



Dalhousie Year in Review



DSU chooses to advocate alone

An estimated \$140k freed up to consider internal advocacy

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

No more CASA good for on-campus advocacy

Dalhousie's enrolment almost
24% higher than in 2002

Libraries look for financial feedback

Dal turns to stakeholders to decide on acquisition budget spending

Jha disrespects DSU constitution

SUB renovations aren't a catch-all solution

There are other ways to make
welcoming space

Richard Florizone

Dal's new president

TARGETING BLAME

Jared Perry not
the only one
responsible for
SMU chant

Killam cuts hours

Students mount
petition in
response

What's in a name?

Proposed transgender committee would enforce
preferred names and open gender-neutral washrooms

DSU's non-student president lets council decide his fate

Fallout of Jha's class withdrawal still not known

Profile: Keith Tufts
Meet the architect of the SUB's future

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unlearn rape culture
unlearn stereotypes
unlearn transphobia



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of the year
again...*

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from studying & play with
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The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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the fine print

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DalGazette.com Website Top 5 of 2013-14

- 1) Dalhousie trans student claims discrimination from cafeteria staff—Ian Froese, News
- 2) Greek societies feel "targeted" by sexual violence report—Josh Stoodley, News
- 3) Killam cuts hours—Kristie Smith, News
- 4) "I was ashamed to see anyone"—Alia Karim, Opinions
- 5) UNB faculty's demand unreasonable—Ian Froese, Editoria

editorial

from the editor

Email Ian at
editor@dalgazette.com
Ian Froese Editor-in-Chief



Today's Dalhousie student Year marked by students standing up for themselves

The question was innocent enough: what was the mood on-campus this fall?

As editor-in-chief of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, I have the privilege of speaking with an array of people from all corners of the university—yes, even from Truro. I'm not usually stumped when presented with an open-ended question about campus, but here I was, struggling for a word. I didn't have an answer.

To me, Dalhousie was the same as it's been in recent memory. There's the commotion that comes with September. Wide-eyed 18-year-olds and hardened veterans alike slowly returning to the grind of university life. Before you know it, it's a frantic sprint from midterms to finals to freedom.

Despite fumbling for an answer on that December evening, I knew there was something unique about this year's batch of Dalhousie students. I couldn't put my finger on it.

Three months later, I finally have my rebuttal.

Today's Dalhousie students are speaking out with a resolve unlike we've seen in some time. They are frustrated with increasing tuition, shrinking budgets and skyrocketing international student fees.

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has embodied this resentment—whether they do so proactively or reactively is another question entirely.

Waving placards, delivering handbills and planting fake tombstones have brought student-centred issues to the forefront. Students, apathetic as we can be, understand the major struggles facing this university. In my opinion, more so than we have in a long time.

Dal students are noticing the seemingly habitual three per cent tuition hike year after year. They see retired professors not being replaced. They see their faculties struggling with diminishing bud-

gets.

It's becoming a PR problem the university cannot ignore. It's hurting the school's reputation.

To pick an example of the frustrated student, look no further than this fall's library debacle. It took until October for the firestorm to erupt. Hours were cut drastically. You couldn't study in the Killam past 6 p.m. on weekends. In only a matter of days, after a Facebook group gained traction and petitions were signed, the university bucked under the pressure and reinstated midnight closures.

Later that fall, students learned more about the library's financial headaches. The university could no longer afford new acquisitions. A university, an institute of higher learning, could not purchase a new book or academic journal. The uproar returned, again from everyday students, and the university had no choice but to find funding somewhere else.

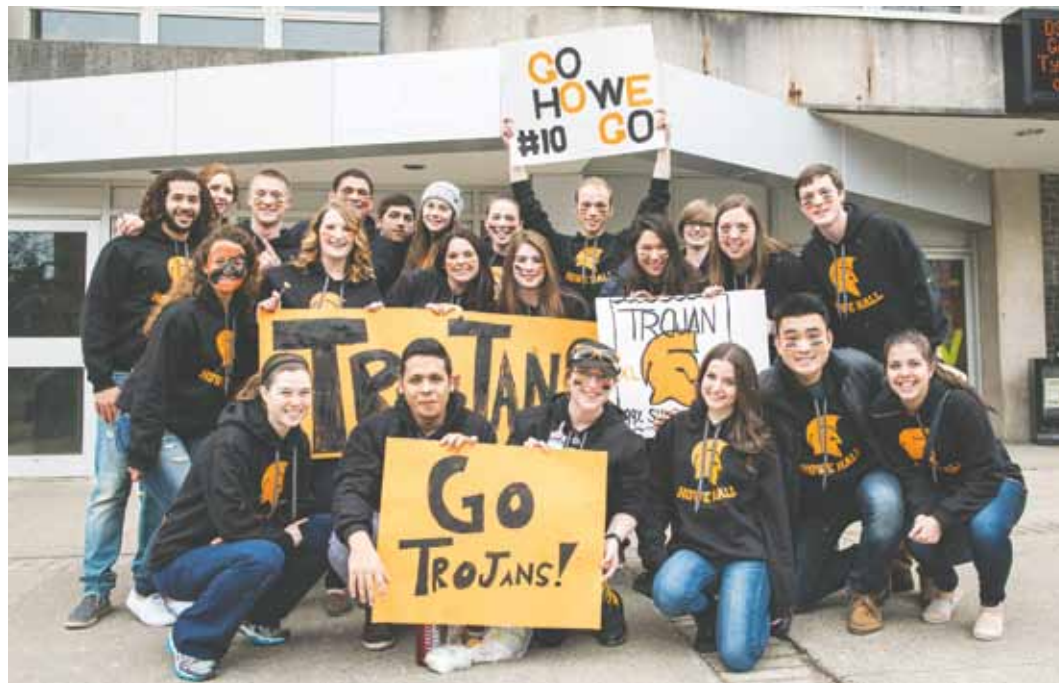
It was frankly the most successful advocacy the student body has been a part of in years, and it was done not by paying thousands of dollars a year to the DSU, but by mobilizing Dal's science and arts students.

These grievances from Dal students boiled over again when the advocacy debate engulfed the student union this semester.

Leaving the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and Students Nova Scotia (SNS) was only formally presented for the first time last spring, but the makings of a potential split was in motion several months earlier.

The DSU was changing. The more conservative student union of the past lost favour with activist executive members like president Jamie Aaron and VP academic and external Aaron Beale and certainly numerous other students, too.

To last year's DSU executive, Dal's advocacy efforts were failing. Tuition kept on soaring, after



Today's Dalhousie students are speaking out with a resolve unlike we've seen in some time. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

all. So, protests meant to draw curious onlookers and embarrass the government became the new norm. Students were marching with puppies on one day and staging a 'die-in' on another occasion.

This is why the DSU separated from its federal and provincial advocacy groups. CASA and SNS didn't demand lower tuition fees. They figured the way to accomplish their goals was reasonable, marginal requests at the government table.

For the activist DSU, this wasn't fast enough. They thought a loud, united student voice could accomplish great things, like it did in Quebec when student strikes prevented a massive tuition hike.

No matter how biased that sham of an advocacy review report was, the DSU's document was meaningless. The DSU voted to leave CASA and SNS because they were on different ends of the spectrum. It didn't matter what

the report said, that a DSU councillor was so angry he was shaking as he read his biting report or how an Acadia student representative was nearly brought to tears explaining how his work was unfairly represented. None of it mattered. The DSU didn't see enough similarities between themselves and CASA and SNS, so they split.

Sure, the DSU reversed their decision two weeks later after realizing following due process was a good idea, but it was clear that students were speaking up. They believed in something.

You can say all you want about student apathy and how it still exists, but it is obvious that Dal-

housie students won't sit idly by during this juncture in the institution's history. A vocal and growing group of students are disappointed with what their money is getting them, and they aren't afraid to say it.

That's the mood on campus. That's what separates this student body from its recent counterparts.

You may not remember asking me this question in December, Dalhousie President Richard Florizone, but I hope you consider my answer. I've learned quite a bit in my four years here.

Ian Froese
Editor-in-chief, 2013-14

On the cover:

Photo Editor Chris Parent took out a pair of scissors and glue for this cut-and-paste inspired cover of some of the top headlines from a year of Gazette coverage. This is Chris' final cover for the *Gazette* after two years with the publication.



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to lose instructors, courses

New library budgets mean big cuts for FASS

Sabina Wex
Staff Contributor

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) announced during a meeting on Mar. 11 that the faculty's 2014-15 budget will be approximately \$18.1 million, with projected costs of \$19.1 million—leaving FASS with a \$1 million deficit.

Robert Summerby-Murray, the dean of FASS, and vice-president academic and provost Carolyn Watters were able to reduce the deficit to about \$600,000, but the \$500,000 in cuts will mean some unionized employees and limited-appointment faculty will be laid off. Although some courses will be cut as a result of these staffing reductions, the faculty will maintain its teaching assistant support.

During the same meeting, Dalhousie Libraries addressed concerns brought up by FASS about the libraries' new allocation models. Each of the three potential models allocate \$224,000 to the faculty in 2014-15, which slashes their acquisitions budget by 43 per cent since 2008-09.

At a public consultation on Feb. 25, it was repeatedly brought up that libraries are the equivalent of labs for FASS students and staff.

"The library has no obligation to be anyone else's lab. We don't buy test tubes, we don't buy Bunsen burners," said university librarian Donna Bourne-Tyson. "And yet for those of you who want to use the library as a lab, you do expect us to pay for that, and we're happy to do so, but we're not funded accordingly."

Bourne-Tyson said that because Dalhousie contains professional schools, publishers inflate the prices even on books that aren't for medicine or dentistry. She acknowledged that it wasn't FASS' fault, but an inequity within the buying system.

"A lot of people's jaws just hit the table," said English professor Jason Haslam.

The meeting mostly consisted of faculty chairs questioning the inequalities within the allocation formulas the libraries are proposing for next year. Many staff were upset that Watters and VP finance and administration (acting) Ian Nason had to leave before much of the library talk happened.

Wayne Hankey, chair of the classics department, encouraged the librarians to take a needs assessment approach to their allocations formula.

"Unless by some unbelievable

.....
"A LOT OF
PEOPLE'S JAWS
JUST HIT THE
TABLE"
.....

magic everyone gets satisfied," said Hankey, "we'll all just be at war with one another about the choices that were made in producing the metric."

Much of the faculty said that it's impossible to put medicine, which has more expensive material costs and doesn't use the library as often, on the same formula as FASS. Associate dean academic Krista Kesselring added that material costs are too big a factor in the allocation formulas, while the monograph preference is a small part of the formulas.

The allocation formulas were produced by collections and scholarly communications librarian Heather MacFadyen. After complaints at the Feb. 25 public consultation, she met with a statistician on Mar. 10 to discuss how to properly deal with statistical outliers such as medicine. Mac-



Wayne Hankey wants faculty to have more of a say in the library budgets. • • • Photo by Kristie Smith

Fadyen said the statistician found the calculations for the adjunct outliers were fine, but suggested she recalculate the average material costs in terms of means to make it more accurate.

The presentation also showed that the Electronic Access Fund (EAF) has gone up, and is predicted to inflate by five per cent next year, but \$400,000 worth of titles within the EAF is being pulled from FASS' budget. At the same time, funding for faculties like planning and architecture has also gone down. Associ-

ate dean of research Julia Wright noticed FASS' library budget has gone down by almost \$300,000, despite the average cost of FASS monographs (non-serial publications) being only 30 per cent compared to other costs. Engineering, whose monographs are more expensive, has had its library budget increased from \$322,000 to \$348,000.

"For us, the library isn't just our lab, it's our long-term investment in the future of keeping the research in this institution," Wright said. "Our books and our

journals are relevant for decades, not just for three to five years like they are in most other faculties."

Bourne-Tyson said that FASS' library budget has been on the decline for five years. Wright said she wants the libraries to fix the damage that has been done.

"This is why we're doing the allocation formula: to make sure we totally start over," said Bourne-Tyson. "We're erasing everything we've done before, and trying to give you your fair share based on metrics that we both agree are the most reasonable we can find." ☞

Facing cuts to FASS, prof proposes new model

Classics chair urges change stemming from need

Jesse Ward
Assistant News Editor

Under Dalhousie Libraries' three proposed acquisitions budget models, major cuts to Dalhousie's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) were suggested prior to any consultation of department heads.

Wayne Hankey, chair of Dalhousie's classics department and a professor for over 40 years, is proposing a fourth solution.

The three models laid out by Dal Libraries all rely on weights controlled by 19 factors. Hankey says the weights and factors are matters of judgment, every one disputable, and the current models proposed will lead to the closing of academic programs.

"If in the end you come up with results that are crazy, or impossible, everyone will just say, 'We're actually going to have to go and look at real needs,'" says Hankey.

"So why don't we start there at the beginning?"

Hankey says he's concerned that the consultations done by Dal Libraries involve the continual presentation of a top-down model, "as opposed to any kind of going around and talking to people on the ground and finding out what real needs, real use and real desires are."

"We need to take stock of what do we really need, what do we have and how can we put those together in the way that will give

the most for the least cost to what we know is really meaningful and important," says Hankey.

His proposal, emailed to Dalhousie faculty and administrators, urges a detailed review of all resources being charged to FASS or its programmes.

The proposal asks for electronic materials not wanted or needed by FASS and its programmes to be no longer acquired or charged to them. It says some resources being charged to FASS are almost certainly not needed or wanted at

all.

While he acknowledges some faculties may wish to entirely switch to using eBooks, he says that is totally inappropriate for FASS in general.

"For our work, what is fundamental and irreplaceable and what we have in wonderful abundance in the old laboriously-collected, in many cases, outstanding collections in the Killam, are the great critical editions. *The* edition of Albert the Great or Aquinas or Cicero," says Hankey.

He says some of these collections date back by a century, and unless they are maintained, the Killam will be a museum of a library.

"They are the basis for what we do. They are our heritage, and they are what we're supposed to contribute as the centre of research and graduate teaching in this region," says Hankey. "And that's the stuff that we can't seem to persuade [Dal Libraries] that

has to be basic. And which is not that expensive."

He says it is out of "habit" that budget cuts can happen to FASS before any departments are consulted as to their specific needs.

"If you look at things at this university, there's almost nothing in it that can happen without cooperation. And there's lots of dicta that come down from above, and are expensive, and consume lots of time and money and resources and go nowhere," says Hankey.

"Nothing good happens out of them, because the people who can make them work are not convinced or persuaded."

"This whole place depends upon cooperation and working together. And unless there's some kind of real turnaround in that, so we don't have this sense of these procrustean beds imposed upon us, to avoid actually dealing with us on the ground? Well—more and more things won't work." ☹

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Top 10 stories of 2013-2014

Here's what had people talking on campus this year

Kristie Smith
News Editor

After a long and busy year, we took a few minutes to look back on the biggest stories on campus. Here's our list of the top 10 stories of the academic year.

10. Dalhousie women's volleyball wins second consecutive title

The Dalhousie Tigers women's volleyball team handled the pressure of being the reigning AUS champions exceptionally. Despite losing key contributors from last year's title run, the team kept most of its core intact and benefited from younger players and new acquisitions like Katherine Ryan and Desirée Nouwen. With Maggie Li continuing to be a dominant force at the net and Abby Czenze coordinating on the floor, the Tigers took first place in the regular season before defeating familiar foe Saint Mary's to retain the crown for another year.

9. Divest Dal comes to town

This time last year, relatively no one had heard of Divest Dal. This year was their year and they've gained a lot of ground, as well as supporters. The Board of Governors has heard them out and the president has since set them up with subsequent meetings, all relatively quickly.

Divest Dal is made up largely, but not solely, of students who have appealed to the university to divest from fossil fuels and other such investments and implement policies to protect students' tuition from funding morally questionable industries.

8. Academic All-Canadians Banquet gets axed, then reinstated

Little-known fact: Dal is one of the only universities in the area that celebrates its academically high-achieving athletes like this, but the event was nearly cancelled

due to budgetary and staffing issues.

In October, the banquet was looking dubious. After rallying the troops—meaning coaches, support staff and students—the banquet was put back on.

To qualify for Academic All-Canadian status, athletes had to spend 20-30 hours a week training for their respective sport while maintaining a grade-point average higher than 3.43. Out of about 240 varsity athletes, 100 were given All-Canadian honours for the 2012-13 academic year, which itself was a record-breaking amount.

7. Preferred name policy coming to Dal

Dalhousie students have a lot to be proud of, and taking a proactive stance on social issues is one such reason. John Hutton, one of the Dalhousie Student Union's (DSU) two Board of Governors reps, brought the issue of preferred names forward and university policy has since been changed. Students will now be able to choose the name by which they want to be addressed, without needing to have legally changed their name beforehand. This is a great step towards equality, especially for transgender students, who already face challenges in the university system.

6. SUB renovations turn heads

When the DSU announced a minimum price tag of \$10 million for sweeping renovations to the SUB (Student Union Building), people were both interested and shocked. The plans included a potential atrium, several outdoor patios and a completely reworked interior. Architect Keith Tufts, of Lydon Lynch Architects, is a Dal alum and had dreams for what the SUB could be. The DSU's levy, which asked for funds to build the atrium, failed. However, the plans to rework the core of the building are still a go. Expect this to be a big story next year as well.

5. Student union president not a student

In case you don't remember, Sagar Jha dropped his only class in February. This means he is no longer a student, a requirement for being student union president. There was an initial uproar when the news broke via mass email to Dal students, but while Jha has been the butt of a few jokes, the constitutional demand for a two week pause before a recall vote has probably cooled a few heads. A recall vote was scheduled for Jha on April 2.

4. First new Dal president in 18 years

Richard Florizone joined Dal at both the best and worst time: while the university has over 18,000 students, it's also struggling financially after years of cuts to its provincial grant.

So far, Florizone has been a very different president than his predecessor, beginning his tenure with his 100 Days of Listening campaign, a strong social media presence and a more approachable style of work.

3. Student advocacy—almost \$140,000 on the line

While some students don't know what student advocacy means, those who do were seeing red these past few weeks. The DSU had been shifting towards internal advocacy, arguing that \$140,000 was a lot to pay to outsource our political voice to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and Students Nova Scotia (SNS). These groups advocate for student issues and rights on the federal and provincial levels, respectively. The union first freed up the funds by bowing out of both organizations. After many confusing rounds of votes, the DSU has rejoined CASA as an associate member and SNS with a full membership but that could still change this semester.

2. Rape chant ripple effects

While the much discussed rape chant was limited to Saint Mary's University in Halifax (UBC had their own problems), its effects were felt across the city. Students decried the terrible chants and fought to spread a more sex positive environment, especially focusing on consent, across campuses. From videos to lectures and more, Dalhousie really responded to the idea of making campus safer and more inclusive, which is why this is number two on our list.

1. Library cuts

This story goes back as early as March 2013, when the budget was cut—but it didn't really get people's attention until October, when students started protesting cuts to library hours. Over 1,000 students signed a petition

demanding hours be reinstated, which made people look a little closer at the library's budget. Soon, it was realized there was no money after November to continue with new acquisitions.

This was undoubtedly the biggest issue on campus. It affected most people on campus—students, alumni, professors, researchers—in some way. People mobilized and demanded better, with success. But following the announcement of next year's library budget, there has been a renewed outcry, especially from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). This one, almost certainly, isn't over yet.

Honourable mentions:

Fountain family supports Dalhousie arts with \$10 million donation

DSU election voter turnout at 10.9 per cent, lowest in a decade



To all our readers
and contributors:
**SEE YOU IN
SEPTEMBER!**

The Dalhousie Gazette

Students as first responders

Levy dollars mean training for medical response team

Eleanor Davidson
Staff Contributor

After a 64.5 per cent win in the recent Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) referendum, the Medical Response Team will be receiving a levy of \$1 per full-time student.

With the help of this levy, volunteers on the medical response team will be trained by St. John's Ambulance, certifying them as Advanced Medical First Responders.

The Medical Response Team will receive advanced first aid training and be able to attend events at a completely subsidized cost. They will attend major events such as games and concerts, and be present throughout Dal residences.

Anthony Saikali, who is leading the project, emphasizes the crucial importance of the team.

"Between eight and 10 medical calls are made from students in residence to Dalhousie Security each weekend. About six of these

calls end up with people in hospital," says Saikali.

The stationing of certified first responders at campus events would help to provide immediate first aid, hopefully reducing this number.

The new Medical Response Team will not be replacing the first aid provided by Dal Security, but will instead be working together with the team.

Jacob MacIsaac, community security coordinator for Dal Security, has been working with the Dalhousie Campus Medical Response Team to discuss how the two groups will interact.

"Dal Security does active responses. We will go to an event if someone needs help. The Medical Response Team will actually be stationed at events, ready right away if something happens," says MacIsaac. "You really can't have too many first responders on campus."

The volunteers will be certified in a wide range of medical

practices, and will be able to perform CPR, administer oxygen and immobilize fractures, as well as many other key aspects of first aid.

The biggest problem the Medical Response Team will be encountering however is alcohol abuse.

"Health risks from drinking are so widespread: alcohol poisoning, people falling, hitting their heads very hard or even breaking bones," says Saikali.

Another significant issue relating to alcohol abuse is the fear students have of being punished or receiving a fine for underage drinking.

"People don't want to get into trouble, so they often won't call for help when it's really necessary. I'm sure many of us would agree that no one should have to evade health care for any reason when safety is at risk," he added.

The new Medical Response Team will not have anything to do with punishment, and will instead



Starting in September 2014, a new Dalhousie Campus Medical Response Team will be helping to make life at Dal safer. • • • Photo by Kit Moran

focus on the purely health-related issues at hand.

"The addition of the Medical Response Team will hopefully help students out with the social aspect of things, and let them know that it's OK to seek help for their friends," says Saikali.

In addition to their other responsibilities, the team will also have Mental Health First Aid Certification.

This training will allow them to

recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health related issues and provide whatever initial support is necessary before assisting a person to seek professional help.

"This team is about students being there for other students," says Saikali. "We're giving them a place to reach out to when they need help, or if they just need to talk about something that's going wrong. We're here to help them with that." ☺

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Presidential chitchat



See ya Sagar! • • • Photo by Ian Froese



Hello Ramz! • • • Photo by Amin Helal

Eleanor Davidson
Staff Contributor

• • • • •
Sagar Jha
2013-14 DSU president

Dalhousie Gazette: What's the biggest change you've made in your time as president?

Sagar Jha: It's kind of selfish and clichéd to say this, but the biggest change has definitely been in myself. I know the growth that I've gotten to see as an individual has been quite profound. I've realized that coming into the job, I had a pretty thick skull and a pretty thin skin, while they say that a good politician has a thick skin and a thin skull.

In terms of the actual DSU [Dalhousie Student Union], there have been lots of changes. I think the biggest changes coming out of this year will be the process by which we try and make decisions, so a bit of a council reform. It hasn't been achieved yet, but the wheels are all in motion, which I am very excited about.

G: Is there anything you wish you'd known when you first started the job?

SJ: The one thing I wish I'd known was all the policy and con-

stitution of the DSU. I came into the position not having been a council member and not having been directly involved in student government. I was really involved in event planning, management and promotion, but not actually in governance. It was a really steep learning curve.

I know that I'm going to make it a point during the transition period to help the executive with this. We're going to have silent reading period where we read one policy and then ask any questions if they don't understand it.

G: What advice would you give to next year's president?

SJ: More than anything, I would tell Ramz that one of the most important things for him and for all presidents to keep in mind is that when you become a student union executive you are not in a position to pursue your own specific passions, goals, political ideologies. You are now in a position in which you are creating the space for other people to do so. It's selfless work, it's thankless work and you don't do it to see necessarily the change you want to see and the message you want to see, but you do it because you believe in the changes that other people want to make.

G: What do you plan to do once

you are no longer president?

SJ: I plan to run far away! No, I'm kidding. I have a couple of options: I'm applying for a job at student services or recruiting with the university, simply because I love Dal and I love Dal students, and I want to stick around. If that doesn't all pan out, my backup plan is to go to Memorial University and study Marine Architecture. My degree was in Marine Biology, so it's always been an interest of mine and there are a lot of opportunities to find a career in that. In the summertime, I'm finally going to relax.

G: Is there anything else you would like to add?

SJ: Presidents are people too. It's very easy to be criticized in the public eye, and it takes a certain type of person to be able to handle that. If you see a DSU or university president outside, like at the park walking their dog or at the Grawood having a beverage, remember that they're a person too. Don't go approaching Richard Florizone and ask him why tuition is so high. Instead, thank him for the work that he does.

A recall vote was scheduled for April 2.

Ramz Aziz
2014-15 DSU president

Dalhousie Gazette: What made you decide to run for president?

Ramz Aziz: For me, as VP internal this year, it felt like there was a lot more that I could do. I saw opportunities where I could make a difference, which played a huge factor in my decision to actually go for the role of president. Next year will involve a lot of focus on the structure and process of the union. For example, there are a lot of opportunities for improvement in things like our governance around communications and our services for students. You hear the term "make the union relevant again," and I think that we all try and do that in our own way.

G: What are your plans for next year?

RA: There's an exhaustive list of things in terms of goals. However, a lot of issues that the union experiences are due to a lack of systems and structures. For example, our food service model needs to be re-examined and there's a lot of work on advocacy that needs to be done, especially at the university level. We have a lot of opportunities there that I want to empha-

size upon. Also, I want to give a voice to international students, who I find have historically been neglected by both the university and the union.

G: What makes you most nervous about this position?

RA: I think that the opportunity is both exciting and daunting at the same time. Due to some of the incidents that took place last year, the union has been receiving a lot of attention from a lot of people, so ultimately it's time to step up to the plate and deliver results. At the end of the day, people expect me to perform and to live up to their expectations. I wouldn't say that that's scary, but it's definitely something that I need to consider.

G: How do you think Dal students relate to the DSU president, and are there any ways you would change this relationship?

RA: Even just being in an office, it establishes a sort of power dynamic and a sense of a hierarchy that makes executives inaccessible to students in a lot of ways. There are changes that can be made in a president's behaviour to make them more approachable and accessible, and more in tune with students' needs and interests. Especially when it comes to the diversity of our stakeholders: we have law students and medical students and engineers and what-not, and for me the biggest challenge is in keeping in touch with these different groups on campus. At the end of the day, I think that my job as president is to build consensus and a sense of unity among the different demographics that exist in the student body. For me to do that, I need to spend a lot of time outside the office.

G: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

RA: Yes. I have items that I wish to accomplish, but obviously I would like to make my agenda more open to student feedback and doing what they would like to do. It's almost like I never want people to forget that I'm actually a public servant, and this serve part is really what I hope to accomplish in full effect next year. **G**



My four years are up

A look back

Jacob Sandler
Opinions Contributor

Four years at university. In one way it's another level in the perpetual cycle of education. Like grade school, like high school, a beginning, middle and end, a narrative of knowing nothing to knowing "everything," beginning at each new institution like a little fish in a progressively bigger pond. But it's amazing the way a place can start to feel small, isn't it?

"MY LIFE IS STILL LIKE A MINEFIELD"

At this point in our lives, we are, as a prof I was having coffee with said, still malleable, not fully certain, not fully shaped. At least for myself, I know this to be true. The things I've learnt in the past four years have often left me looking back at my frosh-week self with a sense of nostalgia. I didn't know shit then, and man, it sometimes just feels like life was a lot simpler. And I'm not *just* talking about laundry and dishes, although I *am* talking about laundry and dishes.

That same professor compared life before you learn about yourself away from home to a minefield.

"My life is still like a minefield," I told her, "I just have a better sense of how to navigate it now, but you know, sometimes things were easier when I just ran and stuff blew up around me."

In reality, I'm not really sure I agree with my own statement. It doesn't make much sense now that I write it down, and the truth is I'm not 100 per cent sure life was any simpler. It could easily be

a trick of memory.

But school has been cool. It's been a big part of the independent-life experience and it's been an invaluable education. In some ways it's defined me. Switching into English, a subject that I was not only interested in or good at, but passionate about, was the best decision of my academic career. The professors I've had have inspired me, they've pushed me, and they've taken the time to sit down for coffee or beers and just talk. We all need role models, and it's good to have friends with a few years on us who have it a little bit more together than we do. They taught me what cliché is, like: "you miss all the shots you never take," which, as it turns out, is true. And while not all the decisions I've made have left me happy, they've all taught me something; and while sometimes I regret, most of the time I'm glad that I know what I know.

Moving forward, beyond this school, and in a few months beyond this city, to a place and time that is for the first time since kindergarten undefined, these are some of the things I'll take with me: dating your best friend might actually be a great idea; often it's good to reflect on what you already have; think about things before you do them, your actions affect other people; once you break a promise, you can't just "go back to like it was before;" don't ever live with your ex, you will both hurt each other; find adults who you respect and talk to them; drugs aren't as bad as we've been told; addiction is a real thing, you might just be calling it habit; make friends who know your faults and who you can talk to honestly; never stop reading; pursue what you love; clichés are okay in your student newspaper; and I've reached my word count, but the list goes on... 9



All the clichéd life lessons that turned out to be true. • • • Photo by Amin Helal

A letter to my first-year self

Chris Parent
Photo Editor

Dear Chris,

It's a couple weeks until I graduate from university, and so I thought I would write a letter to you, my first-year self. In this letter, I hope to communicate to you the wisdom and experience I've acquired over the past six years.

Six years, you ask? Am I graduating from a master's program? I'm not, but this brings me to my first point.

The road is going to be rocky and the stars won't always align. The next six years will leave you broke, tired and asking yourself if there's a point to any of it. You'll try your best to justify pulling all-nighters, sitting through endless lectures and accruing nearly \$50,000 of debt.

Chris, slow down. You're always in a rush to describe your goals, to plan your actions, and to complete the task. You plan to finish your degree in four years; therefore, it's discouraging to hear that it will take you six years. Don't be distracted by social norms. Stop viewing your life in steps and endpoints. Live in the present. Stop conceptualizing. Enjoy the journey and experience new things. These experiences will allow you to venture out of your comfort zone, which will be expanded with each new experience.

Don't ever regret an experience. After spending countless hours trying to justify what you're doing, you'll realize that everything you've done will ultimately make you who you are; it will strengthen you.

At your lowest point, a stranger will ask you if you let your grades define you. You won't know how to respond, and so you'll think about it for a few days, but when you realize what she was getting at, everything will come together. You'll realize that you *do* let your grades define you. Your definition of success depends only on grades and achievements.

Change that. Don't let your grades define you. Be defined by your actions, your treatment of others, and your passion for what you do. Be defined by your values. Study consistently and hand things in early. Don't take notes



A man with his dog. ••• Photo by Natalia Silchenko

in class. Instead, bring a recorder and a notepad. Enjoy the lecture. Take in everything the professor has to offer. Pay attention not only to the content, but also to the professor's mannerisms, style, and approach to teaching. You'll learn a lot in the process, both about yourself and others.

It's illegal to download torrents of your textbooks. Do it anyway. Remember the \$50,000 of debt I mentioned? Let's prevent that.

While the rest of your friends are on Sunwing's Ultimate Spring Break Tour, you'll be in New Brunswick writing papers. Don't feel bad for yourself. In the end, you are better for it. Spending time with lifelong friends and eating dinner with your family are humbling experiences; they will keep you grounded. Be patient. Your time for fun will come.

Stop arguing. I understand why you do it—you're afraid of being wrong. Embrace being wrong and admit when you are. Take the opportunity to learn from others. In the process, you'll learn more than you ever will by arguing, and you'll also earn the respect of others.

Stay in residence for a year, maybe even two, but leave before it makes you soft.

You often lie and are good at it. Don't ever lie again. More specifically, don't ever lie to your professors. Even if they would believe you, don't do it. Being honest is the easiest way to stay true both to yourself and to others. People appreciate honesty, and some will reward you for it.

Don't ever say, "I know." You don't know. You don't know shit.

And so I end this letter saying exactly that. I don't know shit. This letter means nothing, and regardless of what you choose to do over the next six years, you'll be alright.

Good luck,
Chris

P.S. I want you to know that you will one day own a great amount of camera gear, and if you choose to leave it unattended in your office, you will no longer own a great amount of camera gear. Save yourself from having to forgive those who stole it and keep an eye on your property. ☹

MY DEGREE MAY BE USELESS

But I'll be back next year



It may be exam season, but I'm already looking forward to September.

••• Photo by Deborah Oomen

Shelby Rutledge
Staff Contributor

As we're closing in on this academic year, you've probably started to think about next year, and whether you're returning or not. As a second year Dal student, I'm already looking forward to coming back for another great year at Dalhousie/King's.

So why I am coming back for September? Because I love it here—I love the atmosphere of Halifax and Dal, the awesome courses and profs and the great community.

I love that the ocean is only a 10 to 15 minute walk from Dal. I enjoy talking a stroll down Spring Garden Road to buy a coffee from Starbucks, or just to relax. I love

that I can walk or bus to the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market to buy fresh fruit.

Enough of all the reasons to love Halifax—let's see why I want to continue my education at Dal, and not at another university.

Well...if I want to continue on with sociology and journalism, I'm at the right place. Here, I receive the best of both worlds.

Dal has a great sociology program, the profs have taught me so much and I can't wait for another year of gathering experiences. The University of King's College has a great journalism program, which I hope to enter next year.

So, I ask the question again... why am I staying? Well...why wouldn't I stay? ☹



Summer arts!

Rosalie Fralick
Staff Contributor

Haligonian summers are filled with art. From pubs playing live music to lots of local theatre and our well-known busker festival, there's barely enough time to do everything.

You can hit up the Outeast Film Festival or the Atlantic Film Festival's outdoor film screenings in mid-June and mid-July, respectively. If you're looking for some live-action drama there's always the Halifax Feast dinner theatre or Neptune shows. (Mary Poppins is showing in April and May at the Neptune). Another summer favourite is Shakespeare by the Sea, an award-winning theatre

company that puts on plays in Point Pleasant Park.

Halifax Pride Week is a huge mecca of art and culture in Halifax every year. Complete with a parade and lots of live music, it's a week you don't want to miss.

For the military aficionado, you can get your summer fill of bagpipes and marching at the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo the first week of July.

Arts in Halifax are easy to come by, even when there are no special events going on. Check out the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, or our beautiful Halifax waterfront all summer. See what's showing at the Rebecca Cohn theatre, or better yet—plan an art project of your own. ☺



Summer days, summer nights. • • • Illustration by Amber Solberg



How do you get more people talking about fiction? Challenge them. • • • Photo by Mel Hattie

What Dal should read

Zoe Doucette
Assitant Arts Editor

Something not about North America:

If, as we explored a few weeks ago, a large segment of Dal's population is international, why not strive to read something other

than the Canadian and American voices dominating this year's list?

Check out *Twenty Fragments of a Ravenous Youth* by Xialou Guo, a Chinese-born, bilingual writer and filmmaker. This 2008 novel follows restless young woman Fenfang as she moves from provincial dreamer to city struggler, to the silver screen.

Something totally loony toons:

Have you ever wanted to read experimental poetry that only uses one vowel at a time? Christian Bok's *Eunoia* will satisfy your need. An avant-garde work is always polarizing, and sure to get discussion going. ☺

Dal Reads? What is it, and why do we need it?

Meagan Wiederman
Staff Contributor

On Mar. 16, Dalhousie Reads posted another of their recommended book lists for the school year. The group, founded in 2009, is a reading initiative targeted at the Dal community through Dalhousie's Libraries with help from students at the School of Information Management. The initiative seeks to encourage reading and to steer students toward reading well-written, exciting and thought-provoking books. The group hopes to inspire literary discussion between faculty and students by offering a set of titles for the community at large.

The recently published list includes *Reality Boy* by A. S. Kings, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan and *The Antagonist* by Lynn Coady. Similar reading initiatives

have been implemented at schools and libraries across Canada, both public and through school boards, from grade schools to universities. Polls published by the *Huffington Post* and YouGov aimed at American adults have found that 41 per cent of their sample respondents had not read a fiction book in the past 12 months. Twenty-eight per cent of those responding to the poll indicated that they had not read a single book, fiction or non-fiction, at all in the past year.

However, the same study found that students attending post-secondary educational institutes like Dal are twice as likely to read as adults. Perhaps campus reading initiatives like Dal Reads are effective after all. So, it would seem that Dal reads—with or without the program. ☺

DAL WRITES

Dalhousie student poetry corner

For the Boy with the
Sometimes Funny Glasses that
you Stepped on Once

Kari Teicher
.....

we drank hot black coffee in chipped white mugs
hollowed berries in my palm, dry and sweet
we stained our teeth tossing insults across tables
moving each other like chess pieces
pet names
ivy fingers like children but don't let go
traffic lights flash red to stop you

.

eyes closed and never touching
we were waiting for each other
we were waiting for the spring

.

boy in the Muskoka chair who could not wait for spring
you smell like nicotine and wild turkey
you kiss like a drunk
lighting sugar cubes on fire
i could not wait for spring
i was sunk before the light went out

Young Blood Speaks
to Old Money

Rana Encol
.....

An aging barrister can't see Renoir or Rembrandt
in the hockey game.
No shit, Sherlock.
Well -
I'd rather watch the game
than listen to your Harvard tripe
and your million degrees
of privilege
I'd rather watch my boys sliding down the ice
Lithe and lean
Whole lot of fight
Who knows how much
Ice time cost them
Or their parents
The game is sick and beautiful
Easy on the eyes
An honourable war writ small
By elite athletes,
a Mercurian fleet.
Not Guernica, no
But perhaps
There is a bit of Renoir
in it
for me -
Like
the way he appreciated women
At a party.
Pardon me, but the game is on
If you were the last man on earth.
I'd punch you
Like I should have
at Charlie's.

DAL ENGINEERING'S
FOLK SOUL
Luke
Gallant's
music



Kay Jeffrey
Arts Contributor
.....

Luke Gallant, a 24 year-old singer-songwriter originally from PEI, has a sound that could turn a gathered room to stillness. His sound blends intoxicating honesty and sincerity. His soft guitar and vocals recall folk and blues, lending his music an essence that resembles a cross between Ben Harper and Ben Howard.
An engineering student at Dalhousie, Gallant uses his music to emit a personal freedom that breaks the rigid boundaries of his engineering studies. He is inspired by his family, friends and past loves, as well as the emotions he's taken in from his own experiences. Growing up on the island of PEI has inspired his music with the salty atmosphere of the ocean and water. There is a quiet confidence evident in his melodies that suggest a one-with-nature mentality.
His digital album can be found online at lukegallant.bandcamp.com and he performs in a band that can be found online at dogchoir.bandcamp.com. In the summer, keep an eye out for his regular performances at The Economy Shoe Shop. 🎸

I Have a Question

Hayam Hamodat
.....

I have a question
It gnaws at my heart, it conquered my mind
It's making me restless, it's making me confined

So please. Let me express my perplexion.

If you have eyes, does that mean you are seeing?
If you have ears, does that mean you are hearing?
Because the blind have eyes
And the deaf have ears
Yet no sight or sound will ever hide their tears

If you have a voice
Are you entitled to speak?
Or must you seek permission,
Or simply utter a squeak?

If you have a heart,
Does that mean you have a soul?
Or simply that you're alive,
With a beating black hole?

You see, you have eyes,
Yet I am invisible.
You have ears,
Yet I am unheard.
You have a heart,
That can never be stirred

The news reports that 200 are dead
Too sad you must think,
That corruption has spread

Have you ever stopped to think, to ponder, or wonder?
If these people ever rest, ever sleep in a slumber?

Do your eyes ever blink,
Does the message ever sink?
That these people, these humans, are not simply a **number**?

My name is Ahmed, I'm a Palestinian orphan,
I have no shelter or home, for despair is my fortune

I am a Syrian child, my body is shaking,
As the chemical weapons invade my veins, leaving me aching

I am a mother in Kenya, my tears completely dried
As I watch my hungry son, sleeping wide-eyed

I am a grown man, Haiti is my nation
I stand here helplessly, as my country weeps with no ces-
sation

I am a number.
That shows up on your screen
I add to the statistics
I am simply unseen

CNN blasts, then you change the station
I've upset your mood,
Increased your aggravation.

No, no, I think. I must understand.
That you are too busy, with no time on your hands
Busy getting that grade, and getting that title
Getting that job, and following that idol

But then it comes back, I can no longer contain
I want to scream and shout, express my pain!

Where are you??
Is it not time?

That people realize,
Silence is a crime.

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Laura May Hubley
Matron
#7 Stationary Hospital
Dalhousie Unit
Le Havre, France
Canadian Medical
Army Corps

Image courtesy of the Dalhousie University archives



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dal.ca/history

1914 - 2014

that three-letter word

YEAR IN REVIEW

Sex, love and...that's kinda it

Joelline Girouard
Sex Columnist

Writing about sex often comes with its own set of challenges. Go ahead—try and find a fresh angle on something Cosmo's already beaten to death (twice). How OK is it to use the word 'fuck'? Is that anecdote TMI? Will this make my editors blush?

Sex columns are hard, but that's not a complaint. Throughout these past months, I've learned an immeasurable amount not just about sex, but about myself and my relationships.

Probably the toughest thing to get used to is that not everyone will be OK with what I do. (And by "what I do," I mean writing a sex column.) My mother will probably eventually come around; others won't, and that's ok. What

matters is doing something I enjoy, and writing about sex is one of those things.

As a mostly heterosexual cisgender woman, a particular challenge of writing a sex column is making sure I'm being as inclusive as possible in my writing. Because my sexual experience has been very nearly kept to encounters with heterosexual cisgender men, I've had a limited range of experiences. This means I can't speak to many things, and guest columns should probably have been a more regular thing this year.

All challenges aside, there are many reasons writing a sex column is awesome. As a professor pointed out to me, I work in the sex industry. When he first said this, it stopped my pulse for a second—but this was just because of what society and the media had previously taught me qualifies as

sex work. Sex work includes much more than prostitution, stripping and pornography—not that those avenues are to be looked down upon, because they're not. But it's important for society to realize just how many avenues there are in the sex industry—it's an industry I'm proud to be a part of.

But on to the mushy stuff. Personal growth is unavoidable when writing a column like this one. And I'll be honest—if you've written one and *not* grown as a person, I think you did it wrong. Through all the introspection and straight-up sex journaling that went into this column over the months, probably the biggest revelation was this: nothing can make up for a negative sexual relationship—and a really, legitimately positive sexual relationship is priceless.

Say it with me: nothing justifies a shitty sexual relation-

ship. And when I say "negative sexual relationship," I'm not just talking about mismatched libidos—although that's a very common issue, and shouldn't be overlooked. I mean a relationship where all parties don't get the respect and pleasure they deserve from the experience. Any pressure to perform acts you're not 100 per cent OK with? Negative. Pain you didn't ask for/aren't comfortable with? Negative. Your partner nearly always climaxes, and you nearly never do? Unless you're into that or there are underlying circumstances, probably negative.

No matter what's making a sexual relationship harmful (physically or psychologically), I don't think other qualities can "balance" things out. Not any number of dinners bought, or flowers given, or unfulfilled promises that things will get better. Spending more time browsing r/sex this year than I care to admit, it became obvious that many people will justify a shitty sex life with "but I really love him," and "she's perfect in every other way." Those people are often pointed to r/deadbedrooms,

where it's made clear what a central role sex plays in most peoples' lives. For me, the bottom line is this: sex is important, sex is an important part of most romantic relationships, and if that part of the relationship is no good, it matters.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: whether or not you're "in love" with the person you're having sex with, it should still be an act of love—an act that brings good vibes and fuzzy warm feelings to everyone involved. That's what sex should do.

Looking back on the year, I guess that's really the biggest thing I've learned. Sex is for many things, sure. But mostly, I think, it's for making people happy. So find someone you like banging who likes banging you, be GGG (good, giving and game) to each other and be happy. ☺

The Gazette's publishing year might be over, but you'll still be able to find new weekly columns at www.joellineg.com (hopefully).

Why aren't you playing: Dark Souls II Live or die trying

Vaughn Pearson
Games Columnist

It took me six hours to reach the first boss in Dark Souls 2. During those six hours, I had died dozens of times—including once 30 seconds into the game when a hoard of plague rats devoured me before I could even create my character. So, when I entered the boss chamber and watched as the Last Giant stood before me, his lanky, disturbing stretched limbs hauling him out of a pile of spikes and rubble, every thought in my head was screaming at me to run. Run and hide, and live the rest of my days out happily walking around in circles in the somewhat safe hub village. But instead, I drew my sword, raised my shield and charged into bat-

tle. Fifteen minutes of heart pounding, white knuckle combat later I stood over the body of the giant as it turned to ash and thousands of souls poured into me. I was not only victorious, but as souls are the currency of the game, I was suddenly rich.

I cheered and danced around the living room. Nothing could harm me. I was death incarnate. Destroyer of worlds. I was the champion.

Five minutes later a large ogre was chewing on my skull while my sword bounced around like a pool noodle.

That's Dark Souls 2, and it's brilliant. Every death is a learning experience, and since you'll be dying constantly, you'll be learning a lot. Dark Souls 2 is hard, but extremely fair. Every enemy has their habits and

weaknesses, and it's up to you to exploit them. I once climbed a ladder only to be swarmed by six soldiers. Upon my resurrection I returned, climbed the ladder, then immediately climbed back down, luring the soldiers one by one onto my waiting blade. I then climbed up and ten seconds later had a mini-boss ramming his sword through me while three archers on battlements buried their arrows in me.

Two attempts later I had that mini-boss's sword in my hands, and a few dozen deaths later I used that very same sword to hack at the shins of the next boss. Every victory is earned, every loss deserved.

Dark Souls 2 has a small assortment of online features, including the ability to invade other player's worlds to either help them or kill them. Messages can be left for other players to find, either luring them into traps or giving them helpful tips. Ghosts of other players wander the worlds, reflecting moments right before their deaths. It is an interesting treat-



Overcome death with courage and swords. • • • Press image

ment of multiplayer that keeps gameplay moving and helps prevent players from getting too stuck.

There is hundreds of hours' worth of content in Dark Souls 2. I've beaten three bosses over the course of the 15 hours I've played the game—and others I know have beaten seven and are 24 hours into the game. Some players have been going nearly

non-stop since launch day and still haven't finished the game.

Dark Souls 2 is a game for people who want to play, rather than have a game that plays itself. It takes skill, focus, and patience. Victory comes at a great cost, but the rewards are greater than any other game on the market. You can get Dark Souls 2 for PS3 and Xbox 360 for \$59.99, with a PC version forthcoming. ☺



THE BIG FINISH!

The Dal Tigers semester in review

Benjamin Blum, sports editor; Daniel Bergman, assistant sports editor; Graeme Benjamin, incoming sports editor; Stephen Campbell, staff contributor; Hamzeh Hadad, sports contributor

..... AWARDS



Wedge (pictured) and Shin blew their competition out of the water. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

FEMALE PLAYER OF THE SEMESTER: Molly Wedge and Rachel Shin, women's swim

In another banner year for the Dal women's swim team, the individual performances of two athletes stood out—so much so that we had to declare this category a tie between third-year swimmers Molly Wedge and Rachel Shin. Wedge, a sprint racing specialist and mainstay of Dal's consistently-victorious relay teams, shattered the previous Dalhousie, Nova Scotia and AUS records in the 100-metre freestyle at a meet last November. Shin, meanwhile, quietly won almost all of her butterfly races—capping her AUS season with significant victories in

the 400-metre individual medley as well as the 200-metre fly. Although the women's team disappointed at the national level, finishing 10th at the championships in Toronto, the impressive contributions of Wedge and Shin should not be overlooked.—DB
Honourable mentions: Maggie Li, women's volleyball, Tessa Stammberger, women's basketball

BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE: David Sharpe mining for medals

Taking the trophy for the second year in a row, it should come as no surprise that we chose David Sharpe to receive the award for best individual performance.

The 2012 Olympian picked up where he left off last season, winning gold in both the 100-metre and 200-metre backstroke, the 100-metre and 200-metre butterfly events, as well as winning gold as a member of Dal's 400-metre backstroke team. Sharpe was a defining factor behind the Tigers winning their 16th consecutive AUS swimming championship banner and secured a silver and bronze at CIS nationals. As Sharpe completes his fifth year of eligibility, we bid him a farewell and wish him the best of luck on his pursuit of the 2016 Canadian Olympic team in Rio.

—GB
Honourable mention: Courtney Thompson running a one-woman fast-break offence

The end of the year brings about different feelings for everyone. Some are relieved that it's finally over, while others are bewildered by how fast it went by.

For the editorial staff at the Gazette's sports section, it's a mix of both while Green Day's "Time of Your Life" plays on a constant loop. It was our pleasure to bring you the news in sports on a weekly basis, and hope that you enjoyed reading our feature stories as much as we enjoyed writing them.

To our contributors, thank you for your dedication and thoughtful writing. To Chris Parent and

his stable of photographers, your work was truly remarkable. To our varsity liaison Kit Moran, we sincerely appreciate all you did for us. And to the other editors of this fine publication, it was an honour and a privilege to work with you. We are proud to have called you colleagues, and even prouder to call you friends.

For now, dear readers, we'll table our emotions and look back on the semester that was in The Big Finish!

—Your friendly neighbourhood
Ben and Dan



MacDonald had the Tigers set up for success. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

MALE PLAYER OF THE SEMESTER: Jonathan MacDonald, men's volleyball

From day one, Jonathan MacDonald was a strong presence on Dalhousie's men's volleyball team. The third-year setter led the league with 605 total sets, sporting an impressive 9.6 assists per set. His high energy and desire to win was evident in every Tigers match and he was a key player in the high-octane offence that helped secure the AUS title for Dal. Head coach Dan Ota should be pleased to know that he has MacDonald, a second team CIS All-Canadian this year, as a strong leadership presence entering the 2014-15 campaign.—GB

Honourable mentions: David Sharpe, men's swim, Bryan Duquette, men's volleyball

MOST IMPROVED TEAM: Women's basketball

The Dal women's basketball Tigers showed a lot of heart this season, making it all the way to the AUS semifinal and holding their own against the eventual champs, the Saint Mary's Huskies. The Tigers finished with an even record of 10-10, the same record they had last year, but they played much better than a .500 team in the playoffs. Veterans Courtney Thompson and Tessa Stammberger led the way all year, finishing third and fifth in AUS scoring, respectively. The improvements made this season by these Tigers were no fluke; this is a team on the rise.

—SC

ROOKIES OF THE SEMESTER: Desirée Nouwen, women's volleyball and Chas Smith, men's track and field

2013-14 saw Nouwen help the Tigers women's volleyball team defend their AUS championship. Alongside winning the AUS title, the Dutch star picked up several individual awards, including the AUS championship MVP, AUS first team all-star and AUS female athlete of the week. Later, she helped the team place fourth in the CIS championship to cap off a successful year for the recent transfer student. In Chas Smith's case, the Bermuda native took home top honours in both AUS championship long jump and triple jump before taking the nation by surprise in the CIS track and field championship. Smith placed eighth in long jump with a distance of 6.95m and won the bronze medal in triple jump with a distance of 14.53m. The future looks bright for these two, with further success well within their grasps.—HH

TEAM WE'RE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT: Women's hockey

I personally have never seen a team go through a rebuilding year quite like Dalhousie's women's hockey team did this season. After having the remainder of their season cancelled last year due to the suspension of 17 out of 22 players, the new-look team had to find a way to bond and adapt to a different environment quickly. As their record shows, they were ineffective at doing so within a year. However, with 15 players currently in their first year of eligibility, the team can only go up from here. It won't be long until we see this young squad in the mix of the playoff picture once again.—GB

TEAM WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT: Men's basketball

To compare the 2013-14 Dal men's basketball season to a tire fire might be an understatement. The team, under new head coach Rick Plato, got off to a 1-7 start and never recovered, finishing with a 6-14 record while missing the AUS postseason. There are more questions than answers surrounding the team heading into next season, and it remains to be seen if they can bounce back from one of the most tumultuous seasons in recent memory. The Rick Plato era has gotten off to a rocky start, and things will have to change quickly in order to avoid a repeat next year.—SC



• • • Photo by Chris Parent

REPORT CARD

Women's volleyball

AUS record: 12-4 (1st)
AUS result: Won championship (second in a row)
Nationals: Lost in bronze medal game (4th overall)
Grade: A

Men's volleyball

AUS record: 13-4 (1st)
AUS result: Won championship
Nationals: Lost in consolation final (6th overall)
Grade: A-

Track & Field

AUS result: Women won championship, men finished in second place
Nationals: Silver in high jump for Rebecca Haworth, bronze in triple jump for Chas Smith
Grade: B+

Swimming

AUS record: 1st at each meet
AUS result: Both men's and women's won championship
Nationals: Silver in 50 metre backstroke and bronze in 200 metre butterfly for David Sharpe
Grade: B+

Women's basketball

AUS record: 10-10 (5th)
AUS result: lost in semifinal to Saint Mary's
Grade: B

Men's basketball

AUS record: 6-14 (7th)
AUS result: Missed playoffs
Grade: C+

Women's hockey

AUS record: 5-16-3 (last)
AUS result: Missed playoffs
Grade: C

Men's hockey

AUS record: 3-24-1 (last)
AUS result: Missed playoffs
Grade: C

ANOTHER VARSITY SEASON COMES TO AN END!

The Dalhousie Tigers brought home **SIX AUS championship banners** this year including women's cross country, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's swimming, and women's women's track and field. Individual student-athletes won 24 AUS gold medals, four CIS medals and captured 12 CIS top-ten finishes.

These accomplishments were celebrated at the 60th Annual Black & Gold Athletic Banquet where deserving student-athletes were rewarded for their hard work on the field, court, pool and track as well as in the classroom and in the community. Well done Tigers!

Thank you to all the fans who cheered us on and we'll see you in the stands next year!

Go Tigers!



BEN'S 10

Unique Uniforms

Benjamin Blum
Sports Editor

And so it is that another year at the *Dalhousie Gazette* has drawn to a close. The 'not-so-little col-

umn that could' touched on everything from mascots and turkeys to home décor and the Olympics, with enough arcane trivia to melt Alex Trebek's moustache.

For those of you who were around when the *Jeopardy* host still had facial hair, thank you for your continued support and readership. And for those who are currently asking, "What's Jeopardy?" I hope the column has broadened your horizons.

On to the matter at hand: jerseys! While the classics always please fans and historians alike, sometimes it's the unusual, unprecedented uniforms that end up becoming ubiquitous. Unique doesn't necessarily mean good or bad, so take a look at the 10 we've selected and decide yay or nay for yourselves. Enjoy and be excellent to each other.



Honourable mention: Every college team in the US of A

In a nationwide epidemic known as "Oregon syndrome," college football and basketball teams are now churning out jerseys at such a high clip that home fans have become confused as to which team is theirs. Go team?



10. Atlanta Hawks, racing stripe edition

What does this have to do with hawks? Or Atlanta? Or anything really? Such philosophical questions are what make this setup a true classic.

8. Minor league one-offs

These teams have jerseys for all the major holidays (Christmas sweater hockey jerseys and yarmulkes painted on batting helmets anyone?) and now they've introduced fandom-themed uniforms, like Superhero Night and Ninja Turtle Afternoon. My favourite are the Star Wars jerseys—which doubles as fandom and religion.



9. Pennsylvania pigskin

Two of the league's most aesthetically iconic teams really turned out some terribly traumatizing throwbacks. Pittsburgh's bumblebee tops and Philly's cheap Taiwanese Chargers knockoffs should never leave the Keystone State.



7. Powder blues for all

Baseball went through its baby blue bonanza in the latter third of last century, with every team seemingly getting in on the action. This includes the St. Louis Cardinals. You know, the RED birds? And yet, they looked gorgeous.



6. Fast food jerseys

While the mid-90s Kings jersey's resemblance to the Burger King mascot was coincidental, Padres owner and McDonald's kingpin Ray Kroc deliberately made the Friars look like fryers.

1. Chicago White Shorts

God bless Bill Veeck, the mad genius and showman who invented names on the backs of jerseys and outfitted the Southsiders in shorts, high stockings and leisure polos during America's bicentennial. (3)



5. NHL thirds

The spectrum of hockey alternate jerseys is as diverse as it comes. On one hand there's the cartoonishly quirky image of Wild Wing bursting through the ice. On the other hand is the result of eating too much at a Preds game. Sorry Jake.



4. Innumerable soccer jerseys

There are beautiful kits out there, but do you see this crime against fashion? It's sartorial offences like these, plus using the whole 'flippin' shirt as a billboard for petrol conglomerates and gambling sites, that keeps soccer at the kid's table of North American sports.

3. The sartorial history of the Vancouver Canucks

Quantity does not equal quality when talking about this hockey franchise. They've had every colour scheme, logo design and striping pattern imaginable and they're still rolling out more. Also, they should stick with a goalie for longer than a fortnight.



2. Tequila sunrise

Popularized by the Astros, this layered look has seen a revival in college ball and internationally at FC Barcelona. To be fair, theirs looks a little blurry in comparison, but after a few "tequila sunrises" everything looks a little blurry.





SPORTS HOT SHOTS

Photo editor Chris Parent's top picks for the best images from the year that was.



STREETER

By Ian Froese and Joelline Girouard

What's your favourite exam study snack?



"Spring rolls"
Ding Fan

4th year management



"Hard candies"
Lauren Amyotte

5th year anthropology and gender studies



"Hot cocoa and Bailey's"
Ronald Burchall

3rd year environmental science



"Goji berries"
Scott Preston

2nd year rec. management



"Wasabi peas"
Genny Plumptre

4th year contemporary studies



"Cookies"
Syed Abidi

1st year commerce

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2014 Topic

The rise of crony capitalism: how government and business gain at the taxpayers' expense

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FRIDAY, MAR. 28

"A Baroque Concerto," Dal Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. at Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts (\$10 students)

Harmony and Hope Concert for Cancer Research, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's (\$10 students)

SATURDAY, MAR. 29

Tournament of Fools 2014, hosted by Dalhousie/King's Ultimate Team. Runs until Mar. 30.

Russian Night with the Russian Department, 7 p.m. at All Nations Church (\$5)

MONDAY, MAR. 31

Dal Jazz Ensemble, 12:15 p.m. at Sculpture Court, Dal Arts Centre

90's Jam Night Open Mic at The Grad House, 8 p.m. at The Grad House

WEDNESDAY, APR. 2

Lecture: "On the Place of Literature in a Digital Humanities Centre," 2 p.m. in Goldberg Building, Room 403

THURSDAY, APR. 3

C-K-D-You Got Skills: a Workshop Series at the Halifax North Memorial Public Library. R&B/Hip-Hop DJ skills. Modern turntablism hosted by R\$ Smooth. 6:30-8 p.m.



Old Heart by Amber Solberg



Adventures in Servitude by Caitlin McGuire



Gazette Staff 2013-14

Team photo of the Dalhousie Gazette 2013-14 editorial staff. Back row, from left: Assistant Sports Editor **Daniel Bergman**, Assistant News Editor **Jesse Ward**, Sports Editor **Benjamin Blum**, Editor-in-chief **Ian Froese**, Arts Editor **Mat Wilush**, Assistant Arts Editor **Zoe Doucette**. Front row, from left, Photo Editor **Chris Parent**, Copy/Online Editor **Joeline Girouard**, Opinions Editor **Sam Elmsley**, News Editor **Kristie Smith** and Art Director **Emily Davidson**.

••• Photo by Amin Helal

Captain Can Can of the Horse Marines by Kat Moore



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THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

Brett Ziegler
Elizabeth Croteau

Elections are over, but our problems are not

Does Sexton campus have a future with the DSU?

This year's elections involved a fair amount of controversy: between a nearly impeached president and a university divided by the advocacy debate, it's almost a relief that it's over – almost, because it's difficult to actually feel relief when we know it's probably never going to be over.

Having recently completed undergrad degrees in the Dalhousie engineering program we'd like to discuss the disappointing direction that Dalhousie's student politics has been taking in the last half decade or so. Before we begin, know that we are biased; we are Sexton students who have spent countless hours on Sexton campus over the past few years and seen minimal involvement from the DSU. As such, we may have grown a little jaded to the worn-out lines we hear from current and wannabe DSU exec every March, only to never hear from them again.

Every year the DSU says that they want to work with us; every year this does not happen. Last week, Jessica LeNoble wrote in *Why I voted "No Candidate" in the DSU Elections* that the DSU is fundamentally incapable of providing meaningful support and services to students on multiple campuses. While we appreciate this sentiment, we would propose that perhaps the real issue is not that it is impossible to serve multiple campuses: it's that the DSU doesn't want to.

The DSU is not unable to support Sexton campus for a lack of money and time. Approximately \$140 from each Dalhousie student totals up to north of \$2 million in yearly funding – with over a quarter of a million of that coming from engineering and architecture students. Considering that many DSU volunteers have a genuine "go-getter" attitude and are all around decent people, it's likely that if the DSU made Sexton a priority, the DSU would be in no short supply of resources. Which begs the question: why hasn't the DSU made Sexton a priority?

We postulate that the inability to provide for Sexton students stems from the DSU's inability to understand

Sexton students – and to an extent, students in other professional programs. Our motivations, our perspective, and our politics on Sexton are generally different than those of students on Studley campus. We understand this is a sweeping, broad, generalizing statement, but it makes sense that a student who spends six hours a day in class and labs, using expensive equipment and getting hands-on experience in their chosen career, is going to have different priorities than someone who spends three hours in a lecture hall increasing their general knowledge of the world, which may or may not pertain to what they actually get paid to do with their life.

We'd like to stress that such discrepancies are normal. Many universities have the same sort of divides and disagreements over priorities. However, few other universities have such a fundamental sense of discord. The feeling we get from the DSU is that because our point of view is different, we as a campus are something to be "fixed" or, failing that, ignored. We've heard exactly two candidates in the last two years say: 'There's nothing wrong with Sexton campus, I just don't know anything about you, so if elected, I'd ask you what you want.' (Paraphrasing Kit Moran, VPSL Candidate 2013, and Ian Heystee, VPI Candidate 2014). Of course, neither won, and the DSU Executive is routinely stacked with people who think they know what our priorities are ('Hey, you want food in the TRoom, right?').

It's not just Sexton-based issues that are causing a rift. Because we as Engineering students generally care more about issues such as Dalhousie's capital project decisions, facilities upkeep and academic issues – rather than puppy rooms, puppet protests, and social justice issues – the rift between many of those on Sexton campus and those in the DSU is beginning to widen. While we would never disparage the good work and developments made for Dalhousie students' mental health, which Sexton (as the home of many a stressed

and overworked pre-professional student) appreciates and prioritizes, it seems that the idea of 'social health' has eclipsed many of the other important aspects of student politics, like improving the overall academic experience.

Again, we are not saying that a focus on social justice is bad; just that focusing on social justice to the exclusion of all other aspects of the university experience is bad. A student union is a powerful tool for providing representation, especially to minority groups who feel that they aren't being heard. However, when this becomes the student union's only focus, and the needs of majority groups start to fall by the wayside, said student union has serious problems.

The obvious solution to Sexton students feeling inadequately represented is for more engineers, architects, and planners to get involved with the DSU. But on whose terms? There's a reason for the decided lack of Sexton students involved with the DSU: the DSU, in its current structure, attracts people with a lot of free time. This is a serious obstruction to many on our campus that, when coupled with the distance between campuses, drives away the vast majority of the Sexton student body.

It would be unfair to point out this discrepancy in student governance without acknowledging that most engineering students, and perhaps architecture and planning students, will openly admit that they do not care about what the DSU does. Further, the majority of engineering students do not vote in DSU elections – though at 18%, Sexton voter turnout is technically higher than the rest of the university, which sat at a meager 10.8% this year. This is truly unfortunate, because it relieves the DSU of any pressure to make Sexton campus a priority. More unfortunate, though, is the catch-22 that results: Sexton students see the bare minimum of involvement from the DSU so they don't vote or get involved. The DSU then receives little feedback from Sexton students so they make no changes to their

involvement with Sexton.

If the incoming DSU truly wants to "work with Sexton", this cycle cannot continue. Obviously not everything about DSU-Sexton relations is negative, but things could be much, much better. First and foremost, the DSU must strengthen its presence on Sexton campus, in a meaningful and consistent manner – no more ruling from afar. This means that when meetings and events are scheduled on Sexton, *they have to happen*, and when positions are defined for Sexton campus, they need to be budgeted for and actually hired.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, if the DSU is so committed to being accepting and promoting diversity, then they must acknowledge viewpoints that may conflict with their ethos. The vibe we tend to get from the DSU is one of "policy hinders creativity" or "following the rules makes you a suit". This is fundamentally incongruous with the reality we live every day on Sexton campus, where we are taught that "policy saves lives" and "rules are established to protect the society we serve". Is there a streak of conservatism at Sexton? Perhaps, yes. Does that mean that those who hold these tenets should be disregarded? Absolutely not.

Thus, in the coming year, it is important that the DSU understands that we at Sexton campus are more aware of student politics than we get credit for; not all of our lack of involvement comes from a lack of knowledge. A lot of it comes from being told, at every turn, that our opinion either doesn't matter or is wrong. When faced with such judgmental rhetoric, it's unsurprising that most Sexton students choose to ignore the DSU, count their yearly \$140 fee as just another thing to pay, and focus on their degrees. The DSU needs to start putting their money where their mouth is with regards to Sexton Campus, and accept that, even if we aren't saying what they want to hear, we're still people worth listening to – before we all start wanting that \$140 back. ☹



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