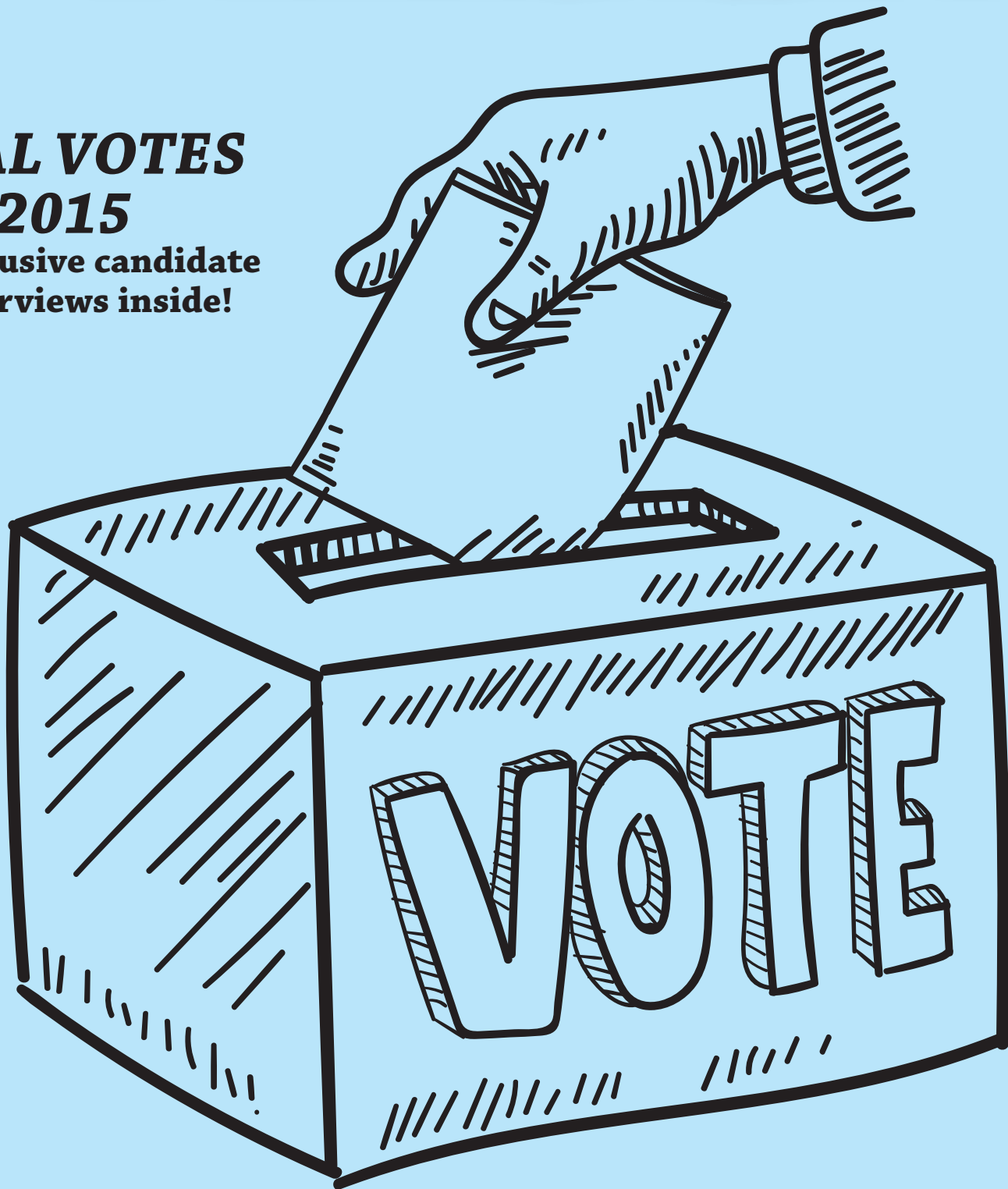


# The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, est. 1868

## **DAL VOTES 2015**

**Exclusive candidate  
interviews inside!**



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## DEBATES:

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

**5pm-7pm**

**All Candidates Debate  
T-Room (All Ages)**

**MONDAY, MARCH 16**

**Noon-2pm**

**President,  
VP Student Life and  
VP Academic & External  
Candidates Debates  
SUB Lobby**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17**

**5pm-7pm**

**All Candidates Debate  
Architecture Building  
Lecture Hall**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**

**Noon-2pm**

**VP Finance & Operations  
and VP Internal  
Candidates Debates  
SUB Lobby**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19**

**5pm-7pm**

**All Candidates Debate  
Grawood (All Ages)**

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Feb. 27, 2015 - Mar. 5, 2015 •

# The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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*the fine print*

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. Views expressed in the letters to the editor, the Streeater, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeater feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff.

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# DAL VOTES 2015

At a total of 22 candidates, more students are running to be elected to DSU council now than in any year since 2007. Enjoy our interviews with some of these candidates among the following pages!

All of these interviews have been edited for length and clarity. Full interviews, along with information on the referendum questions being put forward, may be found online at [dalgazette.com](http://dalgazette.com).

All photos are by Tahrim Alam, courtesy of the DSU; except for the photo of Yazan Matarieh, which was provided.



**ALERT:** web-exclusive content.

Check out [www.dalgazette.com](http://www.dalgazette.com) on the evening of March 13 for in-depth interviews with presidential candidates

**Daniel Nicholson** and **Jennifer Nowoselski**.

## VP (Academic & External) Interview by Victoria Walton, Staff Contributor



**Name:** John Hutton

**Age:** 25

**Hometown:** Halifax, NS

**Program:** International Development and Economics

**Relevant Experience:** Sat on the university Board of Governors for 2 years, worked with Dal Students Against Fee hikes to reduce student debt, including three student Days of Action, former president of King's Pride

**Q: Why are you running for this position?**

JH: Well, I'm running because accessible, quality education should be available to all, regardless of their ability to pay. And we see that this is under attack, almost every year, almost every day. This comes in the form of underfunding from the government, growing class sizes, replacing tenure track professors that can guide us through our courses with over-worked, contract faculty, and that affects our academics. We see student debt skyrocketing, and we need to do something about

this, and so I want to be involved in the push back on the university and make our education better for everybody.

**Q: What do you want to continue that Jacqueline Skiptunis, the current VP AE, has started? What do you think of Jacqueline's work this year?**

JH: Jacqueline has done an excellent job on the Senate, advocating on academic issues, especially building ties between students and faculty and staff unions on campus. I think this is really important work, because our learning conditions are their working conditions, so we have a lot in common in what we need to see at the university. So strengthening those ties is what I want to work on, and I think she's done very well with it.

**Q: What are your thoughts on the DSU's recent disaffiliation from Students Nova Scotia?**

JH: I think it's definitely time for a change at Dalhousie. To actually win an affordable quality education system requires mobilization of our numbers, because we have

strength in numbers. It's clear that giving money to organizations so that they can lobby for us, instead of with us, and not calling for reduced tuition fees hasn't made education more affordable. So it's time for a change, and that means doing what we can to mobilize students and run engaging, effective campaigns that strengthen our voice at the table when we do meet with government.

**Q: How could the DSU engage more students in advocacy efforts?**

JH: I see it as recognizing that the faculty societies are the front line of the struggle, and the DSU exists to help improve them and their own efforts. There's academic advocacy going on in every single faculty, and there's not just going to be one or two smart, student leaders that will do it all for us. So it needs to be a movement, there are not one or two people that will save us. So what I want to do is organize some skill-building conferences in early September, so that people can learn to advocate for themselves and build up a movement across campus.

**Q: What advocacy efforts from this year do you think were most effective?**

JH: I think the group Dal Students Against Fee Hikes has done excellent work, they've talked to thousands of students, and gotten hundreds and hundreds to sign petitions calling for more funding, reduced tuition fees and grants. This has turned into several effective actions that have received media, including the February 4th Day of Action, where hundreds of Dal students and thousands of students in total took to the streets. And that won us meetings with the advanced education minister, the finance minister, people have been willing to talk to students all year about the MOU process, so that was a very effective action and we'd like to continue that.

**Q: Do you believe that the Dal student union should join any external advocacy groups, and if so which ones?**

JH: I don't think we should commit to those decisions right away, I think we should be looking at

our options. Because whatever we do, the priority is strengthening our capacity here at Dal locally. It means building, from the ground up, a movement in every faculty, that's capable of attracting people. Because an effective student union model isn't one based on a couple of well-educated, articulate leaders, it's one that is as close to the ground as possible, so students should know who their society representatives are. Because if you put members on the Arts and Social Sciences Society, the Engineering Society, students know these people because they're in their classes. So a decentralized student movement, that's the way forward for this year.

**Q: This coming year will be the DSU's first year with independent advocacy. How will you handle that?**

JH: Decentralization and democratization is the way forward. It should be bottom-up, it should be based on faculties and working to strengthen capacity across the university.



## VP (Academic & External)

Interview by Jesse Ward, Editor-in-chief



**Name:** Cody Couture

**Age:** 19

**Hometown:** Petit-Roché, NB

**Program:** Political Science

**Relevant Experience:**

Independent research of education policy, academic commissioner for the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society

**Q: Why are you running for this position?**

CC: I'm running because I see a lot of stuff going on, happening at DSU meetings, and I'm not the biggest fan exactly of what's currently happening with the DSU, where I find there's a lot of transparency issues going on. Students aren't kept that well-informed, and you really have to go out of your way to try to stay informed, and it's a lot of work that I feel a lot of students don't feel is worth

putting in. When I go around, and I talk to people, like, 'Hey, what do you think of the Dalhousie Student Union?' I get overwhelmingly negative responses. This is something that they're paying 140-something dollars into every year, and they feel isn't representing them, and that's just a negative thing overall they would probably rather not have. So I want to change people's perceptions of the Dalhousie Student Union by trying to make actual positive changes, being open and transparent, honest.

**Q: How could the DSU engage more students in advocacy efforts?**

CC: Personally, I follow their Facebook page and their Twitter, and I don't see a lot of outreach to students. I try to be involved, and then whenever they're having their meetings, they make a post, "Hey, we're having a meeting," but they never actually discuss what's going to be talked about at the meet-

ing. If they said, "Hey, this is what we're going to be talking about, and this is how it affects you," I feel like people might care more, because they could see how it actually affects them directly. Say we're going to be talking about tuition fees, or the recent tuition hikes, where the word has been going around with the government that the government's been talking about that we've been shut out of. I feel like saying, "Hey, we're going to be talking about this tonight at our meeting, it's going to be one of the central issues," that people might care more and might actually show up. If you see what happened with the February 4 rally, when people are told, "Hey, this is happening, we don't think it's fair, it affects you guys in a very direct way because your tuition might actually be going up by a substantial amount," people do care enough to come out.

**Q: This is the first year the DSU is scheduled for fully independent advocacy. How would you proceed?**

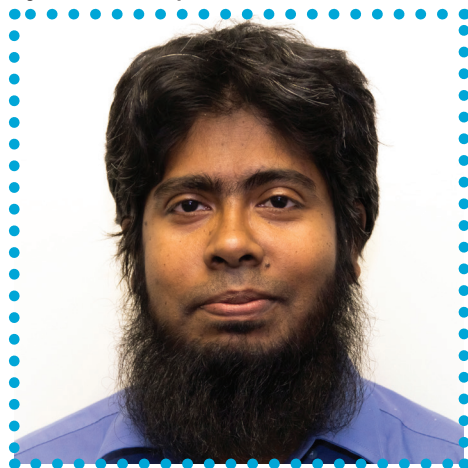
CC: First off, I would look at external advocacy groups, see what options are available to us and evaluate them all based on their own. Bring it to students, see what they want: "Do you think we should join another advocacy group?" "Do you think we should just do our own?" And based on the referendums that have happened in the past years, it seems that students were more or less happy with what Students Nova Scotia had. Last year, or the year before, they voted to increase the levy paid to them. And then you have the DSU, who changed the constitution to allow us to leave without a referendum, and then they just leave. But at that point, are you really listening to the students? Or are you just going for some other kind of agenda that you're pursuing? So, I think it's important to look at

the options, lay out the facts, and let the students decide: "Do you want to pay money to this group, do you want to pay money to that group, do you not want to pay any extra money at all?" And then, if they don't want to, I would look at contacting representatives from every party that's represented in the legislature currently, talk to NDP, Liberals, Conservatives, talk to the Greens, talk to all the parties and see which ones will fit our interests the best. When you get to that point, you can say, "Ok, well this party wants to work with us, so we'll talk with them." Or, "This party doesn't want to, what can we do to try and change their mind?" Even just contacting current advocacy groups and asking them, like, "Hey, what's basic things we can do to help get our foot in the door?" Even if we don't want to join them, if we have similar goals, I'm sure that they'll be more than willing to help us even just get our foot in the door, give us basic advice. Q

## VP (Finance & Operations)

## VP (Student Life)

Interview by Katie Thompson



**Name:** Mahbubur Rahman

**Age:** 34

**Hometown:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Program:** Civil Engineering

**Relevant experience:** Currently DSU VP (Finance & Operations), VP of Finance for the Dalhousie Engineering Society; 2013-2014

**Q: Why do you hope to have this job again next year?**

MR: Many people told me I would be burned out after one year in this position. But fortunately, I'm really enjoying it. I think the experience that I got this year will really be helpful for the DSU for next year, because it's a very important position to support the union and students.

**Q: What would you do differently next year?**

MR: Starting next year it will be different for me. The first year, with any job, you have to get used to what is there and what is not there. But now, this year I am more experienced. I know how the position works. With all the experience I have this year I can support other executives' initiatives. Next year will be a challenging year for the DSU as the Student Union Building renovations are happening. My previous experience will be helpful to manage the budget and the operational part of the renovations. Apart from that I will continue to do the work I'm doing, with perhaps a more effi-

cient and confident manner.

**Q: What do you think of the fact you're running uncontested?**

MR: Many people who had interest in this position knew that I was planning on re-running. Of course there are plenty of students who are capable of this position but my re-running is a good signal to them to go for it.

**Q: Do you think the DSU should release an itemized budget every year? Why, why not?**

MR: Yes, I think the DSU's budget should be transparent. Last year there was no summary of the budget available, but this year I'm trying to get as much information available to the council and the student body. But saying that, the salaries of certain members that should not be published online. We're working on a way that our itemized budget should be available to the general public.

**Q: How do you determine what budget items deserve more funding than others?**

MR: Priorities and initiatives of the executives were important this year, and it goes for next year as well. Within this year's budget I was trying to increase more money to the societies and its members. From my understanding, whichever way helps students more, either directly or indirectly, that's the priority. We should also be more efficient in our operations so we can focus on the student's needs.

Interviews by Kieran Leavitt



**Name:** Kathleen Reid

**Age:** 21

**Hometown:** Thornhill, ON

**Program:** International Development Studies and Creative Writing

**Relevant Experience:** Four years with O-Week with a year as head leader for Cameron House; a year on the O-Week committee; a year as orientation week coordinator, commissioner with the DSU, FreeSchool Coordinator, head Dalhousie TEDx Event Coordinator, Dalplex lifeguard

**Q: What should be the main priority of the VPSL next year?**

KR: I think this one is pretty straightforward: student engagement. Getting students involved to their best ability and there are multiple ways that we can do this. Community building, so, making sure that students are aware of the events that are going on and including them in the planning process. Putting more faith in our students to plan events through myself as a VPSL rather than just through an administrative perspective.

Also, reassessing the VPSL portfolio in a way where [we're] looking less at just planning events and more at how we can shift student life on a day-to-day basis. So if there is an issue, like if you're walking through the Killam and you think that door there is too heavy, that's also student life. It shouldn't just be about [having] a broader focus.

Also, I think it's really important to provide a diverse array of events. Having a big ticket concert is sweet and everyone enjoys

it, but I think also that if [students want] a three-on-three soccer tournament, that should also be provided. So just really looking to: A: engage students in every way possible, and B: reallocating the VPSL portfolio and reallocating the budget that the VPSL has. So, looking at events and also looking at those smaller issues and providing students with better budgets for planning events.

**Q: What is your top band to bring to DalFest?**

KR: I think DalFest is such a cool event because you really get to see a lot of different students from different aspects of student life coming together. So I think in planning DalFest, the only way to do it correctly, to gauge the most students to come, is to hold polls. Pick a couple bands and then [hit them up] on social media and say, "Which one would you most like to see?" I think that's the best way to engage students and get them to want to come out, because they will feel like they've had a hand in helping to plan DalFest. I think next year more than ever we're going to want an EDM act, for example, for one of the non-main stage acts but that's going to be more of a demand. I think it's [also] really cool to keep things Canadian and keep that perspective, but it's also cool to bring other people in. We live in the Maritimes so it's sweet to get a little folk rock in there as well. As usual, I think DalFest is an awesome opportunity, maybe because it's two nights, to get a wide array of really good music in. I think we need to ask the students what they want to see.

**Q: How will you make O-Week more inclusive?**

KR: I think this year there's a ready opportunity to make Orientation Week merge with International Orientation Week. International students have their own orientation week that occurs beforehand, and they are more than encouraged to come to the regular O-Week that we plan here at the DSU, but they do have to pay for both. I worked a lot with Kewoba, who was the International Orientation Week committee planner, and getting experience from her and talking to her about what they were putting into International Orientation Week. I think it would be really cool to get the O-Week committee on that and say if international O-Week happens for, let's say, five days before O-Week, let's give them a huge discounted price on our O-Week and have a lot more events that would include them. I think the main thing for international students for Orientation Week is that they might not know what Orientation Week is. They're coming to Canada; they might not know exactly what a field party is. It's a carnival on our field, but they might be wondering why they're paying a hundred-plus bucks to go to an event they might not understand. So, communicating that in a broader way and communicating that before they get to Canada, before they're so overwhelmed. They have to do so much in that first week. Trying to find a way to include them more is really important to me.

## VP (Student Life)

**Name:** Hani Salem

**Age:** 19

**Hometown:** Halifax, NS

**Program:** Environmental Engineering

**Relevant Experience:** Orientation Week leader

**Q: What should be the main priority of the VPSL next year?**

HS: The main priority is to make sure that Dal is the best university experience for all students. It doesn't matter where they're from or who they are. To do so, the VPSL has to be extremely friendly and welcoming towards the new students and the VPSL plays a crucial role in providing a friendly environment for the student body. So the VPSL has to be fully committed to their job, and this means they have to attend all mandatory meetings, and work extremely hard to come up with better ideas for the university. They should also be a good listener, this is important, because they have to listen to what others have to say and in return provide feedback. Last, but not least, they have to be a team player. By that I mean they have to possess the characteristics which are important and helpful to cooperating with the rest of the team.

**Q: What do you like to do on the weekends?**

HS: Most of my weekends start off with hitting the books in the library because come on, all engineering students know exactly what I'm talking about. After studying on some weekends I like to hit downtown with my friends and have a great time at the club or the bar. I enjoy people's company, it's in my nature, and I've been out with so many new faces and got to know them. On other weekends I just hang out at a friend's house, or go to the cinema, or even go to a Dal event. I'm also looking forward to getting my volleyball team together and having some fun matches after intermurals.

**Q: Top band to bring to DalFest?**

HS: It's a tough question because I am pulled between two bands: they are Linkin Park and Swedish House Mafia. They are both amazing bands and I always listen to their music. The reason why I picked Linkin Park is because I'm addicted to their songs, especially their old ones like "Numb" or "Faint", to name a few. Personally, I'd like it if part of their performance was a throwback to the early '00s and the songs they used to make, as well as having them perform the good music they're making in the present day. As for Swedish House Mafia, I mean I'll let the



music do all the talking. Whenever a Swedish House Mafia song gets played at the club or at a party or where ever, everybody, and I mean everybody, emphasis on the word everybody, is bound to have a good time and we need that at DalFest. So I'd like to give a huge shout out to Linkin Park and Swedish House Mafia and if anybody doesn't know them they should take time off and listen to their good music and they can thank me later.

**Q: How will you make O-Week and Dalhousie campus more inclusive?**

HS: For O-Week I was thinking it would be a sick idea if we'd have an introductory event. I mean that we should have an event where students, or even leaders, take the stage and share a fun fact about themselves, a hidden talent, or a witty confession to the rest of the crowd. Obviously only if they're comfortable to do so in the first place, but that way it makes it easier for students to establish friendships and it's a more fun method because everybody gets to have a laugh. As for main campus, why not come up with a box of requests so students would write down what changes they would like to see on campus whether it is something missing, or something needing improvement, or even new events that haven't been introduced before. All in all, my main objective is to make Dal the best university experience for all students from all different backgrounds.

**Name:** Ali Bee Calladine

**Age:** 19

**Hometown:** Whistler, BC

**Program:** Economics and International Development Studies

**Relevant experience:** Senate rep on DSU council, former DSU council chair, DSU Board of Operations chair, on the nominating committee of the society review committee, sits on Dalhousie Senate, former president of Dal OXFAM, former president of the International Development Education and Awareness Society, NSPIRG board member, organized SUB-fest

**Q: What should be the main priority of the Vice President (Student Life) next year?**

ABC: I have a few key priorities. Obviously, when you think of Vice President (Student Life), the first thing that comes to mind is events, because that is an incredible way to engage students with the union and with student life here. But ultimately, we could be engaging students with events more than just having them participate in events, by actually having people organize events. By being in a role of support and tying things together, the VPSL office could create much more of a sense of community and collectivity around event planning here at Dal. This would also free up some capacity of the VPSL office to focus on services.

The DSU, the university overall, and many societies provide so many incredible services that a lot of students don't know about, don't have access to, and I think right now a lot of students are slipping through the cracks in those services. A really key priority is connecting students with those services that exist: whether it's the writing centre, the food bank, or the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service; which gives legal aid. I think it's a great place for the VPSL to come in and do more by making sure that every student, whether or not they're engaged with the union, is receiving those services.

A third main priority would be reaching out into the community. We're the biggest university in Halifax, and I think we really owe it to Halifax and can benefit as a result from reaching out into the community and bringing our energy, bringing our diversity – really supporting everything that's happening in the community, and then bringing that back and enriching student life by connecting it with everything that is Halifax.



**Q: What do you like to do on the weekends?**

ABC: A lot of dance parties. I got to the farmer's market a lot, I'm great at making brunch. Honestly, just imagine a montage of happy sunny activities all set to some sort of folky Paul Simon song and that's kind of what my classic weekend looks like.

**Q: How will you make O-Week and Dalhousie campus more inclusive?**

ABC: I've actually worked on the O-Week Committee for the last two years, and two years ago I pitched an idea that we started to use, and it's the "Choose Your Own Adventure" O-Week. When you come to Dal you have the opportunity to build your own degree, build your own set of extra-curriculars, build your own identity, and build your own life as an individual. I think you should also be able to build your own Orientation Week.

I picture O-Week having many events running simultaneously, and this leaves room for a lot of diversity and a lot of different options and individuality in each person's Orientation Week. It means we could be bringing societies in to help build the orientation week from the ground up, rather than having them just step in at the last minute to try and get some publicity. I think we could then be building off of the exciting energy of coming to Dalhousie and using that to fuel the energy of O-Week, rather than just telling people they're supposed to be excited. I think we could take that ideology and we could apply it to the rest of the year when it comes to inclusivity [and] diversity. Ultimately, the VPSL's office shouldn't be planning events for 18,000 students. It should be empowering and supporting all of the different things that are coming from students to create the most diverse and dynamic plane of student life possible. I think this would mean that we would be filling the needs of all of the students and really celebrating our individuality here at Dal. **Q**



## VP (Internal)

Interview by Quinelle Boudreau

**Name:** Kaitlynn Lowe

**Age:** 21

**Hometown:** Bowmanville, Ontario

**Program:**

Double Major in English and History, Minor in Theater

**Relevant Experience:**

former Vice President of the Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society (DASSS), current president of DASSS, two years on the DASSS Review Committee, one year on the DASSS Grant Committee, Chair of the DSU Executive Review Committee, Vice President of Campus Relations for the Women's Fraternity Alpha Gamma Delta, member of the Halifax Greek Council; Classics Society; and History Society

**Q: Why are you running for this position?**

KL: I've always had a deep passion for society, community and diversity, and feel that there are many ways the student experience can be enhanced by improving and developing services and resources. This will allow students to put on different programs and events to cater to students across campus. Societies are invaluable tools that have definitely been underutilized in their ability to communicate with students. I want to create a system where societies feel like they can maximize their opportunities to contribute to the student experience.

**Q: How would you communicate with student societies?**

KL: I would like to see a more structured communication procedure that includes updates on the DSU and other committees. This could be through calendars, newsletters or any other form. I feel that this type of communication has been underutilized this year, even though it is the best way for students to know what is going on. There needs to be an increase in the amount of communication the

DSU has with social media. The DSU should be a network to reach out to other societies, no matter how big or small. The DSU website should also become a more relevant and better source of information. There also needs to be more communication with Carleton and Sexton Campuses. This would come from my involvement with the Sexton Advisory Committee, as well as working with the societies that are stationed on these campuses.

**Q: What would you improve from this year's communications with students?**

KL: I think the biggest problem with this year's communications with student was having things minutes and reports not being posted quickly. We need to have constant updates. We need to see the importance of small-scale information and need to be communicating everything that happens in the DSU. I would also like to see more executives on the Carleton and Sexton Campuses, using resources there for those societies, and having more events on these campuses – services and resources need to be available there too.

**Q: How twitter savvy are you?**

KL: Less Twitter-savvy than Facebook-savvy, but I'm working on it. I do a lot of social media communications for Greek Council and as Vice President of Campus Relations. There is always something new to learn. This year I've begun responding to Twitter questions during the Dal Gazette livetweets of DSU meetings, and the DASSS has begun livetweeting their meetings as well.

**Q: Do you follow the DSU on twitter?**

Q: Yes. I follow the DSU, @Dalgazette and @DalPres, along with many other societies that have Twitter accounts. I think that social media is a very important tool for student organizations.



**Q: What do you think about the fact that you are running uncontested?**

KL: It means that I can approach the campaign differently. It allows me to tell people what I have to say, but also to respond to their feedback and begin building concrete relationships with student groups and organizations. I can use this time to build a working relationship and make a real plan for next year. It's more of a collaborative approach. I am still worried that people will vote no.

**Q: What do you think about Jennifer's performance this year?**

KL: I worked with Jennifer a lot and even had to evaluate her as Chair of the DSU Executive Review Committee. I was really impressed with her work with Type I societies, especially in terms of the SUB renovations. She really took the time to consult with most everyone who was involved. However, she was overwhelmed by the amount of administrative work and didn't have time to do the projects that she wanted to. She did a great job at getting societies to collaborate through forums and town halls and helped to combine the student and community experience. I admire her activism and how she incorporated students and societies into that activism.

## Senate

Interviews by Yusraa Tadj

**2015/16 will be the year of Senate. With 11 students in the running, more people are running for a spot on Dalhousie Senate than ever before. Why? Read the Senate interviews on dalgazette.com to find out!**



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Our final two contributor meetings of the year will be on March 16, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. and March 23 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the SUB. If you haven't volunteered yet but you've always wanted to, now's the time! No experience required, free pizza every week.



# Board of Governors

Interviews by Bronwen McKie

**Yazan Matarieh**

**Age:** 19

**Hometown:** Hebron, Palestine

**Program:** Engineering

**Relevant Experience:** DSU Council Member-at-large for 2014-15, participation with NSPIRG working groups

**Q: Why do you want to be on the Board of Governors?**

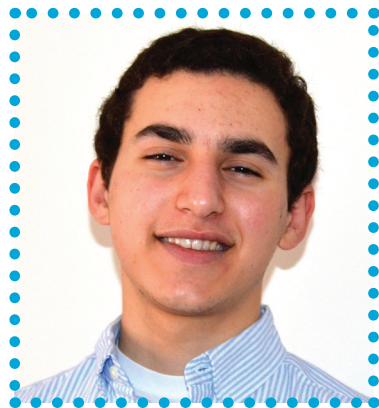
YM: Well, I think that Dalhousie University has a lot of potential. I think that Dalhousie has a lot of things that it can improve on. But I think it's heading in the wrong direction, administratively. There are a few issues that the university is not handling well. Issues of transparency, of communication with students, issues of tuition fees, tuition fee hikes. The issues of transparency and communication, what we've seen for a while now, the university has been very obscure in how it handles issues that relate to students. You'll see in the issues of misogyny in the dentistry department, the student body has been left out and shut out quite effectively. And there's the issue of communication. We've had the ombudsperson office removed and scrapped in 2012, which meant there was no way for students to anonymously and safely carry their concerns about the university to the Board of Governors and to the administration. So there's that issue.

There's [also] Sexton representation. There's been talk about converting the old central library into an extension of Sexton campus. So that has been talked about since two years ago, we're still approaching the implementation of that. Being a Sexton student, I can offer a lot when it comes to knowing what Sexton students need, what they can offer themselves and invoke on the Board of Governors. It's an issue of transparency and Sexton representation, as well as tuition fees.

**Q: What would you do if you're elected?**

YM: My platform is very simple: improve transparency and create an ombudsperson position, allowing students to voice their concerns, to expand safe space and space for anonymous reporting of concerns and issues.

And I want to be vocal about what's happening at Sexton. There are a lot of classrooms that don't fit the right number of students. You have a room with a capacity of 92, but classes of about 100 people have to fit in that. Changing that lack of attention that's paid to Sexton is very important. And also I want to push for the inclusion of students when it comes questions of tuition fee hikes. So creating the



space for students to say yes or no to tuition fee hikes that are not fair. Especially for international students. The international students have differential fee hikes which double the amount they have to pay each year. And that's not regulated by any governmental understanding or agreement or anything, so that means international students are up for grabs. There needs to be change at Dalhousie. There needs to be some kind of regulation when it comes to how we approach differential fees and how we approach international students.

**Q: What role do you see the Board of Governors having in the upcoming year?**

YM: CBU (Cape Breton University) initiated a nationwide campaign for the reduction and elimination of tuition fees. So given the proximity of Cape Breton and Halifax, we are bound to discuss this sooner or later at the administrative level. There's already a lot of pressure, a lot of ideas being talked about among students about how we can bring this topic to Dalhousie. So I think that's going to be a big issue next year. And I hope the administration will take the side of the campaign and for once take the side of students and say, we need to reduce tuition because education is not a burden, it's a right. Another thing that I see is conversations about safe space, about women's issues. So you'll see for example, given our issues, given the recent incidents in January, Dalhousie has been the centre and the focal point about women's rights, women's issues. And part of that role has to translate into discussions about how we can improve safe space, how we can improve the communication between students who feel like they have certain grievances that need to be addressed by the university and by the administration itself.

To summarize, I see a lot of talk about tuition fees, and a lot of talk about safe spaces and the elimination of rape culture and the dehumanization of women across our campuses.

**Anthony Saikali**

**Age:** 21

**Hometown:** Halifax, NS

**Program:** Neuroscience

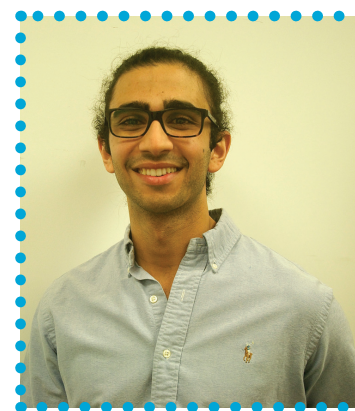
**Relevant Experience:** Established the Dalhousie Medical Campus Response Team

**Q: Why do you want to be on the Board of Governors?**

AS: My experience with the medical response team really made me want to take on the position as a representative on the Board of Governors. Two years ago I started working on this initiative. The campus response team, over the past year especially, has really grown into being an essential service on campus. What it allowed me to do, over that time, was voice the interest on a really diverse group of students in a way that I think branched beyond conversation. It's lead to implementation and action. I was privileged enough that this initiative also allowed me to connect with some of the top administrators in the university, including student services, health services, Dal security and residence life. I just believe that student values should be embodied not just by the student union alone but by the Dalhousie community. And that starts with the Board of Governors, at that level. So that is why I really wanted to extend student to admin ties.

**Q: What do you plan to do if you are elected?**

AS: First and foremost, I'm going to be dedicated to studying and representing the issues that are most important to students. With that, I have three objectives. The first is increasing transparency both at the Board of Governors and at the student union level. Because not only do students have the right to know what decisions are being made, they deserve to know why they're being made and to have a voice in that. So although transparency may seem quite fundamental, I believe it's extremely necessary for Board of Governor representation. Secondly, I would obviously like to continue my work in progressing the efforts of campus health and safety. Health and safety is the essence of the university environment. I think we have to consider these dynamics on all fronts to ensure the immediate



well-being and long-term sustainability of that.

And I think that overall action should be taken at the academic and resource level so we can work to advance Dalhousie as a leading institution among the Canadian universities. In part, that would certainly involve addressing issues around tuition, especially for international students in some of our professional schools.

**Q: What role do you see the Board of Governors having in the upcoming year?**

AS: As an academic institution, the Board of Governors has three major aims. Which would be academics, increasing student retention and advancing research. However, in light of recent events that took place within one of our professional schools, I believe it's going to be more important for the university and of course the board, more now than ever, to ensure that these aims are not obstructed by any means. So ultimately, I see the Board of Governors having a big role to play this year in promoting issues that students want to see addressed. Obviously, this is something we need to take into consideration, mainly for the purpose of ensuring that it doesn't happen again. Specifically, that topic also adheres, as I mentioned, with the consideration of mental health support. It can be seen as an overarching topic within this issue. So, again, taking what we've been able to do from there and offering mental health first aid certification to students and staff, free of charge, this past year. We want to scale that in the upcoming years. And, if elected, it's those kinds of strategies I can bring to the table.

# A view from the inside: *Palestinian activist speaks about Israeli prisons*



Photo by Eleanor Davidson

Eleanor Davidson  
News Editor

**M**ariam Barghouti is 21 years old. She studies English Literature and Philosophy, and is fluent in English and Arabic. While these traits might not sound different from many students in Halifax, that is where the similarities end.

Barghouti lives in the West Bank. She's been arrested three times and beaten by prison guards. She's also been published in the New York Times.

Speaking on Wednesday night in Halifax as part of a series of lectures for Israeli Apartheid Week, Barghouti described her personal experiences with Israeli prisons and the trying legal aspects of life as a Palestinian.

Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA), a student society at Dalhousie University, organized their first annual Israeli Apartheid Week and flew Barghouti to Halifax for her talk.

Israeli Apartheid Week is an international event, but this is its first year being hosted in Halifax. SAIA's schedule for the week ranges from Barghouti's talk on the Israeli prison system to an

evening focusing on Palestinian art, music and poetry.

While Barghouti's talk was highly critical of the Israeli prison system and of the difficulties that Palestinians face because of Israeli courts and legislation, her primary focus was on her personal reflections.

Barghouti attended her first protest at age 17, at an event asking for unity within the Palestinian government.

"When you're 17 you don't understand the consequences, you just have this idealistic perspective that you want to make the world a better place and that you're so strong and you're invisible, and then slowly the consequences begin hitting you," she said.

Last April, Barghouti was arrested at a protest and charged with stone throwing, which she says was a fabricated charge. Barghouti was detained for seven days and says she spent much of that time being shackled and verbally harassed.

Barghouti asked the audience at Dal's Sir Charles Tupper building to close their eyes and imagine themselves in her shoes as she described the conditions in

prison.

During Barghouti's imprisonment, she composed a poem and memorized it, so that she would be able to write down the words upon her release.

"I like to think of myself as someone who knows how to utilize words. When I got out I read the poem and it was like me becoming a child again. I realized that that's me regressing and that's what the military system does: it takes inspired youth and drains them of any energy," she said.

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***That's what the military system does: it takes inspired youth and drains them of any energy.***

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Barghouti's talk was met with thunderous applause and numerous questions from the audience.

Dina Lobo, a member of

SAIA, emphasized the importance of Barghouti coming to speak at Israeli Apartheid Week.

"We needed a Palestinian voice, especially since she's young. We have a lot of experts speaking, but it's really important for a Palestinian to speak about her personal experiences," said Lobo.

## Reaction from Jewish groups

While SAIA's events have been met with great enthusiasm from many of their attendees, Jewish groups on campus have criticized SAIA for its choice of name.


Arielle Branitsky, director of Jewish Student Life at Hillel of Atlantic Canada, said "calling yourself against Israel apartheid is complicated for us, and it doesn't say we want to have a peaceful conversation, it says we are against you and we want you to disappear."

While the week's events have been vocal in their condemnation of many Israeli actions, there has not been any conflict between SAIA and Dal's Jewish community.

"There have been events that we've sponsored, where members

of Israel on Campus attended. Sometimes we get members who provide their side of the story at our events. As far as I know there hasn't been any confrontation, any negative interaction. Of course we stand on different sides of the spectrum but at the end of the day it's opinions," said SAIA member Yazan Khader.

Yasmine Mucher, a member of Israel on Campus, reinforces this opinion.

"They have every right to their programming and we have every right to do ours and I don't feel we need to counter what we're doing, we both just need to keep doing what we're doing to support our causes," said Mucher. 





## CITY SLIPS UP ON SIDEWALK ISSUE

Halifax needs to reconsider its new approach to sidewalk snow removal.



Kline Street. • • • Photo by Grace Armstrong

**Shannon Slade**  
Staff Contributor

A rainbow of bruises covers my stepfather's leg. The brown, purple, green, and red marks are an indication of the injuries beneath. When he was heading home, he tried to step onto a sidewalk to get off of a busy street. He fell on the thick slippery ice, and because he was hidden behind a large snow bank, no one could see him. It took some time, but he was finally able to get up and attempt to cross the street. Unfortunately, he fell in front of his home on more ice. On one side of his body, from his groin down to his foot, his muscles are torn and he had internal bleeding. This was three weeks ago. He is still in pain, and the bruises remain.

Just this weekend, I saw a stubborn and proud senior with a cane take nearly five minutes to walk by one house because the ice was so bad he had to move at a snail's pace. Last week, an elderly woman came into the clothing store my friend works at to buy a pair of pants because she had just slipped on an icy sidewalk

on Spring Garden Road; she was bruised and her pants were torn.

These are not abnormal stories; they are unfortunately quite common. Yes, it is easy to fall in the wintertime, but the sidewalk conditions this winter have been worse than the normal, and it's partially the fault of our elected officials.

This winter has been active, but we've had bad winters before. I'm not talking about 50 years ago—I'm talking in the last ten years. Just because we had few milder winters around the start of this decade doesn't mean the city should have been caught with its pants down. The snow isn't even the problem—it's the ice. The sidewalks are thick with ice, but if they had been taken care of properly earlier this winter, the problem wouldn't have gotten so bad.

Two years ago, the city informed downtown residents that we wouldn't have to take care of the sidewalks in front of our buildings anymore, that it would henceforth be the city's responsibility. Well, the city hasn't lived up to its responsibilities. In fact, many Haligonians are taking mat-

ters back into their own hands by going out and breaking down the ice themselves—paying the taxes for this new service, while simultaneously paying a backbreaking price for its accumulated failure.

I blame the majority of the Halifax City Council. They have mishandled and blundered their way through this winter, and like absentee parents whose child is now in trouble, they seem unwilling to take responsibility and accept their role in the problem. Recently, one citizen who filed an action against the city for slipping on an unplowed sidewalk was told that the city claims that it is under no obligation to plow the sidewalks at all—that the legislation “allows” the city to remove snow, but does not require it.

When Councilor Wayne Mason brought forth a motion for the city to commission a report examining the implications of returning sidewalk-clearing responsibilities to downtown residents at a February 18th council meeting, he was told by Councilor Linda Mosher to “stop harping” on the issue, because he had brought this same issue up last

year after poor reviews of the city's sidewalk clean up.

Now, to me, harping means continuously nagging, not bringing up an important issue again after a year's worth of damning evidence. For whatever reason, Mosher decided to adopt this condescending, obstructionist attitude, and watching the video it really, really rubs me the wrong way. People are getting injured and people with mobility issues are finding it almost impossible to leave their houses—it really isn't the time to posture and play games.

I understand that snow and ice clean up costs money, and that we're way over budget this year. The thing is, our planned snow removal budget was already \$20 million for this winter, compared with \$15.2 million in the winter of 2012, before the city committed to clearing the sidewalks. We have reportedly already spent millions of dollars more than a budget that was almost \$5 million dollars bigger than our pre-clearing budget to begin with, and our sidewalks are still an absolute disaster. How many millions more will it cost

to make this approach work? If we really can't commit the necessary funds to doing this sidewalk clearing properly, council needs to acknowledge its mistake, and admit to property owners that it is going to need them to start cleaning their own sidewalks again.

If we are going to insist on continuing down our current path, maybe, as a symbolic gesture, those on council who support the new policy should take some of the money that they made after that sweet little pay bump they received in November (they're up to \$80,849 for councillors and \$168,449 for the mayor) and put it towards clean up costs. It would be the least they could do if they insist on keeping us tied to this messy, expensive disaster of a situation.<sup>9</sup>

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Have fun on St. Paddy's Day but be respectful to your neighbours. Whether they're families with young children, elderly couples, or people who do shift work, they deserve not to be unreasonably disturbed. Don't be that student who takes away from all the great work we've done to make Dalhousie such a great place in our community.



[dal.ca/think](http://dal.ca/think)



# From the Archives - Rage Against the Machine

John Hillman  
Opinions Editor

Last year's DSU elections had a turn out of only 10.9% of eligible voters, even with ten referendum questions on the ballot. Without the same glut of referendum incentives this time around, we may be on the verge of setting a new benchmark for student apathy.

The following is a look back at some of the more prominent DSU also-rans who have done their best to run against the system, fight apathy, and inspire the masses. Whether earnestly erudite (Hankey & Foley), openly anti-establishment (Robson & Parr), unabashedly "straight shooting" (Dunn & Tremills), loveably goofy (Zelle & Bastarache), or simply possessing a T-1000-esque relentlessness (Debogorski), these outgunned outsiders stepped up and did their best to fight the long, slow march towards our present state. ☹

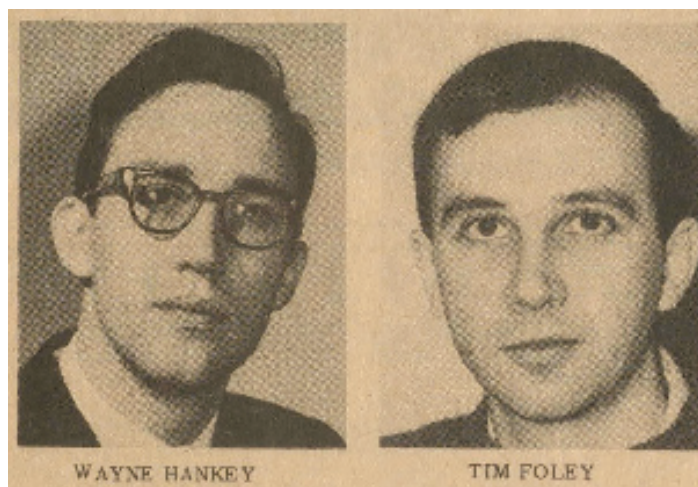


**Peter Robson and Jim Parr - Volume 98, Issue 16 - February 14, 1966**

Robson and Parr have billed themselves as anti-establishment candidates. "This year, in an effort to make the Dalhousie student aware of the machine which for the past few years has seemingly decided all the posts on Council well in advance of the elections," Robson said. "We have decided that an attempt should be made to

oppose such action.

"The present head of the Treasury Board, and as such Treasurer of the Student's Council, is the 'In' group's choice for next year's president. We do not question Young's ability but do question the means by which he is to gain his new position. As golden-haired boy on Council this year, Crawford has obviously impressed the "IN" crowd group, and is being amply rewarded for his work."



**Wayne Hankey and Tim Foley - Volume 99, Issue 18 - February 16, 1967**

First, we see the activity of thought as a true mode of life in itself, and the student, as student, as a real member of society. The truth of this statement will become clearer and clearer as time passes. Now and more so in the future, the creation of leisure through increased productivity will demand adoption of these ideas. In some parts of the world today where the student

has acquired the equal status of worker he is paid a wage for his contribution to the society.

The student as engaged in investigation of the principles of action is concerned with what ends motivate his society. Every society needs this criticism if it is not to stagnate. The student's position cannot, however, be merely abstract or arm-chair criticism. Thought to be responsible must include the possibility of action. The campus must be politically active.



**Phil Dunn and Colin Tremills - Volume 115, Issue 18 - February 10, 1983**

The only thing the administration listens to is piles of statistics, said Dunn. The only way to deal with them is to have persis-

tence and to keep banging away at them. What is needed is a good system of information and facts and not as much bureaucracy. "If [Dalhousie President] MacKay doesn't come around, we'll shoot him between his beady little eyes," said Dunn. That would be a very effective means of getting your point across, he added.

**Mike Zelle  
Ralph Bastarache**



**Mike Zelle and Ralph Bastarache - Volume 123, Issue 17 - February 7, 1991**

Hi! We are Mike and Ralph, and we are running for President and Executive Vice-President of the DSU. "Why should I vote for Mutt and Jeff, you might be asking yourself, as indeed people have already asked us. Before we can answer that, maybe you should ask yourselves why we want to run a 'Fido-Dido' type campaign.

It boils down to student apathy. Last year had a record turnout of voters ... a whopping 25 per cent of the student body. This occurred during a year where there were three teams to choose from and the major issues were a possible 25 per cent increase in tuition and possibility of yet another faculty strike. The strike was averted but not the tuition increase, and now we must all pay the price.

Student awareness must be raised, so that in the future the students know what the issues are BEFORE it is too late to affect them, so that students may voice their opinions to their student leaders and have their opinions represented when and where decisions are being made. Our campaign is based on communication, commitment and involvement. Teamwork is a logical extrapolation of these ideals and therefore we have chosen, as a team, to answer these questions together.



**Gregory Debogorski –  
Volume 139, Issue 24 –  
March 15, 2007**

**D**ebogorski wants to increase efficiency at Dal, which could help both students and the administration.

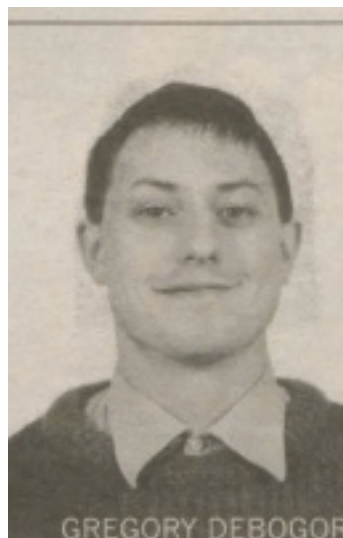
"There's a lot of slacking going on around campus," he says.

If the university became more efficient, it would have more resources to balance its books and allocate more money to student needs, he says.

If he's elected, Debogorski says he would go out of his way to make himself known as the students' representative and "basically their servant."

"I would want to them to feel free to come up and make complaints or suggestions or even give me attitude," he says.

He says he'd also like to put more focus on decreasing student apathy, because he feels too many students aren't involved with the university.



**Gregory Debogorski –  
Volume 140, Issue 22 –  
March 13, 2008**

**R**egrettable fashion decision: "It's cool any way I bust it." Hidden talent: Can read people by their tone of voice.

Debogorski's main focus in his presidential campaign is, as he puts it, putting students back into the student union rather than allowing them to feel left out of union activities.

"The DSU has this political clique, in the commissions, in council, at the front desk, all across the DSU, and I think that's part of the reason for the apathy," he says. "The executive review committee is a farce."



**Gregory Debogorski –  
Volume 141, Issue 22 –  
March 12, 2009**

**W**hat's your guilty pleasure TV show: "I don't watch TV."

Specialty dish you cook: "I don't have one."

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why?

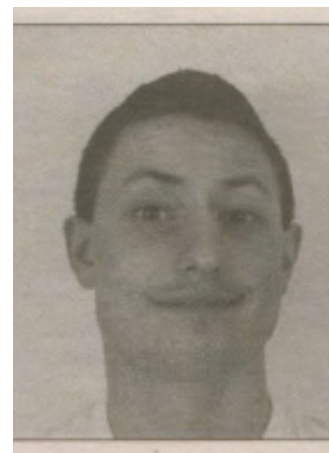
"To post 9/11 to try and stop these silly terrorist acts from being legislated."

If elected president of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), Gregory Debogorski wants to start experimenting to install a form of participatory democracy at Dalhousie.

Debogorski also wants to switch up the university's current investments

to start building a student-based economy that would allow the union to take over its own food services and start its own welding shop.

"There is a political clique that's instituted here on campus and needs to be broken up through increasing the number of votes on council and the number of people on council."



**Gregory Debogorski –  
Volume 142, Issue 23 –  
March 19, 2010**

**I**'d like to take the executive out of their offices," he says. "If I won, I'd put my desk right across from the info desk. It's ridiculous that we have a union that we all pay fees to, and yet the people that make decisions in the unions aren't accessible for students."

Debogorski wants to push for a monthly referendum where students can have their say about issues and decisions the union is making.

He says the website is also a big priority. Debogorski wants to clean it up, make the information easier to find and add debate forums.



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# STREET INTERVIEW

By Daniel Boltinsky & Jesse Ward

## What would convince you to vote in DSU elections?



"I want to vote. I think it's important."  
**May VanderZwaag**  
1st-year Therapeutic Recreation



"I don't think I really need convincing."  
**Sam Angel**  
2nd-year Microbiology and Immunology



"I already am voting."  
**Katie Flanagan**  
2nd-year Commerce



"I'm not sure."  
**Haoruo Sun**  
1st-year Engineering



"A good candidate."  
**Gerardo Zapata**  
3rd-year Marine Biology



"I will be voting, so I don't need convincing."  
**Emily Forster**  
4th-year Economics and International Development Studies

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... Photos by Paola Tolentino

## A Fashionable Way to Spend the Evening

The NSCAD Wearable Art Show could be described in one word as **“fantastical”**


Paola Tolentino  
Staff Contributor

NSCAD’s Wearable Art Show celebrated its 25th anniversary and took place in the Pacifico Night Club on March 5th. As a fundraiser for the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, this student-run event featured 16 different performances, three sculptures and one amazing venue.

The show is an entirely different experience – the kind of thing you’d expect if someone threw Paris Fashion Week,

an artsy music video, a ballet and the contemporary section of the National Arts Gallery into the blender. Every piece had its own back story, and couldn’t have been complete without the music, lighting and performance. There was everything from knitwear to a light-up dress to a steel cage to a giant puppet that “[took] a lighthearted look at being big in a small world.” Not to mention the fabulous host, Deva Station.

Not only was it a great show, but it was for a good cause as well. The popularity of the show helps promote and raise money for the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, a fact that was brought up throughout the evening between performances.

Make sure to get there early to grab a spot, though, as the show becomes more and more popular each year. 



# WITH THE LIGHTS ON

## AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO MAKING THE DIRTY A LITTLE CLEANER

Rosalie Fralick  
Staff Contributor

Usually when we talk about safer sex, we're talking about protections from STIs and pregnancy. Safer sex doesn't necessarily mean that there's no risk, it just means we're limiting the risk and protecting our partners and ourselves. STIs can be transmitted via oral, manual or penetrative sex. They can be transmitted between two people with penises, two people with vaginas, or a person with a penis and a person with a vagina. Pregnancy is a risk in couples where there is one person who has a penis and the other has a vagina. So how do we limit these risks?

### Toys and Fingers

People don't consider that toys or even hands could transmit STIs or lead to pregnancy. But if there are bodily fluids being transferred from one person to another, it immediately allows for that risk. If you're going to be sharing these things, be sure to wash off in between (wash your toys as directed on the packaging). You can also use condoms on many toys, and condoms or gloves on fingers in order to better protect yourself.

### Barrier Methods

Barrier methods are exactly what they sound like. They provide a barrier between genitals or bodily fluids. Barrier methods include gloves (for hand jobs and fingering), condoms (for penises, fingers, toys, etc.), dental dams (for oral sex), and female condoms (for any time something is going inside the vagina). These methods are great because they reduce the risk of both STIs as well as pregnancy by a significant amount. You don't want to double up on these though. The friction between

two barrier methods actually increases the chance they'll break.

### Pregnancy Prevention

If you're a person with a vagina, who's trying to avoid getting pregnant, there are a lot of options open for you. The barrier methods listed above are great but other methods like the pill, the Depo-Provera shot, the ring, the patch, the implant, or an IUD, really allow you to take things into your own hands. Talk to your doctor about each of these methods to decide if one of them might be right for you. Remember though, none of these methods will protect you from STIs, so if you're unsure of your status or your partner's status, you'll also want to use a barrier method.

Safe sex might seem like something we're taught about in grade eight and then forget immediately. We might associate the term with the scary pictures of STIs we were shown --- or we might be thinking of the catchphrase taught so often in schools, "the only safe sex is no sex." But the reality is, sex is going to happen, and there are ways to reduce the risks, so why not take advantage? Sex can be so much more pleasurable and relaxed if you know you and your partner are both protected.



# Halifax, Meet Your Burger Ambassador

## Josh Rankin is a AAA-Grade Burger Lover

**Mat Wilush**

Arts Editor & Burger Enthusiast

The Holy Week of the Halifax calendar is nigh. The signs are obvious – meaty aromas wafting down Barrington; impossible queues forming around every restaurant; cases of extreme unstoppable salivation.

### It's time for Burger Week.

This year, The Coast has tasked two Halifax locals with the weightiest of all responsibilities – to serve as Burger Ambassadors to the city of Halifax. As Arts and Culture editor, I felt it my sworn duty to test the mettle of these burger worshippers, and so I sent some questions to one of our new Ambassadors, Josh Rankin.

**The Gazette:** Would you please provide me with a little information about yourself, so that Dal students may be familiar with their Burger Ambassador?

**Burger Ambassador Josh Rankin:** My name is Josh Rankin. I graduated from Dal in May of 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in technical scenography and a minor in film studies. I've been living in Halifax for about seven years now, but I'm originally from Prince Edward Island.

**G:** What distinguishes you as a burger lover worthy of being Halifax's Ambassador?

**Ambassador Rankin:** For almost a year now I've been running my blog, Life of Burgers, where I have been visiting numerous Halifax restaurants, and giving my opinion of the various burgers they have to offer. I feel that for this reason, I'm a great fit for the Halifax Burger Ambassador as I have experience not only with burgers, but also with the city of Halifax itself.

**G:** Could you tell me a little more about this blog? It seems like a great resource for up-and-comers.

**Ambassador Rankin:** I started the blog mostly just as a hobby (and an excuse to eat a bunch of tasty burgers), but it soon grew into something I really enjoy doing. I have suggestions for burgers coming in all the time, and it's great how this blog lets me experience the city a bit more in-depth. During Burger Week, I'll be covering all my burger experiences on the blog, as well as on Twitter/Instagram (@lifeofburgers).

**G:** What is your opinion on non-meat burgers?

**Ambassador Rankin:** To be honest, I'm a big fan of all things meat. My experience with veggie burgers is very slim. That being said, I do think that they have a place in the world of burgers, and I will be trying out the non-meat

options offered during Burger Week (I'm especially excited about the Vegan Big Mac at enVie).

**G:** Speaking of, what restaurant are you expecting the most out of?

**Ambassador Rankin:** There are a few restaurants with higher-priced burgers that I'm expecting big things from, such as Chives, The Bicycle Thief and Fiasco. However, don't let the cheap burgers fool you. There are some delicious sounding burgers, like the Avocado Burger from The Argyle, which will only cost you \$9.

**G:** In your professional opinion, what is the greatest condiment?

**Ambassador Rankin:** I've recently become a big fan of aioli. It's a simple addition that adds so much flavor to a burger. Also, even though it's not technically a condiment, I'm a big fan of onion rings on burgers.

**G:** Well in that case, what is the perfect arrangement of condiments?

**Ambassador Rankin:** I've had a lot of burgers that are loaded full of inventive toppings, which isn't a bad thing, but there is really one aspect that will make or break a burger. The meat. The quality of meat that is used to make a burger is really important. A lot of the restaurants participating in Burger Week are using local beef, which is awesome!

**G:** How did you go about campaigning before your victory?

**Ambassador Rankin:** I wasn't really sure what The Coast was going to be basing their decision on, so I basically turned to social media and asked for their support. My friends were a big part of getting the word out, and I even had the support of a lot of people I have never met before. I really have everyone on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to thank..

**G:** If you were to open a burger bar, what would you call it, and what sort of menu would it have?

**Ambassador Rankin:** I think having a place where you can 'create your own burger' would be cool. I would have a list of classic toppings/condiments you could add, but

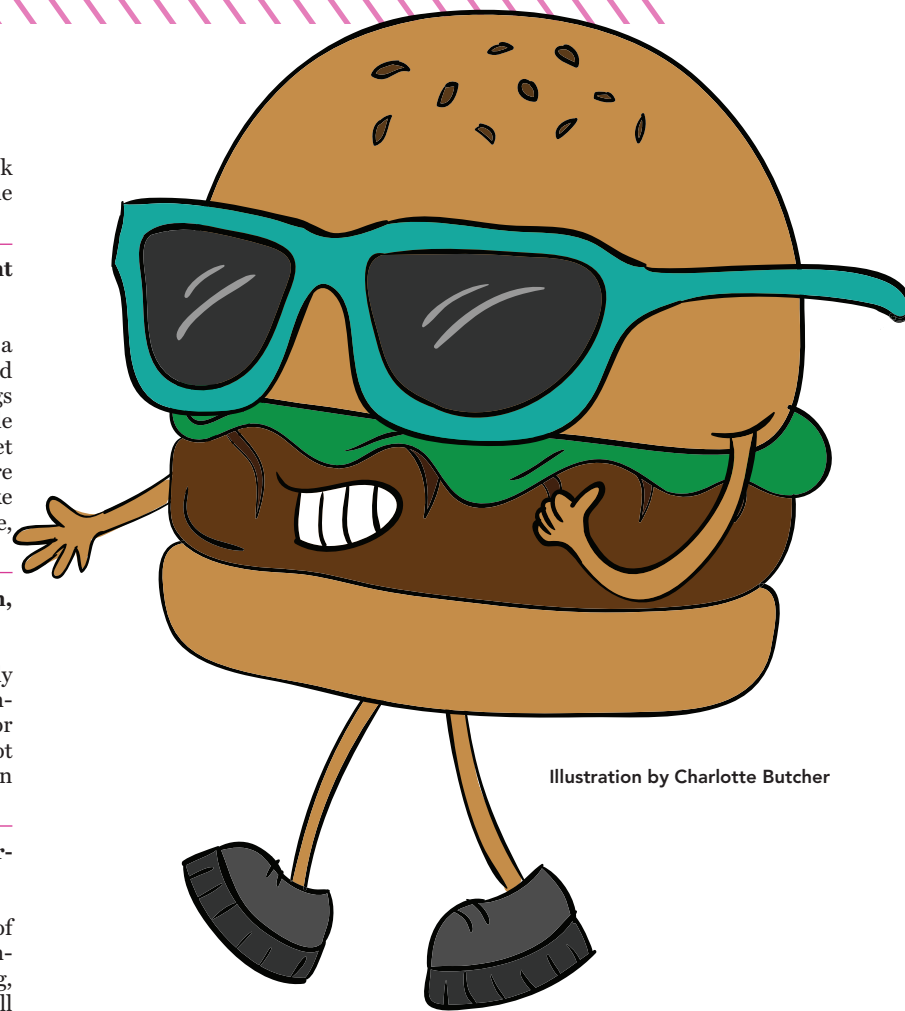


Illustration by Charlotte Butcher

then there would also be some crazier additions that would allow for some inventive creations. In terms of a name, Life of Burgers hasn't failed me thus far, so I think I would stick with that name!

**G:** What's your game plan for this year's Burger Week?

**Ambassador Rankin:** I actually have my Burger Week pretty planned out. I made up a loose schedule for each day based on where each restaurant is located. I have some friends that make up my 'Burger Team', and we have the ambitious goal of at least trying each burger (which may or may not happen).





## A MESSAGE TO TIGERS FANS FROM RICK PLATO



**Y**our Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team capped off a great weekend, winning the AUS men's basketball championship at the Scotiabank Centre on March 1. The boys played great! They never gave up as was witnessed by their come from behind victories in the three consecutive games, culminating with an overtime victory in the championship game over crosstown rivals Saint Mary's by a score of 88-78. However, in my mind, the story of the weekend for us was you – the fans. SPECIFICALLY THE DALHOUSIE STUDENTS. Those of you who showed up, you were GREAT!!! You were the difference.

I think it all started during the regular season with the men's soccer team. The members of that team were a major cheering section for our home games – and they were great. Loud, supportive, (and with a little encouragement), “wholesome, for the most part.” Our team loved the energy, and the momentum of that group carried over to the AUS championships. University personnel, alumni, and you, the student body, were amazing. But first and foremost, as head coach, I want to thank all of you for being there. For being loud, for being supportive, for being engaged, and for being the difference. You, the students of Dalhousie, were big time fans. If you ever have seen the NCAA games, the student fanaticism is always something which I hoped we could have here. And

guess what, YOU DID IT. I am absolutely certain, YOU MADE THE DIFFERENCE, in every game. From Kash's buzzer beater against CBU, to our comeback against UNB, to our next comeback over SMU, where the boys were down 17 points in the third quarter – you never gave up and your cheering and support were the catalyst for getting us to overtime.

I want you all to know that we do not win that championship game without the student body. So on behalf of the coaching staff and the players, I want to thank you all. YOU MADE THE DIFFERENCE. I really hope that all of you take as much pride in our AUS championship as the team does. I hope all of you can watch us at the national tournament this week in Toronto. I, and speaking for the team, wish you could be there. We will do our best to make Halifax, Nova Scotia, and mostly you, the Dalhousie community, proud to be Tigers.

Sincerely,

*Rick Plato, Head Coach, Dalhousie Tigers Men's Basketball  
2015 AUS Men's Basketball Champions*

## Dal men's basketball playoff run one of the best in AUS history

Graeme Benjamin  
Sports Editor

**O**nly four teams in women's and men's basketball, soccer, volleyball and hockey have won Atlantic University Sport (AUS) titles ranked fifth or lower entering the playoffs since the start of the new millennium.

The Saint Mary's Huskies men's soccer team was the most recent team to do it in 2011, entering the playoffs sixth-ranked. The UNB men's hockey team in 2003 and the Memorial women's basketball team in 2000 also both won AUS titles as fifth-ranked teams.

Then, there's the 2015 Dal men's basketball team, who entered the postseason fifth-ranked at 10-10, winning only five of their last 14 regular season games and six of 16 games against other playoff teams. They lost two games in the regular season by 27 and 41 points, had only four players who had played a game at the Scotiabank Centre, and on top of all that, lost their star third-year big man Devon Stedman to a career-ending knee injury midway through the season.

But now, they're AUS champions.

With the odds stacked against them, nobody, and I mean nobody, expected to watch the spectacle this team performed in front of the home crowd.

Here's a little sample of what the team accomplished.

The Tigers trailed by 10 or points in every single playoff game.

They scored only six points in the first quarter of their quarterfinal game against the Cape Breton Capers, but ended up winning in dramatic fashion with a buzzer beater from tournament MVP Kashrell Lawrence.

They beat Canadian Inter-university Sport (CIS) leading points per game shooter Javon Masters and the Varsity Reds in the semifinals, after trailing by 11 at half.

They trailed by as much as 17 in their championship game against crosstown rival Saint Mary's, but inched a thrilling fourth quarter comeback to win the game in overtime.

Many are calling the Tigers' run a Cinderella story. But third-year shooting guard Jarred Reid isn't a huge fan of that.

“We did what we were expected to do and what we told ourselves we could do,” he said. “So for us, it's not a Cinderella story. For us, we thought we could be there, we proved we could be there, and we executed.”

Head coach Rick Plato, who has only held the main coaching position for two years, said the victory was a result of strong defence, a lot of heart, and just a little bit of patience.

“They worked their asses off and played the defence that kept us in the game,” he said. “I can't say how proud I am of the team never quitting.”

First-year point guard Adam Karmali topped his AUS career point record in the first half of Dal's semifinal game against UNB, scoring 12 points in the frame.

He said it wasn't hard for him to keep focused on the big stage.

“They were pretty wide open shots. A lot of them were kick outs from Kash when he was getting doubled inside. It's not hard to make the open shot, just got to do it at the right time.”

Karmali wants to demonstrate that his team's playoff run wasn't a stroke of luck.

**“We want to prove that we're not just a Cinderella story. We want to prove we're a championship team.”**

As for the team's association to the girl in the blue dress, Plato couldn't care less.

“If we can end up the way Cinderella ended up in the end – I'll take it.”



# The Water Cooler: Men's basketball, Tiger MVPs, and the return of Scruffy MacMinister

Ian Froese

Washed up former two-time Sports Editor

**Scruffy MacMinister**

Disgruntled Moopet

**Graeme Benjamin**

Sports Editor



**W**ith the AUS varsity season drawing to a close, it's time to look back at the year that was. A few of the Dalhousie Gazette Sports Editors attempted to unite for their yearly water cooler gossip, but instead, an old friend of the paper made his return, taking out a Sports Editor in the process.

Here's how the conversation went.

**1. Would you consider the men's basketball team's unbelievable playoff run one of the best in AUS basketball history?**

**IF**

As much as I dislike grandiose statements about great sports teams, the evidence suggests the Tigers' Cinderella run, rallying back from tough odds in each playoff game, was one of the finest in tournament history. The best, however? I wouldn't say that. What I would proudly proclaim is that Dalhousie's championship triumph was the finest this university has seen, in any sport, in the past decade. In a school usually garnering a half-dozen Atlantic banners a year, that is saying something.

**GB**

I mean, when you consider the technical side of the Tigers' performance, it was below average on several accounts. For them to achieve those come from behind victories, they had to, you know, be behind.

And they were behind by a lot. But when you consider how the team united in the third and fourth quarters three days in a row, I can't help but think that this is one of the greatest storylines the league has ever seen. Given, I was only born in '93, so everything before then I couldn't really comment on.

**SM**

Have we all forgotten about me? Frankly I'm insulted! Aye suspect there be some anti-Muppetites in the liberal media, perpetrating the usual fodder. As fer yer question, the greatest comeback has to be the return of yers truly, Scruffy MacMinister, to the printed page!

**2. Who do you think was the Tigers' best all-round athlete this year?**

**IF**

A smattering of fine Dalhousie athletes this year, as usual, but men's basketball forward Kashrell Lawrence gets my nod. Stars are defined by what they accomplish on the biggest stages, and Lawrence's performances in three consecutive come-from-behind games are nothing short of remarkable. A buzzer-beater game-winner in the quarters, a double-double in the semis and then a monster 31 points and 17 boards in the title bout speaks for itself. Meagan Bernier, a gold medalist in the national 800-metre freestyle race, is my honourable

mention.

**GB**

I'm going to go a bit off the radar here and give my pick to men's volleyball co-captain Bryan Duquette. He led the league in points per set and kills by a staggering 43, and led a senior, skilled team to a flawless regular season. He continued his dominating play into the AUS playoffs, then on to the national level to land the Tigers as the fourth-ranked team in the CIS. It takes a special player to guide an experienced team like he did. He gets my vote.

**SM**

**DOONT ASK ME TO CHOOSE THE BEST!** All these "athletes" have mothers, who all think they're child be the greatest. Aye cast me vote for the lads and lasses in the tiger costume! Fer one, they're literally tigers!

**3. Aside from the current Dal varsity teams that are holding AUS titles, what teams do you feel have the most potential to compete for an AUS championship next year?**

**IF**

Dalhousie women's soccer would be my main hope, because I believe in coach Jack Hutchison. Now somewhat removed from their back-to-back championships of 2011 and 2012, the Tigers were young last fall

and inexperienced, ultimately bowing out in the quarterfinal. With many of those players returning, a little smarter, a little better, I would never count a Hutchison team out of contention.

**GB**

Only because I don't want to ever agree with Froese, I'm going to place my faith in the women's basketball team. It'll be interesting to see how they adapt to the Courtney Thompson-less era that they've been under for the past four years. However, with a strong core of young guns, including Diedre Alexander and Shalyn Field, as well as growing leaders Ainsley MacIntyre and Tessa Stammberger, there's no reason why the women shouldn't be able to adjust. However, I truly feel Jack Hutchison and the women's soccer team's dedication to recruitment will pay off next year, now that several of the team's rookies have experience playing in the postseason.

**SM**

We talk too much about sports, let's focus on what really matters: the group of foolhardy tossers who call themselves Dal Soviet Union politicians. Aye have had it up to HERE (raises Muppet hand above head) with their slop! What's the point of democracy if it's the same collective of haggis-fillers running the show? If aye had a microphone, I'd drop it now!

# Spectator turnout: Better, but still not enough

Jessica Flower  
Staff Contributor

In a city like Halifax, with its endless stream of activities and shows, it can be tough to attract a crowd — something that the Dalhousie Varsity Athletics team is well aware of. Over the past few years, the Dalhousie Student Union, Dal athletics, and the Varsity Council (a society composed of varsity athletes from all disciplines), have been working together to improve the historically abysmal spectator turnout at varsity games and their efforts have been met with mixed results.

In his first year as director of varsity athletics, Tim Maloney came into the position knowing spectator turnout was going to be a challenge.

"It's been my focus and will be for a long time. It's an important element to overall student experience," Maloney said.

Though the in-depth analysis of audience turnout won't be done until the summer months, Maloney said there has been a minor spike in attendance this year. However, he says there is still a long way to go.

Men's basketball gets the most consistent turnout, despite their somewhat tumultuous season record, but being an indoor sport helps bump those numbers. Football and soccer, where seasons extend into the tail end of

autumn, makes getting fans out in the cold a challenge. Varsity Council co-president Kristy McGregor-Bales, a veteran of the women's soccer team, said hosting the AUS soccer championships last November was a positive change for the team.

"That was a great experience. I've never played in front of that many people before."

***It definitely makes a huge difference knowing you're backed and feeling the black and gold pride,"***

said McGregor-Bales.

From her four years on the team, she said residence nights and special promotion events, like the chance to win \$500, have made a big difference in fan turnout.

"I've never seen it that packed. I've never seen that many people elsewhere in the AUS conference either. But on non-special nights, Dal is fairly even compared to the rest of the AUS," said McGregor-Bales.

One of the things McGregor-Bales credited to the


improved turnout was the council's increased relationship with Danny Shanahan, the Dalhousie Student Union vice president of student life.

For Shanahan, promoting varsity athletics is just a part of his portfolio, but says that incorporating varsity athletics into every day student life is a key initiative.

"Since 2012, there has been a greater effort to include varsity athletics in orientation week and fun day-long sports tournaments for students with varsity athletes refereeing. Just in trying to foster relationships between the students and athletes," said Shanahan.

All three said raising awareness of varsity athletics among the general student population is an ongoing problem they're trying to grapple with.

Despite all the progress, the lack of student pride on campus is in stark contrast to comparable schools like Queen's University or St. FX, where school colours are proudly sported on campus every day and varsity games attract sell-out crowds. Maloney understands, however, that with Dal's highly diverse student body, varsity athletics are not for everyone.

"We face a few challenging factors that places like Antigonish don't have to deal with. But they're not insurmountable." 



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# THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

## Reflections on the co-op program

Garrett Smith  
Contributor  
Civil '16

Studying engineering is a wholly unique experience. The way that our courses and workloads are structured is unlike any other undergraduate program. A prime example of this can be found in the co-op program. While our peers in other faculties continue along with their studies into their upper years, many engineers will take time away from university to gain real world skills. Engineering is an applied science and as such many core engineering skills can only be gained through workplace applications. Over the past year I have gone through the co-op system and have learned much from it.

The transition from the world of academia to the real world can be jarring in many ways. Going into my first work placement I was not sure what to expect; university had not taught me what the day-to-day life of a professional engineer was

like. Fundamentally, it is impossible for school to teach you this—it can only be taught through experience. I quickly learned that most engineers are heavily involved in the management and business aspects of the workplace. Engineers purely focused on technical analysis are few and far between. It is better to realize this early on so that you can learn which domain appeals to you most. An engineer's responsibilities and the framework they are a part of are going to differ vastly between, for example, a consulting firm and a government office. The co-op program is an excellent avenue to explore these different workplaces and determine which industries you gravitate toward.

Nobody enjoys looking for employment. When first considering the co-op program, the prospect of finding three jobs in the span of roughly two years was a daunting one. However, the tools and opportunities prepared by the co-op office made finding my co-op positions easier than any other jobs I have had. More importantly, these

efforts in finding multiple positions have given me more confidence in how to navigate the job market. During the course of the work terms themselves I have been able to build my resume, references, and networking connections. The co-op program has allowed me to better prepare myself for a post-graduate job search. In the short term, these early work terms provide a significant edge over other recent graduates. At the same time, they do not hamper long-term professional development—since co-op terms count toward professional accreditation, both I and my classmates who did not go through the co-op program will still be receiving our professional designation at the same time.

For all the good things that can be said about the co-op program, it is not without its drawbacks. The most glaring flaws are the ways that the work terms are scheduled and graded. Each discipline independently decides when their work terms take place and this has led to some strange schedules. For

example, mechanical engineers have their first work term before they begin their third year. Looking back on what I knew coming out of my second year of study, I would have been completely lost in my current position. At the end of a work term, the grading is based almost entirely on a final report. The work term report is an archaic grading tool that does not capture the diverse types of work student engineers are doing and relies too heavily on the biases of the faculty co-op advisor. Add to this the tedium of dealing with Dalhousie administration and the co-op process can be downright miserable at times.

Initiating yourself into a new field of practice is always difficult. The co-op program is a unique engineering approach to overcoming these difficulties. I have found that if you are willing to jump over some hurdles with the co-op department, the work terms can be rewarding experiences that prepare you well for the world beyond university.



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Share your Sexton event by sending details to [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)

*The Sextant aims to represent all students studying and living on Sexton Campus. If you have any concerns about the paper, please email [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)*

Editor-in-Chief: Molly Elliott  
Assistant Editor: Andres Collart  
Treasurer: Wheejae Kim

## Annual General Meeting

The Sextant Publishing Society is having its Annual General Meeting on Friday, March 13th at 3pm in the DSU's Sexton campus office. Attendees will be provided with free pizza and pop in exchange for their valuable time. At the meeting, the society's constitution and next year's budget will be discussed, and we'll talk to anyone interested in being involved with the society

next year.

In particular, we are looking for new people to take on the positions of Editor-in-Chief, Assistant Editor, and Treasurer. Honorariums of \$1500, \$1000, and \$500 respectively will be awarded to these executives in exchange for their year of work. No experience in journalism is required for the editor positions, just a good sense of English

writing and grammar. The Treasurer position would be easier with some bookkeeping experience, however, anyone interested is welcome to apply—the current Treasurer will provide some guidance, and the DSU's VP of Finance is always happy to help with the preparation of financial documents. Attend the meeting to talk to us and find out more about the details of each

position!

If you have any questions, or are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to express interest in one of the positions, contact us at [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca) or via a message to one of our social media accounts.

The Facebook event for the meeting can be found at [facebook.com/events/1410875195883246/](https://facebook.com/events/1410875195883246/)

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