

NEWS YOU CAN USE

President's Message

by Darren Abramson, DFA President

As my presidency with DFA comes to a close later this week, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Executive Committee members for their time, effort and leadership over the past year. A collective bargaining year brings added responsibilities and issues, and all those involved with DFA did a fantastic job moving things forward on behalf of our membership.

Special thanks and goodbye to David Mensink who is retiring after 30 years as a Professional Counsellor at Dalhousie. David has been an active and valued volunteer with the DFA for 20 years. We will greatly miss his leadership and participation in fulfilling the DFA mission. Please join us this Thursday after the AGM for a celebration of David's service to the DFA. (see right for details)

Finally, a thank you to the DFA office staff for supporting our efforts throughout the year. Earlier this month, DFA's Administrative Assistant Linda Robertson, retired after more than eight years of serving the DFA. We will miss Linda's professionalism and energy, and we wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

It has been a pleasure serving as your president and I pass the presidency with confidence onto Dave Westwood. Dave has been heavily involved with our association activities this past year and he is well-prepared to take over as your president for 2018-2019.

DFA 2018 AGM

Thursday May 3, 2018
2:00 pm

CHEB Room 170

Videoconference will be
available in

Truro & Saint John.

Truro: Haley Rm 254

Saint John: DMNB Rm 105

Reception to celebrate
David Mensink's
contribution to DFA at the
Grawood following the
AGM.

Message from DFA's Incoming President

by David Westwood, DFA President-Elect

April is an exciting time around campus as classes come to an end, and the first signs of spring emerge ever so gradually. Grading is at or near completion and students look forward to convocation or various summer plans for study, travel, or work.

At the DFA, April brings with it a new slate of faces and volunteers who step forward to offer their time, insight, and energy to support our numerous activities during the coming year. I look forward to meeting and welcoming these new individuals to our team, while thanking those who are returning to bring their wisdom and experience for continuing terms.

As volunteers come and go, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have a core of dedicated, passionate, and professional staff to ensure that we are able to do our work with continuity and clarity. This spring a valued member of our DFA staff entered retirement, and I wish Linda Robertson, Administrative Assistant, nothing but the best for this new chapter in her life. On behalf of all of our Members, thank you, Linda, for your years of exceptional service to the Association. You will be missed but not forgotten.

On the topic of service, this a good time to remind Members of the importance of their voices on University committees for the collegial governance process. In the past few months we have become increasingly concerned that University administrators are adopting closed search procedures - which lack open presentations by the short-listed candidates - as the new 'norm' in the hiring of Senior Academic Administrators such as Deans and Vice-Presidents. Like our colleagues at CAUT, we believe that open presentations by the candidates are a vital part of collegial governance given the power that these individuals wield in shaping the academic life of the institution. We encourage DFA Members on these Search Committees and the Senate to challenge the message from administrators and professional search firms that searches must remain closed in order to attract a sufficiently large pool of applicants; like many of you who have already expressed your concern about closed search procedures, we believe that quality is much more important than quantity.

I hope to see many of you at our AGM on May 3, and I wish you all a happy, healthy, and rewarding spring!

DFA 2018-2019 Executive Committee Acclaimed

Congratulations and thank you to all our new and returning Executive Members, who have been elected by acclamation and will take office at the end of the AGM on Thursday, May 3.

President: David Westwood (Health & Human Performance)

Past-President: Darren Abramson (Philosophy)

President-Elect: Julia Wright (English)

Second Vice-President: Cindy Penney (Physiology & Biophysics)

Secretary: Melissa Helwig (W.K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library)

Treasurer: Susan Holmes (College of Continuing Education)

Members-at-Large (term ends April 2020): Brenda Beagan (Occupational Therapy), Lori Dithurbide (Health & Human Performance), Jacqueline Gahagan (Health & Human Performance), Roger Gills (Killam Library), and Elizabeth Kay-Raining Bird (Communication Sciences & Disorders)

Members-at-Large (term ends April 2019): Amy Birchall (Animal Sciences & Aquaculture), Jason Brown (Mathematics & Statistics), Nancy MacDonald (Social Work), Kalyani Prithiviraj (Plant, Food & Environmental Science), Deborah Tamlyn (Nursing)

Call for DFA Equity Committee Members

The DFA Equity Committee is recruiting new members for 2018-2019. We are looking for members who represent all equity-seeking groups from various Faculties across Dalhousie. Faculties not currently represented on our committee include FASS, Engineering, Management, Law, Agriculture and others. If you are interested in joining the Committee, the [Terms of Reference](#) are available on our website and you can contact the DFA office for more information at dfa@dal.ca or call 902 494 3722

Workplace Wellness

Dalhousie faculty and staff are invited to attend the following workshops, held as part of Dalhousie's Workplace Wellness program.

**WORK
WELL**

Intro to Meditation (10-week series) Starts May 3, 2018
<https://events-tm.dal.ca/workshop.php?id=2472>

Dal Let's Talk Workplace Mental Health (Halifax and Truro) May 15, 2018
<https://events-tm.dal.ca/workshop.php?id=2404>

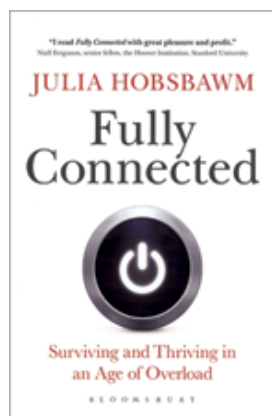
Managing Mental Health Issues in the Workplace (for Managers & Supervisors) May 18, 2018
<https://events-tm.dal.ca/workshop.php?id=2475>

Being a Mindful Employee: An Orientation to Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace
Free online learning, any time
http://www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/mindful_employee

Books You Can Use

Fully Connected: Surviving and Thriving in an Age of Overload

Julia Hobsbawm. Bloomsbury, 2017; 232 pp; ISBN: 978-1-47292-684-5.



“In *Fully Connected*, Hobsbawm provides a better route toward being more fully connected, by looking at the dysfunctionality of our many typical fully connected lives and toward rebuilding a much better blended self that cannot only survive, but also thrive in an age of constant connective overload ... We find ourselves too ruled by our devices with no time to truly disconnect, and refocus our energies. Connected everywhere and anywhere and yet not really connected to anything or truly connecting to anyone ... Social health is profoundly knowing who and what to connect with, and also the incredible value of disconnecting.”

Michael Hohner is a librarian at the University of Winnipeg. His full book review is available on [CAUT's website](#)

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

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FA Communications Officer, a
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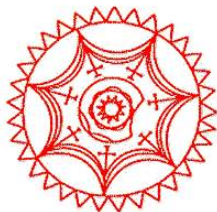
News You Can Use features DFA news and links to items of interest to Dalhousie academic staff. If you have news we can use, please contact Catherine Wall, DFA Communications Officer, at Catherine.Wall@dal.ca. Submissions must be received no later than the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month's issue.



on Twitter ... @dalfacultyassoc

4

Indigenizing the Academy Conference



May 3-4, 2018

DEADLINE: APRIL 15

Call for Poster Presentations

Submit your idea or abstract for a poster presentation, to be displayed during the Conference on May 3 and 4, 2018.

While posters on the specific theme of the conference would be particularly welcome, we encourage people to submit ideas on any aspect of indigenous research. The organizing committee will accept as many acceptable posters as possible given the space and time available at the conference. Conference details are available at ansut.ca

Send submissions to Scott Stewart (scott_stewart@cbu.ca) by Sunday, April 15, 2018.

Membertou Trade and Convention Centre
50 Maillard St, Membertou, NS

ANSUT
ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS