



The Young Alumnus of the Year Award was designed to recognize contributions by an individual in their field of endeavour, whether through community service or professional achievement. The goal was to recognize a recent graduate who continues to embody the spirit of Bishop's in their corner of the world and celebrate them with their fellow alumni and current students. This year we are excited to announce that the inaugural winner of the Young Alumnus of the Year Award is Robert Dunfield '15.

Since graduation Robert has started a medical degree at Dalhousie University where he won the New Brunswick Medical Education Trust Scholarship, and he was the winner of the Saint John Regional Hospital Emergency Department Research day. Outside of the classroom he is a swimming instructor for disadvantaged kids with the medical student program 'making waves', he volunteers at a local nursing home, and he founded 'Pass the Present', a holiday present drive charity for residents of healthcare facilities across Southern New Brunswick. Back in Sussex, NB, where he is from, Robert founded a community program that increased access to publicly available Epinephrine Auto-injectors.

At Dalhousie, Rob is a member of the Geriatrics Medicine Interest group, Exercise in Medicine Interest group, and the Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick Accreditation team. He is also the Vice President of both the Fundy Royal Political Association, and the Dalhousie Medical Student's Society. One of Rob's newest endeavours is as the advocacy organizer for 'Ellen's Law', a law enacted that gives cyclists the right to one metre distance from cars. Rob became involved with this cause after his friend Ellen was killed by a car in a cycling accident in the winter of last year.

Those who know Robert describe him as being quite humble as his nominator wrote: 'Rob was never a person to brag, so it's up to me to do it for him'. This comes across in a few words from our first winner:

It's an incredible surprise and honour to be named the 2017 Young Alumnus of the year. Two years later, my Bishop's experience remains a key reference point for my day-to-day life as a student and a member of my community. Life after Bishop's brings new

meaning to “we will never graduate” and I’m both grateful and excited for the opportunity that this award brings to reconnect with the university.

To be chosen as the Young Alumnus of the year is a true honour. There are so many Bishop’s alumni across Canada and the rest of the world that continue to apply the tools and experiences they gained as Gaiters to make meaningful contributions to their passions, and to be selected from such an impressive cohort is beyond humbling. Thank you!

Thank you to all the nominators and nominees this year. The list of young Gaiters doing great things in their communities was truly inspiring. We can’t wait to see the list next year!

Robert will be addressing the Class of 2017 through video at the Grad Send-Off next Wednesday. We look forward to hearing from him and raising a toast to his accomplishments as a recent graduate from campus.