

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

# Agricola News

Volume 40, Number 2, 2014

**HONOURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
FAMILY FARMING**



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

*Inspiring Minds*

*Faculty of Agriculture*



# Agricola News

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

## A Message from the Editor



Dear Friend,

I hope this message finds you thoroughly enjoying your summer – be it spending time with family and friends, gardening, catching-up on a few good reads, simply enjoying the outdoors, or doing whatever makes you smile.

I'm very pleased to provide you with this summer edition of the *Agricola News*. In this edition we tip our hats to family farmers, specifically our alumni who operate family farms. This is our way of honouring 2014 as the United Nations International Year of Family Farming. This certainly makes for a proud year for the Faculty of Agriculture.

Earlier in the year we committed to shining the spotlight on one alumni family farm per month. Since then, we've been travelling across the Maritimes, with our photographer, to various locations. We capture amazing photos (as you will soon see) of humble families doing what they consider, "simply what they do on a daily basis". We chat with these families to hear their story. We get to learn why they chose their lifestyle, what makes them so proud of their work and the impacts they hope to have on their communities. At the beginning of each month, we feature one new alumni family farm on Facebook, twitter and our website.

These are all great people doing incredible, yet hard work. We had no idea the success this program would have. We've received tons of positive feedback. We're only half-way into the year and we have been asked to continue this program in perpetuity.

The feeling goes both ways, we're having loads of fun getting out and meeting these amazing families! There are so many family farms that are operated by our alumni or associated with our campus. The ones you will find in this issue are just a few we selected. To continue to follow our family farming features check out our webpage regularly.

In this edition you will also read about some great research taking place on campus, including the work of Chibuike Udenigwe, whose goal is to make the world a better place. As usual, you will find a re-cap of past events and details on up-coming events. We have some great functions planned for the fall and we hope to see you at an event in your area. For the first time in years, we're proud to celebrate Homecoming again on campus. We have a two-day schedule planned for October 17-18. Guests can sit-in on a class, enjoy breakfast in the library, participate in College Royal or take in a sports event. It will definitely be worth the trip to campus!

Of course, these are just a few of the great reads inside this

edition of *Agricola News*. I encourage you to read-on.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have suggestions for an alumni event, want to plan a reunion, have an address update or even just to connect.

Enjoy your summer!



Alisha Johnson

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## Agricola News

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*Three-year-old Adriana MacEachern and her family see the importance in knowing where their food comes from. They enjoy producing high quality food for their community. Read about Adriana's family on page 12.*

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What do seeds and books have in common? A library of course! Seeding Ideas, a seed lending library has sprouted on the Agricultural Campus at the Faculty's MacRae Library, launched in March.

### Barley Party 2014 22

Eager graduating students filled Jenkins Hall at the end of the spring semester for what has been dubbed one of the most anticipated student events of the year – Barley Party.

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# *A Message from...*

## *The Dean*

It's been just over a year since my family and I picked up our lives and moved to Canada so that I could become the first, full-time dean of Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture and principal of the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. It has been an incredible adventure from the start and one that continues on a day-to-day basis. I've acclimated to "double-doubles" never-ending winters and the most beautiful of summers.

As summer comes to life on our beautiful campus here in Truro, I'm looking forward to a season of growth and renewal much like that of our campus and Faculty. With a strategic planning process coming to fruition and a campus master planning process underway, we are on a precipice of significant growth.

### **Dean's Advisory Council**

As part of our merger with Dalhousie University was the provision for a Faculty of Agriculture Advisory Council. This Council would serve to provide advice to the campus principal and dean Faculty of Agriculture on strategy, priorities and responsiveness to the region in relation to the Faculty's academic programs, applied research and service.

The Advisory Council membership has been appointed and their first meeting was held in March. The group, with members representing the Maritime Provinces, will act as advisors, advocates and ambassadors in the support, advancement and implementation of the Faculty's vision for academic programs, research and service.

Members are appointed by the president of Dalhousie University upon the recommendation of the campus principal/dean. One member of the Council will be a representative of the Government of Nova Scotia's Department of Agriculture as recommended by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and at least one member of the Council will be an alumnus of the NSAC or Faculty of Agriculture. Current membership includes Angus Ellis, Jim MacConnell, Laurie Jennings, Arnold Rovers, Jessie Jollymore, Jean Paul Deveau and Diane Kelderman representing Nova Scotia. John Jamison representing Prince Edward Island and Brian DuPlessis representing New Brunswick.

### **Sandboxes**

The Government of Nova Scotia is supporting universities and Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) with funding for four sandboxes—environments where students, faculty, mentors and experts can experiment with new ideas that could become businesses.

The sandboxes will be "pre-accelerator" environments with access to resources that can help in idea generation and business development. Dalhousie is involved in the creation and hosting of two of the four sandboxes and the Government of Nova Scotia will provide each sandbox with \$150,000 annually over the next three years. Students will begin taking part in the sandbox initiatives this fall.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Sandbox is a partnership between Dalhousie and Acadia, both with campuses connected to rural communities and focused on supporting and growing the agricultural economy of the province. Each campus will host sandbox space.

Modern agriculture is a high-tech industry with expertise required across a multitude of disciplines, from bio-technology, to precision engineering, to computer and environmental sciences. The Nova Scotia Agricultural Sandbox will bring students together across these disciplines to develop new and innovative business ideas for the sector that both serve local industry and provide export opportunities for Nova Scotia-based startups.

### **International partnerships**

We are currently working with our partners at the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU) in China on a shared vision to create a "Canadian College of Agriculture" on the FAFU campus. This will include a physical Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture presence and is the next logical step in the evolution of our ten-year relationship. Proposals for two 3+1 programs to add to our portfolio of 2+2 programs was submitted to the Chinese Ministry of Education on the 31st of March 2014. These programs are in Landscape Architecture and Agricultural Economics.

### **Closer to home**

We are proud to support the United Nations International Year of Family farming in 2014 by profiling you - our alumni family farms. You are having an impact on a daily basis to the rural economy and your efforts go a long way in managing our natural resources, protecting our environment and providing food security and nutrition.

I was fortunate to meet many of our alumni this past fall on our road trip across the Atlantic Provinces and I encourage you to make your way back to campus and visit your alma mater. We have been fortunate to have Dwane Mellish (Class of '85) serve in the capacity of president of the Alumni Association for the past six years and are happy to welcome Jean Lynds (Class of '90) to the post. I assure you that your association and the future of agriculture is in good hands.

Sincerely,  
Dr. David Gray  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture  
Principal, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus





## The Alumni Association

Greetings fellow aggies! I am pleased to provide my first *Agricola News* message in my new role as chair of the Agricultural Campus Alumni Association.

Over the past few years, the Alumni Association board has really evolved and I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in many new initiatives as a board member for the past six years. At this time, I would like to thank Dwane Mellish who has provided leadership, as our chair, during that same time period. Dwane guided the Alumni Association through a very sensitive time in our history as we merged with Dalhousie University. It was always a top priority for Dwane to ensure the association was active and that alumni had a voice and an opportunity to be engaged in the merger process.

Our events calendar is looking quite impressive for the next year. A number of class reunions have already taken place this spring and there are a few others in the works. Dr. David Gray is scheduled to host five Dean's Receptions over the fall and into the winter. For the first time in many years, our campus will be proud to host Homecoming events in October.



*The Board of Directors of the Alumni Association met in June, prior to the Association's AGM. L-R: Colette Wyllie, Jean Lynds, Dwane Mellish, Audrie-Jo (Vink) McConkey and Janice (McKenzie) Lutz. Missing from the photo were Ashley (Gillies) Baskin and Brian Watts. The meeting served as the end of Brian Watt's term as a director. Maryella Maynard of PEI was elected to fill the vacant spot.*

This spring marked our fourth Barley Party where 80 rings were presented to the newest members of our alumni family. This is one of my favourite events as we get to celebrate the accomplishments and share in the excitement of the graduating students as they receive their barley ring. The barley ring has been an incredible story since its introduction 5 years ago and

it is amazing how well it has been recognized and received by our alumni in such a short time. With the Class of '14 purchasing twice as many rings as any previous year - there are now over 500 barley rings proudly worn by our alumni worldwide! If you would like to be part of this great tradition just contact Alisha and she will be happy to place your order.

There is lots happening on campus overall and I'm excited to be a part of what's to come! I am lucky to not only be an alumni of the Faculty of Agriculture but I am also an employee so I look forward to sharing any new and exciting developments as they happen.

As I take on this new role, I am going to lean on this excellent piece of advice - "to be successful...surround yourself with great people".

Jean (Baillie) Lynds (Class of '90)

Chair, Alumni Association, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus



*Dwane Mellish officially passed the "bat" on to Jean Lynds in early June. Jean is shown thanking Dwane for his six years of dedication as chair of the Alumni Association. Dwane will remain on the board, as past chair for another year.*

# Around & About...

## An Animal Heart

Jessica Compagnon  
(Class of '14)



"It wasn't Dal when I first started here," Jessica Compagnon explains, referring to Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus, "but I chose this school a really long time ago."

Compagnon, who is graduating with her Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) with a major in animal science and minor in genetics & molecular biology and food sci-

ence & technology, had wanted to study at the former NSAC since she was in middle school. Originally from the small town of Kingston in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, it was the pre-vet program and working barn that brought her to Truro.

"I had only touched a cow once before I came to the school, and that was about it," she says. "So when I got here, it was quite a learning curve, working with cows, sheep, chickens and animals like that, which a lot of our courses are based around."

She was thrilled by the possibility of being able to work with animals on a day-to-day basis.

When she wasn't in class or volunteering in the barn, Compagnon was often involved with animal care groups and other student societies. She is currently vice-president of the faculty's pre-vet club and volunteers for the Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia. She is also the current vice-president internal of the Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association and, for the past two years, she has represented the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus on its cross country team.

Compagnon is looking forward to finally achieving her goal of having a career in veterinary medicine.

"I've applied to veterinary school for next year," she says. "That's my ultimate goal in life. So if I don't get in next year, I'm going to keep working towards it."

## PET CONNECTION: Truro vet tech takes skills to Dominican Republic

Joye Sears  
(Class of '07)



When most of us book a southern vacation, we look forward to relaxing on a beach with a juicy novel and an umbrella drink by our side.

Joye Sears of Truro has made two recent trips to popular vacation spots, but instead of wearing a swimsuit she was mostly in surgical scrubs.

The veterinary technician just got back from the Dominican Republic, where she took part in a large spaying and neutering project for stray and owned dogs in and around the Punta Cana area, better known for its all-inclusive resorts and long white beaches.

She was also in Cancun, Mexico, in December for another sterilization clinic. Both were put on by Cats and Dogs International (CANDI). In 2010, she also took part in one in Guatemala with Vets without Borders.

Sears, who works at Truro Veterinary Hospital, said while she also does a lot for animals in need at home, the issues for pets overseas are more dire.

"The need on a global scale is completely different," she said during a recent chat. "In these communities, there are mass exterminations taking place as population control, which is really ineffective. With the sterilization clinics, we can make a difference."

The clinic, the organization's first in the DR, spayed or neutered 464 animals — mostly dogs, but a few cats — in just four days.

The CANDI team of veterinarians, vet techs and other volunteers, partnered with a Dominican rescue called Rescatame and area veterinarians, including vet students from Santa Domingo.

Sears said local volunteers were "instrumental in making things happen" by doing things like running the registration desk or going to people's homes to ask if they could take their animals to the clinic.

Teams also went out to capture street dogs for sterilization.

She said unlike Mexico, where they had worked before, this was a new thing for the Punta Cana area.

"(In Mexico) there was a lot of faith and trust in our abilities

and a lot of desire for what we had to offer, so people would line up for hours in advance and register ahead of time. There would be 200 people lined up," she said.

"In the Dominican, it was the first time and they really didn't understand what was going on."

But word spread and the clinic, which wrapped up on April 29, was a success.

She said while they did see a few animals in distress, overall they weren't in bad shape.

"Although we always see those extremes, the emaciated animals or the ones just covered in mange or ringworm, in general most of these animals are doing pretty well. Even with street dogs, people are doing something for them, they're doing their best."

Sears plans to do another project with CANDI as finances allow. Volunteers pay their own way there and a fee to cover their accommodations.

She said there are both personal and professional payoffs for taking part in the international clinics.

"There's a real development of your technical skills," she said of the MASH-like sterilization clinics.

"But I also came back with a real sense that what we did made a real difference in the lives of people."

*Written by Pat Lee.*

## No Regrets

### Carling Gratto

#### (Class of '12)

Difficult math questions? No problem.

Skill testing physics exams? A breeze.

Being one of the only females in her entire program? She's got it.

For Carling Gratto, being one of the only females in her industrial engineering program doesn't set her back. If anything, it's what drives her to become even more successful.

A fifth year student at Dalhousie University, Carling grew up in the small, rural community of Masstown, N.S. She completed two years of the engineering diploma program at the Dalhousie University's Agricultural Campus (formerly NSAC). Upon graduating from NSAC in May 2012, she transferred to the engineering co-op program at Dalhousie University in Halifax. A three year program with three co-op terms, she is set to graduate in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering.

Industrial engineering is the design and development of complex systems that play a key role in society. From systems like manufacturers, airlines and hospitals to telecommunications and online retailers, industrial engineers oversee complex systems of people, technology and information. For Carling, becoming an industrial engineer wasn't always easy. Along with her countless hours of studying, Carling had to search for employment to complete her co-op program. Her passion and dedication along with a lot of time management played a key role in her academic and

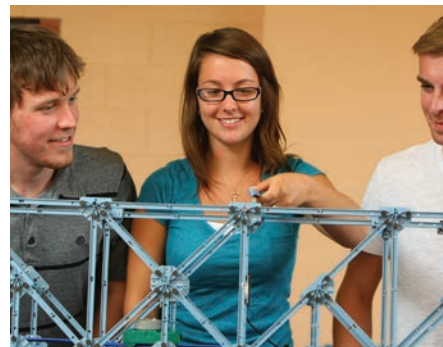
professional success.

"The hardest part about getting where I am today has definitely been time management," Carling explains. "Engineering is a really intense program and on top of going to class and studying, you have to apply for jobs and go to interviews. It's really important to be dedicated and to manage your time wisely."

Along with juggling a busy schedule, Carling is one of the few females in her program which has made for a challenging yet rewarding journey.

"There are approximately 50 students in my class and I would say around eight are female," Carling explains. "Engineering has typically been, and still is today, a male dominated field. Although the number of female engineers is slowly rising, about 13 percent of engineers are female."

Carling didn't always know she wanted to be an industrial engineer. Growing up she considered and explored a few different career options. Having a father who is an industrial engineer heavily influenced her decision. She soon realized that she wanted to follow in his footsteps.



"As I got older my dad started introducing me more and more to what he does," Carling says. "I loved learning about his projects and he would take me around to different job sites. Eventually, I just knew that I wanted to do that too."

As a female in a typically male dominated field, Carling has worked hard to get where she is today. No two days of her journey have ever been the same. Carling chose to enter the co-op program to pursue her industrial engineering degree. The co-op program requires students to complete three work terms. Each work term is four months long, providing students one year's worth of experience upon graduation. She worked at Capital Health in Halifax for her first placement and then at LED Roadway Lighting in Amherst for her second co-op placement. Carling is currently in her third and final co-op term at Proctor and Gamble in Belleville, Ontario.

"At Proctor and Gamble, I will be working on different work process improvement projects," Carling describes. "A typical day will involve observing different processes within the manufacturing facility, researching and studying ways to improve them, and putting these ideas into action."

Through the co-op program, Carling has gained valuable experience that she will take with her throughout the rest of her career. Each day poses a new challenge to be overcome and Carling tackles every challenge she faces.

"Engineering is so diverse," Carling explains. "Even though I'm still a student, I've experienced a number of different engineering roles, through working with my dad, working at the AC and through Dalhousie's co-op program. Each day I do something a bit, or even completely different than the day before. It makes



things interesting and I'm always finding new ways to solve problems."

Carling explains that one of the most rewarding aspects of her career is seeing her ideas put into action. As her journey as an industrial engineer continues, Carling hopes to keep working in the area of manufacturing. She enjoys the challenge and the reward that accompany hard work. She plans to continue gaining new experiences and expanding her knowledge that will help her reach a new level with her career. Overall, it's safe to say that Carling Gratto has no regrets.

## **Giving Back**

### **David Westlake** *(Class of '94)*

*Since we spend a lot of time making a difference, one of the most rewarding places to do that is close to home. The average Faculty of Agriculture employee volunteers ten times each year to work on projects that make our communities more vibrant and healthy.*

David Westlake (Class of '94) is a geographic information system technician with the municipality of the County of Colchester

David believes that we should take pride in making our communities just a little better each day. That's why he spends countless hours volunteering wherever he can in his community.

"Volunteering undoubtedly makes you a better person. It also makes your community a better place to live. In fact, most communities can't function without volunteers," says David. "That's why I give back."



David has been giving back for most of his adult life. Currently, he is deputy chief of the Special Hazards Response Unit, a member of the planning committee of the Chignecto West Regional Science Fair, a member of the Harmony Heights

Elementary School Advisory Committee, Training Coordinator for the Colchester Firefighters Association and a coach for Timbits soccer in the Truro area. David was also a member of the Truro Volunteer Fire Brigade for 20 years, including four years as Deputy Chief.

David plans to give back for as long as he can. In 2012, Truro was able to give back to him by recognizing him as its Volunteer of the Year.

## **Classmates Re-connect**

### **Leonard d'Eon** *(Class of '40)*

*Submitted and written by Bernard G Kuhn (Class of '40)*

Leonard d'Eon and Bernard Kuhn, members of NSAC's General Course, became re-acquainted in 2011. They remembered each other well after 72 years of separation.

Neither Leonard nor Bernard went on to make their living in agriculture. Leonard adopted welding as his basic trade because of the exigencies of wartime and lack of agricultural resources in his hometown of Lower West Pubnico, N.S. Bernard found his way into electrical engineering. NSAC contributed very much to their education, as it has done for other non-farming students and left them with strong, grateful feelings for the college.

English was Leonard's second language and his graduation from NSAC showed him that he could get along well with English language and culture and gave him confidence in his abilities, which proved to be very broad-ranging and productive. He worked in welding and steel fabrication across the province and in Ontario. He taught welding in community colleges in Shelburne and Yarmouth counties for sixteen years. He built fishing boats and delivered some of them himself by sea to New England. He is a talented gardener and he worked as a landscaper for a time. In his earlier career years Leonard raised purebred cows and sheep as a hobby and he was the keeper of the town's breeding bull. Versatility and adaptability were prominent characteristics of Leonard.

Along the way, Leonard did much volunteer work for his community. He was a leader in the development of the Pubnico credit union, the fire department, two museums of Acadian culture and he remains a faithful member of his church. He and his first wife raised six children, all of whom still live in Nova Scotia. Leonard was named "Mr. Acadie" at the annual Pubnico pageant of 2004 ("Madame Acadie" was Marjorie, wife of Benny d'Entremont, Class of '41).

Leonard continues to be active and will celebrate his 96th birthday in September.

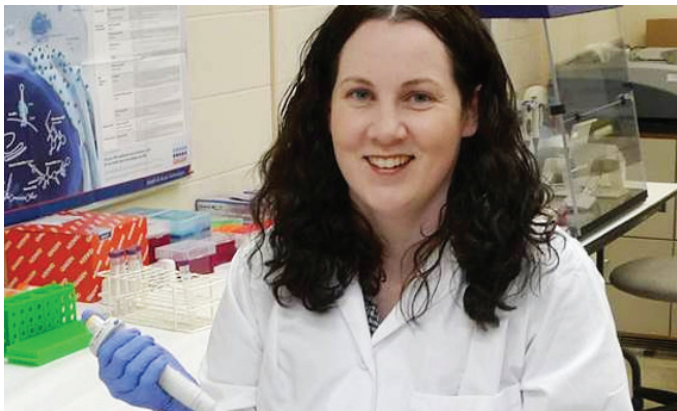


*L-R: Leonard and Bernard during their visit last year.*



# Research

## Aquaculture Genomics Laboratory detects new invasive species



The Aquaculture Genomics Laboratory, founded a year ago in the Faculty of Agriculture, focuses on using innovative molecular biotechnology to drive scientific discoveries and to respond to industry challenges in the shellfish aquaculture industry.

Under the direction of Dr. Sarah Stewart-Clark, the laboratory is directly connected to the oyster, mussel, scallop and lobster fishery and aquaculture sectors in Atlantic Canada. "Our goal is to provide science-based information for both industry members and government managers to best grow this industry forward in Nova Scotia," explains Dr. Stewart-Clark.

The Aquaculture Genomics Lab, located on the Agricultural Campus, performs monitoring of environmental water samples for both target and pest DNA. Assays (analytic procedures) that can detect when target larvae are present in water samples enable growers to make decisions about when to place spat collectors in the water to gather their seed product.

"We also have assays that can detect pest species in environmental water samples — for example, invasive tunicates. Our assays are currently being used by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and provincial governments in N.S., P.E.I., N.B. and Quebec to monitor bays and rivers for the DNA of invasive species."

### Identifying invaders

In addition to monitoring how current invasive species in the region are moving from year to year, which has an impact on shellfish transfers across Atlantic Canada, these assays are also detecting new invasions.

"Assays from our laboratory were involved in the detection of three new invasions over the past 18 months of species never before detected in waters in Nova Scotia," said Dr. Stewart-Clark. "This early detection is critically important, as discovering an invasion early in the invasion process gives both growers and government managers time to develop and implement mitigation strategies to decrease the impact that these new invasions have on Atlantic Canada."

Prior to these DNA detection assays, invasions were only discovered once the invasive species had been present for quite some time, and adult populations had grown to sizes that were visible to stakeholders who were on the water. This made control and containment much more challenging.

The Aquaculture Genomics Laboratory is also home to the International Tunicate DNA Bank. This DNA Bank, established in 2009 and recently transferred to Dalhousie, contains samples of aquatic invasive species from all over the world, allowing researchers to prepare for and design assays for species not yet present in Nova Scotia waters. Having this collection in Nova Scotia protects Atlantic Canada from the potential impacts of new invasions.

### Shellfish research and more

The lab has also been successful in shellfish research. In collaboration with the Atlantic Veterinary College and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the team has sequenced over 295 billion nucleotides for the Eastern Oyster, a species of critical importance to the aquaculture industry but with which very little genomic data is available.

This research is yielding new information on how this species deals with environmental stress events such as temperature and salinity fluctuations, as well as how these stress events impact the immune system of the Eastern Oyster.

"The ultimate goal of this research is to create diagnostic tests for the shellfish industry so that populations of oysters can be assessed to evaluate which parameters in the environment may be causing them to be stressed," says Dr. Stewart-Clark. "This can be used by industry members to test new methods of seed collection, test new grow-out conditions, test new methods of shipping and harvesting all the while monitoring which methods cause stress to the oysters and which methods do not."

This genomic information will be a key driver in the establishment of broodstock programs that are based on genetic selection to ensure the shellfish industry is seeded with oysters that are most likely to thrive in today's changing ocean climate.

## Making the World a Better Place

What if we could make the world a better place through the food we eat? What if our food counteracted certain diseases like cardiovascular disease and Type 2 diabetes? Faculty of Agriculture food chemist Dr. Chibuike Udenigwe is looking to do just that.

"One of my goals in life is to make the world a better place," he says. "Well, everybody wants to make the world a better place. If you look at the current situation here, some parts of the world are starving but other parts have excess, they produce lots of things and they waste a lot of things. I hope that we can start to change that."

Dr. Udenigwe's research looks at the components of food that could be used to promote and have a positive impact on human health. More specifically, he looks at short chains of proteins in food, called peptides, and how those peptides affect certain areas of human health.

"In a nutshell, it's the discovery of peptides from food," Dr. Udenigwe explains. "These peptides are derived from food proteins and we are trying figure out how they function in and affect the human body."

By looking at how these peptides function, Dr. Udenigwe explains that incorporating them into our food could have positive health benefits.

"Some of these peptides have been known to have an effect on cardiovascular disease," Dr. Udenigwe explains. "Others have been found to help the treatment or management of Type 2 Diabetes as well as some cardiovascular disease risk factors. We take the molecules and we put them into food using that as a delivery agent so people can actually get the health benefits."

### Adding value to agricultural byproducts

Dr. Udenigwe's research lab uses mostly dairy products, such as yogurt, and potatoes to extract the proteins. Not only is he looking to increase health benefits through food, Dr. Udenigwe is adding value to low value agriculture products. His research looks at taking the peptides from agricultural byproducts and putting them into the human food system to increase the health benefits.

"For example after dairy processing there are a lot of dairy byproducts," Dr. Udenigwe explains. "When the calf is weaned, the farm has a byproduct called colostrum. Colostrum is the first meal for the baby, but they don't use up everything. Colostrum has a lot of proteins. We can tap these proteins and bring them back into the human food system."

Dr. Udenigwe also explains that another good example is whey. After cheese making, the byproduct produced is whey which is filled with valuable proteins. Dr. Udenigwe and his research team are looking to use the proteins from these agricultural byproducts as a source of peptides and putting them back into the food system. For farmers, this research could add value to their low-value products.

"We are increasing the value of these byproducts and adding more money to the pockets of farmers who produce them," he explains. "That's one of the overall goals."

Dr. Udenigwe doesn't conduct his research alone. He has a number of students who help him. At the moment, he has two Masters students and a number of undergraduate students in his lab. He also has two or three undergraduate research students and a research assistant helping him for the summer. Not only does he have a passion for his research, he has a passion for helping his students succeed.

"To see my students succeed is one of the things that actually drives me every day," Dr. Udenigwe says. "I love to teach. My research program is a good way to deliver excellent curriculum to the students. I make them problem solvers."

As for Dr. Udenigwe, he aims to continue to make the world a better place. With his hard work and dedication to his research, he hopes he will have a positive impact on the health of Canadians and ultimately make the world a better place.

## Student Appreciation Nomination



*Jean, Bridget Wilson, life secretary Class of '14 and Rebecca O'Connell, life president Class of '14*

Manager of the Faculty of Agriculture Ruminant Animal Centre, Jean Lynds, was recently nominated for a Student Appreciation award by the Class of 2014.

Jean offers constant support to students involved in activities at the RAC. She is instrumental in ensuring that College Royal happens

and is willing to help arrange everything from the Christmas float to many fourth year projects, food drives, community garden and much more. She ensures that the RAC is a place where students can drop in at any time to visit, let alone learn. She leads an excellent group of staff who help bring agriculture to life on campus. Always willing to help out, easy-going and down to earth, Jean is a proud Aggie and deserving candidate for the Student Appreciation Award.



## The Passing of Dr. Nigel Firth



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Nigel Firth on May 12th at the Colchester East Hants Health Centre.

Dr. Firth was an associate professor in the department of Plant and Animal Sciences, joining the former NSAC in 1985. Dr. Firth was involved in the teaching of Farm Animal Production, Animal Nutrition, Applied Animal Nutrition, Eggs and Dairy Products and Meat Science.

The fact that Dr. Firth was one of the most well-liked professors at the Faculty of Agriculture speaks volumes to his character. "Nigel is the one lecturer I would wish to emulate in the classroom," says a fellow faculty member and according to students, he is extremely approachable, helpful and genuinely cares about each and every one of them. But that's not all. Dr. Firth was also one of the most well-known members of the greater Truro area, particularly in the performing arts community.

An avid volunteer and accomplished musician, Dr. Firth was a member of multiple choirs and musical groups in Truro, including the Caledonian Orchestra of Nova Scotia, of which he was Vice Chair of the board and three different hand bell choirs. Dr. Firth played the accordion, piano, organ, hand bells, percussion and sang at St. James Presbyterian Church. Dr. Firth also volunteered his talents and time to perform at long-term care centres and retirement residences, was involved with Hubtown Theatre and the Truro Music Festival and assists senior citizens in running errands.

Dr. Firth made a difference in the lives of those around him on a daily basis. His citizenship and willingness to help were appreciated wholeheartedly by members of both the Faculty of Agriculture and the greater community.

This May, Dr. Firth was presented the award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life by the Class of 2014. The award recipient is nominated and voted on by members of the Class of '14 and presented by DASA at the annual Graduation banquet during Convocation celebrations.

# Join the tradition!

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*Inspiring Minds*

*Faculty of Agriculture*

# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING



2014 has been named the United Nations International Year of Family Farming, a year to shine a spotlight on the potential family farmers have to eradicate hunger, preserve natural resources and promote sustainable development.

Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture is proud to be a leader in providing expertise and knowledge relating to agriculture, food and the environment and even more proud of our alumni and the impact they are having on a daily basis. It is our family farmers who are quietly managing our natural resources, protecting our environment and providing food security and nutrition for us all.

We are proud to introduce you to a few of these outstanding alumni families from across the Maritime Provinces and how through their passion and their farm operations, they are uniquely contributing to the success of the industry.

## **A & J Bent Farms Ltd** *Allen (Class of '81) and Jacqueline Bent*



"I had breakfast with Allen," is a joke Allen and Jacqueline Bent hear often. As part of Farmers Dairy's, *We are Your Farmers*, campaign, their dairy farm (and Allen himself) is featured on cartons of milk in households across the Maritimes.

Although being profiled in such a feel-good campaign is quite an honour, it's not what makes the Bents most proud of their family farm, A & J Bent Farms Ltd in Lawrencetown, NS. It's the fact that their dairy operation is just that – a family farm. Family farming is a lifestyle, a choice. For Allen and Jacqueline it's what they both grew up with, it's what they enjoy. They believe it is the best way to raise a family.

"Watching our four children grow-up on the farm, being in the barns and around the animals gives us so much pride," says Jacqueline. "Raising our kids on the farm has instilled so many important values – responsibility, organizational skills, strong work ethic and punctuality."



Both Allen and Jacqueline grew up in dairy farming families. Since 1994 they have owned and operated their farm, which they purchased from Allen's parents. As partners not only in marriage, but in business, they both actively participate in the day-to-day running of their operation.



The Bents milk 135 cows, mostly Holsteins, plus about 10 Jerseys. The farm is self-sufficient in production of grains and forages. A few years ago, they undertook a major expansion of their operation, installing a new parlour and expanding

their quota holdings by 50 per cent. An additional 56 freestalls were also added to their freestall barn.

Within their family-run operation, A & J Bent Farms Ltd have two long-time employees, one full time and another full-time seasonal. They are thrilled to be welcoming a new Agricultural Campus graduate to their farm this spring.

They truly enjoy what they do. "For us, farming is so much better than a typical day job," says Jacqueline. As Allen and Jacqueline run their farm each day, their kids are never far. "Allen and I can work here on the farm and the kids have always been able to see what we do. The kids have direct access to their parents, while we work. Our family can be together."

Allen and Jacqueline work hard to maintain a high calibre operation, but at the end of the day they can look back and see a lot has been invested into their children too. "We teach the kids to take the tools they have and apply those tools to do the absolute best they are capable of. We don't preach win, win, just work hard and do your best."

The "best" is just what the Bents do. They are committed to producing top quality milk each and every day so that the best product possible reaches the store shelf and ultimately the consumer. Last year they were named

Agropur Region 16 milk quality champion. Prior to this honour, they received the Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia Excellence Award in all but two of the 20 years they have been shipping milk.

While maintaining milk quality the Bents also strive for image. "Image is so important to consumers and rightfully so," adds Jacqueline. "It is so important to us to maintain a nice property that is neat and tidy, keep a clean barn and make sure the cows are comfortable."



As any other farmer can relate, it's not always easy. "Not everything will go as planned," adds Jacqueline, "plans and trips can get cancelled. There are blips in the road all the time." However, the Bents have learned to adapt. "We just roll with the punches." At the end of the day it comes back to the same thing, they are doing what they love and they are doing it together. "It's always WE, we are a team."

Allen and Jacqueline's oldest daughter, Jennafer will graduate from Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus this spring (2014) while their other daughter, Alana, is finishing her first year on the campus. The tradition might not stop there. The Bent's oldest son, Jonathan, has the Agricultural Campus on his radar for when he graduates from high school this June. Youngest, Adrian, has a few years to decide.

Regardless where the kids each end up, they'll undoubtedly be reminded of their hard working roots and their family farm, whenever they open the fridge to grab a carton.

## **Folly River Farms Limited** *Lauchie (Class of '01) and Jolene (Class of '02) MacEachern*



It's not exactly as he imagined. But Lauchie MacEachern has reached the goal he set for himself when first enrolling at Nova Scotia Agricultural College nearly 17 years ago.

He has a wife. And he has quota.

Growing up in Antigonish and spending his days pumping gas at his parents' service station, Lauchie, one of eight children, had no formal ties to the agricultural industry. He did however, spend most of his free time on his friend's beef and strawberry farm. "I loved every minute of it," he explained. Lauchie took his budding passion for agriculture and enrolled at the AC and as he likes to say, "intended to find a woman with quota."

During his second year, Lauchie met Jolene (Van den Heuvel).

Although raised on a dairy farm in Cape Breton, Jolene didn't necessarily have quota. Her parents were still young and not ready for retirement. And as many ways as they looked at farm plans, when they were married a few years later, there were significant challenges to expanding her family farm.

Yet Jolene and Lauchie wanted to farm.

"I loved farming because I enjoyed the work, loved the challenge, the constant change and wanted to see the fruits of my

labour," said Lauchie. During one summer as a student at NSAC, Lauchie worked on a dairy farm in Antigonish, which confirmed his passion. Farm owners, Jack Thompson and Rhonda MacDougal really motivated Lauchie. "They inspired me and showed me how important farms are to our communities."



As a young couple, Lauchie and Jolene weren't exactly sure how they were going to make this work. They just knew they would.

"We wanted to do as much as possible, see the world and try lots of different things so we would be prepared to one day operate our own farm," said Jolene. Like many others, Jolene and Lauchie headed west to work for a period of time. "It didn't take us long to realize we wanted to make the Maritimes our home," she adds.

A few years after returning home, Jolene and Lauchie were given an incredible and rare opportunity. They moved to Debert, NS and for over six years worked along-side Henry and Janet Eisses before taking over the Eisses' 300 acre operation.

Lauchie, having worked for Henry for a few years after university, was already familiar with the farm. "Henry and Janet welcomed us with open arms and treated us like family," says Jolene. The MacEachern and Eisses families continued to work together to transition the property. "Because we worked together, the transition was successful." The MacEachern's officially took ownership January 1, 2013.

Today, Lauchie and Jolene, along with their three young children, Ewan (seven), Allister (five) and Adriana (three), operate Folly River Farms Limited in Debert, NS. They milk 60 cows, crop corn, barley, soybean, clover and alfalfa and rent-out land for carrot production.

"Each day we are grateful for the opportunity the Eisses' gave our family," says Jolene.

Although farming was in her blood, together Jolene and Lauchie have made it their lifestyle. But for the MacEachern's, there's more to it than that. "It's also our business," says Jolene. "Large investments and narrow margins mean that we make all decisions based on what's best financially – for our family and our employees."

Farming in general is also very important for them. Like many

others, Lauchie, Jolene and their children see the importance in knowing where their food comes from. They enjoy producing high quality food. "Raising our family on the farm enables our children to learn essential life skills and shows them what it takes to feed the world." They also have a very positive outlook and see the value in what they do, aside from the most obvious.

"Our farm doesn't hinder our family, it enables us to be a positive piece of our community."

The MacEachern's hope their impact will spread further than their farm gate. "I hope we can be good neighbours, employers and stewards of the land. We want agriculture to continue to make a positive contribution to Nova Scotia's rural economy."

Jolene and Lauchie are humble about their success and goals for the future. "It's the people who support us that make our farm a great place to be," she adds.

Thankfully Lauchie and Jolene aren't afraid of hard work as their lifestyle isn't easy. And they will admit that. "Working for yourself and running a business is usually more work than working for someone else," says Jolene.

"But if it's what you really want to do, do your homework and then go for it," adds Lauchie. He and Jolene definitely "went for it". They knew they wanted to farm and they were prepared to work hard and do what was necessary to make it happen.

Perhaps one of their biggest keys to success is calling it what it is - family farming. "We make all decisions a family decision," says Jolene, "everyone is involved."

Jolene and Lauchie are loving what they do and so far, haven't looked back. "When I heard my son say he wanted to be a farmer, I knew we got it right," says Jolene of Allister's dream to be a farmer.

Thankfully Allister and the other MacEachern children have their youthful innocence. They aren't (yet) setting bold and ambitious dreams like their father did many years ago. Although the whole family is thankful he did.



### **DID YOU KNOW...**

- 70 per cent of the world food production is provided by family farmers?
- 50 per cent of food is produced by family farmers?
- 25 per cent of the world's population is composed of women farmers, often heads of households (about 1600 million people)

### **WHY IS FAMILY FARMING IMPORTANT?**

- Family and small-scale farming are inextricably linked to world food security.
- Family farming preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world's agro-biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Family farming represents an opportunity to boost local economies, especially when combined with specific policies aimed at social protection and well-being of communities.



# Kittilsen's Wildflower Honey Limited

*Paul (Class of '89) and Lori (Class of '90) Kittilsen*



"Are you afraid of getting stung?"

For Paul Kittilsen, that was the question that started it all.

Paul is not your typical farmer. Not one single dairy or beef cow can be found on the Kittilsen farm. What you will find though are bees, lots and lots of honeybees.

Paul Kittilsen and his wife Lori (Schofield) own and operate a honeybee farm in the rural community of Debert, NS. They have three children, Benjamin, 13, Sarah, 11, and Ian, 8, who all grew up with a respect for the small stinging insects and a love for honey.

Paul's journey as a beekeeper started when he was just a teenager. At the age of 16, he began working on the farm of a family friend, Frank Woolaver (Class of '46). Never afraid to get stung, Paul quickly learned that he had a strong passion for the hard-working insects. Paul acquired his own hives at the age of 18 and started beekeeping fulltime in 1995. Today, Paul is in his 32nd year of beekeeping.

The Kittilsen farm is a first generation farm, meaning Paul and Lori established it themselves. They purchased their current property in Debert in 1992 and began to build the infrastructure needed to expand their number of hives. Today the farm is a 1200 colony operation, a federally inspected honey packing facility, and a one acre cranberry bog. There are approximately 230 active beekeepers in Nova Scotia but the Kittilsen's are one of the few fulltime beekeeping operations in the province, producing about 75 pounds of honey per hive, per year.

Beekeeping is a year-round task for the Kittilsen's and no two days are ever the same. Paul works full time on the farm while Lori works for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture in Truro, NS. The Kittilsen's employ two full time employees in the summer in addition to their Apiary Manager, John Stiles (class of '97). John has been working on the Kittilsen farm for 17 years.

"We owe a great deal of thanks to the commitment of our employees," Lori explains. "They play a key role in the business

with their positive attitude and knowledge of agriculture. We are very appreciative of everything they do for us and our business."

Tending to the bees and producing honey is seasonal. In the spring, the Kittilsen's bee hives are sent to a number of blueberry fields around the province. The hives are rented by blueberry growers in Nova Scotia and are used to pollinate the blueberry fields. For three weeks, the bees are left to do their job in the blueberry fields pollinating the blossoms. Once the blossoms are pollinated, the bees are then transported back to their summer locations.



"We have about 50 different bee yard locations where we keep the bees in the summer," Paul explains. "Our bee yards are typically located on agriculture land where the bees won't disturb people and where people won't disturb them. We do have

some bees that we keep on the farm but not many, during the summer at least. We are very appreciative of all the land owners who provide locations for our colonies"

In the fall, the honey supers are brought to the Kittilsen's farm for extraction. The honey supers are wooden boxes in which 8-10 wooden frames are hung. The bees build their honeycomb on the frames and store their honey in the honeycombs. Once the honeycombs are full, the bees seal them with beeswax. The honey is extracted from the supers using an automated machine and placed in barrels for storage to be packaged throughout the year.

Winter is a slow season for beekeeping but there is still work to be done. For the winter months, some of the bees are moved to the Kittilsen farm and stored inside, but the majority do stay outside. They are wrapped with black plastic and receive insulated covers to keep them warm in order to help them survive the harsh winters.

"The bees don't produce honey in the winter," Paul explains. "They stay in the hive and cluster together around the queen to generate heat to keep her warm and alive. Unfortunately, some hives don't survive the cold winter."

During the winter, Paul spends his time packaging honey as the orders arrive. The Kittilsen's sell their honey locally, with a few bulk orders extending past their usual locations. They sell to the Masstown Market, Sobeys locations in Truro, New Glasgow and Antigonish, the



Local Source in Halifax, the Truro Farmers Market and a few other local farmers markets. The Kittilsen's don't just sell liquid honey either. Their creamed honey and beeswax candles are also popular products that they produce on their farm. In the fall,



their cranberry bog produces cranberries which they bag and sell fresh as well.

Not every aspect of beekeeping has been easy for the Kittilsen's though. They have had to deal with a pest called Varroa mite, a parasite that

attacks the bees and can eventually wipe out an entire colony. In addition to Varroa mite, black bears and viruses are challenges for beekeepers as well.

"The greatest challenge has been to learn to live with the Varroa mite and other pests," Paul explains. "It's harder than ever to keep honeybees alive."

In addition to the bees, the Kittilsen's farm is home to a few sheep, rabbits and chickens. These animals are not used for farming though. All three of their children are actively involved in 4-H and so these animals are used for showing. Not only do the children help take care of their 4-H animals, they help out with the bees as much as they can.

"There is a lot of heavy lifting involved in the business," Lori explains. "The children are all just starting to reach an age where they are able to help out. They will often help pack the jars of honey into boxes and label the orders."

Benjamin and Sarah can often be found on Saturday mornings at the Truro Farmers Market selling honey and beeswax products. Ian, on the other hand, enjoys the more hands-on aspect of beekeeping.

"Ian is like a mini Paul," Lori laughs. "He really loves the bees. He loves putting on his bee suit and going out to check the hives with Paul."

For the Kittilsen's, farming with their family is important but it's not everything.

"We encourage the children to do what they want to do, whether it be sports or arts or something else," Lori explains. "If they want to help out on the farm, that's great. If there is something else that they would like to pursue, we are going to encourage and help them where we can, every step of the way."

For Paul and Lori Kittilsen, beekeeping is more than a full time job. It's their lifestyle and they wouldn't have it any other way.

## **Bay Enterprises Ltd**

### **Charles Purdy (Class of '71)**

No farmer wants too much water on their farm land.

Except for the Purdy family.

In fact, 200 acres of their farm land is on the bottom of the ocean.



Charles and Nancy Purdy, with the help of their daughter Rachel, own and operate Bay Enterprises, an oyster farm in Malagash, NS. Charles took over management of the farm from his grandfather in 1962, and in 1996 restarted the oyster farming that the Purdy ancestors had been involved in since 1868. The Purdy family's agricultural farm started in 1783 with both land and sea farming. They currently only farm the sea but still own much of the land.

"We are one of the few shellfish hatchery's in Eastern Canada," Charles explains. "We are certified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency so we're able to ship our oysters to almost anywhere in the world. We sell our oysters locally in Nova Scotia as well as ship them to some parts of Quebec, Ontario and the USA."

A hatchery and inspected packaging facility, Bay Enterprises



oversees the entire life cycle of their oysters. The oysters begin as larvae, living in water tanks and fed algae by Charles and his family. The Purdy family produces their own algae to feed their oysters and once they are mature enough, they are placed in the bay. There they feed off of the ocean

for about four-five years until they are big enough to harvest. The oysters are harvested using both manual and mechanical methods. The mechanized machine used to harvest the oysters is environmentally friendly; something that's very important to the Purdy family.

"Our mechanized system is environmentally friendly and that's very important to us," Charles explains. "We want to keep the bay healthy and protected. It creates a stable habitat for our oysters and for fish and if we keep it healthy, then down the road our children, grandchildren and their children will be able to enjoy it the same way we do."

Charles explains that oysters are harvested from the bay almost every day.

"Sometimes if we have a lot of processing from the day before then we won't harvest that day," Charles says. "If there's a storm or Mother Nature isn't cooperating, then we won't harvest. For the most part though, we do harvest some every day."





For Charles, one of the hardest parts of oyster farming has been dealing with Mother Nature. He explains that he has had some regulatory issues in the past, but the only setbacks he has encountered have been from dramatic weather.



"Like any aspect of farming, you're at the mercy of Mother Nature," Charles explains. "Hurricane Juan really set us back when it hit. This past winter was long and cold which caused a higher mortality rate among our oysters. A really heavy rainfall can also increase the mortality rate."

Oysters are in high demand, so a high mortality rate is never good. In many parts of the world, oysters are considered a delicacy.

"There are not enough oysters in the oceans of the world," Charles explains. "Although high demand is a good thing, it's not good if the prices go up. We want our customers to be able to afford to buy our product."

There's nothing else Charles Purdy would rather be doing than working on his farm. He gives a great deal of credit to the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus (formerly NSAC) for helping him keep his family farming operation alive for so many years.

"I graduated from the NSAC in '69," Charles explains. "Then again in '71. I had so much fun at that school, I had to go back!"

Bay Enterprises is a family oriented operation, something that Charles truly values. The Purdy farm has been in Charles' family for three generations and will move into the fourth generation. His daughter, Rachel, is preparing to take over the farm in the near future.

"When I was younger I couldn't wait to get away from the farm," Rachel laughs. "I moved to Halifax for school and then travelled to Europe to work. When I was over there I realized that I really missed this place. It's where my heart is, so I came back. I've been helping my father with the oyster farm since I was a kid and now I'm going to take it over when he retires."

Charles, Nancy and Rachel aren't the only ones who work on the farm though. Rachel's children, Charles and Nancy's grandchildren, also spend a great deal of time on the farm helping out. Sumara, 11, and Kaden, eight, established a keen eye for choice oysters at a very young age. The kids usually help feed the larvae and sort and pack the oysters to be shipped out. For Charles, family farming is the most efficient farming model.

"On a family farm, you know everyone and every animal," Charles describes. "You know every personality and since you're family, you have no choice but to make things work. Family farming is the most efficient model."

Charles Purdy holds a great deal of pride for their operation.

"When I'm standing with my wife looking out over the bay, that's when I have the most pride," Charles describes. "The fact that we took this legacy and expanded it over three generations. I couldn't have done it without my family, that's for sure. For me, there's only one way to farm, and that's with your family."

## Homecoming

Join alumni, staff, faculty and students for two-days of activities as we celebrate Homecoming 2014 on the Agricultural Campus!

Friday, Oct. 17	
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast in the MacRae Library <i>Homecoming toast</i>
10 a.m.	Go back to class! <i>Sit-in on a class with current students</i>  Campus tour <i>Take a guided tour of campus</i>
11 a.m.	Go back to class! <i>Sit-in on a class with current students</i>
12 p.m.	Lunch in Jenkins Hall <i>Pay-as-you go</i>
1 p.m.	College Royal activities RAC  Campus tour <i>Take a guided tour of campus</i>
Saturday, Oct. 18	
10 a.m.	Rocky's Run Athletics Centre <i>(Register before Oct. 3)</i>
12 p.m.	Alumni game - basketball (women) Athletic Centre
2 p.m.	Alumni game - basketball (men) Athletic Centre
	Soccer vs. UNB (women)
4 p.m.	Soccer vs. UNB (men)

Contact Alisha at 902-893-6022 or [alisha.johnson@dal.ca](mailto:alisha.johnson@dal.ca) for more information.

# Dr. John Bubar Scholarship



It could be said that the Dr. John Bubar Scholarship is a family scholarship. Established by family, to honour a family member and to benefit the AC family.

Founded in 2010, Dr. Bubar was fortunate to experience the impact of this award during his lifetime. The award was made possible by his son Don and daughter Carol (Class of '77). Upon receiving

an inheritance from an aunt, they wanted to honour their father in a significant way. Don's suggestion was to create a scholarship in their dad's name while he was still living. Their thought was 'Why wait?' In addition to the incredible benefit it would provide to students, the Bubars wanted their father to experience the impact of giving back.

The scholarship has grown and now supports a \$4,000 award each year benefitting a first-year New Brunswick student. And it will be growing even more in the years ahead. The Bubar family has committed to doubling the fund, creating a \$200,000 endowment supporting two \$4,000 scholarships each year. Friends and former colleagues of Dr. Bubar also made memorial gifts in support of this scholarship.

Dr. Bubar's connection to family runs deep, beginning in his early years when, having been orphaned at the age of two, he was raised by his grandfather, aunts, and uncles in the Hartland area of New Brunswick. This was when his close ties to agriculture began. His uncles were highly successful agriculturalists, whose innovative and entrepreneurial spirit inspired John to assume agricultural pursuits himself.

Dr. Bubar's formative years were influenced by his immersion in agriculture and his ensuing educational success was entirely self-driven. After completing high school, Dr. Bubar attended NSAC and graduated in 1950. Like many of his classmates, Dr. Bubar completed his Bachelor of Science (Agr.) degree at Macdonald College in 1952, followed by his M.Sc. at Penn State University in 1954. He returned to Macdonald College to complete his PhD in 1957, where he remained as a Faculty member until 1967. At this point, Dr. Bubar returned to the AC, where he would remain for two decades until his retirement in 1987.

As the first head of the Plant Science Department, Dr. Bubar was a crucial leader in bringing research funding to campus, and he demonstrated the importance of student-integrated research with many of his own agronomy field trials. He led the campus in research intensity, steadfastly committed to giving students the opportunity to participate in research immediately upon starting classes. His mentorship of current faculty and staff means that his commitment to hands-on experience continues today.

As much as he enjoyed research, the classroom was Dr. Bubar's home. Known to his students as 'Johnny Plant,' his early

morning lectures and post-pub-night quizzes were legendary. Some fondly recall him banging pots together in residence to 'inspire' students to come to plant science class on particularly cold and snowy days. Others recall his good humour and sense of fun.

It was during his time as a student at Macdonald that Dr. Bubar met Margaret, whom he married in 1954. Dr. Bubar and Margaret had two children and two grandchildren, Andrew and Peter and celebrated 53 years of marriage together before Margaret's death in 2008. Of all his accomplishments, father, husband, grandfather might be his greatest.

While many alumni and former colleagues will recall Dr. Bubar's professional life, his personal life holds great clues to the family man he was. Shortly after arriving back in Nova Scotia, the Bubars bought land in Reid's Cove on the North Shore near Tatamagouche. Together with his son Don, Dr. Bubar built a cottage on the waterfront property. The first winter brought a devastating storm that blew it completely down. After a redesign, the Bubar men built it up again, where it remained the family cottage for many years. When not indulging in DIY projects, Dr. Bubar committed himself to genealogy, gardening, beer and wine making, fishing, and travel.

Dr. Bubar passed away April 1st, 2014. He had the opportunity to meet his first award recipients, which brought him great enjoyment and pride. Given his love of family, Dr. Bubar would be proud of the legacy created in his honour.



*Dr. Bubar at the 2010 Scholarship Banquet with award recipient, Vanessa Gerber, Fredericton, N.B., and his daughter, Carol.*

Gifts in memory of Dr. Bubar would be appreciated by family members. Dr. Bubar had a deep commitment to the next generation of agriculturalists and you too can help create a lasting legacy with a gift to his scholarship fund. Donations can be made online at [dal.ca/giving](http://dal.ca/giving), by sending a cheque to the address below, or by contacting Jenna Forsyth at 902-893-6721. Please specify that your gift is for the Dr. John Bubar Scholarship.

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture  
PO Box 550 • Truro, NS • B2N 5E3 • Attn: Jenna Forsyth



# Faculty of Agriculture Mentorship Program New for September 2014!

Alumni are excellent role models for students at the Faculty of Agriculture. The Faculty of Agriculture Mentorship Program is designed to connect alumni with students and encourage alumni to share their expertise and experience with them. Your advice can help a student navigate the challenges of developing and successfully choosing their career path. Participating students will greatly benefit from your insight.

Mentoring is a way for the experienced to guide the less experienced in an attempt to improve understanding. As a mentor you can be a resource, a helping hand, a sounding board and a referral service. Although "chemistry" or making a personal connection is useful in developing a long-term relationship, it is not mandatory to have a great mentoring experience. For both participants, it's important to remember the focus is less on personal connection and more on career objectives including professional advice, career guidance and access to a broader network.

The 2014 Faculty of Agriculture Mentorship Program is a pilot project that will begin in September, 2014 and will run formally, once a mentorship match is made, until April, 2015. The relationship may continue after this with agreement from both parties. Mentors and students will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience at the end of the program.

## Guidelines

- The mentorship relationship will be confidential and professional and will not necessarily result in a personal connection or friendship.
- Students are responsible for initiating and maintaining contact with their mentor.

- Students should ensure two points of contact per semester either by phone or email. In-person meetings can be suggested where appropriate.
- Students are responsible for preparing questions and topics for discussion.
- The role of a mentor is not to find a job for the student and you are not required to offer a job shadow to the student.

## Building from your previous experience

- Looking back on your career, what do you wish you would have known?
- What did mentors do to help you in your career progression?
- Think about both the good and bad mentoring you have received.

## Sharing from your experience

- Help translate unwritten rules in the workplace and explain how information can be communicated informally.
- Share your successes and lessons learned.
- Discuss work-life balance issues.
- Be candid.
- Help the student recognize challenges and successes.
- If appropriate, provide professional contacts that would be helpful for their specific interests.
- Remember to take advantage of the two-way relationship and gain perspective from the student.

If you have any questions or would like to be part of this rewarding opportunity, please contact Alisha Johnson:  
alisha.johnson@dal.ca  
902-893-6022

**HOMEcoming**  
**2014**  
**OCTOBER 16-18**

Reconnect with your  
class and faculty.  
Join the fun on  
campus this fall.



## ***All in the Family Class of '56 keeps growing through unique graduate scholarship***

*By Mark Campbell*

To Nelson Ball, the Class of '56 of the former NSAC are a lot like family. "We don't always agree with each other," he laughs. "But we do have a deep and lasting connection that I don't think you find with any other class."

That sense of family has manifested itself in many ways over the years. For example, Ball and his fellow alumni have not only made their spouses honorary Class of '56 members, they've made a point of holding annual reunions. The alumni have also taken a strong interest in Atlantic Canada's future, specifically the survival of our agricultural communities and their access to clean water. And they feel an obligation to support not just the former college -- now the Faculty of Agriculture -- but also the next generation of students to pass through its halls.



*L-R: 2013 scholarship recipients Wenfeng Zhu and Jillian Eisenor with class member, Ted MacNintch.*

For these reasons, Ball and his classmates banded together to create the Class of '56 Graduate Scholarship in 2011. By providing \$5,000 in annual funding to graduate students, they're hoping to stimulate more research on rural water supply and watershed management in the areas of agricultural economics and policy, social sciences, engineering, and environmental sciences.

According to alumnus Doug Byers, the idea for the scholarship grew in part out of a desire among his classmates to support the Faculty of Agriculture in a meaningful financial way. "It was around 2004, so it was coming up on our 50-year anniversary. There was a basic understanding among us that we've been pretty successful, and the Faculty played a key role in that, so we should try to give something back

A Class Alumni Fund was created, but there was no clear vision on what to do with it until the alumni helped sponsored a

two-day symposium on watershed management and pollution in 2006. "It was clear to us that people in rural Atlantic Canada need some form of help to deal with these issues as they come up," says Byers. "We thought: 'Why don't we do something to support graduate students who are working in this area?'"

Convinced they were on the right track based on the symposium's success, the Class unanimously agreed to create the scholarship, with virtually all alumni contributing to the fund on a regular basis. They also agreed that alumni should be involved in the selection process.

"That was important to us," says Byers. "We felt we could offer something from the diverse experience of our members, and we've had really good cooperation from the Faculty."

Adds Ball: "Essentially, we're offering financial assistance to graduate students to encourage more interest in this area of study. If even one recipient goes on to become a full professor at the Faculty with a focus on watersheds, that would be an amazing thing."

To date, three scholarships have been awarded for watershed research projects. Recipients are not only invited to present their research results at class reunions, they also become honorary Class of '56 members, which means the family continues to grow.

"We have a vested interest in the outcome of the research our scholarship recipients undertake," says class president Ted MacNintch. "We are also genuinely interested in the academic success of our protégées. We need to be there for this Alma Mater that has given us so much in the past and which means so much to us."

## ***Seeding ideas. A seed library sprouts at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus***

What do seeds and books have in common? A library of course! Seeding

Ideas, a seed lending library has sprouted on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus at the Faculty's MacRae Library, launched in March.

"I grew up gardening," explained Jolene Reid, Seed Library coordinator. "My parents were back-to-nature sort of folks. We grew up with a strong value for soil and seeds....this seed library is a great way to honour the memory of my dad in my day-to-day life."





## What is a seed library?

A seed library is based on the premise of providing access to a collection of non-hybrid, non-GMO seeds that can be borrowed by members of the community. Members grow the seeds and enjoy their harvest while letting a few plants return to seed. These seeds will then be returned to the library for the next growing season's collection.

"Libraries are all about providing access," continued Jolene. "With our seed lending library we are providing the community with a different kind of access – access to food security, access to fresh and healthy food, access to diverse varieties...it's all about engaging the community in an innovative way through our Library."

## A first for the Faculty of Agriculture

With over 150 seed lending libraries across North America, Seeding Ideas is the first seed lending library within a Faculty of Agriculture in Canada. The original collection of seeds for the library have been purchased from Annapolis Seeds in Middleton, Hope Seeds in Granville Ferry and Incredible Seeds in Lawrencetown providing borrowers with access to over 80 varieties of edibles and ornamentals.

"We're excited to have this opportunity to bring together the expertise from the Faculty of Agriculture with our campus and local community in such a fun and unique way," added Elaine MacInnis, head librarian, MacRae Library. The Library donated the initial funds to purchase the seeds to begin the collection.

## A Seed Advisory Group

Seeding Ideas will be supported by an Advisory Group including teaching instructors and faculty members from the Agricultural Campus as well as community members and students.

The group includes faculty members Jeff Morton, AC Grounds Co-Manager, Cory Roberts- Waste Management Technician, Nancy McLean, Norman Goodyear and Tri Nguyen-Quang; Community members Leslie Brann, Lyn McBryan, Dick Cotterill; alumnus Ronak Desai; students William Munroe and Jessica Compagnon and Library staff members Verna Mingo, Elaine MacInnis and Chair, Jolene Reid.

The group will help Seeding Ideas create a sustainable variety of seeds and facilitate workshops throughout the growing season as well as mentorship opportunities.

"Gardeners are very good story tellers, added Reid. "We want to capture the stories behind the seeds and track their history as well. One of the seeds in our collection is a 1000-year-old ornamental tobacco seed."

The collection should serve the community from early February until late June for borrowing and become active again during the autumn harvest for seed solicitation. For more information please contact us at [seed.library@dal.ca](mailto:seed.library@dal.ca) or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/seeding.ideas>

## Agricultural Campus Life Executive 2014

Each spring, members of the graduating class have an opportunity to nominate fellow classmates for Life Executive roles. Class members then vote to select the two representatives to fill the president and secretary positions.

The Life Executive positions serve as the liaison between the Alumni office and the class from then on. These roles are critical to keep classmates connected to each other and the Agricultural Campus.

### Life President 2014 – Rebecca O'Connell

The president is the main representative of the class who will work with the other life officer to ensure that the interests of the class are being observed in matters of finance, publicity, reunions and fundraising. It is the duty of the president to remain in close contact with the Agricultural Alumni Association.

### Life Secretary 2014 – Bridget Wilson

The secretary provides the link between the class and the Alumni office. This officer will handle correspondence within the class executive. The secretary will coordinate the mechanics of the class mailing list with the Agricultural Alumni Association for special class events and other alumni gatherings.



*L-R: Former Alumni Association Chair, Dwane Mellish with Bridget Wilson and Rebecca O'Connell.*

# Events & Reunions

## Barley Party



Eager graduating students filled Jenkins Hall at the end of the spring semester for what has been dubbed one of the most anticipated student events of the year – Barley Party.

"This is an occasion to be celebrated and one that will serve to officially identify you as a graduate of the Faculty of Agriculture of Dalhousie University. This ring represents the magnitude of your commitments and accomplishments during your university career and will serve to connect you with our alumni on a whole new level," said Dr. David Gray, prior to the ring presentations.

Together, Dr. Gray and Dwane Mellish, Chair, Alumni Association, presented 80 rings to graduating students. This represented the largest Barley Party to date.

### Honourary Ring

#### Pat Jeffcock, DASA Manager

As part of the Agricultural Campus' ring tradition, the Alumni Association allows for one honorary ring to be awarded each year. Honourary rings are awarded to individuals who do not meet the criteria to be eligible for a faculty ring but who are extremely deserving of the honour. These individuals are ambassadors and supporters of the institution who have made outstanding contributions to the Faculty of Agriculture community.

Robyn McCallum, DASA president, presented Pat with her ring:

*The 2014 Honourary Ring Recipient has managed to keep alive AC traditions and spirit during a time of change.*

*This individual has been a part of our campus for more than a decade. She has served as a constant source of knowledge, even as students come and go.*

*This person is deserving for many reasons, but I want to share some of the outstanding qualities with you here tonight.*

*This person can be on the phone haggling for a cheaper bus for student activities and in the next moment, be carting students off to the hospital. She will support you to the very end. She will march up to Registry with students to solve issues or go out of her way to clarify problems and find solutions. She's a mother hen to all who come in contact, but she is one of those cool moms.*

*She is energetic for every day of work and sacrifices many evenings and weekends to make student activities possible on this campus. She's never more than a text or phone call away. She sits in on dozens of meetings and selection committees to enhance campus life and honour students.*

*She is able to connect to every team of DASA executive that come through her door and ends up becoming their friend for life. She has the courage to follow her dreams, wherever in the world they may lead her, but she always returns to take care of us.*

*She will comfort you in the tough times, and tease you endlessly when Thursday pubs are a bit too much for the next morning.*

*This person is able to make strong connections wherever she goes, in every way- from staff and lab techs, to administration and faculty members, she is a fundamental cornerstone in our campus community.*



*The ladies of 2013-14 DASA Executive with Pat after the presentation. L-R: Jessica Compagnon, Pat, Rebecca O'Connell and Robyn.*



## Convocation 2014

Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture celebrated its annual Convocation Friday, May 9th in the Langille Athletic Centre with 217 students participating.

The Graduation Banquet was held in Jenkins Hall the evening prior to Convocation. The banquet is a highlight of graduation celebrations and provides an opportunity for members of the graduating class to be recognized with Distinguished Graduate Awards.

Distinguished Graduate Awards were presented to Jessica Compagnon, Kingston, N.S.; Rebecca O'Connell, Upper Stewiacke, N.S. and Bridget Wilson, Skye Glen, N.S.



Distinguished Graduate Awards are designed to express the Faculty's acknowledgment and appreciation to graduating students, who have, through their time, energy, talent and leadership enriched the campus community during their studies without neglecting academic pursuits. Recipients are recognized for contributions made through their involvement over time in multiple activities, including, but not limited to, student government, campus activities, community service, sport and recreation, internationalization, or other campus programs.



activities thereby gaining the respect of students and faculty. This award was presented to Keltie MacIntosh, Antigonish, N.S.

"I extend my best wishes to all of our graduates. As they move on to become leaders in agriculture and other industries, I know they received an excellent foundation here at the Faculty of Agriculture and they will make us proud," said Assistant Dean Students, Keltie Jones.

The Noel Enman Memorial Award, instituted in 1984, is presented annually to a technician or technology graduate whose personality and fellowship has contributed to student life and

## Honourary Doctorate

*Solomon Demeke, poultry scientist at Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary medicine in Ethiopia was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture during its annual Convocation ceremony, in May.*



The University's honorary doctorate is designed to recognize extraordinary contributions to society or exceptional intellectual or community achievement. The awarding of honorary doctorates, an important feature of Dalhousie University Convocations, serves to celebrate both the individual and the university

as well as to inspire our graduates, their families and guests.

Solomon Demeke is a poultry scientist at Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (JUCAVM) in the southwest highlands of Ethiopia and the developer of a low-input technology for brooding chickens called the hay-box brooder.

Easy to construct, use and modify with locally available materials and skills, the brooder allows the mother hen to go back to laying and increases egg productivity. Professor Solomon's invention has been so successful at increasing the self-sufficiency of subsistence farmers in Ethiopia that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has funded its dissemination throughout East Africa.

During the course of his four decades teaching at Jimma, his applied agricultural science research has resulted in 38 peer-reviewed and extension publications. Since 2008, he has been the local project director for three consecutive Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded international projects in collaboration with the former NSAC, now Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture.

Under his wise counsel and good-natured leadership, his Nova Scotian partners have acquired knowledge about agriculture in eastern Africa and enhanced their own first-hand understanding of international agriculture.

Solomon is well known to many on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus because of his leadership as JUCAVM Project Director on the Postharvest Management to Improve Livelihoods project. In this role he has hosted many visiting Canadian experts and student interns when they were at Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine to provide short term trainings. Professor Solomon is a well respected poultry scientist both at Jimma University as well as throughout the Horn of Africa.

## St. John's Alumni Reception



Over 50 alumni and friends gathered in St. John's in March for our first ever NFLD event. We had so much fun, we're already planning our next trip to the Rock!

*L-R: Former 1985 classmates, Karen (Ryan) Linfield and Janice (McKenzie) Lutz had a great time catching-up at the reception.*

Bill Rowsell (Class of '79) attended the St. John's alumni reception in style. Bill arrived at our first ever NFLD event proudly wearing his vintage NSAC jacket. Bill posed for a photo op with Kevin Simmons (Class of '80).



## Founding Day 2014

Alumni, staff, faculty and friends proudly celebrated NSAC's Founding Day in February. Blue, gold and NSAC paraphernalia could be seen across campus throughout the day, including in the Barn, where guests enjoyed an afternoon toast to NSAC.



## Athletics

### Eastlink Agri-Golf Classic 2014



**Ken Wo Golf Club  
New Minas, NS  
Friday, July 18**

For those planning ahead, the 2015 Agri-Golf Classic will be held at the Fox Meadow Golf and Country Club in Stratford P.E.I. July 24, 2015.

Visit [dal.ca/rams](http://dal.ca/rams) for further information

### Agricultural Campus Athletics 13-14 Highlights

This past season was a very successful one with all teams improving on their performance and with the following three teams capturing league titles:

Women's Golf Champions - ACAA  
Women's Rugby Champions- ACAA  
AIEL Team Equestrian Champions

Women's volleyball also got back to ACAA Play-Offs and had an excellent performance in the semis before losing to MSVU who went on to win the ACAA title.

#### **DAL AC hosted:**

ACAA Women's Volleyball Tip-Off tournament (10 teams)  
ACAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tip-Off tournaments (6 teams)  
Festive Craft Market  
ACAA Badminton championships  
ACAA Men's and Women's Basketball championships



At the 50th Athletic Awards Banquet, the following student-athletes were honored with the following:

### **HUSTLE Award**

Badminton.....	Harris Bakker
Basketball (m).....	Tyler MacDonald
Basketball (w).....	Kasadee Allen
Rugby (w).....	Stephanie Wilson
Soccer (m).....	Josh Borgal
Soccer (w).....	Melissa Bahri
Volleyball (w).....	Katie McQueen
Woodsmen (m).....	Jason Withrow
Woodsmen (w).....	Breagh Ross

### **MIP Award**

Badminton.....	Erica Jackson
Basketball (m).....	Marcus Robinson
Basketball (w).....	Theresa Rankin
Rugby (w).....	Kaylee Little
Soccer (m).....	Ben Nelson
Soccer (w).....	Ellen Sharp
Volleyball (w).....	Melissa Mammoliti
Woodsmen (m).....	James Oostvogels
Woodsmen (w).....	Emily Davis

### **ROOKIE Award**

Badminton.....	Berdien Bakker
Basketball (m).....	Devin Elsemore
Basketball (w).....	Candace Reynoldson
Rugby (w).....	Kathleen Sterritt
Soccer (m).....	Nathan Hill
Soccer (w).....	Sydney Sprenger
Volleyball (w).....	Thea McLachlin
Woodsmen (m).....	Marco MacLeod
Woodsmen (w).....	Jescynda Cain-Hotham
Equestrian.....	Leah Ellis
Cross Country.....	Ariel Fitzgerald
Golf.....	Lindsay Cameron

### **DAL AC All Academic Athletes**

Athletes who have demonstrated excellence in academics and athletics, achieving the required average of 80 or above for "honours" and a position on a varsity team (varsity player and honours average - first semester).

#### **Women's Soccer**

Alana Bent  
Leah Cook  
Sydney Sprenger

#### **Men's Soccer**

Nathan Hill  
Craig MacEachern  
Robert Matheson  
Josiah McNutt

#### **Women's Rugby**

Joan Cole  
Arin Douglas  
Lauren Keirstead  
April MacHattie  
Jessica Stickney  
Amy Unicomb

#### **Badminton**

Luke MacKinnon  
Ryland Murphy  
Berdien Bakker

### **Women's Basketball**

Kasadee Allen  
Hayley Wilson  
Shannon Spencer

### **Men's Basketball**

Taran Jordan

### **Women's Volleyball**

Rachel Hughes  
Melissa Mammoliti  
Katie McQueen  
Fenna van Noort

### **Woodsmen**

Andrew MacEwen  
Angus Gibson  
Brad Elliott  
Emily Peters  
Bridget Wilson  
Kamryn Findlay  
Dominique Comeau  
Emily Davis

### **ACAA All-Conference 2014**

#### **Soccer**

Craig MacEachern  
Ben Nelson  
Leah Cook  
Melissa Bahri

#### **Badminton**

ACAA Rookies of the Year  
Luke MacKinnon  
Berdien Bakker

#### **Rugby**

ACAA Player of the Year - Joan Cole  
Georgia Lewis  
Whitney Shaver  
Jessica Stickney  
Becky Blank  
Jessica MacAskill  
Kathleen Sterritt

#### **Volleyball**

ACAA Rookies of the Year - Thea McLachlin  
Samantha Fanning  
Thea McLachlin

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

Emily Peters

### **CCAA Academic All Canadians**

SIRC (Sport Information Resource Centre) and the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) are proud to announce the **2013-14 SIRC-CCAA Academic All Canadian Award** recipients.

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

Leah Cook – **soccer**  
 Craig MacEachern – **soccer**  
 Arielle Fitzgerald – **cross country**

### MVP Award

Badminton.....	Adam MacKinnon
Basketball (m).....	Taran Jordan
Basketball (w).....	Hillary Hopper
Rugby (w).....	Joan Cole
Soccer (m).....	Craig MacEachern
Soccer (w).....	Leah Cook
Volleyball (w).....	Samantha Fanning
Woodsmen (m).....	Andrew MacEwen
Woodsmen (w).....	Emily Peters
Equestrian Club.....	Heather Creamer
Cross Country.....	Jonathan Crouse
Golf.....	Jescynda Cain-Hotham

### Outstanding Athlete Awards

KS Marchant Award – presented to the varsity athlete with highest GPA in degree and technology

### Degree: Tie

Alana Bent  
 Amy Unicomb  
 Berdien Bakker  
 Katie McQueen  
 Josiah McNutt

### Technology:

Joan Cole



Front L-R: Alana Bent - soccer (degree), Ken Marchant, Katie McQueen - volleyball (degree)  
 Back L-R: Amy Unicomb - rugby (degree), Joan Cole - rugby (technology), Josiah McNutt - soccer (degree), Berdien Bakker - badminton (degree)

### ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Female: Emily Peters  
 Male: Andrew MacEwen



Emily Peters (woodsmen), Andrew MacEwen (woodsmen) with Keltie Jones, Assistant Dean Students.

## Large Contribution Made to the Alumni Family Bursary

Thanks to the generosity of the Class of '51, the Alumni Family Bursary fund just took a big leap. Members of the Class of '51 have committed to annually donating funds that are collected into their class fund to the Alumni Family Bursary.

As a result of their commitment, the Class of '51 have donated \$8,500 to the Alumni Family Bursary this year. This support will go a long way to support students of alumni.

Created in 2008-09, the Alumni Family Bursary was developed to provide financial relief to students with alumni relatives. Since then, the bursary has distributed \$40,000 in awards to 65 deserving students.

For more information on donating to the Alumni Family Bursary contact Jenna Forsyth:  
[jenna.forsyth@dal.ca](mailto:jenna.forsyth@dal.ca)  
 902-8936721



# Annual Giving Report

The Faculty of Agriculture is extremely grateful for the generosity of the alumni, friends and organizations that have chosen to support our Faculty. The list acknowledges those who have made financial contributions to the Faculty of Agriculture or former NSAC between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. This is one small way for us to say thank you. We would also like to thank our donors who have chosen to remain anonymous.

## **Total gifts to Faculty of Agriculture \$594,680**

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

Helen E. Eaton  
Alan R. Langille  
Stuco Holdings Ltd  
Stella Jones Inc.

### **PLANNED GIFTS**

John Atkin  
William B. Collins  
John B. Eaton  
Peter Y. Hamilton  
Malcolm MacQuarrie

### **GIFTS FROM FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE ALUMNI**

#### **Class of 1940** Bernard G. Kuhn

#### **Class of 1941** Arnold B. Blenkhorn

#### **Class of 1944** Clara (Starratt) Galway

#### **Class of 1946** William B. Collins J. Gordon Crowe

#### **Class of 1947** Eric P. MacPhail

#### **Class of 1948** Dale M. Duplessis Gerald W. Friars Chelsey L. Lockhart James M. Winmill

#### **Class of 1949** Stuart F. Allaby

#### **Class of 1950**

Paul C. Harris  
Jack Johnson  
Norman S. Logan  
Ian P. MacDonald

#### **Class of 1951**

Donald A. Beeler  
Blair Bonnyman  
William C. Durant  
C. Lewis Ricketson

#### **Class of 1952**

Isabel Archibald  
Joseph A. Davidson  
William L. Hanlon  
Keith A. McCully  
Donald M. Nicholson  
Arnold C. Pitman

#### **Class of 1953**

Glenn S. Ellis

#### **Class of 1954**

Page K. Baird  
Ronald V. Colpitts  
Jack Eaton  
Ralph H. McKay  
Eric Meek  
Vernon Murray  
Robert L. Parks  
Donald E. Porter  
Calvin R. Tilley

#### **Class of 1955**

Donald P. McInnes

#### **Class of 1956**

Doug Byers  
Doug & Carlene Crouse  
Harry & Beth Crouse  
Dick Huggard  
Donald G. MacNeil  
Bill Seaman  
Daniel Stewart  
Gordon L. Zwicker

**Class of 1957**

Ralph Ferguson  
William S. Moore  
Al Smith  
Weldon C. Travis

**Class of 1958**

Donald L. Grant  
Les Haley  
Jess M. Thompson

**Class of 1959**

Dale Ells  
Irvin B. McCormick  
Stanley J. Warwick

**Class of 1960**

H. Garth Coffin  
Gilbert MacDonald

**Class of 1961**

Charles G. Embree  
N. Glayne MacQueen  
Robin M. Phillips  
Gary J. Pretty

**Class of 1962**

David Campbell  
Evans N. Estabrooks  
Wayne F. Parker  
Robert J. Scott  
Richard S. Whitaker

**Class of 1963**

Richard C. Cochran  
Howard B. Dewitt  
Harold F. Johnson  
James A. Pickett  
Ralph Glendon Smith

**Class of 1964**

Jack F. Burnham  
Francis E. Cotter  
Richard Holley  
Alton W. McEwen  
Neil L. Murphy  
David W. Oulton  
Audrey S. Payne

**Class of 1965**

Ronald Fraser  
Ralph C. Murray

**Class of 1966**

Stephen D. Casselman  
Harold W. Cook

Jim Crooker  
Charles Hiltz  
Douglas E. Lousley  
John E. Madill  
David W. Thorne

**Class of 1967**

Paul A. Gallant  
Keith R. Silver

**Class of 1968**

Brian M. Mahoney  
Isaac W. Smith

**Class of 1970**

David & Joyce Thompson

**Class of 1971**

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

**Class of 1972**

Leo A. Harbers  
Allen P. Shaw  
Alford Smith

**Class of 1973**

Charles O. Keddy

**Class of 1975**

John A. Brown  
Janet W. Coombes  
Clara LeBlanc  
Lloyd Mapplebeck & Lauranne Sanderson  
Sherry E. Porter & Doug Hall  
Carol Versteeg

**Class of 1976**

Harry W. Van der Linden & Joanne Enright

**Class of 1978**

Boyd R. Crouse  
Ian D. MacDonald

**Class of 1979**

Gisela E. Erf  
Wendy O. Harris  
John B. Van Den Hof

**Class of 1980**

Andrew B. Crouse  
Gerald A. Post & Yvonne M. Thyssen-Post

**Class of 1981**

Daniel & Cynthia Doucet  
Scott C. Lewis  
Elizabeth Prentice-Hudson  
Margaret M. Trenholm

**Class of 1982**

Arsene Babineau  
Ruth M. Demone  
Dana M. Power

**Class of 1983**

Alyson D. Chisholm  
Crystal D. Furlong

**Class of 1984**

Douglas & Barbara McDonald  
Gerrit & Marlene Groenenberg  
Chris Richards

**Class of 1985**

Christine D. Carroll  
Jeff & Janet Colwell  
Darby L. Mullen

**Class of 1986**

Anthony J. Gorham  
Tracey G. Murdock

**Class of 1988**

Cynthia Mitchell  
Christine L. Murray  
Wilma Schenkels  
John G. Suidgeest  
Miriam E. Tams

**Class of 1990**

Barbara E. Whiston

**Class of 1992**

Suzanne E. Blatt  
Randal L. Drake

**Class of 1993**

Jane MacLaurin

**Class of 1995**

Janice E. Buckler

**Class of 1997**

Christine & Leigh Matheson  
Daniel Scothorn

**Class of 1998**

Jason & Nicole Haverkort  
Christopher R. Toole



### ***Class of 1999***

Andrew & Tricia Lake

### ***Class of 2001***

Mike Shreve

### ***Class of 2002***

Barbara J. Christie

### ***Class of 2007***

David U. Christie

### ***Class of 2008***

Debra L. McLellan

### ***Class of 2011***

Elliot B. Levy

Nathan D. Murray

### ***Class of 2013***

Qi Liu

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

American Rhododendron Society  
Animal Nutrition Assoc. of Canada  
Atlantic Association of Landscape Designers  
Atlantic Land Improvement Contractors Association  
Atlantic Poultry Conference  
Atlantic Poultry Incorporated  
Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society  
Bedford Horticultural Society  
Beeler Consulting Inc. (Byron Beeler, '56)  
Bible Hill Garden Club  
Chicken Producers Association  
Cobequid Animal Hospital  
Compass Group Canada  
Co-op Atlantic  
Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland  
Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia  
Dalhousie Agricultural Association of Graduate Students  
Dalhousie Agricultural Student Association  
Dartmouth Horticultural Society  
Dykeview Farms  
Eastern Veterinary Technician  
Egg Producers of Newfoundland  
Fall River Garden Club  
Farm Credit Canada  
Farm Focus  
Farmers Co-Operative Dairy Limited  
Friends of the Garden  
Green Diamond Equipment  
Harrison McCain Foundation  
Horticultural Trades Association  
Inverness County Federation of Agriculture  
Isgonish Chapter IODE  
Landscape NB Hort. Trades Association

Landscape Nova Scotia

Like Nobody's Business (Rhonda Bellefontaine, '85)

Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture

Kings Mutual Insurance Company

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture

New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists

Nova Scotia Animal Breeders

Nova Scotia Egg Producers

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association

Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club

Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association

Nova Scotia 4-H Council

NS/NF Holstein Assoc. of Canada

Oakridge Farm (David Shaw, '64)

Patterson Law

PEI Department of Agriculture

Pork Nova Scotia

Prince Edward Island Institute

Prince Edward Island Potato Board

Rotary Club of Truro

Shur Gain/Nutreco Canada Inc.

Stephen S. Healy Financial Services (Stephen & Patti Healy, '73)

Stewiacke Garden Society

Stewiacke Valley Garden Club

Syngenta Pest Management

Wild Blueberry Producers Association

## **FRIENDS & FAMILY**

Heather E. Bourgeois

Claude Caldwell

T. Stanley Cameron

Rae Casey

Laurie A. Dubreuil

Nigel Firth

Peter A. Hennigar

Christopher Hopgood

Edith Hudgins

Dennis J. James

Laurie Jennings

Richard Lindsay

Linda J. Marks

Ruth I. Mathewson

Aimee Mitchell

Paula Rix

Nerene Russell

Ted Semple

H. Sodhi

Tracy Spence

Jennifer & Mark Starratt

Bonnie Waddell

John K. Weagle

## 1950's Alumni Share Memories

Fifteen NSAC alumni from the 1950's were among a group of 30 who attended a program at the Colchester Historeum in Truro in April.

Since the Colchester Historical Society is celebrating 60 years, several of their programs feature events from the 1950s. This event was about memories and memorabilia of NSAC students. The memories from those of the early 1950s were centered on life in Debert and commuting to town. After the new science building was constructed and opened in fall of 1953, the students received their instruction at the NSAC campus and experienced living in boarding houses off-campus in Bible Hill and Truro. Commencing in the fall of 1957 when Trueman House opened, students were able to enjoy residence life on campus. The program at the Historeum also included a viewing of the film, "Agriculture Goes To College", this was produced by Margaret Perry of the Nova Scotia Information Service using film footage collected at various times during the 1957-58 academic year.



*Left to right, front row: Dale Ells (Class of '59), Jack Sibley (Class of '59), Henry MacConnell (Class of '55) and Campbell Gunn (Class of '59). Middle row: George MacKenzie (Class of '56), Don MacNeil (Class of '58), Dick Huggard (Class of '56), Jack Johnson (Class of '50) and Enid Cooper (Class of '55). Back row: Page Baird (Class of '54), Lorne Cock (Class of '52), Fred Pierce (Class of '58), Bob Murray (Class of '52), Les Haley (Class of '58) and Don Porter (Class of '54).*

## In Memory

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

John Devenney .....	1946
Iva McCurdy.....	1946
Charles MacQuarrie .....	1948
John Bubar.....	1950
Ernest Eagles.....	1950
M. Archibald .....	1952
Robert Colpitts .....	1954
Eric Meek .....	1954
Donald Fisher.....	1956
William Stewart .....	1956
Eric Nickerson .....	1965
Lindsay Carter.....	1971
James Profit .....	1976
Clinton McLean .....	1979

## Professor Nigel Firth Memorial Bursary

Colleagues, friends and Family of Dr. Firth are coming together to establish a bursary in his memory. Dr. Firth touched the lives of many students during his 25 years teaching animal nutrition and other subjects at NSAC, then Dalhousie University. This bursary will support students majoring in Animal Science, involved in their communities, and who contribute to community enrichment. Former students, friends, and colleagues can help create this award by giving online at [dal.ca/giving](http://dal.ca/giving), by sending a cheque to External Relations, Faculty of Agriculture, or by contacting Jenna Forsyth at 902-893-6721 or [jenna.forsyth@dal.ca](mailto:jenna.forsyth@dal.ca)



# Look Who's Talking

## Ashley (Gillies) Baskin (Class of '09)

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

### Biography

Raised on a dairy farm in Belleisle Creek, N.B., Ashley graduated from NSAC in 2009 with a BSc Agr. Majoring in Agricultural Business.



During her time at NSAC she was very active in student affairs. In the 2007-08 academic year she was the Students' Union president. As an avid horseback rider with a strong passion for the animals, Ashley was instrumental in the development of the equestrian team at NSAC. She participated on the team for three years afterwards.

Since graduation from NSAC, Ashley has been employed with Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick, as milk quality coordinator and processor services.

Ashley and her husband, Darcy, have three young sons.

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

*I think being on a campus where everybody shares the same PASSION is what makes the Faculty of Agriculture so unique. When I graduated from my small rural high school (38 in my class) I mistakenly thought I needed to further my education at a large campus. While the university had "everything", I found what I truly missed was a common "heart" that allows for a close-knit family feel. When everybody has the same drive, regardless of your field of study, you feel really connected and more passionate about your goals. I found that as soon as I transferred to NSAC.*

**What needs improving?**

*When I was a student I was heavily involved in the Students' Union. One of the most frequent wishes of the student body at the time was the desire to have a common place on campus to socialize and network, that is outside of residences and classrooms. I believe that a Student Union space designed to facilitate this could only have a positive effect on the campus body and to this end I would like to see the faculty focus on this in the near future.*

**What do you think is the most significant change on campus since your graduation?**

*The most significant change has definitely been the merger with Dalhousie. From what I have seen so far, and after listening to Dr. David Gray, I am honestly excited for the future of the Faculty of Agriculture.*

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

*I would like the Faculty to carry its same passion, beliefs and morals into the future while maintaining its progressive nature.*

*Social media is here to stay. There is a lot of information readily available to the general population. I think that now and in the future, the Faculty of Agriculture will really need to focus on making sure demand for*

*information is met in a way that will promote the honesty and integrity of this field. Yet this will need to be progressive enough to meet the increasing demands for food production.*

**The theme of this Agricola News is Family Farming, in honour of the International Year of Family Farming. Why is farming so important to you and in particular family farming?**

*I was raised on a fifth generation dairy farm, so family farming is in my blood. Because of that influence I am also a huge promoter of "buy local when you can." I do believe, however, that a person doesn't have to grow up on a family farm to idealize this lifestyle. If you take a person on the 35th floor of a city apartment and mention the words "family farm" I bet they would have very peaceful thoughts. It is this idealization that I think is important to preserve. Especially as people become more and more disconnected from their food sources and farms become, out of necessity, more technologically advanced.*

**Growing up on a farm yourself, what advice would you give someone considering this lifestyle?**

*As I mentioned, there is a disconnect between people and their food production. If I was to give advice to someone who was considering this lifestyle I would first ask them to describe how passionate they are. Farming today is wrought with many challenges and barriers. It is often thankless and grueling. At the same time, however, it can be extremely rewarding to be working at something you are truly passionate about. It is those who have this passion who will overcome the difficulties that are associated with the disconnect and become advocates to help bridge the gap.*

**What aspect of your family farm gives you the most pride?**

*PRIDE is what gives me the most pride! I am proud to talk about my family farm to anyone. I am proud of my heritage and proud of the fact that my siblings and I have carried that forward to our careers. I am also proud of the fact that I am able to keep my children and hopefully their children in touch with agriculture and what it is truly about.*

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\*No purchase is required. There is one (1) prize to be won. The winner may choose between an amount of \$60,000 CAD to build a dream kitchen of his/her choosing or \$60,000 CAD cash. The winner will be responsible for choosing a supplier and for coordinating all of the required work. The contest is organized by Security National Insurance Company and Primum Insurance Company and is open to members, employees and other eligible persons who reside in Canada and belong to an employee, professional or alumni group which has entered into an agreement with the organizers and is entitled to receive group rates from the organizers. The contest ends on October 31, 2014. The draw will be held on November 21, 2014. A skill-testing question is required. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. The complete contest rules are available at [melochemonnex.com/contest](http://melochemonnex.com/contest).

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