

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## President's Message

*by Darren Abramson, DFA President*

In early March, the Dalhousie University Board of Governors ratified the collective agreement that was tentatively agreed to by both sides on January 30, 2018. Over the coming months, the Association Board Committee, which is made up of representatives from the Dalhousie Faculty Association and Dalhousie administration, will work through the details of salary increases retroactive to July 1, 2017 and update the collective agreement for final signing. As we move ahead with the process, we will let you know when the final agreement will be available, and when you can expect to see the salary increases on your pay.

On behalf of the DFA, I extend my sincere appreciation to our bargaining team for their focus and commitment over the past year: Chief Negotiator Ray Larkin, Tim Jukes, Debbie Mellish, Shelley McKibbin, Julia Wright, DFA Professional Officer Barbara MacLennan and DFA Administrative Officer Lynn Purves.

As we turn our attention to the next round of collective bargaining, I welcome your input, comments, and feedback. Your voice and participation is critical as we prepare to negotiate on behalf of our Membership.

## Student Mental Health

*by David Westwood, DFA President-Elect*

It is an exciting time for me to be coming in as your new DFA president. Coming off a year largely dominated by the collective bargaining process, we can now turn our attention to other strategic priorities even as we continue to plan for future rounds of bargaining.

This is a year of celebration and recognition on two fronts. It would be hard to miss the fact that Dalhousie University is celebrating 200 years as an institution, but the Dalhousie Faculty Association is also celebrating 40 years as the certified bargaining agent for Dalhousie's teaching, research, professional librarian and professional counselling staff. It seems fitting, then, to think about and reflect upon the important contributions that our members make to the academic mission of the University and to its strategic priorities.

## DFA 2018 AGM

Thursday May 3, 2018  
2:00 pm  
*(location tbd)*

The AGM will be held in Halifax with a videoconference set up for members in Truro & Saint John.

Recently, the University of Waterloo announced an infusion of \$1.2M to support mental health initiatives for students, most of which is earmarked to hire 37 additional mental health professionals for a total of 70 - a ratio of one counsellor per 1000 students. This extraordinary investment reflects the importance of mental health to Canadians generally, and on university campuses specifically. The recently released Nova Scotia budget allocates \$500K in new spending to support a post-secondary mental health pilot project which is encouraging news, but does it go far enough?

At our own institution, student mental health is an area of priority addressed by our professional counsellor Members. The DFA has been active in supporting our professional counsellors to obtain much-needed replacement positions to meet the great and increasing demand for these types of services at Dalhousie. We believe it is important that well-trained professionals are available to deliver the best quality service to our students, and we will continue to support and advocate for our Members who work in this area to ensure that they are able to carry out their duties to the full extent of their abilities.

Over the coming months I will highlight some of the other outstanding contributions that our Members make to areas of strategic priority at Dalhousie, turning attention to our librarian Members and the Members of the professoriate. In the meantime, rest assured that preparations are under way for a slate of activities and events to celebrate our 40 years of solidarity at the DFA which will kick off in November 2018,

## **DFA Executive Committee Call for Nominations**

It's that time of year again! The DFA is getting ready to welcome a new Executive for 2018-19. The new Executive will take office at the close of our AGM on May 3, 2018. If you would like to serve on the Executive, the following positions are open for nomination: President-Elect, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, five Members-at-Large (each for a two year term) and one member to be elected by those not in the Bargaining Unit.

The following Executive members will continue for 2018-19: current President-Elect Dave Westwood (Health) will serve as President and Darren Abramson (Philosophy) will serve as Past-President. Five Members-at-Large remain on the Executive to complete the final year of their two-year term: Amy Birchall (Animal Science & Aquaculture), Jason Brown (Mathematics & Statistics), Nancy MacDonald (Social Work), Kalyani Prithiviraj (Plant, Food & Environmental Sciences) and Deborah Tamlyn (Nursing).

To submit a nomination or to nominate a colleague, please visit our website. All nominations, complete with statement, must be submitted to the Nominating Committee, care of the DFA office by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

### **DFA Nominating Committee**

Dave Westwood, Chair  
(Health)

Darren Abramson (FASS)

Joanne Mills  
(Counselling &  
Psychological Services)

## **Anomalies Fund Application Deadline Extended**

Given that the new collective agreement between the Dalhousie Board of Governors and the DFA is not yet ratified, the deadline for applications to the Anomalies Fund has been extended.

**Applications for salary adjustment in 2018-19 must be submitted by June 30, 2018.** The Association Board Committee's decision will be communicated in writing to the Member no later than September 30, 2018. Any salary adjustments will be retroactive to July 1, 2018. An email will be sent to you from the DFA when the Anomalies Fund opens for application.

## **Medavie Blue Cross Introduces Mobile App for Claims**

As a Medavie Blue Cross subscriber, you are now able to submit health claims via a mobile app. Details are available at <https://www.medaviebc.ca/en/members/medavie-mobile>.

## **Updated Tools for Tenure-Stream Appointments and Tenure, Promotion & Reappointment**

In light of the recently-ratified collective agreement, the DFA has updated two important documents for our Members. If you are beginning a tenure-stream appointment at Dalhousie, please read [Laying the Foundation](#) - it will help you begin planning for a successful reappointment and positive tenure review. The second document, [Under the Microscope](#), outlines the tenure, promotion and reappointment processes, as well as the rights and responsibilities of those involved in the review process. If you have questions about either of these documents, please contact the DFA at [dfa@dal.ca](mailto:dfa@dal.ca) or 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.

Health Screenings: Know Your Numbers (Time available on March 28 & 29)

<http://events-tm.dal.ca>

Effective Tax Strategies (April 4)

<https://events-tm.dal.ca/workshop.php?id=2476>

Ten Healthy Habits of Financial Management (April 11)

<https://events-tm.dal.ca/workshop.php?id=2477>

Saving Strategies: Easy concept, difficult reality (April 18)

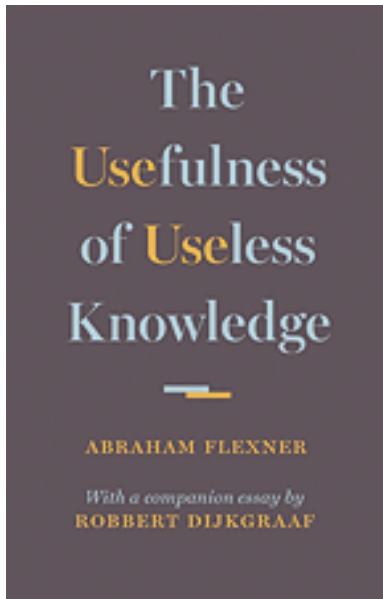
<https://events-tm.dal.ca/workshop.php?id=2478>

**WORK  
WELL**

## Books You Can Use

## The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge

Abraham Flexner. Princeton University Press, 2017; 93 pp; ISBN: 978-0-69117-476-1.



“The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge, a title almost so delightful as to resist commentary, was published as an essay in Harper’s magazine in 1939 ... as this small book demonstrates so elegantly, the current climate of teleologically-driven priorities, demands a reevaluation of the wonderful and essential value of ‘useless’ knowledge in the academy.”

*Alan Rauch is professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. His full book review is available on [CAUT's website](#).*

## Research Links from Around the World

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

[Study finds aspirin as effective as prescription meds in preventing post-op clots \(Dalhousie University\)](#)

## When sleep brings no rest (Dalhousie University)

[The ideal settlement site on Mars - hotspots if you asked a crop](#) (Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands)

Breast cancer and stem cells (Indian Institute of Science)





**Indigenizing the Academy  
Conference**



**May 3-4, 2018**

**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](http://ansut.ca)

Send submissions to Scott Stewart ([scott\\_stewart@cbu.ca](mailto: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

*DEADLINE: APRIL 15*

*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](mailto: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.*

**Dalhousie Faculty Association**

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