

# AGRICOLA

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF DALHOUSIE'S FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

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VOLUME 42, NO. 2, 2015



DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE





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# Letter from the Editor

It's finally summer on the Agricultural Campus and the snowy winter we had here in the Maritimes seems like a distant memory, well, sort of... I remember looking at all of the snow left on my lawn just in May, wondering if it would disappear by July. Glad to say it did!

With summer comes a new edition of the *Agricola News*. I'm very pleased to provide you with your copy. As you may have already noticed, this edition looks a bit different. Now that the *Agricola News* is in full colour, we thought it was time to also freshen-up our look. We're still including the same great content, we just made a few changes. I hope you like it and find the magazine easy to read!

Last fall we conducted focus groups with alumni across the Maritimes. These sessions resulted in lots of great feedback related to campus and alumni programming, yet one of the biggest comments we heard was related to the *Agricola News*. Every single person who participated in our sessions indicated they look forward to the *Agricola News* and most, read it cover to cover! We were very pleased with this response and are making extra efforts to provide you with a great magazine.

The theme of this issue is 4-H - a very familiar program to many alumni and families. 4-H has certainly been the stepping-stone into agriculture for many students and alumni. Earlier this year we shared a story on our new partnership with the Nova Scotia 4-H Council. You'll read more about this initiative in this edition, including what this partnership has entailed

thus far. We also feature two new alumni who were heavily involved in 4-H, as well as a current Masters student.

Since we continue to receive great feedback on our family farming features, we're also pleased to include several more of these profiles in this edition. We're continuing to love this series and enjoying travelling the Maritimes meeting alumni and touring their family operations.

Despite the Maritime winter I mentioned, we hosted several great events throughout the winter and into spring. Many have turned into annual events. Our event attendance continues to grow and we love seeing new faces as well as re-occurring ones! Check out our Up-Coming Events list on page 39 to see where you can catch us next. But be sure to check our website regularly or watch for an invitation to an invite in your area, as you never know when something new may pop up.

I really hope you enjoy this edition, please send us any comments, we always love to hear from you!

Regards,



Alisha Johnson  
Alisha.johnson@dal.ca  
902.893.6022



## AGRICOLA

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### EDITOR

Alisha Johnson

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Emma Geldart  
Judy Smith  
Cathrine Yuill  
Mary-Eleanor Power  
Jenna Forsyth

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Dalhousie University,  
Faculty of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 550  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 5E3

PHONE: 902.893.6022  
EMAIL: [agalumni@dal.ca](mailto:agalumni@dal.ca)

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## Dean's Message

*Dr. David Gray  
Dean, Faculty of  
Agriculture*

*Principal, Dalhousie  
Agricultural Campus*

I chose my career path in Marine Biology as I grew up in Cornwall surrounded by a thriving fishing industry which collapsed in the 80s. I saw firsthand the impact that had on local families and communities and decided I needed to be part of the solution. I wanted to try to ensure that no other community would suffer the fate of the Cornish fishermen.

*I became passionate about something I was exposed to at an early age - much like the 4-H movement does for our young people today.*

I am also a staunch believer that the best way to learn is "to do" and throughout my career have consistently championed this. It is exactly what has long been the case at the Faculty

of Agriculture and NSAC before that.

So you can imagine my pleasure upon learning of our newly formed partnership with 4-H Nova Scotia earlier this year. An organization whose members pledge their heads to clearer thinking, their hearts to greater loyalty, their hands to larger service and their health to better living for their club, their community, their country and their world.

Our fundamental belief systems are the same. Perhaps that is why so many of our most successful students and alumni are also former 4-H members. Just take a look at Breagh Ross and Sarah Morse, featured in this issue, two of more than our nearly 200 graduates who crossed the stage this year during Convocation. 4-H has had a profound impact on their

lives and their future career aspirations.

I truly appreciate the sense of community on this tight-knit campus; the sense of family among our students, staff and faculty that is very much echoed in the agricultural industry as a whole. This was especially evident when our friends and partners at CASE IH Equipment committed to heightening agricultural educational experiences on our campus by providing access to the latest farm equipment technology. CASE IH has agreed to meet the Faculty of Agriculture's technical training and farming operational needs over the next five years with an option to renew for an additional five years.

This is an opportunity to provide hands-on-learning for our students, both in practical operations of state-of-the-art farm

equipment and in the technical and management understanding of precision agriculture. This is will be of significant benefit to our students going forward and we are working to integrate these opportunities into a wide variety of our courses for the coming years.

So with summer now in full-swing and we're prepared for the season upon us - whether it be in education, on the farm or in the field, I hope we can all take inspiration from our friends at 4-H and dedicate our heads to clearer thinking, our hearts to greater loyalty, our hands to larger service and our health to better living for our communities, our country and our world. 🌱





## Alumni Association Message

Chair  
*Jean Lynds*

### *Happy summer Aggies!*

We know there is no one happier to see spring and summer arrive than our alumni farmers who are busy working in the fields doing what they do best...providing for others. Good luck with your cropping and hope the harsh winter has not created too many challenges.

This spring was a special time on the Agricultural Campus, as we welcomed 193 new graduates to our alumni family. Convocation was highlighted by the presentation of a Honourary Doctorate to Dr. Temple Grandin. Dr. Grandin has been named one of *Time Magazine's* 100 most influential people in the world, for her work with animal handling systems and an advocate for autism. She delivered a powerful message at both the Tribute Awards and Convocation. The Class of 2015's own Harris Bakker, also delivered an outstanding valedictory address to his classmates.

Harris' message captured so many experiences and memories of campus life that any alumni could relate to – in a world where change is normal it is nice to know that some things stay the same – and the aggie experience appears to be one of them! Well done Harris!

Dean Gray continues to be out and about meeting alumni. He hosted Dean's Receptions in Gander, Newfoundland in February (between snowstorms) and at the Farm Mechanization Show in Moncton in March. As always, we appreciate you coming out to these events to meet our dean and to connect and reconnect with alumni. We also had an "Aggies at the Bearcats" night in February where over 40 alumni and their families attended a Truro Bearcats Jr A hockey game at the RECC. We have several Bearcat players as students at DAL AC so was a great event to highlight both the Bearcats and the

Agricultural Campus to our community. If you have an idea for an alumni event near you - please contact Alisha at the Alumni office – we are always looking for new ideas to engage alumni.

Some more good news.... last year's special feature highlighting alumni family farms, as part of the International Year of Family Farming was so popular we are going to continue to bring you more stories on alumni and their successes in agriculture.

The Barley ring continues to be a very proud and recognized symbol for AC alumni. This year over 100 rings were purchased by the Class of '15 alone. This spring, Alisha also worked with our ring designer, Donna Hiebert, to launch our Barley pin which was so appropriately presented as a gift to the 2015 grads. The Barley pin was an instant hit – so be sure to come out to an alumni event in the coming months to get yours! 🌾

## IN MEMORY

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

Mr. Leander Archibald.... 1947  
Mr. Donald Fancy..... 1958  
Mr. Bernard Grumley ..... 1956  
Mr. Victor Holmes..... 1947  
Mr. John Martin..... 1942  
Mr. Charles Nowlan..... 1947  
Mr. Angus Smith..... 1952  
Mr. Floyd Smith..... 1951  
Mr. Brian Thorne..... 1968  
Dr. Alan Langille..... 1958

## *Make a Memorial Gift*

Honour a classmate or friend with a gift to the AC. Your thoughtful gift will be used to support student scholarships or bursaries, to improve campus, or to support an area that is of importance to you or your honouree. An acknowledgment of your gift will be sent to the family of the deceased.

For additional information on memorial gifts please contact Donor Relations at 902.893.6721.

**Make a gift online at  
[dal.ca/giving](http://dal.ca/giving)**



COVER STORY

# HISTORY OF 4-H

## *Learn to Do* **By Doing**

*For more than 100 years, 4-H Canada has been one of the most highly respected positive youth development organizations in Canada. Currently, 4-H Canada has more than 24,000 members and 7,766 volunteers embodying the goal of the organization, which is to help young Canadians fulfill the motto, Learn to Do by Doing in a safe, inclusive and fun environment. The organization believes in nurturing responsible, engaged and confident leaders who are committed to positively engaging their communities across Canada and around the world.*





# 4-H FAST FACTS

- Atlantic Canada is home to 141 4-H clubs and close to 4,600 members.
- In 2014, 6,350 projects were completed by 4-H members across Canada ranging from topics in marketing to woodworking to veterinary and geocaching.
- The 4-H Nova Scotia clubs offer more than 40 project topics and members can do as many as they wish. Some members complete an ambitious 10 projects every year.

## *Have You Ever Wondered What the Four 'H's Stand For?*

### **1. HEAD**

Managing, Thinking

### **2. HEART**

Relating, Caring

### **3. HANDS**

Giving, Working

### **4. HEALTH**

Being, Living



*Recent graduates, Sarah Morse & Breagh Ross have been involved with 4-H for many years. Both agree that the organization has made a lasting impact on their lives.*

### THE REBRANDING OF 4-H

For more than a decade, 4-H Canada and all Canadian provinces were engaged in a dialogue around its identity and the need to align marketing and communications initiatives to increase awareness and profile of 4-H around the world. This dialogue revealed that the 4-H community all wanted to share the same identity and be aligned as one global voice. 4-H Canada, as custodians of the 4-H brand and trademarks, were responsible to advance this initiative and are now embarking upon a refreshed brand that will only serve to make the organization even stronger.

### THE HISTORY & MYSTERY OF PIN TRADING

This is a mystery! No one truly knows where the pin trading and collecting initiated or why this item is highly coveted among 4-H members. As a memento of friendships and memories created, members try to retrieve a pin from each 4-H province, state or event they attend during their 4-H years. Members seem to place greater value on those pins distributed by sponsors or partners of 4-H, as they are often in shorter supply. One such pin is that of Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture. 4-H members have been collecting and trading our pin as a way of celebrating and remembering the fun they've had while visiting our campus and learning about the range of work we do in agriculture.

### 4-H PARTNERSHIP WITH DALHOUSIE'S AGRICULTURAL CAMPUS

As featured in the last *Agricola News*, the Agricultural Campus and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council embarked upon a formal partnership earlier this year. Since then, many projects have been underway to enhance our collective missions of promoting agriculture in our communities.

In March, our campus welcomed senior 4-H members to our Truro community for the Atlantic Senior Members Conference and in May, more than 300 4-Hers took in the beauty of our campus during the annual 4-H Weekend.

Our campus is committed to enhancing agriculture awareness and knowledge of 4-H members across Atlantic Canada and beyond. By supporting the National Science & Technology Contest, we have been able to spread our message to even more young agricultural ambassadors across Canada. Our partnership with 4-H is valuable to our campus; it binds us with you, our alumni and it provides a forum for us to share our history and our future with this community of proud aggies.

If you would like to get involved as part of our partnership with 4-H or if you'd like more information on this partnership, contact our Marketing Manager, Mary-Eleanor Power, [mfpower@dal.ca](mailto:mfpower@dal.ca) or 902.893.6527.



## DEDICATED VOLUNTEER WITH 4-H

### Breagh Ross *Head, Hands, Health and a Whole Lot of Heart*



To say Breagh Ross (Class of '15) is involved with her school and her community would be an understatement.

Her countless hours dedicated to extracurricular activities on the agricultural campus and her time spent training and practicing for 4-H competitions did not go unnoticed. For Breagh, her accomplishments are no small feat, considering she doesn't even have a background in farming.

Originally from Kentville, NS, Breagh is in her fifth year studying environmental science at Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus. Not only has she studied at the Agricultural Campus, she has immersed herself in life on campus.

Breagh has been a part of the Dal AC Woodsmen team since she began studying at Dal AC in 2010. She participates in super swedes, vertical chop, and axe throw. In 2013, Breagh was captain of the team and this year co-chaired the national event.

In addition to Woodsmen, Breagh is also the president of Townhouse, a group that helps off-campus students stay involved and participate in campus events.

"Being involved in Townhouse is similar to living on residence," Breagh explains. "We have house events and participate in DASA events as if we are a residence. It involves students in campus events even though they are not on campus all the time."

If that isn't enough, Breagh is also actively involved in 4-H and has been since she was 11 years old. When she was nine her parents enrolled her in horseback riding lessons. At age 11, the barn she was riding at decided to start a 4-H club. Her and a few other girls joined the 4-H club as part of the light horse project. She won her first competition and went to the provincial show that year in Truro. Now 22 years old, she has gone to the provincial show every year since then.

Through her time in light horse, she took an interest to showing cows. The next year she joined the dairy project. She has since tried her hand with dairy cows, beef cows, light horse, draft horse, and a number of life skills projects such as photography and scrapbooking. She's even been president, secretary and treasurer of her 4-H club.

"I've literally done it all," Breagh laughs. "I don't regret one single thing."

This past fall, Breagh attended Pro Show. She won all of the classes she was entered in. Her performance secured her a spot at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto to compete with her beef cow. This year marks her fourth time going to the Royal to represent Nova Scotia, a first in Nova Scotia history. She explains that another male student is also representing Nova Scotia for his fourth time.

Unfortunately, Breagh got food poisoning on the day of

her classes at the Royal. She managed to compete but the results weren't exactly what she was hoping for.

"I wasn't feeling the best," she explains. "I didn't place in my showmanship class and I came eighth in the conformation class."

Not only has Breagh's background in 4-H led her to the Royal, it has led her as far away as Europe. Last summer, Breagh was selected for the Garfield Westin International United Kingdom Exchange. Three members were chosen from across Canada to spend five weeks in Europe experiencing different farming cultures. Breagh traveled with another girl to London where they each went their separate ways to stay with different farming families. Breagh had the chance to experience staying at a horse breeding farm, beef farm, sheep farm, dairy farm, and crop farms. While staying at the farms, Breagh got to work and had a hands-on experience of how the farms differ



from farms in Canada. During her five week stay, she lived in Scotland, Wales, and Northern and Southern England.

"It was really, really exciting," Breagh explains. "I wasn't planning on applying. It was the last day to apply and my mom suggested I submit an application. I was one of the three they selected."

Breagh's experience forced her out of her comfort zone. She explains that while she was homesick at first, she learned how to be a more independent person.

"When I first arrived I wasn't comfortable going anywhere by myself," Breagh explains. "I was travelling alone by myself no problem by the end of the first week though. Being forced out of my comfort zone taught me so much."

Through 4-H and Dal AC, Breagh has submerged herself into everything agriculture. But the best part of her agricultural accomplishments? Breagh didn't grow up on a farm or have any direct ties to agriculture.

She came to Dal AC from a subdivision in Kentville. The small classes and hands on learning were appealing to her. That, combined with a feel for agriculture through her 4-H experience, was enough to know that Dal AC would be right for her. Now graduating with a degree in environmental science, she is certain she made the right decision. She explains that after graduation she will be moving to Ontario to work at Farm Credit Canada. With her career off to a good start, she hopes to someday own her own vineyard and operate a winery.

Her involvement with 4-H not only taught her about agriculture, it taught her valuable life skills. It taught her how to be a leader and how to be confident in what she does. Breagh hopes that more people will take advantage of everything 4-H has to offer. Without it, she would not be where she is today. Breagh can't attribute all of her success to 4-H though. She owes much of it to herself, her hard work dedication and her pledge to the 4 H's-head, hands, health and a whole lot of heart. 🌾

## CATTLEMAN'S YOUNG LEADER

### Ellen Crane *A Once in a Lifetime Experience for One Dal AC Masters Student*



Ellen Crane wasn't sure if what she had read was real. It all seemed very much like a dream- her dream.

A Masters student at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture, she was recently selected as one of the 16 post-secondary students from across Canada to participate in the Cattleman's Young Leaders mentorship program.

The annual program is offered to beef enthusiasts,

age 18-35, with an extensive background in the beef industry who are interested in learning more. Selected candidates are paired with leaders within the beef industry from all across Canada to act as mentors. Mentees are also awarded a \$2,000 bursary for travel expenses to industry and program related events.

"My mentor could be someone such as a researcher or a producer

that is currently involved in the industry," Ellen explains. "With my mentor we'll make goals together as to what we would like the mentorship to look like. I would like to work on networking and improving the communication of research in the beef industry to the producers that can make use of it."

Originally from Cardigan, PEI, Ellen grew up immersed in the beef industry. Her

family owned a beef farm of about 20 cow-calf pairs of purebred Hereford cattle. Since the age of nine, Ellen was involved in 4-H and showing beef cattle. She then went on to the University of Prince Edward Island where she did her undergrad degree in biology. Now working on the first year of her Masters degree, she is studying the residual feed intake and sexual maturity in beef heifers with an

additional focus on indirect assessments of feed efficiency. She will graduate from Dal AC in 2016.

"My ultimate goal is to eventually work in the beef industry," Ellen explains. "Ideally, it would be within the Maritimes."

So far through the program, Ellen has participated in the spring forum where the selections were held. She travelled to the University of Saskatchewan with 23 other semifinalists to participate in a three day session to narrow down the candidates to the final mentees. She

joined in on five roundtable discussions on agricultural related topics, such as antimicrobial use and resistance on marketing beef in a global world.

"There were four to five students at each table," Ellen explains. "Plus two to three judges to keep score and keep the debates on track. I didn't want to be too strongly opinionated but I wanted to have my say. I just tried to be myself and do my best."

Although not yet paired with her mentor, Ellen is excited to get started

in the program. She expects to be paired with her mentor very soon.

"I really hope to improve the network I have so far with people involved in the beef industry," she says. "I hope to learn as much as I possibly can, but if I could narrow it down to one thing I hope to gain, it would be career advice."

Ellen explains that she has always known about the program and was always interested in what it had to offer.

"I've always had some interest in the program," she says. "A graduate from last year said I'd be a good fit and that I should apply this year. Since it fit in so well with the timing of my Masters program, I thought I should apply."

For Ellen, this experience will help her further her career in the beef industry. She will meet new people, connect with industry partners, and gain valuable insight and experience. For Ellen, it truly is a once in a lifetime experience. 🌱

## SCHOOL TRANSFER SUCCESS

### Sarah Morse *Finding Where She Belongs*

*"Don't close yourself off from anything because you never know what you might enjoy."*

Sarah Morse (Class of '15) practiced and preaches this advice. After exploring different academic options and practicing new skills through 4-H, she finally found where she belongs, doing something she didn't expect she would enjoy.

Sarah, originally from Aylesford NS, grew up on a dairy and beef farm with her family. Despite growing up on a farm, she hadn't expected that she wanted to study at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture. She had always been interested in agriculture but was more into the business side of it so she wasn't sure that Dal AC would be right for her. After changing her program more than once, then switching

universities to come to Dal AC, Sarah finally found where she wanted to be.

"My father went to the NSAC and took a similar program," Sarah explains. "I heard about the program through him. I started out at a different university in Child and Youth Study and then switched to Arts but nothing felt right for me."

After making the choice to transfer schools, Sarah is graduating this

May with a Diploma in Business Management (Agriculture) and she couldn't be happier. What Sarah enjoyed the most about her program was the hands on learning aspect. They were taught the theory aspects in the classroom and were then able to practice the theory in real life settings. When she began her studies, she didn't know many other students. Now though, her class feels like a family.





"The students in the diploma program are all together in almost all the same classes," Sarah explains. "It's almost like a family. We're all really great friends and all really close with each other."

Not only did Sarah study on the Agricultural Campus, she called the Agricultural Campus home for two years. Sarah lived on campus and was the Residence Assistant (RA) for the past year in the Chapman House residence. Her duties as RA were to ensure the residents safety, as well as provide them with a fun and exciting residence life experience.

*"I became an RA because I wanted to become more involved within my residence and make it fun for everyone," she explains. "My favorite part was getting to know a lot of different people who lived in my residence. My least favorite part was having to lay down the law when people were not following the rules!"*

In addition to her studies and her RA duties, Sarah was always actively involved in 4-H. She has been a member of the Harmony-Nicholsville 4-H Club in Kings County since she was eligible to be a junior member at age nine. This year is her last year as a member.

Sarah has always been involved in the beef project in 4-H. The beef project taught her how to care for and show beef cattle. Two years ago, Sarah was named Grand Champion Beef Showman at the provincial 4-H show, an accomplishment that she is very proud of. Last summer, Sarah qualified to compete at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario. In November 2014, she travelled to Toronto where she was a member of the beef team for her fourth time. She competed in showmanship and confirmation classes with her beef heifer.

"I did pretty well considering the competition," Sarah says. "When competing at that level you're competing against the best of the best from all across the country."

Sarah can attribute some of her success to her time spent in 4-H. She explains that from a young age she was very shy. It was her involvement in 4-H that helped her develop skills that allowed her to come out of her shell and help her to be more comfortable in different settings- like transferring schools and meeting new people. She also learned that it's important to be open to new ideas and to not to close yourself off from anything. It was those years that she spent in 4-H, meeting new people, travelling, and trying new things that helped Sarah finally find where she truly belongs. 🌱

Friendly staff in case I have any questions

Lots of outdoor space

Dining right on campus

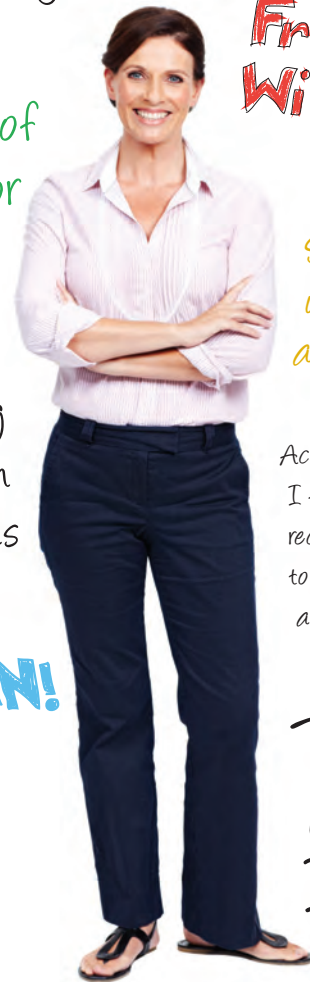
CLEAN!

Free Wifi!!

Seating for up to 415 attendees

Accommodations I feel comfortable recommending to my friends and colleagues

This is what I need



## Everything you need. Where you need to be.

Our campus is still the beautiful place you remember. Whether you're planning a family trip or choosing a conference destination, get back in touch and find out how we can bring convenience, comfort, and a little nostalgia to your time in Truro.



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EVENTS AND REUNIONS

# PROUD MOMENTS

## *A Barley* **Tradition**



For nearly 100 graduating Dal AC students, the 2015 Barley Party was one of the proudest and most exciting moments of their lives. Each student waited anxiously for their name to be called to the podium where they received their long-anticipated Barley ring. It's after receiving their Barley ring that one chapter of their life closes. For all, the Barley Party is a bitter-sweet moment.

Unveiled five years ago, the Barley ring is the official graduation ring of the Agricultural Campus. Since its launch in 2010, it has become a highly recognized symbol of the Faculty of Agriculture. Now with over 600 rings worn by alumni around the world, the Barley ring is a proud symbol of the Faculty of Agriculture and the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. The textured design features a pattern of barley around the band of the rings and each ring is handmade by local jeweler, Donna Hiebert. This year, over one hundred rings were presented to the Class of '15—the biggest turnout to date.

"When we developed the Barley ring, we wanted to create a symbol to celebrate our alumni community," says Colette Wyllie, Director, Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association, who also played a major role in developing the Barley ring as a student. "We wanted it to be as unique as our institution and our graduates. But mostly, we wanted something that alumni would be proud to wear on their fingers. Five years later, I think that's definitely the case. It's exciting to see the uptake





2015 Barley ring recipients showing off their rings with pride

grow each year and to know that graduates are eager to be a part of the ring family."

The Barley Party is an annual celebration for students who have purchased a graduation ring. An evening event held in Jenkins Hall on campus, students enjoyed a buffet-style meal and were joined by a few special guests. Students received their rings and were welcomed to the Agriculture Alumni Association by Jean Lynds, Chair and Dr. David Gray, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture. For many students, the Barley Party is more

prominent than their actual graduation ceremony.

"Receiving a Barley ring at the ceremony is a big moment for grads," says Robyn McCallum, President of Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association. "It's an official welcome to a larger community- the Alumni Association. It's a huge deal to realize after so much hard work, that you are now part of the strong, proud AC family."

As part of the Agricultural Campus' ring tradition, the Alumni Association allows for one to two honorary

rings 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 Dal AC alumni.

This year, both Julie Andrews, Chartwells Food Services Manager and Victor MacKinnon, Head

Chef, were selected as honorary ring recipients. Their passion and dedication to the campus, students, staff, faculty and guests made them more than deserving of the award. Having both been a part of the campus and working together for many years, Victor and Julie go above and beyond their job descriptions. While they are both quick to defer the credit to their incredible Chartwells team, the team would not run as well as it does without their leadership.

Student testimonials describe Julie and Victor as friendly, dedicated and a wonderful asset to campus.

They are always trying to accommodate the needs of the students. In fact, in 2004, during infamous snowstorm White Juan, Victor walked to campus from his home in Salmon River to make sure the students on campus had a hot meal. In 2011 Julie travelled to China to learn more about Chinese culture and cuisine to better accommodate the nutritional preferences of



Long time Chartwells employees, Victor MacKinnon and Julie Andrews were the proud recipients of honorary Barley rings.



Brent Pearson (Class of '91) attended the Barley Party to receive his ring alongside son, Dallas.

international students on campus. It is this type of dedication that is deserving of the prestigious Barley ring.

"This past summer I had the opportunity to work closely with Julie in planning major events and she was so accommodating, just as she is with all students here on campus," says Robyn McCallum. "Chef Victor is the type of person who, no matter the time of day, is always a breath of fresh air. He can turn a bad morning into a brighter one. Both Julie and Victor are an asset to campus and it would not be the same without them."

Along with the two honorary recipients, another special guest was in attendance at this year's Barley Party. Brent Pearson (Class of '91) travelled from Glassville, New Brunswick to attend. Not only did Brent get to see his son receive his Barley

ring, but he received his own Barley ring alongside his son. Brent received an engineering diploma from NSAC in 1991 and like his father, Dallas Pearson received his engineering diploma in May. For the Pearson's the Barley Party was extra special.

"I first heard about the Barley ring during its introduction in 2010," Brent

explains. "To me the Barley ring is symbolic of many things- a higher education in a close knit university, friendship and hard work. To receive the ring alongside of our eldest son Dallas was a special event for me. It was a proud moment for a Dad. I am very happy that we are able to share this common bond. In actuality, I consider it an honor."

Dallas was equally as proud to receive his ring alongside his father.

For some, the Barley Party is more exciting than graduation but for all, the Barley Party marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. As graduates return to their seats after receiving their ring, there are two noticeable differences in the room- the beaming smile of every student and a silver or gold strand of barley wrapped around fingers all around the room. 🌾

*"The Barley ring is an exciting checkpoint in my education and it's pretty cool to know my dad graduated from the same program,"*

Dallas says. "To me the Barley ring represents hard work and unity and I will always wear it with pride. This year's ceremony was particularly special for me as my dad also received his ring. I am happy to be following his footsteps through engineering and I consider it an honor to accept our rings together."





CELEBRATING  
CONVOCATION





CELEBRATING  
CONVOCATION







## Ben Hollingsworth *2015 Life President*

Each year, prior to Convocation, the graduating class elects their life president, a tradition that has been happening for many years. The life president role serves as the main point of contact to the Alumni office, keeping classmates connected to campus. As the years fly by, this becomes more and more critical. The life president will work with the Alumni office to plan reunions and other events for the class and to keep the class up-to-date on important campus news.

The 2015 life president, Ben Hollingsworth, was born and raised in Bible Hill, NS. With his keen interest in animals and growing up so close to the Agricultural Campus, Ben always knew he wanted to attend NSAC (Faculty of Agriculture).

Throughout his four years, if Ben was not in class, he could be found at the Truro Raceway training and caring for his small stable of race horses. Harness racing is Ben's true love and he has travelled all over North America teaching kids about racing while also working for large stables, both, in Connecticut and Ontario during his summer breaks.

Ben graduated with an Animal Science degree, minoring in Agriculture Business and Food Science and Technology. Shortly after his May Convocation, Ben moved to Ontario to pursue his harness racing passion, working for a large stable in the Guelph area. 🐾



## Dr. Temple Grandin *Honorary Doctorate*

Not only does the Class of '15 feature 200 impressive new graduates. Among its ranks is animal welfare scientist and renowned autism activist, Dr. Temple Grandin. Dr. Grandin was one of 10 outstanding individuals selected to receive honorary degrees from Dalhousie in May.

Dr. Grandin is almost certainly both the world's most famous animal scientist and the world's most recognized person with autism. She turned the childhood pain of being different into a life of profound purpose, using her unique perspective to change the face of animal welfare and give hope and inspiration to millions of people and families living with autism spectrum diagnoses. In 2010, Dr. Grandin was named one of *Time Magazine's* "100 Most Influential People in the World" in the Heroes category.

In 1970, Temple Grandin received a BA at Franklin Pierce College. In 1975, with her work on the behaviour of cattle in squeeze chutes, she earned her MSc in Animal Science at Arizona State University. In 1989, she was awarded a PhD from the University of Illinois. Half the cattle in the U.S. and Canada

are handled in equipment she designed. Dr. Grandin is also deeply dedicated to improving the lives of people with autism. Her belief that being a person with autism is a gift and not a liability has changed the way we think about what she calls the "specialist mind" and the promise it offers a rapidly changing world.

Dr. Grandin has published extensively on both autism and animal welfare. Her list of over 70 awards includes the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Livestock Conservation Institute and honorary doctorates from several universities. In 2010, HBO released a multi-award-winning TV movie about her life. Today, Dr. Grandin is Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University and enjoys a thriving business as a consultant. 🐾

ANNUAL  
RECEPTIONS*Alumni & Dean's*  
**Receptions**

Our annual Dean's Receptions continued over the winter months with a reception in Gander, NL, in conjunction with the NL Federation of Agriculture annual meetings. We also hosted many alumni and guests in Moncton, NB, during the Farm Mechanization Show.

We'll be beginning our annual Alumni Receptions again in September, as well as other exciting events. Visit [dal.ca/agalumni](http://dal.ca/agalumni) for venues and locations. For information call 902.893.6022. ☎



*Alumni gathered in Gander, NL for our Dean's Reception*



*Dean's Reception, Gander, NL*



*Farm Mech Show, Moncton, NB*

## AGGIE NIGHT

*Aggie Night at*  
**the Bearcats**

Approximately 40 Aggies and guests cozied-up in the sky-box at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre in Truro, at the end of February, to watch the Truro Bearcats take on the Pictou County Weeks Crushers. This event was such a hit, for all ages, we'll be sure to make it an annual tradition! ☎







## Another Barley Ring Lands across the Globe

Sarah Matheson (Class of '15) submitted this photo after her much anticipated Barley ring arrived in the Netherlands. Sarah, who chose to complete her fourth year in the International Food Business program, studying in the Netherlands, could not be on campus for the Barley Party or any other Convocation activities. But that didn't stop her from getting a ring! 🌾

## Class of '75 Reunion

A 40<sup>th</sup> reunion is in the works for the Class of '75, Oct. 16-17, 2015. The celebration will include College Royal activities on Friday afternoon, as well as reminiscing later in the evening. Saturday classmates will enjoy the Homecoming breakfast in the library (open to all alumni), followed by campus tours, a meet and greet with Dr. Gray and Athletics events. Other plans are still in the works.

Many classmates have already expressed their enthusiasm about attending – some travelling from afar. If you are a member of the Class of '75 and have not heard from your classmates, contact [carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca) as soon as possible.

Former staff, faculty and alumni from '74 and '76, are also invited to attend. The more the merrier! As more details are finalized, members of the Class of '75 will be in contact with you.

Mark your calendars now and make this a weekend to remember! 🌾



## FAFU Students Excited for Dal AC

Dean, Dr. David Gray and Associate Dean Academic, Claude Caldwell met with in-coming students for the 2015-16 academic year while visiting our partner university, FAFU in March.

## New Barley Pin

Barley is a growing theme on the Agricultural Campus and it just got a bit stronger. The Class of '15 were the first recipients of the campus' new barley pin. Just like the barley ring, the pin was designed by local artisan, Donna Hiebert of Halifax, NS for alumni. The pin was developed out of demand for more barley products and as a compliment to the ring.

Attend one of our alumni events or visit us in the Alumni office, Cumming Hall to claim your barley pin!





## FOUNDERS DAY 2015



### *Wearing Boots to* **Celebrate our Roots**

*"This photo represents the meaning of agriculture to our entire family. In the photo is my father, who worked on the NSAC farm for many years until retirement. My nephew is also shown in the picture, working on his family farm. He is a recent grad of Dal AC and his parents are also alumni." – Janice MacIsaac*



*"I took this picture of my Barley Ring at the first ever barley party before I even put it on my finger. Looking back on it, I'm glad I did. This picture is full of symbolism (largely unintentional at the time) with the ring, crest and NSAC all overlapping. You can pull all kinds of meaning out of it now in relation to NSAC, agriculture and the symbolic nature of the ring itself. I wear my ring with pride every day. It is a constant reminder of my roots (agriculture) and my NSAC experiences and education, which I value so much" – Colette Wyllie*

The Faculty of Agriculture celebrated its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary, February 12, in the Ruminant Animal Centre. Faculty, staff, students and alumni broke out their boots and NSAC gear in celebration of our agricultural history. Professor Lauranne Sanderson toasted our past while Dean David Gray toasted our future.

Members of the Antique Farm Equipment Museum provided a display of NSAC artifacts and old agricultural items.

Guests viewed the top five finalists in the This is Agriculture photo contest and the winning entry was selected. Congratulations are extended to Janice MacIsaac (Class of '85) for her winning photo. She became the proud new owner of a pair of Hunter boots! Second prize went to Colette Wyllie (Class of '10). 🍷



A photograph of a man with short dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt with 'Cotho' on it and blue jeans, standing with his arms crossed next to a large red Case IH tractor. The tractor is parked in a field with dark soil. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky. The text 'CASE IH' is visible on the side of the tractor.

## DONOR RELATIONS PAYING IT FORWARD

# CASE IH Partnership

It sounded too good to be true –two shiny new red tractors delivered to campus for use on the farm. No strings attached.

“It was something we always dreamed of – access to new equipment, but never thought possible,” says Jean Lynds, coordinator, Ruminant Animal Centre, Dalhousie’s Faculty of Agriculture.

What started five years ago as a casual agreement, with the delivery of two machines, has now become a formal partnership.

Dalhousie’s Faculty of Agriculture and global leader in agricultural equipment, CASE IH have entered into a new five plus five agreement. The faculty will have the use of about 16 pieces of CASE IH equipment each year, for the next five years, with the commitment to renew for another five years and beyond. The delivery of leading edge farm machinery will be used for teaching, production and research. This partnership represents an approximate retail value of \$1.7 million annually and an annual rental value of \$170,000.

“We are so proud and honoured to be formalizing our ongoing relationship with our friends at CASE IH through this partnership agreement,” said Dr. David Gray, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Principal, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. “Our partners at CASE IH are innovative and forward thinking and are an essential component in the future development of our students as they enter the modern age of agriculture.”

When asked why they do it, the reason is pretty simple for CASE IH.

“It’s a simple concept, we can help the students and Faculty of Agriculture,” says Robert Meier P. Ag. of CASE IH. “You know how you get a nice warm, fuzzy feeling when you help others? We feel so good about helping the Agricultural Campus, so technically, they’re helping us.”

Meier also calls the partnership, which is the first of its kind for CASE IH in Canada, a great fit. “CASE IH is all about technology and the Agricultural Campus is the centre excellence of agriculture in the Maritimes, it makes sense.”

Machines are delivered twice per year, in the spring and fall, from VanOostrum Farm Equipment Ltd, the local CASE IH dealer in Port Williams. Since 2010, the deal has resulted in the delivery of 40 pieces of equipment to be used on the Agricultural Campus.

“We identify our needs and CASE IH meets them,” says Lynds. Not limited to tractors, CASE IH has also provided disc mowers, skid steers, utility vehicles and others. All providing students, researchers and staff access to new technology and different models.

For Gary Maddison (Class of ’83), sales manager, VanOostrum Farm Equipment Ltd, the signing of the agreement with the Faculty of Agriculture has an extra special meaning. “As an alumni, it’s a huge honour to give back to my alma mater. My two years at the AC gave me the knowledge to start my career, it feels good to return what was given to me.”



## DONOR RELATIONS

While no partnership of this type existed when Maddison was a student, he admits the impact it would have made. "We were repairing machines that were 20 years old. This would have given us a chance to see new equipment and certainly enhanced our experience. Agricultural technology has advanced enormously and changes so frequently. Students will now have access to the latest technology."

Students, staff and researchers aren't the only ones who can benefit from access to such technology. Potential customers to CASE IH and VanOostrum Farm Equipment Ltd. can travel a short distance, to campus and see first-hand the abilities of certain machines.

"The Agricultural Campus had been tracking fuel consumption of a specific tractor," says Meier, "we had a customer interested in the same model, but he wouldn't accept what we told him he could get for fuel consumption." A quick drive to the AC and a look at the fuel logs closed the sale."

"The students at the AC are those farmers of tomorrow," says Maddison. "Obviously there is some cost to this program, but it's an investment in the future of farming in Atlantic Canada."

Now that the partnership is formalized with CASE IH the future for students, staff and researchers at Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture now looks a lot more shiny and red. 🌱





MAKING AN IMPACT  
ON LEARNING

# The Power of Technology in the Classroom

A lot has changed at the Agricultural Campus since Dale Ells (secretary, Class of '59) and his classmates graduated.

"Classes were much smaller then," he notes. "There were only 39 of us and if you wanted to complete the science degree in agriculture you had to go to Guelph or McGill. We felt prepared to go into those new learning environments and even take on leadership roles mainly because of the high-quality instruction we received here in Truro."

Ells and his classmates never forgot the foundation that the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (now Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture) provided them. Over the years, they

often discussed how they could support the campus in return, particularly as their 50th anniversary approached.

"We had noticed other classes making a donation or establishing a scholarship, so we formed a committee to talk about what meant most to us. The conversations focused on our respect for the faculty and the quality of instruction we received. So we decided to establish a fund dedicated to learning."

Launched in 2009, The Class of '59 Teaching Development Fund helps faculty, technicians and staff involved in teaching provide the same calibre of instruction that Ells and his classmates cherished.

"With larger classes, tighter budgets, and the need to continually upgrade one's subject matter, it can be difficult dedicating resources to updating teaching techniques or learning facilities," says Ells. "We decided to focus our support on the entire teaching team."

To date, the fund, which anyone can donate to, has been used to present a teaching workshop, invest in learning materials for instructor training and to purchase clicker technology that enhances student engagement while revealing how well they comprehend topics discussed in class.

"This technology helps me deliver more student-centred education, and

that would not have been possible without the fund," says professor Diane Dunlop (Class of '85).

"What the Class of '59 has provided us is an important opportunity to bring more excitement into the learning process and ensure a better understanding of course material."

There is one other way that the fund has been beneficial, according to class president Campbell Gunn. "It's certainly brought the class members closer together. We've been meeting every year since we started this. Our hope is that, through this gift, we can help the teaching team gain the tools they need, which will ultimately benefit students." 🌱

*Written by Mark Campbell*



Back row: Joe Ruet, Les Haley, Tom Dunphy, Donnie MacNeil, Eric Jennings and Fred Pierce

Front Row: Cameron Fullerton, Bob Balcom, Bob Sanford, Alan Langille, Walter Fiander, Graeme Linkletter and Don Drayton

Alan Langille (Class of '58) came home to the Agricultural Campus last year with a mission. Filled with tremendous fondness for his alma mater, Alan wanted to leave a legacy. It was his hope that he would make an impact on students every year by creating a scholarship to support a third year plant science student who was achieving academic success but experiencing financial need. In this way he could give back to the institution that was such an important building block in his life while also honouring his brothers, Bruce (Class of '46) and James (Class of '47). Alan was very proud to finalize the creation of the AB and JE Langille Brothers Scholarship knowing that it would be awarded for the first time to a student in the fall of 2015.

Born in Amherst, NS, Alan followed in both of his brother's footsteps and spread his wings at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, now Dalhousie University. He completed the first two

years of his science degree, becoming a part of the Class of '58. During this time Alan developed many friendships that have lasted a lifetime. In and out of class Alan was noted for always wanting to have the last word. Friends will remember that this resulted in Professor Roy Stevenson referring to him as "Lippy" which, of course, stuck as a nickname.

Alan went on to complete his degree at McGill University in 1960. Later that year, he enrolled in the graduate school of the University of Vermont for his M.Sc. (1962) followed by his PhD (1967) from Pennsylvania State University.

Alan joined the staff of the department of Plant and Soil Sciences of the University of Maine in the fall of 1967 as an assistant professor and would go on to spend his entire 39 year career there. His early responsibilities included teaching several plant science courses, conducting research, and directing graduate students in the basic

physiology of the potato. During the final 12 years of his career, Alan taught and developed a field research program in turfgrass science, establishing the University of Maine as an official site for the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program. Alan retired in 2006 as a professor of agronomy and cooperating professor of botany.

Wherever he went, Alan enjoyed talking about his NSAC days and about the early settling of Nova Scotia, particularly in the Truro area, at class reunions and with close classmates over the phone.

On April 19, 2015, at the age of 77 Alan passed away. He is survived by his wife, Dolores Langille of Orono; son, Jonathan Langille; daughter-in-law, Severine Imbert de Smirnof; and granddaughter, Emmeline, all of Boston, Mass. He will be sincerely missed by all who knew him. His legacy lives on, as he had wished, through the AB and JE Langille Brothers Scholarship. 🌱



# Annual Giving Report to the Faculty of Agriculture

APRIL 1, 2014 – MARCH 31, 2015

## IN-KIND GIFTS AND PLEDGES \$1,350,000

CASE IH  
Stella Jones Inc.  
John Atkin

## PLANNED GIFTS

William B Collins  
John B Eaton  
Gerry W Friars  
Peter Y Hamilton  
Paul A Hendrickson

## CASH GIFTS TO FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE \$363,714

## GIFTS OVER \$10,000

The John and Judy  
Bragg Family  
Foundation  
Donald Bubar  
Canadian Nursery  
Landscape  
Association  
Family of CA Douglas  
Alison Firth  
Shelley MacEwen  
(Class of '81)  
Estate of Charles  
Malcolm  
MacQuarrie

Doris Ross  
Stuco Holdings Ltd

## GIFTS FROM FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE ALUMNI

Class of 1939  
Bernard Kuhn  
Class of 1940  
Leonard A D'Eon  
Class of 1944  
Clara (Starratt)  
Galway  
Class of 1946  
William Collins  
J Gordon Crowe  
Laurence R Stewart  
Class of 1947  
Eric MacPhail  
Class of 1948  
Kenneth Ainslie  
Maurice Clark  
Dale Duplessis  
Gerald Friars  
Chesley Lockhart  
James Winmill  
Class of 1950  
James Borden  
Paul C Harris  
Jack Johnson  
Ian MacDonald  
Stewart &  
Bette Russell  
Class of 1951  
Blair Bonnyman  
W C Durant  
Ken MacKay  
Lewis Ricketson  
Class of 1952  
William Hanlon  
Keith McCully

Robert &  
Patricia Murray  
Arnold Pitman  
Class of 1953  
Anders Johnson  
Paul Musial  
Class of 1954  
Ronald Colpitts  
Freeman Eaton  
David Gray  
Stewart Hoare  
Ralph MacKay  
Vernon Murray  
Robert Parks  
Calvin Tilley  
Class of 1955  
Leslie Blackburn  
Henry MacConnell  
Donald McInnes  
Peter C Schousboe  
Class of 1956  
Gilbert &  
Dorothy Allen  
Nelson Ball  
Byron Beeler  
Harry &  
Beth Crouse  
Douglas &  
Carlene Crouse  
Richard Huggard  
Ted MacNintch  
Don Morrison  
Bill Seaman  
Daniel Stewart  
Class of 1957  
Ralph Ferguson  
Paul MacDonald  
Weldon Travis  
Class of 1958  
Donald Grant  
Leslie Haley  
Eric Jennings

Jess M Thompson  
Class of 1959  
Alan Bentley  
Dale Ells  
Irvin MacCormick  
Stanley Warwick  
Class of 1960  
Garth Coffin  
Amos Coleman  
Laurie D Hennigar  
Frank Lawson  
J D Lubin  
G Gilbert  
MacDonald  
Class of 1961  
Allen L Jess  
Robert MacKenzie  
Norman MacQueen  
Wendell Palmer  
Gary Pretty  
Class of 1962  
Evans Estabrooks  
Wayne Parker  
John Reid  
Richard Whitaker  
Class of 1963  
Donald Byers  
Marie Gilroy  
James Pickett  
Ralph Glendon  
Smith  
Class of 1964  
K Wayne  
Blenkhorn  
K Joyce Coffin  
Francis Cotter  
Richard Holley  
Jerry Ivany  
Neil Murphy  
Audrey Payne  
Sedgewick Sinclair  
Class of 1965

Keith Douglas  
R W Fraser  
Earle Woolaver  
Class of 1966  
Peter Clarke  
Charles Hiltz  
David Thorne  
Class of 1967  
Patrick Riordon  
Keith Silver  
Class of 1968  
Brian &  
Lucille Mahoney  
Isaac Smith  
Class of 1969  
Richard Feeney  
Larry & Sarah  
(Butler) Hudson  
Mary Walter  
Class of 1970  
Brian Dykeman  
David Thompson  
Class of 1971  
Paul Dickie  
Brian Duplessis  
James Johnson  
Douglas Lea  
Darrell Smith  
Class of 1972  
Gabriel Comeau  
Leo Harbers  
Donna Langille  
& James Fraser  
Allen Shaw  
Alford Smith  
Jack Vissers  
Class of 1973  
Harold Cook  
Steve and  
Patti Healy  
Harold Johnson  
Dale McIsaac

Class of 1974  
John Harvie  
Bradford Hood  
Donna Spracklin  
Class of 1975  
John Brown  
Sheila Crouse  
Lloyd Mapplebeck  
& Lauranne  
Sanderson  
Sherry Porter  
Carol Versteeg  
Class of 1976  
Caye Harris-Allum  
Fraser Nicholson  
Michael Vermeer  
Class of 1977  
E Taylor-Samis  
Class of 1978  
Boyd R Crouse  
Condon  
MacDonald  
Donald Rankin  
Class of 1979  
Shari Allan  
Christine  
MacKinnon  
Jeffrey Morton  
Wade Murray  
Phillip Robichaud  
Gerard Thebeau  
Class of 1980  
Lana Crewe  
Andrew Crouse  
Garth Nickerson  
& Dianne McLeod  
Class of 1981  
Carolyn Beisel  
John Dorn  
Elizabeth  
Prentice-Hudson  
Margaret Trenholm

## DONOR RELATIONS

Class of 1982  
Glenn Foster  
Larry Mailman  
Dana M Power  
Class of 1983  
Alyson Chisholm  
Class of 1984  
June Fulton-  
Margiewicz  
Carol McDonald  
Nancy Smith  
Class of 1985  
Dana Hicks  
Anthony  
& Lisa Smith  
Class of 1986  
Carl  
Duivenvoorden  
Anthony Gorham  
Class of 1988  
Cynthia Mitchell  
Class of 1990  
Jean Lynds  
Tracey Murdock  
Class of 1992  
Guy Boswall  
Ruth DeMone  
Class of 1997  
Andrew Lake  
and Tricia Lake  
(Class of '05)  
Class of 1998  
Michelle Sampson  
Class of 1999  
Bert Harbers  
Class of 2002  
Jenna Tingley  
Forsyth  
Class of 2003  
Audrie-Jo  
McConkey  
Class of 2007  
David Christie  
Class of 2011  
Elliot Levy  
Class of 2012  
David Gilfoy  
Class of 2014  
Chris Richards

### FRIENDS & FAMILY OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

*\*Class years indicates year  
graduated from Dalhousie  
University (all other faculties  
excluding Agriculture).*

Clark Aitken  
Shannon Bennett  
Greg Blair  
Robert Broughton  
Dale Bubar  
Robert & Shirley  
Bubar  
Claude Caldwell  
(Class of '75)  
T Stanley Cameron  
Murray Campbell  
Gerry Chevrier  
Phyllis Cipolla  
Shirlyn Coleman  
Eva Colpitts  
Janice Conley  
Karen Eaton  
(Class of '86)  
Charles & Carol Ferris  
Robert & Sheila  
Frame  
Ian Fraser  
(Class of '96)  
Paul Gallant  
Barbara Gaum  
(Class of '66)  
Barbara Gilroy  
Shawn Gower  
Christopher Hartt  
(Class of '83)  
Gary Hawkins  
Peter Hennigar  
(Class of '76)  
Edith Hudgins  
(Class of '68)  
Leslie Hudgins  
(Class of '70)  
Helen Jones  
Pat Juskiw  
Celia Kaplow  
Carol Kennedy  
Murray & Peggy  
Kilfoil

Brittany Lake  
Lynn LeBlanc &  
Robert Boake  
Lorraine Lovett  
Kevin MacDonell  
Kevin MacIsaac  
Christopher Mackin  
Anna-Marie  
MacKinnon  
(Class of '88)  
Janet MacLeod &  
Arch Cameron  
Lorna MacPhee  
(Class of '80)  
Lloyd MacPherson  
Lawrence Marshall  
Evalynn Mazurski  
Gwen McBride  
Robin & Catherine  
McGee  
Diane McLean  
Heywood  
Steve Michaud  
Sy Moskowitz  
Edith Patterson  
(Class of '71)  
Wayne Peddle  
Ann Petersen  
Ted Pratt  
Heather Quinn  
Rita Rattray  
Paula Rix  
Nerene Russell  
Janet Savary  
Raymond Savoie  
Eileen Scarlett  
Ted Semple  
Madeline Sleep  
Murray Snowdon  
Sandeep Sodhi  
(Class of '96)  
Mark and Jennifer  
Starratt  
Nancy & David  
Stewart  
Eve Stewart  
Tarjei Tennessen  
Sandra Tucker  
David & Susan Walker

Bonnie Waddell  
(Class of '73)  
Jacqueline Ward  
Michael Waugh  
Barbara Whiston  
(Class of '01)  
Laura & Roger Wigley  
Jeffrey Wolman  
(Class of '83)  
**ORGANIZATIONS**  
Agropur Corporation  
American Tours  
International  
Animal Nutrition  
Assoc. of Canada  
ATC Quinlan Fisheries  
Atlantic Association  
of Landscape  
Designers  
Atlantic Land  
Improvement  
Contractors  
Association  
Atlantic Poultry Inc  
Atlantic  
Rhododendron  
and Horticultural  
Society  
Bedford Horticultural  
Society  
Bible Hill Garden Club  
Brookside Fur Farm  
Camden Stables  
Chicken Producers  
Association of  
Nova Scotia  
Class of 1956  
Compass Group  
Canada Ltd  
Co-Op Atlantic  
Crowell's Farms Ltd  
Dairy Farmers of  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
Dairy Farmers of  
Nova Scotia  
Dalhousie  
Agricultural  
Association of  
Graduate Students

Dalhousie  
Agricultural  
Students'  
Association  
Dartmouth  
Horticultural  
Society  
Dykeview Farms Ltd  
EarthCraft  
Landscape Ltd  
Eastern Veterinary  
Technicians  
Association  
Egg Farmers of  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
Environmental  
Coalition of PEI  
Fall River Garden  
Club  
Farm Focus  
Friends of Truro  
Music Festival  
Green Diamond  
Equipment Ltd  
Highland Sod Farms  
Ltd  
Hilltop Dairy and  
Poultry Farm  
Inverness/Victoria  
Federation of  
Agriculture  
L. B. Meek and Son  
Ltd  
Landscape Nova  
Scotia  
Leslie Wood Fur  
Farms Ltd  
New Brunswick  
Institute of  
Agrologists  
Newfoundland  
and Labrador  
Government  
Department  
of Advance  
Education and  
Skills  
Northumberland  
Co-operative Ltd

Nova Scotia 4-H  
Council  
Nova Scotia  
Veterinary Medical  
Association  
NS and NL Branch  
of the Holstein  
Association of  
Canada  
Nova Scotia Animal  
Breeders  
Co-operative Ltd  
Nova Scotia Egg  
Producers  
Nova Scotia  
Federation of  
Agriculture  
Nova Scotia  
Mink Breeders  
Association  
Nutreco Canada Inc  
Organic Agriculture  
Centre of Canada  
Pork Nova Scotia  
Portraits by Johanna  
Prince Edward  
Island Institute of  
Agrologists  
Prince Edward Island  
Potato Board  
Riverdale Fur Farm  
Rotary Club of Truro  
St David's United  
Church  
Stewiacke Valley  
Garden Club  
Syngenta Canada Inc  
The Kings Mutual  
Insurance  
Company  
Tri-County Veterinary  
Services Ltd  
UPS Canada Ltd  
Victory Farms  
Wild Blueberry  
Producers  
Association of  
Nova Scotia

## COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE Thursday, July 23, 2015



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

f /dalagriculture

t @dalagriculture

[dal.ca/agopenhouse](http://dal.ca/agopenhouse)





## AROUND AND ABOUT GROWING A HEALTHY BUSINESS

# Atlantic Grown Organics

Marc & Krista (Geddes) Schurman (both Class of '97)

Imagine having the means to grow fresh, organic vegetables not only for your family, but your neighbours, province and beyond, all year long? Marc Schurman has had a life-long passion for growing things. With his family operation, Atlantic Grown Organics, he's turned that passion into his livelihood.

Although it's sunshine and tropical temperatures all year long, for Marc and his family, at their Kensington, Prince Edward Island greenhouse, their success didn't just fall from the sky.

"Farming is in my blood and I've always loved to grow things," says Marc. In 2001, Marc and wife, Krista, went out on a limb and transformed his family's former hog farm by constructing a 30,000 square-foot greenhouse.

"Farming gives me a sense of pride, which extends in many ways,"

says Marc. "Pride in growing good and nutritious food. Pride in being able to see the fruits of our labour – from seed to an eye-catching display at the market. Pride in using the farm to teach my kids about work ethic and other skills."

He also admits it's seeing a plan through to completion. "I take a lot of pride in turning a vision into a plan and carrying it through to the end. It seldom goes exactly as envisioned, but it does not take away from the satisfaction – it adds to it because you know you have overcome challenges and adversity to reach your goals."

Marc's vision was a greenhouse - the second largest greenhouse on PEI. The greenhouse was initially intended to be used for conventional growing. However a few years in to production Marc and Krista switched their methods

to become an organic operation. "We wanted to capitalize on a niche market," says Marc of the shift. "While growing organically certainly changes every method we used, it didn't necessarily make things more complicated," he says. "By being organic, we just have less tools in our tools box."

Today they grow 100 percent certified organic tomatoes, English cucumbers and a variety of vegetables. "At any given time, we have around 2,000 tomato plants, 1,400 English cucumber plants," adds Krista. "We also grow green and red peppers, eggplant, beans, spinach, kale, herbs and radishes."

And thanks to new lighting in the greenhouse, which they installed last fall, Atlantic Grown Organics is now able to offer these delicious veggies year-round. "This was the first year we were in production for the full year,"



## AROUND AND ABOUT

says Marc. “We’re pretty excited to be able to offer our products to customers all year long.”

The loyal customer base for Atlantic Grown Organics has a wide span. “We see our regulars every Saturday morning at the Farmer’s Markets in Summerside and Charlottetown,” says Krista of their customers. Atlantic Grown Organics also sells to Sobeys and Loblaw’s (Superstore), where their produce is available in many locations across Atlantic Canada. They also sell to

smaller retailers in PEI and directly from the farm.

“Every week is different, depending on the sun and season,” says Marc of their harvest. “But we harvest approximately 100,000 pounds of tomatoes and 110,000 pounds of cucumbers each year.”

Both maintaining jobs off-farm, Marc and Krista are quick to point out they wouldn’t be so successful if it wasn’t for the help they receive. “We employ three guys from Mexico,” says

Marc. “They know more about this greenhouse than I do,” he adds with a laugh. Two of their employees have been with them since 2012 and the other since 2013.

What truly makes their family operation run smoothly is that it is just that – a family operation. Marc and Krista’s three children, Ben, Quinton and Samantha are regular helpers in the greenhouse. “They’re responsible for the grape tomatoes,” says Krista. Several times per week, the kids head down

to the greenhouse, after school, to harvest the plants. “They also come with us to the Farmers’ Market to help sell the produce.”

The family side of the business doesn’t stop with the kids. Marc’s mom and sister take a turn manning the booth at the Farmer’s Market when needed. And when the farm is really busting with activity, other family members are quick to pitch in as necessary.

“Farming is a way of life for us,” says Krista. “It is



*“Farming gives me a sense of pride, which extends in many ways,” says Marc. “Pride in growing good and nutritious food. Pride in being able to see the fruits of our labour – from seed to an eye-catching display at the market. Pride in using the farm to teach my kids about work ethic and other skills.”*

creating a family unit that works and plays together. We have to work hard, sometimes long hours, but we get to do it in our house and our own backyard.”

With his passion now a successful reality, Marc hopes the impact Atlantic Grown Organics has on their

community is a positive one. “I hope that having fresh, local veggies all year can help people make healthier choices with their food and take the time to enjoy good quality food,” he says. “I think this can impact our community, one person at a time.” 🌱





## GENERATIONS OF FARMING

# Milferns Holsteins



Fred, Anne (Class of '88), Andrea (Class of '16), Leo Van Kroonenburg, Fabian (Class of '13) and Susan teBogt (Class of '13)

Sleigh bells jingling, snow crunching, horses snorting, people's chatter and laughter breaking the silence of the crisp night air. That's a typical winter's night for Fred Hamilton and his wife Anne (Class of '88).

Although primarily known for its dairy cows, Milferns Holsteins of Onslow, NS have expanded way past dairy cows. They have a little bit of everything.

"Diversity. That's what sets us apart," Fred explains. "No two days are ever the same. With so many different aspects to our farm, our routine is never the same from day to day."

The 450 acre farm has been in Fred's family for nine generations. When he graduated from high school, Fred began working on the farm that was owned by his father. He attended the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (now Dalhousie Agricultural Campus) to take some two-week long condensed courses in different subjects, including dairy management. He formed a partnership

with his father and eventually took over the farm.

Now, he and his wife Anne and their two children, Fabian (Class of '13) and Andrea (Class of '16), own and operate the family farm. With dairy cows, sheep, horses and border collies, the Hamilton's farm is never a dull moment.

One of their main attractions is their sleigh and wagon rides. The Hamilton's have been offering sleigh and wagon rides year-round for 27 years. Hauled by a team of two draft horses, the sleigh and wagon rides are a popular attraction, especially during the holiday season.

"I had always wanted a draft horse but my father thought I had to justify having a horse," Fred laughs. "Eventually, I got my first draft horse to use in harness. I built a small sleigh that Anne and I would go out in. Then the neighbours wanted to go for rides. I built a bigger sleigh and then got a team of horses. The rest is history."

Not only was Fred able to incorporate his love for draft horses into his family business, the Hamilton's teams of horses are used for weddings, parades, and even TV shows.

The Hamilton's draft horses had a role in the Moby Dick miniseries, shot in Shelburne in 2009 and aired in 2011. Fred and his team of horses also played a more recent role in The Book of Negroes. Filmed last April into May, Fred and his horses spent about a month filming. They travelled to Shelburne, the Fortress of Louisburg, Cole Harbor and Enfield for filming. The miniseries is now airing on Wednesday nights on CBC.

"I watch it every week!" Fred smiles.

Sleigh and wagon rides aren't the only hobby that Fred was able to incorporate into his family's farm. Fred also has a passion for border collies. The Hamilton's currently have seven border collies and will occasionally breed and sell pups. The collies are used for

everyday use on the farm as well as a hobby for Fred.

"I was 13 when I got my first border collie," Fred explains. "It was then that I realized how useful they could be around the farm. Not only are they hard workers, working with them gives me a sense of satisfaction."

Fred participates in many trials, competitions and herding demonstrations with his border collies. He travels as far as New Brunswick for trials and often does local demonstrations.

"Going to trials really gets you out around and meeting new people," he explains. "When you have a good run, it really makes you happy. I hope to be able to do more trials in my retirement."

Fred explains that the border collies are also part of the reason that the Hamilton's have sheep.

"We used them on the farm for beef cattle but we needed some sheep to practice with. I couldn't go to dog trials with dogs that have never seen sheep! Eventually we got rid of the

beef cattle and expanded our sheep operation."

Today, the Hamilton's farm is home to 45 dairy cows, 220 ewes that produce 400 lambs each year, five draft horses, four light horses, and seven border collies. They have 35 acres of corn, silage, hay and grass that they harvest themselves. The entire family, Fred, Anne, Fabian and Andrea, all do their fair share of hard work. Fred, Anne, Fabian and Andrea's fiancé, Leo, work on the farm full time while Andrea completes her animal science studies at Dal AC and works a part time job at Clarence Farm Services Ltd.

Fabian and his partner Susan teBogt (Class of '13) recently launched their own business, Wild Pasture Farm. Wild Pasture Farm features pasture raised beef and pork that is sold locally at the Truro Farmer's Market. Fabian and Susan's animals are kept on the Hamilton's farm. Through their business, Fabian and Susan have also started Meat Up in Truro. Wild Pasture Farms accepts orders and every second

Wednesday, Fabian and Susan meet their customers in Truro to deliver their meat. Their service allows their customers to have access to home-grown quality meat, conveniently delivered right into town.

While the Hamilton's lead a very busy lifestyle, they still manage to contribute to their community. The entire family has greatly impacted their local 4-H club. Fred explains that his mother was a 4-H leader and he himself has been a 4-H leader for 30 years. Now, both Andrea and Fabian are leaders. The Hamilton's have also hosted Achievement Day on their farm many times.

"The kids were both brought up through 4-H," Fred explains. "Fabian is now a sheep leader and Andrea is a light horse leader. It gives me a great sense of pride watching the kids come up through 4-H and now to become leaders."

In addition to 4-H, the Hamilton's also have a close relationship with the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. Each year

during Open House, Fred holds a sheep herding demonstration on campus. Fred also does animal behavior labs during each semester.

For Fred Hamilton, farming isn't just a job. It's a lifestyle.

"Something about going out to the fields on a sunny day and seeing hawks fly overhead, swooping down at field mice just gives me a sense of satisfaction," he says. "You definitely have to give it your all and if you're not prepared to give it your all 24/7 then it's not for you. Everyday can be a challenge and you need to learn how to adapt and deal with those challenges yet continue with your everyday responsibilities."

For Fred, maintaining such a diverse farm is a full time operation. With so many different animals no two days are ever the same. Fred wouldn't have it any other way. He has everything he needs to be successful-time, patience, dedication...

And a lot of help and support from his family. 🌱





DAIRY FARMING  
FOR THE FUTURE*Pure  
Holsteins  
Limited*

Sara (Class of '05) and David (Class of '07) Simmons

The amount of work that David and Sara Simmons have put into their dairy farm is outstanding. That's why, in early March, they were named Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers for 2015.

The award is presented to farmers from the age of 18-39 who have demonstrated excellence in their profession and who help to promote agriculture. It recognizes farmers based on production history, business management and community involvement. This year, David (32) and Sara (30) Simmons from Pure Holsteins were selected as winners chosen from across Canada.

Pure Holsteins is a dairy farm based in Little Rapids, Newfoundland. They milk 100 cows, have 85 heifers and lease 60 acres of pasture from Hammond Farm, owned by David's family. Not only do they have dairy cows to generate a profit, they have cows for pleasure as well. They have remarkable genetics in their herd that allows them to show their cows.

"We take pride in the genetics of our herd," David explains. "We've had animals place in the Top 10 at the Royal and at the World Dairy Expo."

Both David and Sara have a long history in agriculture. Growing up on a dairy farm in New Brunswick, Sara has been showing dairy cows since she could walk. Although David grew up on a poultry farm, he began showing dairy cows when he met Sara.

"We both knew we would be involved in farming," David explains. "Sara knew she would be a dairy farmer since she was three years old. I thought I might be more involved in layers or broilers as my father was a poultry farmer but that changed when I met Sara."

Together, David and Sara purchased all dairy equipment from Hammond Farm in October 2011. Since then, they have been working hard to add more livestock, purchase more quota and improve the productivity of their operation.

In increasing their productivity, Sara and David recently purchased two Lely A4 Robots- machines that will milk the cows automatically. The first of its kind in Newfoundland, the machines have stalls on the outside of them so when a cow is ready to be milked, she moves into the stall. An identification collar around her neck keeps track of her milking schedule and her health information. If the robot detects the cow isn't ready to be milked, it will encourage her to leave the stall and prepare for the next cow.

"Cows are all about schedule," David explains. "They are used to being fed at the same time every day and are used to being milked at the same time every day. With the new milking system, the cows have had to adjust to being milked on their own time."

When a cow is in the stall ready to be milked, an automated arm moves in cleaning and disinfecting her udder. The cow is fed grain while she is being milked. A 3D camera detects her teats and the inflations are attached to her udder. During the milking, the robot records information about the cow. It records her weight, temperature of the milk, ketone levels of the milk and somatic cell counts. This information is monitored every day and is a proactive measure to keeping the cows healthy. Each cow takes about five minutes to milk. Once she is milked, she moves out of the stall and the robot disinfects and prepares for the next cow to enter.

Although the milking process is completely automatic, David isn't

entirely off the hook. If something were to go wrong, the robot calls David on his cellphone to alert him of the problem. The robotic milker operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. David and Sara check the cows every morning and night to see if there are any that need to be put in the robot for milking.

"The robots have allowed us to have more free time," Sara explains. "With the robots doing the milking, we don't have to be up at 4:30 am to milk. We aren't tied down as much."

Pure Holsteins would not have been able to purchase the robots without some additional funding. Under the Growing Forward 2 Innovation Fund, they received \$345,000 from the Federal and Provincial Governments. The company also received \$40,000 from

the Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program.

It's not just Sara and David who spend much of their time around the farm. At the age of four, their daughter Felicity loves helping out as much as she can on the farm.

"Felicity loves being involved with the daily chores and spending time with the cows," David explains. "Farming with our family is important to us because we love it, it's not just a job. You become a much closer family working together every day."

Farming always has its challenges though. Sara explains that the farm wouldn't be where it is today without having encountered and overcome the challenges they were faced with.

"Starting a business is challenging in itself," Sara

explains. "We had some growing pains, being young and inexperienced with the financial side, but they have only taught us life lessons. If something could break or go wrong we've seemed to have already experienced it so we are now ready for the future!"

For the Simmons', the future looks bright. Having started from the bottom and worked their way up, David and Sara are now ready to purchase more quota and breed long lasting cows. With dedication, patience and support from their family and friends, David and Sara have worked tirelessly in an upward battle to become what they are today – outstanding young farmers. 🌱





## A TASTY ADVENTURE IN FARMING



Members of the van Dyk family in photo (left to right): Peter (Class of '84), Kim (Class of '87), Jacob, Nichole (Class of '18), Riek, Case, Gerry (Class of '77), Beverley

The van Dyk family farm is nothing short of incredible. With many smaller farming businesses branching from a farm once run by their parents, the van Dyk's have a lot on their plate. From wild blueberries, a construction company, world-famous wild blueberry juice, mink, Christmas tree land and more in the works, at first sight it may seem they have bitten off more than they can chew. But that's not the case at all. There is only one way to keep everything running- working together as a family.

Peter van Dyk (Class of '84), son of Cornelius (Case) and Henrica (Riek) van Dyk, plays a major role in keeping the farm in the family and giving back to their community. Located in West Caledonia, NS, the van Dyk name is widely recognized.

In 1954, Case van Dyk and his wife Riek moved to West Caledonia from Holland. With them they brought their farming experience and started Ons Genoegen Farms. At that time, Ons Genoegen Farms concentrated on dairy, although it was typical for them to have a little bit of everything. Eventually they focused on farming hogs and in 1977, their operation became a 200 sow farrow-to-finish operation. Case and Riek have nine children- six boys and three girls, many of whom have different ties to the original family farm.

Today, Ons Genoegen Farms still stands in West Caledonia and is owned by Peter and his brother, Gerry (Class of '77). There are no longer any hogs or dairy cows in sight through. Ons Genoegen Farms is now part excavation company and part mink farm. They

also have Christmas tree land and pastures that they lease out. From Ons Genoegen Farms branches a few smaller businesses including the business that produces what the van Dyk's are most famous for- their wild blueberry juice.

Case and Riek own a company called van Dyk Health Juice Products. The company produces, prepares and sells wild blueberry juice made from Grade A, Nova Scotia-grown wild blueberries. Their juice has no additives, no sweeteners or sugar. Simply, 100% wild blueberries.

"To make the juice the berries go through a press," Peter explains. "What comes out of that press is what goes into the bottle. Nothing else is added, that's what makes it so good for you."



Case developed the blueberry juice many years ago. Working with agricultural scientists from the Kentville Research Station, they developed the juice that is now known for its delicious taste and major health benefits. Prior to the juice, the van Dyk's were harvesting and selling fresh wild blueberries. Because of the equipment used to make the juice, they no longer sell fresh berries as there is not enough space in their warehouse.

The juice is made and bottled in a small warehouse down the road from the van Dyk's "home base," Ons Genoegen Farms. There they employ a crew of five women who produce, bottle, label and package the juice for shipping. van Dyk's wild Blueberry Juice is shipped to countries all around the world. Peter explains that China and South Korea are two of their major customers. They also ship all across Canada and some to the United States. Their product is so popular, the van Dyk's are looking at new product development to expand their line.

Although the juice company is owned by Case and Riek, the ownership will soon be transferred to Peter's brother, Leo.

The van Dyk's don't get caught up in ownership technicalities though- they all pitch in to help to keep things running as if it were their own farm.

"As our parents get a little older, we are all working together to make sure the farm stays in the community and stays running," Peter explains. "Dad is 84 years old and he has had some health challenges recently yet he still comes down to the juice plant twice a week and does some work in the lab."

The van Dyk's currently have around 500 acres of wild blueberry land. They are also working on preparing another 100 acres to bring into blueberry production. They have land in Queens County, Annapolis County, Digby County, Shelburne County and Yarmouth County.

"When my parents moved here and were developing the pig farm, dad discovered wild blueberries around the farm," Peter explains. "There were a lot of old abandoned farms in the area that were growing up with wild blueberries and he started to acquire more fields over the years."

Not only do Case and Riek have children

working on and taking over parts of the farm, they have grandchildren now beginning to enter the picture. Peter and his wife Kim (Class of '87), a science and math teacher at North Queens Community School, have three children. Their oldest son, Nicholas (20) is a graduate of the Nova Scotia Community College where he studied mechanical engineering. Their daughter, Nichole (19), just finished her first year at Dal AC. She is studying Agricultural Business and is expected to graduate in 2018 with the intention of returning home to the family farm. Their youngest son Jacob (15) is in grade nine but already has his sights set on attending Dal AC.

"We encourage our kids to do whatever they want," Peter explains. "If they want to come back to the farm, we will make room for them the same as my parents did for us. Nichole and Jacob are both interested in returning so we will make room for them."

And that's what makes the van Dyk farm so unique. When their children want to return, they make room, even if it means expanding to create yet another branch of the business. In





Nichole's case, Peter explains that they are looking to add an apiary to the business.

"Nichole and I are both registered for the Modern Beekeeping program," Peter explains. "We are thinking of starting our own apiary for Nichole to take over when she returns to the farm. We have to rent almost 500 hives a year so there is an opportunity for Nichole to jump in and supply our own bees for pollination. Nichole is very interested in the bees and pays close attention to detail so this is something she will be good at. We also bought some more blueberry land which she is a shareholder in for her to take part ownership of when she's done. And if Jacob wants to do something similar, we'll make room for him to come back to the farm too."

Yet, with so many different companies branching out from each other, the van Dyk family still manages to run everything smoothly as one.

"At two points over the last 15 years mom and dad have brought in an outside person to host one big family meeting," Peter explains. "Everyone was allowed to speak and tell exactly what

parts of the company they would like to be a part of or if they didn't want to be a part of it at all. This helped avoid any family feuds and allowed mom and dad to understand exactly what everyone wanted."

Not only is family important to them, the van Dyk's stress the importance of community involvement. They are loyal to local businesses, buying as much as they can locally and supplying community members with many jobs. From working on the mink farm and the juice plant, to the construction company and harvesting blueberries, the van Dyk family employs over 30 people. Peter also explains that they can see that number moving to 40 people in the next few years.

"Community is very important to our family," Peter explains. "Dad and mom always taught us that we have to give back to the community. They would say, 'you always have to put back into the community. Your way of life is coming from the community so make sure you put back into it.'"

The van Dyk's community involvement does not go unnoticed. Last year, Nichole was selected as Volunteer

of the Year for Queens County. She travelled to Halifax to represent Queens and receive her award. This year, Peter and his niece were both selected. In 2012, Case was inducted to the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame and in 2011 was presented with the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) Recognition Award. In 2014, Case was also awarded the Business Achievement Award for Queens County.

While the van Dyk's may be busy, their eyes are always open for new opportunities within their community and within their family. From their volunteer work, to the opportunities they provide for community members and their family, the van Dyk's are known for their kindness, their generosity, and their delicious blueberry juice. 🍷



## STAYING INVOLVED



## Home Away from Home

Harris Bakker (Class of '15)

Harris Bakker (Class of '15) has a tremendous amount of pride for his university. Not only does he show pride in what it is now, he cherishes its roots. The spirit he had for what was once the Nova Scotia Agricultural College carried over to the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture when the two institutions merged in 2012. His passion, combined with his selfless nature led Harris to receive the 2015 Student Advancement in Leadership (SAIL) Impact Award for Student Government and was voted Class of 2015 Valedictorian at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture.

SAIL Impact awards recognize students for their help, contribution, dedication and leadership throughout the school year. The award for student government recognizes a student for their commitment and leadership to Dal AC by taking on an active role in student government. The recipient will also demonstrate their commitment to the Dalhousie Agricultural Students Association (DASA) and all of the students on campus. Harris was influential in increasing the attendance at Student Review Council (SRC) meetings which has improved DASA's ability to move forward meeting students' needs. He has also enhanced student life through scheduling many fun and successful House Challenge events.

"The award is very prestigious and I have seen other very deserving people receive it in previous years, so I felt

very honoured," Harris says of the SAIL Impact Award for Student Government. "It is very humbling to be part of such an upstanding event and I was very happy to know that people valued my involvement on campus."

Harris began his involvement in student government in 2012 with the NSAC Student Union as VP Administration. Under this title, Harris's main duty was keeping records of meetings and student union affairs, along with sitting on different committees on campus. Harris kept his position throughout the merger with Dalhousie University and became the VP administration in 2013-14 for DASA. After that, he became the VP of External Affairs, organizing different house challenges between residences and off-campus students.

"Student government is very important to me as it is a chance to meet so many students and represent them," Harris explains. "It is a way of getting involved that is very rewarding in the end!"

Harris was also voted Valedictorian by the graduating class of 2015. His leadership and passion for the campus and fellow students make him the appropriate fit.

"Valedictorian is quite an honour!" Harris explains. "It was a challenge to represent all the graduates of our campus, as we have such a diverse student body but I did my very best!"

Harris was born in the Netherlands and in 2000, immigrated to Canada with his family. They left their potato farm in the Netherlands to move to a potato farm in Killoween, New Brunswick, a rural community near Florenceville. Harris began his studies with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 2011, one year before the institution merged with Dalhousie University. He began his studies in plant science with the intentions of returning home to work on the family potato farm.

"My goal has always been farming," Harris explains. "Plant science seemed the most interesting and it was a good hands-on degree program for me to take. It had a lot of lab-work whereas a business program did not compare in that area. So I chose the science route."

Although the school is now Dalhousie University, Harris emphasizes his pride for the NSAC.

"NSAC was what it was when I started," Harris explains. "The merger with Dal was in my second year. The NSAC was a renowned college that was highly recommended to me by different farmers and agronomists in the area and I felt like there were lots of opportunities for me at this campus. It is still a wonderful school with wonderful opportunities but I think it is important for us not to forget our Aggie roots!"

After graduating in May, Harris returned to the family farm. His younger sister, Berdien, is also a student at Dal AC. Like Harris, she is actively involved in student government as DASA's VP Administration. Berdien is studying animal science and hopes to practice veterinary medicine after her studies.

It is students like Harris, with a true passion for their school, that give the Agricultural Campus its unique atmosphere. His dedication to other students on campus not only makes his classmates feel welcome, it helps everyone to feel as if the campus is their home away from home. 🌱





## *Dr. Svetlana Yurgel*

Dr. Svetlana Yurgel, one of the most recent researchers to join the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, started her extensive research simply by looking down.

Having joined the Agricultural Campus in January 2015, Dr. Yurgel studies soil microbiology, specifically looking at soil fertility, plant fitness, and bacteria plant interaction. She is also one of the ever increasing number of female scientists in the agricultural industry.

In 1998, Dr. Yurgel moved to Washington from Saint Petersburg, Russia where she had graduated with a PhD from the Institute of Agricultural Microbiology. At Washington State University, Dr. Yurgel practiced as a post-doctorate fellow until 2003 where she became a research professor. She then moved to Truro, Nova Scotia in early 2015 to continue her research on the agricultural campus.

Dr. Yurgel is looking at how to enhance the growth of agricultural legumes without the use of harsh fertilizers that can sometimes be harmful to the environment. To do this, she studies rhizobium-legume symbiosis- an interaction that

allows two organisms to co-exist.

"Symbiosis is similar to marriage," Dr. Yurgel explains. "There's one person and then a second person and they get together and benefit from each other. The plant can live by itself and the bacteria can live by itself but they can combine and interact and form a specific organism that contains both."

Dr. Yurgel also explains that rhizobia are types of soil bacteria that attach themselves inside the roots of legumes and assist with nitrogen fixation, a process in which nitrogen in the atmosphere is converted to ammonium. Nitrogen fixation is an important process in agriculture as it helps to fertilize the soil.

After crops are harvested, some nitrogen remains in the soil assisting with the growth of other crops. One of the most commonly supplied plant nutrients, nitrogen is also a commonly deficient nutrient in plants. While nitrogen is supplied through fertilizers, this can often be very harsh to the environment. Through her research, Dr. Yurgel is trying to improve the efficiency of nitrogen fixation through symbiosis and provide alternatives

to conventional agriculture.

"It's a way of organic, sustainable agriculture," Dr. Yurgel says. "By growing legumes that form symbiosis, you don't need to apply fertilizers."

Although Dr. Yurgel is immersed in a typically male-dominated area of study, she explains that she has not let that be much of a challenge for her.

"Science can sometimes be difficult for women," Dr. Yurgel says. "In many cases, women take on other responsibilities, such as raising children. It was sometimes challenging for me to manage my research and raise my daughter, but I always had a good support from my family so it wasn't too much of a challenge."

While her research on the agricultural campus is still in its early stages of development, Dr. Yurgel is looking to have undergraduate and graduate students work with her in the future. Her research is aimed at improving fertilization efficiency and will hopefully shed some light on how symbiosis works. It is her hopes that her research will help improve the agricultural industry, starting from the ground. 🌱

# ATHLETICS THE SEASON THAT WAS

## Soccer

### MEN'S

The men's soccer squad struggled on paper in 2014. The Rams finished sixth in the seven-team table with a 3-9 record.

However, when looking at more than just stats, coach, Keith Partridge said he is pleased with the strides the program made in 2014. The Rams worked hard for their best showing of the past five seasons, saw the arrival of an outstanding rookie in Richard MacNevin and got a career season out of goalkeeper Matt MacMinn.

Partridge won't be returning next season, but feels the program is headed in the right direction and hopes the Rams continue to climb to contender status.

"We were able to change teams' opinions of the growing soccer program being shaped at the AC by taking points from teams that were competing for championships," Partridge said. "I wish the incoming staff the best of luck. They'll have a core to start with, so it won't take long to rebuild to a peak year."



## Rams teams taste success, lay foundations for the future

### WOMEN'S

It was a tough season for the women's soccer team. The ladies finished the regular season out of a playoff spot with a 3-7-2 (W-L-T) record, which placed them in a tie for fifth in the seven-team circuit with the Saint John Seawolves. But there are brighter skies on the horizon.

Coach Jackie Fitt-Ryan was excited by the play of rookies Cora Sharp and Emily Merks, who both earned themselves ACAA all-conference status in 2014.

A year's experience under their belts, coupled with the veteran talent of players like Melanie Porter, Sydney Sprenger and Janelle MacKeil, Fitt-Ryan said the team is looking for a playoff berth in the seasons to come.

"I am very pleased with the growth of the program," she said. "Our goal stays the same, clinching a playoff spot and maybe surprising a few people when we get there."

## PLAYING OUR BEST



## Women's Volleyball

As has been the case for the past several seasons under coach, Jamie Naugler, the women's volleyball squad was competitive once again in 2014-15.

In spite of a 4-0 start to the campaign, the team's 9-12 regular season record wasn't enough to propel DalAC to its goal of qualifying for the ACAA championship

tournament. The team, which featured just two returnees, finished the schedule slotted fifth in the conference, eight points behind the Saint John Seawolves (13-8) and St. Thomas Tommies (13-8), who occupied the final two playoff berths.

Senior Samantha Fanning, the Rams' female athlete of the year, led the ACAA and

was third in the nation with 326 digs in 77 sets this season.

"Our goal for the season was to make the playoffs, so it was a little disappointing when we finished fifth," coach, Jamie Naugler said. "But we played our best match of the year in the last game and Sam was outstanding all season. She was the team leader and our best player."



## REACHING SECOND PLACE



## Woodsmen

It was yet another exciting season for the Dal AC Woodsmen.

Both the Rams men's and women's A teams placed second overall in the Canadian Intercollegiate Lumberjacking Association points standings. The women were just 92.44 points behind McGill University's Macdonald Campus after taking wins in two of the season's four competitions, including a victory in their home event, the annual Rick Russell Woodsmen Competition.

The men finished runners-up to the New Brunswick Varsity Reds in the season's overall points table, a familiar position for

both teams, which finished in that order in each of the calendar's four events.

The Woodsmen's success comes in spite of a 28-man roster which featured 16 rookies.

"I'm very happy with this year's performance," coach Scott Read said. "With such a large contingent of rookies I was very impressed that they pushed themselves to achieve a second-place overall finish. It makes me very excited about the future of the team because I'll have most of these rookies for the next three years."

## PROVEN TRACK RECORDS



## Equestrian

The Rams dominated the Atlantic Intercollegiate Equestrian League schedule, sweeping wins in all three competitions for the season points title. The Rams won seven titles in nine divisions in individual competition.

"Equestrian had a fantastic year," coach, Jessica McNutt said. "The team brought home champion from every show and took the year end champion."



## Badminton

Richard Bennicke wasn't named ACAA Badminton Coach of the Year for nothing.

The coach led his badminton squad to a second-place finish in team points at the conference championships in late February. The men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles pairs all finished second at the event, held at Mount Allison University.

The Rams came home in the runner-up spot in each of the schedule's three regular season tournaments. 🏆

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, July 23  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### DEAN'S RECEPTIONS

All Season's Inn, Sussex, NB  
Thursday, Sept. 24  
7 p.m.

Luckett Vineyards, Wolfville, NS  
Thursday, Oct. 1  
7 p.m.

PEI Brewing Co.,  
Charlottetown, PEI  
Thursday, Oct. 29  
7 p.m.

BLUE & GOLD  
ALUMNI AWARDS  
Thursday, Nov. 5

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL  
WINTER FAIR ALUMNI  
RECEPTION  
Sunday, Nov. 8

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