

AGRICOLA



FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF DALHOUSIE'S FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

CAMPAIGN FOR
AGRICULTURE

PAGE 6

FROM **FIELD TO FORK**

PAGE 29

ALUMNI IN
CHINA

PAGE 18

LEGION OF
HONOUR

PAGE 26

VOLUME 45, NO. 1, 2017



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

CONTENTS

MESSAGES 3

From the Editor3

From the Dean4

From the Alumni Association.....5

COVER STORY 6

Campaign for Agriculture.....6

Campaign Priorities.....8

Campaign Cabinet.....10

EVENTS AND REUNIONS 12

Blue & Gold Awards.....12

Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame ..15

Annual Receptions17

Alumni in China18

Class Reunions19

Upcoming Events.....19

DONOR RELATIONS 20

Scholarship Spotlight20

Alumni Family Bursary21

IN MEMORY 23

NEW INSTALLATIONS

ON CAMPUS 23

AROUND AND ABOUT..... 24

Christine Grooms.....24

Donald Bishop26

Stephanie Bagnell &

Ariana Pinsent27

Amanda Luxton28

RESEARCH 29

ATHLETICS 30



Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year, Aggies!

I'm pleased to be back on campus and settling into my role after spending the past year on maternity leave. Many of you had an opportunity to work with Colette Wyllie, who filled in while I was off. Lucky for us, Colette has continued employment on campus, in a different capacity and she will be staying active within the alumni world by returning to her position on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

As hard as it is to leave my two daughters and return to work, I'm so fortunate to be doing something I am passionate about. I enjoy coming to work each day and chatting with alumni and I especially love getting out and meeting with you at various events and alumni gatherings.

We have a few annual events coming up where we hope to see some familiar faces and are always excited to meet new ones.

Aggie Night at the Bearcats has become an annual evening in February. The sky box at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre in Truro has been reserved for alumni and guests. It's great to enjoy the game among a group of friends, with good snacks.

Similarly, we are attending the Brier in St. John's, NL in March. We hope to connect with any alumni in attendance. If you are going to be there, we have a private space reserved to watch a draw. We also encourage any alumni living near St. John's to join us. This will be our first Brier so we hope to make it a good one!

We will return from the Brier just in time for the Farm Mech Show in Moncton, NB. In keeping with

tradition, we will host a reception immediately after the show closes for the day. Our event will be held at the Moncton Coliseum. Again, if you are on site for the show, or live nearby, come see us.

For more details on these events, turn to page 19. Or feel free to contact me if you have specific questions. There will be many more opportunities to interact with fellow Aggies as the year unfolds, so stay tuned!

This year will bring lots of excitement overall for the Agricultural Campus. If you've attended our Dean's Receptions in the past, you've heard Dr. Gray discuss a future fundraising campaign which would result in great changes and upgrades to campus. We are pleased to share that we are moving forward with these plans. Turn to page six to read about the upcoming campaign and see what's in store for future students. Hopefully you will get just as excited as we are!

As always, there's lots more to read about in this issue including a re-cap of our annual Blue & Gold Awards, which were held in November. There's also some great alumni profiles, beginning on page 24 and an article on very interesting research being conducted by Dr. Gefu Wang-Pruski.

I hope you enjoy this edition – as always, if you have any feedback, please pass it along. We love to hear from you!

Regards,



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Dean's Message

Dr. David Gray

Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
Principal, Dalhousie
Agricultural Campus

A new year is always full of possibility and opportunity. And this couldn't be more true for our Faculty of Agriculture and the Agricultural Campus.

We are currently undertaking a substantial rejuvenation of our biomass energy plant and steam distribution system as part of a clean energy project. This \$25 million biomass co-generation project will replace the campus's aging steam lines with hot water lines, replace the wood boiler, add appropriate and required air quality controls and a turbine to create electricity.

It's exciting that as a Faculty of Agriculture we are setting an example of best practices and embracing a sustainable source of energy as we continue to move toward carbon neutrality. This new facility aligns well with a number of our research areas in renewable energy and will provide

opportunities for us to put research into practice.

This truly is an exciting time for us and for agriculture as a whole. However, we are facing some global challenges. Challenges that over the next 40 years will see world population growth hit nine billion people. Global food production will need to increase by 50 per cent to sustain this growth.

Simultaneously, we must learn to cope with changes in climate, intensification of floods and droughts, and depletion of resources including fresh drinking water.

But there is good news: the solutions to all of these challenges will be grounded in agriculture.

It will take bright young minds to solve them. We must continue to encourage our young people to think of viable careers in agriculture... we will need them!

Engineers, veterinarians, aquaculturalists, environmental scientists - Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture is the only place in Atlantic Canada educating our future leaders in agriculture. And Dalhousie is conducting the kind of leading research that is changing the way we produce food in this country. Investments in agricultural research that impact our fields and barns continue to be critically important.

As many of you may be aware, over the last few years we have been in the planning stages for our first campaign for our campus and we are very excited with the momentum that is building.

Through a Master Planning process for the campus and broad stakeholder consultations both internally and externally, we have identified our four key priorities for investing in

the Agricultural Campus:

1. A much-needed student space
2. Renewal of the farm
3. Graduate scholarships
4. New key industry research chairs

We have assembled a dedicated and passionate Campaign Cabinet to help us with this important campaign, led by Chair John Bragg. You can learn more about the campaign in this edition of the *Agricola News* and we will continue to share information with you in the year ahead.

We are changing the world and you, our donors, and our supporters are an essential part of this.

Happy New Year!



Alumni Association Message

Chair

*Audrie-Jo McConkey,
Class of '03*

Greetings Aggies! As we embark on another year I am pleased to provide you with an update from the Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association.

First and foremost, we would like to thank Colette Wyllie for covering alumni officer duties while Alisha Johnson was on maternity leave, and welcome Alisha back to work. We are pleased to have them both around the table going forward. As Colette leaves the staff position, she returns to her position as a director on the Alumni Association board.

We've had a busy fall, chocked full of events as usual. In September, our regular Dean's Receptions took us to the Annapolis Valley, NS, Sussex, NB, and Charlottetown, PE. Thanks to everyone who joined us at these gatherings and particularly to Dean Gray, who always manages to fit them into his busy schedule. You can see photos from all of these events on page 17 of this issue of the *Agricola News*.

October saw another successful Homecoming

weekend. We were pleased to host the Classes of '56 and '66 on campus to celebrate their milestone reunions. It was also great to see many alumni on campus for other events, including Breakfast in the Library, Rocky's Run and College Royal, which had over 150 student and staff participants showcasing poultry, sheep and cows.

New this fall was our first ever alumni event in China. After over ten years of a successful 2+2 partnership with the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, it was high time we got over to China to celebrate our alumni there. As such, Dean Gray and Associate Dean Caldwell hosted 40+ attendees at a lovely reception and dinner on the FAFU campus in October. Several faculty and staff members also sent their

well wishes to the group via video messages. We are hopeful that a new Dalhousie chapter will be established in Fuzhou as a result of the event.

The 2016 Blue and Gold Awards celebrated four alumni— Sara and David Simmons, Young Alumni Achievement Award, Mr. Greg Coldwell, Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award, and Mr. David Thompson, Distinguished Alumnus Award. Congratulations to our outstanding recipients – it's wonderful to see the impact these alumni have had on our industry and our region. Please continue to pass along nominations for future Blue and Gold Award recipients. It is inspiring to learn about potential recipients, and it is proof that Aggies are continuing to make a difference in our world.

This year's Alumni Family Bursary received a record 64 applications, and thanks to you, we were able to award bursaries to nine very deserving students. The number of family connections certainly speaks volumes about our agricultural community. Bursary recipients were truly appreciative of their awards, which was apparent during the annual Scholarship Banquet on campus.

There is lots of excitement on campus as we roll out our campaign for capital improvement, which you can read about in this issue of the *Agricola News*. I'm sure many of you are just as excited as I am to hear that a space dedicated to students is in the works, as well as upgrades to the campus farm. This is a great place to work, study and live, and these improvements can only make it even greater.

Don't forget that you can reach out to the board at any time, should you have a question or concern about alumni issues. All the best in 2017!



A BARLEY FAMILY

The Ells family took advantage of a photo shoot earlier this year to snag this beautiful shot of their Barley rings. Pictured rings belong to Glenn Ells (Class of '53), Angus Ells (Class of '82), Steve Ells (Class of 89), Karen Ells (Class of 89), Margaret Congdon (Class of '85), and Caitlin Congdon (Class of '12). The rings are seen on a grapevine in Steve's vineyard.

COVER STORY

CAMPAIGN FOR AGRICULTURE

Investing in the **Agricultural Campus**





AN INSTITUTION OF INFLUENCE

Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture, formerly the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, has been delivering leading agriculture research, education and training since 1905. Located on its own intimate campus, the faculty has a long and solid history of exceeding student expectations, delivering on a promise of excellence and working intimately with farmers to address challenges and grow their businesses. Today we are the third-oldest centre for agriculture related science and research in the country and we boast strong alliances with local and international industry, governments and academic partners.

GETTING READY TO GROW

As we plan for the future, we see opportunities to build on our success and deepen our impact. Our focus is on enriching the student experience and enhancing research initiatives. We envision greater student support; increased hands-on and experiential learning; and new common, teaching and research spaces with advanced technology. The campus master plan will guide our physical growth and changes over the next decade.

Achieving this vision will require an investment in our students, facilities and programs.

STRONGER FOR TOMORROW

Agriculture is at the heart of healthy, abundant and sustainable communities. Atlantic Canada and the world face many challenges ahead. People are concerned about food. Where will the food to feed the growing population of the world come from? What is in my food and is it safe for me to eat? Where is my food coming from? What is the environmental impact of my food? What can we do to increase food security in Atlantic Canada?

And our regional farmers face unique challenges. How can they make farming profitable in a small market? How can we access larger markets? Where can they find equipment sized appropriately? Which new technologies will be worth the investment? How can data help me to improve my yield? How can I reduce my impact on the environment?

And so, with a bold sense of purpose, Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture is firmly focused on advancing the agricultural sector to better our world. Over the last few years we have been in the planning stages for our first Campaign for Agriculture and we are very excited with the momentum that is building.



Images are conceptual only, actual design may differ.

Campaign Priorities

Through a Master Planning process for the campus, and then broad stakeholder consultations both internal and external, we have identified our four key priorities for investing in the campus: a much needed student centre, renewal of the farm, graduate scholarships and new key industry research chairs.

1 | STUDENT SPACE

A student space, a place where students can gather informally – is a key priority for the campaign. With expanding degree programs, a more diverse campus community and

66 per cent of students living off-campus, the need for a centrally-located, “community living room,” where students can land between classes has become an urgent need on the AC.

A great deal of learning happens outside the classroom. To facilitate this, we need to provide students with new spaces on campus – places for group work and team projects where the collaborative spirit can thrive, places for casual interactions to explore fresh ideas, forge new relationships and to solve the great problems of the day. To create a

space that enables these important aspects of university life, enhances the student experience and fosters academic success, the campus planning consultants have recommended renovating the library’s top floor into a student commons. This project will meet the most immediate needs of students for social and group work space, while allowing for the possibility of an expansion in the future, when enrollment demands it.

Renovations to the third floor of the library will provide spaces for student

societies, services, common areas and meeting and group work rooms.

“The team at the Faculty of Agriculture in Truro is doing research and work that would not be done anywhere else in the region. Without their findings and support, our industry would be 15 years behind where we are today.”

-John Bragg

2 | SCHOLARSHIPS

A robust scholarship program will enable the Faculty of Agriculture to attract and retain the best and brightest students, while giving them the best opportunity to fulfill their potential.

Research shows that part-time jobs and student debt negatively impact academic performance.

Our goal is to create new endowed and expendable scholarships with a focus on growing graduate scholarships, so that students can focus on their education and not how to pay for it.

Endowed scholarships will provide significant and renewable financial support to deserving students while expendable scholarships will have a more immediate impact on taking our research capacity to the next level.

3 | RESEARCH CHAIRS

Expanding our research capacity creates more experiential learning opportunities for students,

strengthens academic programs, and supports agricultural development in both industry and private operations.

In response to requests from industry, the Faculty plans to establish research chairs in key strategic areas that will build on its existing strengths. These chairs will work in tandem with the farm renewal initiatives to enhance our academic and research programs in collaboration with regional industry partners.

4 | FARM RENEWAL

The farm is essential to the success of the AC's academic and research programs and is one of the key elements that position the Faculty as an international leader in agricultural education.

To ensure it continues in this role, the farm must be a showcase of modern agricultural practices for livestock, crops and horticulture, technology and philosophies.

This requires on-going investment throughout the farm. The AC planning committee has identified four strategic themes that will guide the farm renewal.

I | ENHANCING ANIMAL HOUSING AND WELFARE

The ethically sound treatment of animals is a priority for society. It is also an essential part of modern agriculture. The AC's farm must demonstrate industry-leading approaches to animal housing and welfare. Facilities will be updated to provide modern housing, welfare and production for all livestock on the farm, including sheep, poultry and cattle.

II | ENRICHING TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH

The renewal will give more students greater access to the farm, creating new learning and research opportunities and enriching the student experience. Key elements of the upgrade include additional classroom spaces, common areas for students and meeting rooms.

III | ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The AC is working towards becoming the first carbon neutral university campus in Canada. A major step towards this goal is the installation of a new technology that will manage all campus waste. Just as impressive is that the methane it creates will be used to power and heat our farm facilities. Other additions will include solar and wind technology. These new additions will provide robust research opportunities.

IV | EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

Agriculture has become a highly technological industry. As the leading agricultural education institution in the region, it is imperative that the AC provide a technologically advanced learning environment. The renewal presents an opportunity to create a state-of-the-art farm with the latest equipment, precision agriculture technology, software and data collection systems.



Images are conceptual only, actual design may differ.

Campaign Cabinet

We have assembled a dedicated and passionate Campaign Cabinet to help us with this important campaign, led by chair John Bragg.

John Bragg, Honorary Chair

Among his many roles, Josh is chairman, president and co-chief executive officer of Oxford Frozen Foods Limited, a food manufacturer which he founded in 1968 and operates the largest fruit farm in the world. John founded Bragg Communications in 1970. Under the Eastlink brand he provides cable, internet, wireless and wired phone services across most of Canada. John has been made a officer of the Order of Canada and has been awarded National Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Joe (Class of '74) Private consultant & **Carol (Class of '75),** Farm Credit Canada

After 35 years of farming, Joe retired in 2014. He is now a private consultant, working with companies such as McCain Foods. In addition to having been involved in the family farm, Carol has been employed with Farm Credit Canada for over 18 years. She currently holds the title of operations education manager.

JP Deveau, Acadian Seaplants

President of Acadian Seaplants Limited, a biotech company specializing in cultivating and processing seaweed products for food, health & beauty, animal feed and agricultural markets. Acadian Seaplants Limited has partnered with the Agricultural Campus on several successful research projects. JP was inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame in 2015 and received the Halifax Business Awards 2016 Business of the Year award.

Doug Ettinger, Canada Post

Prior to taking on the role of chief commercial officer at Canada Post, Doug served as president and CEO of Scotsburn Ice Cream Company. Doug holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Business Administration degrees from Dalhousie. He is a member of the International Dairy Food Association.

Steve Harris (Class of '97), Farm Credit Canada

Senior credit manager at Farm Credit Canada in Guelph, Ontario. Prior to joining FCC Steve was the National Director – Agriculture, Royal Bank of Canada's Commercial Advisory Group, having worked with RBC since 1998. Steve was an active member of NSAC's Foundation before and during the merger with Dalhousie University.

Stephen Healy (Class of '73), Healy Legacy Group

Founded the Healy Legacy Group in 2001 and in January 2016 he joined forces with Nichols Wealth Management to create one of the largest financial advisory firms in the Annapolis Valley. Stephen served as chair of the NSAC Foundation before and during the merger with Dalhousie University.

Richard (Dick) Huggard (Class of '56), former Deputy Minister, NS Department of Agriculture

Dick had a long and successful career with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing for 36 years. In September 1991 Dick was appointed Deputy Minister of the Department, a position he held until his retirement in 1994. In retirement Dick continues to be very active, volunteering with the Cobequid Salmon Association, the Antique Farm Machinery Museum at the NS Provincial Exhibition, and is heavily involved at the Agricultural Campus.

Laurie Jennings, Masstown Market, Dalhousie University Board of Governors

Vice President of Masstown Market Limited and President of MTM Retail Gas (Masstown Petro-Canada). Laurie graduated from Dalhousie University and is a current board member with the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission and the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers.

Earl Kidston (Class of '69), Nova Agri Group & Green Diamond Equipment

Chief executive officer of the Nova Agri Group, located in Centreville Nova Scotia which includes Dykeview Farms Ltd., Nova Agri Inc., Salad Acres Ltd., and Between the Bushes Restaurant. Earl is also one of the founding members of the Green Diamond ownership group and serves as chairman of the Board of Directors.

Darrell Kuhn, Community Credit Union

President and CEO of the Community Credit Union of Cumberland Colchester Ltd. Darrell and the Community Credit Union were heavily involved with the development of the new Rath Eastlink Community Centre in Truro, specifically the arena which was named "Community Credit Union Arena." Darrell was recognized as 2015 Top 50 CEO's in the *Atlantic Business Magazine*.

Sherry Porter (Class of '75), Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation, Dalhousie University Board of Governors

Chair for the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation and a Board Director for the Halifax International Airport Authority. Sherry is an independent director of Pharmasave Atlantic, and a Board Member of the QEII Health Sciences Centre Foundation. Sherry is a past director of the NSAC Foundation.

Steve Wilson, Wilson Fuel Co.

Director at Wilson Fuel Co. Limited and Kerr Controls Ltd. and is co-chair of Kerr Controls Limited. Steve is an eighth generation member of the Wilson Family business which was first established as a mercantile trade company in the Colchester area in the early 1800's.



"I was pleased when asked to become a member of the cabinet. I recognize how important this campaign is and hope I can make a worthy contribution as we move forward. Dal AC means

a lot to me. Not only am I a proud graduate, but for a long time have recognized the important role this institution plays in developing leaders in the agricultural industry. A look into the future will tell us that there will be many challenges for agriculture. Can we be ready? A successful campaign will certainly help attract and train those who will be the leaders in the future."

-Dick Huggard



"I'm very excited to play a part in the Campaign for Agriculture. My father was a graduate of the AC and his education helped him to create a successful local business that continues to thrive

today. A Dalhousie University graduate myself, I see the tremendous value that joining these two institutions has created. As local business owners, my family and I recognize that the AC has a significant impact on the economy of Truro and surrounding areas. By lending support to this campaign I can help ensure the campus continues to play a key role in the vibrancy of the local community and in the Atlantic agricultural industry."

-Laurie Jennings



"Our relationship with the Agricultural Campus has had a major impact on stimulating our passion for agriculture and our career paths. We joined the Campaign Cabinet because we believe that an investment in renewing and enhancing the facilities, scholarship and research programs will benefit the agriculture industry in Atlantic Canada for many years to come. We are excited to be involved in an initiative that will allow the Agricultural Campus to continue inspiring possibility in new generations."

-Joe & Carol Brennan



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



"I'm proud to be the honorary chair of this campaign. This campus and its leaders have brought great value to the agricultural community throughout Atlantic Canada.

The Agricultural Campus is a significant economic driver in the Truro area. By supporting its growth and innovation, we contribute to a vibrant economic outlook not only for our community, but for all of Atlantic Canada. A thriving AC in Truro has a ripple effect that is felt well beyond our borders.

The Faculty of Agriculture has a key role to play in solving the world's food problems both in terms of increasing production and decreasing environmental impacts. Whether it's developing new ways to maximize crop yields or discovering new, more sustainable sources of protein, the AC's students and faculty are working on it. It's incumbent on us to make sure they have the means and resources to do so. That is why I am so passionate about this campaign.

It is a first step to enabling the Faculty to fulfill its potential to effect positive change in the world. While we are still in planning stages, we have identified four key initiatives: a new student centre, scholarships, research and the renewal of the farm.

We are pleased to introduce these priorities in broad strokes. I invite you to stay tuned as we continue to define our goals.

Ultimately, we will build a stronger Faculty of Agriculture – something that benefits us all."

John Bragg
Honorary Campaign Chair

EVENTS AND REUNIONS

BLUE & GOLD AWARDS 2016

The Blue and Gold Awards program honours alumni who have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to the alma mater, their communities, the Province of Nova Scotia and beyond.

The 2016 awards gala, held on November 3rd, recognized four deserving alumni for their exceptional achievements in the areas of volunteerism and contribution to the agricultural industry.



L to R: Greg Coldwell, David and Sara Simmons, David Thompson

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

DAVID (CLASS OF '07) AND SARA (CLASS OF '05) SIMMONS

The Young Alumni Achievement Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of Faculty of Agriculture alumni aged 40 and younger. Alumni are recognized for achievement that may have earned them regional, national or international prominence through service to humanity in their profession or volunteer organizations, through community service or the advancement of knowledge and service to the Faculty of Agriculture.

The amount of work David and Sara Simmons have put into their dairy farm, so early in their careers, is remarkable. They've started from the bottom and worked their way up, all the while embracing technology allowing them to transform their operation. 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.



David and Sara own Pure Holsteins Ltd., 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.

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 got involved in the dairy industry when he and Sara met in 2006. Shortly after finishing studies at NSAC, David and Sara were engaged, and in 2009, were married. Together,

they purchased all dairy equipment from David's family 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.

Sara and David recently purchased two Lely A4 Robots - machines that will milk the cows automatically. The first of their kind in Newfoundland, the machines have stalls attached to 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.

A multitude of smartphone apps allow David and Sara to manage herd health, feed usage, milk production and robot operation from the palms of their hands. If there are issues requiring David and Sara's attention, their apps will let them know. This technology has completely changed the way David and Sara farm,

and their success shows. In 2015, they were named Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers.

David and Sara are keen to share their story with other young farmers, as well as the public. They interact daily with 2500+ followers on Twitter and weekly with 2300+ Facebook fans. They are also heavily involved with the Newfoundland & Labrador Young Farmers' Forum, for which David acts as chair. They don't

shy away from public speaking events, either. The couple recently visited a Financial Management class on campus where they talked to students about their business.

For the Simmons', the future looks bright. David and Sara are dedicated to their business, their herd, and the region's agricultural industry, making them more than deserving of the Young Alumni Achievement Award for 2016.

ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

GREG COLDWELL (CLASS OF '70)

The Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award honours a volunteer who has consistently and enthusiastically donated their time and talents to advancing the objectives of the faculty or the Alumni Association.

This year's recipient may have been foreshadowed nearly 47 years ago.

Greg Coldwell displayed commitment to his community early on, earning himself a silver medal for leadership upon graduation from NSAC in 1970. After receiving his diploma, he returned to the family farm, Riverbrook Farms Ltd. in Port Williams, NS and his commitment didn't stop.

Farming vegetables for over 30 years afforded Greg the opportunity to serve the industry as president of Kings County Federation of Agriculture as well as the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. He served as chairperson of the Pea & Bean Marketing Board, Potato Marketing Board and completed a two-year term as chair of the Canadian Vegetable Processing Growers Commission. For three different terms, Greg was appointed as a board member of the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission, a commitment totaling approximately 12 years.



Greg's interest in volunteering and being involved extends beyond the agricultural industry. In 2001 he became a charter member of New Minas Sunrise Rotary Club, bringing a whole new and invigorating dimension to his life. Since joining, Greg has served on many of the club's committees and has even filled the role of president. Greg has been afforded the privilege of being named assistant district governor for Western Nova Scotia Region and nominated as District Governor Nominee for District 7820, a two-year commitment.

More recently, Greg became the District Governor in 2013-14. The same year, he helped lead his district and fellow Rotarians to raise \$1.7 million dollars during the Million Dollar Dinner for Rotary District 7820. He presently serves

as the Rotary Foundation chairman for District 7820.

Greg is always giving of his time and humble about volunteering in his community. That's why he is a founding member of 100 Men Who Give a Damn, helping to make a huge impact to local charities. He has taken leading roles as Village Commissioner in Port Williams for over 10 years and served his church as senior warden and chairperson of the Parrish Council for the last 19 years.

As a result of his tireless and continuous devotion to his community, Greg Coldwell is a very deserving recipient of the Faculty of Agriculture's Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award for 2016.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



DAVID THOMPSON (CLASS OF '70)

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the Faculty of Agriculture's most prestigious award, recognizing truly outstanding service and commitment to the Faculty of Agriculture, industry and the Alumni Association. The 2016 recipient has done just that.

David Thompson's active career in agriculture began immediately after graduation from NSAC in 1970. After a stint with the PEI Department of Agriculture, David accepted a position in private industry, where he really took off. David began a career with the crop protection industry, working in sales, marketing and providing technical support to farmers and industry in the Maritime provinces, Quebec and Maine. David became well known and respected among potato and cereal growers across the country. A forward thinker in agriculture, David was always attentive to environmental issues and as a result, initiated many stewardship programs.

David has been a member of the Board of Directors of the World Potato Congress since 2000 and is currently serving as president and CEO. This organization works to promote the potato industry worldwide by hosting a World Potato Congress every three years and is recognized as a major player in the global potato industry.

In addition to this work, David is also president of the Board of Directors of the PEI Grain Elevators Corporation, a role

he has held since 2009 and has helped promote the growth of the grain and soybean industry on PEI.

In retirement, David continues agricultural stewardship, working and volunteering with numerous organizations including the Potato Association of America, Canadian Association of Agricultural Retailers, Croplife Canada, Fertilizer Canada, Canadian Horticultural Council. Most recently, David has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame, representing Atlantic Canada. With his excellent broad knowledge and networking skills, he is a valued liaison between the agriculture industry and all levels of government.

Amidst his diverse agricultural experience, over the past 46 years, David has always remained interested in Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture. He is an ongoing supporter of the Chuck Harrison Memorial Bursary, in memory of a fellow class member. He also facilitates two other awards on behalf of his organizations - the Atlantic Council of Crop Life Canada Bursaries and the Atlantic Fertilizer Council Bursary.

David Thompson has clearly distinguished himself in his area of expertise, bringing honour to the university. He is undoubtedly a positive role model for the Faculty of Agriculture and the agricultural industry, making him a very deserving recipient of the Faculty of Agriculture's Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2016.

NOMINATE AN AGGIE

Do you know an Aggie who has distinguished him or herself through service to the region, the industry, or through volunteerism? Nominate them for a Blue & Gold Award!

Nominations can be made online:
dal.ca/agalumni,
under Awards.

Nominations can also be made by contacting
alisha.johnson@dal.ca
or **902-893-6022**

FOUNDING DAY 2017

The Agricultural Campus will celebrate its 112th year on February 14. Share what you love about the AC:

agalumni@dal.ca

[Facebook.com/dalagriculture](https://www.facebook.com/dalagriculture)
[@dalagriculture](https://www.facebook.com/dalagriculture)

HALL OF FAME



L to R: Robert English, Paul Lomond, Casey van de Sande, Eddy Dykerman

The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame annually celebrates the contributions of four individuals to the agriculture industry in Atlantic Canada. Producers, innovators, volunteers, scientists and business professionals are honoured for their role in shaping and influencing agriculture at the local, national and international levels.

Housed at the Faculty of Agriculture on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, nominations for the AAHF are received annually from farm and rural organizations. One inductee from each of the four Atlantic Provinces is selected per year.

This fall saw the induction of one Faculty of Agriculture alumnus: Mr. Casey van de Sande (Class of '60) of Nova Scotia was honoured alongside Mr. Robert English of New Brunswick, Mr. Paul Lomond of Newfoundland and Labrador and Mr. Eddy Dykerman of Prince Edward Island.



CASEY VAN DE SANDE - NS

Casey van de Sande has provided steadfast leadership to Nova Scotia's dairy industry and fellow producers. His outstanding commitment to the growth and development of rural agricultural organizations has improved the lives of farmers throughout the province.

Born in 1940 in Rucphen, The Netherlands, Casey immigrated to Canada at the

age of 16. His family settled in Antigonish and began dairy farming. In 1960, Casey graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College with an Advanced Farming Diploma. This same year he began his distinguished career in community service when he became a calf leader at the Brierly Brook 4-H Club.

In 1965, Casey and his wife Toosje purchased and began operating Sanhaven Farms. Casey would soon join the Board of Directors of Eastern Dairyfood, where he served for 10 years. Casey contributed broadly to cooperatives and agricultural organizations during his career, and his most extended period of service has been with the Antigonish Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company. Beginning in 1969 and ending in 2011, Casey

has earned recognition as the company's longest serving director. During his 42-year tenure, the company underwent extensive improvements including expansion of their facilities, extended coverage, and increased insurance capacity. By helping to make the company a success, Casey's contributions have given farmers and community members an affordable alternative for their insurance needs.

As a dairy farmer, Casey was known for being progressive in his adoption of new methods and technology. He has generously shared his knowledge and experience of field crops and milk production with fellow producers. Casey's top farm priorities were to improve milk production and deliver a top quality product. Through enrollment in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and the Record of Production program, his purebred Holsteins were consistently among the province's top producing herds. He was presented with the Dairy Award of Excellence an impressive 11 times. Casey furthered his commitment to dairy production when he served as President of the Nova Scotia Milk Producers Association. It was during his term that equalized percentage payout on fluid milk was introduced, providing stability for dairy farmers.



PAUL LOMOND – NL

Paul Lomond's vision and pioneering spirit have transformed the berry industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. Through collaboration and innovation Paul has made a significant impact on horticultural production and the people the industry supports. Perhaps Paul's greatest contribution to the province's horticulture industry has been the introduction of new berry crops for commercial use. Through collaboration with producers across North America, he has been instrumental in taking the province's strawberry production from a small cottage industry to a large, mainstream enterprise. As one of the original producers involved in research and development, Paul helped to transform cranberry production into a viable commercial activity in Newfoundland and Labrador.



EDDY DYKERMAN – PE

Eddy Dykerman's considerable contributions to horticulture as a producer and volunteer have been varied and far-reaching. His passion for helping his fellow producers has created a culture of success not only in PEI but in international communities. Eddy has been a leader in environmentally responsible farming in his own operations and through his involvement in agricultural organizations. Brookfield Farms has been a long-standing participant in the Environmental Farm Plan Program, implementing integrated pest management and nutrient management programs, constructing berms and grassed waterways, and building collection and irrigation ponds to control water runoff.



ROBERT ENGLISH – NB

Robert English has tirelessly advocated for New Brunswick producers and helped support new entrants into farming. As both an active member of the agriculture sector and a policy advisor, Rob has helped to transform the culture of the industry and advance agriculture across the province. In 2003, Rob became a Director of the Agricultural Alliance of NB. As a part of a three-person team he was responsible for negotiating the merger of the two provincial federations of agriculture into this one bilingual organization serving all New Brunswickers. During his two years as President of the Alliance, he initiated the Agricultural Summit, which served to unite the agricultural community and define a vision for the future. As part of the post-summit Minister's Round Table, Rob helped develop a multi-year strategy to transform the province's agriculture sector.

ANNUAL
RECEPTIONS

A beautiful evening at Benjamin Bridge Winery in Gaspereau, NS.

Dean's Receptions

Our annual alumni receptions with Dean Gray were a great success again this year. We enjoyed a crisp fall outdoor gathering with alumni and guests at Benjamin Bridge Winery in Gaspereau, NS, a lovely lunch at the All Seasons Inn in Sussex, NB, a boisterous evening at Upstreet Brewing in Charlottetown, PE, and a fun afternoon at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Horse Show in Toronto, ON. Thanks to all for joining us – we hope to see new and familiar faces in 2017! Keep an eye on dal.ca/agalumni for information on upcoming dates and locations.



ALUMNI HARVEST DINNER

In September, we held our first Harvest Dinner in partnership with Lokal Resto & Food Market in Truro. Alumni and guests enjoyed a four course meal featuring regional alumni products, along with wine and beer pairings. A total of 12 alumni businesses were featured in the menu created by Chef Jeff McInnis, and a cocktail hour was hosted by Riley Giffen (Class of '14) of Coldstream Clear Distillery. Stay tuned for plans for the next dinner!



ALUMNI IN CHINA

The Faculty of Agriculture has a longstanding relationship with the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University in Fuzhou, China. Under a 2+2 articulation agreement, FAFU students can spend the first two years of their degree studying on their home campus and the final two years of their degree here at the Agricultural Campus – after which many return to China for employment or further study. On October 22, 2016, Dr. David Gray and Dr. Claude Caldwell hosted our first ever alumni event in China – and what an event it was! Alumni and guests enjoyed a reception and dinner and were presented with Barley pins. We were pleased to be able to celebrate our alumni in China and hope to do so again in the future. Thanks to everyone who joined us for the special occasion!



Introducing the latest addition to our Barley products – **unisex belt buckles**. These gems can be purchased directly from the Alumni office in Cumming Hall for \$20. Contact Alisha.johnson@dal.ca or 902.893.6022 to get one on your belt!

REUNIONS 2016

The Agricultural Campus was proud to host four milestone class reunions onsite during the 2016 calendar year. The Classes of '51 and '61 both gathered on campus during Community Open House in July, while the Classes of '56 and '66 spent a few days exploring their old haunts on Homecoming weekend in October. All groups enjoyed meals together, chats with Dean Gray and

visits to the Farm Equipment Museum and other local agricultural businesses.

We're also happy to hear that the Classes of '53, '54 and '59 continued with their annual reunions over the course of the year.

If you are interested in planning a class reunion, get in touch with the Alumni office by calling 902-893-6022 or emailing agalumni@dal.ca.



Class of 1961



Class of 1951



Class of 1966



Class of 1956

UPCOMING EVENTS

AGGIE NIGHT AT THE BEARCATS

Rath Eastlink Community Centre, Truro, NS
Friday, January 27
7 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S ALUMNI RECEPTION

Blue on Water
319 Water St, St. John's, NL
2 p.m.

ATLANTIC FARM MECH SHOW ALUMNI RECEPTION

Moncton Coliseum,
Moncton, NBS
Thursday, March 9
6 p.m.

COMMUNITY DAY

Agricultural Campus
Thursday, July 20
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Find more details at dal.ca/agalumni or call 902.893.6022.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOMEcoming 2017 October 12-14, 2017

Round up your classmates and come back to campus to relive days gone by! Homecoming is a perfect time to hold your class reunion.

Stay tuned for specific details:
dal.ca/aghomecoming
902.893.6022

DONOR RELATIONS
SCHOLARSHIP
SPOTLIGHT

NSFA President Chris van den Heuvel presents the Friends of the Federation and NSFA Scholarships to Nichole van Dyk, the Ira L. Rhodenizer Memorial Scholarship to Rachael Bekkers and the NSFA 100th Anniversary Scholarship to Connor Morse at the 2016 Scholarship Banquet.



The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture **Scholarships**

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) is sowing the seeds for the industry's future. Longtime supporters of the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, with two student endowments and three annually funded awards, the NSFA has created a new scholarship to provide financial assistance to undergraduates.

Each year, the Friends of the Federation Scholarship will support students enrolled in a degree, diploma or technology program at the Faculty of Agriculture. Federation president Chris van den Heuvel says preference will be given to children of NSFA members, but the award will not be based strictly on academic performance or financial need.

"We are looking for good, well-rounded candidates," van den Heuvel explains. "Ideally, it will be someone who's going to make primary agriculture a career choice, so that's more of the deciding factor for us."

Van den Heuvel says the scholarship originated with NSFA members and a recognition that students need increased financial support as the costs of education continue to rise. But the intent is also to encourage a new generation of Nova Scotians to enter the industry.

"Without students who are coming up, we don't have much of a future," van den Heuvel says. "There are many new and exciting opportunities in agriculture, such as urban and small scale farming. Anything that we can do to help students pursue those opportunities, and help the campus attract students, ensures the continued strength of agriculture in our province."

It is that spirit that saw NSFA members raise nearly half of the funds. Van den Heuvel says as a result of the scholarship request, the Federation was able to double the total amount of scholarships that it provides to students at the AC.

"It just comes back to the passion that people have for Nova Scotia's agricultural industry, and that whole lifestyle," van den Heuvel says. "Anything we can do in order to help keep young people here, and give them the ability to grow and live a fulfilling life, is important to us, and this endowment is one more way to do that."

The endowment is also, van den Heuvel says, a way of recognizing the exceptional education experience provided by the Agricultural Campus.

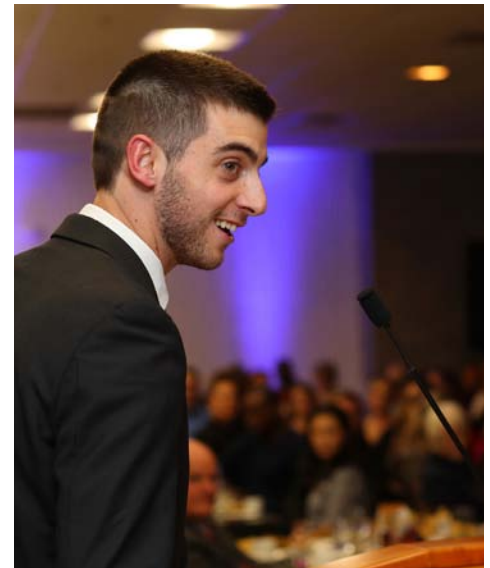
"They do an incredible job of teaching young people what the industry and what the commodities are all about, how to be part of that, and how to be responsible members of the agriculture community."

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

This November, the Faculty of Agriculture celebrated the success of student award recipients, and honoured the donors that make possible these scholarships and bursaries. The Faculty of Agriculture awards over 150 donor-sponsored undergraduate and graduate awards each year, recognizing academic achievement, leadership, athletics, community involvement, and involvement in agriculture. This year's group of student award recipients again demonstrated a commitment to high achievement both in and out of the classroom.

Four new awards were recognized: Cobequid Salmon Association Scholarship, Cooke Aquaculture Scholarship, Dr. Donald Young Plant Science Award, and Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia Graduate Research Award.

Guest Speaker Paul Manning (Class of '13) spoke of his experiences as a scholarship recipient, and the opportunities provided to him by his donors. A thank you to donors was offered by Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association President, Alana Bent, and remarks were provided by Dr. Richard Florizone and Dr. Dean Gray.



Paul Manning (Class of '13) addresses the room during the annual Scholarship Banquet on the Agricultural Campus.

ALUMNI FAMILY BURSARY

In 2009, the Alumni Family Bursary was established with funds raised through the Annual Appeal to celebrate the sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren of AC alumni. The bursaries range from \$500-\$1500, with the largest amounts awarded to students with the strongest connections to AC alumni.

To date, the Alumni Family Bursary has awarded \$70,000 to more than 100 students. The bursary provided \$10,000 in scholarships to deserving students in 2016/2017 alone and the fund now totals nearly \$290,000, allowing it to provide approximately \$10,000 in awards each year.

The intent of the Alumni Family Bursary is to inspire future students to follow in the footsteps of their family members and attend the AC. The Faculty of Agriculture is grateful to have the Alumni Association provide encouragement to students to pursue careers in agriculture.



Alumni Family Bursary recipients for 2016/17 are (back row, L to R): Audrie-Jo McConkey (chair, Alumni Association), Mandy Smith, Natasha Cox, Nichole van Dyk. Front row, L to R: Jonathan Bent, Alana Bent, Jillian Bent, Mollie Pickard, Katie McCallum. Missing from photo is Owen Cogswell.



Your future, your day.

Spend a day getting to know the people and places that make our campus the perfect place for you to live and learn. Come explore Dalhousie University's campus in Truro, Nova Scotia on **March 10, 17 or 24.**



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Register today at

dal.ca/connect

IN MEMORY



MI'KMAQ GRAND COUNCIL FLAG PERMANENTLY INSTALLED ON CAMPUS

Executive Director of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Dr. Don Julien, Dean Gray, and Dalhousie President Dr. Richard Florizone raise the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag while Elder Jane Abraham of Millbrook First Nation and Cst. Troy Julian of the RCMP Millbrook Detachment look on.

In June, the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag was permanently installed on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus — a first for a Nova Scotia university campus. The flag was raised in recognition that the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus sits on Traditional Territory of the indigenous Mi'kmaq people and was marked with a special ceremony in the Faculty's Centennial Amphitheatre.

The land on which Dal's Agricultural Campus sits was acquired and sold in 1885 to establish a School of Agriculture for the province (which would later become the former Nova Scotia Agricultural College and, today, the Faculty of Agriculture). When the school started expanding, the Mi'kmaq peoples were moved to property on King Street.

The permanent installation of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag on the Agricultural Campus, a first for Dalhousie as well, strengthens the university community and helps to provide a welcoming community to all learners.



DRY-STACKED STONE WALL INSTALLED ON CAMPUS

This October, a two-day workshop took place in the Herb Garden on campus, resulting in the beautiful stone wall pictured here. The workshop was led by John Shaw-Rimmington, a dry stone wall building expert from Port Hope, Ontario. Alongside Shaw-Rimmington and the Botanical Garden staff, the 50-foot-long public wall installation was built by ten enthusiastic participants in the garden space located behind DeWolfe House on the Agricultural Campus. The Wallace Quarry random-sized sandstone suited itself to doing a Feidin type wedge style wall.

The Herb Garden was created by the Friends of the Garden group in 2003.

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

- Dr. James Fulton 1945
- Mr. Frank Woolaver 1946
- Mr. Paul Elderkin 1946
- Mr. Russell Stonehouse 1947
- Mr. William MacLennan 1949
- Mr. Harley Ings 1951
- Mr. Victor Moses 1952
- Mr. Keith Casey 1953
- Mr. Eddy Tupper 1953
- Mr. Thomas Sparkes 1954
- Mr. Emerson Thorpe 1955
- Mr. Douglas Cudmore 1971
- Mr. Edgar Dixon 1972
- Mr. Gary Henderson 1975
- Mr. Gordon Spurr 1980
- Mr. David Lahey 1993

Make a Memorial Gift

Honour a classmate or a friend with a memorial 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 acknowledgement 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

AROUND AND ABOUT
THE POWER
OF A LAB



Christine (Clark) Grooms Class of '86

"I built a laboratory!"

As she describes the spacious, new agricultural laboratory in McCook, Nebraska, USA, Christine (Clark) Grooms (Class of '86) is in awe of what she and her husband have accomplished. "Every day I come to work, look around and still can't believe we did it."

A look inside the lab is a science enthusiast's dream as chemists and biologists test soil, water, fertilizer and animal feed samples from around the world using the latest in scientific technology.

"The primary function of the laboratory is to provide quality analytical services

to the agricultural community," says Christine. "Services include analysis of soil, plant tissue, feed, fertilizer, water, manure and seed germination, as well as wastewater samples from municipalities and heavy metals."

Christine, who is originally from Prince Edward Island, purchased Olsen's Laboratory in McCook in 2007, along with her husband, Kevin. The business was renamed American Agricultural Laboratory and the couple set off, investing time and money developing their services and products.

"We are one of six agricultural testing labs in Nebraska and one of 26 accredited soil testing labs in North America," says Christine.

And a successful lab at that.

As the business has expanded, American Agricultural Laboratory's client list has stretched throughout North and Central America. Customers range from backyard gardeners to farmers, agronomists, municipalities, fertilizer plants and co-ops. About 80 percent of its work is testing soil to help farmers maximize yields while being good stewards of the environment.

"A soil test might reveal that a farmer needs to add more fertilizer to maximize yields or less fertilizer to save money," Christine explains. "Making educated decisions based on science is especially important for producers in today's farm economy."

Business became so good for Christine and Kevin that by 2014, they had run out of workspace, putting a strain on their 9,775 square foot building.

“Rather than build a new structure, we decided it made more sense to renovate an existing building,” says Christine.

As one of the first steps in their expansion effort, both Christine and Kevin enrolled in a laboratory design course through the Department of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin. That paid big dividends in the months to come, as the laboratory owners were able to act as the general contractors for the remodeling of their building, converting it from a retail store to a modern and fully-functioning agricultural laboratory.

The finished product – a nearly 30,000 square-foot lab - is three times as large as the Grooms' former lab, which they had slowly outgrown since purchasing the business. The renovation took over seven months, but it was worth it.

“As we look around the new lab, we are both happy and proud,” says Christine.

Among the many improvements are new fume hoods, an elaborate ventilating system and two drying rooms. In addition to the increased space and new equipment, American Ag Laboratory has increasing employment, with the total number of employees growing by 25 percent.

Thanks to the improved laboratory, Christine and Kevin have more than doubled production.

“In the last 12 months we provided testing for nearly 7,000 distinct producers,” says Kevin. “Applying the math, the data we supplied helped the agronomists, cooperatives, farm managers and family farmers make the best decisions on how to produce enough to feed well over one million people.”

And it's rewarding for Christine and Kevin to know they have a role in helping feed the world.

“Realizing the impact we are making on a global scale takes our pride and excitement to a new level,” says Christine. “It's a pretty powerful feeling.”



Christine and Kevin are members of several international and national professional associations, including the National Hay Association, in which Christine serves in a leadership position; and the National Forage Testing Association, for which Kevin served as president in 2015.

They have committed to assisting other small business owners as industry advisors in the Integrated Agronomy Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The laboratory also serves to educate young people and other businesses through an internship program, presentations to producers, cooperatives and independent agronomists—and through their local school system's Agriculture Awareness Tours.

Due to their efforts and contribution to the workforce of their surrounding community Christine and Kevin were selected as the 2015 Nebraska Champions of Small Business - an honour given annually since 1983 to a small business owner who has triumphed in the field of business.



Donald Bishop **Class of '47**

At 92 years old, he jokes his memory isn't as good as it once was. Yet Donald Bishop (Class of '47) can still clearly recall a time he and fellow crewmen crashed a Halifax bomber during World War II. At the time, Don was serving as an air gunner in the Royal Canadian Airforce.

"A plane crash isn't something you're supposed to walk away from," says Don. Of the seven men on the plane that day, only five members walked away, Don included.

"The losses were so significant," says Don recalling the war. "We were all so anxious to get involved, but it didn't take long to question, what had we gotten ourselves into?"

"Some nights we would be sitting around and you would ask where so-and-so went. Then someone else would say, I guess he never made it back alive. If three planes went down in one day, well that's 21 people gone. More people would then arrive the next day and they would be replaced."

Don left the family farm in Berwick, NS, in 1942, telling his mother he was going to sign up to be a pilot. "But when I went to enlist, they weren't taking pilots that day," says Don, "so I said I'd be a straight

air gunner. That's good for me." Within the year he was aboard the Queen Elizabeth, with 23,000 other people, travelling overseas.

From November 1942 to September 1945, as Flying Officer, Donald Bishop completed a tour of operational duty in action against the enemy on Halifax Bombers as an air gunner. In total, he made 12 trips over enemy-occupied French territory.

"I was 18 when I joined and back home by the time I turned 21," says Don. "That's really quite an experience if you think about it."

Thankfully, Don's experiences and sacrifices have not gone unnoticed – even after many years.

Just recently, Don was awarded the rank of Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honour, by order of the President of the Republic of France. The Legion of Honour is the highest national order of France.

In a recent letter, addressed to Don, Philippe Zeller, Ambassador of France to Canada says, "This distinction illustrates the profound gratitude that France would like to express to you. It is awarded

in recognition of your professional involvement in the liberation of our country. Through you, France remembers the sacrifice of all of your compatriots who came to liberate French soil, often losing their lives in the process."

"It's a very honourable medal," says Don of receiving the award after many decades.

Although Don displays his award with pride, along with other medals earned for service to our country, a quick glance in their direction reminds him of moments like that particular plane crash. Moments that some of us cannot even fathom.

"I'm just lucky that I made it back and am still here to talk about it," says Don.

Once returning home from the war, Don settled straight into college life at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. He studied horticulture for two years before completing his Bachelor of Science at MacDonald College. Don spent 36 years working for the Department of Agriculture in a number of capacities. He has now been retired for 31 years and has one daughter, two sons, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



The Dog Company Incorporated

*Two girls, one dream –
creating a business.*

The Business Management: Pet Specialty program at Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture has enabled alumnae Stephanie Bagnell, Class of 2015 and Ariana Pinsent, Class of 2016, to create their dream business.

"We both knew we wanted to own a dog-related business," Stephanie and Ariana explain. "Once we found this course offered at the AC we finally felt like we were on the path to building our dream business," they add. "We saw there was an opportunity in the market and decided to take a risk, buy the building and open as a dog daycare, training, grooming and boarding facility."

The girls have partnered to create The Dog Company Incorporated. The business is dedicated to providing honest and trusting services to meet the needs of owners and their dogs. "We use proven, scientific training methods that have a positive input and output," the girls explain. "We want to help humans

and canines live together, in harmony."

Their business, located at 94 Pockwock Road, Hammonds Plains, NS, opened its doors on May 9, 2016 and offers dog daycare, training, grooming and boarding. They also have a small retail section that consists of leashes, collars, treats and clickers.

Ariana and Stephanie plan on continuing The Dog Company to be a top dog facility in the HRM at affordable pricing. "We hope to expand our facility to accommodate our clients' needs – a one stop shop!" they explain.

A vet clinic, retail, dog park and training such as trials and agility are a few ways they would like to expand on their business. "We would eventually like to introduce working dogs training into our facility as well – police dogs, service dogs, etc." they explain.

Stephanie was born and raised in Truro, NS and Ariana was born and raised in Stephenville, NL. The two girls met at the AC while taking shared classes within their program.

The girls are passionate about educating the public about dog behavior and training. "We treasure the hands-on experiences we received at the AC," the girls explain. "We love the uniqueness of the campus and we are extremely grateful for the connections and people we have met throughout our time on campus. We learned so much in both the animal and business side of things."

During their time on the Agricultural Campus, both girls trained service dogs and are thankful for how accommodating and accepting the faculty was about them having their dogs in their classes. "Yan Mowatt and Heather A. Logan are two of our biggest mentors," the girls explain. "They gave us so many opportunities in the dog industry and helped us each step of the way," they added. "We have our families to thank as well, as they have supported us throughout the whole journey."

Stephanie and Ariana both love bringing their dogs on adventures – to the beach, hiking and dog sports such as canicross and field training.



Amanda Luxton **Class of '13**

Amanda Luxton travelled a lot when she was little, her father was in the navy, and as an adult she keeps moving around the world in her time off work.

Amanda was born in Victoria, British Columbia, while her father was stationed there. One of her early family memories is crossing Canada in a truck, from west to east coast. She grew up in Nova Scotia.

She returned to Vancouver Island to live in 2013, after being recruited by Marine Harvest from Dalhousie University.

The freshwater technician has made the most of her camp schedule at Dalrymple freshwater hatchery – taking her time off to travel and explore the island and beyond. This schedule has allowed Amanda to visit Mexico, Hawaii, Australia, and parts of Europe.

From her home in Campbell River, she's taken many road trips down the west coast of the USA, most recently to catch a Blue Jays game in Seattle.

"I like road trips because you have the freedom of stopping wherever you want," Amanda says.

Often her trips serve a dual purpose of seeing her family who are willing to travel to meet Amanda in various locations. Her brother works for the Royal Canadian Navy in Halifax, and her parents own land in West Branch, Nova Scotia.

"I loved animals and wanted to be a vet, which is what I originally went to school for, but after a while I realized it wasn't for me, so I studied animal science at Dalhousie. It wasn't until I took my first aquaculture course that I considered

a minor in aquaculture and a career in the industry."

"A lot of what I learned was instantly applicable, especially in water quality monitoring and the operation of recirculating aquaculture systems."

Amanda's hard work and dedication have paid off with a recent promotion to supervisor at Marine Harvest's Big Tree Creek hatchery. She's looking forward to starting the new role in December, but she'll miss the freedom of travel when she starts a regular five-and-two shift schedule.

Reprinted with Permission from Marine Harvest Canada

FROM FIELD
TO FORK

Dr. Gefu Wang-Pruski

Whether mashed, baked, scalloped or fried, potatoes are often considered a comfort food by many - but this humble vegetable has grown to become an integral part of much of the world's food supply and the number one vegetable crop in the world.

Researchers at the Faculty of Agriculture continue to work with growers to produce high quality potatoes that are not only environmentally friendly but adaptive to different climates.

Dr. Gefu Wang-Pruski, a professor of molecular biology in the Department of Plant, Food and Environmental Sciences, has been doing field to fork research on potatoes for nearly 20 years. "I try to help growers and consumers by producing potatoes that are environmentally friendly and that also provide a healthy food choice," explains Dr. Wang-Pruski.

Her research program looks at producing food smartly - not just for

high quality consumption, but with a positive environmental impact on the soil, air and water needed to grow our food. The end result is that high quality nutritious potatoes can be grown with a minimum input of fertilizer, pesticides and fungicides.

"There is a great need in the Maritime region for supporting this industry to lead to better economic growth, farm gate value and improved industrial performances," explains Dr. Wang-Pruski.

Dr. Wang-Pruski is examining a number of different aspects in her potato research program, including investigating and improving the quality of potatoes used for French fries by reducing the darker color that can often appear after cooking. She is identifying the genetic markers of potatoes so they can be better adapted to growth in different climates around the world. She is also working to improve potato production by managing the diseases

and pests that can affect potatoes, such as late blight, Verticillium wilt, scab and wireworm. One of the major strategies being studied is the reduction of fungicides and pesticides being sprayed on potatoes while they are growing.

"The strong support from the potato industry and positive feedback from growers makes my work more exciting and rewarding, which in turn influences everyone in my lab to become more committed to doing excellent work," explained Dr. Wang-Pruski.

Dr. Wang-Pruski is also leading a consumer research initiative that examines potato consumption patterns and consumer needs while developing marketing strategies for the industry.

Packed full of vitamins, minerals and nutrients, environmentally friendly and adaptive to different climates - the humble potato may not be so humble after all.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

Agri-Golf Classic

The 20th annual Agri-Golf Classic was held at Northumberland Links in July. Twenty-three teams enjoyed a great day on the course. With 12 major and hole sponsors (seven of which were alumni directed companies) and 30 prize sponsors, the golfers had many opportunities to enjoy products on course and to leave with prizes generously donated by our partners in the community.

Category winners included:

Overall - Walker Boys (60)

Brian MacDonald, Jim Walker, David Dykstra, Bill Moore, Joel Walker

Business - Green Diamond (65)

Mike Jolly, Bob Atkinson, Colin Pearce, Trevor MacKenzie, Darren Woodworth

Farm - Sussex View Farm (62)

David McCullum, Brian McCullum, Roy McCullum, Tim McCullum, Gerald Post

Alumni

1. Watts Team (65)

Steve Watts, Steve Russell, Stephen Thompson, Kyle Murray, Doug LeClair

2. Zoetis (66)

Dave Colpitts, Dale Tedford, Dwight Grimm, Earl Smith, Reid MacDiarmid

3. Team Wesselius (68)

Neal Mundle, George Wesselius, Jacob Wesselius, John Wesselius, Albert Wesselius

Specialty contest winners include:

Putting contest – Ron Nicholson

Closest to the line #16 – Trevor Dillman

Closest to the hole #6 – Rob Gordon

Longest drive #14 (m) – Joel Walker

Longest drive #14 (f) – Sandra Fisher

To see details on the event, as well as team pictures visit dal.ca/agrigolf

Women's Rugby

The Dal AC Rams finished ACAA league play in third spot and moved on to play-offs meeting second place STU in Fredericton. The Rams played a good semi, but lost to the Tommies, 57-0.

All-Conference Members from DAL AC

Katie McQueen
Melissa Sherritt

Scrum-Half
Stand-Off



Danielle Albers in the ACAA championship race.

Cross Country

Women – The Dal AC Rams ran the ACAA Championships in Brookvale, PE. The women's team finished first in the team competition with 20 points beating MTA (37), MSVU (37) and Crandall.

Men - The Rams top finisher was John Yool 13th (34:23); followed by Christopher Andrews 23rd (39:22) and Gary Chung 24th (39:33).

The women run 5 k and the men run 8 k. DAL AC Rams women's team competed in the CCAA National Cross Country Championships at Sault College in Sault Ste Marie Ontario in mid-November. There was a total of 103 runners in the 5 km race – 16 teams and individuals. As a team, the Rams (top four runners counting) finished 15th.

Soccer

Women – The Rams had a strong season with a fifth place finish in league play, one point out of a play-off position. All-Conference selections from the Rams include Sian Rankin and Brett McCavour. Jackie Ryan, who has been with the women's soccer program for four years was named Coach of the Year.

Men – The Rams had a good season finishing in sixth in ACAA league play. Leading the Rams were All-Conference selections fifth year veteran, Chris Morash and rookie, Kristian Wolters.



Men's Basketball

Ending first semester action, the Rams have a 1-6 record and displayed excellent play against all ACAA competition, a strong improvement from the last season. With three veterans and eight rookies, the Rams are expected to show constant improvement through the season.

Women's Volleyball

The Rams played a good pre-season with participation in tournaments at Udm, MTA and the ACAA Tip-Off at MSVU. Great matches were played against all opponents. Although no wins were recorded, the play of the Rams was very strong. The Rams are expected to show improvement in ACAA standings, in the second semester, as the six rookies and four veterans gel as a team.

Woodsmen

The Rams are off to a good start for the 2016-17 season with strong performances at UNB and SSFC. The men's A-team finished the first competition of the year in first, while the women's A-team came third. The men's B finished in 12th, while the women's B-team was eighth. In the second competition of the semester, the women finished the day with the A-team in third and the B-team in fifth. The A-team men's captured a close race in first, while the B-team finished fifth. Geoff Larkin and Janet Walker have taken over the coaching duties, as Scott Read is taking some time off coaching.

Badminton

The badminton team has two competitions under their belt with travel to USA and Holland College. The team finished second at Universite St Anne, while the Hurricanes edged ahead and the Rams finished third at the Charlottetown tournament.

The team is working hard to move up in the standings and will be back in action mid-January when they travel to UKC for a tournament.



Andrea Hamilton competing at the St FX competition.

Equestrian

The Rams started the AIEL season by hosting the first competition at MacMillan Show Centre. After undefeated seasons the past two years, the Rams started this season with a Reserve Champion finish in October, followed by a tie to St. FX at Creekside. A tie-breaker gave them the Reserve Champion ribbon. The last competition of the semester saw the Rams finish in third. Competitions begin again in January with the SMU event at Owl's Ridge.



The Festive Craft Market provides a venue for local crafters to showcase their talent and sell to the community. Many different articles are available including Christmas ornaments, Victorian decorations, food, sewn items, wooden utensils and jewellery.

Festive Craft Market

The 28th annual craft market was a great success in November. The vendors were pleased with sales as shoppers were in the mood to get things ready for Christmas. Draw prizes were given out each hour, with the grand prize drawn at the end of the market. Judie Sproule was the winner of the \$500 grand prize.

Thanks to Dal AC staff and community members for supporting this event!

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