

HEALTH SCIENCES CHRONICLES

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES NEWSLETTER FALL/WINTER 2010

Celebrating Excellence in Health Sciences Education Since 1999

Detours of Life: First Michener/Dalhousie Student to Complete the Bachelor of Health Sciences Degree in Respiratory Therapy

By Wendy Terris Klaus, Distributed Learning & Outreach Coordinator

Isn't it interesting how life takes you around in circles, sending you on detours before shedding light on your destined path? Coming from the Republic of Serbia in the former Yugoslavia where the educational system emphasizes math and science, Angéla Berényi went through an intense high school curriculum in preparation for entry into the pharmaceutical field. Why didn't she pursue that career path further? "To be honest, she says, "Even though I had obtained top grades in my classes, I had not foreseen utilizing such subjects to areas outside the classrooms." After all those years, Angéla made the decision to leave her current job as a mechanical draftsman with General Electric to go back to school to study Respiratory Therapy in the joint Michener/Dalhousie diploma program and use all those same subjects that she had given little thought to before.

Ms. Berényi's decision for a career change did not come easily. It evolved gradually as she slowly discovered her true passions in life. She had taken after her father's mechanical aptitude and was moved through various jobs as shoe-maker/designer and mechanical draftsman. However as the years wore on, Angéla became restless, and grew tired of corporate routines. She wanted to see the results of her hard work and know that she was making a difference. She fell back to her old trade and began volunteering part-time with the Bata Shoe Museum. Ten years of service there allowed her to see how much she enjoyed helping and working with people. Moreover Angéla started participating in various activities at her workplace, such as organizing daffodil sales to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society, and taking part in teaching with Junior Achievement's Middle Grade Programs on "The Economics of Staying in School." She also became



one of the founding members of an Emergency Response and First Aid Team to help promote safer work practices.

Intrigued by the positive response that she received through volunteerism, she began to plan a new path toward a career that would allow her to work with the public and provide help to those in need. By acquiring a placement at the Toronto General Hospital's Intensive Care Unit, Angéla was able to gain valuable insight into the medical world. The experience of offering support to patients and families filled Angéla with a newfound compassion, fueling her with determination to embark on a new role in health care.

After completing the three year Respiratory Therapy diploma Angéla decided to continue on to complete her BHSc degree via online learning at Dalhousie. She enrolled in five courses per term in the fall and winter. Although she had taken some online courses in the diploma program the task of five courses in each term seemed a little daunting. With a lot of hard work, time management and the support of her online professors and classmates she successfully completed all her courses and was ready to graduate with her degree. Angéla says it has always been her dream to complete a university degree which

was made all the more difficult with English as her second language. For the convocation Angéla drove from Toronto to Halifax with three friends who had supported her throughout her studies. Angéla's family at home in Serbia were able to watch her receive her parchment via a live broadcast offered on the Dalhousie website. After the ceremony and in spite of the damp spring day, Angéla also realized another goal... to put her feet in the Atlantic Ocean!

The future looks bright for our first Michener/Dalhousie graduate. With her Bachelor of Health Science degree in Respiratory Therapy now complete Angéla is considering continuing her studies in the Anesthesia Assistant certificate program. She would also like to gain experience in acute care and would like to share her life and professional experience as a healthcare volunteer for the disadvantaged in India. Congratulations to Angéla on all her success.

Respiratory Therapy Student Wins 2010 Canadian University Squash Nationals

By Kathy Spurr, Respiratory Therapy

Emily Bales, a second year Respiratory Therapy student won the Women's A level of the 2010 Canadian University Squash Nationals by defeating opponents from Brock, McMaster and the host school, University of Toronto.

Emily has been playing squash for the past five years in Toronto, training out of the Toronto Cricket Club. She has competed in several age-group national championships, as well.

Emily together with Jay Smith represented Dalhousie at the National Championships which included competition in Open, A, B, C and D level categories.

Congratulations to Emily on this impressive achievement!



Emily Bales with Dalhousie teammate Jay Smith

Preceptor of the Year Award 2010

By Anne Mahalik, Clinical Coordinator

Please join me in congratulating this year's recipient of the "Brightest and Best" Preceptor of the Year Award. This award recognizes outstanding contribution to student learning in clinical practice.

While all of our preceptors play a valuable role in the development of future healthcare professionals, this award is reserved for those who have been identified by a student nominator as being a standout among their peers.



Carolyn Stevens is a preceptor in Nuclear Medicine at the Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville, Nova Scotia. She was nominated by second year student Cory McNeil for her ability to provide insight into her role as a health care professional, encouragement of trying new skills in a safe environment and generosity in sharing knowledge and expertise. Congratulations Carolyn!

Thank you to all students who nominated their preceptor (s) for this award.

Thank You to our Clinical Sites

Thank you for your continued support of our students. We welcome new sites to our list of available clinical site options for our students:

- Chaleur Regional Hospital, Bathurst New Brunswick (RADT)
- Foothills Medical Centre, Calgary Alberta (NUMT)
- Prince County Hospital, Summerside, Prince Edward Island (DMUT)
- Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Ontario (NUMT)
- Trillium Health Centre, Mississauga, Ontario (RSPT)
- Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville, Nova Scotia (DMUT)

Student Association of Health Sciences (SAHS)

By Ashley Leclerc, President

Hello everyone! I hope you are enjoying the 2010-2011 school year so far. The SAHS understands that the Health Sciences program, with its academic and clinical demands can be very stressful. But do not fret! Every year the SAHS puts on a variety of events for students to allow them to get to know one another, promote inter-professionalism and give students a break and reward for their hard work. This year the SAHS is working hard to plan lots of fun filled events to help students relax and have fun.

This semester began with Orientation which included School information sessions and campus tours. Despite the weather, first year students got a chance to mingle with fellow classmates and SAHS council at our annual BBQ. Later in September we hosted the Silva Boat cruise. Everyone had a great time socializing and dancing the night away with a live band on the open seas. In October we welcomed two new members to our council. Your first year representative is Jane O'Hara, DMUT and our new VP External is Emily Friars, RADT.

SAHS council was involved in the organization of the annual Faculty of Health Professions fall fundraiser called "For the Health of It." The charity chosen to be the recipient of donated funds for 2010 was the Provincial Autism Centre, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to individuals with autism so they can lead rich and fulfilling lives. Representatives from the School of Health Sciences put forth an entertaining performance which earned them an award for the most interprofessional presentation.

The fun will not stop there though! The council is currently planning future events which will provide further opportunity for students to get to know one another outside of class. There will be lots more action continuing into the winter



L to R: Ashley, Nathan, Robyn and Cory

semester, so keep your eyes and ears open for future events!

Meet this Year's Executive Council Members:

- **President- Ashley Leclerc** from Halifax, Nova Scotia, second year Respiratory Therapy student and the SAHS president for this year.
- **VP Internal- Robyn Samson** from Arichat, Cape Breton Island, second year of Diagnostic Cytology.
- **VP External- Emily Friars** from Halifax, Nova Scotia, second year Radiological Technology student.
- **Treasurer- Cory MacNeil** from Sydney, Nova Scotia, third year Nuclear Medicine student.
- **Secretary- Nathan Miller** from Nine Mile River, Nova Scotia, second year Respiratory Therapy student.

Other Council Members:

Social Rep- Jon Brown
Sports Rep- Clint Coombs
4th year Rep- Ian Wheatley
3rd year Rep- Andrew Aucoin
2nd year Rep- Tayah McLaren
DMUT Rep- Amy McCallum
RSPT Rep- Emma MacDonald
RADT Rep- Amy Flemming
DCYT Rep- Sarah Hurlburt
NUMT Rep- Jennifer McPhee

Dalhousie Health Mentors Program

Respiratory Therapy students from the School of Health Sciences are participating in an exciting new program called the Dalhousie Health Mentors Program. Over 600 students from 17 different health professions in the faculties of Dentistry, Health Professions and Medicine are learning to understand what it is like for a patient to live with a chronic condition. Health Mentors are adult volunteers from the Halifax-Dartmouth area who meet with a team of 3-4 students several times over the school year to share what it is like to live with a chronic health condition. Students will be able to ask questions as a way of learning about the mentor's experiences with the healthcare system, experience learning in an interprofessional team environment and discover how healthcare providers can better support people with chronic conditions.

Alumni Profile:

Erin (Brennan) Lushman

Diploma in Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound 2005

By Wendy Terris Klaus, Distributed Learning & Outreach Coordinator

It's always interesting to hear what our former students having been doing since graduation. Our students are in demand upon graduation and Erin is no exception. She accepted part time positions at the IWK and CDHA, which became a full time position in just two months. Erin enjoyed working with patients, peers and radiologists in a team environment. Two years in a hospital setting was a great environment in which to improve skills and gain valuable clinical experience.

In April 2007, Erin was offered an exciting role in the private sector as an Ultrasound Application Specialist with Phillips Healthcare. In her position she offers yearly training sessions to ultrasound students, has exposure to many different ultrasound departments across Canada and works with leading edge technology. Erin enjoys the independent work environment and the opportunity to teach and learn from peers.

In 2010 Erin became the President of the Nova Scotia Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. As president she has learned a lot about the history of ultrasound in Nova Scotia and across Canada. "I am constantly learning about our profession and working with very supportive and experienced

peers." One of the main topics of discussion at this fall's provincial Annual General Meeting and Education Seminars is the regulation of the profession of sonography.

On the personal side of life Erin planned a wedding (not an easy task), got married (the easy part) and bought a first home. It has only been five years since graduation and Erin feels fortunate to be in a profession that allowed her to experience so much in such a short time. Erin looks forward to the chance to build on these experiences for many years to come.

Stay In Touch

Jennifer Godbold is the Alumni Officer for the Faculty of Health Professions. Her role is to work with the Schools and College to enhance Faculty's efforts with respect to alumni relations. Her primary focus is on alumni events, and presenting meaningful and long-term communication and engagement initiatives to alumni.

If you have an idea for an event or question related to alumni initiatives, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Jenn welcomes the free flow of information from alumni, and can be reached by email at jenn.godbold@dal.ca or by phone at (902) 473.2440.

Building Capacity for Point-of-Care Research

By Carol Gillis, Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound

In early September 2009, the call for Capital Health participants was issued for this new program, designed to help front-line practitioners develop a research question into a feasible project.

The Point-of-Care Research Program provides educational opportunities and infrastructure for health professionals to design, create and implement their own research, answering questions generated by their own practice and patient care. This program is consistent with, and supportive of, Capital Health's strategy to integrate research and patient care.

The Point-of-Care Research Program came about as a collaborative capacity building effort between Janet Gallant, Capital Health Research Services, Dr. Rob Gilbert, School of Health Sciences and Carol Gillis, School of Health Sciences. This program was developed to identify essential supports for multidisciplinary point-of-care research and create essential partnerships between health faculty at Dalhousie University and Capital Health practitioners.

Eight individuals who met the participation criteria were enrolled in the program. They include a pharmacist, a sonographer, a physiotherapist, and

a social worker. Jan Gilby, SHS Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound, is one of the participants in this new initiative. Jan says, "It's the staff working directly with patients who have the greatest potential to identify areas that can directly impact patient care. This program allows those front-line staff to take their ideas and formulate relevant research questions with the hope that we will end up improving health care for our patients." A mentorship component within the program matches participants to faculty members who will mentor them. Suzie Officer, Policy & Research Administrator for the Faculty of Health Professions, provides help with this initiative by identifying mentors within the FHP who are then matched with participants.

CDHA has identified a need for research mentoring, research education and expansion of research support for health professionals. Research capacity building in the setting helps ensure that the research conducted and the knowledge gained not only improves health outcomes but is relevant and applicable to practice.

For further information on this initiative contact janet.gallant@cdha.nshealth.ca (902) 473.2118.

Award Recipients May 2010

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in the spring of 2010:

Adrienne Farysey for the University Medal in Health Sciences and the BHSc Faculty Award

Myrna Lingenfelter for the Tim MacKenzie Memorial Award

Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound
Debra Penney for the Radiologist's Award

Nuclear Medicine Technology
Brandon Hardy for the DRAXIMAGE and Radiologist's Awards

Jonathan Bower for the Dr. Robert H. Martin Award

Radiological Technology
Myrna Lingenfelter for the Radiologist's Award

Respiratory Therapy
Michael Wheatley for the Medigas Award for Clinical Achievement

Faculty Pub

Fader, K., Gilbert, R.W. (2009) Advancing Medical Radiation technologist-led scholarship: Practical Advice for Ensuring Success JMIRS 40: 155-159

Hill, L. (2009) Challenges in Cytology-Confronting Educational Differences, A Canadian Perspective, Cytoletter-Journal of the Australian Society of Cytology, 33: 7-10

Murphy, C., Sharp, R. (2009) Evidence-based practice for medical radiation technologists JMIRS 40: 148-154

Philpott, S., Deborah Bradley (2009) Feasibility Report for a Colorectal Cancer Screening Program for Prince Edward Island

Congratulations to Faculty Members on receiving their **graduate degrees** at the **Spring 2010 Dalhousie Convocation:**

Susan Philpott: Master of Health Administration

Stephanie Lea: Master of Applied Health Services Research

School of Health Sciences

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Faculty Update

Members of the faculty, staff and students of the School of Health Sciences welcome new members of our faculty:

Jan Gilby, Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound.



Jan Gilby

Jan is a graduate of Acadia University and our Ultrasound diploma program. She has several years experience working as a sonographer at the QEII Health Sciences Centre and as preceptor to our Health Sciences Ultrasound students.

Jan is past president of the Nova Scotia Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (NSSDMS) and current Halifax-Dartmouth Region Director. She also holds current registration with the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS), the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (CSDMS), and the Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP). Jan serves as Chair of the Clinical Education Committee for the Ultrasound program and sits on the Exam Steering Committee for CARDUP's knowledge-based exam process.

Stephanie Lea, Radiological Technology.

Stephanie is a graduate of Acadia University and the Radiological Technology diploma program at QEII Allied Health. She recently completed her Masters of Applied Health Services Research (MAHSR) at Dalhousie, and her thesis is titled "Describing Service Provision of the Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program (NSBSP) to Nova Scotia Women Aged 50 to 69 years from 2002-2006".

Prior to joining the faculty at the School Stephanie was employed as a Project Coordinator/Analyst with the Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program and as a Radiological Technologist at the QEII Health Sciences Centre. She is certified with the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) and the Nova Scotia Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (NSAMRT). Stephanie was the Radiological Technology representative on the NSAMRT Education Committee for the past three years.



Stephanie Lea

Retirement

Congratulations to **Judy Smith** on her recent retirement from teaching and professional career in Radiological Technology. Judy retired in May after more than thirty years of dedicated patient care and excellence in the classroom. We wish her well and are glad she is keeping in touch.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Kathy Spurr**, Respiratory Therapy faculty who was recently inducted into the Dalhousie University Sports Hall of Fame for her talent on the basketball court. Kathy was Dal's Female Athlete of the Year 1988 and she holds a place in the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame. Kathy continues to contribute to basketball as a coach and mentor for up and coming female basketball players in Nova Scotia.

Director's message



John Hubert, Director

First of all let me welcome the class of 2014! For the second time we kicked off the new school year with a wine and cheese social for first year students and their parents. The event gives students and their families an opportunity to meet informally with faculty, staff and their student colleagues.

We also have a new SAHS executive this year. Ashley and her team have a great social line-up planned throughout the year and will continue to ensure that students are well represented on School committees. I encourage every student to get active with the SAHS and to participate in their initiatives and activities.

Academically there has been a great deal of hard work going on throughout the summer to get our Anesthesia Assistant program back on track, to begin work on an MRI certificate opportunity for

students in the diagnostic imaging fields and to lay the ground work for a new BHSc in Paramedicine. In response to a Tri-Faculty commitment to enhance the level of interprofessional education among the nine Schools/College in the Faculty of Health Professions and with Medicine and Dentistry, the Curriculum Committee has been hard at work establishing criteria for student participation. Beginning in 2011 all incoming students (i.e., Class of 2015) will be required to participate in a prescribed number of interprofessional activities over their years of study.

I want to close by thanking Judy Smith for her years of dedicated service to the School. Judy brought not only a wealth of knowledge and experience but also a spirit of enthusiasm for her profession that will continue to impact her students and colleagues throughout their careers. Congratulations on your retirement Judy and thanks for all you efforts!