

*For the alumni and friends of Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture*

# Agricola News

Volume 39, Number 2, 2013



 **DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Inspiring Minds*  
Faculty of Agriculture

# Agricola News

For the alumni and friends of Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture

## A Message from the Editor



Dear Friend,

Welcome to the summer 2013 edition of the Agricola news.

The theme of this edition is international. As our campus becomes increasingly diverse with twenty percent of students from outside Canada, many international faculty, staff and partnerships with universities abroad, it is fascinating to take a look at what our international alumni are doing after they leave the Faculty of Agriculture. Also as it

becomes increasingly common for people to work, live and volunteer abroad, it has been interesting to profile the international experiences of some of our Canadian alumni.

This edition includes a feature on the activities of our international office on page 10, a story about some of our alumni who have settled down in the USA on page 12, and numerous reports from our alumni all over the world.

In addition to this, there are still plenty of local activities to report on, including our 2013 convocation and honorary doctorate report on page 18. Check out page 13 to catch up on the activities of the volunteers of Friends of the Garden at the campus rock garden, and as we look forward to summer, pick up some handy gardening tips with local gardener, author and alumnus Niki Jabbour on page 8.

We are always looking for feedback about alumni activities, tell us what your interests are and what you have enjoyed in the past. Do you want to see another vineyard event in the Annapolis Valley later this year, or alumni receptions as part of agriculture industry events? We have lots of ideas in the External Relations office, but would love to hear yours.

Sincere thanks to our donors for your support. It is very much appreciated by students, faculty and staff on campus. Read more about our donors on page 22.

I hope that you enjoy this edition, and please get in touch if you have ideas for articles for future magazines.

All the best

Hannah Pugh

## SUMMER EVENTS & REUNIONS

Class of '03 reunion.....	June 15
Class of '59 reunion.....	June 28
Agri-Golf Classic.....	July 19
Open House.....	July 25
Class of '53 reunion.....	July 25
Class of '63 reunion.....	July 25
Class of '88 reunion.....	July 27-28
Class of '56 reunion.....	Sept 4-6

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## Agricola News

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*Gongyu Lin (Class of '08) and her husband Jamie Wilt (Class of '07) who met while working for the Grounds maintenance crew at the Agricultural Campus. They were married in 2012 in a traditional Chinese wedding ceremony in Fuzhou, China, reflecting the truly international nature of the Faculty of Agriculture. Read more about Gongyu on page 7.*



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## HIGHLIGHTS

### International Office - a visual record 10

Learn about the Faculty of Agriculture's International Office, the nucleus which supports many of the international activities on campus. They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, so what better way to help you understand what 'international' means at the Faculty of Agriculture than through a selection of photographs.

### Move to the Midwest 12

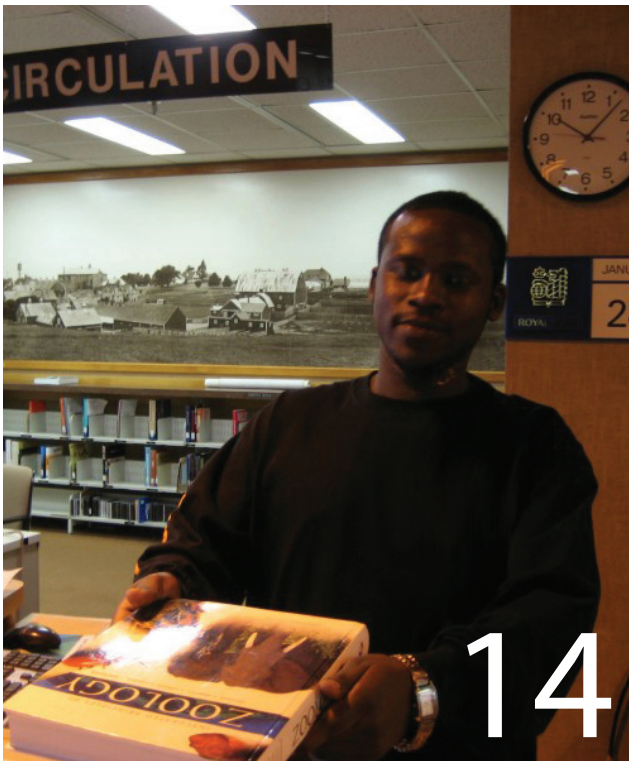
Many graduates choose to stay close to home, or look for opportunities elsewhere in Canada, but several adventurous alumni have found a new life in the Midwestern United States and would encourage new graduates to give this option some thought. Mark Urquhart (Class of '92) and Jim Bridges (Class of '89) talk about the opportunities that they have found while working for Cavendish farms.

### Convocation 2013 18

"Memorable" has to be the best word to describe the Faculty of Agriculture convocation ceremony, held Friday May 3 on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro. Nearly 200 degrees, certificates and diplomas were presented at what was the first Dalhousie ceremony on the Agricultural Campus.

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## *A Message from... The Dean*



As my term as inaugural Dean and Campus Principal comes to an end, I reflect on a poignant quote from Tolstoy: "The strongest of all warriors are these two: time and patience".

It has been a fabulous 13-month experience for me and one in which the Faculty and campus have moved substantially into a revitalized context within the new Dalhousie

environment. At the same time, we recognize that there is more to do collectively before we fully become a mature Dalhousie Faculty and campus.

In that process, sometimes we do feel a shortage of both time and patience but respecting the combination of these two attributes will ensure continuing success. Many benefits of the Dalhousie affiliation are evident and the stage is fully set for the vigor and new insights that Dr. David Gray will bring as incoming dean and principal in August. Coupling this with an extension of the vision that outgoing President Traves hands to our new Dalhousie President, Dr. Richard Florizone on July 1, the next year promises to be one of substantial further advancements. We can all look forward to that with expectation and enthusiasm.

As I did my final tour of campus driving a 220 hp CASE tractor, I enjoyed a final reminder of the many special facets of our campus and the outstanding personalities and talent it is home to; this bodes so well for a bright future. We serve and are important to a vital rural and agricultural sector of the Atlantic community and economy. These connections will continue as we not only adjust to a new future but work together to influence the best possible combination of educational opportunities, investigation of new and applied ways of doing things through quality research and engaging in service to our community and the world.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my interactions with fellow alumni throughout my term, from my own classmates, to the new graduating class of 2013.

While maintaining an appropriate distance as I return to my retirement life in Yarmouth County, along with my wife Helen, I will continue to watch with considerable pleasure the many advances on the agricultural campus as they unfold based on what has been achieved in our first year as Dalhousians.

Dr. Harold W. Cook

Dean, Faculty of Agriculture  
Principal, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

## *The Alumni Association*



The Alumni Association continues to have an active role in student and other campus activities. We were pleased to be involved in the annual "Barley Party" in early April when graduating students received their faculty rings. These rings are a unique symbol of the Faculty of Agriculture. This year we were delighted to present Director of Athletics

Judy Smith with an honorary ring for her many years of service to students.

Convocation this year was the first Dal AC convocation and it was amazing to see nearly 200 graduates from around the world receive degrees and diplomas. Graduates were pinned with both Dal and NSAC lapel pins as they headed on stage. The spontaneous wearing of the blue and gold beanies as the graduates entered the gym was a touching reminder of the AC, where they began their studies.

We would like to thank Dr. Harold Cook for the work he has done as Dean during the transition period and wish him well in his new endeavours. We look forward to working with the new Campus Principal and Dean Dr. David Gray in August.

I am also a member of the Dalhousie Alumni Association (DAA) Board where I represent the interests of the Faculty of Agriculture Alumni. The DAA is most supportive of the Agricultural campus and its alumni.

Looking forward, the Board is actively researching proposals for ways to commemorate the legacy of the NSAC. We are gathering information on a number of options and we are open to additional suggestions from alumni.

Members are encouraged to nominate individuals who would be worthy recipients of one of the Blue and Gold Awards. This year the presentations will be made on Friday November 1. For the last two years the External Relations Office has facilitated a series of four meetings in various locations to discuss matters related to the Ag campus. We are soliciting feedback on the value of those meetings. We are also looking for suggestions of other Agriculture related events such as conferences or meetings where it would be appropriate for us to host a reception or gathering for alumni to get together.

I would encourage all alumni to send suggestions and comments to the External Relations Office.

Dwane Mellish P.Ag Class of '75,

President, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association

# Around & About...

## Global Game-changer Carl Duivenvoorden (Class of '86)

By Mark Campbell



Carl (left) in Zipsquire, Columbia, May 1989

There are a few things Carl Duivenvoorden knows for certain. One is that global warming is not a myth. Two is that we can do more to protect our environment. And three is that Al Gore is a 'pretty cool guy.'

"He's usually portrayed as having a stiff persona, and he certainly has this intensity about him that comes out when he's talking about global warming. But he's not afraid to poke fun at himself or his public image either."

Duivenvoorden is an interesting character himself, and certainly as passionate on the issue of climate change and environmental sustainability as the former Vice President of the United States. He was one of the first Canadians to receive training from Gore in delivering the landmark presentation, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and he has since shared its key messages with more than 35,000 people in 250 audiences – which indicates the degree of his passion. He also started his own business as a speaker, writer and consultant to further help people save money, energy and the environment.

"People want to do the right thing, but they don't always know just what that right thing is because there is so much information out there. My goal is to educate and provide realistic things anyone can do to make a difference."

### NO 'EUREKA' MOMENT

Duivenvoorden's commitment to environmental sustainability is such that you wonder what inspired him to take up the cause. He

explains there was no 'eureka' moment; it was more an accumulation of experiences and realizations, starting with recesses at his elementary school in Belledune, NB.

"The school was located between a smelter and a fertilizer plant. There were some days when we couldn't go outside because the smoke from the plant hung like fog over the schoolyard. I didn't know much about the environment, but I knew there was something wrong when kids couldn't go outside to play. That's when the little voice in my head first went off."

Even so, Duivenvoorden had other plans than environmental activism. After completing high school, he enrolled at Nova Scotia Agricultural College (Now Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture) to study farming technology, thinking one day he'd take over the family dairy farm. Instead, he decided to pursue a degree in plant science, which he completed in 1986. "That was a great foundation for me, because I was exposed to issues related to global food production, and how it is a sacred trust. It reaffirmed to me the vital role that farmers play in sustaining our food supply."

### AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

After graduating, Duivenvoorden held a series of agriculture jobs, including five years marketing seed potatoes to developing countries in Central and South America for the Canadian Seed Potato Export Agency. It was an eye-opening experience.

"I was in Mexico City five days before I realized there were mountains nearby. That's how thick the smog was over the city. And the main road to Caracas had so much oil on it from cars it was like driving in wet conditions. I could hear that little voice again telling me 'this can't be good,' only now it was getting louder."

Deciding a change was in order, Duivenvoorden moved on to Efficiency NB, a government agency designed to help people save money, energy and the environment. It was a stimulating and fun job. And then, Al Gore changed everything. A conversation about Gore's book, *An Inconvenient Truth*, at work prompted him to pick up a copy. Reading it during a family vacation, he told his wife he thought it would change the world and he wanted to be part of it. Discovering Gore was training people to deliver a presentation based on the book, he wanted in. After some persistence, he found himself in Nashville at a training session in spring 2007.

"You had to commit to ten presentations in your home community. I decided I would do 100. I wasn't sure how I would accomplish this, but I took a year off work to follow my heart and see where this would lead."

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By the end of the year, he had given 140 presentations across Atlantic Canada and in New England. "It's hard to know for sure if you've made an impact," he admits. "But every now and then, you get an audience where you can see they definitely get it. You get emails from people who tell you 'I'm changing my life because of your

presentation.' So, I'd like to think it is making a difference."

That's all the impetus Duivenvoorden needs to continue spreading the word to anyone who will listen through his business and his presentations. "You've heard about the 'Butterfly Effect?'" he asks. "It's this phenomenon that says something as gentle as a butterfly flapping its wings over Brazil can cause a tornado over Texas. Well, I want to be that butterfly. I want to have an impact."

## **A voice in the cocoa industry**

*Michael Owusu-Manu (Class of '94)*



In 2011 Agricultural Economist Michael Owusu-Manu became the technical advisor on cocoa to the Ghanaian Minister of Finance and Economic Planning. "When the minister has an issue about the cocoa industry he calls me for advice. It's an amazing job to have." He believes that his studies at the former NSAC helped him to get to this illustrious point in his career.

Michael grew up in a small town in Ghana called New Tafo on the compounds of the Cocoa

Research Institute of Ghana. He came to study in Truro in 1990 prompted by a suggestion from his cousin, Dr. Sam Asiedu, who worked on the Agricultural Campus and is now department head of Plant and Animal Science, who thought that the Agricultural Economics program would be a great fit for Michael.

"The college had a happy atmosphere, it became my new home. I settled in very quickly and made many friends among the staff, students and people of Truro. The college provided a lot of assistance to international students, to make them feel welcome." Michael also found that the course suited him very well.

"The course was structured very well, it was very meaningful, and you could relate it to agricultural things and real life situations in your home country."

Michael was awarded a B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics in 1994, and completed a Masters in the same subject in 1997 at MacDonald College, McGill University.

Michael returned to Ghana in 1997 and was able to work for a few months as a research associate on the Canada Ghana International project, run by NSAC! Working under Steve Russell, this was a great opportunity to put into practice his learning from his degree in his home country.

He was lucky enough to find a teaching Job at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology teaching agricultural economics and farm management.

"I always wanted to help educate people eventually, and my aim was to get into teaching. It was a lot of fun, teaching the students."

In 1998 he left teaching and became a research officer with the Ghana Cocoa Board, working on policy, where he has now returned as a senior research manager.

The Ghana Cocoa Board is a Ghanaian government-controlled institution. It encourages and facilitates the production, processing and marketing of good quality cocoa, coffee and sheanut in Ghana, the world's second largest producer of the commodity. Their work includes price-fixing in an attempt to protect farmers from the volatile prices on the world market. The organization also sells high quality hybrid seeds, and does research on cocoa plant-related diseases.

"Cocoa production is the largest sector in the country," explained Michael. "Ghana's cocoa industry is particularly strong and contributed 23% of the world's cocoa production in 2011-12. This accounts for about 30 per cent of Ghana's total export earnings. Therefore it is fundamental for the Ghanaian economy and a really important sector to be involved in."

Between 1999 and 2001 Michael was the Head of Economics Department of the Alliance of Cocoa Producing Countries (CO-PAL) where he advised on marketing and promotional strategies. He was also one time chairperson of the African Union Taskforce on Commodities.

In 2011 Michael became the technical advisor on cocoa to the Ghanaian Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

"My role is to advise the minister on any issues related to the cocoa sector. This could be regarding production, prices, or factory conditions. It is an amazing opportunity to be able to advise on this industry which is very close to my heart."

Michael lives on the outskirts of Accra with his wife Freida and his two children Adwoa Offobea and Kwabena Asiedu.

## **Creating a global network**

*Corrine Chisholm (Class of '02)*

Corrine grew up in Port Hood, Cape Breton where she has now returned to teach. Corrine's experiences after graduation have been characterized by a desire to live and work abroad, through which she has developed a huge network of international friends, and memories to last a lifetime.

She attended the former NSAC to study engineering and was attracted by the small campus feel, and the opportunity to play basketball for campus team.

"I was able to get to know everybody, including the professors, which wouldn't happen in a larger institution. I loved the small campus, it felt like living at a really big high school and it was easy to find a job on campus as well. I worked for campus security."

Corrine changed from Engineering to Environmental Sciences and graduated with B.Sc. (Agr.) in 2002. She wasn't really sure what her next step should be, and went to work as a life guard



and counselor with Camp America in the USA.

"I met all these people from the States whose main goal was to work for a while then go to Europe to travel. I'd never really thought about it before but I enjoyed my time with the new friends that I had made, so I went along with their plans, and ended up in London, UK."

Corrine worked as a nanny for her first year in the UK, and then through a contact she had made, found a job with the London Fire Brigade for the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. She started as a temp, and ended up as a researcher implementing their new environmental management system.

"This was such a great opportunity to use my degree in Environmental Science. I delivered presentations to staff all over Greater London about environmental awareness and ensured that European Union environmental regulations were met. I spent a year meeting different environmental organizations and developing procedures to make sure fire engines were more environmentally friendly. I was surprised at that time how advanced Canada and Nova Scotia were in this regard, especially in the area of recycling and organics."

After Corrine's working holiday maker visa ran out, she returned to the Agricultural Campus in Truro as a research assistant in the Department of Plant and Animal Sciences for a term. But she had caught the travel bug and developed a plan to adventure out into the world again. As the UK had a shortage of science and math teachers at the time, she completed a Bachelors of Education at St. Francis Xavier University and returned to the London area as a teacher, finally settling in Fulham in Central London.

"What I love about London is the culture, the people, the fast paced way of life, and learning new things all the time, like my new favorite food, treacle tart! I found it so cheap and easy to visit other parts of Europe, and because of the huge diversity of the people that I met, I now have friends from all over the world to visit. Wherever I want to go, I'll always be able to travel and stay with friends. It's like having my own global network."

After Corrine's daughter was born in London, she travelled to Sri Lanka for her maternity leave. Based in Colombo she explored Sri Lanka, and especially misses the warm weather and the friendly people.

"One day I was walking through a market, and I met a friend from London. It just shows you how small the world is."

After her taste of adventure Corrine decided to come back to Canada. She's been teaching Junior High Science in Port Hood, coaching basketball, and raising her three year old daughter, Valentina.

"I think all the international travel and experiences have been great for Valentina, she's very social and outgoing. My adventures were really a once in a lifetime opportunity, I learnt so much about people and culture and I would highly recommend it to anyone."

Corrine believes that the attending the former NSAC gave her great transferable skills and hands on experience to use in her career, wherever she is in the world.

"I still have the travel bug though, and am moving to Alberta to teach in August, I also want to visit friends in Australia."

## Entrepreneur in the making

*Gongyu Lin (Class of '08)*



Gongyu isn't content with speaking three languages and working in biological control research in Quebec. She has recently opened her own business, BioChina Inc, importing biological control agents from China for use in greenhouse environments and on landscape plants in Montreal.

"There is a gap in the market, as developing the same controls are very expensive in Canada, which puts them out of the range for most producers," said Gongyu who started small, with two customers in 2012, and is looking to increase her customer base this year.

Gongyu grew up in Fuzhou, China and was interested in plant protection from a young age, as her parents are researchers in biological control at the Institute of Plant Protection in Fujian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. She studied at the

former NSAC through the FAFU program where students from Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University complete the second two years of their degrees here. The FAFU project is now celebrating its tenth year.

"I loved the AC because it is a small college and everyone is friendly. I really benefitted from the activities of the International Student Association. One of my favourite memories was hiking at midnight in Victoria Park with members of the 'Adventure Club'. It was really cold!!"

Gongyu continued her studies at MacDonald College, McGill University, and completed a Masters in Plant Science.

In 2010 she started working with Prime Consortium and Phytodata south of Montreal.

"My research is in the area of biological control, and involves sterilizing onion flies and releasing them into the fields. There they mate with the natural population which becomes unable to reproduce. Therefore fewer pesticides are needed on the fields in order to combat the flies, which lowers pollution caused by the chemicals."

This was also Gongyu's first experience living in a French speaking area.

"The first task in my new job was to email producers all over Quebec, in French. As I didn't speak French I had to cheat and use google translate, but I picked up the language faster than I thought and now I speak it well!"

"I am working to achieve my career aim which is to effectively protect plants and to reduce pesticide contamination in our environment. I am looking at importing biostimulants such as seaweed extracts."

Gongyu lives in La Prairie, Quebec, with her husband Jamie Wilt (Class of '07) who she met while working for the Grounds maintenance crew at the Agricultural Campus. They were married in 2012 in a traditional Chinese wedding ceremony in Fuzhou, China.



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## ***Plan Now for a Fall and Winter Bounty*** **GARDENING COLUMN**

**BY NIKI JABBOUR (CLASS OF '96)**

By mid-summer the vegetable garden has been planted and the (literal) fruits of your labours are starting to be enjoyed - sun warmed tomatoes, crisp cucumbers and gourmet salad greens. Yet, if you want the harvest to continue into autumn and perhaps even winter, it's time to start planning.

Most fall and winter harvested vegetables are planted from mid-summer to early autumn, depending on the crop. For example, carrots, one of our favourite winter veggies is seeded in late July to ensure a bounty of super-sweet roots from October through March. Other fall and winter standouts that should be planted in mid-summer include kale, cabbage, kohlrabi and

broccoli. Salad greens like spinach, leaf lettuce and arugula, as well as quick-growing edibles like Japanese turnips, broccoli raab, radishes and baby beets are sown from late August through September.

In July and August, soaring temperatures and dry soil can make seeding difficult. Starting seeds indoors under grow lights or sowing outdoors under a length of shade cloth floating on mini hoops are simple ways to get around the challenges of summer sowing. Keeping newly planted seedlings or seed beds moist is also important, so be prepared to water often until the new crops are established.

The key to a successful cold season harvest is to grow the right crops at the right time and protect them with the right season extender. I rely on four simple season extenders - row covers, mulch, cold frames and mini hoop tunnels.

**Row Covers** - It may look like a flimsy piece of fabric, but a row cover can easily extend the autumn harvest by about a month. The covers can be laid directly on crops in spring and autumn, but for winter, they need to be 'floated' overtop on hoops or other supports.



**Mulch** - Come late November, I cover our carrot, beet, parsnip, celeriac and leek beds with a foot-deep layer of insulating mulch topped by an old row cover. From December through March, whenever I want to harvest, I simply lift the fabric cover, push back the mulch and dig out as much as we need with my trusty garden fork.

**Cold Frames** - Cold frames are often called 'magic boxes,' thanks to the bounty they provide. They are simply a bottomless box with a translucent top that allows light to enter. Our 3 by 6-foot cold frames are built from 2-inch thick local hemlock and topped with Lexan, a twinwall polycarbonate that is more insulating than a single glass panel, less breakable and also offers high light transmission.

**Mini Hoop Tunnels** - A mini hoop tunnel is an easy-to-build structure that can be used to winter harvest tall crops like kale, collards and leeks as well as overwinter immature greens like spinach for an extra early spring harvest. Our hoops are made from 1/2-inch diameter PVC and are covered with greenhouse plastic. Secure your covers well with sandbags, rocks, logs or clips.



Niki is a gardener and prolific garden writer whose work appears in newspapers and magazines across North America. She is the author of the award-winning book 'The Year Round Vegetable Gardener', host of the radio show The Weekend Gardener on News 95.7 FM and blogger at [www.nikijabbour.com](http://www.nikijabbour.com). Her new book 'Groundbreaking Food Gardens: 73 plants that will change the way you grow your garden' will be released in December 2013.

# Research...

## *Dal-AC researcher wins Best Paper award in DC*



Coauthored with an international research team, Dr. Ji Lu's recent paper, "Feedback Dynamic between Emotional Reinforcement and Healthy Eating: An Application of the Reciprocal Markov Model" was accepted to receive the Best Paper Award for the

2013 International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling, & Prediction (SBP 2013). The paper was presented at the University of California DC Center, Washington DC, April 3-5 at this well-recognized multidisciplinary conference presenting cutting-edge research in computational social science and related fields.

This award winning paper proposes a sophisticated model that examines emotion and eating behavior. Through over 9000 observations of participants' everyday eating behaviors, the analysis shows food choice can be influenced by preceding emotional state and previous meal quality. The results demonstrate that social setting is an important factor in specific conditions; particularly, eating away from home is more likely to be less healthy when prior emotional state is positive. The proposed model is an important addition to the statistical toolkit for analyzing various social-behavioral data.

## *Faculty of Agriculture researcher receives National Award*



Dr. Sean Myles, Assistant Professor in Dalhousie's Department of Agriculture and Canada Research Chair in Agriculture Genetic Diversity, leads one of the 17 projects that were funded in Genome Canada/Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)'s latest competition.

The \$11 million competition was focused on bioinformatics and computational biology research projects to help manage, analyze and interpret vast amounts of genomics data to accelerate advances in personalized medicine, public health and other areas of importance to Canadians and the economy.

A future with safe and secure food requires the breeding of new disease resistant crops that provide higher yields and require fewer chemicals to grow. Current breeding practices have given us most of the food we enjoy today, but many of the current breeding methods are laborious, time consuming and expensive. New genomics technologies can help make the traditional breeding process more efficient, cost effective and accurate.

Dr. Myles and team are making sense of data generated from modern DNA sequencing technologies to develop user-friendly genomics-assisted breeding software that will quicken the development of better-tasting and healthier food. The software will also be able to be used in other areas of genomics research, such as forestry, bioenergy, conservation biology and aquaculture.

# Faculty of Agriculture International Office - a visual record

*By Nancy Pitts nee Crowe (Class of '78) Assistant Dean, International, Faculty of Agriculture*



*Dr. Astatkie (Dal-AC), Mary Breen (CIDA) and two staff members from Jimma University holding the grains of the teff plant. Teff is used in the Ethiopian flatbread “Injera” and is a daily staple in the Ethiopian diet.*

The International Office at the Faculty of Agriculture is the nucleus which supports many of the international activities on campus. These include international development projects, student mobility, academic articulation agreements, and international visiting scholars.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, so what better way to help you understand what ‘international’ means at the Faculty of Agriculture than through a selection of photographs.

The photos featured in the article are taken by faculty, staff and students as they have been involved with the international development projects both abroad and on our campus. They hint at the close relationships and mutual respect that develop between like-minded colleagues, regardless of location. They capture groups intensely engaged as they work together in workshops on occupational gap analysis, curriculum development, university teaching and learning methods, gender, environmental sustainability, and applied science skills and methods.

It is virtually impossible to record the excitement of domestic students who spent a life and career-altering four month internship at one of our trusted partners in Africa or Asia. During their placement the student intern both shares their skills and knowledge as well as learning about agricultural systems in a different country.

These are students who are intrigued to explore their world outside of social media and the traditional classroom. This can be a life changing experience which can alter the students’ life goals and career paths, and the enthusiasm exudes from them, even months and years after their return to our campus.

“Spending a four-month Internship at Jimma University changed my world from the inside out,” explained Manfred Boehm, plant science student. “I was completely immersed in a culture with totally unique philosophies on education, social hierarchies, and familial values, not to mention an exotic language, rich ancient history, and the spiciest jalapenos any kid from Truro could imagine. Working alongside undergraduate and graduate agriculture students offered a perspective on education that was nothing short of inspirational, as these students worked with determination and focus, knowing that their efforts would contribute to their country’s developing economy and their countrymen’s livelihoods.

After returning from Ethiopia I knew that my time abroad had not ended. Though I am still a student, once I have finished my schooling I know it will be time for me to give back. I hope to return to Ethiopia in the near future with something to contribute as they have given so much to me during my stay in their community.”



Medical students from the University of Bahi Dar and Susan Sipos (Class of '13) during her student internship on the PHMIL (Post Harvest Management to Improve Livelihoods) project in Ethiopia.

Agriculture student interns visiting a farm near Jimma, Ethiopia. Their visit was part of the PHMIL Project in association with CIDA, McGill University, and former NSAC.



Learning is a two way process and during the international projects sometimes the Canadian professor can be the student. This can involve learning about tropical agricultural and food crops from their international colleagues, realizing what it means to be at a linguistic disadvantage, understanding what 'appropriate technology' is when the supply of electricity and/or water is unreliable and sensing the challenges of women and men and children living in impoverished rural areas of the developing world. During the experience you never forget the spirit and commitment of the people to rise above their problems and challenges. You never forget to bring stories back to our classrooms.



Enanu (Chief Librarian at Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine) and Bonnie Waddell (former Chief Librarian of NSAC) having an exchange of ideas and procedures.

Other projects have involved sending groups on learning tours to gain hands-on experience in areas such as cashew production, coffee biodiversity, and the establishment of new tutorial farms on campuses in multiple areas including The Gambia, Tanzania and Cambodia.

Employees at Genesis Farms watering seedlings. Floriculture and greenhouse operation at Genesis Farms in Debre Zeyit, Ethiopia. Genesis Farms employs 450 locals and produces vegetables, dairy, fruits, and flowers.



There is nothing better than seeing the glistening smiles of international partners as they show off their newly enhanced laboratories or technology-equipped classrooms. The sense of confidence resulting from customized training and professional development is behind the smiles as short term trainees leave after four to eight weeks of discipline-specific mentoring on our campus. Success can also be measured by international partners leveraging their newly found knowledge to meet the needs of their own agricultural stakeholders or using their newly acquired project management skills to secure new avenues of funding.

Currently there are many international students, faculty and staff on our campus in Truro. International students add cultural and linguistic diversity to our classrooms and campus. Some are here for a semester; some come from a partner university under a formalized articulation agreement to complete their degree by spending up to several years at our university. Visiting graduate students and various visiting scholars also contribute to the campus. This is most obvious during International events such as the annual talent show and Diwali celebrations.



Garima Kulshreshtha performing a traditional Indian dance at the Faculty of Agriculture International student Talent show in 2013.

With agriculture and food security such pressing issues globally it is not surprising that we have over thirty years of experience supplying knowledge exchange and providing technical agri-food skills to colleges and universities in developing countries. These international development projects focus on a combination of curriculum development, discipline-specific training and updating, and general support for adoption of new post-secondary teaching/learning methods. These are interspersed with the establishment of enhanced facilities such as tutorial farms, updated laboratories, library facilities and technology-enhanced classrooms.

The theme that is common to all of these images is people learning about their world and becoming informed, committed, engaged global citizens.

International research and applied research to address international development issues are emerging focuses on our campus. We look forward to a future of new partners, new initiatives and new mutual learning. Stay tuned!

# Move to the Midwest

## Agricultural opportunities in the Midwestern United States



Mark Urquhart (Class of '92)

Many graduates choose to stay close to home, or look for opportunities elsewhere in Canada, but several adventurous alumni have found a new life in the Midwestern United States and would encourage new graduates to give this option some thought. Mark Urquhart (Class of '92) and Jim Bridges (Class of '89) talk about the opportunities that they have found while working for Cavendish farms.

Mark, Class Valedictorian, hadn't intended to work for Cavendish farms, it just sort of happened.

"After I graduated in '92 I was working on a mixed farm operation in Nova Scotia, and looking for something a bit different. Brian Crouse from the NSAC called and told me that Cavendish was looking for a young agricultural guy to take a future management role. I was interviewed, was successful, and myself, my wife Mary Lou and our eight month daughter Kelsey moved to Prince Edward Island so I could take the job. My role was a management trainee, so I was given experience in multiple areas of the Cavendish operation, including the factory and growing processes."

Mark then held various management positions with Cavendish including running a potato growing operation, followed by a fertilizer plant in Salisbury, New Brunswick, which gave him experience of the entire spectrum of operations under the Cavendish umbrella. In February 2002 he was offered the opportunity to move to Jamestown, North Dakota to fill the role of Raw Procurement Manager at the newly purchased Cavendish Operations.

Some people would find the prospect of moving themselves and their family to another country daunting, to say the least,

but having support provided by your employer is definitely a bonus.

"It was a little scary," said Mark. "I didn't know a lot about the U.S. Immigration procedures, but Cavendish handled that aspect of the move for me which made it easy. The good thing was that it wasn't a life sentence, I had the option to return to the Maritimes after two years."

Jim Bridges has also crossed the border for a new opportunity. He moved to Little Falls, Minnesota in 2010 with his wife Tanya and sons Oliver and Travis.

"I started out running my own farm in New Brunswick, then I worked as a fertilizer plant supervisor for Cavendish Agri Services. When I met fellow alum Mark Urquhart he told me to let him know if I ever thought about moving to the Midwest," said Jim. "The opportunity came up to manage Sea View Farm, where potatoes are grown for Cavendish farms, and I jumped at it"

Although both Mark and Jim had originally intended for their time in the U.S.A to be temporary, both are now permanent residents, and have no plans to leave.

"I had initially intended to return to Canada after two years, but we really settled here, and I knew after six months that this would be home," says Mark, who has settled in Jamestown, North Dakota with his wife Mary Lou and children Kelsey and Nick.

"It took a little while for my two teenage boys to settle in, but now neither of them want to leave. It is a great place to raise a family. It's a rural area, but close to larger cities, and there are many good universities in the area," said Jim.

Both Mark and Jim find the attitudes of people towards those who work in agriculture in the Midwest a refreshing change, which has been one of the main factors contributing to their decisions to stay.

"This is the heart of agriculture," said Mark. "People love their farmers, they are very well respected out here."

"Farming is a top priority in this rural area as agriculture is the main industry, more important than manufacturing," explained Jim. "It is a bit freer with regulations here than working in Canada which makes for a more relaxed way of life. I sometimes found the attitude towards farmers depressing in New Brunswick as we were taken for granted and often not well supported by the government or



Jim Bridges (Class of '89)

the local population. Here you are treated with respect as the importance of farming is understood."

For new, and older graduates, there are interesting opportunities across North America, with companies such as Cavendish and many others.

"Cavendish farms is always looking for new graduates with a good work ethic. Once your foot is in the door there are lots of opportunities. There are many possibilities to work in the States in sectors such as crop protection and for fertilizer companies," said Jim.

"As the older guys come to the end of their careers, Cavendish is always looking for younger people with a good work ethic to learn the Cavendish way and move upwards through the organization. Newer recruits have a good chance to work in diverse areas, and find out what your interests are," said Mark.

Although now settled in a new country, neither Mark nor Jim have forgotten their time at the former NSAC and the experiences that they gained there.

"Going to the AC was the greatest time in my life, although I wouldn't want my wife to hear that" said Jim. "I would probably have never found a job without it, and I would have stayed for longer if I could."

"My experience at the AC gave me many opportunities to practice public speaking, which has been really helpful to me in my career as I regularly speak to groups of 10-150 farmers together," said Mark who was Student Union Vice President, Class of '92 Valedictorian, and remembers College Royal, the Jimmy Flynn show and Woodsmen weekend as the highlights of his time at the former NSAC. "I would encourage students to get involved with community events as much as you can. Networking is by far the most important skill to develop. In the world of work it's not what you know, it's who you know."

## Volunteers getting down and dirty maintaining rock garden at Dal AC

Getting her hands dirty and becoming one with nature is how Heather Hill likes to spend her Wednesday mornings.

The 68-year-old Truro resident, as well as at least a dozen other volunteers with the Friends of the Garden group, gather weekly at the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus in Bible Hill to get their gardening fix while working on the rock garden. A specialized garden is designed to look like a mountainside and contains only plants that are associated with the alpine habitat or others that are small in stature.

Members said there was some misunderstanding within the community as to whether or not the volunteers were still manning the garden after Dalhousie became part of the campus last year. Hill confirmed she and her comrades are still hard at work, planting and enlarging the already growing garden.

"A year ago, the agricultural college became (part of) Dalhousie University," Hill explained, adding "we just wanted to make sure that the community realizes that we're still volunteer-



*Alumni and family enjoying the rock garden*

ing on campus and Dalhousie is happy to have us."

And the volunteers are thrilled to be there as well. The group, consisting mostly of women, enjoy the beauty and satisfaction of creating a large rock garden complete with plants.

"The camaraderie amongst the people is probably number one in my mind," said the six-year veteran about why she comes back to help every year.

"Also, the things I have learned about gardening are invaluable. I learned not to worry

if a plant dies. Plant another one next season. It took a big load off my shoulders," said Hill who personally prefers the primula, which is a small plant that blooms with either purple, yellow, red, pink, blue or white flowers.

Dr. Bernard Jackson, the recently retired director of Memorial University's botanical garden, helped kick start the project in 1999. Carol Goodwin, professor of environmental sciences, called upon the native of Great Britain to help design the garden.

"I don't think she had such a large one in mind but that space was available and I got the bit between my teeth, which is what I'm noted for," said the avid gardener. "It just took off"

The garden itself has three small bridges, benches to sit on and is divided into several small sections, with different foliage to add some colour.

"We have about 500 tons (of rock)," said Jackson. "Some rocks probably weigh seven tons. We got all our friends to help and here we are."

The entire construction process of the garden took almost five years. But what really made the garden a success, Jackson said, were the willing volunteers.

"We really do have some keen volunteers here, we're lucky," he said. "We've got a good crowd here. Not only are they hard workers and interested, but we all get along together. Now they tell me, I'm not saying this, but they tell me that to get 20 women to agree all together is quite something. But our ladies are wonderful, they really are. You couldn't get a better group."

The volunteers work alongside three employees from the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus on Wednesday mornings: Karen Smith, Darwin Carr and Jeff Morton. Currently the team is working on continuing the garden's expansion.

*As printed in the Truro Daily News, April, 2013*

# Changing the world one student at a time

## World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Student Refugee Program



Emmanuel Nsabimana (Class of '10) working in the library on campus

In some developing countries, getting an education can be dangerous. Whether due to war or political repression, students are often persecuted, imprisoned or forced into exile. For most refugees, there are few or no opportunities to continue post-secondary education. Without access to education there are limited career options available to young people.

"If I am asked to describe the lives of refugees, my answer would be, 'it is a life of struggle to sustain one's life without knowing why you are sustaining it'", explains Abedaw Derseh, who attended the former NSAC in 2004. "All services which are established for refugees do not go along with the refugee life demands. As a result, scarcity, poverty, malnourishment and boredom were the day-to-day phenomena for refugees. Refugees do not have goals in life, they may have them, but attaining their goals in the refugee situation is like a camel passing through a needle's eye. In the refugee camp, there was no way to even try."

The WUSC Student Refugee Program (SRP) has been helping young refugees achieve their dreams for over thirty years, providing hope, resources and access to post-secondary education at Canadian universities.

Emmanuel Nsabimana (Class of '10) is originally from Rwanda, but lived in Malawi in a refugee camp for four years before attending the former NSAC in 2006.

"The ten highest achieving students in my school year were selected to participate on the WUSC program. I was studying social science at school and they chose for me to attend the NSAC.

Now the program is even better, as many as twenty five students are selected annually."

The Faculty of Agriculture has sponsored twenty two students through the WUSC program since 1985, for twenty eight years. These students have come from countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, Pakistan, Sudan, and Burundi.

"It was hard in the beginning to settle in" explains Emmanuel. "My professors were so helpful, it turned into an amazing experience and the agricultural campus became my new home. I got involved with the local community and worked at the campus library. I was really proud to receive a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Business."

"Each student has enhanced the cultural exchange and learning experience of all students at this campus" says Anne LeLacheur, senior lab instructor on the Agricultural Campus who has been involved with the WUSC students for the last 15 years. "Instructors have enjoyed the diversity of thoughts and experiences of our WUSC students in class discussions as this benefits all the students in the class. Of course the sponsored student has the opportunity to access post-secondary education, something that is merely a dream for those living in refugee camps. Students have had the opportunity to reach their potential, and are giving back to this community as well as their families who remain in the camps."

Abedaw is very appreciative of his opportunity to attend the former NSAC. "I was very lucky to be able to be sponsored as a WUSC student and to come to Canada and study engineering at the NSAC. I was very happy to be here, because at least I had the opportunity to try to do something I wanted to do. I would like to thank the NSAC for sponsoring and waiving every financial issue such as tuition fees, clothing, shelter, meal service, pocket money for one full year. Besides the financial aid, I want to thank those who work in the different sectors on campus, especially Student Services, for their hospitality and compassion."



WUSC student committee meeting Emmanuel at Halifax airport in 2006

In addition to support from the Faculty Administration, the WUSC students are supported by a fundraising committee made up of campus staff and students, a great way to involve the whole campus in the WUSC program.

"Working with WUSC was initially a way to get involved with my campus and to help out where I thought help was needed," explained Manfred Boehm, plant science student and WUSC committee member. "However, over the last three years the SRP scholars have given back to me in ways I could not have expected. My contribution to WUSC is typically pragmatic: helping out with student loan applications, homework, proof-reading essays, or registering for permanent residency. In return, spending time with these students allows me to appreciate a challenging upbringing, having to work tirelessly

for an education, a glimpse into a culture with different ideals and philosophies, and helps me feel empathy for being a student in a foreign country. As my studies at the AC come to an end I hold my time spent with WUSC as invaluable. I know I have become a different person by listening to and interacting with these students, and I hope to continue exchanging cultures for the rest of my life!"

The WUSC program has very positive outcomes, most students successfully complete their studies and are now active Canadian citizens making valuable contributions to their communities. Others have returned to their home countries and are contributing as nation builders or active community members. Emmanuel is thriving as an active citizen in Canada.

"I really wanted to stay in Canada so I worked in Debert for a year, and then moved out west to find employment. I was lucky enough to find a great opportunity with World Vision, a charity that sponsors children and does community development work all over the world. My role involved fundraising and matching sponsors to projects in Africa, something that my background and my experience at NSAC has prepared me for."

Emmanuel lives in Alberta with his wife Elodie, a fellow WUSC student, and their new baby Aiden. Over the next few months he will start a new position as a manager with the Royal Bank of Canada.

## ***Experiences working with women's groups in Kenya***

### ***Blog post from the Farmers Helping Farmers website***

***By Patricia Bishop (Class of '99)***



*Patricia Bishop and family, TapRoot Farms, NS*

After spending a week and a half observing, asking a lot of questions and contemplating, I see that the woman of the Ruuju Womans Group and the Muchui Womans Group are some of the most resilient woman I have ever met. Many of the women in these two women's groups live a subsistence existence, where they are working hard each day to provide the basic nutrition and health to their families. Many of them do not have anything extra to speak of, a knife, a pen,

paper are all luxuries that do not make it into their lives unless they are a gift.

Some of the woman in these groups have jobs outside of their daily tasks on their farms. They wake at 4:30 AM to prepare for the children, the farm and then get themselves off to work. The food is basic, not processed and packaged. They eat what is grown on their shamba (farm) or vegetables or cereals from a shamba next door. They walk everywhere, or if they have the shillings they pay to hire a motorcycle to drive them, they will go out of the rural area where they live to do their business in town. For some this happens once every couple of months or only when the children need shoes or someone needs medical attention. Most of the homes I have visited do not have power.

I have been conducting focus groups with the woman in the two women's groups. The purpose of these focus groups has been to learn from them what is of benefit to them in their women's groups, what challenges they face in the groups, what changes they would like to see and the real point has been how they envision carrying on with the initiatives of their groups once the CIDA Funded FHF project is complete in 2014.

The woman for the most part are all saying the same thing in the four different groups – that being a part of the group has provided them with great benefits of tanks to hold water, screen houses, stoves that reduce smoke and fire wood use, and farming skills that increase the vegetables grown on their farms (shambas). They also value greatly the community in their groups.

The major challenge identified by all groups is having a market for their products. If they can make more shillings then they can fund more of the work that their women's groups have started. For reference, the price of a green cabbage is 5 -20 shillings – that is less than one cent in Canadian Dollars.

In a region where so many people are just surviving, it is difficult to see where or how the market price can improve. The culture of very cheap food is borne out of necessity for the most part, but just like everywhere else I have visited, it is still on the backs of the small scale farmers. There are much larger farms here in Kenya. Farms that have 100s of acres of tunnel houses grow crops for export. Those farms appear to be doing well (and are not owned by Kenyans). I question as we travel past the large acreage of tunnels if those farms have difficulty accessing water year round like the woman in the villages do. I don't know the answer.

Patricia Bishop volunteered in February 2013 with the Muchui Womens Group and the Ruuju Women's group in Kenya. The aim of the project was to investigate ways for the women to better market their vegetables. Patricia, who was awarded the former NSAC Young Alumni Award in 2010, volunteered with Farmers Helping Farmers.

Farmers Helping Farmers is a registered charity based in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. The organization has carried out several hundred development projects in both Kenya and Tanzania. These projects are estimated to have touched the lives of at least 100,000 people in East Africa.

In Nova Scotia we have many citizens who are aware of the issues facing the family farm and who are willing to pay fair prices for their food from farmers. Many people are making choices in their daily lives that support farmers directly both in Nova Scotia or in other places by choosing fair trade products. More than ever before I can see how critical these choices are to the lives of others. I have not found this same population here in Kenya yet (that want to pay a bit more to support the health of small farmers). Some say there isn't such a group, but I believe there must be. Now that many young professionals have moved away from their family farms into the city to work for higher pay, they may see or feel the disconnect, we just need to start talking with them and find out more.

Four observations so far that I suggest require action are:

- 1) The woman farmers having a consistent variety of vegetables to sell every day of the year
- 2) More one on one hands-on skills development in the areas of farm management, crops, composting, pest control - non chemical interventions (because they are expensive), and problem solving
- 3) Collaboration between groups and between woman to have a large enough volume of product available for sale
- 4) Marketing and sales person for both Ruuju and Muchui women groups

The women I have talked with have indicated that they wish they could sell more vegetables for more money because they are selling at a loss many times.

**Disclaimer:** I am constantly grappling with a concern that my observations and ideas impose my ideas or values from where I come in my life. I suppose there is not much I can do about that except be aware of it.

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## Century of Holsteins



Holstein Canada presented a "Century of Holsteins" award to the Faculty of Agriculture, former NSAC at the local Holstein branch AGM.

Introduced in 2005, this award recognizes the dedication and contribution of Holstein "families" through long-standing membership.

If a "family's" relationship with the Association can be traced to 100 years of active, continuous membership, then it is eligible for this distinction.

Dr. Harold Cook accepted the award on behalf of the Faculty of Agriculture.

# Join the tradition!

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# Events & Reunions

## Barley Party and honorary ring presentation 2013

Students from the graduating class of 2013 proudly received their barley rings from, Dr. Harold Cook, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Principal, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus and Michael Perry, Director of Alumni Engagement, Dalhousie University at the annual Barley Party on April 2.

"This is an occasion to be celebrated and one that will serve to officially identify you as a graduate of the Faculty of Agriculture of Dalhousie University," said Dr. Cook to the assembled students before the ring presentation. "The design of our ring is intentionally simple

and unique, much like the graduates who will wear it. And with this uniqueness comes responsibility - a responsibility to lead by example and to do the very best that you can in all circumstances where you find yourself. Bloom where you're planted and give all that your talent and training have equipped you to do."

A total of 31 rings were presented during the Barley Party while 57 orders have been received from the Class of 2013. President of the Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association Dwane Mellish and Director Jean Lynds attended the event to celebrate with the new alumni.

"As some of you may, or may not know, you are only the fourth group to receive this ring which was introduced in 2010," said Dwane. "By wearing this ring, you are investing in a life-long tradition with the Faculty of Agriculture as an alumnus."

The Faculty of Agriculture, as part of its ring tradition, awards an honorary ring annually to an individual who does not meet the criteria to be eligible for a faculty ring but who is extremely deserving of the honour. These individuals are ambassadors and supporters of the institution and have made outstanding contributions to the Faculty of Agriculture community.

Judy Smith, Director of Athletic Services Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, was selected to receive the 2013 honorary barley ring for her support and commitment to students at the Agricultural Campus since 1975. She was a popular choice with the graduating class, many of whom she has supported to their high awards in Athletics this year. Read about the student athletics awards on page 19.

"Judy has interacted, worked with and supported students at the Agricultural Campus since joining the former NSAC in 1975," said Dwane Mellish. "Judy is an adamant supporter of students and campus activities through her outstanding leadership and development of the Athletic Centre and athletic opportunities on Campus. She is a most deserving recipient," he added.

Judy served as the former NSAC's dean of women, health services officer and co-ordinator of women's athletics for 18 years, before taking over the athletic director's role in 1994. Prior to 1992, she won the Investor's Group Community Sport Administrator award. A Level 3 Basketball and Level 2 Volleyball coach, she has also coached the Rams field hockey, soccer, volleyball, cross-country and basketball teams at times from 1975-1995, winning eight Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association titles and two CCAA medals.



Judy Smith celebrating with members of the graduating class of 2013



Judy Smith celebrating with members of the graduating class of 2013

# Convocation 2013

## An Ag celebration - convocation on the Agricultural Campus

"Memorable" has to be the best word to describe the Faculty of Agriculture convocation ceremony, held Friday May 3 on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro. Nearly 200 degrees, certificates and diplomas were presented at what was the first Dalhousie ceremony on the Agricultural Campus.



## Celebrating the past and the future



The day brought with it a mixture of nostalgia, some new and old traditions and an overwhelming sense of pride. The Agriculture Class of 2013 includes students who spent three of the past four years as part of the former Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Celebrating their heritage, members of the Class of 2013 donned NSAC Freshman beanies as they made their way into

the Langille Athletic Centre led by bagpiper George Macintosh. George is a 22-year alumnus of NSAC who piped in his graduating class back in 1991 and hasn't stopped since.

"Personally, I felt an overwhelming sense of pride when I, along with most of the Class of 2013, wore the beanies," said Robyn McCallum, from Tabusintac, N.B., who was elected as class president. "The

beanies represented growth in our bodies and minds since first year, to become the people we are today. They also demonstrated our respect for our past and NSAC, yet showed we are willing to move forward as the Faculty of Agriculture."

"As Life President, I am proud to represent such a caring and compassionate group of students who will always honor their past as they move forward in the future," she added.

## Blending traditions

Graduates paraded under the sun across campus to the Langille Athletic Centre led by the University Beadle, Registrar Asa Kachan, who carried the mace that signals the start and end of the ceremony. Graduates also knelt on a bench and were capped by Chancellor Fred Fountain when receiving their degrees. Dalhousie student Zhenyi Li proudly accepted his master's degree in Plant Science along with his three-week-old daughter, Phoebe Yuechen Li.

Convocation 2013 saw the first graduates of the Bachelor of Agriculture in International Food Business cross the stage. These graduates received degrees from both Dalhousie University and CAH Dronten University of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands. Another ceremony highlight was the presentation of an honorary degree to NSAC alumnus Hans Christian Jost (Class of '82), renowned for the success of Jost and Gaspereau Vineyards.

"Thank you very much for this honour and the opportunity to speak with you," said Hans as he received his award. "I was amazed when asked if I would accept this honour. . . obviously nobody read my NSAC transcripts. Research and the act of questioning how things are done is the future of everything- business and life. What differentiates those that succeed from those that struggle to succeed is, those that succeed ask for help. Realizing one's potential but also limitations is important."

"Hans Christian Jost's unparalleled contribution to the wine industry in Nova Scotia makes him a deserving recipient of this prestigious honour," said Harold Cook, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and principal of the Agricultural Campus. "His leadership and enthusiasm for the region have created a new agricultural industry where there was none and have inspired one of the fastest-growing industries in the province. His untiring dedication to improving the rural and provincial industry and economy sets an example for other Nova Scotia business owners."

## Sharing experiences



The Class of 2013 also included Dalhousie's 87th Rhodes Scholar Paul Manning, who delivered a moving valedictory address during the ceremony – a longstanding tradition on the Agricultural Campus. "Class of 2013... as we go our separate ways today, I hope that you will all continue to act as ambassadors

of our Agricultural Faculty. We will always be the small school with big spirit and a bigger heart. We are something incredibly special and unique within the greater Dalhousie mosaic," he said.

"I leave it in your hands to share your experiences of your time spent on campus. Share the stories of the people you met, the lessons you learned and opportunities you explored. Share with others your sense of being home. Encourage others to experience the magic and excitement of one of the most unique and dynamic places to study in Canada. Let's keep encouraging creative and kind people to walk through these doors. They will leave a little older, a little wiser, confident and educated. Most importantly, they will graduate feeling like we do today: ready to take on whatever should come our way next!"

### Faculty Awards Presented

The 2013 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence was presented to Dr. Jin Yue during the inaugural Tribute Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 3 as part of Convocation celebrations.

Dr. Yue has been teaching on campus since January 2009, but in that short time he has had a significant impact on student learning in the math program. Not only does he teach a number of math courses, but he plays a key role in organizing and staffing the Math and Physics Help Centre. With his assistance, the Help Centre has expanded its hours and become a vibrant and active space for students to learn. He takes a hands-on approach to instruction, teaching his entire tutorial sections himself and using multiple methods and examples to help students with different learning styles master the material. He has both expanded the material covered in the calculus courses and improved student performance.

Dr. Yue is passionate about the material he teaches and incorporates many innovative teaching methods, constantly engaging his students. He is a champion for student success, cheers both large and small victories for those in his classroom and is always concerned with improving his classes to satisfy his pupils' needs.

The 2013 Achievement in Internationalization Award was presented to Dr. Tess Astatkie. Dr. Astatkie has contributed to a number of international initiatives over the years, both as a representative of our Faculty in other countries and hosting and mentoring international colleagues on our own campus. His activities have had an impact on research, teaching and science and agricultural education around the world.

Some of Dr. Astatkie's most significant contributions come from his role as the director of the "Agricultural Sustainability" and the "Post-harvest Management to Improve Livelihoods in Ethiopia" projects. These projects involved research activities both here and in Ethiopia, sharing of technical expertise with colleagues in Ethiopia, training and support for Ethiopian scholars and internship opportunities for several undergraduate students.

Dr. Astatkie maintains collaborative relationships with researchers around the world, resulting in numerous co-authored peer-reviewed articles and conference presentations. He also plays a personal role in internationalizing our campus. Congratulations are extended to both of these worthy candidates.

## Athletics

### Eastlink Agri-Golf Classic



Join us on July 19th to enjoy the beautiful Glasgow Hills course and to renew friendships with fellow industry and alumni partners. The 17th annual Classic is being held at the Glasgow Hills Resort and Golf Club on July 19, 2013. The registration is now open and the form and information can be found at [www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/about/agricultural-campus/Athletics/registration2013.pdf](http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/about/agricultural-campus/Athletics/registration2013.pdf)

The registration deadline is June 30, 2013. The Eastlink Agri-Golf Classic is supported by the following sponsors to date – Eastlink Business, Coca-Cola Bottling, Zoetis with more supporters pending. If you would like more information or want to support the event with a sponsorship, please contact Judy at [Judith.smith@dal.ca](mailto:Judith.smith@dal.ca) or (902) 893-6661.

### VARSITY AWARDS

Awards presented at the Annual Athletics Awards Banquet included:

#### HUSTLE Award

Badminton.....	Julien Ragot
Basketball (m).....	Joe Gushue
Basketball (w).....	Hillary Hopper
Rugby (w).....	Joan Cole
Soccer (m).....	Chris Ross
Soccer (w).....	Leah Cook
Volleyball (w).....	Kayli Gault
Woodsmen (m).....	Andrew McEwan
Woodsmen (w).....	Jessie Swinamer

#### MIP Award

Badminton.....	Steve MacQuarrie
Basketball (m).....	Cody Locke
Basketball (w).....	Rebecca Parra
Rugby (w).....	Megan O'Leary
Soccer (m).....	Willem Schepp
Soccer (w).....	Aimee Cormier

Volleyball (w) .....	Danica Leclerc
Woodsmen (m) .....	Brad Elliott
Woodsmen (w) .....	Emily Clarke

**ROOKIE Award**

Badminton.....	Kayla Wolfe
Basketball (m).....	Ian Kamp
Basketball (w) .....	Emily Davis
Rugby (w) .....	Whitney Shaver
Soccer (m) .....	Chris Morash
Soccer (w).....	Janelle MacKeil
Volleyball (w) .....	Rachel Hughes
Woodsmen (m).....	Angus Gibson
Woodsmen (w) .....	Pascal McLeod
Equestrian.....	Eric Pace
Cross Country.....	John Yool
Golf.....	Cody Locke

**FOURTH YEAR VARSITY ATHLETE AWARD**

**Woodsmen**

Geoff Larkin  
 Evan Rafuse  
 Julie Vermeer  
 Jenna Rippey

**Basketball**

Jessica Leck

**Rugby**

Jessica Leck  
 Georgia Lewis  
 Ashley Mullins  
 Jeanette Van der Linden

**Soccer**

Melissa Bahri  
 Julie Poirier

**FIFTH YEAR VARSITY ATHLETE AWARD**

**Woodsmen**

Kyle Gallant

**Rugby**

Holly Morton  
 Samantha Haley

**MVP AWARD**

Badminton.....	Chris Ross
Basketball (m).....	Tyler MacDonald
Basketball (w) .....	Emily Davis
Rugby (w) .....	Holly Morton
Soccer (m) .....	Craig MacEachern
Soccer (w).....	Melissa Bahri
Volleyball (w) .....	Zoe Pocock
Woodsmen (m).....	Mike Grant

Woodsmen (w) .....	Julie Vermeer
Equestrian Club.....	Emma Rappoldt
Cross Country.....	Kevin Morin
Golf.....	Jescynda Cain-Hotham

**KS MARCHANT AWARD**

K.S. Marchant Award goes to the student athlete with highest average among all varsity programs.

**Technical:** Joan Cole (Rugby), Middle Musquodoboit, NS

**Degree:** Amy Unicomb (Rugby), Truro, NS

**ATHLETES OF THE YEAR**

**Female:** Melissa Bahri (Soccer), Windsor, NS

**Male:** Chris Ross (Badminton, Soccer), Harmony, NS



An exceptional athlete, a Soccer All-Conference Team selection and team MVP, Melissa Bahri, Windsor NS, was named Female Athlete of the Year at Dalhousie’s Agricultural Campus on March 22, 2013.

Chris Ross, Harmony, NS, a two sport All Conference Selection, an All-Canadian and a two-time Academic All-Canadian joined her as Male Athlete of the Year.

“Chris Ross and Melissa Bahri are very deserving recipients of these top awards,” said Director of Athletic Services Judy Smith. “They are exceptional athletes and also show tremendous leadership skills on and off the field of play.”

Melissa is described by her coach as the type of athlete who does not play to receive awards or compliments. She plays for the joy of competition and the feeling of camaraderie that comes from playing well and playing hard in a team sport. No matter what position she is asked to play, Melissa plays with passion! She has demonstrated leadership on and off the field and led by example with a loud voice encouraging, prodding, complimenting and laughing in practice and in games. She understands that sport is fun when it is played with intensity and like life, what you get out of it is proportionate to what you put in; that winning is great— but a team is more than just the final score.

Chris Ross is fiercely competitive and internally motivated. Chris supports his teammates and pushes them to play hard while knowing when they need a laugh to feel better. He is continually trying to improve his skills as a player while helping his teammates do the same. Chris is an excellent student, a leader and an exceptional athlete. He represents his team, his university and himself well at all times. Congratulations!

**ALL ACADEMIC ATHLETES**

Athletes who have demonstrated excellence in academics and athletics, achieving the required average of 80 or above for "Honors" and a position on a varsity team.

**Basketball**

Emily Davis  
Rebecca Parra  
Ian Kamp  
Josh Borgal  
Emily Estabrooks

**Soccer**

Chris Ross  
Aimee Cormier  
Brittany MacLean  
Cameron Arseneault  
Josh Borgal  
Josh Hamlin  
Al Loureiro  
Leah Cook  
Mikaela Jahncke  
Craig MacEachern  
Emily Estabrooks  
Robert Matheson  
Julie Poirier  
Rebecca Parra

**Badminton**

Michelle Lier  
Steve MacQuarrie  
Chris Ross

**Rugby**

Kaylee Little  
April MacHattie  
Amy Unicomb  
Brianna Berlemont  
Lauren Berlemont  
Joan Cole  
Jaimee Eastabrook  
Margaret Sutherland  
Georgia Lewis  
Holly Morton

**Volleyball**

Rachel Hughes  
Lauren Berlemont

**Woodsmen**

Angus Gibson  
Pascal MacLeod  
Emily Clarke  
Kamryn Findlay  
Kayla Graham  
Bridget Wilson

Emily Peters  
Julie Vermeer  
Jenna Rippey  
Kyle Gallant

**ACAA ALL- CONFERENCE ATHLETES (Atlantic Collegiate Athletic Association)****Soccer**

Chris Morash  
Melissa Bahri  
Chris Ross  
Leah Cook

**Badminton**

Chris Ross

**Rugby**

Holly Morton  
Becky Blank  
Joan Cole  
Jeanette Van der Linden  
Georgia Lewis  
Whitney Shaver & ACAA Rookie of the Year

**Volleyball**

Zoe Pocock

**CILA (Canadian Intercollegiate Lumberjacking Assoc.)**

**CILA ECHO CHALLENGE WINNER** - Geoff Larkin  
**CILA MVP** - Mike Grant

**CCAA All-Canadian (Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association)**

Chris Ross

**CCAA ACADEMIC ALL CANADIANS**

The SIRC-CCAA Academic All Canadian Award is the CCAA's most prestigious student-athlete award, epitomizing their mandate of recognizing excellence in academics and athletics. To achieve this honour, a student-athlete must be named to his/her respective Conference All-Star teams (1st and 2nd) in a CCAA Sport, and must achieve a GPA standing of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent as defined by his/her institution.

Chris Ross (**Badminton**)

Leah Cook (**Soccer**)

Paul Manning (**Cross Country**)

Kevin Morin (**Cross Country**)



# Annual Giving Report

The Faculty of Agriculture is extremely grateful for the generosity of the alumni, friends and organizations that have chosen to support our Faculty. The list acknowledges those who have made financial contributions to the Faculty of Agriculture or former NSAC between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013. This is one small way for us to say thank you. We would also like to thank our donors who have chosen to remain anonymous.

## **GIFTS OVER \$10,000**

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada  
Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show  
Canadian International Development Agency  
Estates of Edward & Dorothy Aveleigh Brown  
Harrison McCain Foundation  
Stuco Holdings Limited

## **PLANNED GIFTS**

John Atkin  
Peter Hamilton  
Malcolm MacQuarrie

## **CLASSES**

### **Class of 1939**

Bernard G. Kuhn

### **Class of 1944**

Clara (Starratt) Galway

### **Class of 1945**

James W. Jamieson

### **Class of 1946**

William B. Collins  
J. Gordon Crowe  
Harold B. Specht

### **Class of 1947**

Hugh M. MacLean  
Eric P. MacPhail

### **Class of 1948**

Chesley L. Lockhart  
James M. Winmill

### **Class of 1950**

Norman S. Logan

### **Class of 1951**

Blair Bonnyman  
William C. Durant

Ken MacKay  
Charles L. Ricketson  
Malcolm D. Ross

### **Class of 1952**

William L. Hanlon  
Keith A. McCully  
Robert A. Murray  
Arnold C. Pitman

### **Class of 1954**

Robert M. Colpitts  
Eric Meek  
Vernon Murray  
Robert L. Parks

### **Class of 1955**

Bob Hebb  
George I. Jeffrey  
Donald P. McInnes

### **Class of 1956**

Gilbert Allen  
Nelson E. Ball  
Doug Byers  
Doug & Carlene Crouse  
Harry & Beth Crouse  
Dick Huggard  
Ted MacNintch  
Bill Seaman  
Daniel Stewart  
William B. Stewart

### **Class of 1957**

John Eaton  
Ralph Ferguson

### **Class of 1958**

Donald L. Grant  
Jess M. Thompson

### **Class of 1959**

Dale Ells  
Campbell Gunn  
Stanley J. Warwick

**Class of 1960**

Arthur B. Allen  
Gilbert MacDonald

**Class of 1961**

Cornelia Murray

**Class of 1962**

Wayne E. Davidson  
Evans N. Estabrooks  
Arnold L. Lemmon  
Harvey W. MacDonald  
Harold F. Mason  
John G. Massey  
M. Ray Nicholson  
Wayne F. Parker  
John W. Reid  
Robert J. Scott  
Barbara J. Sproull-Seplaki  
Kenneth J. Streach  
Marinus A. Van de Sande  
Richard S. Whitaker

**Class of 1963**

Donald L. Byers  
Ralph Glendon Smith

**Class of 1964**

Robert Bentley  
Jack F. Burnham  
Francis E. Cotter  
Rick Holley  
David W. Oulton  
Audrey S. Payne  
William R. Rector  
Sedgewick P. Sinclair

**Class of 1965**

Ronald Fraser  
Ralph C. Murray

**Class of 1966**

Harold W. Cook  
Stephen D. Casselman  
Charles Hiltz  
John E. Madill  
David W. Thorne

**Class of 1968**

Isaac W. Smith

**Class of 1970**

David & Joyce Thompson

**Class of 1971**

Brian H. Duplessis  
Douglas G. Lea  
Bertrum H. MacDonald  
Darrell W. Smith

**Class of 1972**

Gary G. MacKay  
Alford Smith

**Class of 1973**

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**Class of 1974**

Donna E. Spracklin

**Class of 1975**

John A. Brown  
Clara LeBlanc  
Ron & Susan Trueman  
Carol Versteeg

**Class of 1976**

Catherine A. Gallivan  
Harry & Joanne Van Der Linden

**Class of 1978**

Boyd R. Crouse  
Nancy Pitts

**Class of 1979**

Harold R. MacNevin  
John B. Van Den Hof

**Class of 1980**

Andrew B. Crouse

**Class of 1981**

Margaret M. Trenholm  
Nancy L. Zwicker

**Class of 1982**

Arsene Babineau  
Michael R. Green  
Margarete L. Zillig

**Class of 1984**

Gerrit & Marlene Groenenberg  
Chris Richards  
Nancy J. Smith

**Class of 1985**

Christine D. Carroll  
Janice & Larry ('82) Lutz  
Martha H. Robinson

**Class of 1986**

Anthony J. Gorham

**Class of 1988**

Cynthia Mitchell  
Miriam E. Tams

**Class of 1989**

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**Class of 1990**

Barbara E. Whiston

**Class of 1992**

Carl & Karen Duivenvoorden

**Class of 1993**

Jane MacLaurin

**Class of 1997**

L. & C. Matheson  
Dan Scothorn

**Class of 1999**

A.J. Connell

**Class of 2001**

Jenna Tingley Forsyth

**Class of 2002**

Barbara J. Christie

**Class of 2003**

Matthew Reeves

**Class of 2005**

Holly L. Hines

**Class of 2007**

David U. Christie  
Meghan Miller

**Class of 2008**

Debra L. McLellan

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

Animal Nutrition Assoc. of Canada  
Atlantic Association of Landscape Designers  
Atlantic Holstein Relations Committee  
Atlantic Land Improvement Contractors Association  
Atlantic Poultry Incorporated  
Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society  
Bedford Horticultural Society  
Beeler Consulting Inc. (Byron Beeler, '56)  
Bible Hill Garden Club  
BMA Constructors  
Chicken Producers Association  
Compass Group Canada  
Co-op Atlantic  
Dalhousie Agricultural Association of Graduate Students  
Dalhousie Agricultural Student Association  
Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland  
Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia  
Dartmouth Horticultural Society  
Dykeview Farms  
Eastern Shore Garden Club  
Eastern Veterinary Technician  
Egg Producers of Newfoundland  
Fall River Garden Club  
Farm Focus  
Farmers Dairy  
Green Diamond Equipment  
Inverness County Federation of Agriculture  
Isigonish Chapter IODE  
Landscape NB Hort. Trades Association  
Landscape Nova Scotia  
Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture  
KBAC Constructors  
Kings County Federation of Agriculture  
Kings Mutual Insurance Company  
Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture  
New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists  
Nova Scotia 4-H Council  
Nova Scotia Animal Breeders  
Nova Scotia Egg Producers  
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture  
Nova Scotia Power Incorporated  
Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association  
NS/NF Holstein Assoc. of Canada  
Oak Hollow Farm  
Oakridge Farm  
Ouest-Ville Perennials  
Patterson Law  
PEI Department of Agriculture  
Pork Nova Scotia  
Portraits by Johanna  
Prince Edward Island Potato Board  
RBC Royal Bank Financial Group  
Rotary Club of Truro  
Shur Gain/Nutreco Canada Inc.  
St. David's United Church  
Stephen S. Healy Financial Services (Stephen & Patti Healy, '73)  
Stewiacke Valley Garden Club

Syngenta Pest Management  
TD Insurance Meloche Monnex  
Wentworth Garden Club  
Wesley United Church  
White Burgess Langille Inman  
Wild Blueberry Producers Association  
Young Farmers of PEI

## **FRIENDS**

Colin R. Bell  
Sylvia Branton  
Judith Brodie  
Estate of Marguerite I. Vernon  
Ken Brown  
T. Stanley Cameron  
Paul Campbell  
Thomas & Carmel Chisholm  
Laura Clark  
Marilyn Cummings  
Barbara Dundon  
Nigel Firth  
Eldon Fitch  
Shirley Francis  
Brenda Gilmour  
Jennifer Graham  
Edith Hudgins  
Doug Keddy  
Ann Leblanc  
Rachel Mack  
Rod & Jean MacLeod  
Lloyd Mapplebeck & Lauranne Sanderson  
Greta Mathewson  
Sayed Mirbod  
Susan Radford  
Tammy Rafuse  
Jeff Ransome  
Paula Rix  
Michael R. Roda  
Elizabeth Russell  
Nerene Russell  
Katherine Sanford  
Heather Sayer  
Ted Semple  
Wayne & Donna Shunamon  
James & Marion Smith  
J. A. Kathleen Smith  
H. Sodhi  
Mark and Jennifer Starratt  
Sheila Stevenson  
Greg Thistle  
Blake & Patricia Thomas  
Andrew Thompson  
Anita Threlfall  
Bonnie Waddell  
Jeff Williams  
Sheila Wilson  
Jill Wood



# In Touch!

## Class of '62

**Van der Borch, Peter...** is a retired veterinarian and physiotherapist. While running in July 2012, he was hit by a car, fractured a hip, got a new hip, was in rehabilitation, had an arthroscopy, got his knee cleaned out, went back to rehab and is slowly progressing in recuperative health. It's a tough road to hoe, as he'll never run again. He'll see you in runner's heaven!

## Class of '70

**Dill, Gregg...** after working for Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development in Lethbridge, AB as Regional Engineer and then as Irrigation Engineer for a total of 32 years, Dill moved 'back home' to live in Old Barns, Nova Scotia with his wife Sandra (nee Hall). Employment opportunities will be entertained.

## Class of '71

**DuPlessis, Brian...** has retired from his role as Manager of the Potato Development Centre, New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, after over 41 years of service to the Agriculture industry in New Brunswick.

## Class of '80

**Donkin, Shawn...** is Professor of Animal Sciences at Purdue University, Indiana. Donkin was appointed Associate Director of Agriculture Research in August 2011. In this role he is responsible for developing and facilitating activities which enhance the graduate student and post-doctoral experience in the College of Agriculture at Purdue.

## Class of '81

**Abbass, David...** lives in Bonn, Germany and works as Public Information Officer for the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat.

## Class of '82

**Raksi, Ricardo...** works in Brazil as an agronomist and federal agricultural inspector for the Ministry of Agriculture. Raksi would like to say hello to his friends from the Agriculture campus, especially Faizullah, Nancy, Juan, Alva, Mohammed, Jesus, Carol Grove, George McIntosh, Mark and Allan.

## Class of '86

**Bore, John...** joined the Tea Research Foundation of Kenya as a Horticulturist in August 1993 and currently holds the post of Deputy Director of Research.

## Class of '08

**Whitehead, Megan...** is employed as a Registered Veterinary Nurse at Broadleys Veterinary Hospital in Fife in Scotland. Whitehead would love to hear from anyone! If any 2008 techs are in the UK let her know!

## Class of '10

**Gregoric (Martin), Tamara...** lives in Gwandalan, Australia and works as a Registered Veterinary Technician at the Doyalson Animal Hospital.

## Class of '11

**Yheng, Yi...** is studying for a Masters in Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Guelph. Her area of interest is the adoption of Total Mixed Ration Practice and Profitability: The Case of Ontario Dairy Farms.

## In Memory

The Faculty of Agriculture and the Alumni Association acknowledge the passing of the following alumni and friends. We extend our deepest sympathy to friends and family.

Mr. Ira C Lewis .....	1938
Mr. Vaughan R. Coates .....	1944
Mr. Douglas T. Slater .....	1947
Mr. John W. Allan.....	1955
Mr. Paul M. Bishop .....	1957
Mr. Robert R. Graham.....	1958
Dr. Bernie MacDonald.....	1946 – 2013

The Faculty of Agriculture was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Dr. Bernie MacDonald on January 16, 2013. Dr. MacDonald was the former vice-president administration and co-president of the former Nova Scotia Agricultural College, who passed away at the age of 66.



# Look Who's Talking

## Nancy Pitts nee Crowe (Class of '78)

*Look Who's Talking is a regular section in Agricola News. In each issue, an alumnus discusses his or her thoughts on various topics relevant to the Faculty of Agriculture.*

### Biography

Dr. Nancy Pitts is Assistant Dean, International, at the Faculty of Agriculture.

Nancy grew up on a small family dairy farm in Onslow, Nova Scotia. She was very involved in the running of the farm which led to her developing a love of agriculture.

She first pursued a technical diploma in Chemistry Laboratory Skills at the former NSAC. That was followed in succession by three degrees (B.Sc. (Agr.), MSc., PhD) from McGill University and the University of Guelph in agricultural and food chemistry. Nancy began her professional career with Alberta Agriculture in a research/extension



position at the Brooks Horticultural Research Centre.

In 1989 Nancy returned to Nova Scotia as an Assistant Professor in the Chemistry and Soil Science Department, NSAC. She was the lead instructor in the Food Quality Assurance Technology program and a volunteer international student advisor. Over the last 20 years she has provided applied training and information transfer to international colleges and universities.

She presently teaches the first year undergraduate chemistry courses. Her instruction of the first year classes intrigued her sufficiently to pursue two mid-career degrees in pedagogy at St. Francis Xavier University (B.Ed., 2003; M. Adult Education, 2007).

Dr Pitts' research interests are numerous and diverse; these include sensory and quality of food products, mature learners in the classroom, and trends in science education.

In her role as Assistant Dean, International Nancy is responsible for giving academic leadership in areas pertaining to internationalization of the campus.

### ***The Agricultural Campus is a pretty unique place, as we hear often. What's your favourite characteristic of the Faculty of Agriculture?***

I like the family feel on campus, that we care about each other and that we know and care about our students. We know the students by name and often their parents or siblings.

### ***If a graduate from the 1970's arrived on campus today, for the first time since graduation, what do you think they would notice as the most significant change?***

They would notice that the signage has changed as part of our becoming the Faculty of Agriculture. That is an outward change only. Many of the principles, values and attitudes of 'getting it done' continue to exist. They might also notice that some familiar faces are now retired: John Bubar, John Tait, Peter Sanger and others. But it is still the same place, with spirited students on the woodsmen team. Although I had heard "Aggies Once..." recently I have not heard "Good night Irene" since my days in Trueman House in the 1970s!

### ***If you had a vision for the Faculty of Agriculture 20 years from now, what would it look like and why?***

My vision is that it would be the best darn Faculty of Agriculture in Canada. Why? Because it is newly connected to a comprehensive university with the potential to establish unique trans-discipline networks in a time when the world of science more fully appreciates the vital nature of forging across traditional boundaries. I believe that it is across the traditional boundaries that the solutions to many of today's complex problems lie.

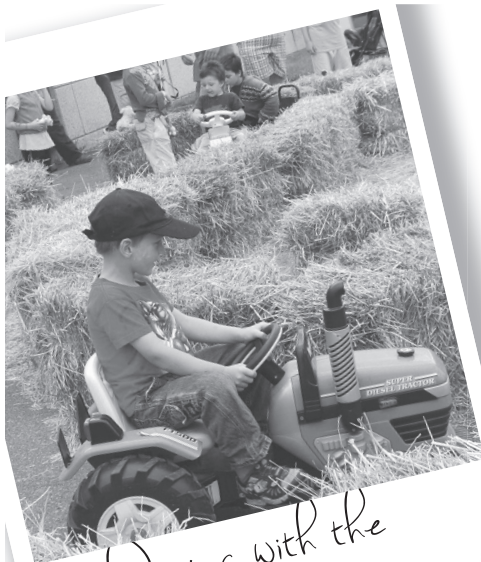
### ***We are almost a year into the merger with Dalhousie University. How do you feel about it? Have you seen a lot of change on campus?***

I think we have all been challenged anew to be learners; learners of new financial terms, procedures and forms. I have been impressed and grateful for the many Halifax campus colleagues who have been committed to helping make the merger as smooth as possible.

### ***Why do you think it is important that we continue to forge partnerships with universities in different countries, and encourage international students to study at the Faculty of Agriculture?***

NSAC, now Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture, was already very connected internationally. This included international students from Africa studying agriculture, Dale Ells' (Class of '59) early leadership and initiatives in international development projects, and the establishment of an international reputation for scientific and agricultural research. More recently the program has developed to include academic articulation programs, outbound student mobility and internship opportunities. Today we continue to have a strong reputation for participatory partnerships with other educational partners in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

As a Faculty of Agriculture we are in a unique position to be able to share our knowledge and practical skills to impact agriculture and food security in the developing world. Of course we don't have all of the answers! We need to continue to do this in full partnership mode, ensuring that our international partners are being selective and customizing the knowledge and skills that are appropriate for their context. I think this is one of the ways that we, the Faculty of Agriculture, contributes to the corporate citizenship and global commitment of our university.



*Driving with the top down.*



*A family barbecue on a warm summer night.*



*Great entertainment.*

# Community Open House

*A summer tradition*

**Thursday, July 25, 2013 | 10:00-2:00**

**Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus**

Re-live your university days with your family and friends. Attend a reunion, catch up on the latest agriculture research or just enjoy some hands-on fun.



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