

# DFA

Dalhousie Faculty Association

## News You Can Use

Vol. 1, No. 6 August 2016

*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](mailto:communications@dfa.ns.ca).

### Truro daycare closure heading for arbitration



The DFA is challenging a Dalhousie administration decision to close the daycare centre on the Agricultural campus in Bible Hill. A grievance was launched in July on the grounds that the closure -- which is scheduled for September 2 -- would violate the terms of the DFA's Collective Agreement. Discussions with administration officials -- including President Florizone -- failed to reverse the decision, and an arbitrator is expected to hear the grievance on August 29.

On July 20, the DFA issued a [news release](#) on the daycare situation and the story was covered by several media outlets. Click the link to read an interview with DFA President Laurene Rehman in the *Truro Daily News*.

[Click here](#)

## Grant funding: is academic excellence taking a back seat to revenue generation?

The increasingly intense pressure on faculty members to obtain grant funding has produced many undesirable consequences in higher education, argue two psychology professors at the State University of New York at Albany.

Writing in *Inside Higher Ed*, Gordon G. Gallup Jr. and Bruce B. Svare say "a focus on revenue generation has come to pervade the daily operations of higher education institutions," eroding both academic excellence and academic freedom.

"Funding is a means to an end, not an end in and of itself," they write. "Whereas people should get grants in order to do research, too often nowadays people do research in order to get grants. Academic freedom ought to include the opportunity to pursue research questions because they are intrinsically interesting or theoretically important, not simply because they are fundable."

Click the link to read their article.

[Click here](#)

## The Pokémon Go phenomenon: exactly what are your students doing, anyway?

If you've suddenly noticed that young (and some not-so-young) people are wandering around the Dal campus glued to their cellphones, it probably has something to do with Pokémon Go.

The "augmented reality" game, which uses a smartphone's GPS to track a player's location and create a virtual world on the screen, is becoming so popular on campuses that some universities are instituting special measures to ensure student safety. At the University of Central Florida, for example, campus security initiated a shuttle service for students playing the game late at night on campus. Other universities have created "Pokéstop" maps of their campuses to help students achieve their gaming goals.

A recent [Global News](#) poll found that 29 per cent of Canadian players say the game is "taking over their lives" and there have been reports of muggings, car accidents and other incidents related to the game. At the same time, some experts argue that the game is having a positive influence on students' physical fitness. Geoff Ball, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Alberta, [told the \*Edmonton Journal\*](#) that "if people are completely inactive before or there wasn't anything they really enjoyed about physical activity and this helped them to do that, then that's a really positive impact."

Click the link for a primer on what Pokémon Go is and how it works.

[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.

[UK researchers explore the future of the academic book](#) (University College, London/King's College, London)

[What your brain looks like when it solves a math problem](#) (Carnegie Mellon University)

[Is there a link between emotional stress and diabetes?](#) (Rice University)



**Dalhousie Faculty Association**  
1443 Seymour Street, P.O. Box 15000  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
<http://dfa.ns.ca>  
[dfa@dal.ca](mailto:dfa@dal.ca)

