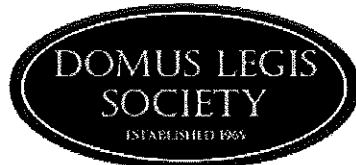


# SOCIETY NEWS



## Farewell Domus

Dan Huff

As I sit down to write this piece I am simultaneously filled with a sense of sadness and joy. The sadness stems from the fact that writing this article may be one of my last acts as president of Domus. Yet I take joy in thinking back over the many memories Domus has brought me. From crashing golf carts, to crazy dance parties, to (not remembering) Halloween, to Laura Dowling breaking glasses on Speech Night (I think you're 6/6?), many good times were had by all!

Many things are different since I first joined the society 4 years ago. Dal Law became the Schulich School of Law, LLB became JD, and the memory of the old Domus house is that much more remote. However even with those changing traditions, the mission of Domus remains the same:

"The Domus Legis Society is a social society that strives to promote good fellowship among congenial men and women at the Faculty of Law of Dalhousie University; to encourage a high standard of professional work; and to assist by every honourable means the advancement of its members."

I believe in this mission and was proud to see that many others do too, as evidenced by the recent well-contested election. Congratulations to the winners, who are as follows:

President: Patrick MacDonald

VP: Mark McGinley

Treasurer: Johanna Goosen

Secretary: Elizabeth Robinow

Alumni Rep: Chris Gleddie

Counsellors-at-Large: Jackson Phillips & Max Rothschild

2nd Year Rep: Cordelle Ellison

3rd Year Rep: Curtis Ronning

With this crew in charge I can say without hesitation that Domus is in good hands going forward!

Before I leave you, there are two last pieces of business. First, when I was announcing the election results at Domus on St. Paddy's Day I joked that Mark McGinley only won his yes/no vote by two percent. However, apparently many people did not think it was a joke (which I personally think is even funnier!). So I want to go on record saying that people don't hate you McGinley. The only no votes you received were the same no votes everyone received from those to or so contrarians out there!

Secondly, and for the last time coming from me: PAY YOUR TABS! While I turn over the presidency of Domus to Pat at the end of April, I will still help out with tracking you down over the summer!

Domus, thanks for the memories!

## Thanks from



Kelsey McLaren

It's been a banner year for Dalhousie with Pro Bono Students Canada. We kicked off in September with an inspiring speech from former Dal Law student and former PBSC Coordinator (not to mention current MP!) Megan Leslie. In fact, the speech was so inspiring that we had the most new volunteers EVER. We also started a Wills Clinic under the capable direction of Shannon McEvenue and with the guidance of Prof. Woodman, and it will now be a permanent part of the program. PBSC held a couple sushi lunches, including one with Theresa Emberley from the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre. We'd like to thank all the 150+ volunteers who have made it such a great year. Even though Dal isn't the biggest law school in Canada, we consistently rise to the top with the most volunteers. And I think that says something great about the pro bono ethic at our school. The program would be nothing without all of the hours of work that volunteers have given to non-profits around Halifax. We would also like to thank Prof. Kaiser for continuing to be our Faculty Advisor.

Lisa Wagner and I are proud to announce that we are handing over the program to Tejas Madhur and Nicole Slaunwhite. They'll be busy working this summer maintaining ties with non-profit organizations as well as clinics, and setting up a few more placements too. Then they'll be ready to dole out the spots to new and returning volunteers in September. Remember that when you're an upper year, you get first choice in the placements. Interested in IP? Go for an IP placement! Crazy about animals? Go for an animal shelter placement. They are all there for you gain some extremely relevant experience. You'll be glad you did.



## The Final Countdown: Farewell from the 2010-2011 LSS

### Executive

Gill Carter & Your LSS Executive

First off, please join me in congratulating your 2011-2012 newly elected LSS executive: President Scotty Lennox, Vice-President Executive Dustin Griffin, Vice-President Finance Stefan Currie-Roberts, Vice-President Academic Charlotte Morden, Vice-President External Hunter Parsons and Vice-President Communications Melissa Saunders. You've elected a great group of people and I am confident they will be an outstanding team together.

It is bittersweet to say the least that three years have gone by and it is now time for this year's LSS to wrap things up and say goodbye to Weldon. It's been a great year and I have really enjoyed working with this year's exec. We've experienced a lot of exciting changes this year, and I thought I would spend a moment re-hashing a few:

1) The strategic planning process: Thanks to the hard work of this year's LSS President (and many other committed individuals), the strategic plan's first phase is now complete. There has been a strong commitment to fix the Wi-Fi in Weldon, hire new staff for the Career Development Office, reform curriculum (particularly LRW), quiet study space in the building and provide additional support for exchanges.

2) Changes to the appointment process: This year the VP Academic introduced a new and improved appointments process for positions such as Tenure & Promotions, Studies, Student Finance, etc. to streamline things. This process also improved fairness by using a candidate ranking system and uniformed questions.

3) A renewed focus on communications: The LSS also focused upon improving communications between students, societies and the LSS through the creation of the VP Communications position. This includes the introduction of Headnotes as a medium to minimize email spam, while informing students of upcoming events. The LSS has also run two CANS drives this year to expand the CANS available and assist with your exam studying. Further, the LSS has been working with the recently hired Dean's Communications Officer to address some entrenched communications issues around the school.

4) Constitutional changes at the AGM: Various changes were also passed at this year's AGM. These include: the addition of a Combined Program Student Representative to be added to the LSS Board (appointed by Multi-disciplinary Law Students Association) and the removal of the requirement for the LSS to maintain corporate status.

5) Introduction of an electronic Legal Who: This year, the LSS in conjunction with the Legal Who committee, also introduced an electronic version of the Legal Who. In the future, it is likely that the Legal Who will become an online/electronic publication.

6) Supporting societies: Your VP Executive was responsible for reviving some formerly defunct societies, as well as ensuring that those societies that needed it had office and storage space. Your VP Finance has also worked hard to help societies get funding, including adding funding information to the LSS webpage.

7) Advocating for law students: Your VP External has dedicated significant amounts of time to dealing with the DSU this year and addressing major issues such as the food service contract and the possibility of having an online opt-out program for the Dal health and dental plan. He also assisted in the preparation of an accommodations guide to assist first year students with their studies, and generally with settling in to both Weldon and the larger Halifax community.

8) Acknowledgement of student contributions: The LSS has introduced two new awards this year as part of our commitment to acknowledge the hard work of students: The Thomas Burchell Memorial Good Citizenship Prize in Law and The Society of the Year Award. The Thomas Burchell Memorial Good Citizenship Prize in Law will be awarded annually to a graduating student who is the most supportive of fellow students during the course of their education at Schulich. The Society of the Year Award will be awarded annually to the society or committee that makes the greatest contribution to the law school.

And once again, the LSS will be providing free coffee and tea for all law students this exam period. Thank you for your support over the year, and good luck with exams!