

Barley Party 2018 Honourary Ring Recipient – Dr. Derek Anderson

As part of the Agricultural Campus' ring tradition, the Alumni Association allows for an honorary ring to be presented each year. Honourary rings are awarded to individuals who do not meet the criteria to be eligible for a Barley ring but who are extremely deserving of the honour. These individuals are ambassadors and supporters of the institution. They have made outstanding contributions to the Agricultural Campus community and truly depict the characteristics of an AC alumnus.

The term devotion to campus would be an understatement when describing this year's recipient. He's devoted to advancing the institution, research, student success and the industry. Along with his devotion, his knowledge of institutional history is profound.

It's no wonder he maintains an 85-page curriculum vitae outlining his work with poultry, swine and aquaculture on our campus; ranging from researcher, mentor, instructor and department chair. What is not highlighted in this impressive document is his dedication to quality work from his students, desire to achieve success and ensure the final outcome is reached. His personal, friendly and supportive demeanor also can't be overlooked.

Arriving at NSAC in the 80's, Dr. Derek Anderson was instrumental in putting together the Animal Science and Aquaculture programs and advocating for teaching and research needs throughout the department. One of his first tasks was contributing to the design and development of Haley Institute and hiring adequate staff.

Throughout his career, Dr. Anderson has established a network of people from various industries, government and institutes. Dr. Anderson has always been effective at merging these networks and connecting our campus, including students, to collaborate interests.

As a teacher, Dr. Anderson had a special way with his students. He treated them all with a great deal of respect and professionalism – regarding them as professionals and not just students. He has maintained relationships and stayed in contact with many students, throughout his career.

Dr. Anderson valued hands-on-learning and often went the extra mile to take students on farm tours. One former student remembered Dr. Anderson taking a class of seven on a weekend trip. He arranged tours of numerous swine farms in NB, including one located in a prison. While they were there to learn, he made sure there was fun to be had as well.

Having fun seems to be a common theme, as those who know Dr. Anderson quickly describe him as the social butterfly. Dr. Anderson has regularly led or opened his home to host social events for colleagues, visiting professors and students.

While Dr. Anderson retired in 2015, his dedication to the campus has not. Dr. Anderson still continues to support graduate students and research on campus, as an adjunct professor. He can be found in his Haley Institute office every Tuesday. But that's not the only place on campus Dr. Anderson spends time now. In his spare time, Dr. Anderson volunteers with 'Friends of the Garden', serving as a board member for the botanical garden advisory committee, as well as assisting the botanical garden staff with the maintenance of various garden features, and greenhouse propagation.

Dr. Anderson's devotion to the Agricultural Campus is undeniable. He is very deserving of this honour. Dr. Derek Anderson, we are thrilled to name you the 2018 Honourary Barley Ring Recipient.