearted. (See "*I would not eat them on a boat!*" Page 9). And as a result, university students in his classroom quickly find themselves reading and translating Latin.

Our cover story on the Giacomantonios begins with their childhood in industrial Cape Breton. They were raised in an immigrant family that stressed the value of an education. In fact, their mother would even call in a relative to quiz them before their school exams. Now an oncologist, a cardiologist and a pediatric surgeon, they describe the route from Whitney Pier to Halifax (See "*Family ties*," Pages 10-13).

Like countless other patients in the region, I've benefited from a connection with this family. Thinking back, it must have been Carman who operated on me a few years ago. The memory is a bit of a blur now — after all, for most of our encounter one of us was under anaesthetic. Still, there's that tidy little scar line, a reassuring reminder of the successful surgery.

What's not the slightest bit hazy is how relieved I felt to have access to such a highly qualified medical specialist here in Halifax. A lot of that has to do with their various orbits around Dalhousie, where all studied and now teach. The medical faculty is nestled in the heart of the hospital complex and plays a pivotal role in training and recruiting such specialists for the region.

Their lives are interwoven, first with the patients they're treating; second, with the next generation of medical doctors they're mentoring; and last, but certainly not least, with one another's families.

The closing word will go to another father, Jim Meek, a proud guest at his daughter's graduation: "But as parents, we still knew what we needed to know: that these teachers were passionate about learning and students."

Amanda



Dalhousie

MAGAZINE

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As the daughter of immigrant parents who placed a high regard on education, **Marilyn Smulders** can relate to the story of the doctors Giacomantonio. She toils at Dalhousie's Communications and Marketing with hopes of sending her own three kids to university.

Sandy MacDonald is a Halifax-based freelance writer, who has written extensively on the vibrant regional music scene for many years. Sandy reviewed Bob Dylan's concerts in Halifax, and would happily line up to see him again.



Julia Watt is the editor for *OutFront* magazine, which is produced for the Office of Research Services.

Thanks to **Jane Lombard** and **Doreen Saint Onge**, of Dalhousie's Creative Services. Doreen made arrangements for photography sessions with **Danny Abriel** and **Nick Pearce**, whose images are showcased throughout the magazine. Jane continues to provide a guiding hand on production coordination.

Brian Harrison, a partner with Halifax-based Trivium Design, enlivened this edition of the magazine with his design expertise.

Dalhousie Medical Communications, and writer/editor **Betsy Chambers** supplied a number of stories for this edition. Thanks also to **David Grandy Photography** for the Everest Project photos. **Pebble Communications**, and **Cindy Bayers**, work in association with the Faculty of Medicine.

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Parents **Jim Meek** and **Maureen Meek**, together with **Dr. Heather Meek** and her grandmother **Margaret Deyoung**.

Guestview

Relatively speaking

For me, the Dalhousie Arts Centre auditorium was filled with ghosts on October 20. As our daughter Heather crossed the stage to pick up her degree, my late Mother smiled from the wings. Heather's grandfathers — both gone to a better place — sat reading newspapers in their celestial easy chairs, parked just offstage for the occasion.

That's the thing about convocation: Even the dead relations show up to take credit, as they should. It takes at least three generations of readers to produce an English literature scholar as accomplished as Heather Meek, whose doctoral thesis made sense of 18th-century medical and literary texts on hysteria.

Heather's living grandparent, Margaret Deyoung, also sat in the auditorium that day, after making the necessary journey from Upper Pomquet. Margaret's a spirited Acadian woman who taught Heather's mom to read when she was barely out of diapers.

During the ceremony, I thought of Margaret and Maureen, mother and daughter, falling asleep over a shared book on a weekday afternoon in 1954.

And of Maureen crossing the same stage in 1994 with a Dalhousie degree earned after our rich,

restless life together had finally slowed down enough to give her a chance to study.

And of Heather's twin brother Colin, another

What does Dalhousie mean to us, as parents of children...

Dalhousie graduate who spent his salad days playing cello in the dusky old studios of the arts centre.

What does Dalhousie mean to us, as parents of children who graduated from the university almost 10 years apart? Just this: that Heather and Colin both left the school with a surer sense of themselves, and of what was true and good in the world. This may define a sentimental idea of a proper education, but it's still a sound one.

Thanks to teachers like Walter Kemp, Lynn Stodola and cellist Shimon Walt, Colin was able to take his cello and his growing confidence from the basement studios of the arts centre to graduate school at the University of Michigan.

Heather, who thinks she's lucky and is just starting to figure out that she's good, has taken her love of teaching to the Université Sainte-Anne at Church Point, where she lives in a small flat on the shore, a few metres above the high tides of Fundy.

I risk leaving someone out in a list of Dalhousie people who helped Heather, but I'll still name Judith Thompson, Jock Murray, David McNeil and Trevor Ross.

Like Colin, Heather was taught by professors who were — as great professors always are — cranky and brilliant, eccentric and inspiring. But as parents, we still knew what we needed to know: that these teachers were passionate about learning and their students.

So there you have it: For two decades, Dalhousie has gathered us in, shepherded us together, rounded out our lives. And now it has scattered our young. For us, this is a sad and fiercely joyful thing. And just offstage, the spirits that follow us through life understand, smile, and turn another page.

Upfront on campus

Hope for the winter weary

Brace yourselves.

That was the message blared in headlines across the country. Newspapers announced this would be the coldest, snowiest winter Canada has seen in years, thanks to La Niña. It was unwelcome news for winter-weary Canadians, envisioning stormy traffic gridlocks and extra back-breaking hours of shovelling.

But Tom Duck of Dalhousie's Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science says there's more to the story. "If you look at the Environment Canada data, it actually suggests that La Niña will make the winter snowier and slightly warmer across much of Canada."

"From what we've seen so far in Nova Scotia, this winter doesn't look significantly colder than in past years," he says. For instance, he notes the average temperature in Nova Scotia in November is traditionally 4.5 C degrees. "This year, our actual temperature in November

averaged 3 degrees Celsius, which is close to the temperature range you'd normally expect," he says, noting the data is not yet available for December.

La Niña and El Niño are naturally occurring phenomena that happen when the ocean's surface interacts with the atmosphere over the tropical Pacific. Changes in these surface temperatures affect tropical rainfall patterns and winds, which in turn impact weather patterns around the world.

While it is true that during the better-known El Niño, temperatures tend to be a bit warmer across the country, La Niña events can cause snowier and somewhat warmer conditions, relative to the average. Dr. Duck says this tends to happen in western and eastern regions of the country.

"In Nova Scotia, the climatology shows that there isn't much of an effect at all in either temperatures or snowfall. Any given year might be different but from historical data, we would conclude that La Niña likely won't have an effect on this year's weather in Nova Scotia," he says.

He adds there are many other factors that contribute to weather in any given season. Dawn Morrison

Choosing to serve

When Jim Huddleston leaves his home in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia to join the Canadian military forces in Afghanistan, he'll be putting his Dalhousie life on hold – both his teaching position with the College of Continuing Education and the Bachelor of Computer Science degree that he is close to finishing.

"I just wanted to help as much as I could," he explains of his decision to join the mission. "I thought I could contribute more by going overseas myself and hopefully help the Afghan people get on their own feet, which is mainly what our mission is about."

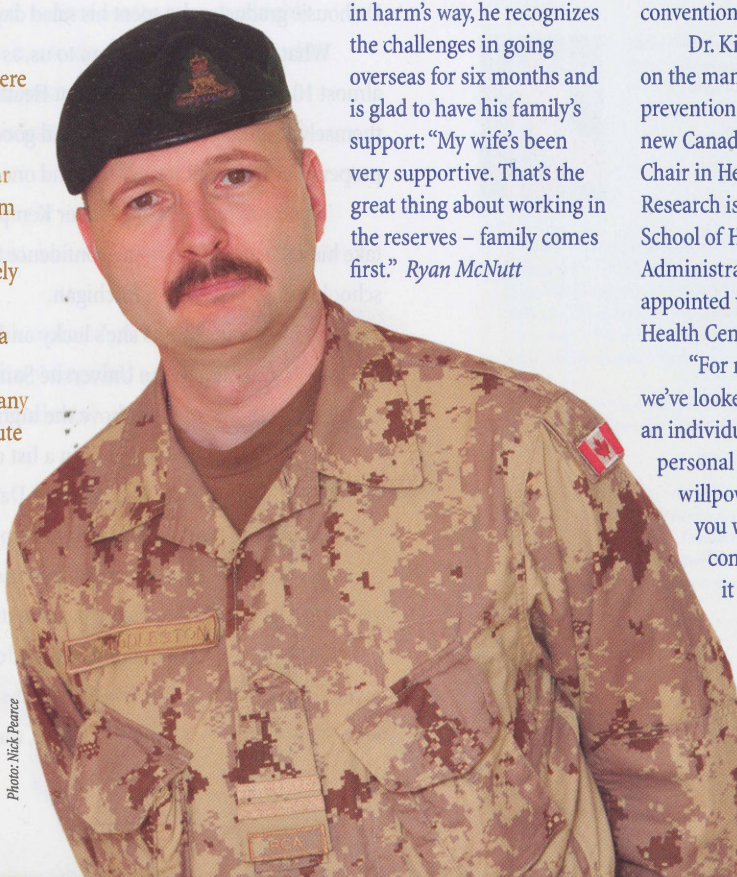


Photo: Nick Pearce

Since 2005, Mr. Huddleston has been teaching courses in computer networking at the Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School through a contract with Dalhousie Continuing Education. The Dalhousie program employs over a dozen instructors to provide technical training to Canadian Armed Forces members in Halifax.

A reservist with almost 20 years of Armed Forces experience, Mr. Huddleston volunteered to join the Afghanistan task force this February as the Adjutant of the All Source Intelligence Centre. He will be responsible for personnel, logistics and training concerns at the ASIC, a company-sized organization that provides intelligence support to the Canadian Forces in theatre.

While he doesn't expect to be leaving the Kandahar Air Field, nor to be directly in harm's way, he recognizes the challenges in going overseas for six months and is glad to have his family's support: "My wife's been very supportive. That's the great thing about working in the reserves – family comes first." Ryan McNutt

Larger than life

Bridget Jones steps on the scale every morning, vowing to become svelte — only to confide her personal dieting failures to her diary that evening. Author Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary* resonated with women near and far.

Like Bridget, Sara Kirk hails from the United Kingdom and is fascinated with weight management. If they ever had the chance to meet, she would have some comforting words: "It's not all your fault, Bridget." If Bridget is taken aback at the suggestion, she's not alone — it runs contrary to conventional wisdom.

Dr. Kirk is an expert on the management and prevention of obesity. The new Canada Research Chair in Health Services Research is with Dalhousie's School of Health Services Administration and is cross-appointed with the IWK Health Centre.

"For many years, we've looked at weight as an individual problem. It's a personal responsibility — willpower, call it what you will. The general consensus still is that it is an individual problem, one that should not be medicalized," says Dr. Kirk.



Photo: Darryl Abried

The destructive human footprint

For years, scientists couldn't agree on what was causing the alarming degradation of coral reefs worldwide. Is it climate change? Overfishing? Runoff from agriculture? Sewage outfall?

"The degradation of coral reefs is well documented, yet the underlying causes remain debated," says Camilo Mora, post-doctoral fellow at Dalhousie.

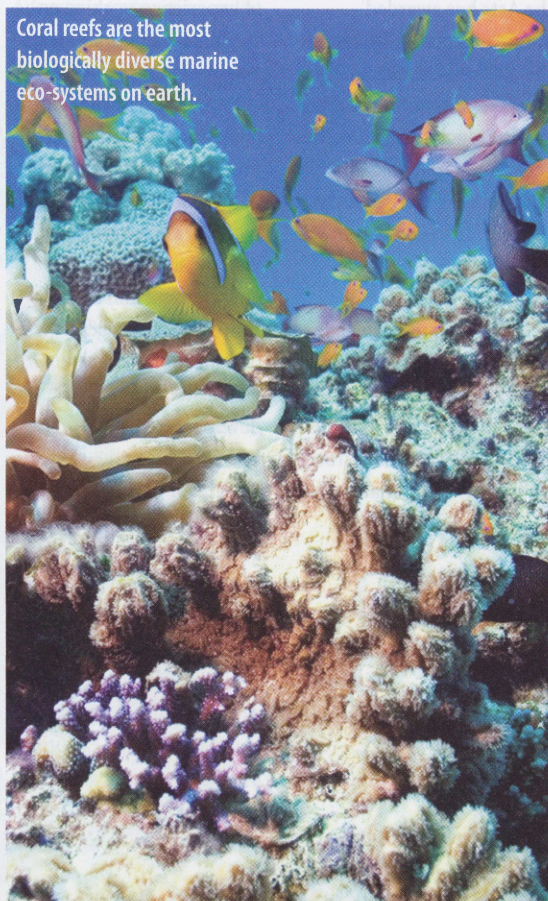
A new study authored by Dr. Mora and Robert Ginsburg, at the University of Miami, took an in-depth look at coral reef ecosystems in the Caribbean and concluded coral reefs are in decline due to their proximity to human activity.

"In essence, all the factors — climate change, overfishing, agricultural land use — affect the reefs the same amount," says Dr. Mora, reached in his native Colombia. "And all these factors are related to each other because they are caused by humans."

The study has just been published in *Proceedings B*, a prestigious biological research journal from The Royal Society.

"The future of coral reefs in the Caribbean depends on how soon countries in the region become seriously committed to regulating human threats," says Dr. Mora.

Coral reefs are the most biologically diverse marine eco-systems on earth.



"Actually, there's a huge body of literature that's coming out now that says we need to look at the culture and the environment."

Various avenues of research will provide answers for different aspects of the issue. Her first Halifax-based study, funded through the IWK Health Centre, is looking at environmental factors — access to green spaces, access to food — that may contribute to obesity in children.

"We've got to move away from the individual and look at it as a societal problem and address it at multiple levels. We need to accept that there's no one solution to the problem, it's a complex problem and it needs complex solutions," she says.

Dr. Kirk expects huge implications for how we prevent and manage obesity in Nova Scotia and across Canada.

So, take heart, Bridget. You're far from alone — and now, you've found a champion in Sara Kirk.
Amanda Pelham



Photo: Darryl Abried

PhD students Michael Jakubinek (Physics) and Andrew Ritchie (Chemistry) admire Mary Anne White's "dancing raisins" experiment.

Ions in the fire

I heard it through the grapevine ... raisins actually can dance.

Just take a couple of raisins and plop them in a clear glass filled with colourless soda, like 7-Up or Sprite. Then sit back and watch the raisins shimmy and shake, sink and then rise and start all over again.

Chemistry professor Mary Anne White uses this simple experiment to explain buoyancy. "I did this experiment, maybe 20 years ago," says Dr. White. "And I can still remember the looks on the kids' faces. They were saucer-eyed."

Dr. White is the director of Dalhousie's Institute of Research in Materials. Her research explores the heat-conducting properties of materials, including elephant tusks, crystals and cement.

She loves to teach, in the broadest sense. She's a regular contributor on CBC Radio's *Maritime Noon*, a frequent guest of CBC's science show *Quirks & Quarks* and has appeared on Discovery Channel's *How Things Work*. She's written textbooks, journal articles and activity booklets, and the latter have been distributed to thousands of kids by the Canadian Society for Chemistry. She's given an early morning lecture on science — in the "Bacon and Eggheads" series — to MPs and senators in Ottawa.

The trick is to strip out the jargon and explain concepts in words everyone can understand. Thus "thermochromic properties of materials" becomes "materials that change colour with the temperature." The other important thing is to respect the audience, she says.

Her efforts haven't gone unnoticed. Donald Ramsay, a researcher emeritus at the National Research Council, nominated her for a special award of the Royal Society of Canada. It was a touching and generous gesture. When Dr. White accepted the McNeil Medal, she thought of Dr. Ramsay, who recently passed away.

Dr. White joins some prestigious company; previous winners include David Suzuki, *Quirks & Quarks* host Bob MacDonald and the Discovery Channel's Jay Ingram.

"When you talk to people about science, they ask questions about things that we scientists didn't even think about. I find it refreshing. It makes me think," says Dr. White.

Upfront on campus

A veggie tale of "Arcimboldoolittles"

If Giuseppe Arcimboldo was alive today, he'd probably be using Photoshop to create his famous portraits, grotesque faces made of vegetables and other foodstuffs.

Scientist Ford Doolittle gives a knowing wink to the 16th-century Italian painter as he takes on the job. He's pieced together portraits of "science superheroes" — Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein and Charles Darwin — using photographs taken at Pete's Frootique and the Halifax Farmers' Market.

Darwin, who devised the Tree of Life to explain evolution, is depicted with a bib lettuce beard and a turnip nose. Einstein's shock of wild white hair is created from leek roots and his bugged-out eyes are mushrooms. But from across the gallery (the portraits were on display last December at the Dalhousie Art Gallery as part of the 54th annual Student, Staff, Faculty and Alumni Exhibition) you wouldn't be able to tell: with a passing glance, they look like conventional colour portraits.

Through his art, Dr. Doolittle probes the similarities between the scientific and artistic realms. Dr. Doolittle, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Microbial Genomics and a part-time student of photography at NSCAD University, believes the two worlds aren't as different as they might first appear.

Like Darwin, whose Tree of Life imposed a rigid hierarchal pattern on evolutionary biology, Dr. Doolittle finds patterns in "disparate data," which is how he's created his vegetable homages to science's most famous practitioners.

"As scientists, we impose patterns on nature," says Dr. Doolittle, who explored the topic in a paper (with Eric Baptiste) "Pattern pluralism and the Tree of Life hypothesis" published in the Proceedings of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences last January. "It's as if we're taking all the complexity of nature and putting it into bins for our own convenience. And then we confuse ourselves into thinking the bins are real ...

"In these portraits I try deliberately to cultivate such confusion, but in biology I'm trying to eradicate it."

Marilyn Smulders



Exploring the literary life of Quebec

Photo: Nick Pearce

The Canada Council for the Arts has awarded alumna Annette Hayward the 2007 Governor General's Literary Award in the French non-fiction category for her elegant study of early 20th-century literary life in Quebec: *La querelle du regionalisme au Quebec (1904-1931): Vers l'autonomisation de la littérature québécoise*. This round of awards received 1,417 nominations and the winners were selected from a short list of 74 finalists.

Creating a culture of sustainability

The university has its first director to oversee campus-wide environmental sustainability.

Rochelle Owen took over the post last month. Her mandate is to provide, implement, maintain and communicate a campus-wide environmental sustainability program at Dalhousie. She also has the task of creating a culture of sustainability that will translate into real environmental, economic and social benefits.

Ms. Owen, a Dalhousie alumna, has worked in the environmental field for more than 17 years at non-profit and government agencies. Her most recent position was the Atlantic Head of Public Education and Engagement at Environment Canada.

Ms. Owen has a keen interest and number of years of experience working on sustainable communities and "greening" issues.

She has provided facilitation, training and presentations to hundreds of groups at a local, regional, national and international level on such issues as environment and health, solid waste management, organizational development and sustainable development.

Ms. Owen holds a Bachelor of Science in community health education and a Masters in Environmental Studies from Dal. Her new position reports to the Vice-President, Finance and Administration, and she will work closely with Facilities Management and other campus units. Mary Somers



The Everest Project

Dalhousie medical students aren't waiting to graduate to act on improving the health of Maritime children. The Everest Project offers preventive medicine for escalating childhood obesity rates. More than 150 medical students visited 75 elementary school classrooms across the Halifax Regional Municipality in 2007. Medical students Erin Palmer and John Haverstock visited St. Pat's Alexandra School for a series of healthy living activities designed for grades three and four.



Dancing among the stars

If it sounds like something straight out of a science fiction novel — it is.

Anyone who's read *The Stardance Trilogy* by science fiction writer Spider Robinson and his wife Jeanne, is familiar with the concept of "zero-gravity dance." Now, this 30-year dream is becoming a reality (and an Imax film), thanks in part to Dalhousie professor John Barnstead.

Late in 2007, choreographer Jeanne Robinson and dancer Kathleen McDonagh made history by performing the first free fall dance in space. Travelling through parabolic arcs in a specially-designed 727, they danced beyond the bonds of gravity.

"Stardance" took place 10 kms above the earth, but has roots in Halifax. Professor John Barnstead provided initial funding to make the idea fly. A longtime fan of the Robinsons' work, Prof. Barnstead asked Ms. Robinson if the idea of zero-gravity dance was possible.

Coincidentally, Prof. Barnstead was invited to teach a summer course in science fiction. "I thought to myself, 'This is fate.' I decided to send my salary from this science fiction course to Jeanne for the Stardance project. It was enough to give her the freedom to get started, in the hopes that others would come on board," he says.

And others have. Ms. Robinson hired a writer to develop a script and create promotional materials.

Soon, Ansari X-Prize creator and ZERO-G Co-Founder Dr. Peter Diamandis offered Jeanne two slots on a ZERO-G Corporation flight. Advertising executive and filmmaker James Sposto came on board as producer/co-director of the film. Movie and TV composer James Raymond joined the team to create original music.

Ms. Robinson is thrilled and credits Prof. Barnstead.

"None of this would be happening if it weren't for him."

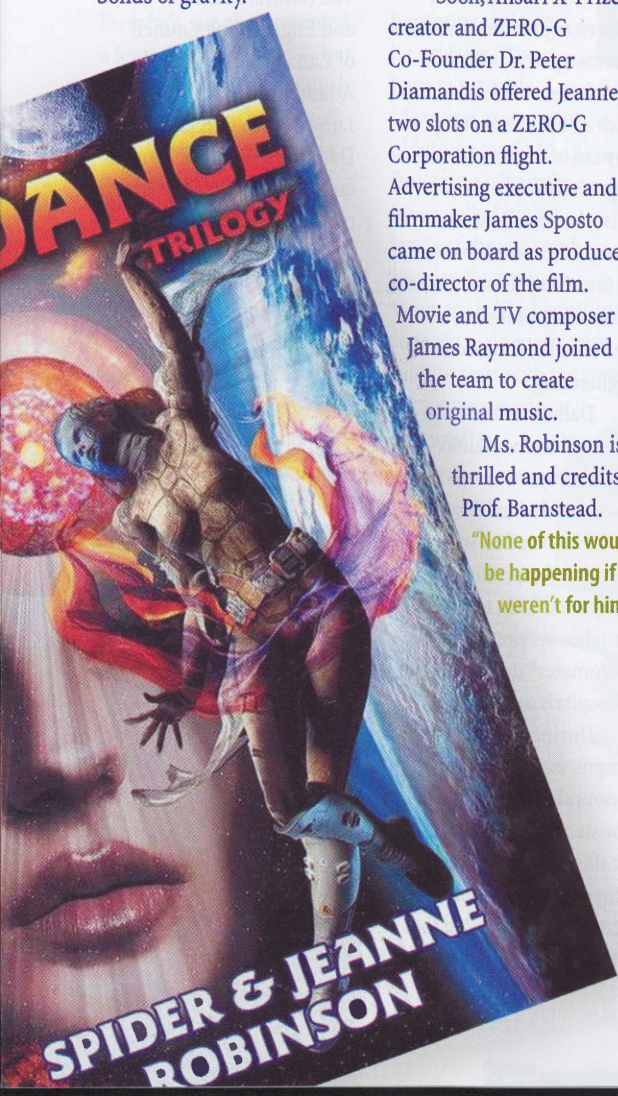


Photo: Nick Pearce

World premiere

A Spider's Tale delighted audiences of all ages and showcased a unique collaboration between the Nova Scotia Symphony and Dalhousie Theatre Productions.

The courage of conviction

Don't tell Melissa Myers that there's anything she can't do.

Despite living with cerebral palsy and requiring the use of a motorized wheelchair to get around campus, the Dalhousie social work student has fought in her to spare — and she's not about to let government policy stand in the way of earning her degree.

Because of her condition, Ms. Myers qualified for social assistance from the Nova Scotia government up until the month before she arrived at Dalhousie in the fall of 2006. That's when she learned that the government was cutting her off because she was opting to study towards a second degree. Forced to choose between government support and her lifelong goal of a career in social work, she chose the latter.

But she hasn't given up fighting to convince government that supporting education for people on social assistance is a worthwhile social good. "If you help these students get their degrees, they won't have to be on social assistance anymore," she says. "Unfortunately, government seems to focus on saving money now, not how they can save money five to 10 years from now."

With the help of Dalhousie Legal Aid, Ms. Myers appealed the government's decision to deny her income assistance. When the appeal failed, she went public, holding a media event with the support of the School of Social Work. It brought her story to a wider audience. Her

professors and fellow students have rallied to her side, writing letters to local politicians and helping to draw attention to her cause.

"Melissa is strong, principled and determined to change policy that makes a direct difference in people's lives," says Brenda Richard, associate professor with the School of Social Work. "We value her so much as part of our school."

"I feel like we haven't even scratched the surface of this issue yet," says Ms. Myers. "I want to make sure that the people that come after me and want to go to school won't have to struggle as I have. I'm glad that I'm doing this because in advocating for people, I hope that I can help the next generation." *Ryan McNutt*

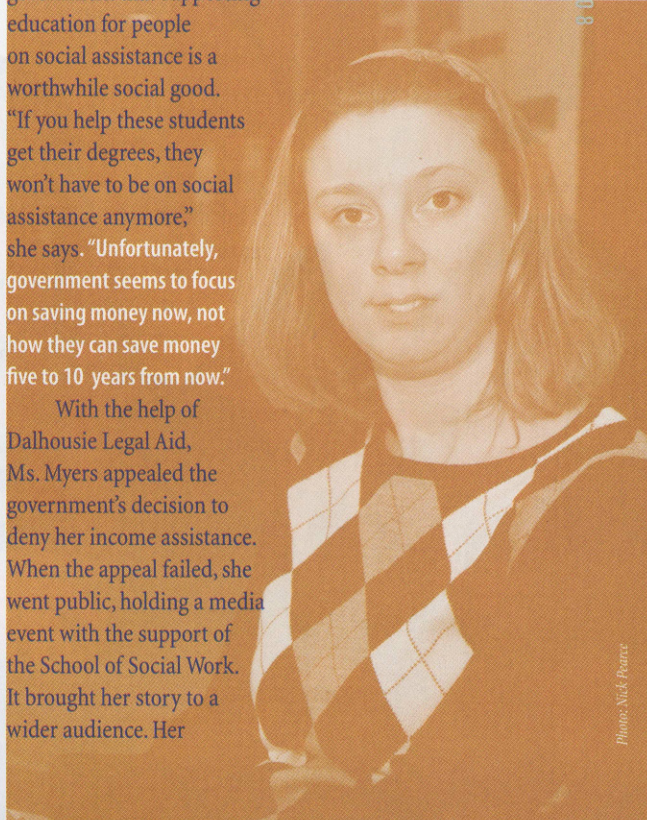


Photo: Nick Pearce

Upfront on campus

Giving all you can

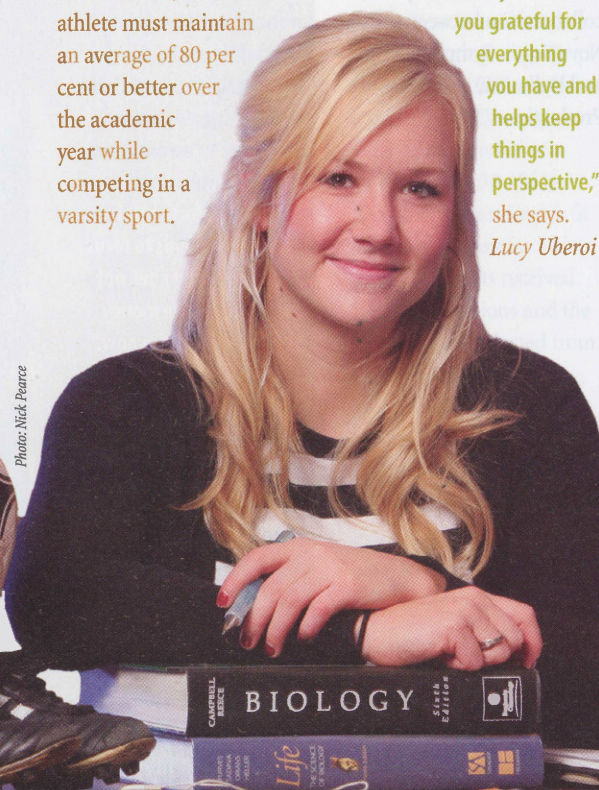
The description “well-rounded” just doesn’t do justice to Katie Hollinshead, a dynamo on and off the soccer pitch.

The biology student, who is a team captain and a regular on the Dean’s list, was recently named one of the top eight student-athletes in the country by Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS).

“I was surprised and astounded when I found out — it’s a big honour,” she says.

Dalhousie ranks first in the Atlantic region (and ninth nationally) with 62 Academic All-Canadians. Ms. Hollinshead was selected as the female athlete representing Atlantic University Sport (AUS), a conference that has 363 academic all-Canadians. To qualify as an academic all-Canadian, a student-athlete must maintain an average of 80 per cent or better over the academic year while competing in a varsity sport.

Photo: Nick Pearce



“Katie is a role model for all student-athletes and all Dalhousie students in general,” says Jack Hutchison, head coach of the women’s soccer team. “She leads our team both on and off the field.”

Community issues are important to Katie, who hails from Alberta. One organization she supports is “Inn from the Cold,” which provides assistance to homeless people in the Calgary area. She’s also had the opportunity to travel with her family to underdeveloped countries.

“Having experiences like these really make you grateful for everything you have and helps keep things in perspective,” she says.

Lucy Uberoi

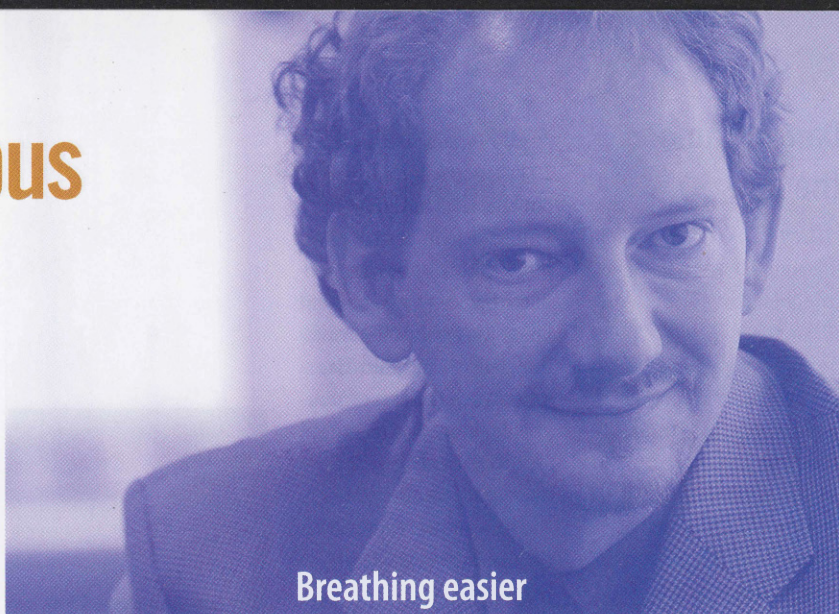


Photo: Danny Abried

Breathing easier

Asthma patients may be breathing easier in the future due to an innovative device invented in a university lab. The breakthrough device will be used by doctors to diagnose asthma and will also assist in monitoring the effectiveness of asthma treatment.

“It’s very difficult for children to perform traditional spirometry tests, which require them to blow as much air out of their lungs as they can in one second. Our device is easier for people to use, because it measures airway function while they are breathing normally,” says Dr. Geoffrey Maksym, of the School of Biomedical Engineering.

Dalhousie University will form a new Halifax-based company named Thoracic Medical Systems Inc. in association with Scientific Respiratory Equipment Ltd., to develop a smaller version of the “spirometer” device for use in hospitals and clinics.

During a recent campus visit, the Honourable Peter MacKay, minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), announced that the Atlantic Innovation

Fund is investing \$2 million over the next five years in commercializing the oscillation spirometer.

Dr. Maksym developed this innovative diagnostic instrument with a team of graduate students and colleague Dr. Paul Hernandez, a respirologist at the QEII. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada, Springboard Atlantic, the Nova Scotia Lung Association and the Dalhousie Industry Liaison and Innovation Office have provided additional funds and support.



Sounds impressive

Chelsea Nisbett doesn't remember how she got on the stage. But somehow she did — fumbling through her thanks and making it back to her seat, her legs rubbery and her heart pounding.

"Before the award, I remember sitting there, waiting and giving myself a little pep talk — 'It's OK, your family and friends will still love you,'" she recalls.

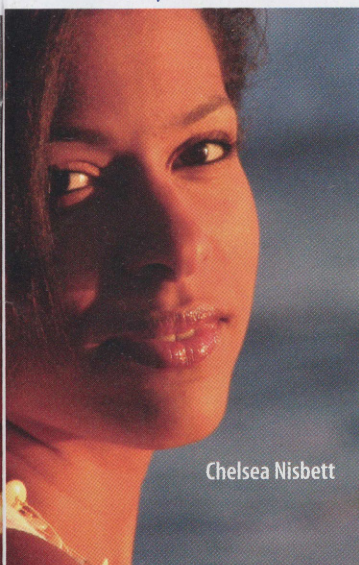
"I distinctly remember looking out at the audience, through the lights, and seeing all these smiling faces and a couple of people I knew."

The Dal student picked up the award for gospel recording for her debut CD, *New Beginnings* at the ECMAs in Fredericton.

Stunning in a forest-green dress she found at Frenchy's, she also presented a few awards on stage — but she doesn't remember which ones. "It's a wonderful blur."

Alumna Rose Cousins won female solo recording of the year for her CD, *If You Were For Me*.

East-coast legends The Rankin Family (law grad Raylene Rankin and former student Molly Rankin) won for DVD of the year for *Back Stage Pass* and roots/traditional recording of the year for *Reunion*.



Chelsea Nisbett

I would not eat them on a boat!

Calvin and Hobbes cartoons. A rendition of "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall." A reading about Paddington Bear.

Sound like your average university classroom? Hardly. But Christopher Grundke, who teaches courses in Latin and Ancient Hebrew in the Classics Department, believes that learning a new language — even a very old one — means going back to basics.

"It requires becoming childlike," he explains. "You have to set aside ideas that as one gets older, one ought to function exclusively on so-called higher levels of thought and inquiry. Beginning a language is like beginning to learn to do math: you have to start with the most elementary, basic matters."

Dr. Grundke's childlike approach to the basics not only provides his students with a break from the nose-to-grindstone work of learning a new language — recently, he was asked to offer a live reading for CBC Radio of Dr. Seuss' classic "Virent Ova, Viret Perna," better known by its English title, *Green Eggs and Ham*.

"I try to work them in as little luxuries along the way," he says of his more novel teaching tools. "They hopefully remind people that Latin isn't just about the adventures of senators and emperors, medieval poets

and theologians. People lived and spoke and talked about their everyday lives in these languages as well."

Teaching runs in the family, it seems — Dr. Grundke's father, Ernst, is a professor in the Faculty of Computer Science.

Christopher was originally set to follow his father's footsteps into the sciences, but ended up changing course and doing graduate work in theology.

For him, learning ancient tongues provides a window into the past. "I'm fond of telling my students that learning languages is the next best thing to time travel," he says. "You really do encounter the thoughts of the men and women of antiquity as they were forming them. If you want to meet the ancients on their own terms, you have to meet them in their own language."

Ryan McNutt

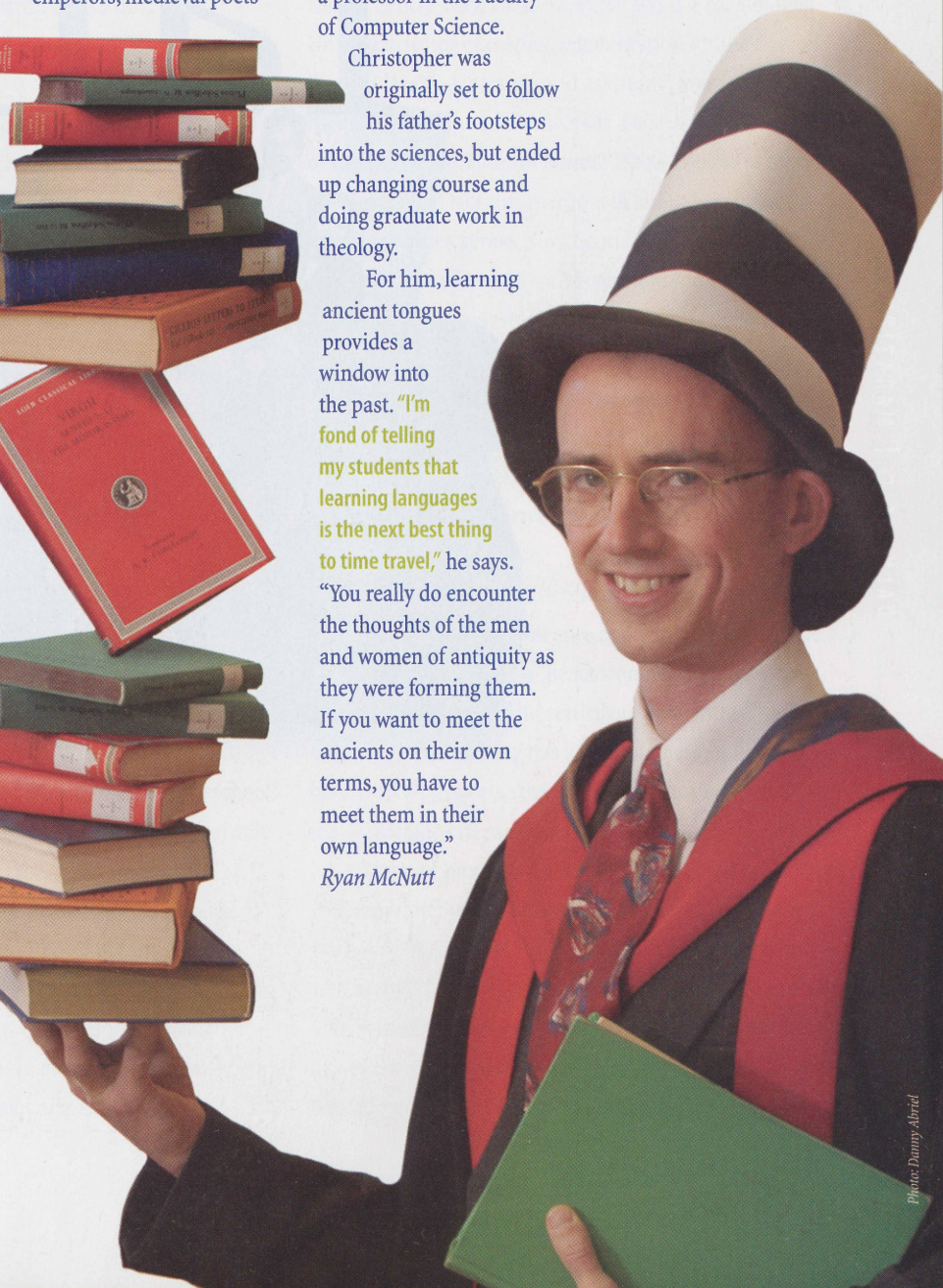
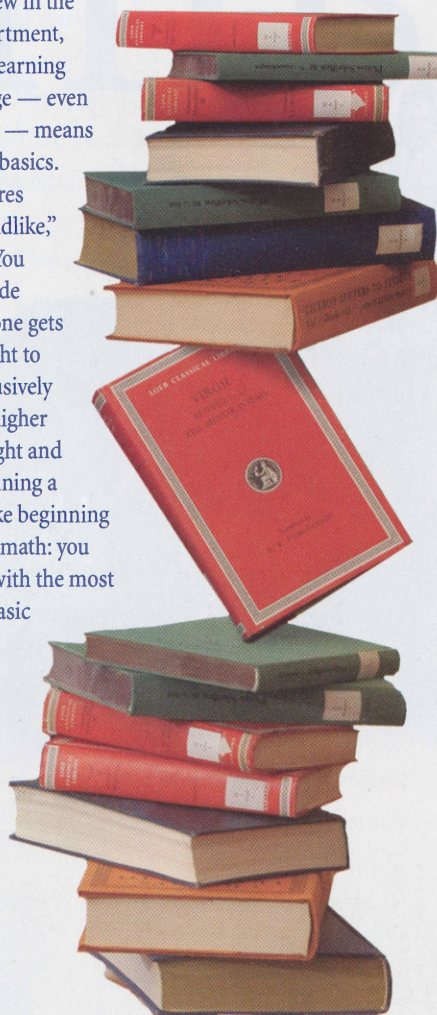


Photo: Danny Abird

family

TIES

BY MARILYN SMULDERS

10

DALHOUSIE | MAGAZINE



What's a big brother for anyway? When Carman Giacomantonio told his older brother Mike he wanted to go to university and then on to veterinarian college, Mike's reaction went kind of like this:

"Why would you want to take care of dogs when you can take care of people?"

A few years later, Nicholas gave big bro Mike a call as well. Like Carman, Nick, then a mechanic, was seeking the blessing of the first person in the family to go into medicine.

"So I called Mike," recounts Nick. "And he says, 'Why would you ever want to be a doctor when you could be a great mechanic?'"

Gathered in Carman's office in the old Victoria General Hospital in Halifax, the three brothers — Mike, 58, Carman, 49, and Nick, 46 — share a laugh at the remembrance. Mike protests he wanted Nick to be sure he was making the right choice; Nick says Mike liked having someone handy to fix his fancy cars.

After a few detours, Carman and Nick eventually did stumble onto the path Mike had blazed, from Whitney Pier to med school and on to successful medical and teaching careers. Mike (BSc '71, MD '76, PGM '81) is a surgeon. He's the chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax and associate professor of surgery at Dalhousie University. Carman (BSc '87, PGM '97,

MSC '98) is an oncologist. He's the head of Nova Scotia's Surgical Oncology Network, an associate professor of surgery at Dalhousie University and the clinical head of the recently announced breast health clinic at the IWK Health Centre. Nick (BSc '87, PGM '98) is a cardiologist. He's the director of cardiac rehabilitation for the Capital District Health Authority and assistant professor of medicine at Dalhousie University. He's also the founder of the Heartland Tour, an annual 1,000-kilometre bike tour he started last summer to talk about heart health in communities across Nova Scotia. There is another Giacomantonio brother — 54-year-old Joe — a pharmaceutical rep who lives and works in Cape Breton.

These days, the doctors share the same hard-to-pronounce seven-syllable surname, the same profession, live within two blocks of each other in Halifax's south-end neighbourhood and drive Chevy Suburbans, their late dad Jimmy's vehicle of choice.

You can see their differences only by lifting their pant legs, jokes Mike. And sure enough their socks have tales to tell: Carman, the "headstrong renegade," wears flashy argyles; Mike, who settles on "determined" as his adjective ("Headstrong has a level of energy I don't have," he says dryly), sports cozy homemade hosiery; and Nick, the passionate one, wears red.

The four brothers grew up in hardscrabble Whitney Pier, a part of Sydney located on the east side of Sydney Harbour. Their parents were Italians, born of immigrants who arrived "in the Pier" at the turn of the last century to take up work at the steel plant. According to family lore, one of their grandfathers arrived in Boston Harbour and was offered a job by one of Al Capone's men as soon as

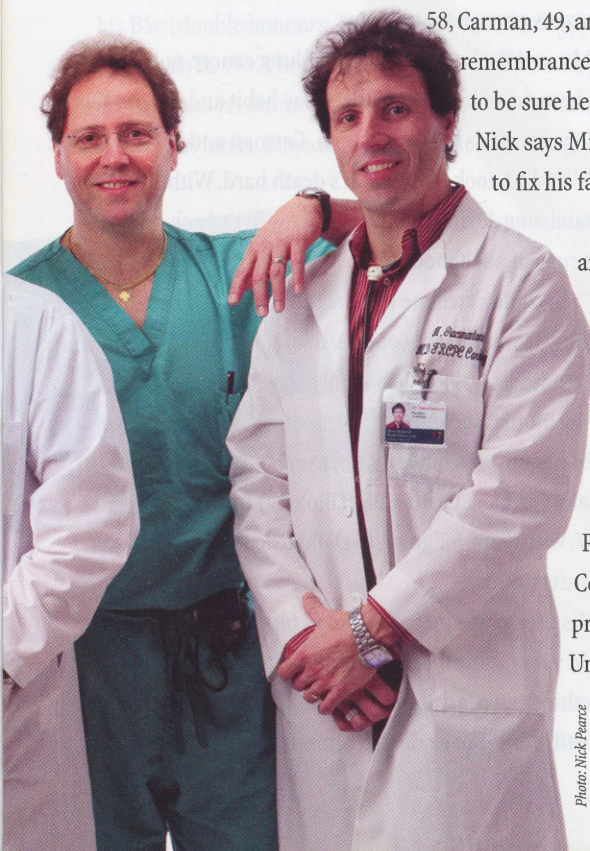
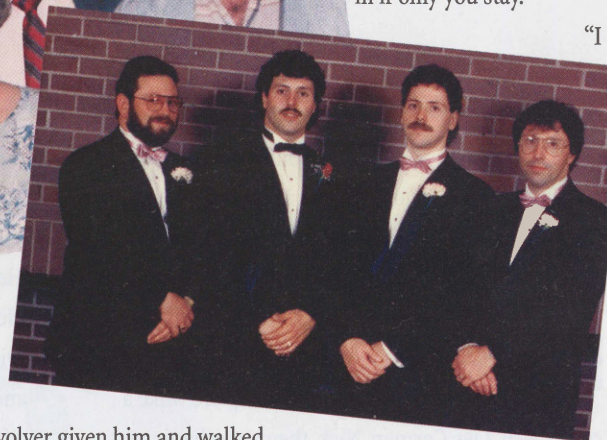


Photo: Nick Pearce



At the top of Whitney Pier's social strata were the doctors and lawyers. Either of these, Angie decided, were suitable occupations for her sons.

"We were brought up to go to university," says Mike, one leg crossed over the other to show a swath of home-made sock. "I remember going to school in Halifax and coming back, utterly homesick. My parents pleaded with me to stick it through. They were dedicated to my education. Stay there, they implored, something will kick in if only you stay.

"I was the first. They handed everything to me on a platter."

Once Mike could officially put M.D. behind his last name — he and his brothers reclaimed the missing letters g-i-a-c-o — his mother was eager to set him up in the family home in Whitney Pier. She was ready

to dedicate a room in the house for his practice, even to get a new phone line installed.

"She was devastated when he didn't come back to Whitney Pier," says Carman. "She had the bureau all set up beside the captain's bed and promised the new phone."

"But in the end, it was OK to leave," adds Mike, "because I was working at the children's hospital. That was success enough for her."

Meanwhile, Jimmy had died of lung cancer, no doubt because of his three-pack-a-day habit and the dry-cleaning chemicals he worked with. Carman and Nick, then 17 and 13, took their father's death hard. Without that stabilizing, loving influence in their lives, both boys on the cusp of adulthood spiraled out of control.

"You couldn't tell me to sit down and study," says Carman. "He was the only one." After high school, Carman began studies at Dalhousie but only lasted two years — "I left by mutual agreement." Six months after leaving, he realized his mistake, but it took six years to return. He finally graduated with a BSc (Biology) from Dalhousie in 1987, with plans for going to Dalhousie Medical School afterwards.

His dream was met with a road block, however. "I was told very clearly that I would not get in because I was nothing but a lazy joe," he recalls. Decades later, the words still sting. But he dusted himself off and applied

he got off the boat. Instead, he took the pearl-handled revolver given him and walked all the way to Cape Breton in search of more honorable employment. Generations of Giacomantonio kids have dug around the foundation of the garage in Whitney Pier, where the fabled revolver is reputedly buried.

Located literally on the other side of the tracks, Whitney Pier in the 1950s and 60s was home to all kinds of people: Jewish, African, Ukrainian, Yugoslavian, Polish, Italian, Irish, English. Each ethnic community took care of its own, their worlds centred on their individual churches or synagogues. But the children all knew each other, playing in the middle of the street and on the moonscape left by the coke ovens. Moms and dads and uncles and aunts sat and watched from front steps, smoking and talking in their different languages.

"It was the perfect ghetto," says Mike. "I can't overstate how rich it was. While it looked poor, it was anything but."

The Giacomantonios lived with one of their grandmothers in a tiny old house on Lingan Road and Uncle Ernie and his family lived right next door. Their dad, Jimmy, and their Uncle Mike eked out a living running a dry-cleaning shop in nearby New Waterford, a coal mining town where there was not a great demand for dry cleaning. Mike grew up speaking Italian, but their parents encouraged their boys to speak English so they might integrate better. Nick says he now knows only a few words in Italian — "just enough to get my face slapped" — and is taking classes to learn.

Jimmy, who had shortened his last name to "Mantonio" so customers could better remember it, was a warm and nurturing father. The sons describe their mom, Angie, as a pillar of strength and determination. A hard-working, intelligent woman, she declared her children would succeed — or else. The brothers recalled how she'd arrange for one of their cousins to come over and give them pre-exams before real exams.

"Academically, if we didn't perform well in school, we would be killed," says Carman matter-of-factly.

to med school at Memorial University of Newfoundland, eventually returning to Dalhousie to graduate with a degree in general surgery in 1997 and a master's in pathology in 1998.

Now as teacher himself, it's those questioning students he relates to. He says he loves teaching because he learns so much.

"Students provide honest feedback to their teachers. I personally take that very seriously. Senior students enjoy challenging us: they don't accept dogma and protocol without evidence. They keep us honest."

As Carman was struggling to find his way, Nick too was kicking against authority; he was acting out and taking easy subjects at school to get by with minimal effort. As an Italian kid from Whitney Pier, he says, teachers didn't expect him to amount to much and he wasn't doing anything to make them change their minds. That is, until a flippant comment from a history teacher at graduation hit like a slap in the face and made him want to prove the naysayer wrong.

"He says, 'Mantonio, the award for the trip to Fantasy Island goes to you, the guy most likely to go nowhere fast.' I've never forgot it."

After high school, Nick went to trade school and got his mechanic licence. He was a pretty good mechanic, he says, but came to a realization he needed more of a challenge. He went back to high school to upgrade his marks and this time made the honours list. After getting his BSc (double honours, Microbiology and Biology) at Dalhousie in 1987, he applied to Memorial University on Carman's recommendation. He completed residency training in internal medicine and cardiology at Dalhousie.

Senior students enjoy challenging us: they don't accept dogma and protocol without evidence. They keep us honest.

All three brothers agree, they've found their passion, no matter the route it took. While their dad may have been a dry cleaner, his conscientious example guides them as they respond to the needs of patients and students. Jimmy was honest, meticulous and took pride in a job well done.

"You know that old saying, 'it's in the giving that you receive?'" queries Mike. "Well, you know what? I'll be damned if that's not true. And then to get paid on top of that is really quite remarkable."

"There's nothing better than the thanks you get from a patient and knowing that you've helped," says Carman. He pulls open a desk draw stuffed with cards from people he's helped. Interacting with students, he adds, is also incredibly rewarding.

"You do what you're passionate about," adds Nick. "Personally and professionally, it's passion that leads to action and action leads to change. So you just do what you know is right."



Lessons from the departed

A matter of death – and life

BY CINDY BAYERS

Dr. Warren Fieldus' heart races in the anatomy lab just as it does in the emergency room. The lab is where the chief resident practises life-saving clinical skills through a new program that provides unprecedented opportunities for learning.

The Clinical Cadaver Program is a subset of the Human Body Donation Program. It was developed last year after Dalhousie's Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology began using a novel embalming method that prepares human tissue in a way that allows it to respond similarly to live tissue.

"Traditional embalming methods have enabled decades of undergraduate students to learn gross anatomy and neuroanatomy through human cadaveric dissection, but they leave tissue hard and rigid," explains Dr. Ron Leslie, professor and head, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. "The new method retains much of the elasticity and texture of human tissue, which enables residents and other health professionals to practise clinical skills."

Medical residents and other learners often acquire and develop clinical skills in emergency medicine, surgery, anaesthesia or other disciplines by practising on patients under the direct supervision of a preceptor.

"While there are significant benefits of the mentorship learning process, the quantity of learning opportunities is sometimes lacking," says Dr. George Kovacs, professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and co-founder of the Clinical Cadaver Program. He also points out that some life-saving procedures may rarely be required and are so critical to the patient that it isn't ethical to allow a resident to practise the skill in that situation.

In one practice session in the anatomy lab, Dr. Fieldus and his colleagues, in emergency medicine, surgery and anaesthesia particularly, may perform a procedure five, six or more times – a feat not possible in the hospital or in the field. "We also get to practise procedures that we hope we never have to do in an emergency situation but want to be confident about when the time comes," he says.

While some departments have invested in simulation and virtual technology, research continues to support learning in more real settings. "Despite their sophistication, simulators and virtual technology are sorely lacking when compared with what the Clinical Cadaver Program offers – a close-to-normal body response," says Dr. Fieldus.

The opportunity for this kind of skill development did not exist a year ago at Dalhousie, which is one of just a few universities in North America to offer such a program. The Clinical Cadaver Program got its start when Dr. Kovacs and Dr. Adam Law, professor in the Department of Anaesthesia, heard about a human body donation program in Baltimore. That program enabled residents at the University of Maryland to use cadavers for clinical skill learning. A short time later, Dr. Leslie and Robert Sandeski, head technologist in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, went to Baltimore to learn more. Within a couple of months, the department adopted the newly learned embalming method and developed the Clinical Cadaver Program.

"We are excited by the potential of the program, which is really still in its infancy. This is a valuable new way in which residents benefit from the generosity of donors in our community," says Dr. Leslie.

The donations come through the Human Body Donation Program — the only one of its kind in the Maritime provinces. Managing it is a delicate responsibility that involves co-ordinating donations from across the region, and embalming and preparing bodies. At the end of every academic year, the department holds a memorial service for families and friends of donors. The eulogies offered by students, often the highlight of the ceremony, are a testament to the gift given to them.

The department has accepted up to 75 donations each year. With the Clinical Cadaver Program now in place, the need is growing. “Many people don’t realize that donating their body for learning and medical research is an option,” says Mr. Sandeski. “There are also unfortunate misconceptions about what happens in anatomy labs.”

Dalhousie’s anatomy lab is located on the 14th floor of the Tupper Building, with all of the features of a modern clinical area. The warm lights, gleaming floors, benches and tools are a testament to the respect for donors. “We don’t ever forget we are working with people. This is what we impress upon students from their first day in the lab,” says Mr. Sandeski.

Brenda Perry* has arranged to have her body donated to the medical school when the time comes. Since 2001, she has come to know the Human Body Donation Program and the people who administer it. “There is a tremendous amount of respect and gratitude shown to donors and their families,” she says.

In 2001 Ms. Perry’s mom decided to donate her body. A year later it was her brother. And just last year it was her beloved husband. “We share this decision together,” she says. “I know, just as my mother, brother and Ben did, that this is the right decision for us.”

She is also confident that participating in the Human Body Donation Program has offered her more comfort than any funeral service could have. “While you forgo the traditional funeral service, there are many options for families to memorialize their loved ones,” she says. “It may be difficult to think or talk about, but I would ask that people consider it an option and be open to the possibility of giving a gift in death.”

The Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology intends to further develop the Clinical Cadaver Program over the coming months, and offers more learning opportunities to university and hospital departments throughout the region.

For information on the Human Body Donation Program, visit www.anatomy.dal.ca/donation/.

**For privacy reasons, not the person’s actual name.*



Ron Leslie

This is a valuable new way in which residents benefit from the generosity of donors in our community.

Anatomy’s shades of gray

The study of anatomy, believes Richard Wassersug, is much more than the “knee bone connected to the thigh bone, and the thigh bone connect to the hip bone...” But somehow, it’s turned out that way.

Which is why Dr. Wassersug, with the help of pediatric pathologist Eileen McKay, is advocating a more holistic study of the human body through a new course they’ve devised, “Embodying the Body: The Human Body for Anatomists and Humanists.” Presented in a lecture format, the class is cross-listed as a graduate-level course in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology and as a fourth-year undergraduate class in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. Drawing from a broad cross-section of students, the class will have a lab component, with anatomical demonstrations and some dissection.

“It’s still primarily an anatomy class, but it’s not just the naming of the parts,” says Dr. Wassersug, pulling a copy of *Gray’s Anatomy* off a bookshelf in his office in the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building and chucking it heavily onto a well-worn chesterfield. The 39th edition, with more than 2,000 illustrations, is fatter than the New York City phonebook.

“You’ve still got to know the parts,” stresses Dr. McKay, who works at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax. “But we want to get students to think beyond the science and really delve into some of the issues.”

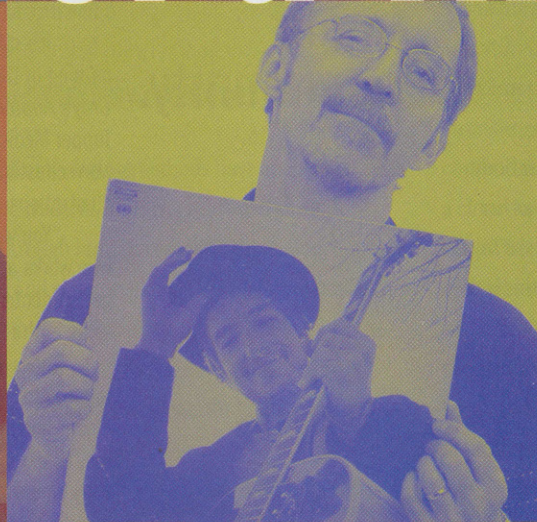
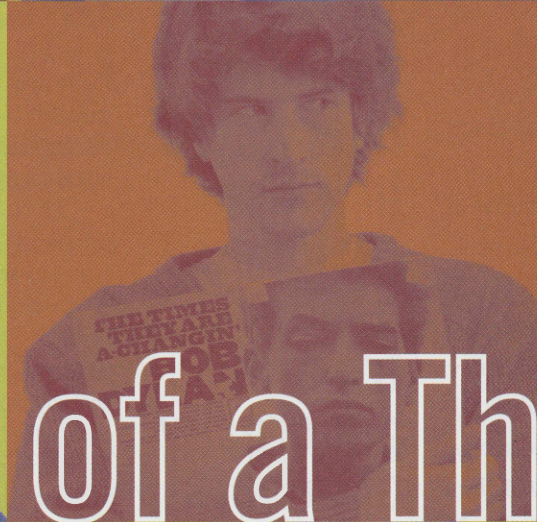
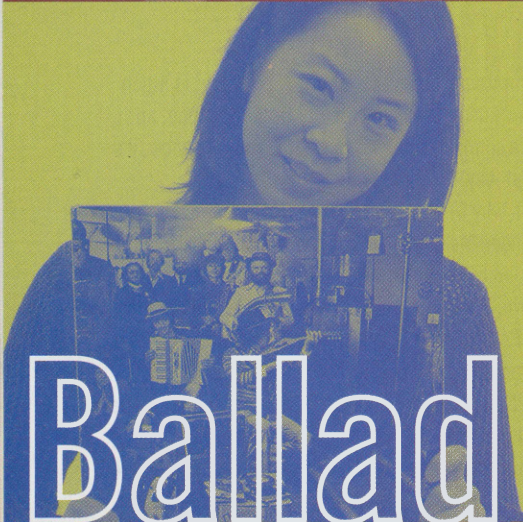
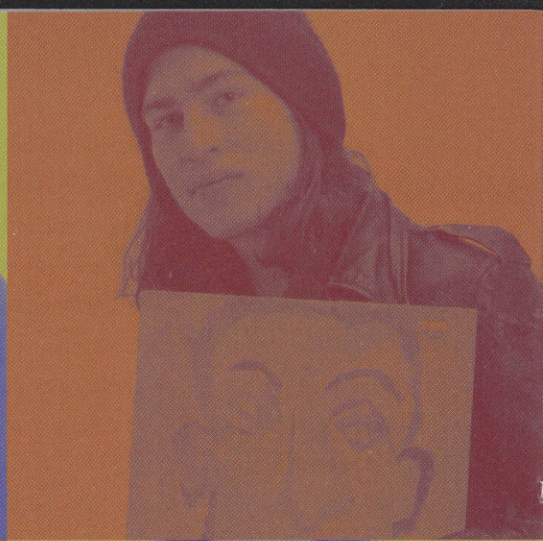
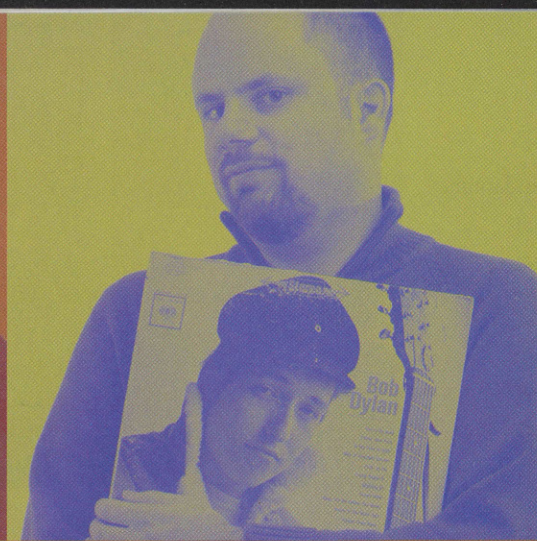
Those issues are all bound up with ethics and morality, relating to identity, sex, gender, life and death. Topics up for discussion include the separation of Siamese twins when they’re too young to give consent, what constitutes a “normal” body, and sexual selection — or why men have beards. Issues about using human bodies, living or dead, in art, medicine and education will also be explored.

“I’ve asked my students, ‘How many of you have seen a dead body?’ And not many of them will have,” says Dr. Wassersug. “And then I’ve asked, ‘How many of you have taken antibiotics?’ And, of course, they all have.

“Because of the high quality of medical care, we’ve lost contact with death and dying as a normal part of life. There is also a lack of familiarity with old age, as older people are isolated and that multigenerational contact is lost. In the 21st century, we expect to live. We don’t expect people to die.

“I find it very strange, very weird, that people can live to their twenties without seeing a dead person.”

Marilyn Smulders



Ballad of a Thin Man

Students come to class with differing understandings of **Bob Dylan** and his cultural importance, but all are very aware of his presence — from his timeless early albums to recent Grammy-winning albums to his cheeky TV ads shilling ipods, Victoria's Secret lingerie and Cadillac SUVs. **by Sandy MacDonald**

Much to his parents' 'dislike and concern,' recent high school graduate Andy Wainwright was in the audience for a Bob Dylan concert at Massey Hall in 1964. Together with other early fans of the emerging folk musician, he caught a landmark solo acoustic concert that Dylan performed with just his Gibson guitar and harmonica.

With his career on a meteoric rise, Dylan returned to Toronto the following November, just weeks after releasing the single Like A Rolling Stone, which marked his first foray into using an amplified backing band. It was a tectonic shift for the acoustic folk singer and for his diehard fans.

"I was conflicted and a bit pissed off that Dylan was changing," recalls Dr. Wainwright, now Dr. J.A. (Andy) Wainwright, professor of English at Dalhousie. "So I decided I wouldn't go to the concert."

Nevertheless, he and his girlfriend drove downtown to check out the scene around Massey Hall.

Dylan was the hottest new artist of the day, and had enlisted a local Toronto back-up band called Levon and

The Hawks, who would later become The Band.

After the show, Wainwright parked discreetly across from the hall, and waited for the post-concert drama. "Sure enough, when he came out it was like Beatlemania. A couple hundred kids were all over his car, screaming."

So when Dylan's car pulled away, Wainwright slipped in behind and tailed him, right to the swanky Inn on the Park hotel.

"I hopped out of the car, and said something inane, like 'I really like your music and would like to talk to you about it.' Dylan looked at me, and looked at my girlfriend and said 'Well, order some tea and come on up.'"

It was a different era, before burly security guards locked down a star's perimeter. So the young Wainwright and his friend brought the tea to the room for a private audience with Bob Dylan.

"I sat with him for an hour and a half, one on one. We talked about literature and music," recalls Dr. Wainwright. "He was tremendously kind, and genuinely interested in what I had to say."

More than 40 years later, Dr. Wainwright teaches the popular course, English 2250: Bob Dylan and the Literature of the '60s. Since beginning his career at Dalhousie in the early 1980s, he has frequently explored the cultural impact of Dylan's work. It should be no surprise that Dylan's work still generates interest from university students.

"Dylan is the single most important individual in western popular cultural expression in the last half of the 20th century," says Dr. Wainwright, who has written extensively on Dylan. "He is a cultural presence, not just a personal presence the way so many popular celebrities are — there is a depth to his musical origins and creativity."

The latest chapter in the unfolding Dylan saga is the recent release of the bold art film *I'm Not There*, putting Dylan's strange storybook life back on the pages of mainstream media.

Dylan is the single most important individual in western popular cultural expression in the last half of the 20th century. He is a cultural presence, not just a personal presence the way so many popular celebrities are — there is a depth to his musical origins and creativity.

The film is a dense thinly-veiled biopic, with six actors portraying different characters who represent various aspects of the artist's life — the young hobo kid riding the blinds, the early protest singer, the star burdened with drug and marital issues. Todd Haynes' film has been garnering plenty of interest, largely for the bold move of casting Oscar-winning Cate Blanchett to portray the artist during the tumultuous '65-'66 years. (Blanchett won a Golden Globe award in mid-January for her role.)

Bob is no doubt smiling at the irony of the title.

He is there, sort of a hovering presence, and has been since he first played at Gerde's Folk City club in Greenwich Village in 1961, a raggedy folksinger carrying the troubadour torch of his hero Woody Guthrie.

The conceit of Haynes' film, deconstructing the complexity of the various elements of the musician's character by using entirely different actors (sometimes of different race and gender), is entirely appropriate, says Dr. Wainwright.

"The public figure of Dylan demands to be looked at from different perspectives. There never has been just one Bob Dylan, not even just one '60s Dylan. There were a number of Dylans in that really essential period in which he created himself.

"In the '70s, there was the Dylan who came back and toured with The Band, and the Dylan who did the magnificent *Blood on the Tracks* album, and then later the Dylan who becomes Christian."

Dylan calls himself a "musical expeditionary" in Martin Scorsese's illuminating 2005 documentary *No Direction Home*. He grew up in the conservative Minnesota iron range, where most young men laboured in surrounding mines. Dylan's father, Abe Zimmerman, ran the local electrical store in Hibbing and had plans for young Bobby in the business.

Bob had other plans.

Dylan conjured the scruffy traveling minstrel

persona, patterned on his hero Woody Guthrie. He often hood-winked interviewers with tales of growing up in New Mexico singing cowboy songs, or learning to sing blues in Chicago or black spirituals in the deep south.

"I felt I had no past," says Dylan in *No Direction Home*. "I couldn't relate to what I was doing at that time. It didn't matter to me what I said at the time — it still doesn't."

However, what his canon of songs said have mattered a great deal. Dylan's early songs helped bring awareness to the civil rights struggle in the U.S., to the unchecked nuclear buildup in the late stages of the Cold War and helped turn the popular tide against the U.S. war in South East Asia.

From his earliest days as a solo folk singer, Dylan was able to distill the social upheaval of the early '60s into his lyrics. He was profoundly shaped by the cultural, social and political nature of the times. His lyrics played out like lush poetry, tantalizing and inviting interpretations.

Those lyrics still have resonance for yet another generation of Dylan fans, says Dr. Wainwright. His students come to class with differing understandings of Dylan and his cultural importance, but all are very aware of his presence — from his timeless early albums to recent Grammy-winning albums to his cheeky TV ads shilling iPods, Victoria's Secret lingerie and Cadillac SUVs.

Dylan was early to grasp the potential of the new music as a vehicle for expressing his ideas. He began swapping the folk standards in his repertoire with his own topical songs, when few singers in the circuit were actually writing and performing original material.

Five years after leaving Hibbing, Dylan was at the top of the game, darling of the acoustic folk scene; influential protest singer, the voice for social change. Then Bob pulled the rug out from under the folkies at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, fronting an electrified

the tidal shifts of popular music trends — acoustic folk to rock, New Wave and disco, grunge and electronica — Dylan has maintained a presence in the popular culture.

"I think Dylan has established himself as the *eminence grise* of the whole genre," says Dr. Warwick. "Anything new he releases, people will go ahead and buy. That works to his advantage — people listen to what he does because of what he's done."

Last year, Dylan marked 45 years as a recording artist by releasing the critically-acclaimed *Modern Times* CD, and won yet another Grammy for best contemporary folk/American album.

"Dylan has always kept people off balance, and has refused to be 'essentialized,'" says Dr. Wainwright. "He takes those great songs and refuses to do them the same way — he doesn't give people what they want."

"The words don't change, and the quality of those words will last. But the rhythms and tone and inflection



band to jolt his music into the future.

The conservative folkie audience was horrified at the apparent betrayal at Maggie's Farm, watching the torchbearer of Woody's Okie folkie music snub tradition, plug in his Stratocaster and fire up a rhythm section to supercharge his music.

"I can't imagine he didn't anticipate the reaction," says Jacqueline Warwick, a musicologist and assistant professor of music at Dalhousie. She teaches a course in the history of rock 'n' roll, and Dylan's work is pivotal.

"Dylan played (the Newport incident) just right to his own advantage. I don't know if Pete Seeger ever got over it, but it earned Dylan a new fanbase and he did it at the right stage of his career. If he had waited another 10 years before going into rock, people would have asked 'who's this sad old man trying to get into the new music?'" says Dr. Warwick.

Like Miles Davis and Paul Simon, Dylan has continually explored different settings for his music, without appearing to be following the money. Through

of the voice changes, and that reshapes the words and how they're presented."

His creative influence can't reasonably be enumerated. Millions of young people picked up acoustic guitars, mastered the essential three chords and a turn-around and began scratching out heart-worn lyrics, inspired by Dylan's wordplay. He's even been nominated twice for a Nobel Prize in Literature.

"There is a kind of paradox about Dylan," offers Dr. Wainwright. "His greatest artistry in terms of depth and consistency is in the '60s — quantitatively as well as qualitatively. But I think Dylan has grown and changed and matured in profound and admirable ways since that time."

"That's part of watching him that's been rewarding over the years."

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

BY JULIA WATT



Our research engages teams of professors and their talented graduate students in studies relating to human health — from the causes of addictive behaviour, to improving valves used in heart surgery, to the safety of packaged process foods.

We share these and other stories from *OutFront* magazine.

Sherry Stewart

Alexi Surette and David Waisman

Photos: Danny Abriel

Playing the moody blues

The root causes and consequences of heavy drinking are the focus of Sherry Stewart's research, as she searches for better understanding, preventive strategies and practical management approaches.

There's no trouble finding research participants from among a pool of university students. Specifically, she seeks to identify students for whom alcohol consumption is emotionally rather than socially driven. These drinkers have a tendency to binge drink or overindulge. Dr. Stewart is interested in the emotional triggers and cognitive processes that compel these students to drink.

Her lab-based research has shown that mood plays a significant role in the volumes of drinking in both of these categories. For those who drink to cope, a negative mood means they drink more (perhaps to assist with the coping). For those who drink for enhancement, a positive mood means they consume more alcohol. Dr. Stewart calls this "chasing the high" through drinking.

She and her research students are able to create different mood states in the lab by having the participants listen to different, but specifically selected music. Certain musical pieces can evoke a happy, sad or anxious mood.

PhD student Valerie Grant found different results among 'coping drinkers' depending on their reasons for drinking.

"There was a big distinction between anxiety-related and depression-related drinkers," explains Ms. Grant. "People who drink to cope with depression tend to drink more than other drinkers, whereas those drinking to deal with anxiety have more negative outcomes of drinking, even after accounting for how much they drink. We have also shown in the lab that an anxious mood evokes thoughts about alcohol in those students who drink to deal with anxiety."

Adds Dr. Stewart: "If the anxiety or depression was addressed in coping-motivated drinkers, then it's quite likely that the heavy drinking pattern might change. A different approach would be used with enhancement drinkers, such as helping them find other, less risky ways of achieving their need for excitement."

Stopping cancer in its tracks

For years, the Canadian Cancer Society has used the slogan of hope "Cancer Can Be Beaten." One begins to believe it when speaking to David Waisman, Dalhousie's Canada Research Chair in Cancer Research. He and a team

Photos: Danny Abriel



Jasmina Milićević, Muriel Pequret and Marie-Josée Hamel



of master's students, PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows are studying how a tumour grows and spreads.

"If the cancer stays localized then you can more easily burn or poison it," explains Dr. Waisman. "When a tumour metastasizes and travels to the bones or a major organ, it becomes much more challenging to treat and is more likely to result in fatal consequences."

His team is considering blocking the spread in two ways: starving the tumour by cutting off its blood supply and ridding cancer cells of their ability to travel.

Master's student Alexi Surette is focusing his research on the latter. For cancer cells to spread, they must first bore through blood vessel walls. The cells do this very effectively by using an existing protein called p11 as "molecular scissors."

"In order to metastasize, the cancer cells need to leave the primary tumour and chew their way into the bloodstream, which serves as their mode of transportation," says Surette. "If we can find a way to eliminate the p11 production, hence disabling their travel, we may be able to stop the cancer."

In addition to a mode of travel to metastasize, tumours need nutrients from the bloodstream to grow. If the blood supply is cut off, the tumour could essentially starve to death. Dr. Waisman is exploring angiogenesis, the process that enables the supply of oxygen and nutrients to the tumour. "If we can effectively engineer cell-killing toxins and add it to the angiostatin, it's possible that we could cure the cancer," he says.

Lost in translation

Learning to speak, read and write in French is considered an attainable goal for an anglophone. Becoming fluent is a much more difficult prospect and it's a challenge that isn't appropriately supported through electronic learning and teaching tools.

Now an e-resource is being developed to help students learn French and demonstrate a natural, spontaneous and, most importantly, correct grasp of the language. Its creators are Marie-Josée Hamel and Jasmina Milićević, professors in Dalhousie's French Department, along with PhD students Muriel Pequret and Alain Takam.



Yuheng Chen and Lisbeth Truelstrup Hansen

"We're building a computer-assisted learners' dictionary that will enable French as-a-second-language students to properly combine words to convey meaning," says Dr. Hamel. "We have collected in excess of 1,000 incorrect word combinations or usages in texts written by our students. This has helped us to better understand and address difficulties they experience in the learning process."

The research team, which also includes former Dalhousie honours student Yves Bourque and graduate students from the University of Montreal's research lab Observatoire de la Linguistique Sens-Texte, is currently developing a small prototype containing 1,000 word entries. Yu Centrik, a Montreal-based company that specializes in the evaluation of on-line interactive systems, has also joined the research project to work on the user-centred aspects of the dictionary's interface.

Gene interrupted

Bacteria are sneaky little microorganisms. They can multiply rapidly, thrive under obscure conditions and fiercely protect themselves with a goo-like substance

called biofilm. *Listeria monocytogenes*, a bacterium being studied by Lisbeth Truelstrup Hansen, persistently thrives in environments where food is being processed for human consumption and has the problematic ability to attach itself, potentially leading to food contamination.

Dr. Truelstrup Hansen, associate professor with Dalhousie's Food Science Program, and master's student Yuheng Chen are working to figure out which factors enable this bacterium to so effectively adhere.

"The bacterium affixes itself to usually slippery stainless steel. From there, it begins to grow and multiply, creating colonies, which in turn ensconce themselves with a protective slime making the contaminant extremely difficult to get rid of," explains Dr. Truelstrup Hansen. "If we understand the mechanism that allows it to attach, we can devise better strategies for effective bacteria removal and sanitation."

Ms. Chen is getting close to better understanding this problem through a rather time-consuming process of elimination. "We obtained 4,000 *L. monocytogenes* mutant strains where each one had taken up a mobile DNA piece to essentially interrupt its current state," says Ms. Chen. "We then tested to see which ones could still attach to the stainless steel. Out of this 'library of mutants,' there were only 14 that didn't attach, meaning something had been altered in the genome."

The challenge now is to find out exactly what has changed. Under Dr. Truelstrup Hansen's guidance, Ms. Chen will compare the 14 mutants' genomes to the parent strain and attempt to pinpoint what interfered with the bacteria's ability to attach to the stainless steel surface. This finding could lead to relevant information and practical solutions for the food industry.

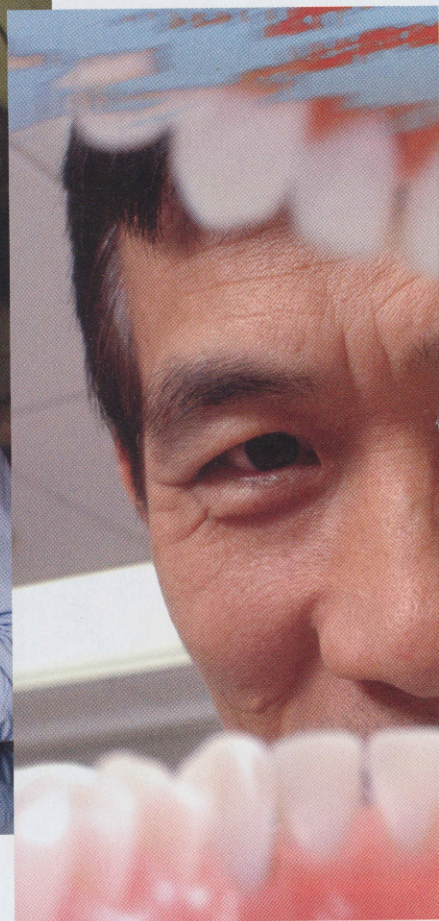
Christmas seals

It has become a Christmas tradition — every year over the holiday break Sara Iverson and her husband pack their duffle bags and journey to Sable Island, joined by Dalhousie students and researchers from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. All are eager to spend five to seven weeks studying the grey seal in its own habitat.

Dr. Iverson studies marine mammals, sea birds and bears, concentrating on their adaptations to environmental constraints and changing ecosystems. On Sable Island, she focuses mainly on the lactation strategies of the mother seals and the ability of their pups to tolerate — and indeed rely on — a very high-fat diet in their first



Shelley Lang and Sara Iverson



few days of life. What makes this research particularly relevant is that seals have the same digestive enzymes as humans, yet their high-fat food tolerance is very different.

"The grey seal mother feeds her pup 22,000 calories a day in milk, with no chance to replenish her own body tissue losses (required to produce the milk) because seals give birth on land where they are separated from their food source," explains Dr. Iverson. "The grey seal's milk is 60 per cent fat, much higher than human's milk at only four per cent fat."

In spite of the high-fat diet, seals never experience clogged arteries. This phenomenon has made the American Heart Association very interested in Iverson's work and its potential to help us better understand how the human body stores and uses fat.

Developing new defences

Interrupting bacterial communication. It's an unusual way to describe the work of dental professionals but it is an important part of what they do. Our mouths are filled with bacteria. With daily brushing and flossing, some are flushed away but the rest build up and attach

themselves very tightly to our teeth and gums. The bacteria develop cell-to-cell communication strategies to multiply. To increase their likelihood of survival, they create a microbial biofilm, a coating that is impenetrable with a toothbrush but can be removed with dental instruments.

Yung-Hau Li has been working with the dental plaque-causing bacterium, *Streptococcus mutans*. He has synthesized an analogous molecule that makes this bacterium more sensitive to the detergent found in toothpaste, inhibiting its ability to form biofilms.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in Dr. Li's lab are working with him to take this concept further and develop analogues that could have broader medical applications in the fight against biofilm-based infections.

"Normally, our immune system keeps us free of infection," says Dr. Li. "When it fails us, then we usually turn to antibiotics to get rid of the infection. But if the drugs don't work, our defence against these seemingly resistant bacteria is very limited."

It's at this point that "communication interruption" becomes a potential part of the solution. "By introducing

Yung-Hau Li



Stacy Ackroyd Stolarz and Ingrid Sketris



Photos: Danny Abried

molecular analogues, you may be able to interfere with the bacterial communication and its controlled pathogenic activities, meaning that the total number of disease-causing cells becomes so limited that there are not enough to cause a problem.”

Checking the pulse of our drug system

Four hundred million. That's roughly the number of prescriptions written in this country each year, resulting in an annual average of \$700 per Canadian spent on drugs per year. This is significantly more than in many other countries, yet Canada lacks an adequate national system for monitoring drug use. Better methods are needed to detect and prevent patient harm that may result from such things as inappropriate dosages, adverse reactions or drug interactions.

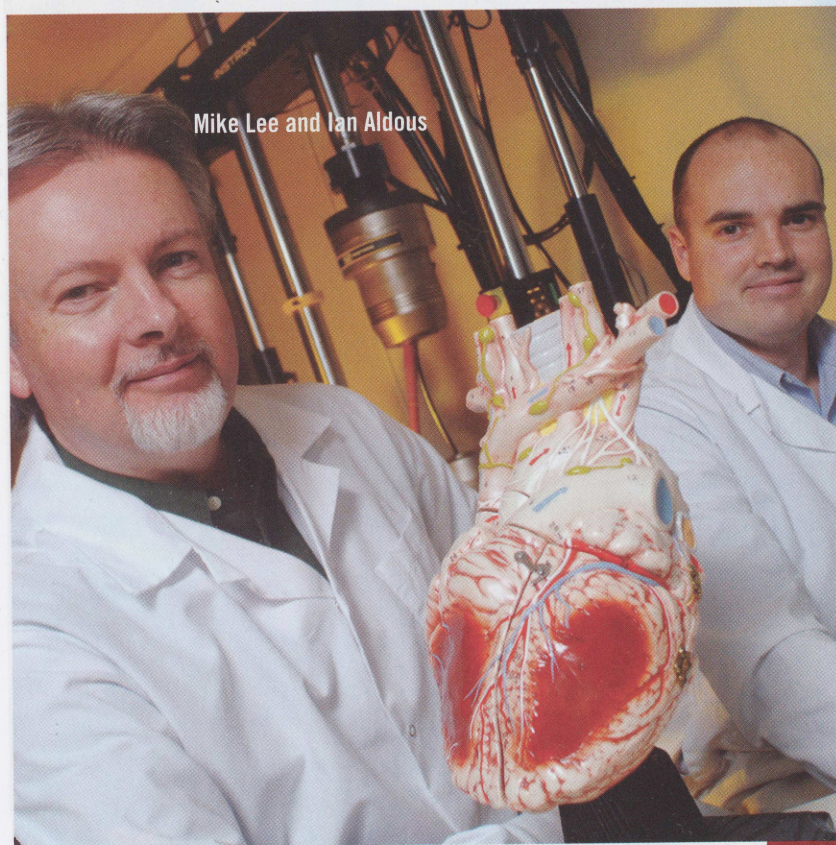
Dalhousie's Ingrid Sketris provides the government with research on this issue. She holds a 10-year Chair in Health Services Research from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. Dr. Sketris is one of just 11 such chairs in Canada and the only one in the Atlantic provinces.

“The processes by which drugs are regulated, marketed, prescribed and used have broad-reaching ramifications,” says Dr. Sketris. “There are business implications, legal perspectives and, of course, medical challenges that all play a part.”

Dr. Sketris is committed to raising awareness about the importance of medication management and promoting best practices, especially since there are marked differences even among provinces and health authorities in Canada. “It's important to know both whether there is overprescribing or underprescribing and if patients are inadvertently or deliberately misusing the prescriptions,” she says. “These are important issues, especially with an aging population and rising drug costs.”

The heart of the matter

Some diverse research is being conducted at Dalhousie's School of Biomedical Engineering, which is headed by Michael Lee. A bit unexpectedly, it mainly centres on a single molecule — collagen. It is the most common protein in the body and determines the strength and stiffness of all of our parts, from bone to muscle to skin.



Mike Lee and Ian Aldous



Heather O'Brien

Photos: Danny Abriel

PhD student Ian Aldous is particularly interested in the role collagen plays in the heart and is considering it from a tissue repair perspective. "The four valves of the heart open and close 35 million times every year," he says. "The valves never stop, meaning that they have to repair themselves 'on the fly.' Understanding this repair process would have some very important implications for successfully replacing people's worn out or damaged heart valves."

Currently, replacement heart valves are either made from synthetic materials or with chemically-treated tissues called bioprostheses. Bioprosthetic valves typically fail within 15 years, requiring another surgery. "If we can figure out how to replace the valves with live tissues that have the ability to repair themselves, then the need for ongoing replacements would be eliminated," says Mr. Aldous.

Attention please

It takes an average of half a millisecond for internet users to decide whether to remain at a website or move on to another. That's less than the time it took to read the first 12 words of this story.

Capturing and maintaining a web reader's attention is a huge challenge for organizations. Much effort is now going into developing sites that sustain the length of online visits while aptly promoting an organization's products, services or information.

Dalhousie PhD candidate Heather O'Brien refers to this concept as "user engagement." As part of her thesis, she's developing a process model that will determine the point at which a person becomes engaged, how long interest is maintained and the point of disengagement.

Ms. O'Brien's work is particularly relevant to online retailers and one North American company has provided a venue for her work. "A major online book retailer sent my survey to its customer list on my behalf."

The results may help shape an online sales strategy for the book company and will also play a major part in her thesis. "I will have developed a rigorous methodology that measures engaging experiences for internet shoppers and web searchers," she says. "From there, I want to study physiological reactions such as heart rate, eye movements and skin response in relation to a user's interest."

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(BEng '64)

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Host: Dr. Richard
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(MBA '81, LLB '88)

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Alumni events

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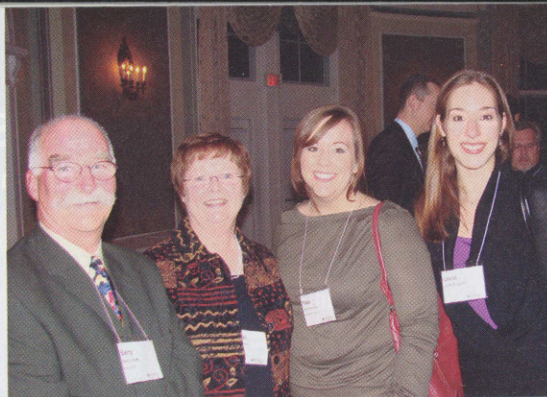
In **October**, hosts
Laura McCain Jensen
(BCom'82) and Peter Jensen
welcomed alumni and
friends in their beautiful
home in Oakville, while
Board of Governors member
Lynn Irving (DPT'76)
hosted a reception at the
Shadow Lawn Inn in Saint
John, N.B.


With **November**
came events in Edmonton,
hosted by Barry Johns
(BArch'72) at the elegant
Fairmont MacDonald,
and Montreal, where
alumnus Reg Weiser
(BEng'66) welcomed
guests at the
Restaurant Garcon.

And of course it just
wouldn't be **December**
without our annual Ottawa
reception. This year, **more
than 175 alumni and friends**
were greeted by host Peter
Herrndorf (LLB'65, LLD'00)
at the National Arts Centre.

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hosts and volunteers.**
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events/photos](http://www.dal.ca/alumni/events/photos).





Leading lights

Young philanthropists establish Pharmacy Leadership Award

They live in different cities, are strikingly different in appearance, and are two years apart in age, but brothers Ryan and Eric Post are as close as any set of identical twins.

Even their voices are identical.

"It's true," Eric, 30, confides in a telephone interview. "No one can tell us apart – unless they're actually looking at us."

Indeed, the two practicing pharmacists (Ryan, 32, graduated from Dal in 1999 and Eric graduated in 2002) have lived remarkably symbiotic lives to date. Born in New Brunswick, both brothers pursued undergrad degrees at the University of New Brunswick before heading for Halifax and Pharmacy, where they made a significant impact on student culture, immersing themselves in campus life and demonstrating leadership as student representatives in the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI).

And now the brothers have turned their twin thoughts to philanthropy and the idea of giving back to the Dalhousie community.

"We didn't come from money and we were very grateful to be the recipients of various awards and bursaries that helped us get through school," says Ryan. **"We really enjoyed our time as pharmacy students and we always said that once we were established we would give back."**

The result is the Eric and Ryan Post Pharmacy Leadership Award, a bursary to be awarded annually to a third-year student who demonstrates both financial need and a strong commitment to both campus life and the pharmacy community.

"Eric and Ryan are two exceptional leaders," says Rita Caldwell, Director of the School of Pharmacy. "Both brothers were leaders in their student days and both held executive positions. This award is the natural extension of those leadership qualities."

But perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the gift is the relative youth of the donors, says Caldwell. "It isn't every day that you have young philanthropists knocking on your door. In my experience, most young professionals are focused on establishing themselves in their career rather than giving back to the community that nurtured them."

"Pharmacy has afforded me a comfortable lifestyle," says Ryan, who currently operates a Shoppers Drug Mart in Thunder Bay. "I'd rather give back now than wait 30 to 50 years."

"Why wait until you retire to give back," echoes Eric, who divides his time between London and Toronto, where his fiancée (also a pharmacist) is completing her doctoral studies. "I'd love to see other young Dal alumni step up to the plate and think about giving back to the students at large. You should never forget where you came from."

The challenge is on!

Joanne Ward-Jerrett

Rising stars

Five Dal alumni land on *Expert* magazine's Leading Lawyers Under 40 List

Let's give a big hand to our five savvy law grads who were recently named to *Expert*'s prestigious "Top 40 under 40" lawyers in Canada list. We're proud of your accomplishments!

Simon R. Fitzpatrick '94

(McCarthy Tetrault, Toronto)

John F. Fox '93

(Toronto Community Housing Corporation)

David G. Henley LL.M. '03

(Stewart McKelvey, Halifax)

Colleen Keyes '93

(McInnes Cooper, Halifax)

Dana D.J. Schindelka '96

(Davis LLP, Calgary)

Spotlight

A STUDY GUIDE...THE FOUR-LEGGED KIND

As Shelley Adams walked across the stage of the Rebecca Cohn to accept her Bachelor of Social Work degree, she was surprised to hear applause. It was scattered here and there until it seemed everyone in the packed auditorium was clapping. Unnerved, she kept on walking, one hand steady on the harness of her guide dog Buena.

"It was unexpected," says the 27-year-old Dartmouth resident, who was able to get a job in her field even before she graduated last fall. "I didn't know anyone there besides my parents and my husband."

But a dog will always get attention, especially one as beautiful as Buena, a Labrador retriever with a glossy black coat and sad eyes. Ms. Adams was worried Buena would sniff the chancellor — as it was, her companion for the past year groaned loudly as if bored during the speech by an honorary degree recipient.

The applause? She knows she got it because her vision is impaired. But to her, it's not a big deal, just a part of life. She was diagnosed with the degenerative eye disease

Retinitis Pigmentosa when she was two, after her grandmother decided a trip to the doctor was in order. "She needs someone to look at her legs," she remembers her grandmother saying. "She keeps tripping over things."

Still, going to university when you are visually impaired is a challenge, she admits. For example, getting her reading done was a major production: she'd have to scan textbook chapters and then have the computer read them out to her. "The computer isn't the most expressive reader," says Ms. Adams dryly. "There were a few times when my head hit the keyboard — it put me right to sleep."

Another problem was that sometimes her reading packages consisted of photocopies of articles

— or photocopies of photocopies. "They wouldn't scan at all," she sighs.

But she was able to complete her degree by distance education. She found her professors in the Department of Social Work to be accommodating and sensitive to her needs.

She thinks living with vision loss makes her a better social worker. Since last spring, she has been working as the registration and referral co-ordinator for the CNIB and does most of her work over the telephone.

"Everyone I talk to is adjusting to vision loss. If I feel it would be beneficial, I do disclose (I am also living with vision loss.) But I do understand what they're going through. It's very easy to empathize. Oh yeah, I've been there."

Marilyn Smulders

She thinks living with vision loss makes her a better social worker.



Photo: Nick Pearce

MEET YOUR TEAM



Top left to right:

Nicole Redhead, Admin Assistant, Donor Relations & Events; **Allison Himmelman**, Associate Director, Alumni Outreach; **Alice Ridgeway**, Admin Assistant

Bottom left to right:

Darlene Jarvis, Admin Assistant; **Ann Vessey**, Associate Director, Donor Relations; **Ian Murray**, Director, Alumni and Donor Relations; **Shawna Burgess**, Associate Director, Alumni Programs

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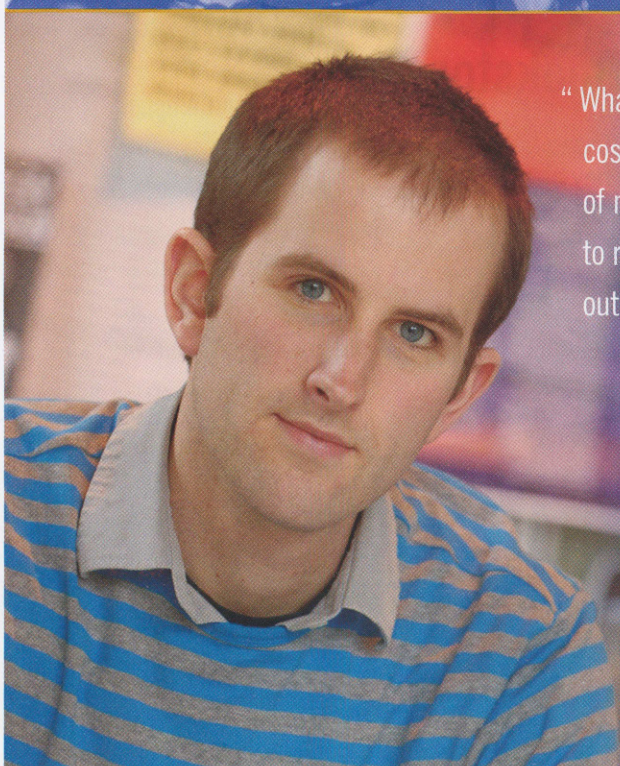


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— Ben Duinker, BM'07

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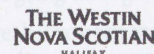
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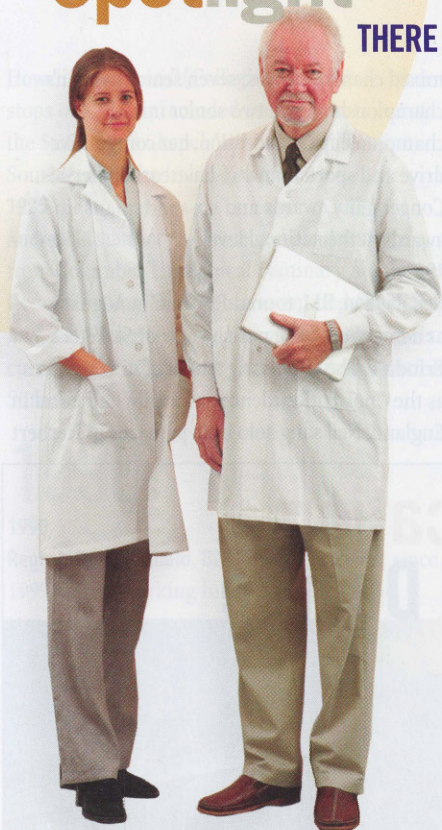
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Spotlight

THERE ARE NO COINCIDENCES



Dr. George Turnbull, Associate Dean (Research and Academic), Faculty of Health Professions, still can't get over it.

At a photo shoot for a Dalhousie Medicine story on the new Integrated Health Research Training Program, he discovered the postdoctoral fellow posing with him was an alumna of Edinburgh's famed Royal High School – the same institution from which he graduated in 1963.

Dr. Jennifer Wilson, who is wrapping up her postdoctoral work in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, was in the Royal High's graduating Class of 1993.

Their Edinburgh accent, mutually recognized, provided the first clue to a shared background. "I couldn't believe it!" said Dr. Turnbull. "It's amazing!" chimed Dr. Wilson.

The Royal High School is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in Europe. The school's founding, believed to have been in association with Holyrood Abbey, dates to 1128. After the Reformation, Mary Queen of Scots put it in the hands of Edinburgh's Town Council. Over the centuries, the school has relocated many times.

When Dr. Turnbull attended, the school was

on Calton Hill, in a neo-classical Greek Doric pile so historic it was briefly in the running to house the new Scottish Parliament. By the time Dr. Wilson arrived, the high school had moved to Barnton, on the outskirts of Edinburgh, and become co-educational.

Among the alumni are Alexander Graham Bell, James Boswell, Sir Walter Scott and

his school companion, George Ramsay, the 9th Earl of Dalhousie and founder of Dalhousie University. Given that last association, perhaps Dr. Turnbull and Dr. Wilson shouldn't be so surprised by their chance meeting on campus. Unknown to them, Dalhousie University, it seems, has always been in the Royal High's alumni territory. *Betsy Chambers*

DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED

Janice Ashworth, BSc'07



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Classnotes

1960s

1964

John J. Trifilette, BEng (NSTC), PEng, has retired as president and chairman of the board after a lifetime career at FRANKI International. John would like to hear from classmates and professors at trifi@canada.com.

1966

Joan Casey, MSc, MD, LLD'97 was recently honoured by the Montefiore Hospital in New York for her career as an infectious clinician. Dr. Casey was named outstanding physician, professor and inspiring leader in recognition of her extraordinary leadership and service to the medical centre and surrounding community. Dr. Casey serves as Chair of Dalhousie's U.S. Foundation in New York.

1969

Steve Konchalski, LLB, was inducted into the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame on Oct. 19, 2007. A Canadian Basketball Hall of Famer twice over – as a builder and an assistant coach with the 1976 men's Olympic team, Steve is the head coach of the men's basketball team at St. Francis Xavier University.

1970s

1970

Russell McNeil, MSc, is pleased to announce that he has written and edited a new book, *Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, Selections Annotated and Explained*. When not writing, Russell teaches fitness in Nanaimo, B.C.

1971

Lawrence Klein, BA, is the vice president of Thought Technology Ltd., designers of space-age technology for astronauts including Canadian Dave Williams and American colleague Ron Garin. One recent device tested by the astronauts is the FlexComp Infiniti system, a wearable outfit that records multiple physiological measurements simultaneously. Data is used to study astronauts' responses to zero gravity, living in outer space and staying in space vehicles and stations for extended periods of time. <http://www.thoughttechnology.com/nasa.htm>

1974

Wanda Graham, BA, was recently awarded the Established Artist Recognition Award by the Province of Nova Scotia. Having worked in theatre for over 30 years, Wanda is thrilled to be recognized for her contributions at this stage of her career. She recalls her days at Dal with great

fondness, especially class performances at what is now the University Club and times spent in the then-brand-new Arts Centre.

1980s

1980

Penny LaRocque, BRÉC, has earned a place in the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame for her achievements in curling. Over her 39-year career, Penny has won 19 provincial championships including five women's championships, five

mixed championships, seven senior women's championships and two senior mixed championships. In addition, her competitive drive and sportsmanship have earned her Ms. Congeniality awards and six sportsmanship awards at the national level.

1981

Neil Haddon, BM, toured England in August as a member of the parish choir of St. Peter's Erindale. The choir sang a total of nine services as the Choir in Residence at Lincoln Cathedral in England. Neil sang solo bass passages in Herbert

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Graduate Studies

Howell's "Te Deum" (Collegium Regale). Further stops on the tour included evensong services at the St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and at Southwark Cathedral in London.

1985

Andrew Richardson, BA, received his doctorate from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia in May. His thesis was entitled *Friendship and Self Giving: The Practice of Grace*. Andrew is currently the minister at Trinity United Church in Summerside, P.E.I.

1990s

1990

Regis Alan MacDonald, BM, a naval reservist since 1997, is now working full time as the music standards representative for the Canadian Forces Music Trade at the Music Training Cadre of the Canadian Forces School of Administration and Logistics at CFB Borden, Ontario. Alan is currently a Petty Officer 2nd Class.

Tory S. Thorkelson, BA, was recently elected to the position of first vice-president of National KOTESOL and will automatically ascend to serve as national president in October 2008 for a one-year term. KOTESOL currently has 661 members in 10 chapters all across the Korean Peninsula.

1991

Portia Clark, BA, is the host of *CBC News at Six* in Edmonton, Alta. Portia got her start reporting, producing and reading the news at CBC Radio in Halifax. Two years later she moved to Edmonton, where she was first a newsreader and then co-host of the morning show. She made the jump to hosting with CBC television in 2002.

Robert Naugle, BEng (TUNS), and his wife Cathy are pleased to announce the birth of their

son Noah Bernard on Oct. 24, 2006. The Naugle family resides in Dartmouth, N.S.

1993

Todd DeWolf, BSc, has returned to the East Coast with his wife Holly and two daughters, Reagen and Hannah. Todd, a fitness professional, would like to announce the launch of his health and wellness business, Altius Fitness & Consulting. Todd can be contacted at todd@altiusfitness.com.

1994

Tanya (Romkey) Gates, BEng (TUNS), and husband Tom announce the birth of their third child, David Alexander, born September 11, a brother for Christina and Spencer.

Karen E. Roberts-Small, BScOT, and husband Christopher, were married on July 14, 2005. Karen is currently working as a care coordinator for the Nova Scotia Department of Health in Sydney, N.S. The couple resides in Sydney River.

Roger Thompson, MA, recently published a book entitled *Lessons Not Learned: The US Navy's Status Quo Culture*. The book has been called a "masterpiece of research" and "more than brilliant" by some of the leading defence specialists in the United States.

www.rogerthompson.net

1995

Will Cole-Hamilton, LLB, has established Learning Climate, a not-for-profit society, with his wife Shannon Aldinger, LLB and classmate Fred Eiserman, LLB. They seek to donate copies of *An Inconvenient Truth* to high schools across Canada to raise awareness about climate change. For more information contact Will, willch01@telus.net or visit www.learningclimate.org.

1996

David Barton, DEngr'89, BEng'92 (TUNS), MEng (TUNS), and wife Kelly would like to announce

the birth of Jamie Kelly, on April 13, a sister for Taylor and Kylie.

1997

Gisele (Melanson) Thibodeau, BScN, and husband Rick announce the birth of their son, Andre Richard, born September 19, a brother for Lisette. Gisele is currently on maternity leave from the Victoria Order of Nurses in Yarmouth.

1998

Christopher D. McNamara, BA, was recently awarded a \$10,000 Manning Innovation Award for his work as chief architect on the Siren ePCR Suite, the world's most used electronic pre-hospital reporting system. His computerized system replaces the unwieldy paper forms that paramedics and first-responders must otherwise deal with. The system includes a computer and touch screen that a paramedic can easily use at the scene of an emergency or in the back of an ambulance.

1999

Amanda Catherine Badger, BSc, was married to Ronald Rebgetz in Townsville, Australia on July 21. Amanda received her Master of Science degree from James Cook University, Townsville, and is employed by the City of Townsville as a community planner.

2000s

2000

Kris Kolanko, BSc, has started a career in the financial services industry as a consultant with Investor's Group. Kris can be contacted via email at kris.kolanko@investorsgroup.com

2002

Christopher Crowell, MBA, LLB, is employed with Bell Canada in Toronto and the founder of East Coast Connected (ECC), a non-profit venture that promotes brain circulation – allowing both Atlantic Canada and Toronto to benefit from the free flow of capital, knowledge and creativity. www.eastcoastconnected.com

2005

Ryan Deschamps, BA'02, MLIS, MPA, and wife, Wanda are pleased to announce the arrival of Rene Simon on July 25, a little brother for Adrien who turned four on October 9.

2007

Michael Fox, BA, recently directed a short film, *A Lesser Sort of War*. The film was screened at the 27th Atlantic Film Festival in Halifax and is the true story of Nova Scotian political activist Joseph Howe. Contact Michael at mrfox@whitlancefilms.com.

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For general inquiries about diagnostic imaging opportunities at Interior Health, please e-mail DIEmail@interiorhealth.ca. To explore your Diagnostic Imaging career options and apply online, visit our career website www.roomtogrowbc.ca/showcase.asp#di



Interior Health

www.roomtogrowbc.ca

InMemoriam

Harley Garson Kushel, DDS'34, Walriut Creek, Calif., U.S.

Una Lowis (Mitchell) Campbell, BA'35, Dartmouth, N.S., on Oct. 26, 2007

Peter Stewart MacDonald, BA'36, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 19, 2007

Marjorie Elizabeth Mader, BA'35, DED'36, MA'37, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 28, 2007

Margaret Stanwood (Drummie) Bagg, BA'37, LLB'39, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 21, 2007

Rita Gertrude MacMillan, BA'37, on Oct. 30, 2007

Frederick Grenfell Barrett, BSc'32, MSc'38, Bridgetown, N.S., on Nov. 25, 2007

Nancy (Lawson) Greenberg, BSc'38, Ottawa, Ont., on Aug. 27, 2007

Walter Wiswell Allen, BSc'39, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 11, 2007

John Roderick Cameron, MD'40, Dartmouth, N.S.

Walter Reynolds Lawson, BSc'40, Westmount, Que.

George Vincent Joseph Meagher, BSc'40, DipEng'40 (NSTC), Toronto, Ont., on Nov. 26, 2007

Hadsel Gordon Quigley, BEng'37, DipEng'39 (NSTC), MD'42, Sandy Cove, N.S., on Oct. 4, 2007

Duncan Russell MacRae, MD'42, Langley, B.C.

Henrik Odd Tønning, BSc'40, MD'43, Saint John, N.B., on Oct. 27, 2007

Thomas Robert Ingraham, BSc'43, Ottawa, Ont.

Ian MacGregor, BSc'39, MD'43, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 12, 2007

Louis William Collins, BA'44, MA'45, DED'46, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 1, 2007

Kenneth Joseph Chisholm MacKinnon, MD'45, LLD'91, Antigonish, N.S., on Oct. 8, 2007

Hester Anne (Beach) Jackson, LCMus'46, Wolfville, N.S., on Oct. 11, 2007

Alexander Murdock MacIntosh, LLB'46, New Glasgow, N.S., on Dec. 2, 2007

Donne Watson Smith, MD'47, St Andrews, N.B., on Sept. 19, 2007

Mary Lou (MacLeod) Clarke, BA'48, MSW'51, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 4, 2007

Alan David Churchill-Smith, LLB'48, Oakville, Ont., on Dec. 26, 2007

Cyril Joseph Fear, BEng'48 (NSTC), Mahone Bay, N.S., on Oct. 29, 2007

George Alexander Blackman, BEng'49 (NSTC), Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 8, 2007

Sherburne Graham McCurdy, BA'49, MA'50, Victoria, B.C., on Nov. 4, 2007

Joyce Elizabeth (MacDonald) MacLellan, DPH'50, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 28, 2007

Helen Ruth Balcom, DPharm'50, Sheet Harbour, N.S.

Victor Romard, LLB'50, Ottawa, Ont., on Sept. 22, 2007

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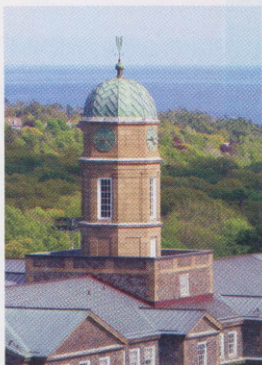
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George Albert Tracy, BA'50, MA'51, New London, N.H., U.S., on Sept. 8, 2007
Lloyd Rodger Boutilier, BEng'51 (NSTC), Sydney, N.S., on Oct. 9, 2007
Edward Roy Cochrane, LLB'51, Moberly Lake, B.C., on Aug. 10, 2007
Richard Darrell Weston Keating, LLB'52, London, Ont., on Nov. 20, 2007
Lewis Ralph Thomas, MA'52, Saskatoon, Sask.
Helen Audrey (MacLeod) MacKeigan, DPH'53, Sydney, N.S., on Aug. 20, 2007
Joan Merridith (Spicer) Kerr, LLB'53, Burlington, Ont.
George Elmer Bonnell, MD'53, Fredericton, N.B., on July 26, 2007
George Travis Crossman, DDS'53, Kingston, N.S., on Nov. 2, 2007
Walter Keating Vincent Hughes, DipEng'51, BEng'53 (NSTC), Wolfville, N.S., on Dec. 29, 2007
Roy Stanley Jensen, BA'53, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 25, 2007
Donald Alexander Machum, LLB'53, Edmonton, Alta., on Oct. 24, 2007
Nelson Wright Stott, MD'53, Shubenacadie, N.S., on Nov. 16, 2007
Harry Kenneth Meisner, DDS'54, Kingston, N.S., on Nov. 22, 2007
Robert Allen Emmerson, BEng'55 (NSTC), Halifax, N.S.
John Arnold Smith, MD'55, Hansport, N.S., on Oct. 25, 2007
Marguerite Alice (Beazley) Oliver, BA'58, Liverpool, N.S., on Oct. 14, 2007
Norma Eldene (Smith) Scott, BED'60, Dartmouth, N.S., on Oct. 12, 2007
William Graham Moores, MD'60, St. John's, Nfld., on Nov. 24, 2007
Gary Everett Rix, BCom'63, Mineville, N.S., on Sept. 24, 2007
Harold Glenn Hanam, BEng'66 (NSTC), Sydney, N.S., on Aug. 26, 2007

Melvin Ronald Parsons, BCom'66, BED'68, Hubley, N.S., on Sept. 7, 2007
Amelia (Cashen) Wagstaff, DNSA'67, Parrsboro, N.S., on Aug. 16, 2007
Lorna Gene (Pamenter) Feindel, DPH'67, Winnipeg, M.B., on Aug. 7, 2007
Jerzy Wysocki, MEng'67 (NSTC), on Sept. 8, 2007
Frank Peter Bush, DDS'68, Grand Forks, B.C., on Sept. 6, 2007
Roald Fredrik Kittilsen, BED'68, Newport, N.S., on Nov. 13, 2007
Robert Bernard MacLellan, LLB'68, Truro, N.S., on Nov. 12, 2007
Hermann Wolf, PhD'69, Halifax, N.S.
Carol Ann (Perry) Johnston, DPH'70, Baddeck, N.S., on Dec. 10, 2007
Heidi Luise Grundke, DED'67, BED'70, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 27, 2007
Simon Lewis Gaum, LLB'71, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 7, 2007
John Raymond St. Amand, BA'69, MA'72, Lunenburg, N.S., on Oct. 31, 2007
Robert Bertram Knickle, BED'72, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 10, 2007
Francis Joseph Himsl, BA'73, BED'73, Halifax, N.S., on Dec. 4, 2007
Jeanette Marie MacDonald, DNSA'73, Dartmouth, N.S., on Aug. 25, 2007
Jocelyn Raymond, MA'73, Halifax, N.S., on Aug. 13, 2007
William Scott Cameron, BA'74, Wellington, N.S., on Aug. 24, 2007
Carl Felix Dombek, LLB'74, Toronto, Ont., on Oct. 5, 2007
Janice Marion (Whelan) Chapman, BScPH'76, Saint John, N.B., on Sept. 10, 2007
Michael Anthony MacDougall, BCom'76, Dartmouth, N.S.
Kenneth Wayne MacLean, BCom'74, LLB'77, Tantallon, N.S.
Elinor Gordon Adams, BED'75, MED'77, Armadale, N.S., on Dec. 27, 2007

Barbara Anne Cole, DPH'77, Dartmouth, N.S.
Nancy Irene Wright Fraser, BA'55, BED'56, MA'77, Wolfville, N.S., on Dec. 15, 2007
Peter Anthony Oliver Richardson, BA'77, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 9, 2007
John Allister Bowman, BSc'76, BEng'78 (NSTC), Lwr. Sackville, N.S., on Oct. 24, 2007
John Graham Warwick, BSc'70, BCom'72, BEDS'78 (NSTC), BARCH'79 (NSTC), Monkland, Ont.
Freda Winnifred Bradley, BA'65, MSW'80, Enfield, N.S., on Oct. 19, 2007
David James Cook, BSc'77, LLB'80, Bedford, N.S., on Sept. 25, 2007
Ian Edward Bailey, BSc'78, BA'80, Dartmouth, N.S., on Oct. 2, 2007
Terry Joseph Mombourquette, DDS'81, L'Ardoise, N.S., on Aug. 26, 2007
Freeman Chesley Sheppard, BA'75, LLB'82, York Harbour, Nfld.
Alexandra Pauline Burke, BSW'83, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Brian Ross Russell, BA'80, BAHC'81, LLB'84, Arlington, V.A., U.S., on Aug. 25, 2007
Helen Leona Anne Gorman, BA'84, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 3, 2007
Robert Lisheh Jin, PGM'84, Richmond Hill, Ont., on Oct. 8, 2007
Beverley Susan C Beaulieu, BN'86, Dartmouth, N.S., on Sept. 4, 2007
Robert Stewart Briggs, NDA'78, BEng'86 (TUNS), Lawrencetown, N.S., on Jan. 1, 2008
Blair Campbell Clark, BScA'86, Hunter River, P.E.I., on Aug. 30, 2007
Norma Jean Gilchrist-Dobson, MLS'86, Halifax, N.S., on Sept. 19, 2007
Marie Lucienne I. (Lavoie) Hume, BN'87, Dartmouth, N.S.
Rory Malcolm Francis Kempster, BSc'85, BA'88, Beresford, N.B., on Sept. 11, 2007
Patricia Louise Hamilton, BN'89, Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 6, 2007
Mary Helen Marshall, CCH'90, Eskasoni, N.S., on Aug. 3, 2007
Deborah Karen Duerden McDonald, BSc'87, MD'92, PGM'94, Dartmouth, N.S., on Oct. 11, 2007
Peter J. Redmond, BSc'93, Head of Chezzetcook, N.S., on Nov. 14, 2007
Ramona Helen Ryan, BA'94, Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 24, 2007
Anna Mary Burditt, MA'96, Riverview, N.B., on Dec. 15, 2007
Antonio Lamer, LLD'96, Ottawa, Ont.
Matthew Charles Ayer, BSc'97, Sackville, N.B., on Oct. 15, 2007
P. Robin Rigby, MSC'00, Dartmouth, N.S., on Dec. 9, 2007
Nathaniel Thomas Woolaver, BA'05, Toronto, Ont.
Stephanie Ann Downs, MLIS'06, London, U.K.

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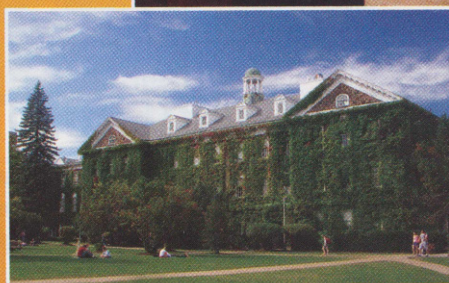
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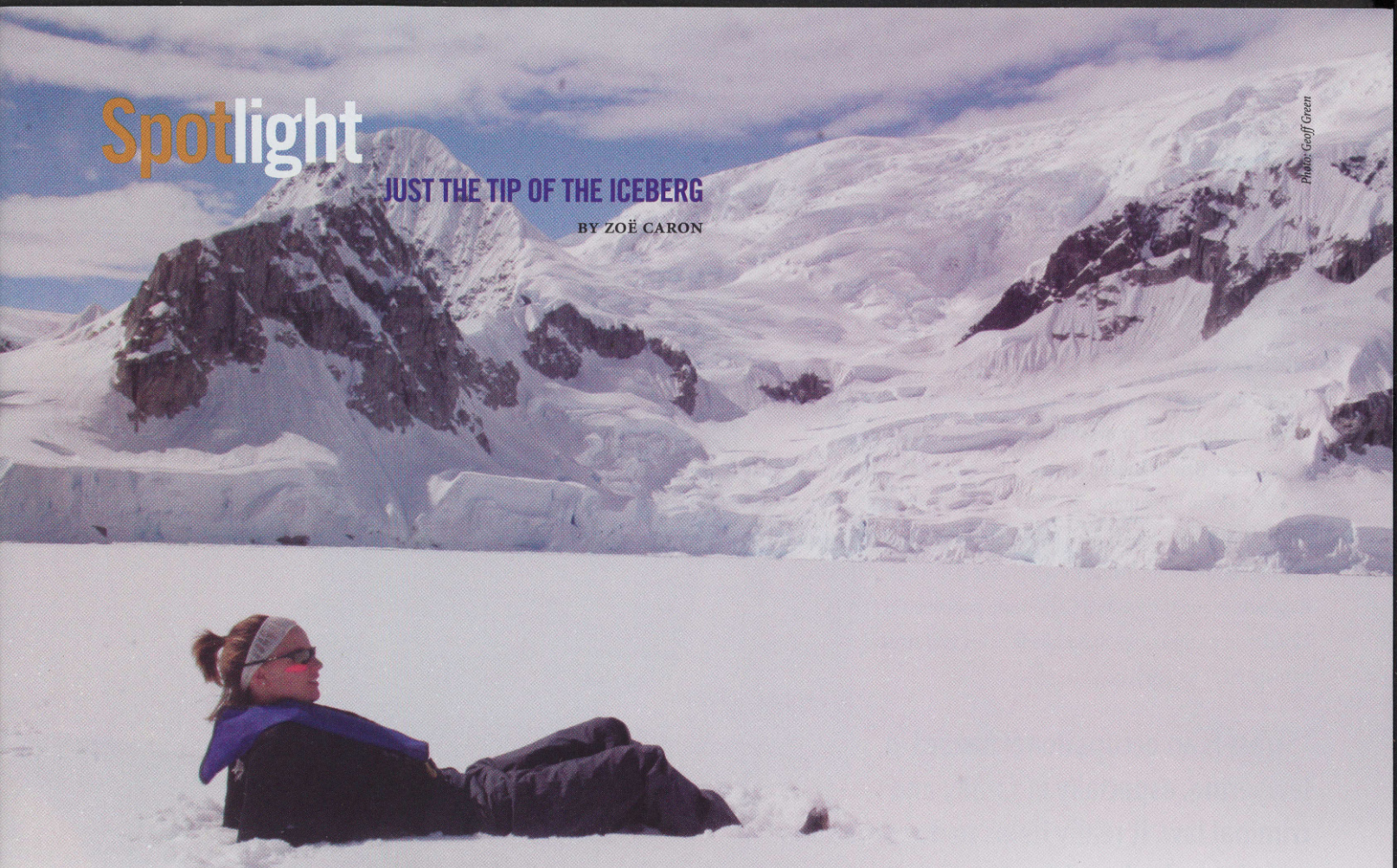
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JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

BY ZOË CARON

Photo: Geoff Green



I feel helpless when asked to describe Antarctica. It is the command centre of our world's ecosystems, yet the word 'Antarctica' renders your mind to a place seemingly farther and more foreign to humankind than the moon. Only poetry could begin to do it justice.

Getting there was half the journey. I made an effort to travel over land and fly as little as possible to lower my impact on climate change. I joined the Students on Ice expedition in Buenos Aires, where our new family of 100 (from more than dozen countries) set out to sea across the Drake Passage. An albatross accompanied us across the sea, riding the wind at the stern. Humpback whales graced our first evening with their silhouetted playfulness in the sunset. Adelie penguins would stare back at us from the top of icebergs. Two days later we saw land again: Antarctica.

There is nothing as intimate as the natural world you are let into upon setting foot in Antarctica. It is the one place on earth where humans are truly guests in another's home. No one can deny the intensity of that unique feeling. If you weren't learning, well, you probably weren't there.

Once we crossed 60 degrees south, we took the Zodiacs to land on the islands and mainland of the Western Peninsula, home to glaciers, jagged mountain peaks, curving ice caps and dramatic icebergs. One landing was on a rocky beach with body-sized ice cubes washing onshore. From a slab of sea ice,

we heard avalanches from mountain peaks high above. On the beach of an active volcano crater we went for a brisk swim, then found hot thermal waters to de-numb our bodies.

When on shore it was like being transported into another world. We would find ourselves staring out over thousands of penguins as their eggs hatched. The smell of guano was distinct. Hawk-like Skuas would circle above, diving at unguarded eggs or chicks. A leopard seal appeared looking for dinner and a back up troop of penguins dove in to help distract its attention. Every moment was irrevocably enthralling.

Perhaps the most important part of this story is why Antarctica is the way it is. The Antarctic Treaty has been active since 1959 — only peaceful activities are permitted, the environment must be respected, and no land claims may be made.

As I stepped off the ship with wobbly sea legs, the six-year-old idealist in me breathed a little sigh of relief; I was filled to the brim with hope, optimism, and a whole deeper level of calmness and sureness. Feeding this renewed mindset into my daily life and work will not be through a few specific actions. I will make a sustained effort to share and build those same feelings in others, so that we may all be one step closer to understanding our modest place on this earth.

And that is how I would begin to describe Antarctica. Zoë Caron has a BSc in Environmental Studies and International Development Studies.

theBackstory

DONALD MURRAY

NAME Donald Murray, QC, LLB '84

PERSONAL PASSIONS Ice skating, rollerblading, '20s jazz, hockey.

JOBS Best known as a criminal defence lawyer, he specializes in human rights and professional discipline issues, lectures on ethics at Dal Law School and serves internationally as a law reform consultant.

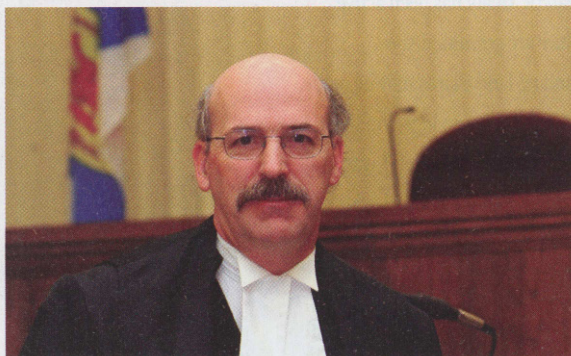
NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS National medal winner in men's skating competition; justice development initiatives in Halifax, Bangladesh and the Eastern Caribbean; published expert in bloodstain analysis, bail in homicide cases, and stress management for lawyers.

"Stress is an occupational hazard in lawyering, especially in family and criminal law. It really helps to do something artistic or physical. Something that brings a little joy or beauty to the world amid the human trauma we have to deal with every day."

Mr. Murray gravitated to criminal law because he enjoys defending such "interesting people" and seeing what makes them tick. In more than 20 years, he has met only one or two "evil" people – in most cases, context and circumstances have much to do with whether or not a crime has been committed.

"When you perform on ice, it's like being in court – you can't make any mistakes; you've got to get it right the first time."

Research: Marla Cranston





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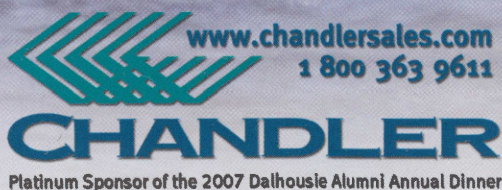


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