

HGS Alumni Association Executive

DR. ROGER BASKETT'86 PRESIDENT, HGS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ~ 2007

A graduate of Dalhousie Medical School, Roger is a Cardiac Surgeon at the Maritime Heart Centre in Halifax. A Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Roger was educated at the University of Toronto and later Dalhousie University. His academic interests have focused on outcomes research and the training of residents. He also spent a year of fellowship training in ventricular assist devices and heart/lung transplantation in Cambridge, England. A contributor and author of dozens of medical publications, Roger is also the recipient of many clinical cardiac research awards nationwide. He is married to Dr. Gillian Hamilton, with whom he has two sons. Both children attend HGS.



HOLLY DUNN'88 SECRETARY, HGS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ~ 2007

Holly Dunn brings 12 years of national and Atlantic experience to her role as senior communications consultant with m5pr. Holly is a Nova Scotian through and through. A Halifax native, she worked in Toronto for almost a decade before returning to the province with her family three years ago.

After moving home to Nova Scotia in 2005, Holly worked in communications and marketing for the Nova Scotia government, focusing on promoting the skilled trades, boosting adult literacy levels, and recruiting ex-patriates back to the province to work.

Holly recently received a national award of excellence from the Canadian Public Relations society for her work on Opportunities Nova Scotia, a campaign to connect Nova Scotia employers with job seekers looking to work and live in the province. She has also received several other national awards for writing and media relations. She has media contacts across Canada and has media trained senior executives from some of Canada's biggest businesses.

Holly has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Public Relations degree from Mount Saint Vincent University. She graduated from the Halifax Grammar School in 1988.



BRENDAN CHARD'98 TREASURER, HGS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ~ 2007

After graduating from HGS, Brendan attended Dalhousie University where he received a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance), graduating in 2003. He then accepted a position with Emera Energy, where he is currently employed as their Power Trading Manager. Brendan is the recipient of such designations as "Chartered Financial Analyst" and "Professional Risk Manager." Brendan's days of playing soccer and winning provincial championships at HGS have influenced his adult extra curricular activities, as he still plays soccer. He enjoys running, playing piano and cooking.



PAUL BATSON'68 DIRECTOR AT LARGE ~ 2009

Due to his RCAF Father's posting, Paul Batson lived in Halifax from 1961 to 1964, where he attended the Halifax Grammar School. Paul graduated from High School in Lahr, Germany in 1969, attended Dalhousie University and graduated with a BSc. Honours in Geology in 1974. He was recruited by Amoco Canada Petroleum Co. Ltd. Paul worked for several organizations in the "oil patch" until 1982. He returned to Halifax with his wife to take up a teaching position at what was then called NSIT, teaching and developing a Petroleum Resources Technology program, which lasted until 1989, the same year their son was born. Retooled and transformed, the program, now focusing on water issues, is called "Environmental Engineering Technology – Water Resources" and is part of the Nova Scotia Community College curriculum at the Dartmouth Waterfront Campus.

While teaching, Paul completed a part-time BEd degree in 1995 and an MSc in Earth Sciences in 1997, both at Dalhousie University. He has served on various professional society boards and committees, and as a Scout leader for the past ten years.



PETER DAWSON'81
DIRECTOR AT LARGE ~2009

Peter received a Lieutenant-Governor's Medal and the Nancy M. Hawkins Memorial Award while at HGS. He went on to study at King's College (Dalhousie University) and the London School of Economics (University of London) where he read International Relations. He also attended the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, completing the Militia Command and Staff Course in 1993, as well as the NATO School in Oberammergau.



Mr Dawson is currently the Secretary of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia and Vice-President of the Halifax Chapter of the University of King's College Alumni Association. He lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with his wife, Taunya (HLC '81), and their children, William, 14 and Catriona, 8. Son William is currently a student in Middle Four at HGS.

WENDY CARTER'93
DIRECTOR AT LARGE ~ 2007

After graduating from HGS in 1993, Wendy spent one year in a small town outside of Nice, France. She then returned to Halifax and attended Dalhousie University, earning a B.A. in English. In 1997 she travelled to Dublin, Ireland for what was supposed to be a summer work stint, but decided to stay after she met the love of her life, Dermot Kiely. She worked and attended school in Dublin and earned a Post-Graduate Degree in Public Relations from the Public Relations Institute of Ireland. Returning to Halifax in 2003, Wendy took the Media Analyst position at NewsWatch, part of the former CCL Group. She has been working for the Government (PC) Caucus Office since 2005 as an assistant researcher and media clerk.



When she's not researching for politicians, she sits on the board of the Canadian Mental Health Association - Metro Branch, volunteers for the Alzheimer's Society and babysits older brother Bob's ('89) two rambunctious kids. She is so pleased to have been given the opportunity to remain connected to HGS. Her three short years at Grammar have had a lasting, positive, impact on her life and she feels giving of her time and energy to the Alumni Association is one small way to give back, in exchange for the wonderful experience.

PRIYA CHOWDHURY'06
DIRECTOR AT LARGE ~ 2007

Priyanka joined the Halifax Grammar School community in 1996 after moving to Nova Scotia from Saudi Arabia. The reputation of HGS had given her high hopes of what to expect, but she never anticipated just how amazing her experience would be. Over the next ten years she developed unforgettable friendships, and she understood how unique and valuable an experience it is to be part of the HGS family.



While her fellow students were wonderful and memorable, equally outstanding were the teachers at HGS, as inspiring and passionate as they were kind, approachable, and understanding. Priyanka's time at HGS taught her invaluable lessons not just in academics, but also in compassion, teamwork, and what it means to belong to a community - lessons that have continued to serve her in university and surely will for the years to come.

Priyanka completed the IB program at HGS and graduated in 2006. She received the Chancellor's Scholarship at Dalhousie University, where she is currently in her 3rd year working toward a BSc in Neuroscience. She could not have been better prepared for her future, and will always be grateful to the Halifax Grammar School for all it has taught her and the lifelong ties it allowed her to make.

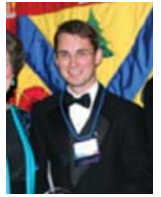
DAVID KEEFE'92
HGS GOLF CLASSIC CHAIR ~ 2007

David and his wife Dr. Laura Reardon Keefe live in Halifax with their three children. A graduate of HGS, David is one of 24 alum who have children at the Grammar School; Ella is in Primary and Henry will enter Senior Primary this September, to be followed by Darcy. For the past two years, David has chaired the HGS Golf Classic, an alumni event that raises funds for the scholarship and bursary program. An avid sportsman, he combines his passion for sport performance with his business acumen in his computer software company UpMyGame.



DAN REES '88
PRESIDENT, TORONTO BRANCH ~ 2009

Dan is a Vice President in Global Risk Management at Scotiabank, responsible for overseeing the Bank's global credit risk to retail and small business customers. His career at Scotiabank includes Retail Banking, Wealth Management, Corporate Human Resources, Investment Banking, and Credit Derivatives.



Dan began his career in marketing at Procter & Gamble and has worked as a consultant in the UK for Marakon Associates, a US firm. He returned to Toronto and co-founded Optimé International, a sales performance company focused on the packaged goods and financial industries.

He received his MSc in Managerial Economics from the London School of Economics in the UK and has completed management training at the Ivey School of Business at Western Ontario. He is married to Kelly Kyle, also a Queen's alum, and they have three children – Will, Alexa and Naomi – and currently live in Toronto.

CHRIS STAIRS'90
PRESIDENT, VANCOUVER BRANCH ~ 2009

Chris Stairs is the Director of Ticket Sales with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Chris has served as a business development professional for over ten years in the tourism, sports and entertainment industries. Holding an MBA from the University of British Columbia and a BA (Literature) from McGill, Chris' expertise spans a range of disciplines from sales, marketing, and public relations through market research, strategic planning and project management. He has experience operating in both the private and not-for-profit sectors of Canada and the United States. A director with both the Jericho Sailing Centre Association (British Columbia) and the Society for Advancement of Excellence in Education, a founding board member of Free Field Trips For Kids (British Columbia), a guest lecturer at BCIT, a mentor to candidate MBA's through the UBC Alumni Association and Commerce Career Centre, and the BC Chapter President of the Halifax Grammar School Alumni Association, Chris remains dedicated to programs and societies that help research and promote best practices in the realm of education, counseling and youth development.

