

DFA

Dalhousie Faculty Association

News You Can Use

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News You Can Use is a monthly e-bulletin featuring DFA news and links to items of interest to Dalhousie academic staff. If you have news we can use, contact us at communications@dfa.ns.ca.

Meet the new DFA Executive Committee

The DFA's 2016-17 Executive Committee took office at the end of the Annual General Meeting on May 4. Laurene Rehman, Professor of Leisure Studies in the School of Health and Human Performance, is the DFA's new President, while Darren Abramson, Associate Professor of Philosophy, is President-Elect. Click the link to see the entire Executive Committee.

[Click here](#)

Dal faculty members win CAUT awards

Three Dal faculty members recently received awards from the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). Françoise Baylis, Professor of Bioethics and Philosophy (below left, with CAUT Past President Wayne Peters), is the 2016 recipient of CAUT's [Distinguished Academic Award](#), which recognizes academics who excel in each of the domains of academic life: teaching, research and service to the institution and the community. Mathematics Instructor Pierre Stevens and Elizabeth Kay-Raining Bird, Professor in the School of Human Communication Disorders (below right), each received a [Dedicated Service Award](#) for their years of exceptional service to the DFA.

The DFA is a member of [CAUT](#), which represents some 68,000 academic staff at more than 120 universities and colleges across Canada. At the most recent CAUT Council meeting in Ottawa, DFA Past President/Treasurer David Mensink was appointed to serve on CAUT's Collective Bargaining and Economic Benefits Committee.



Alberta government promotes diversity on Boards of Governors

The Alberta government has announced it will not automatically renew appointments to the University of Calgary Board of Governors in an effort to ensure greater diversity on the Board. Advanced Education Minister Martin Schmidt said he would like to see more women and members of ethnic communities on university boards. He said 80 per cent of the Board members in Alberta universities are men over age 65.

In contrast, [Dalhousie's current Board of Governors](#) is approximately one-half women with at least five members of culturally diverse communities.

Click the link to read the CBC story on the Alberta announcement

[Click here](#)

Research links from around the world

Each month, *News You Can Use* highlights several examples of new and interesting research taking place at universities around the world.

[How obese people can maintain stable weight loss](#) (University of Copenhagen)

[Psychological barriers to addressing climate change](#) (Stanford University)

[Did Yiddish originate on the Silk Roads in Turkey?](#) (University of Sheffield)

[Senior citizens on Facebook: how do they interact and why?](#) (Pennsylvania State University)



Blogs you can use

Although academia is usually associated with detailed and often complex writing, a growing number of academics are taking to the blogosphere to write in a more popular vein about their experiences, their research and the university environment. Here are some interesting blogs by academics in Canada, the U.S. and the UK you might want to check out:

The Impact Blog: Maximising the impact of academic research. London School of Economics and Political Science. A blog is devoted to research in the social sciences.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/tag/academic-blogging/> University

University Governance in Canada – This blog created by Julia Wright, Dalhousie Professor of English and Associate Dean of FASS, contains useful posts and links on university governance <https://universitygovernance.wordpress.com/>

Piece of Mind: All about the academy. Nassif Ghoussoub, a professor at University of British Columbia, was recently awarded the Order of Canada for his contribution to mathematics. In this blog, he writes regularly about university governance, academic freedom and other issues at UBC and elsewhere.

<http://nghoussoub.com/>

ProfHacker: teaching, tech and productivity. A blog in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* on the use of digital technology in academia. <http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/>

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