

# Dal Profile

BY JEANNE JU

**Name:** Krista Lynn Wilkins  
**Age:** 21

**What are you studying at Dal?** 4th Year Honours Psychology.

**Pastimes:** Hanging out with friends.

**Describe yourself:** I've got a weird sense of humour; I can be obnoxious depending on the day or the situation; I'm short — probably the shortest person on campus; I'm the only person who can still go to the kids store to buy shoes.

**Things that you are known for:** Leg tricks! I am an above-knee amputee, and so I have a rotator in the knee. I can cross my leg, but I can also twist it around. That freaks everybody out!

**When/how did you first get your prosthetic?** I lost my leg almost six years ago, so I've got this funky new artificial leg. Ever since I've got it, I've been playing a lot of practical jokes!

**Do people treat you differently?** No, not usually.

**Things that bug you:** Sometimes some people feel that if they ask me questions, because I'm an amputee, they feel they're intruding on me, but I'd rather they just ask.

**Things that make you happy:** Seeing other people happy.

**What would make or break your day?** Actually, breaking myself. I break bones very easily. I've broken 9 bones by now. A dozen roses definitely would make my day.

**Things that scare you:** Big, tall people!

**Favorite author:** John Saul.  
**Any bad habits?** Besides being overly sarcastic? No.

**Ambitions:** To become a child psychologist.

**What do you take pride in...something you have done or accomplished?** Well, I've been in remission for 5 and a half years; I lost my leg due to cancer. I guess that would be my biggest accomplishment.



**Hero:** My parents, because they've always set aside certain goals and have worked really hard to get them; it has kind of rubbed off on me.

**Motto in life:** Humour is the best medicine.

**Most embarrassing moment:** There have been numerous occasions. I'll be sitting in class and if I move a certain way, my artificial leg can sometimes slip off and make funny sounds! It can be very embarrassing.

**Things you'd like to change about yourself:** If we could make a magical potion, I'd like to be a bit taller. I'm 4'9 and 3/4" and would just love to be 5 feet.

**Things you'd like to have changed at Dal:** This is my push-in for accessibility! To make Dalhousie a more accessible campus, not only physically but more or less with people's mental states and attitudes towards stu-

dents with disabilities. **How can students go about doing that?** It has a lot to do with education. People need to be educated about different issues, and it's slowly happening, but not quick enough to meet the demand.

**You've been involved with the Student Accessibility Fund?** Yes, I'm the chair this year.

**What does that involve?** We're running the American Sign Language courses. The girl that we hired is doing a handbook for students with disabilities to give out to first-year students next year with little tidbits on where to go to do this and that. A lot of students just don't know where they can go, and there are specific grants for people from Nova Scotia to get a computer or whatnot, and that can be very beneficial. In March we're holding a lunch-

eon [discussion roundtable] which helps educate faculty on different issues of accessibility.

**What can students do to encourage accessibility?** I don't think it's necessarily the students. I think it has more to do with the upper people, heads of departments, and heads of different areas of Dalhousie who need to change policies, and way of looking, which is only going to come about with more education. It's not going to happen overnight.

**What are some misconceptions about people with disabilities?** That they can't do things for themselves. That they don't have minds

of their own. That by providing different accommodations for them means giving them a step up, which is not really true. You just have to bring them more on an equal level.

**What are some misconceptions about people in Psychology?** Well, do psychologists have bigger problems than the rest of us? I don't think so. It's just more pronounced because they're in psychology. Yeah, that's it!

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** Hopefully, somewhere where I can have a practice with little kids running around.

**Best stress reliever?** Having a good laugh.

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## Seatbelt

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two goofballs were doing exactly that. They proceeded to get hammered and started to insult the flight attendants at every chance they could. Well, sure enough, our friends at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were there to greet them at the gate at beautiful Pearson International Airport in Toronto. I won't even begin to speculate how large the fine and possible

jail term were, but being forcibly removed from an aircraft is slightly more serious than drinking underage and having mommy and daddy pick you up at the station house.

Same thing about making jokes about placing bombs or explosives aboard aircraft. Airline employees and security personnel tend to get awfully nasty when that kind of talk is mentioned for some silly reason. And no one is above the law on that one. Last year, Alexandre Daigle, overpaid gazillionaire hockey player with the Ottawa Senators learned that

lesson the hard way.

6. For those of you who are more socially conscious than others or have religious beliefs, remember — if you, or even your travel agent, orders a special meal (Vegetarian, Muslim, Kosher, Low-fat, Diabetic, etc.) make sure you confirm your request at least 48 hours before flight departure. Flying six hours to Vancouver with no meal you find acceptable can be rather difficult, especially if peanuts and oatmeal cookies aren't your favorites.

So, until next time, hope to see you in the friendly skies.

You don't have to be Miss World...



...for a grad portrait by Berryhill! 429-1344

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