



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.

Your Health Spending Account: find out more!

Last month, we sent an email to all Members informing them that June 30 is the deadline for obtaining health-related services for this year's Health Spending Account entitlement. The Health Spending Account is an amount you can use for payment of medical expenses not covered by your basic health and dental plan, including health and dental premiums, up to a maximum of \$500 per year. Click the link to find out more.

[Click here](#)

Academic freedom and collegial governance: the view from CAUT's new President

The new president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) says academic freedom the key component in the fight to restore collegial governance at Canadian universities. James Compton, Associate Professor of Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario, writes in the latest issue of the *CAUT Bulletin* that without academic freedom, faculty members are "reduced to being part of a rubber stamping process."

Dr. Compton was elected last month to succeed Robin Vose, Associate Professor of History at St. Thomas University. Click the link to read his column.

[Click here](#)

Beware of predatory journals

A group of Dal librarians have put together a web page warning faculty members about "predatory journals": pseudo-academic journals that exist for the sole purpose of collecting Open Access fees from authors. A big thank you to Melissa Helwig for sharing this link.

[Click here](#)

STEM: Using social media for learning

While some academics shy away from social media, others are embracing it as an important learning tool. A recent article in the magazine *Campus Technology* outlines how educators in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are using such social media sites as Wikipedia, Twitter and YouTube to enhance communication and content delivery. Click the link to read the article.

[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.

[Old age and the decline in financial literacy](#) (Texas Tech University/University of Missouri)

[Changing Disasters](#) (University of Copenhagen): an ongoing interdisciplinary research project on the relationship between natural disasters and society.

[Investing in mortgages caused bank failures...in the Great Depression](#) (University of Warwick, UK)



More blogs you can use

Last month's "Blogs you can use" feature generated a number of other blog suggestions from Dalhousie faculty members. Chris Simms, Assistant Professor in the School of Health Administration, is a contributor to the [Lancet Global Health Blog](#), a blog created by The Lancet, one of the world's oldest and best-known medical journals. Dr. Simms' blog posts deal with such topics as [restoring Canada's international reputation as a "global health citizen"](#) and the [failure of the World Bank to address human rights violations](#). Dr. Simms also posts in [The BMJ Blog](#), created by The BMJ (formerly British Medical Journal): his most recent article deals with the [social and political determinants of health for Canada's First Nations](#).

Other blogs which include contributions from Dalhousie faculty members include:

[Impact Ethics](#): a bioethics blog managed by the Novel Tech Ethics research team at Dalhousie. Contributors include Françoise Baylis, Tom Vinci, Elaine Craig, Jocelyn Downie and others.

[English Matters](#): A blog created by the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE). It includes numerous posts by Associate Professor Jason Haslam, who recently ended his term as president of ACCUTE.

[Hook & Eye](#): A blog on academia from a feminist perspective, co-founded by Erin Wunker, a contract academic in the English department at Dalhousie.

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