

# The Dalhousie Gazette

LSC  
think they're SMART  
because they can squint into  
an apparatus

DALPLEX  
"nutrition  
students"

SUB-  
the mothership

ROWE BUSINESS SCHOOL-  
suffer from "Zuckerberg  
Syndrome"

Computer Science-  
robots that will make millions

SEXTON CAMPUS-  
got HOT this year!

HENRY HICKS  
"the MAN"

King's  
College-  
can't vote, but  
has opinions

HOWE HALL-  
party hard,  
PARTY HARDER

KILLAM-  
"NO eating, NO talking"

MCCAIN ARTS +  
SOCIAL SCIENCE-  
eloquent baristas

\* Fountain School-  
\* too many instagram  
photos in costume

? AGRICULTURAL  
CAMPUS-  
hicks n' chicks

## DAL VOTING BLOCS

INSIDE: DSU CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Cover: Kaitie Hillman

# The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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THE FINE PRINT

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IT'S YOUR STUDENT UNION

# VOTE!

**VOTE ONLINE:**  
[tigersociety.dsu.ca](http://tigersociety.dsu.ca)

**YOU WILL NEED:**  
 Dal Net ID & password

**VOTING PERIOD:**  
**MON, MARCH 14**  
**AT 8 AM UNTIL**  
**WED, MARCH 16**  
**AT 4PM**

# #DSUVOTES

**DSU.CA/ELECTIONS**

**NO  
EXCUSES.  
VOTE.**

**MARCH 14-16**

## Profiles

# DSU Election Candidates

ELEANOR DAVIDSON  
PHOTOS BY PATRICK FULGENCIO

This year, there are 21 different candidates for a variety of executive positions with the Dalhousie Student Union. Over the past week, with the help of an amazing team of contributors, we did our best to profile every single one of these candidates. We developed six groups of questions, for the six different positions, in an effort to be as fair as possible in conveying the views of our future student leaders. Not all of the interviews were able to make it into our print edition, due to late responses from some of the candidates, so please consult our website, [dalgazette.com](http://dalgazette.com), for the full range of profiles.

Missing:

Vice President Academic & External: Amina Abawayj  
Vice President Student Life: Alex Butler, Kelsey Keddy, Nicolas Nguyen

FREE to all  
Dal & King's  
Students

## ST. PADDY'S DAY GAMES ROOM

March 17th, 12-6pm  
McInnes Room, SUB

### Drop in for:

- 🍀 Board Room Cafe  
giant games & boardgames
- 🍀 Table Tennis
- 🍀 Air hockey
- 🍀 Mini golf
- 🍀 Bouncy castle
- 🍀 Video Games
- 🍀 Clay Cafe
- 🍀 FREE pizza, soft drinks & poutine bar!

**DAL**  
AFTER DARK

Presented by:  
Dal After Dark | DSU | Campus Recreation  
GetReal | ProSocial | Student Health Promo

**ISJ** DALHOUSIE  
STUDENT UNION

## DON'T LET PARTYING COST YOU A POT O' GOLD

# \$467.50



The cost of:

- **1 ticket for noise** which can be issued to each occupant of that residence.
- **1 ticket for possessing open alcohol** (illegal possession) to anyone carrying alcohol that's not in the original sealed packaging.
- **1 ticket for underage drinking.** You must be 19 years old in Nova Scotia.

If you're arrested for public intoxication, you'll get a **\$134.00** ticket AND a stay in the drunk tank.

Halifax Police will be on and around campus enforcing these bylaws and you will be ticketed.

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.

 DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY

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

# President

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY ERIN BROWN AND EMMA MELDRUM



**Name:** Kaitlynnne Lowe

**Age:** 22

**Hometown:** Bowmanville, Ontario

**Program:** combined Honours English and History, minor in Theatre

**Relevant Experience:** I've been a DSU councilor for the past three years, I was chair of the executive review committee, I've been Vice President Internal and President of a faculty society, an executive on multiple other societies, and I'm currently Vice President Internal at the DSU this year.

## Why do you want to lead the DSU?

Because I want to take all the knowledge and experience I have gained over the years and the changes I have been able to implement and essentially give the students the tools to advocate for themselves and take the issues that are affecting them and work together to solve them—be they on a systemic level or on an individual level. I really think I have the experience to take student needs and address them in a way that's going to last and have sustainable positive change.

## After a year of being VP Internal, what makes you want to take on the role of President?

I've seen a lot of what the DSU President has to do and just in doing my job I've been so excited to have the opportunity to possibly be able to take on that role, to really be able to work with students on an individual level, to work with student societies even more and be that sort of networking hub

between students and the university, to bring students to the table wherever possible and to take that feedback to have their passions influence the direction that the university goes. And again, I think with the amount of experience that I have, I've been able to navigate not only the student union but the university and even the government to be able to effect change.

## What are your plans, if elected?

I essentially want to change the way the union interacts with individual members. I think it's really important for students to be able to be as involved in the union as they feel that they wish to be or as their capacity allows them to be. We have very busy students with a variety of needs and as president, I want to be the person that would be able to go to those students or be able to take their feedback in whatever way they wish to provide it, and then channel that into implementing solutions for the challenges that they're facing—whether that be increasing tuition fees, mental health, or advocacy or accessibility. I really think there's no problem too big or too small that students can't solve together. There are nearly 19,000 students at this university, and, therefore, over 19,000 possible solutions to the problems that we all collectively face.

## What is the biggest issue facing Dal students next year?

Mental health. The demand for mental health services and the need for those services is far beyond what the university is able to support at the moment. I think everything all comes down to mental health. If you're not able to take care of yourself or have the services that you need to function as a basic human being, then every other issue is just amplified. So I think working with students to ensure that our counseling and mental health services are student-driven and student-directed, culturally competent and trauma informed. I want to expand our peer support services because I think it's one of the best ways to expand our capacity as a student body to be able to address these issues, but also a way to have some sort of specialized place for first year students, international students, graduate professional students who are facing high stress in their programs, as well as supporting students who are survivors of sexualized and gender-based violence.

## Name three things you would change from how the DSU is currently being run:

In one way, I think that we need to have more avenues for students to be able to communicate with the union. I think that we need to come up with new and innovative ways to reach students where they're at and then take that feedback to us and then inform our practices. I think that's a key thing that needs to happen.

I also think that we need to expand on something we're currently doing. We have so many passionate students on this campus and a lot of that takes the form of student societies. It's important to empower these societies and give them the resources and the tools to be able to advocate for

the needs of the students they represent. In another light, it's important for an individual student to feel that they can make just as much of an impact, whether they're part of a society or not, depending if they feel that they have the capacity to take on that kind of an obligation. I think it's important for each student to feel like they in themselves have the power to effect change.

Thirdly, it would be extending on that, in how we inform our practices based on the feedback we're getting from students. Something we had talked about doing this year, but it didn't come to fruition, was having a way for students to inform the priorities of the DSU executive specifically. Something I'd like to see, when you have your first year students here and your international students here, you have your campus community that's essentially going to be with us throughout the academic year. Right in September or early October, having a way for students to take a look at what the executives plan to do, what their goals are, and be able to provide their own feedback. Whether they think that, yes, that's a huge priority or here's what you could add to it, or on the ground these are issues that we're seeing that you're not addressing. So having a way to have feedback on the priorities of the DSU going forward in the academic year would be really important.

## How can you make the DSU's work more visible?

Again, that goes back to having multiple avenues of communication. So something that has been a roadblock to communication with students has been that not every student is engaged with the student union and not every student has the capacity to be engaged with the student union. And that's alright but that doesn't mean that student can't influence the union or can't have their say or be heard. That's why we need to have multiple levels of engagement and have all those levels be equal in terms of their influence that they're able to have. By reaching students where they're at, you're able to not only inform them of what's going on in the union but also take that feedback right away. I think what could help with that is partnering with faculty in reaching students directly in the classroom. And also making sure that syllabi information is going to provide students with the resources that they need to access services

## What do you think of Dan's performance this year?

I think Dan has been incredible. I've worked with him very closely and I would like to take all the work he has done and take it forward. I think he's been amazing in being able to jump in right off the bat at the very beginning of the year and establish himself and be someone that students feel they can approach on student issues and talk to about whatever is going on. I've seen him handle so many very high stress situations with grace, respect, and dignity, and I think the work he's done around mental health this year is so key and important and needs to continue. I would like to follow his example in what he's been able to do by bringing this campus together.



**Name:** Derek Moreau

**Age:** 21

**Hometown:** Calgary, Alberta

**Program:** Engineering

**Relevant experience:** To prepare for this role, I have interviewed seven previous DSU presidents, and one of the consistent messages that came up after I interviewed a few was, there really is no relevant experience. Which is hard to say because obviously there are things you can do to prepare you for it, but it's such a dynamic and diverse role that it's difficult to really prepare for it. In terms of relevant experience, my engineering work. Engineering has prepared me to work ridiculously hard, for long hours, and do whatever I need to do to make sure the job gets done. I'm the VP Internal for the Engineering Society right now, and that introduced me to the DSU and to the structure, introduced me to the way that everything works, and that essentially motivated me to run for president.

#### Why do you want to lead the DSU?

The one thing that I really love doing is taking an enormous amount of information and then making decisions based on that. I've always considered myself to be a leader and I've always really enjoyed leading others, I get a really great feeling in doing that. Essentially, hearing as much information as possible and using that to be able to make decisions. My biggest reason is just being able to help people. The role of president has so many diverse responsibilities that the reason I was really motivated to start running was just because of the opportunity to help so many different students.

#### What are your plans if elected?

I divided my platform into two different sections: long-term goals and short-term goals. So short-term goals are goals to be accomplished within a year, and long-term goals are planting seeds, so building for the future. My short-term goals are adding more restaurants and businesses to the DalCard because I believe that it will make Halifax more accessible to students. Another short-term goal would be hosting educational summits on mental health and inclusion because I think those are two super important issues that students would really benefit from if we just ran a conference over a weekend, like DalLead, or a week, depending on students' schedules. I think there are so many campus partners in both those subjects that we could bring everyone together and be able to run some amazing events. In terms of long-term goals, those are more along the lines of a four-year strategic plan for the DSU. Executives come in and have a list of goals and priorities and things like that, and it's kind of difficult to see long-term vision, and I think that, not by micromanaging future executives, but to have a team be able to set out "hey, this is a list of goals we want the DSU to have accomplished over the next four years" I think would be really great.

#### What is the biggest issue facing Dal students next year?

The biggest issue is getting students engaged. Voter turnout was 10 per cent two years ago, and last year it was 20 per cent. So from an engineering perspective, and in talking to a lot of professional degree students, a lot of students are here to get in, get a degree and get out, whereas I have personally found so much benefit in getting involved. I have absolutely loved it, it has become a true passion in my life. I think it would be a benefit to students to try and get them all more involved in a difficult thing to do, but I think it's a great thing to do.

#### Name three things that you would change about how the DSU is currently being run:

The current executive has done a fantastic job this year. They have really turned it around—at least from the DSU of old. The history and culture of the DSU has been fairly negative, from what I've heard, and so the current executive has really done a fantastic job in eliminating that. One of the things that I would recommend is more outreach to Type 1 societies. A lot of it is not needing more students involved, but just being there for them. It's more important to have those supports, so to speak, than trying to involve people. It's saying, if you want to go to a conference, we can pay for that, if you want to host an event, we can help you with it. That applies to students and Type 1 societies, as a resource, because there's a lot of Type 1 societies that can pretty much run their own show. They run their own events, they do

essentially everything themselves, there's not really a need for the DSU. I think in terms of growing that relationship, it works out really well to just be there for support, to be there as a resource, and just to be present in that relationship.

The other thing I would improve is the athletics. I think that there's huge opportunity for the DSU to promote and foster an athletic culture, I think that the DSU really fosters a cohesive culture on campus, and that essentially making an effort to increase turnout at athletic events is really important as well. I think that prioritizing students that are taking Tiger Patrol to athletic events, or if there's a hockey game at the Forum a student can call up and say "I'm going to a hockey game at the Forum," and they can get prioritized and get to that game faster. So that's kind of an incentive for students to go. Also, I think having an active calendar with a whole list of Dal student athletic events, and maybe doing some more advertising around the SUB.

#### How can you make the DSU's work more visible?

I honestly think by sitting down with the executive and going over what our week is, and having a dedicated section on social media on what we're doing, what we're up to. I think the other thing that does is make students want to run. A lot of students—especially in engineering—may be not as engaged, or stay further away from the SUB, I think it's a great way to engage them. I think that having that visibility and saying, 'Hey, I'm President of the DSU, these are my responsibilities and this is what I'm doing this week,' I think students could see that and be like, 'Hey, that sounds amazing, that's like something I would want to do.' That would be really great and huge.

#### What do you think of Dan's performance this year?

I think he's done a fantastic job. He is a huge reason as to why I'm personally running for president. I came into council last semester as an engineering student, essentially walked in to the council room was like, 'Wow, this is the DSU, very cool.' He and I scheduled a meeting with each other after, because the engineering point of view on the DSU and that kind of culture was really negative before, just because of the history. But then one of the former engineering presidents came up to me and she was like, 'Derek, there's this new president, Dan, and he really wants to help people on Sexton, so reach out to him and see what he says.' So I reached out to him and he replied right away, and we met after a council meeting. So I watched his role and was absolutely blown away with his responsibilities, and when I met with him after he was so nice, so cool, and he really seemed to know what he was doing. I want to give credit where credit is due, I think he's done a fantastic job.



**Name:** Kathleen Reid

**Age:** 22

**Hometown:** Thornhill, Ontario (but claims she is a well-adjusted Haligonian)

**Program:** Double-major in International Development and Creative Writing

**Relevant experience:** I'm currently the Vice President of Student Life for the DSU, so I'm an executive this year. I work with the current president on a lot of different projects, and I really do love the VPSL role and the fun, events-based aspect of it, but what I enjoyed most about it was I tried to expand that role to a more day-to-day student life aspect, so for example, working with mental health or sexual assault on campus. These kinds of portfolios are why I would like to run, to amplify my ability as a student leader. Before VPSL, I was the coordinator for O-Week, and sat on the committee for a while. I also coordinated TedxDalhousieU last year, so my background is fairly events-based, but over this past year I have definitely stepped into a more administrative role.

#### **Why do you want to lead the DSU?**

Working as VPSL, and having those experiences to be a student leader, and to expand the portfolio and to do some more important things that deal with student issues, like consent and alcohol harm reduction, gave me a view into how students are able to come together. Once there is a student collective there is an absolute ability to create change. I think that working with students, and students working with the university, we can make this university a much better place and a much more safe place for students, and I think that a sense of community comes from a strong leader, and I think that I can be that strong leader.

#### **What are your plans, if elected?**

I think that everyone has a lot of plans and a lot of promises that they would make, so the way I have decided to form my platform is to make four main goals and then under each of those goals make action items. So one of the things that I'd like to touch on, just to highlight one of the action items, is the sense of community (at Dal). So I would like to turn University Avenue into a pedestrian green space and bike lane only, from LeMarchant Street all the way to Robie Street. I think that having that space as a community hub would be really important to making our campus a greener and more sustainable place. Another idea that I have would be to create a Service Hub, so there's a lot of services that exist at Dal, but maybe students don't know how to access those or if they need help. What I hope to do is create a space that will have an online presence, and giving better education to Info Desk staff because they are the front-face of the union, and educating (them on) how to help students and direct students on that path when they need it.

Community and service hub fall under student wellness. So there's governance, and my perspective on governance is that the president's role can turn into a president's office, hiring several staff members that support the president in roles like student commissioners. They do meaningful work, which gives the president more time to be on the ground, engaged with students and talking to students on a daily basis. I think freeing up that time for the president would be really important, and also would give students the ability to have administrative jobs that they can apply to their future life.

The final one is advocacy, and I take a two-step approach to advocacy. I think that advocacy exists on a personal level, so a student-by-student basis, advocating for student rights, making sure that students getting through the university process in a fair way, and there's the external side of that, which is activism and fighting for students on a larger scale by lobbying government and the university administration.

#### **What is the biggest issue facing Dal students next year?**

Right now, the biggest issue that we're facing is the tuition reset. I think that most people will touch on this. I've been fighting really hard to (draw attention to this), and was involved in the tuition reset rally, so I think that the most important thing to realize right now is it's bigger than the university. What we need to do right now is come together as students and lobby the government for better funding for our university. Absolutely, Dalhousie has a responsibility to make sure that its students are able to make it through school, healthy and safe and not be worried about student debt, but it's also the responsibility of the province to fund students for the future of the province. If they want us to stay here, then they should definitely invest in us.

We're always fighting the tuition fight because there will always be a need for more money as long as the university is looked at as a business. I think that's a big problem, where universities are an institution, and I understand you do need money and it's important, but I think in realizing that the real value in universities are the students who go there. They're not just another number, they're people, and they have lives and needs, and people suffer with their mental health. It's always an ongoing fight regardless of when it is and when it's happening.

#### **Name three things that you would change about how the DSU is currently being run:**

Having a student staff work alongside me at the president's office, absolutely not for me to work towards the student initiatives that students have decided they'd like the president's role to see through. I'm a current executive so I have a view into that, so we're working really hard on communication and communicating to each other on what needs to be done, and the fact that different executives need to have different views, and different portfolios, and stuff to do, but those don't have to be solo. So the way we carry those out, so the way we make sure those projects happen, happen in a collaborative measure. Finally, I think we can better use our part-time and full-time staff more. We have an incredibly large pool of information and resources that come from those staff that work here, the part-time staff are people who see students every day, they come face-to-face with them, whether it's the Grawood staff or the T-Room, they talk to students and get feedback, and I think there can be a lot better communication with those folks.

#### **How can you make the DSU's work more visible?**

By freeing up more of the president's time the president can have a more viable role on the ground, on campus. Something I would like to continue, or start, instead of just holding office hours at my office in the SUB, is that I'd like to take office hours to students. So setting up a table in a different office building every week where students can just ask a question, or talk about an issue that they have, or maybe give an idea of a project they would like to see happen. That way if they're really busy, and I understand, they don't have to come all the way to Studley from Sexton or Carleton - and especially at the Agricultural Campus—they shouldn't have to do that. It's important for me as the president to make it my responsibility to bring that accessibility to them. Also, in my role as VPSL, I've been trying to make the Union a more visible place in a small scale way. So I think that social media these days is a really important platform, and also just media in general, so I actually created a radio show this year on CKDU called "Student Life Live," where I do my weekly shows with another student. We talk about all things DSU and interview members of the Union. We play cool music and just have a good time talking about the current issues that involve students. I think it's important to make the time to communicate to students.

#### **What do you think of Dan's performance this year?**

I think Dan did an incredible job this year. I think we were all a little bit unsure of how he would do because a lot of (people) didn't know him. I had been working for the DSU for a little while when I got my executive role and he seemed like a really passionate guy, so I was excited to see what he could do, and I think he did an incredible job continuing the initiatives of the executive before him and making sure our executive worked harmoniously and that was really key this year. To make sure our executive worked together as a team was really important. Something specific that I really liked that Dan did was this initiative called "Text the Pres," and I would absolutely carry that over if I were elected. There's a number on posters all over campus and if you text it, it will go straight to Dan's phone and he can text you back. If you have an issue, or a question or maybe an idea for something, that's accessible right at your fingertips and I think that's really cool to continue.

**Name:** Anthony Saikali

**Age:** 22

**Hometown:** Halifax, NS

**Program:** Neuroscience and International Development, Double Major

**Relevant Experience:**

Three years ago I founded a Type1leviedsocietycalledthe Dalhousie Medical Campus Response Team. I've led a team of about 60 students for the past three years, and those students range from first year students to masters students to medical students.

I've also sat this past year as the DSU's representative on the university's Board of Governors. In the summer, I was hired by the administration in student services to research and engage with the DSU and create a mental health peer support strategy for the university.



### Why do you want to lead the DSU?

A lot of it comes back to the experience that I had through some few experiences. So for the past three years, I've worked with dozens of student groups and hundreds of students, a lot of different administrations and administrators in the university. Having founded the DMCR, I know what it's like to just be a regular student, and have an idea, and a mission, and just want to run with it. But sometimes, the doors aren't always immediately open to do that. A lot of people have great ideas at the university, but if you don't know and understand the process and the logistics of how to bring those ideas to fruition, it can be more difficult. Being on the DSU council and Board of Governors this year, it was pretty important to me in the sense that I have been able to create those relationships beyond the DSU that allows to give a lot of the changes we want to see at the university accomplished. More than anything, I think that through that I bring a collaborative approach, and that's what the DSU needs. Through someone who's been educated on the operations of the university, and that's really where I see myself fitting in.

### What are your plans, if elected?

All of the research and preparation that I've done all comes back to one main theme which is, investing in students...Sure, investing means financially, so even in the sense of our society, we've offered \$35,000 of certifications to students for free. But also investing in students, empowering them, collaborating with them, engaging them, consulting with them. Students want to be involved, and student groups wants to have more of a voice on campus. That's kind of my biggest plan overall, but in terms of specific platforms and what specific I'm going to be bringing up is the hot ticket item: tuition. My seat on the Board of Governors right now has given me some really good insight to the approach we should be taking to combat the tuition increases that are coming up. International student support is a big thing that I've been in consultation with a number of students and the folks that work with the international students. I think the DSU should be taking a far more active role in supporting them. Continuing the mental health peer support strategy, we're working with different groups on campus in figuring out the things in what those groups need,

but also what students need. One of the big things also a lot of people are excited about is student jobs, especially through the DSU. We need to do a better job of providing students the opportunity to work 6-8 hours a week, with schedules that fit their schedules as students. Rebuilding the relationship with the DSU and the Sexton, Carleton and Agriculture campus, I think it's really important.

### What is the biggest issue facing Dal students next year?

That is the biggest issue facing students right now, which is tuition. And I just want to get into that because it's is going up, it has been going up for the past three years, and again, we need to take a look at right now, and make sure we don't get faced with the same issue a year down the road. We need to address this, a year in advance, and more. We have a provincial election coming up in a year and a half, I think that's where we need to start looking now, how we engage those political parties to make a commitment to students, and figure it out. We clearly have an issue here and it's not just at Dalhousie, it's not just at the Board of Governors, it's province-wide. That's something we'll definitely be rolling out into next year. Students are having problems paying tuition but also on a week-to-week basis figuring out what they're going to eat for the week, and far more than that. So that also comes back to student jobs and a lot more than that. I have the tuition issue broken down into a short term, mid-term, long term plan. A lot of it involves engaging the board of governors, creating an agreement with them that they will work with us over the upcoming year or two years, to lobby the government and figure out an alternative strategy in balancing the budget. The interesting thing when we talk about tuition is also heavily tied into mental health. So through the research that I did, we know that finances are the number two reason that students experience depression and anxiety at Dalhousie right now. It's kind of counterintuitive because the university's strategic priorities are all about student retention. We also know that students who experience anxiety and depression have a harder time continuing on in university and find the supports that they need, especially throughout their classes. So we're putting the burden of balancing the budget on tuition and on students, and knowing how it affects their mental health and knowing the repercussions of that, it's counterintuitive. So I would say, tuition coupled with the mental health issues around that, is the biggest issue for students.

### Name three things that you would change about how the DSU is currently being run.

One of the big things is that, so the nature of what we do as students and in the DSU is quite transient. Student executives are here one year and out the other, a lot of promises get made, and a lot of things get said. So one of the things I would change is actually hosting and holding some form of consultation during a period with different student groups, different student campuses, to create a list of priorities and objectives that we need to accomplish over the upcoming year. So that students can actually hold us accountable to what we say we're going to get done, what we say is going to be done, and what doesn't get done. The other thing is, going back to the financial responsibility of the DSU, for example...if we're running one of our key businesses at \$100,000 loss every year and we're not creating targets to cut back on those losses, or we're not asking our staff and our managers to help figure out ways to cut back on those

losses, in that sense, it's irresponsible of us. It extends again to supplying our students with a job instead of immediately outsourcing the work that students would love and have amazing expertise to complete on campus. So making sure that we look to our students before we go back to outsourcing, for a variety of things. Also looking into the operations of levied societies who receive three quarters of a million dollars every year, and yet a lot of students feel that they don't benefit from those services. My third thing I think would be trying to engage students who may not be represented by a particular student society or student group. Again, I felt that as a student when I had this idea of a society, I didn't know where to go and I felt kind of on the outside of the DSU. Had it not been for the VP Internal at the time taking a little interest in what I was hoping to bring, just as a regular student, I don't think we would have been able to accomplish the things that we have and in the timely fashion that we have. So being able to reach out, especially as President and the executive, we need to do a better job of regularly opening our doors and inviting students to come in and engage, and understand what's going on, opposed to just the folks who have been regularly involved throughout the year.

### How can you make the DSU's work more visible?

In order to make it more visible, students also need to be educated on exactly what is the responsibility of the DSU really is. That would give them a better platform to hold us accountable for the things we say we're going to do, and the things we say but don't do. We also need to do a better job of engaging the largest societies, for example faculty societies, on topics and issues that may be of particular interest to them. We also need to do a better job, in terms of our DSU council, to ensure that our councilors are responsible and are taking the initiative to represent their constituencies opposed to just themselves. So although it is of the utmost responsibility of the DSU President and the executive to reach out to as many students as possible, at the same time, the DSU is not just the President and the executive: it is the DSU council and everyone around that, and it's all of ours responsibility at the end of the day, to make sure that we're doing our best to communicate the appropriate information to students, and getting their feedback and their insight. That's one of the big things I would look at, putting a little bit more responsibility on the DSU councilors and the folks who are regularly involved with the DSU, to work together to engage other students.

### What do you think of Dan's performance this year?

Dan is a good friend of mine, and we've worked together on a number of initiatives this year, like the mental health initiative. I think the DSU has come a very long way from where we were four, three, two years ago. I think Dan and the executive have done a very good job of working together, doing their very best to communicate to students—Dan especially in that sense. I think Dan's someone who brought that outsider perspective of being just a regular, average student to the DSU who has perhaps had a reputation for working for or focusing on the people who are in the direct proximity of the Student Union itself. So I feel like Dan transcends what the DSU has been known for and has done an excellent job of reaching out to different student groups. He's been reaching out to different student campuses, and then bringing all that together.



**Name:** Kalab Workye

**Age:** 20

**Hometown:** Halifax, NS

**Program:** Bachelor of Management

**Relevant Experience:** When I was 17 years old, I started a rickshaw business here in Halifax, and a rickshaw advertising business. I sold advertising. I have executive experience. I sold advertising on the back of those rickshaws and then later sold those rickshaws. I started a painting business called Project Painters. *The Chronicle Herald* did an article a couple of weeks ago about that. So my general experience would be in business.

#### Why do you want to lead the DSU?

There's this big problem with the student debt issue and the tuition issue. Coming from a low income family myself, I come from a pretty rough neighborhood. And I know one of the barriers to the people that I grew up with to entering a university and obtaining an education is the cost of that education. I feel like I can make a difference, and that's why I'm running for the DSU Presidency. I'm not a big fan of politics and I like my privacy. I'm not a big fan of this process, but I feel like I can make a difference. Some people like doing it, they become Vice President Internal, and they go up the chain. I guess they like to do that kind of stuff. That isn't me. I'd like to make a difference, and hopefully I can.

#### What are your plans, if elected?

I'd like to meet with the provincial finance minister and I'd like to meet with the premier. I'd like to convince them to increase

the provincial operating grant they give to universities. Every year, the provincial operating grant has been getting smaller and smaller. Back when your parents would have gone to university, the provincial

operating grants would have covered about 80 per cent of their cost of going to university. Now it's down to about 20 per cent—and that's why tuition is so high.

#### What is the biggest issue facing Dal students next year?

Definitely tuition. The cost of going to Dal is the biggest issue. I was at Sexton Campus and they were talking about the lack of access to food—and, honestly, that's ridiculous. There's a Superstore down the street and a Sobeys and it's 24 hours. They can go at two in the morning. There's no lack of access. I think we create problems. The only real problem we have is the cost of tuition.

#### Name three things you would change from how the DSU is currently being run:

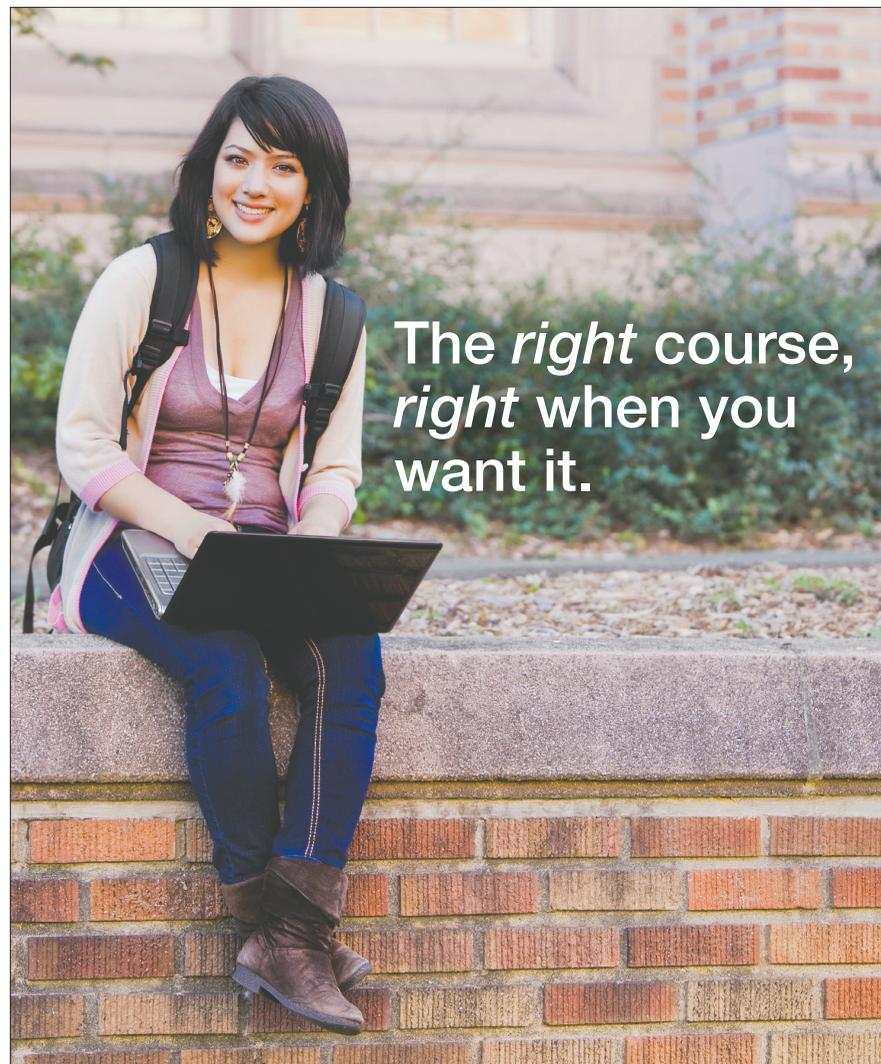
I would end the Divest Dal campaign. I would try to be more inclusive. We're very inclusive as it is, but I would try to be as inclusive as possible. And I would focus 100 per cent of my time—of my energy—on student debt, on tuition. We would not be distracting ourselves with other made-up issues.

#### How can you make the DSU's work more visible?

I'm not sure it needs to be more visible. I think it just needs to work.

#### What do you think of Dan's performance this year?

Good guy. I've gotten to know him a little bit, he's a good guy, a smart guy. He's going to make one hell of a politician one day. I could see him becoming our prime minister.



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# Vice President Internal

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY LEAH MACDONALD



**Name:** Rhiannon Makohoniuk

**Age:** 24 years old

**Hometown:** I was born in Toronto, ON, and lived there for 10 years. I moved to Moncton and lived there for eight years, and now I've been in Halifax, NS for seven years.

**Program:** Completed a Bachelor of Arts Double Major in Psychology and Gender Studies in 2014, currently working on a Bachelor of Social Work.

**Relevant experience:** In my first couple of years at Dal, I joined a fraternity and was pretty active with them on their executive. In 2010, I started at the DSU working as event staff. Then I took a year off from school and when I came back, I started to get more involved in social justice. I joined DalOUT as the public relations manager, and that's how I got involved in queer, trans and feminist organizing in Halifax. Over the last four years, I've spent three years on the DalOUT executive: I was public relations manager and then vice-president, took a year off and now I'm the DSU rep. Through that, I sit on DSU council as the LGBTQ rep, and through that I sit

on the Grants Committee. Two and a half years ago, I started working at the Student Union Building at the information desk. I've been a board member of South House for two years now; last year I was the chair of the Board, and I volunteered a bit before then. As well, 2012-2014, I volunteered at the DSU Food Bank. I was also on the Shinerama committee. I've been an O-Week leader twice; I was on the O-Week committee this year. I'm the Vice-President of the Social Work Student Group right now. I've also had minor experience with smaller societies like the Dal Diabetes Society and the Dalhousie Parkinson's society. An easier breakdown of my experience can be found on my website.

## Why are you running for this position?

I'm running for this position because I really believe in students, I really believe in community and in harnessing the power of students and community into collective action. I think that a lot of people on this campus are doing really great work, but we often only work in silos. I want to bring people together so that we're working on these issues together to increase everyone's capacity. I've been here for a number of years; I really believe in this place and in our Student Union, specifically. I want to take that to the next level.

## How would you communicate with student societies?

One thing that I want to do is be very visible and around; I want societies to use me as a resource. I have a lot of experience working with societies; one thing that I want to do to communicate with societies is to create round-tables to help them communicate with each other and to build collective knowledge and share skills, experience and ideas. There's two concepts for how I want to do that.

The first would be to have different types of society round tables: for example, levied societies, faculty societies and interest societies, and get them communicating on those levels.

The second would be to get together like-minded societies who are doing similar work but maybe aren't reaching out to each other in the best way possible. The example that I give for this would be getting together Get Real, DalOUT, South House and OUTlaw. Those four groups can have a semi-regular space to work together, share what they're working on and see what they can do to help each other out.

## What will you do to enhance the student experience of marginalized groups on campus?

Through the last couple of years that's been one of my big interests, as well through my schooling. A lot of my academic and personal life has been involved in fighting for

equity, fighting for social justice, fighting for accessibility. The DSU has been doing well on this in the past while; in the past year we've had a land acknowledgement that we use at the beginning of events and at council. There was an equity policy and an equity hiring policy put into place. I think it's just about continuing those steps and making sure that there is active and meaningful representation in all of the governance and outreach that we do.

I think that an important thing to consider when trying to engage marginalized students is that giving someone a seat at a table, and saying that "we have a queer student on this committee," for example, isn't enough. If you want to meaningfully engage people from diverse groups or backgrounds you have to centre your work around them so that they want to be doing that work. If you want to work on queer issues, you have to do something that makes queer people want to join in and be a part of that work. That way, people are engaged in a meaningful way that centres them for who they are.

## How would you improve this year's communications with students?

One thing I want to do is prioritize communicating with students in a way that reflects that students shouldn't have to seek out information to know what's going on in the DSU. I want to improve the DSU Dispatches that get sent out, I want to be more open on social media and I just want students to be able to engage with what's going on in the DSU on a day to day basis. I know that every two weeks the executives give a report on what they've been working on—but why can't that just go out to general membership? There are lines in not overflows of information, but there could definitely be a balance in letting students know what's going on.

## How Twitter-savvy are you?

I'm pretty Twitter-savvy. I have 446 followers. I think I'm better on Instagram, though.

## What do you think of Kaitlynn's performance this year?

I think Kaitlynn did a really good job. I've worked with her in a couple of capacities, doing a lot of society work I worked with her from that perspective. She was always very helpful, receptive and open. I really liked the way that over the last semester she's been working with the Loaded Ladle to get more food on Sexton Campus, I appreciate that. I like that she used her commissioner position to do research for students, and to give students jobs. I think she's done a really good job this year, and if I get this role I hope to build on that. I've had many conversations with her throughout the year about what she does.



**Name:** Amr ElKhashab

**Age:** 25 years old

**Hometown:** I was born in Egypt to an Egyptian father and Turkish mother, but I was raised in Nigeria. I came to Canada for school. I was in a program in Egypt that was in partnership with Cape Breton University, I went for one semester and then transferred to Dalhousie in September 2013.

**Program:** Public Management / Public Administration

**Relevant experience:** My experience is in two parts. The first part is with Dalhousie International Students Association (DISA). I have been the President for the past year-and-a-half. The second part, being the president of DISA, I'm also the international students' representative on the DSU council. This year, I was a member of the Society Review Committee and the External Advocacy Committee.

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

As I said, I worked with the Society Review Committee and have been able to understand what the DSU's role in relation to the operation of societies is. Going back to my experience with DISA, we've done something completely different: DISA was operating as a separate entity, but we were completely isolated for all the cultural and international societies on campus. I changed the constitution of DISA. I made the council open for any cultural society on campus to appoint a representative with equal rights and votes with executives. We have opened all the resources of DISA to the societies. We've had a lot of active societies this year:

we started seven new ones, and we've had a cultural night every Friday for this entire year. We showcase a different culture on campus: we bring food, some performances. We usually get around 150 to 170 students. This year, we've had more international student galas than any other year in Dalhousie's history. We have a lot going on with the cultural community: they needed the resources, and we've provided them, making sure that all the cultural societies are active and successful at the same time.

I believe that I can do the same thing with the DSU. There are so many resources on campus when it comes to societies, but I feel every society is operating on their own island, and doesn't know what other societies are up to. That needs to change. We can help societies make a monthly newsletter to be sent to DSU members. We need to sit societies together and make sure that there is no overlap—and if there is overlap, we can work on bringing societies together to make them bigger and more successful. Communication between societies is a big, big thing. The DSU needs to be very active and present with societies, for several reasons. First of all to make societies active, and secondly because we cannot fight tuition recession on our own: we need every single group on campus, we need them in the conversation to figure out how we can actually fight this. We need to not just include the big, faculty societies: we need to include everyone present on all campuses. This can be done, we just need to bring societies together.

I feel there is a huge underrepresentation of STEM students within the DSU. I think these students' needs are different from any other group on campus, their needs are academic: conferences, publishing papers, access to library resources. I feel that these needs haven't been addressed. I think the DSU can do a lot better. For example, if you want to go to a conference and you apply to the DSU, you get \$100. That wouldn't cover anything. Dalhousie science students have been doing tremendous work. I know a biology student who got the first place in a presentation somewhere in Boston, and she applied to the DSU for a grant and couldn't get anything. I feel that STEM students' needs and wants are not represented—it's not the DSU is ignoring STEM students. They aren't aware of their specific needs. I come from a scientific background, I studied medicine before coming here. I see there is a gap between the DSU and this group of students, and I feel this needs to be mended. I believe if they want to publish a paper they should be able to. If they are invited to present the paper they published, they have every right to go there. As much as this is somehow an individual academic experience, they are representing Dalhousie. This needs to be focused on.

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

First of all, I'm planning to be on every levied society's council, just to be there to communicate what the DSU is up to, answer any questions on how the DSU can help and to connect societies with similar ideas. Secondly, there has been a lot of remarks that the DSU doesn't answer emails—there's going to be someone dedicated to answering emails, there will be a response within 24 hours. The Tiger Society website: that is going to be removed because it costs way too

much—close to \$15,000—and there's so much clutter, it isn't updated regularly. It's just too complicated.

Also, the campus booking system. We've had so much trouble dealing with three different entities to organize one event. It's too complicated for us to operate and it was implemented halfway through the semester. It needs to be streamlined: there needs to be one form to fill out, and whatever happens needs to happen behind closed doors, that's the DSU's job. If I win, this will be adjusted within the first six to eight weeks, and taken care of before the new students come in September.

**What will you do to enhance the student experience of marginalized groups on campus?**

We've opened the resources of DISA to make sure that everyone is involved, to make sure that all cultures are represented equally at Dalhousie. I will make sure that marginalized students are represented everywhere, I will make sure that the campus is a safe environment for every student. The DSU is a public service organization, this is a place where students come together and not a place meant to divide students. We will make sure that all students are represented and included in everything that the DSU does.

**How would you improve this year's communications with students?**

The number one thing is email responses. There is going to be accessible advertising. Everyone on the Studley campus is aware of the DSU and the Student Union Building, and what goes on there. But we have Carleton and Sexton students, and they don't know what's going on. I think we need to have screens in places where students hang out that provide them information on what is happening and where.

For example, South House. South House has immense potential to access Sexton's campus. They can have a representative go there with all they have to offer, and talk to the students about their services. That's the main problem for the students at Sexton and Carleton: they don't know what's happening. I know a student from Sexton who has been a student at Dalhousie for a year and a half now: two weeks ago he came to the SUB and was asking what the Loaded Ladle line was. He's been here for three semesters and he didn't know. A service like this needs to be advertised: there is free food on campus! The main barrier is accessible information.

**How Twitter-savvy are you?**

Not very much. I have a private Twitter account and use it about every six weeks or so.

**What do you think of Kaitlynn's performance this year?**

I think her performance has been great. She started the on-campus Sexual Harassment & Violence hotline - and I think she made history. She's worked really closely with the societies, I think she was more accessible than previous executives in her position. Also, I truly appreciate her trying to bring presence to societies on Sexton with the Sexton Society Fair. She really has tried. She supported us in DISA, we've never had any problems with her accommodating our needs. I think she was a really good VPI.

# Vice President Finance & Operations

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY ELEANOR DAVIDSON AND VICTORIA WALTON



**Name:** Jeremy Banks

**Age:** Mature student

**Hometown:** Errington, B.C.

**Program:** Bachelor of Urban Planning

**Relevant experience:** My background it actually in the arts. I started taking things that I loved and putting them on stage, and through that, I became involved in project management. A huge part of the arts, and the projects that we managed, was about coming together to create something really, really incredible. Through that process, I actually ended up managing non-profits with thousands of engaged

audience members to come together and create multiple seasons of shows. It's been really exciting to manage a non-profit, just like the DSU—a non-profit that's run by a board of directors, which has a membership that's engaged and participates. Here at Dal, one of the things that I became really passionate about was making sure that what we do with our money reflects our values. Last year I was part of Divest Dal, and I worked to bring that conversation to the Board of Governors. This year, I've been a part of the Senate, to continue that conversation with the faculty. It's really exciting to see how our values are changing how we spend our money, and so when we talk about that, the idea of running for VPFO became really, really exciting because there's a lot of things on campus that we do value, that I think there's opportunities to support. And there's also things on campus that we pay for that are underutilized or could be better valued.

**Mahbubur Rahman has held this spot on the exec for several years: what would you change about how he has handled the portfolio?**

How he's handled the portfolio has been excellent compared to what's been done in the past. It's been very traditional, very conservative, and they've done a really good job of maintaining the status quo. But I think it's really important to realize that times are changing, that things have changed and continue to, with the creation of the sustainability office, with success of the Urban Garden Society, with the success of the Dal Bike Centre. People are shifting to think about more sustainable, more local, more environmental choices.

We sit here and look around in the Killam, we can see a couple different franchises that we're paying that are not necessarily local, that don't employ students, and aren't managed by students, when we have an incredible business school in the Rowe building, filled with people learning how to run businesses and make business plans, and a whole bunch of students on campus that need jobs. So that's a huge thing for me.

**What are your thoughts on the ongoing SUB renovations?**

They're problematic for sure. When I first heard about the SUB renovations I was informed that all the internal stuff would be done for the fall, and they'd only be working on

external stuff, which hasn't been the case. It definitely needs to be exact going forward, because it's a huge problem for students—that's our space.

I was just in there having some food, and there's no place to sit anymore, there's no place to study anymore. They're just opening up now, finally, in the winter semester, the society hubs and additional spaces, and it seems a little late in the game to be doing that.

**What issue do you think the DSU needs to devote more of its budget towards?**

I think the biggest, most important thing is to make sure that we have an engaged student population. And that means both by participating and informing them about the elections right now, but also creating a collaborative and engaged budget process, where we get to talk to people at societies and other organizations on campus to find out what services they value, and that actually have been a huge contribution to their life. And to consider ways to get more out of that and pay less for the things that we don't value as much.

I think those are the biggest things for me, and as I mentioned earlier, that also translates into student jobs on campus. Also, building connections outside of campus, both for connections into your future, but also for funding opportunities for projects right now, because the DSU isn't the only place to get grants and sponsorships. You can go outside and start building connections to take us all farther in the world.

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

I don't think I get to make that decision. That's the thing, in working with a membership. I might have an idea and I might have some thoughts on the topic, but really I think the most important thing is getting people to decide.

There can be a lot of innovative techniques by talking to people, asking them what they spend on, by making it clear what more or less money means to people, because this stuff actually depends on you and what you want to get out of the student union. Everyone pays a whole whack of student fees for a whole number of services, but not everyone takes advantage of those services or gets to use them.



**Name:** Mahbubur Rahman

**Age:** 35

**Hometown:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Program:** MAsc in civil engineering

**Relevant experience:** Two years as VPFO for the DSU, from 2014-15 and 2015-16

#### Why do you hope to have this job again next year?

Over the years I enjoyed this position, working with students and working for students. I think this has been one of the more challenging years for the DSU, with the (SUB) renovations, and with the food service review coming as well. After serving in this position, I thought that it would be great for the DSU to have me in this position as again, so I put my name forward and the students will decide.

#### What would you do differently next year?

I would not change a lot of things about the way that the Union is operating, but there are a few things that this year we

could not make a priority. One of the things on my to-do list is the health plan bursary. The food service review is coming next year as well, in 2017. There is a desire amongst students to have a more student-focused food service and we started the process of reviewing what that would look like. After that review we'll make a decision on what direction food services will go. I think that a lot of students want a student-run café and more local, healthier food options, as well as more international food options. We're giving the Loaded Ladle permanent space and we're working with them, and they're satisfied that they're getting their own space.

#### What are your thoughts on the ongoing SUB renovations?

It is the largest project that the DSU has ever taken on, and I am very proud that I was a part of the planning as well as of the implementation and now I want to be there when it's finished. We need to finish it within the budget too. I think that it's not easy to have the renovations going on while the building is still operating, but I think that when it is done, even if it is a bit behind schedule, students will love it. In my position, the priority is to complete it within budget and to settle the financing with the bank that we agreed on earlier in the project so that it can go smoothly from day one.

#### What issue do you think the DSU needs to devote more of its budget towards?

I think there are issues regarding involvement of Sexton and Carleton students in the budget. We're looking to give more dedicated funding to Sexton and Carleton students, since many of them do not feel that they are getting the proper share of the DSU budget, so we're tiring to change by contacting societies and seeing how we can divide that budget. This year I did budget consultations with 20 different societies across campus and got a lot of good feedback, and that will

be coming in the budget. The budget will be presented during the Mar. 23 council meeting and will be voted on on Apr. 6.

#### How do you determine what budget items deserve more funding than others?

How it works, internally, is that all the staff and execs are responsible for their share of the budget, then we put those together and try and make a balanced budget while still keeping all of the priorities. At the end, it's my responsibility to suggest what should be done when the council approves the budget. So I will offer the options to the council and the council will decide. Within this process I discuss with the other executives and full time staff and have their input. I am very privileged to have been here in this position for two years, and I have been getting a lot of good feedback from students who appreciate my work, and I hope that they will continue to give me this opportunity to serve in this position so I can continue to do a good job.

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**Name:** Dylan Ryan

**Age:** 23

**Hometown:** Beaverbank, N.S.

**Program:** Double major in Economics and Political Science, 4th year

**Relevant experience:** I've been involved in the DSU operations for the last three years, since my second year. I've worked in a lot of departments and the ones I haven't I've started activities for. So, right now I sit on the Facility Improvement Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Governor's Review Committee, the Student Life Committee, and the External Advocacy Committee. I'm also involved in societies:

I'm the president of the Beer Brewing Society, which is a little lighter but it's fun and I think it's a good way to get involved. I'm also a member of the *Gazette* Publishing Board actually, but I have no place in editing or producing material, it's more about the oversight of the organization. I've also studied: I did my first year in Commerce, and transferred into Econ and Poli Sci after that so through that I did basic business courses that have helped me to understand how the DSU can do a lot of things better. I've also worked in accounting for a major car dealer group here in Halifax. So I started here in 2011, took my second year off and worked there for a year, so I understand accounting, I know how to read financial documents, how to discern them and figure out kind of where the money is actually going, which kind of leads into my platform.

**Mahbubur Rahman has held this spot on the exec for several years: what would you change about how he has handled the portfolio?**

Mahbubur is actually a friend of mine and I think he's done a great job in maintaining the portfolio. Nothing's gone wrong, but nothing's gone too right. I think the position's become kind of stale, at the risk of sounding negative, and I think there's change that needs to come.

Right now, one of the things that I have the most trouble with is that if a student looks at our books, they can't really see where our budget's going. A lot of the lines are mistitled or they're lumped together in odd ways that don't make any sense in accounting. So one of the things I kind of want to do is go line-by-line and make our books make sense to students, so students should see.

If you're a full-time student you pay \$71 a semester to the Student Union, and you should be able to look at our accounting books and see where it's going. So that's one of my biggest problems.

Another is I think the role isn't accessible to students. Money plays a huge role in setting our priorities, so it's about prioritizing what students want and what they need, and I don't think that one person sitting behind a desk making a budget is reflective of what the position should be. So one of the things I want to bring to the role is the creation of a budget committee, which would represent a wider range of students and campuses that would be involved in drafting the budget form the start, rather than consulting after it's done. I think it would open up the office, engage more students, and help to set priorities a lot more clearly.

**What are your thoughts on the ongoing SUB renovations?**

I've been involved, I work in the operation's department of the DSU right now as a building manager, so I know pretty intimately the dynamics involved in the renovation - and it's not an easy process. There have been a lot of changes made mid-reno. That usually leads to delays; we've had difficulties with pretty well every other party involved at some point in the road.

I think that I'm very well-prepared to take over mid-renovation because of the knowledge I've build and the fact that I've been involved all the way through, I've seen what's going on, and I'm in the room already.

**What issue do you think the DSU needs to devote more of its budget towards?**

I think one of the biggest things right now is our smaller campuses don't receive a proportional amount of money to the main campus, the Studley campus. So that's something I'd really like to address.

Another is, well not so much about spending our money towards things, but about spending more wisely. Our services currently haemorrhage money; last year they lost about a hundred thousand dollars, which is to me poor management and I think someone in the VPFO role—hopefully me—needs to look at that with an innovative mindset.

It hasn't changed in years and I don't think it's viable or sustainable for students to pour money into a service that very few access, so I think we need to change our view on that and the renovation offers a huge opportunity to do that with the changing physical appearance of the Grawood and its shrinking size, but it also needs to come hand-in-hand with a different approach to how we engage students in that space.

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

That's my biggest thing: I don't think that it should be just me determining what budget items receive more funding than others. I think that it should be a more inclusive project, representing different groups, different campuses, and different mindsets. I think that I would serve as chair of that committee, but I would guide the committee to facilitate clear goal-setting for a wider set of students than just one person can.

Thanks for calling 211.  
How can I help?

Hello? Listen, my roommate's  
in some kind of trouble and  
English isn't her first language.  
She's really freaked.  
Can you help us? I know it's late...

Yes, I can help.  
211 can communicate with callers in  
over 100 languages - and  
don't worry about the time.  
We answer 24/7.

Great.  
She's a really nice person  
but she's crying and stuff and  
I don't know what she's saying.

Can you pass her the phone or  
get her to call me on another one?  
Our conversation will be confidential.

Sure.  
She can use my cell.  
I'll go out for a while to give  
you both privacy and hey,  
thanks a lot.

You're welcome.  
You seem like a good roommate  
to have called 211 for her.  
We're here to help with every situation.



When you don't  
know where to turn.



ns.211.ca



help@ns.211.ca



2-1-1

You don't  
have to sit in  
school to  
stand among  
greatness.



By Tom Cheney for iStockphoto.com/PhotoDisc/Getty Images



› Thomas Edison:

The world's most extraordinary  
failure never gave up.  
Thank goodness.

open. online. everywhere.  
[go.athabasca.ca/online-courses](http://go.athabasca.ca/online-courses)

# Vice President Academic & External

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY HANNAH DALEY



**Name:** Dhruv Bhatia

**Age:** 24

**Hometown:** New Delhi, India

**Program:** Masters of Engineering, final year

**Relevant experience:** I started my student political career at Dal. I was the Academic and External commissioner for Jacqueline who was the then VPAAE for the DSU, so I worked along with her on so many issues, like the Bill 100 rallies. Another is I remember specifically we de-collaborated with SNS (Students Nova Scotia). I got to work on two major issues within just three months. I was the graduate student senator, and because of that I was given the opportunity to sit on Senate. I represented on Senate discipline committee and I represented on SAPRC (Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee).

## Why are you running for this position?

I've worked with two VPAAEs, and the best part is that I've worked with so many people at the stakeholder's position that made me really interested to work on this position because I believe it's all about just activism. You know, getting the work done.

## What do you want to continue that John has already started?

John has started so many different things. I worked along with him on Senate. He has already expanded the student Senate seats from seven to 22. The representation of grad students has lowered, however, but the equity seats have grown. I want to continue his philosophy of making it more respectable for the complete community. I want to work on the mental health issues, I want to work on the tuition issues, I want to work on the differential fees, I want to work on expanding the entrepreneurship and innovation activities, which he hasn't been able to touch upon, and I want to also work on the staff and student solidarity because that's going to be the main agenda with how we are going to attack tuition fees and differential fees. My main agenda is R.E.S.P.E.C.T.:

R: revamping mental health education & issues

E: expanding entrepreneurship and innovation activities for all the students

S: staff/student solidarity

P: promoting the international grad students

E: equity, equitable seats and making Dal more affordable and equitable

C: connectedness. I want to foster the working of different groups in a connected way.

T: tuition and differential fees

## How could the DSU engage more students in its advocacy efforts?

So many people are disconnected. So many societies, so many people and groups are disconnected. The position is more of an activist one, however if you keep on portraying activism, then that's not going to help because every other person that's coming into this university who's coming to Dal's community is not an activist—they may be just coming over here to study and to get a good job. How will they get a good job if they can't get a good degree? How would they be able to get a good degree if they can't pay all the expenses, and how would they be able to afford it? There has to be a number of jobs, and a number of employment opportunities, for everybody. That's my vision, and we can do it only by expanding the innovation and entrepreneurship at the very grassroots level. Recently, Dal has also got \$1 million

in funding and that money is only going toward entrepreneurship. None of that money is going for teaching or research. That's my vision, to utilize all that money so that people can utilize the maximum potential of that money so that they can combat tuition fees and differential fees.

## What advocacy efforts from this year do you believe were most effective?

I believe that John was a good student activist from what I've seen. He has represented on so many things, he has protested against the BOG (Board of Governors), he has protested outside their offices as well, however the student involvement has been pretty low. It's all about giving the good rally propositions and it's not about being an activist. The people who are sitting at the BOG, we have to give a good rally proposition, and that would only be possible if we are to give a nice rally proposition so that our work can get done. As I said, it's all about rally propositions and less of activism if you want to engage more and more people and get work done.

## Do you believe the DSU should join any external advocacy groups? What one(s)?

I strongly believe that we shouldn't join an external advocacy groups. I have full trust in the autonomous structure the DSU is maintaining at this time.

## What is your reaction to recent proposals that tuition in some faculties will be raised more than 18% over three years?

The majorly affected areas are engineering, pharmacy, and the agriculture campus—and that's a huge crunch. It's even worse if that person is an international student. He has to pay differential fees, as well. We have to come up with different strategies and play it very strategically. It's not about activism—it's about getting out work done. I have got so many different strategies lined up with me and I've got different rally propositions for every other person that's sitting at the top so that our work can be done.

## What do you think of John's performance this year?

He has done a respectable job. He has done a tremendous job. He has done so good in the Senate. He has expanded the student Senate seats from seven to 22, which is a huge achievement. So far no other Canadian university has been able to achieve the equitable seats on the Senate, that's a huge achievement because that's what we're working for. We're working for the concept of respect. It's all about respect.



**Name:** Jad Sinno

**Age:** 21

**Hometown:** Halifax, immigrated with family in 2004. Before that grew up in Kuwait City, but is of Lebanese origin

**Program:** Combined honours in neuroscience and statistics with a minor in philosophy

**Relevant experience:** First and foremost, I've served on student societies for three years of my undergraduate degree. I currently serve on the DSU executive as well, and I also worked alongside the current VP&AE John Hutton over the summer. I serve on the external advocacy committee that John also chairs, so I think I've been fairly well exposed to how the VP Academic runs usually within the DSU.

#### **Why are you running for this position?**

I'm running for this position because I think that there is potential for the DSU to better its relations with its students and advocate more effectively on behalf of students. I think that given the nature of the experience I have, John has set it up very well in the past year to allow the next VP Academic & External to strive forward. I'm running, hopefully, in order to address some of the key issues that students are having, but

more importantly in order to equip students with the ability to advocate on their own behalves as well, which I also find very important.

#### **What do you want to continue that John has already started?**

I would like to specialize both the academic and external committees which he split last year and figure out how that'll work into the Senate caucus. So, increasing the student representation (work) that he has done is great. I think that the university in general has started to look at the recommendations in the BAC report, and I think so much of it has yet to be addressed. I think the university might be dropping the ball on that end, and something that John started to do but never followed through would be holding the university accountable for the recommendations that they put up because ultimately these reports are just recommendations and the university doesn't actually have to follow through with them. If we want to achieve a safer campus, a better environment and just an overall better institution, we as students need to make sure the university does that.

#### **How could the DSU engage more students in its advocacy efforts?**

I think the DSU has traditionally done a sort of open door policy and they've tried to make this policy more accessible to students. I think it's still a fundamentally flawed logic. So, for example, some of the executive have gone to Sexton campus and held office hours. I think this is still problematic on some level because what's happening is you're not reaching out to the Sexton students, you simply open your door for people to come and reach out to you and I think here is the difference. If elected, I would make at least the A&E group be more proactive. We would go and engage with students and we would go to their meetings and see what issues they are facing and then offer our resources. I think the DSU has dropped the ball on some key issues, for example in the past year the library budget crisis became so large and so overwhelming that the DSU didn't engage with it until it became so large that they simply released a statement. I think that's problematic, so better student engagement means a proactive union.

#### **What advocacy efforts from this year do you believe were most effective?**

The most effective for sure was increasing student representation on Senate. It was such a long shot, it was something people didn't think was going to happen, and then having achieved that is absolutely a tremendous effort. Now that we've tripled our representation of students on Senate we

can really start to advocate for issues that students are facing and we have greater representation across all faculties.

#### **Do you believe the DSU should join any external advocacy groups? What one(s)?**

It's a case-by-case basis. I think that the Dalhousie Student Union ought to advocate on behalf of all students and our students may or may not be divided on some cases, so it would be incorrect for the Student Union to join an advocacy group unless we had some sort of consensus or unanimous agreement across our students. In that case, if the union isn't able to join an external advocacy group, I think the DSU is more than capable to facilitate our students joining those groups. I think whether or not we have a subset of students or student societies that might want to be a part of an external advocacy group or be able to work with, the Union is more than capable to liaise between the two of them. I think it might be fundamentally problematic for the Union to join an advocacy group that perhaps the students don't agree with. As an institution that's representing 20,000 students, our actions ought to be accountable to all 20,000 students.

#### **What is your reaction to recent proposals that tuition in some faculties will be raised more than 18% over three years?**

I think this is absurd. I've proposed different actions in order to raise awareness. I think the external advocacy group this year has really, really tried to reach out to the university and our efforts are currently in place. If they don't work, if the budget does pass for this year, it's on the next VP A&E to work alongside the government to try and remediate these issues. I think if we aren't successful, we really ought to continue that push, whether it is to work with the university to lobby the government or vice versa. I think on some level the students need to speak up and there's a few ways to do that.

#### **What do you think of John's performance this year?**

I think they've been great, I think John's been really effective in his job. With any individual who only has one year to do something, you're limited by whoever came before you. They obviously had different plans in mind and different projects they were working on. I think when John got into office, he tried his best to be able to set the Union on track to achieve some really good things and I think he's been really effective having hosted multiple panels, multiple conferences. He's also been very efficient in increasing student representation as we know, and his efforts in tuition have consistently been effective. I think most importantly, the work he's done for the elections this season have been really good.

# Board of Governors Representative

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY QUINELLE BOUDREAU



**Name:** Kati George-Jim

**Age:** 20

**Hometown:** Victoria, BC

**Program:** Double major in Political Science and Sustainability

**Relevant experience:** I was First Rear Representative for DASSS (Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society) and DUPSS (Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science

Society), as well as part of the Howe Hall Residence Council, and an active member of the Dalhousie Model United Nations last year. This year I was Vice President Academic for DASSS, Vice President Internal for DUPS and helped an executive position on DMUN. I have a lot of experience working with faculty members and the student union, which kind of tailors to being able to work with BOG and higher administration. I have a lot of knowledge about how the university operates, drafting legislature and working with reports.

## Why do you want to be on the Board of Governors?

I jumped into student societies in first year because I think it's really important to be learning outside of the classroom and having a well rounded university experience. After seeing how diverse the Dalhousie community is, I would love to be a facilitator between students and the BOG. I want to be able to explain what the BOG is doing for students, and make sure students know what is going on at their university. I think Dalhousie needs to be a leader in representing all of the cultural groups that are a part of this university, especially those that have been systemically marginalized, and helping to empower their students. I have a lot of passion for student advocacy and really helping students.

## What do you plan to do once you're elected?

I want to concentrate on making the BOG accountable for recommendations they have already made. We are the people who have to hold them accountable and make sure they follow through, while also making sure we are working with the university. I can't make all these promises about tuition and how we want to abolish it, but I think it is very important to be working to make education more accessible. I understand fiscal responsibility, but we need a balance. Mental health and wellness—I really want to see this go further. Also, continuing the Dal Connects campaign and making sure that I am advocating for this issue because many students face

mental health and wellness issues every day. I really want to make sure that students have the chance to be heard and make sure the issues that students care about are being heard by the BOG.

## What experience do you have with Dalhousie's Board of Governors?

I've been to several of their meetings and I think we can move in a direction of working together. I don't have any experience specifically with the BOG, but through my experience with DASSS, I've done a similar job on a smaller scale. I think I can definitely transfer these skills into the BOG representative position.

## If you had been on the Board of Governors this year, what issues would you have brought up?

The hot topic right now is tuition, and I definitely would be working with students on campus and making sure their voices were heard. Pressuring the university to follow up on the dentistry scandal—I really want to see this conversation to continue and turn into finding real solutions and not just assigning blame. As well, in 2018 we have our 200 year anniversary, and I think it is really important to be working with the Native Student Association, talking about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations—I would love to see more conversation with students about this. A lot of other universities are moving forwards with this and I don't want to see Dalhousie left behind.

## What role do you see the Board of Governors playing in the upcoming year?

I think it's important to address the diversity problem we have on campus and the lack of representation. It would be nice to see the BOG role increase and have them have more of a leadership role and be active in making the university better. It would also be nice to see consultation not just with students, but also with faculty.



**Name:** Masuma Khan

**Age:** 20

**Hometown:** Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Program:** Political Science major, minor in International Development Studies

**Relevant experience:** I may not have as much experience as some of my counterparts, but I have sat as president of the Muslim Student Association, I've worked with the DSU, and was a part of the protest at Kelly Regan's office about Bill 114. I've very active, but in a different way than a lot of people. My first two years here I was dealing with some medical issues—a slipped disk and a concussion—and wasn't able to be as involved as I wanted to be. However, I am very open to learning and gaining the experience needed to do this job.

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

I think that I bring something different to the table—I'm a minority, I'm a female, I'm Muslim. I have a different perspective from most people. We need to work with Dalhousie, but I really want to make sure students have a voice. If students have a real issue with tuition, we need to do our best with the BOG to solve these problems for students. I basically have a "whatever it takes" attitude. If students want a voice, they should make me their choice.

**What do you plan to do once you're elected?**

Make sure tuition fees either stop increasing, go down or are eliminated. These are obviously extremely high hopes, but it's something I look forward to working on. I want there to be more mental health awareness—not just a week or a month but a constant awareness on campus, because we don't have the resources to deal with mental health issues. Equity—making sure students with different needs are addressed. We all come from different backgrounds, and I want all of our needs to be met. I want Dalhousie to be accountable when it comes to tuition, consultations, etc. I want there to be more transparency. We also need to make sure that Dalhousie is progressing towards a more sustainable future—our students make a huge impact, and we need to be looking forward.

**What experience do you have with Dalhousie's Board of Governors?**

I actually have no experience with the BOG—maybe this is a good thing, maybe it's a bad thing. I am very open to learning, and I think that I would learn a lot in my first year, if elected. I think that it gives me a different advantage. I really want to be able to do something for this university.

**If you had been on the Board of Governors this year, what issues would you have brought up?**

There would have never have been a tuition increase thought. I know it's hard when you work on the BOG because you need to represent everyone—19,000 people—and it's hard to do that without any bias. Bill 114—we need to work with the university to do beneficial things for our campus. If Dal is all about female, trans, queer rights, why didn't we do this together, why didn't the university lobby with us to pass Bill 114?

**What role do you see the Board of Governors playing in the upcoming year?**

I think students will have a voice with me on the board. I want students to be able to tell their BOG representative what they want, what they need, because I feel like we don't have that right now. Dalhousie needs to be working with their students, not against them.



**Name:** Bart Soraka

**Age:** 24

**Hometown:** Regina, SK

**Program:** Law

**Relevant experience:** I sat on the University of Regina Senate for two terms, I sat on the U of R council for a term, and their student union for two terms. I am VPE for the Law Students Society here at Dalhousie, and I have been working with student unions and university governance for quite a few years now.

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

I want to be on the BOG for two reasons. First, the long term financial plan will be up in November, and I think with my experience at various universities, as well as my BA in Economics and Business Administration, will help me to be a great voice to help the financial plan to be more focused on students and their needs. As well, from an overview of the BOG website, the summary of legislation they have says they are able to appoint 4 student reps, not just three, so I really want to be able to look into that and make sure we are getting the representation we deserve.

**What do you plan to do once you're elected?**

Once things settle down I want to be able to reach out to all of the student groups on campus, and make sure they have relevant contact information for me. I want to post a shared drive account, and be able to share information with them that is relevant to specific groups of students.

**What experience do you have with Dalhousie's Board of Governors?**

A few weeks ago, I was protesting outside the BOG meeting after being unable to sit in and listen respectfully. I know that the BOG is mostly made up of people who don't actually go to Dalhousie, and they are a lot of people who don't see what happening on the ground.

**If you had been on the Board of Governors this year, what issues would you have brought up?**

This year I would have tried to bring up the lackluster end of the Dal Dentistry situation. I genuinely think that most people found the resolution unsatisfying. Attention kind of dropped off and I think the administration felt like they could keep quiet about it and not have the mud stick to them. I think it would be good to have brought that up at a BOG level, and get a better outcome for everyone.

**What role do you see the Board of Governors playing in the upcoming year?**

I definitely see them having to approve next year's tuition amounts, which a lot of students will be affected by. They will have a huge role next year, especially because of the financial situation—what they are doing is going to affect students until 2026. I want to make sure that the BOG is not trying to sweep things under the carpet, and that they helping to solve problems as they come up.

# Basketball

CAM HONEY, SPORTS EDITOR



## Tigers win second straight AUS Championship

### Dal Tigers beat UPEI Panthers 87-85

The men's basketball Tigers won their second consecutive AUS championship with an 87-85 victory over the UPEI Panthers at the Scotiabank Centre on Sunday, Mar. 6.

The title gives the Tigers back-to-back championships in basketball for the first time in team history.

"It's surreal, amazing, lovely, spectacular, tremendous - any adjective that is a good adjective that's what it feels like, it's amazing," said Kashrell Lawrence, 2015-16 second-team AUS all-star and the AUS championships MVP for the second consecutive season.

The crowd of 3,069 fans created a stellar atmosphere from the opening tip through the final buzzer. The Tigers

had a slight advantage in crowd noise, but there was a large contingent of Panthers fans in attendance evening out the cheering section for each side.

Most of the volume came from the two schools student sections. Tigers fans were decked out in black and gold cheering on their side with the help of the Tiger mascot, thundersticks and a Tigers logo snare drum. Panthers fans were clad in green and took an early cue from the Tigers section that they would need to make noise.

The championship game pitted the highest scoring team in the AUS against the leagues stingiest defence. The Panthers averaged 93.3 points per game, whereas the Tigers

only surrendered 74.1 per contest.

The high-powered offence took control early on. The Panthers hit their first four three's and started 6 of 7 from the field on way to building a 20-4 lead with 4:58 left in the first.

"We dug a deep hole early, it looked pretty bleak," said Tigers head coach Rick Plato, the 2015-16 AUS coach of the year. "We made a key change defensively and it seemed to do the trick and it got us back in the game."

The Tigers went to a full court press and started to dish out fouls to, "stop the ball," as Plato kept yelling from the sideline. The strategy worked, as it slowed down the fast-paced Panthers attack and they started to miss some shots and turn the ball over.

From there, the Tigers offence finally started to click. Jarred Reid had a layup and a three, Sven Stammberger followed that up with a three. 2015-16 AUS rookie of the year Jordan Aquino-Serjue made a layup and Cedric Sanogo dropped a layup and-one as the Tigers closed the gap to 25-17 after the first.

The Tigers kept up the pace in the second quarter. Lawrence made a filthy spin-move to a right hand finish to make it 29-26 and then first-year Tigers player Matt McVeigh



drilled a three to tie it at 29-29.

McVeigh hit another three to give the Tigers their first lead at 32-31. Then Stammberger capped a 25-8 run for the Tigers with a jumper from the top of the key to make it 34-31.

Plato utilized his depth to keep his starters out of foul trouble throughout the quarter.

The game went into the half with the Panthers up 37-36.

The second half had the fans on the edge of their seats from the start.

The Panthers Tyler Scott nailed a deep

three and Stammberger answered right back with a three for the Tigers to make it 40-40.

“I think it was probably more intense for you guys watching,” said Stammberger. “Watching on the sideline or on the bench you can’t do anything about it, on the court you’re in it and you’re playing.”

Finals MVP and 2015-16 first-team AUS all-star Ritchie Kanza Mata stole an inbounds pass and dropped a layup in transition for a 42-40 Tigers lead.

Scott drilled a step back three to put the Panthers back in front 43-42 then another

deep three with a hand in his face moments later for 48-44.

Later in the third, the Tigers press forced a turnover that led to a Stammberger layup for a 53-52 Tigers lead with 3:49 left in the quarter.

The game got heated for the remainder of the third as some questionable officiating had both benches infuriated.

Aquino-Serjue was called for a foul that appeared to be all ball, Will Yengue was called for a questionable blocking foul. Moments later Yengue was mugged going up for a layup without a call, Lawrence appeared

to be fouled on the same possession without a call, before finally Yengue made a layup to tie the game at 57-57.

The Tigers forced a turnover on the next Panthers possession and Lawrence was fouled driving hard to the hoop. The Panthers Lorenzo Parker got banged up on the play and stayed down on the court, while an irate Panthers head coach Tim Kendrick was given a technical foul.

Lawrence made one of two on the original call, Kanza Mata hit the shot for the tech and then Aquino-Serjue drilled a jumper to

give the Tigers a four-point swing and take a 61-57 lead into the fourth.

The two teams went back and forth down the stretch taking the game right down to the wire.

The Panthers went on a 6-0 run just over four minutes into the quarter. Brad States finished with a strong layup plus the harm for an old fashioned three-point play. He followed that up with a baseline drive to a monstrous right-handed slam to take a 71-66 lead and send Panthers fans into a frenzy.

Sensing the energy shift the Tigers fans erupted with cheers for their side seconds before Kanza Mata answered for the Tigers with a slick drive to the right hand and-one for a 71-69 score.

Every time the Panthers would take the lead, the Tigers came back with a clutch shot of their own.

Aquino-Serjue knocked down a jumper to tie the game at 76-76. Panthers player of the game Milorad Sedlarevic hit a three but Sanogo answered with a three of his own to tie it at 79-79.

States tipped in a rebound to put the Panthers up 81-79 with 1:40 left on the clock. The Tigers fans started chanting 'Let's go Tigers' to urge their team on. A couple turnovers later Aquino-Serjue was up to

the challenge again drilling another clutch jumper to tie the game at 81-81 with 0:54 on the clock.

"It feels good," said Aquino-Serjue on being able to make some shots late. "I know coach had confidence in me, he told us we were gonna need to make some big shots down the stretch. I owe it to my team, we just pushed hard and we came up with the win."

Lawrence fouled out on the next play, another tough call as he and States seemed to touch the ball at the same before colliding. After States hit two free-throws to put the Panthers back up 83-81, Kanza Mata made the play of the game. He let the ball roll to half court before touching it to keep precious seconds from running off the clock. When he finally scooped it up he instantly took a hard drive to the lane, finishing with the right hand and-one to put the Tigers up 84-83.

Sanogo grabbed a defensive board and was fouled with 0:12 left. He hit the first to put the Tigers up 85-83. He missed the second and Stammberger was able to haul in the rebound, the Tigers worked the ball to Kanza Mata who was fouled with 0:08 to go.

Kanza Mata missed the first but hit the second to give the Tigers a three-point lead at 86-83. The Tigers intentionally fouled

Scott on the inbound to keep him from being able to shoot a game tying three. He hit both shots to give the Tigers the ball back up 86-85 with 0:05 on the clock.

Stammberger worked the inbound pass to Kanza Mata who was fouled the moment he caught the ball. He missed the first and hit the second to put the Tigers up 87-85 with 0:03 left.

"It was a battle of the heavyweights punch for punch, they were making baskets we came back with our baskets," said Kanza Mata. "It's a great experience and that's what got us this win, is experience because we've been here before."

The Panthers fed their leading scorer Scott to try and tie the game but his attempt from near 40-feet fell well short to seal the Tigers win.

The Tigers and their fans stormed the court in celebration, jumping, hugging and high fiving as 'Eye of the Tiger' blasted through the speakers.

Kanza Mata led the Tigers with 21PTS, 8AST, 5STL and 4REB. Lawrence added 14PTS with 7REB, 2STL, 2BLK and 1AST. Sanogo finished with 14PTS, 3REB. Stammberger had 13PTS, 4REB, 3AST and 1STL. Aquino-Serjue chipped in with 10PTS, 3REB, 3AST. Reid came off the bench with

9PTS, 5REB, 3STL and 1AST while McVeigh had 6PTS, 2REB and 1AST.

The Panthers were led by Scott with 23PTS, 6REB, 6AST. Sedlarevic had 17PTS, 4AST, 3REB, 1STL and 1BLK. States finished with 15PTS, 8REB, 4AST, 3BLK and 2STL. Amin Suleman had 12PTS, 5AST, 1REB and 1STL. Dut Dut was a monster in the paint and hauled in 14REB with 5PTS.

Championship all-stars were announced after the game. The Tigers were represented by Lawrence and Kanza Mata, the Panthers by Scott and States, while SMU's Osman Barrie rounded out the lineup.

The Tigers received the AUS championships trophy and their championship banner to 'We are the Champions.'

Up next for the Tigers is the CIS Men's Basketball Final 8 championship, being hosted March 17-20 by the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C.

After losing their quarterfinal game by one-point in last years CIS championships the Tigers are ready to get back to the dance.

"We're gonna make some noise at nationals," said Lawrence. "This year it's wide open, there's no team that's the forerunner so we have as good a chance as anybody."

Plato is on the same page as his players.

"We are going to win," he said.

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# THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

March 11, 2016

## Unwanted Guests on Sexton Campus

Garrett Allain Smith  
Editor-in-Chief  
Civil '16

It is 8:43 pm on Saturday, the fifth of March, as I sit here writing this article. The halls of Sexton campus ring hollow. The raucous laughter and general excitement of this morning's Ritual of the Calling of the Engineer has passed and has yet to be replaced by the delicate tension formed by many minds working silently in unison that is common here during the weekend. Never before has the campus felt so empty and purposeless to me then it does at this moment.

But the campus is never quiet, not entirely quiet that is. Those who frequent these halls during the off hours are likely already familiar with the scenario I will be describing.

You are sitting in the Alumni Lounge, alone. It is nearing on 10 pm and you are nearing on the end of your assignment. It has been a long few hours that you have been sitting there intently focused on your work and only now have you raised your head long enough to soak in your surroundings. As the evening progressed the lounge has emptied. Where once there were a dozen or so like-minded individuals plucking away on their laptops or scratching at their mech pads there now sits but you and one other person on the opposite side of the room talking on their phone. In the distance you can hear the clacking of a pair of heeled boots as another tired soul leaves the campus for the night. You prepare to bask in the silence of the

evening as you hear the clacking stop momentarily and the swift opening of a door.

However not all is as it should be. Where you should have heard silence you now hear skittering. Searching for the source, you crane your neck and sure enough you find it: a mouse working its way from the hallways to the campus's only food provider, Tim Horton's.

You sit there for a moment stunned and intrigued. You are dismayed to see vermin in the coffee shop that you and so many of your classmates frequent every day. The implications leave you feeling unsettled. Surely somebody should be made aware of this that they might rectify the situation but who do you inform? The workers of the coffee shop would likely not be concerned by the information. Perhaps the proprietor of the store should know but who are they and how would you contact them? Facilities management is responsible for the campus but how much attention would they pay to a mouse? You look back to your laptop, to the empty conclusion section of your lab report. It is all that stands between you and returning home to a warm bed. Your head turns back to look for the mouse but he is gone and with him your sense of civil service. It is only another six weeks until you are leaving this campus, you can simply venture to the Pavia at the nearby library for your caffeine fix. With your decision resolved you are once more able to focus and you finish your conclusion in short order.

You leave campus for the night. The campus grows quieter as one more soul abandons their pursuit of knowledge, albeit temporarily. But the campus will never be entirely quiet for the mouse remains.

I feel most students would be able to share similar anecdotes. This article was inspired by a similar incident experienced by The Sextant's treasurer, Omair Abid, just last week. During the past few weeks I was walking across campus enjoying the winter air when I saw a rat enter into the chemical engineering building. While studying shortly before exams last winter a mouse entered in to my office eliciting much panic and terror in yours truly. During a tutoring session I had held earlier in the year I too saw a mouse enter the Tim Horton's, searching for that one

chocolate timbit that fell from the rack that day.

I present this article and this photo with no particular bias or agenda only as a means of capturing a part of the quintessential Sexton experience that I feel is often overlooked. All I can say is that personally I am still filled with dread anytime I see something furry scuttering through the halls. And I will not be shopping at the Tim Horton's anymore.



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**THE SEXTANT AGM: MONDAY MARCH 14 @ 1:30 IN THE DSU OFFICE**

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

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

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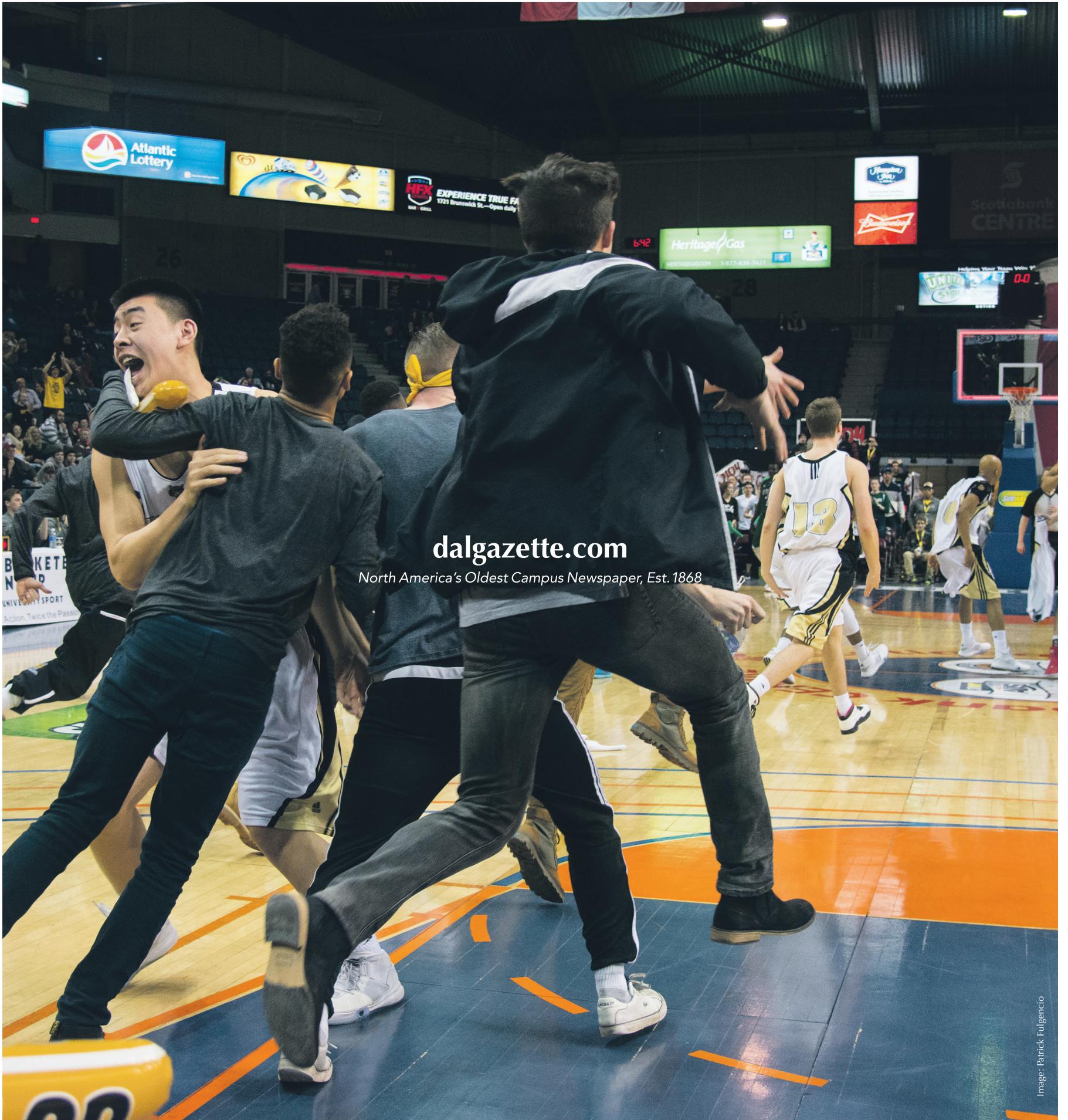
The inspiration for this week's article as caught by The Sextant's own Omair Abid in the Alumni Lounge Tim Horton's last week.

Questions, Comments, Contribute  
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