

AGRICOLA



FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF DALHOUSIE'S FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

BALANCING A FULL PLATE

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VOLUME 44 NO. 2, 2016



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

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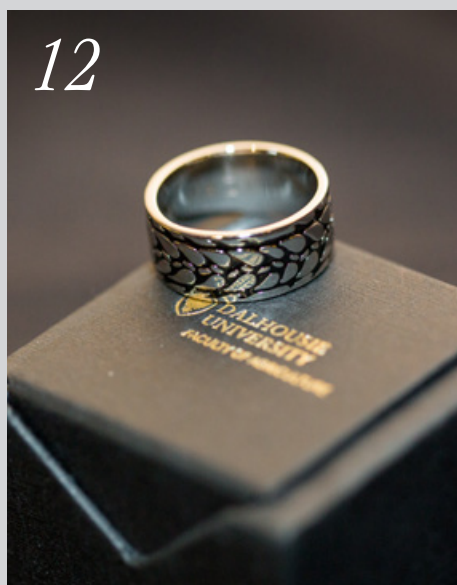
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Letter from the Editor

Happy summer, Aggies!

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and the Agricultural Campus is its usual beautiful self. If you haven't stopped by to visit lately, summer is the perfect time to do so. The grass is green, the Alumni Gardens are replete with colour, and the animals are enjoying the nice weather as much as we are.

We are so fortunate to have an operational farm on our campus that not only plays a role in primary production but also provides immeasurable teaching and learning opportunities to our students. Animals have always been and will always be a vital part of agriculture; in fact, agriculture would not and could not exist without them. And as agriculture evolves, so too do its job opportunities. Careers in agriculture and animal-related fields are more widespread than ever before – from animal care to marketing to research – and it is crucial that we prepare our graduates for them.

That's why our programs on campus are always evolving, too. In this edition of the *Agricola News*, you'll read about one of our newest programs, Bioveterinary Science, which aims to fill the gap between Pre-Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. You'll also read about one of our new and exciting courses – African Wildlife Ecology – that saw AC students travel to the Amakhala Game Reserve in South Africa for the first time this spring.

Biovet isn't the only new program on campus – this fall will also see the first intake of the post-diploma Bachelor of Technology in Small Business

Management, as highlighted in the last issue of the *Agricola News*. New post-baccalaureate programs are also available in the areas of Environmental Biology and Food Bioscience, for those interested in a post-grad specialty. You can read more about these programs on page 11.

Our events lineup continued over the winter and spring with receptions in Gander, NL, Halifax, NS and Calgary, AB, as well as the second "Aggie Night at the Bearcats" in Truro in February. The seventh annual Barley Party (and the largest yet!) took place in April, and in May we welcomed 234 Aggies to the alumni family at Convocation. You can read more about all of these events and more in this edition of the *Agricola News*.

Take a moment to acquaint yourself with the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, whose bios and photos you can find on page 26. These volunteers represent you and provide guidance for alumni programming. If you are interested in getting involved with the Alumni Association, please contact me!

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

Regards,



Colette Wyllie
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Dean's Message

Dr. David Gray

Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
Principal, Dalhousie
Agricultural Campus

"Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem."
— A.A. Milne

Animals have long been an essential part of the teaching and learning process at the Faculty of Agriculture and our students are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn by doing.

Beloved events like our annual College Royal competition are a testament to generations of students dedicated to maintaining the culture of animal husbandry and health, while continuing to improve public awareness of agricultural issues.

And it is within this spirit that the Faculty of Agriculture recently launched a unique and

innovative course, African Wildlife Ecology, as part of our newest program in Bioveterinary Science.

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to study in South Africa and that experience has stayed with me throughout my career. The biology and ecology you get to see - to live - is in a different league to what we are used to here in the northern hemisphere. When you bring in the "Big 5" things get really exciting. Predator-prey relationships, conservation, ecological interactions from micro to macro scales and you're living right in the middle of it all. It is simply fantastic!

The Faculty of Agriculture is proud to be partnering with Rhodes University, one of South Africa's leading research universities, and its world-renowned Wildlife & Reserve Management Research Group on the

development and delivery of the African Wildlife Ecology Course. The Faculty of Agriculture truly believes in applying theory to practice, real 'hands-on learning' and this is a fantastic example of that approach.

This optional three-week credit course allows students to spend three weeks in a tented camp in the Amakhala Game Reserve in South Africa while participating in lectures on such topics as anthropology, ecology, animal behavior, palaeontology and the climate and history of the region. They are also taken on fieldtrips to surrounding areas to experience various ecosystems including Addo Elephant Park and Mountain Zebra National Park.

Our first group of 13 students to participate in this course spent three weeks in South Africa in

June. You can read more about their adventures on pages 9 and 10 of this *Agricola News*, or for a more detailed account, check out their blog at blogs.dal.ca/awe.

As the only named program of its kind in Canada, our Bioveterinary Science program at the Faculty of Agriculture provides a foundation for a career in veterinary medicine – and opens up a world of other exciting options. You can read more about this program on page 6.

Enjoy this edition of the *Agricola News* and join us in our educational journey with animals by our side.

David Gray



Alumni Associaton Message

Chair

*Audrie-Jo McConkey,
Class of '03*

Greetings, Aggies! I am pleased to provide my first *Agricola News* message in my new role as chair of the Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association.

I have been a board member of the Alumni Association since 2010, and for the past two years, have been fortunate to serve as vice-chair under the leadership of Jean Lynds. Jean's dedication to her role was

obvious, as you could note her presence at almost every alumni reception and special event hosted in the region during her term. Her excellent emceeing skills ensured a great number of events ran smoothly and her passion for her alma mater was infectious. Thank-you, Jean, for being such a stalwart leader. We have been lucky to have you, and are grateful that you will continue to serve the board

for an additional year as past chair.

Our official 'baton-passing' took place at the annual general meeting of the Alumni Association this June. This meeting also marked the end of two board members' terms – thanks to Ashley Baskin (Class of '09) and Harris Bakker (Class of '15) for all the time and effort you both put towards the board and the association as a whole. A big welcome goes to our newest directors, Shelly Juurlink (Class of '01) and Nathan Murray (Class of '11), we look forward to the Aggie enthusiasm that you will bring forward.

We have an exciting schedule of events forthcoming this year. We are thrilled to be hosting the Classes of '51, '56, '61, '66 and '96 for reunions on campus over the next few months, along with Homecoming activities in October. Dr. David Gray is scheduled to host five Dean's Receptions over the fall and into the winter in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, Ontario and

Newfoundland, we hope that you will have an opportunity to join fellow alumni in some of these events. In November, we will be honouring three very deserving alumni at our annual Blue & Gold Awards Dinner.

This spring marked our seventh annual Barley Party, where 120 Barley rings were presented to the newest members of our alumni family – and the biggest Barley Party to date! The Barley ring has become a cherished tradition since its introduction in 2010. There are now over 750 rings proudly worn on the fingers of NSAC and Dal AC alumni around the world, and this number grows all the time. If you would like to be part of this great tradition, please contact Colette and she will be happy to place your order.

There is lots of excitement on campus as we celebrate summer and look forward to new programming for our students in the fall. I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Agricola News*, which highlights some of these programs, as well as some members of our alumni family who are making a difference in the world of agriculture.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the board whenever you have a question or concern. I wish you all the best for the summer and look forward to keeping you updated over the next two years!

Audrie-Jo McConkey



Alumni Association incoming chair Audrie-Jo McConkey and DASA president Alana Bent thank outgoing chair Jean Lynds for her service to the board.

A person wearing a white lab coat is gently holding a small white chicken with a prominent red comb. The person's hands are visible, and the chicken is looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a laboratory or clinical setting.

COVER STORY

BIOVETERINARY SCIENCE

Increasing Access to Careers in **Animal Health**

Since 1985, Animal Science has been the largest major within the BSc. (Agr.) program at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. It prepares students for careers in animal production, care and beyond – with a focus on agriculture. Today, more and more students are pursuing careers in animal-related fields beyond primary production. Dal AC's new program, Bioveterinary Science, builds on the strengths of the Animal Science program to provide more relevant education for students interested in the broader area of animal health sciences.



Dalhousie Agricultural Campus' new program, Bioveterinary Science, launches this fall with its first intake of students. The only named program of its kind in Canada, the new program provides the foundation for a career in veterinary medicine – and opens up a world of other exciting options. The program builds on the strengths of Animal Science to provide a degree more relevant to those students interested in the broader area of animal health sciences.

WHY BIOVETERINARY SCIENCE?

“In 1985, the majority of students in the Animal Science program came from farms and planned to work directly in agriculture,” explains Dr. Tarjei Tennessen, professor in the Department of Plant & Animal Sciences. “Over the years that’s changed. We’ve noticed that often, students enrolled in Animal Science are using it as a springboard to veterinary school and aren’t necessarily interested in courses such as livestock production.”

“We were also dealing with a retention issue,” says Dr. Tennessen. “In many cases, students who were unsuccessful when applying to veterinary school did not return to complete an Animal Science degree.”

The solution? Rather than changing the Animal Science program – a very successful, sought-after program – it was time for a new option, designed specifically for these students. There is overlap between the two programs, in such areas as animal physiology and animal nutrition, but it is important to note that Bioveterinary Science is not an agriculture degree. Students will graduate with a BSc, rather than a BSc (Agr). New courses include Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, Mammalian Biochemistry, Veterinary Immunology, Veterinary Epidemiology, Ecology of Zoonotic Diseases and Animal Ethics.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Bioveterinary Science is a starting point for all animal-related careers of choice. Students will be eligible to apply to veterinary schools across Canada after just two years, carrying with them a solid science education and specialized training in animal care and science. Completing the four-year degree program will prepare students for careers in fields like animal health, food safety, veterinary sales, conservation and biotechnology, as well as graduate studies in programs such as animal science, aquaculture, veterinary science and even human medicine.

BIOVET TRANSFER



From Pre-Vet to Biovet **Hannah Miles**

"As far back as I can remember, I have always wanted to be a vet."

Second year AC student Hannah Miles has been an animal lover her entire life. With 13 pets at home and her summers spent working at Dr. Barry's Burnside Veterinary Hospital, it's evident that the Upper Tantallon, NS, student chooses to surround herself with animals as much as possible.

That's why attending the Faculty of Agriculture to further her studies was a no-brainer for her. The Pre-Veterinary Science program provides the prerequisite courses needed to apply for Veterinary Medicine programs after two years, and had been recommended to Hannah by those working in the industry.

Pre-Vet also counts as the first two years towards a degree in Animal Science from the Faculty of Agriculture, should things not work out with vet school right away. However, Hannah's interests lie heavily in animal care and medicine, so a degree in Animal Science is not exactly what she's

looking for. When she heard about the new Bioveterinary Science program, she knew it made sense for her.

"I decided to transfer into the Biovet program because it's more focused on animal health, compared to my previous program, which focused on animal production," says Hannah. "It still allows me to apply for vet school after my second year, which is my ultimate goal."

Although not completely sure of which type of vet she'd like to be, Hannah is considering focusing on small animals, wildlife, or exotics. She started volunteering at Dr. Barry's Burnside Veterinary Hospital during high school, knowing it would provide her with the firsthand experience she was looking for. "I love working at this clinic," she says.

"Not only do I get the chance to work with dogs and cats, I also get to work with wildlife, thanks to Dr. MacEachern's close relationship with Hope for Wildlife."

Hannah will be among the first intake of students for Bioveterinary Science.

Although she has transferred out of the Pre-Vet program, Hannah will be in classes with most of her first-year classmates, due to the crossover between the two disciplines. She will also remain active in the Pre-Vet club on campus, for which she will serve as secretary for the upcoming year. Being a member of this club also allows her to gain volunteer experience at the Ruminant Animal Centre on the campus farm.

"I love studying at the AC," she says.

"I fell in love with the small campus feel immediately. It very quickly felt like home, and it's so easy to become involved." Along with acting as secretary of the Pre-Vet club, Hannah will serve as vice-president of Chapman House during her second year.

"Most importantly, studying at the AC is providing me with the exact training and hands-on experience I need to realize my dream of becoming a vet. I can't wait for my second year to start."

AGGIES IN AFRICA



African Wildlife Ecology students with instructors, game guides and family members.

African Wildlife Ecology 2016

This spring, 13 students from the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus traveled to the Eastern Cape of South Africa for the first ever African Wildlife Ecology course, a three week intensive credit course introduced for the new Bioveterinary Science program. AWE was developed in partnership with the Wildlife & Reserve Management Research Group at Rhodes University, who also delivered the course content.

"This course was developed for our new degree in Bioveterinary Sciences, but more importantly it was developed because there is no better place to see and study ecology than in Africa," says Dr. Gray, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. "Large predators, interaction between species, game migrations – the African bush has it all."

Current students from the Animal Science and Pre-Veterinary Medicine programs were able to take AWE as an elective this spring. The group was accompanied by Dr. Janine Gray and Sarah Gatti-Yorke, instructors in the Department of Plant & Animal Sciences.

"It was a very intensive program," says Andrew Greene, a third year Animal Science student. "As soon as we arrived we started learning."

The course incorporated field research, lectures and practice in conservation and veterinary care. Students were also expected to complete an individual research project on something that interested them. Janessa Henry, a third year Animal Science student, focused on the diversity of hooved mammals in different types of habitat.

"My project was on ungulate diversity in the thicket biome. I conducted my research over multiple game drives and it consisted of counting all of the animals I saw and classifying the vegetation type which I found them in," explains Janessa. "I really enjoyed going out on game drives and learning from the ranger as I collected my data. I chose this project because I had a real interest in the antelope species and wanted to do something that incorporated them."

The group spent the first 12 days of their trip at the Amakhala Game Reserve,

a privately-owned park sprawling over 18,000 acres that was once agricultural land. Here they went on regular game drives and nature walks and took in several lectures and labs. Lecture topics spanned everything from the history of Amakhala to data collection techniques to the importance of vegetation types and densities, and were delivered by both Rhodes University faculty and Amakhala staff. The main instructor, Dr. Dan Parker of Rhodes University, provided guidance for the research projects along with Janine and Sarah.

The group was exposed to many different species of wildlife while at Amakhala, including lions, rhinos, elephants, giraffes, zebras, wildebeests, kudu, warthogs, and assorted reptiles, small mammals and avian species. During their very first game drive, they witnessed a lion kill right before their eyes.

The lion kill was an educational example of a predator-prey relationship in the wild. Not only did the students get to see the lions make the kill, but they were

also able to hear a few other species (including vervet monkeys and cape crows) give alarm calls to warn one another of the approaching predator. However, this wasn't even the most exciting thing to happen to them during their stay at Amakhala.

Janessa and Andrew agree that the most exciting part of the trip was when they had the opportunity to work on a pair of white rhinos. Halfway through their stay at Amakhala, the students found out they would be helping to treat a male and female rhino pair the following day.

"Definitely one of the most memorable and meaningful experiences for me was working on the rhino," says Andrew. "I'm looking to pursue a career in veterinary medicine, so getting hands-on experience with such a large animal will be directly applicable to my career going forward."

The rhinos were anesthetized by a veterinarian and the students were split into two groups to process them. Under supervision from the vets on hand, the teams of students were allowed to check the animals' pulse, administer medicine to them and monitor their respiration.

The entire procedure took about an hour to complete. "I didn't expect to have such a close encounter with such a large animal," says Janessa. "To get to touch its skin and feel how powerful it really is was truly amazing. I will treasure this memory for life."

After 12 days at Amakhala, filled with exciting discoveries, lots of learning, delicious food and more animals than they could count, the group moved on to Mountain Zebra National Park for two nights. Here they continued with game drives and hiking, having a chance to see some now familiar species as well as new species up close. National parks in South Africa only stock species which are native to that specific area, meaning there is a degree of diversity between parks. The students saw these differences firsthand between Mountain Zebra and Addo Elephant Park, their last stop before heading back to Canada.

Addo Elephant National Park is the third largest national park in South Africa, spanning roughly 450,000 acres and home to over 600 elephants. Here the group learned about elephant management and the positive and negative effects elephants can have on various aspects of a thicket biome, including vegetation and other species.

Addo provided exceptional photo opportunities – although these weren't hard to come by at any point during the trip.

If you'd like to read more about the first group of African Wildlife Ecology students and their adventures, you can find their blog at blogs.dal.ca/awe.





New **Post-Baccalaureate** *Programs Available*

Bioveterinary Science isn't the only program new to campus this fall. If you've been thinking about going back to school to gain specialized expertise or to prepare yourself for pursuing graduate studies, Dalhousie's post-baccalaureate programs on the Truro campus may be the right fit for you. The Faculty of Agriculture is now offering post-baccalaureate programs in Environmental Biology and Food Bioscience. These programs are designed for people who have already completed a BSc and who want to gain a new set of skills, advance in their career or pursue graduate studies. Both of the programs have been designed so that full-time students can complete them in approximately two academic terms.

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

Our Environmental Biology program prepares people for careers in environmental management and environmental services, and covers topics such as ecology, plant diversity, aquatic ecology or environmental physiology. For more information visit dal.ca/agriculture or contact Dr. Raj Lada (raj.lada@dal.ca).

FOOD BIOSCIENCE

Our Food Bioscience program is the only one of its kind in Atlantic Canada and people with this expertise are in high demand as more advances are made in bioproducts and nutraceutical sciences. This program will cover such topics as food quality and safety, advanced food chemistry, and the impact of food on health. For more information visit dal.ca/agriculture or contact Dr. Chibuike Udenigwe (cudenigwe@dal.ca).



PROUD MOMENTS



A Barley Story

The seventh annual Barley Party was held on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus this spring with 118 rings presented to the Class of 2016 – the largest to date.

Unveiled six years ago, the Barley ring is the official graduation ring of the Faculty of Agriculture. Since its launch in 2010, it has become a highly recognized symbol for the Faculty with 750 rings worn by alumni around the world.

The textured design features a pattern of barley around the band of the ring, handmade by local jeweler, Donna Hiebert.

"It is amazing to me how well-recognized the Barley ring has become in just six short years," said Alumni Association past chair, Jean Lynds. "I love that every Barley ring tells a story, some of academic achievement, some of world travels and even some as a symbol of marriage. The creativity and uniqueness of the Barley ring is very special just like Aggies!"

The Barley Party is the annual celebration for students who have purchased a graduation ring. Students receive their rings and are welcomed

to the Agriculture Alumni Association by the chair and Dr. David Gray, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture.

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

The 2016 honoree was Assistant Dean Keltie Jones.

Dr. Keltie Jones contributes to campus in a way few others do. She has the respect and trust of students, many of whom look to her in times of struggle, seeking life advice on education, employment or personal matters. Whether it's weighing the pros and cons of the situation at hand, providing guidance to support services, or sharing previous experiences, Keltie ensures students receive the guidance and support they need.

"I am thrilled that Keltie is being honoured with a Barley ring because she understands how special this gesture is from students," explained outgoing DASA president Robyn McCallum. "Keltie's work on this campus has made our community more inclusive, welcoming and supportive and her efforts have touched every one of our students. I can't think of a better way to show how much Keltie means to students than to award her the Barley ring. Keltie will wear this ring with the aggie pride for which she is famous."

Since her arrival in 2009, Keltie has made a positive difference on campus. Her work with various groups including Aboriginal students, domestic and international students, the cross-country team, DASA, Women in Science, Ruminant and more make her highly visible and able to continuously engage with the entire student body. Her passion for diversity and acceptance for all creates a positive message on campus.

Keltie has worked extensively with DASA over the past eight years on projects such as student programming, orientation planning, event coordination between administration and students,

committees and more. She was instrumental in drafting DASA's new policies and procedures and a Memorandum of Understanding with DSU. Her legal and administrative background makes her contributions to DASA highly valuable, but it is her passion for a positive student experience that makes her so widely respected.

Keltie can be found on the sidelines of various athletic events in all seasons. She photographs athletes, cheers them on and relentlessly spreads the AC spirit.

"When you ask others to describe Keltie, they all provide the same description: fair. She is above all else, fair," added Robyn. "Although part of her position involves judicial procedures and student discipline, she is well-known to be fair, kind and considerate. She earns the respect of all students, even those facing tough consequences or troubles in school. She is often the stepping stone to students finding their better selves and for that, our campus is indebted to her."

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







From L to R:
Valedictorian Emily Davis,
Life Secretary Katie Molnar and
Life President Morgan McNeil

Class of 2016 Life Executive

It is a Faculty of Agriculture tradition for the graduating class each spring to elect officers to represent the interests of the class within the Agriculture Alumni Association. These students have often made significant impacts on the Agricultural Campus during their time as students and continue to do so in their role as alumni.

Life President Morgan McNeil will act as the main representative of the Class of 2016 and will work with the other Life Officers to ensure that the interests of the class are being observed in matters of finance, publicity, reunions and fundraising.

Morgan grew up in the small residential community of Hantsport, Nova Scotia. Though she didn't grow up on a farm, that didn't stop her from getting involved with agriculture, joining the 4-H program at the age of 10. Morgan was drawn to plants by taking the gardening project in 4-H and learning to grow her own food. The health benefits of fruits and vegetables made her interest in plant crops for food use even greater.

Morgan will be spending her summer after graduation on a Going Global 4-H

Exchange program. She will be traveling to the U.K. for two weeks and hosting a delegate here for one month.

Life Secretary Katie Molnar will provide the link between the Class of 2016 and the Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association. Katie, who hails from Lantz, NS, will handle correspondence within the class executive and coordinate the mechanics of the class mailing list with the Alumni Association for special class events and other alumni mailings.

Katie worked very closely with Eugene Young, the Manager of Health Services in the Department of Student Services on the Agricultural Campus. Here she discovered her passion for promoting health and wellness.

Katie's dedication to promoting health and wellness led to her receive the Health Education Award at this year's IMPACT awards. The Health Education Award is given to a student leader who through the creative use of resources, has enhanced the quality of student life and development on this campus.

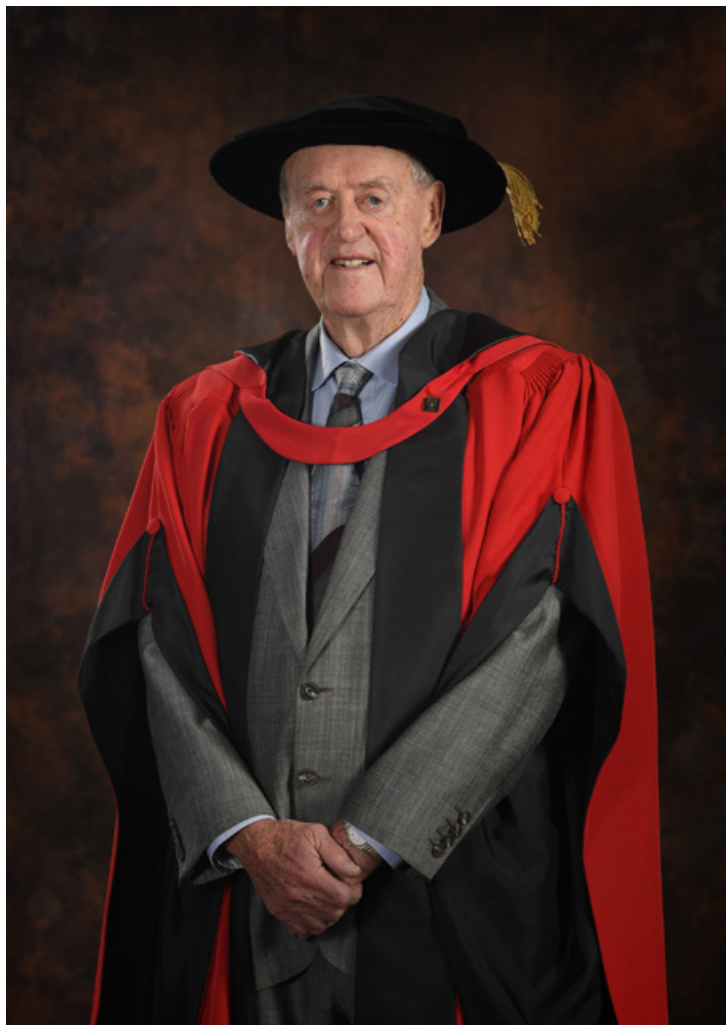
Katie will be spending her summer working at Bokma Farms Ltd. in Shubenacadie and in September will

return to the Agricultural Campus to pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate in Food Bioscience (read more on page 11).

Valedictorian Emily Davis was elected by the Class of 2016 to represent and address the class and community at Convocation. To say Emily has made an impact on the Faculty of Agriculture and the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus over the past four years is an understatement. The Oxford, NS native's passion for enhancing student life, her dedication to helping others, her ambition to assist students in any capacity and her success both academically and with extracurricular activities, make Emily Davis a shining star.

At this year's IMPACT awards ceremony, her contributions were recognized as she went home with awards for Student Government, Student Leadership and the Philip Stead Memorial Excellence in Student Leadership Award.

Emily will be spending her summer working for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and in September will pursue a Master of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie's Faculty of Management.



David F. Sobey **Honourary Doctorate**

Business leader, philanthropist and supporter of community projects David F. Sobey was one of eight outstanding individuals selected to receive honorary doctorate degrees from Dalhousie in May. Mr. Sobey joined 234 graduates at the Agricultural Campus Convocation ceremony on May 13, 2016.

As leader for many decades of the Sobey group of businesses, David Frank Sobey has had an enormous influence on the business community, higher education and charitable causes in Atlantic Canada. Born in Stellarton, Nova Scotia in 1931, Mr. Sobey joined the family business 70 years ago. He worked his way through the company, eventually becoming chairman and chief executive officer in 1986.

Mr. Sobey is a committed philanthropist and supporter of community projects. Through the private David and Faye Sobey Foundation, he and his wife support arts and culture, education and medical research. The foundation has supported many initiatives at Dalhousie, including the Dalhousie Medical Research

Foundation, student scholarships, a research fund for undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science and Alzheimer's research.

Mr. Sobey is past chair of the Board of Directors of the Sobey Foundation and the Frank H. Sobey Fund for Excellence in Business Studies. He continues to sit on these boards and on the board of the Sobey Art Foundation. He holds honorary degrees from Saint Mary's, Mount Allison, St. Francis Xavier and Cape Breton universities. In 1996, he was appointed a member of the Order of Canada. In 2007, he and his brother Donald became first second-generation inductees into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame, joining their father, Frank H. Sobey.

A former chancellor of Saint Mary's University, Mr. Sobey received the Friend of Education Award, presented by the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education, in 1999. He became chairman emeritus of Sobey's Incorporated after retiring from its Board of Directors and that of its parent company, Empire Company Limited, in 2015.

DEAN'S RECEPTIONS

Our annual alumni receptions with Dean Gray continued over the winter with visits to Gander, NL and Halifax, NS. Thanks to the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture for allowing us to piggyback on their Annual General Meeting, as well as Dairy Focus, who we are happy to join every other year. Thanks to all for attending!



Bistro on Roe, Gander, NL



Dairy Focus, Halifax, NS

CALGARY ALUMNI EVENT

A small gathering of 10 alumni and guests was held at the James Joyce Irish Pub in Calgary in June. Thanks to all who joined us, and for those who didn't get the note, please visit dal.ca/agalumni or call 902-893-6022 to update your contact information. We hope to be back again soon!

We'll be beginning our annual alumni receptions again in September. See next page or dal.ca/agalumni for further details. We hope to see you there!





SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming 2016

October 13-15, 2016

Round up your classmates and come back to campus to re-live the good 'ol days! Join us for Farmers' Olympics, College Royal, Breakfast in the Library or for a campus tour.

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

SEND US YOUR OLD PHOTOS!

Do you have an old photo from your time at the AC?

Submit your pictures to agalumni@dal.ca for a chance to be featured for throwback Thursdays #TBT



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UPCOMING REUNIONS

Are you a member of the Class of '56 or '66? Both groups are celebrating milestone reunions on campus during Homecoming festivities in October. If you haven't received information about your reunion, contact Colette at (902) 893-6022 or colette.wyllie@dal.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY DAY

Agricultural Campus
Thursday, July 21
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

FOOD TRUCK FEST

Agricultural Campus
Thursday, Sept. 8
4 – 8 p.m.

DEAN'S RECEPTIONS

Benjamin Bridge Winery,
Gaspereau Valley, NS
Thursday, Sept. 22
7 p.m.

All Seasons Inn, Sussex, NB
Thursday, Sept. 29
12 p.m.

Upstreet Craft Brewing,
Charlottetown, PEI
Thursday, Sept. 29
7 p.m.

BLUE & GOLD
ALUMNI AWARDS
Thursday, Nov. 3

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL
WINTER FAIR ALUMNI EVENT
Sunday, Nov. 6

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

*Has your Barley
ring traveled to
interesting places?
Submit your photos to
agalumni@dal.ca!*



Tisha Oickle (Class of '13), Alicia Schroeder (Class of '13), Jessica Trudeau (Class of '12), Céline d'Entremont (Class of '13) and Jessica Eisnor (Class of '14) have remained good friends since graduating from the Faculty of Agriculture and recently spent two and a half weeks traveling Peru. Here they are pictured with a Canadian flag overlooking the Incan village of Machu Picchu.



Céline snapped this shot of her Barley ring with Machu Picchu in the background.



Second-year plant science student Keenan Kavanaugh

The Harrison McCain SCHOLARSHIPS

In his second year at the Agricultural Campus, Keenan Kavanaugh is gaining knowledge that has already influenced positive changes at his family's potato farm.

As the son of a sixth-generation potato farmer, Keenan Kavanaugh's heart and mind are never far from the farm.

For the second-year Plant Science student, studying at the Faculty of Agriculture marks the first time he's been away from his family's potato farm, Thomas Kavanaugh & Sons, in Grand Falls, NB. And while he misses it, university life is suiting him just fine.

"I'm taking full advantage of being a student," says Keenan with a laugh. "I love the farming industry, but once I finish university, I will likely be working there until I retire. It's certainly a lifestyle that you have to be passionate about."

Through the support of a Harrison McCain scholarship, Keenan is able to study at the Agricultural Campus longer.

A win-win situation for both him and the family business; it's an opportunity he's thrilled about.

"Initially I was considering the two-year diploma. But the financial support of the scholarship encouraged me to obtain my Bachelor's degree, which offers both practical and theoretical learning," says Keenan. "I realized early on in my studies that I didn't understand the science behind the farm. The more I learn, the greater impact it will have."

In fact, Keenan has already made a recommendation that could be a long-term solution to producing healthier potatoes. "On a trial basis, I suggested that we use an alternative to our current rotation crop. The goal is to have it serve as a biofumigant and reduce soil borne pathogens to improve and lessen potato defects.

"I have the best resources at my fingertips," says Keenan. "When I'm not in class or studying, I'm doing research and connecting with my

professors to bounce questions and ideas off them. I couldn't ask for a better learning environment."

In March, Keenan was one of a handful of young farmers from New Brunswick invited to the Canadian Young Farmers Forum in Vancouver. The national conference brings young farmers together, increasing their knowledge in agriculture and developing leadership skills for their future careers.

Keenan notes opportunities like these are necessary tools for success. "It's not just about being a good farmer, you need to be a good business person too."

Whether it's in the classroom or the field, Keenan's drive, tenacity and commitment to farming are clear.

"I've never questioned my future as a farmer. It's a part of my identity and family history. I'm extremely grateful for these opportunities – what I'm learning today will have an impact on the future of our farm."



The Legacy Effect Sherry Porter

“ I feel the value of making a gift in your will is that it brings stability to an organization. When you support the Faculty of Agriculture, you’re investing in the future of our region and our economy.”

Read Sherry’s story at
dal.ca/donors/porter

We Can Help

If you’re thinking of including the Faculty of Agriculture in your will, we can help you match your gift to your wishes.

Explore the possibilities at dal.ca/plannedgiving

Or get in touch, we’re here to answer your questions.

Ian Lewer **902-494-6981** ian.lewer@dal.ca

Cathrine Yuill **902-893-4413** cathrine.yuill@dal.ca



Annual Giving Report to the Faculty of Agriculture

APRIL 1, 2015 – MARCH 31, 2016

IN-KIND GIFTS AND PLEDGES \$114,676

Ted McLachlan
Steelcase Canada Inc.
Stella Jones Inc.

PLANNED GIFTS

We thank the following individuals who have advised us they have remembered the Faculty of Agriculture in their will
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John B Eaton
Peter Y Hamilton
Sherry Porter

CASH GIFTS TO FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE \$446,947

Gifts over \$10,000

Estate of Albert R Chatwood
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
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Tricia Lake

Class of 2007

David Christie
Joye Sears

Class of 2010

Kelly Grant

Class of 2011

Elliot Levy

Class of 2012

David E Gilfoy

Class of 2014

Chris Richards

Friends & Family of the Faculty of Agriculture

Class year indicates year graduated from Dalhousie University (all other faculties excluding Agriculture)

Rachel Alders

Aline Allain-Doiron

Danny Almon

Jennifer Arsenault

John Atkin

John Beisel

Jennifer Bell

Jean Berry

Ruby Billard

Donna Bourne-Tyson &

Jonathan Tyson

(Class of '90)

Phyllis Boushel

Krista Boyd

Ashley Brimicombe

Robert Broughton

Jon Bruhm

Kim Bullerwell

Linda Burke

Amy Burke

Edwina BurrIDGE-Sears

Leanne Butler

Claude Caldwell

(Class of '75)

T Stanley Cameron

Linda Carter

Gerry Chevrier

Ashley Childs

(Class of '13)

Betty Childs

(Class of 1975)

Pat Colburne

Sarah Coleman

Cindy Creighton

Ann Crossman

Mary Crossman

Beth Crouse

Judy Dawe

Sarah Dawson

(Class of '07)

Wendy Dealy

Justin Dean

Jodi DeLong

Paul Doane

(Class of '73)

Lindsay Dowling

Mary Anne Dunlop

Allen Eaves

(Class of '69)

Jen Evans

Diane Forgeron

Ian Fraser

(Class of '96)

Audrey Friendship

Ann Friendship

Ruth Friendship Keller

Mario Gagnon

Paul Gallant

Anna Gaston

Patricia Gerrits

Miriam Gordon

K G Grant

Arlene Gregor Martin

Ed Griffin

Beverly Hall

Cameron Hall

(Class of '15)

Janet Hall

Peter Hall

Stephaire Hall

Cathy Hall Kemp

Leslie Harnish

Christopher Hartt

(Class of '83)

Amanda Hatfield

Laura Henderson

Peter A Henniger

(Class of '76)

Michelle Hebert Boyd

(Class of '05)

Rhonda Hiltz

Jeanette Himmelman

Edith Hudgins

(Class of '68)

L J Hudgins

(Class of '70)

Gregory Hulan

Catherine Imrie

(Class of '80)

Karen Jacobs

Flora Johnson

Pam Johnson

(Class of '80)

Keltie Jones

Joyce Kelly

Heather Anne Kinsman

Patricia J Leader

Chelsea Leil

Remi Lemoine

Kim Lipscomb

Andre Lirette

Susan Little

(Class of '83)

Robert MacDonald

Kevin MacDonell

Leslie MacLaren

Rod MacLennan & Robin

MacLennan

(Class of '60)

Robert MacPherson &

Debbie Lemmon

LaI Malaviarachchi

Deborah Matheson

Shelley McGee Wilson

Karen McKay

Carol McManaman

Stanhope Moore

Denise Mulrooney

Renee Mulrooney

(Class of '14)

Ryan Mulrooney

Caralee Noel Ryan

Patricia Oakley

(Class of '73)

Walter Ostrom

Eileen F Outhouse

(Class of '70)

Wayne Paquet

(Class of '97)

Marggi A Pavlovski

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Ann Plant

Darrell Rhodenizer

Stella Robertson

Barbara Robinson

Jamie Rogers

Joan Russell

Nerene Russell

Sylvia Sangster

(Class of '67)

Eileen Scarlett

Paul Scully

Ted W Semple

Robert Shreve

Barbara Shuh

(Class of '76)

Danielle Smith

Diane Smith

Donald Smith

Sherry Smith

(Class of '90)

Hermohinder Sodhi

Michelle St Onge

(Class of '96)

Pat Stamp

Mark Starratt &

Jennifer Hayes Starratt

Eva Stewart

Mohan Sundaramohan

James Swain

Julie Thomas

Darlene Traverse

Bonnie Waddell

(Class of '73)

Pat Walsh

Elizabeth Walton

Karon Watson

Debbie Weatherbie

Barbara Whiston

(Class of '01)

Robert Wilde

David Wilson

Karen Wood

Michael Wright

Sharalyn Young

Emmanuel Yiridoe

Catherine Yuill

Linda Zehr

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Organizations and Corporations

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Prince Edward Island

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Prince Edward Island

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Rotary Club of Truro

St David's United Church

Stewiacke Valley

Garden Club

The Healy Legacy Group

The Kings Mutual

Insurance Company

Wild Blueberry

Producers Association

of Nova Scotia

IN MEMORY

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

Dr. John MacKay 1943
Dr. George Cook 1947
Mr. John Morrow 1948
Mr. Vernon Read 1948
Mr. Owen Lowe 1949
Mr. Malcolm Ross 1951
Mr. Merrill Palmetter 1955
Mr. Donald Smith 1956
Mr. George Casson 1959
Mr. Percy Bamford 1966
Mr. Donald Cudmore 1968
Mr. Wilfred Girrior 1971
Mr. James Lamb 1973

IN MEMORY CORRECTION:

In the Winter 2016 issue, we incorrectly included Ethelynn (Lynn) Thurber in the In Memory listings on page 21. Mrs. Thurber is not deceased, and we sincerely apologize to her, her family and her friends for any distress caused by our error.



Don Young presenting Harrison McCain scholarships to students in 2013. L to R: Makayla Whalen, Hayley Wilson, Megan Elliott, Don.

Remembering Dr. Donald Young, Class of 1950

*Cathrine Yuill
Development Officer
Faculty of Agriculture*

On a cold day in 2013 I drove from Truro to Fredericton to meet with Donald A. Young, Class of 1950. I was new to the Agricultural Campus and I was on a mission to connect with NSAC alumni who had been influential in their field and cared deeply about their alma mater. I was seeking insight and advice to guide our campus plans for the future and I can assure you, I discovered that Don was someone who was generous with both.

During Don's years at NSAC, the campus had experienced a serious fire and students were attending classes and boarding out in the nearby Debert facility that had been

vacated by the military after WWII. Don shared many stories with me about those years of living and working so closely together with his AC classmates. He remarked that even the professors lived at the Debert campus and they could often be found wandering the dorm halls at night looking for intellectual discussion and offering tutoring. When most members of the Class of 1950 moved on to McGill to complete their degrees, Don felt that they were all very well prepared academically and were able to excel. He felt it was the breadth and depth of the education provided by the NSAC that prepared them all to go on to

achieve such success in their life's endeavours.

It is no surprise that Don's classmates voted him as Life President, a role he carried willingly for 65 years. In 2000, Don worked with his fellow class executives Jack Johnson and Cliff McIsaac to set up the Class of 1950 Bursary to celebrate their 50th reunion. This fund would support AC students demonstrating financial need and academic improvement with an annual scholarship as well as provide for an Emergency Fund for students experiencing difficulties mid-year. Don and the Class of 1950 understood the

financial needs of students who come from rural areas and are required to make huge academic adjustments and wanted this fund to have a positive impact on their success. Fellow classmates contributed generously and the first award was presented in 2001.

In speaking with classmate and friend David Clark, I learned that I was certainly not the only one to hold Don in high regard. "What was most impressive about Don to me was his attributes as a man" noted Clark. "He was a loyal friend, honest and steadfast colleague, fine, decent, moral human being. It was a privilege to know him at university and to stay in touch with him for over 60 years. There was nothing pretentious about him, enabling him to converse and blend in with people from all walks of life, from farm labourers, to senior management in business, to high government officials. Donald was comfortable and self-assured about his expertise in his profession, which drew people to him and which made him a leader and an excellent speaker at conferences." David added lightheartedly, "I first noticed Don's wonderful sense of humour at college when he and I, together with a few other students, would often hold jam sessions in our dorm rooms, exchanging humorous stories about our experiences in life."

Don had a lifetime commitment to plant science. After graduating from NSAC, Don moved

on to Macdonald College at McGill University and then to the University of Wisconsin where he was granted a PhD in Genetics and Plant Pathology in 1957. He focused his research on potato breeding and innovation and introduced one of the first computer-based information retrieval systems to be used in a crop breeding program. Don was project leader of the Agriculture Canada Potato Breeding Program for 20 years, during which time the frozen french fry industry was getting established. That breeding program developed new potato varieties suitable to niche markets including the Shepody (now used for french frying all over the world), Caribe (for the Caribbean) and Yukon Gold

(a popular table potato). This work brought Don into contact with Harrison McCain and they developed a life-long friendship.

A true family man, Don took great pride and pleasure in nurturing a rewarding life with his wife Donna and their children. For the Young family, summers were centered around boats. Don's woodworking shop, his gardens and their property along the Saint John River were treasured spots over many memorable years.

Don considered his time at the NSAC to be an important stepping stone in both his career and personal life paths. In his final months he was working with our team to help support our upcoming campaign to invest in the future of

the Agricultural Campus. Following his sudden death in December of 2015, Don's family decided to honour his lifelong commitment to NSAC by creating the Dr. Donald Young Plant Science Award. Beginning in the fall of 2016, this endowed fund will provide scholarships to support students who will be the future leaders in agricultural innovation. Someone perhaps just a little like Don.

Friends and colleagues who would like to honour Don by contributing to the Dr. Donald Young Plant Science Award can contact the Development Office at 902-893-4413, cathrine.yuill@dal.ca or simply make note of this intention with a donation by mail.



Members of the NSAC Debating Society in 1950. Back row, L to R: Reg Saunders, Blair Bonnyman, John Mahoney, James Little. Front row, L to R: Robert Gaskin, Don Young, Jack Johnson.

Alumni Association Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Faculty of Agriculture's Alumni Association currently consists of six members, living in various locations across Canada. You can reach any of the directors through the Alumni Office by emailing agalumni@dal.ca or phoning (902) 893-6022.



Audrie-Jo (Vink) McConkey
Chair - Class of '03

Audrie-Jo graduated from NSAC in 2003 with her B.Sc. (Agr.) in Aquaculture. She is currently a lab instructor and performing research in the shellfish/phytology field with the Faculty of Agriculture. In 2013, Audrie-Jo was presented the Young Alumni Achievement Award from the Faculty of Agriculture. Audrie-Jo lives in Valley with her husband, Mike (Class of '02) and their three children.



Jean (Baillie) Lynds
Past Chair - Class of '90

Jean graduated in 1990 with her BSc. (Agr.) in Plant Science. She is currently employed as the crops and ruminant coordinator at the Agriculture Campus Farm. In 2010, Jean was named Alumni Volunteer of the Year for consistently and enthusiastically donating her time and talents to campus and her greater community. Jean lives in North River, NS, with her husband Darren (Chub) and their two children Jack and Baillie.



Janice (McKenzie) Lutz - Vice Chair - Class of '85

Janice's history with NSAC began as a Plant Science student, when she was a member of the first class to graduate with an NSAC degree in 1985. As an alumnus, Janice worked in NSAC's Plant Science Department and subsequently went on to work with a number of other agricultural associations in Nova Scotia, including Acadian Seaplants and the NS Fruit Growers Association. Janice now works at Johnston's Cranberry Marsh in Aylesford, NS and she and her husband operate an apple farm near Berwick. Janice and her husband Larry (also Class of '85), live in Berwick and have four children. She is a very active volunteer in the area.



Maryella Maynard - Class of '09

Maryella was raised on her family's dairy farm in Port Hill, PEI. Her passion for agriculture led her to NSAC, where she graduated with a BSc.(Agr.) in Agricultural Economics in 2009. While at NSAC, Maryella was involved in the Students' Union (now DASA) acting as VP Finance for two years. After graduation she returned to PEI to work as a sales agrologist with PEI Agromart. She currently lives in Tarantum, PE, with her husband Josh Dillman (Class of '08).



Nathan Murray - Class of '11

Nathan grew up on his family's hog and potato farm in Borden-Carleton, PE, and graduated from NSAC with an Agricultural Business degree in 2011. As a student, Nathan was active in campus life, serving as both VP Finance and President of Students' Union (now DASA). Upon graduation he was elected Life President of his class. Since 2012, he has been living in Regina, SK, where he works as Business Platform Manager at Farm Credit Canada.

Shelly Juurlink - Class of '01 and '04

Shelly graduated from NSAC in 2001 with a BSc.(Agr.), in 2004 with an MSc.(Agr.) in Animal Science and in 2010 with a Co-op Management Certificate (CMC) from the Schulich School of Business at York University. During her years at NSAC, she was active on several committees and was a member of the Woodsmen team. Over the years, she has held a variety of agricultural related positions in various places including Quebec, Ontario and West Africa. Most recently, she worked as the Member Relations Manager for Organic Meadow Dairy Cooperative in Guelph, Ontario. Currently, Shelly and her husband, Perry, live in Fall River with their two children.

AROUND AND ABOUT INPUTS AND EXPERTISE



Tim (Class of '93) and Sandra Fisher (Class of '94 and '97)

Truro Agromart

If you ask Tim and Sandra Fisher what's in their blood, their answer is simple: farming.

Both come from a long line of farming families: Tim (Class of '93) is a sixth generation farmer, while Sandra (Class of '94 and '97) is a fifth generation farmer on her side. The duo are well-known on the Maritime agricultural scene both for their successful beef farm in Middle Stewiacke, NS, as well as their agricultural consulting and crop input business in Onslow: the Truro Agromart.

Tim and Sandra started farming together in 1996, shortly after graduating from NSAC. Originally, they ran a Black Angus beef cow calf operation of over 100 head, but have since cut the herd down to 25. By decreasing required pasture area for their cattle, they were able to increase their crop acreage. Along with their beef

cattle, Tim and Sandra and their children currently farm approximately 750 acres of corn, soybeans, barley and wheat.

In 2004, Tim and Sandra had the opportunity to take over ownership of the Truro Agromart. Their lives haven't been the same since.

Truro Agromart Ltd. is a member of the Agromart Group, meaning the Agronomy Company of Canada is a 50 per cent owner. The other 50 per cent of shares are owned by local individuals in the agricultural retail area. This formula combines the strength of a large organization with local entrepreneurship and innovation and provides personal, specialized service to customers.

As manager of the Agromart, Tim oversees all operations at the fertilizer plant. However, agronomy is his true passion, so he makes a point of working

with farmers on a personal basis. He enjoys doing farm visits and helping farmers grow successful crops.

Agromart products come from around the world, meaning Tim has had the opportunity to travel near and far to meet with suppliers. This travel has exposed him to agriculture in other geographical areas, allowing him to bring knowledge and insight back to not only provide to his customers, but apply to his business.

Sandra's focus is on horticultural crops. After completing a Master's degree researching strawberry diseases, Sandra started a strawberry consulting business. During her time as a consultant, Sandra scouted strawberry fields throughout northern Nova Scotia and southern New Brunswick. This provided her with the opportunity to

get to know local farmers and see how everyday farming practices differ across operations.

Tim and Sandra have had great success with the Truro Agromart. Since taking over ownership of the business in 2004, the Fishers have doubled its sales in the Maritime region.

As dedicated farmers and business owners, they recently felt the need to reinvest in the Agromart and its facilities to meet the needs of agricultural producers in the area.

"We see our clients investing money into their operations to meet the demands of the future, and felt we needed to do the same," says Tim. "We wanted to better service our clients."

So, in 2015, the Agromart underwent a major expansion. The original fertilizer plant, built in the 1960s, had been a part of many farmer's lives for decades. As children, Tim and Sandra both remember their fathers getting fertilizer from the original plant, then under the CIL name. The old facility had a long history, but it was time for an update. The expansion allows the Agromart to keep product year-round to meet the demands of multiple industries.

As a locally owned operation, the Fishers are proud that the spin-off dollars from their new facility went back into the local community. "All of our contractors were local businesses. In this economy, this is a big deal. The dollars spent here are staying here in this community," Tim explains.

With a new facility comes new product. Tim and Sandra believe it's important to make all tools available to better help their clients succeed, be it new chemical, fertilizer products, seeds or advice. Sharing knowledge is just as important as providing the inputs themselves.

"Being farmers ourselves, we try out products first to ensure that they in fact will provide better results for our growers," says Sandra.

When it comes to hiring staff, the Fishers look to employ individuals with

various skill sets, but who have a strong agricultural background.

"We're always looking to hire people who are passionate about agriculture," Tim explains.

Of their 10 full-time employees, six are graduates of the Agricultural Campus; Sandra and Tim, Donnie MacGregor Class of ('01), Nicholas Juurlink (Class of '07), Rebecca O'Connell (Class of '14), and Darren Marlborough (Class of '07). During the spring season, their numbers rise upwards of 30 employees.

One day, that may include their two children, Luke and Abby.

"Ask any local farm dealership owner, and they probably know Luke, as he does most of the equipment deals already. Luke is only in grade 10, but already plans on attending the Agricultural Campus for his degree. Abby's only 11 years old and she already believes she will take over the Agromart. You just never know," Sandra says.

The Fishers are also passionate about giving back to the local community. The Truro Agromart supports numerous community groups, including local sports teams, church organizations, fire departments, school events, 4-H, and many more functions and organizations.



Tim and Sandra feel a deep connection to their community and are proud to be both business owners and farmers in rural Nova Scotia.

Recently, they purchased a piece of agricultural property in Upper Stewiacke. It wasn't until the lawyer began tracing the original deeds that they discovered the land had first been owned and developed by Sandra's great-great-grandfather.

"It feels great that here we are decades later, farming land that has passed through many owners, but now is owned by us," Sandra explains.

"As farmers you have a connection with the land, you get to know each field. It is even more personal when you know that all of your ancestors farmed the same soil. Tim and I take pride in ensuring we are using the best agricultural practices to keep this land in top production, so our grandchildren can tell the same story."



L to R: Donnie MacGregor (Class of '01), Sandra, Rebecca O'Connell (Class of '14), Tim, Darren Marlborough (Class of '07).



Tracy Kittilsen Class of '96

If you tell Tracy Kittilsen (Class of '96) she lives a busy life, she will reply "it's enough."

Tracy is a program manager with the Faculty of Agriculture's Extended Learning department, the secretary and co-chair of the fund development committee for the Rural Community Foundation of Nova Scotia and the president of her local community centre in Central North River. A passionate fiddle player who has been playing since the age of eight, Tracy is also the proud owner of an appaloosa mix horse named Misty and is a self-described "backyard rider."

In 1998, Tracy and some of her friends from the Tatamagouche area started the North Shore 4-H club, where she held the position of General Leader for 11 years. In addition to being general leader, she was also a project leader for poultry, gardening and exploring 4-H. She has chaperoned local tours, judged public speaking, organized county rallies and continues to judge when called upon at various 4-H events.

In most cases the general leader of a 4-H club would be someone who has been involved for years, but for Tracy that

wasn't the case. In 1998 she became general leader without ever being involved in 4-H.

"It was probably better that I wasn't in 4-H because as a group we learned everything from the ground up. We didn't know the annual schedule, so we just learned as we went, as a group. I believe it made us stronger, as we were all learning together and having fun while doing it," she explains.

Tracy graduated from the former Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1996 with a BSc. (Agr.) in Plant Science. She rejoined the Agricultural Campus 10 years later, in the summer of 2006, when she became a program manager with Extended Learning.

From producers to farm employees, agricultural companies to commodity groups, Tracy works with them all.

"On any given day I could be working with a corporate client on a new contract or a new development for custom training. I could be working with content experts to build course materials or I could be on the road to PEI."

Tracy runs the PEI Farm Technician Apprenticeship program in Prince Edward Island during the winter. This

two year program offers a one-of-a-kind experience, combining classroom learning with on-farm training.

You'll occasionally find her in the Ruminant Animal Centre (RAC) cuddling the lambs and visiting with co-workers.

"It's different every day. I really like the fact that I get to network with producers, producer groups and alumni from all across the region. It's never the same thing day in and day out. That's probably why I've been here for 10 years. It's very rewarding to bring folks in the industry together to learn," Tracy says.

"I was always one of those who believed a better opportunity was going to come along. It might not be quite the right one but I never knew that, so I always took that opportunity to go try something different. Eventually it led me here and I think I've been here this long because it finally jelled."

If balancing being on a provincial board, community hall, two kids, a full time job, playing the fiddle and riding her horse wasn't enough, in April Tracy began her Master's in Adult Education through Saint Francis Xavier University.

But for Tracy, it's enough.



Nadia Davidson **Class of '14**

Nadia Davidson has a dream. One day, and one day soon, she will be running her own business.

In the meantime, she will acquire as much knowledge and experience as possible to turn her dream into reality. The pursuit of her dream has taken her from her home farm to Dal AC, through a program change, to a variety of agricultural businesses in her community, and even all the way to Africa.

Nadia grew up in Gaspereau, NS, on her family's dairy farm, Dabro Farms Inc. Although unsure of the career path she would follow, Nadia had visited the Agricultural Campus (then NSAC) while her brother studied there, and knew it was the university for her.

"I fell in love with the AC the first time I stepped foot in the Horseshoe," Nadia recalls. "It reminded me of home."

Nadia had always enjoyed working with animals, so the Animal Science program was a natural choice for her. What she didn't know was that she also had a penchant for business.

"In 2010, my home farm started a farmer's market, which took off in late 2011. The market really sparked my interest in creating a unique business. I ended up transferring from the Animal Science degree program to the Diploma in Business Management with a focus on agriculture. And I loved it. The DBM program allowed me to control what I learned and to what extent. I chose to focus my diploma on marketing, while

still taking classes involved with dairy, poultry and feed nutrition."

This personalized approach obviously worked for Nadia. Upon graduation from Dal AC in 2014, she received the Farm Credit Canada Business Plan Award. She based her entry on her family's farmer's market.

Although Dabro Farms has been in the Davidson family for a century, Dabro Farms Market started out as a mini fridge stocked with a few dozen eggs on the side of the road in 2010. Eventually they added homemade jams, jellies and homemade pies to the mix. In 2014, consumer demand became so high that a retail space was needed. Nadia and her family renovated an old storage barn to create an indoor market. They now sell

free range turkey, chicken, beef, lamb and many different homemade goods and items.

Nadia works closely with her family members on the farm, including her father, uncle and cousin. She is responsible for the heifer and calf program and routine barn maintenance. She also manages the social media presence. Nadia loves being a part of the family business, but won't be taking over the operation. Instead, she has plans to build a business of her own.

"My plan is still on the drawing board, but I hope to tap in to the agri-tourism market," she explains. "I'd like to create a unique business of my own, or find an existing business and polish it up."

Nadia has gained experience in a number of areas of agriculture, and intends to incorporate as much of this as possible into her business. She has recently discovered a passion for the wine industry after working with Gaspereau Vineyards for two years, and hopes to pursue this.

And she hasn't forgotten her first love: animals. Nadia knows that whatever her business looks like, animals will be involved in some way. She continues to build her animal-handling knowledge and skills however she can. She recently traveled to South Africa for exactly that purpose.

"I went to South Africa because I wanted to experience working with different types of animals, especially the dangerous kinds," explains Nadia. "I was selected to volunteer at a private game reserve called Kwantu, where I had the opportunity to work with vet students and vet technicians.

"At Kwantu they considered my farming background to be equivalent to that of a veterinarian, so I was able to treat an abscess on an elephant's elbow, do health checks on sheep, small monkeys and ponies, and do an autopsy on a sheep. I fed cheetahs, tigers and lions that were in a rehabilitation centre and also had the privilege of feeding and playing with elephants."

Nadia was also able to offer assistance beyond caring for the animals. "Kwantu was building a corral for their beef cattle and they were having trouble making it work, so I actually got to help design a better plan for them and provide suggestions on which materials to use. I also helped develop a conservation plan to accommodate the elephants and wildebeest, which are decreasing the game reserve's natural resources more quickly than anticipated."

Nadia traveled on her own, which was scary at first. But she met so many great people along the way and experienced so many incredible moments that it was well worth it. Needless to say, it was a trip she'll remember forever.

"I watched lions make their kills in the wild. I tracked rhinos, giraffes and hippos. I stood on the very edge of the continent. I bungee jumped from the highest bridge bungee in the world. I visited a penguin beach. It was incredible."

Nadia came home with the new skills and knowledge she was hoping for,

but also some insight she hadn't been expecting.

"Africa has helped me to think outside the box. With so many other competitive businesses out there, you need to be innovative and not afraid to step outside your comfort zone.

"When things don't work out the way you planned, it's important to keep an open mind to come up with a creative way to make it work."

Nadia plans to incorporate everything she learned in Africa into her future business. She is well on her way to making her dream come true.



FISHING FOR SUCCESS



Dr. Jim Duston peers into an enclosure of fish, his green waterproof lab coat keeping him dry, as the creatures spin and swirl just below the surface. The grey and silver-scaled fish, most between two and three feet long, are striped bass. Dr. Duston thinks that these 10 to 30-pounders could be the key to revitalizing

Nova Scotia's fishing industry, an industry he says is over-reliant on Atlantic salmon and trout. He and his research team are looking at ways to diversify the industry.

Striped bass is in high demand in American restaurants. The species' high quality white meat is a customer-pleaser, but with the collapse of the wild

population in the 1980s due to over-fishing, there is now strict quota on wild striped bass. And although the population is recovering, small wild fisheries cannot support the demand for the product.

"This leaves an opportunity for farmed fish," Dr. Duston explains. Aquaculture, or fish farming, is expanding worldwide faster than any other animal production system and accounts for well over 50 per cent of the seafood consumed globally.

Dr. Duston's research is looking at how to effectively and efficiently farm striped bass. He began his research in the late 1990s by retrieving eggs from the Stewiacke River. The fish grew to adult size, which takes about six

years, and then became the 'broodstock' which produce the eggs and milt (seminal fluid) for the cultured fish.

Striped bass are challenging to grow, especially from eggs and into the early larval stages. Dr. Duston is looking at tank-based experiments to gain insight into the ecophysiology of the fish—how it adapts to its environmental conditions—and is also conducting field survey work in the Shubenacadie River, studying striped bass nursery habitats.

"It's important we learn more about the factors affecting survival and growth," Dr. Duston explains. His goal? To make striped bass a commercially farmed fish in the region.

BUILDING BETTER EGGS



Dr. Derek Anderson's research team examines the quality and composition of eggs produced by hens fed marine byproducts and plant oils. Their challenge? Figuring out a way to elevate the healthy fatty acid profile of eggs to benefit of the overall heart health of those who eat the eggs.

"We've tried to enhance eggs through the consumption of lobster and crab meal but the eggs may have a bit of a fishy taste which would not be palatable to all consumers," explains Dr. Anderson, whose team also includes Janice MacIsaac and Ming Gong. Flax seed oil had been considered an

option, but it isn't stable enough to maintain good quality—and the hens simply don't like the taste of it. "That makes it difficult to get enough flax in the bird to elevate their levels of Omega-3 fatty acids," Dr. Anderson says.

According to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, eggs that are considered enhanced must contain 0.3 grams or more per egg of Omega-3 fatty acids.

Next up? "We're now looking at canola and camelina oil as alternatives to flax because we think they have more stable oils, have a good profile of fatty acids and the oil itself will not be difficult to feed to hens."

Canola oil itself contains no omega-3 fatty acids, but hens will convert the oil into the essential fatty acids - but not to the level of fish meal.

Research continues at the Faculty of Agriculture to enhance our eggs directly while also trying to give the hen the opportunity to make the conversion.

ATHLETICS RAMS SEASON 2015-16



Thea McLachlin receives a serve in volleyball action at Dal AC

Women's Volleyball

It was a tough season on the court for the women's volleyball squad. The team finished seventh in the eight-team ACAA with a 3-18 record, three wins behind the sixth-place Kings Blue Devils. However, team MVP Thea McLachlin racked up 201 kills for second in the conference and was top in the kills per set rankings at 2.79. The third-year left side from Red Deer, AB, was also second in the conference in points with 252.5, first in points per set (3.5) and was named to the ACAA's all-star lineup. Libero Kayla Wolfe was second in the conference in digs with 285 and digs per set (3.96) while McLachlin was fourth in digs with 260 and third in digs per set (3.61).



Dal AC Equestrian team with champion ribbon at Todd Hill

Equestrian

The Rams equestrian team was a threat to win every time it entered competition this season. The Rams claimed team titles in four of the calendar's five events. Several riders also nabbed individual class wins throughout the year including Katelyn Jackson, Angelique DeWaard, Becca McSwain, Lindsay Scott, Emily Reade, Kayla Watton and Andrea Hamilton.

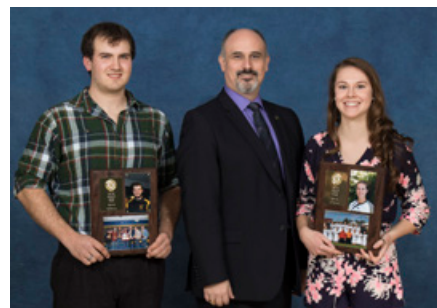


Megan Wynn competes in the chainsaw event at the Rick Russell Woodsmen Competition

Woodsmen

The Dalhousie Woodsmen earned national championships in both the men's and women's competitions.

The men finished the season with 4,072.10 points, well ahead of the Maritime College of Forest Technology (2,951.44). The women's race was much tighter. Dalhousie collected 4,088.16 points over the season's four competitions to nip McGill University's MacDonald Campus by just 169.89 points. Both teams also won their home events in February at MacMillan Show Centre. Thomas Henderson, a third-year plant science student from River John, NS, had an excellent season and was named Dalhousie AC's male Athlete of the Year and team MVP.



The annual Athletic Awards Banquet was held in March. Athletes were honoured for outstanding performances both on and off the field. Woodsmen competitor Thomas Henderson and soccer player Emily Merks were named Male and Female Athletes of the Year, respectively. Here they are pictured with Dean Gray.



Brian Sawler taking it to the hoop against Crandall University

Men's Basketball

It was a tough season for the Rams men's basketball squad. The team went winless to finish last among eight teams on the Atlantic Collegiate Athletic Association (ACAA) circuit. However, there were bright spots for the Rams. Guard Brian Sawler, who was named Rookie of the Year at the school's recent athletic awards banquet, led the conference in free throws, making 94 of his 130 attempts. Guard Neel Amin, who picked up the Rams' MVP honour, was fourth in scoring with 336 points, 100 behind conference leader Whyley Roosevelt of Holland College. Amin was also third in the ACAA in shooting from three-point range, making 48 of 168 shots.

Badminton

It was a middle of the road season for the Rams badminton team. The Rams placed fourth in the team points standings at the conference championships at Kings College. However, Dalhousie got runner-up finishes from the men's and women's doubles pairings of Luke MacKinnon and Ryland Murphy and Caitlyn McCavour and Kelsey Henneberry. Alastair Ling was fourth in men's singles while Lucy Nguyen finished in the same spot in women's singles. The mixed doubles team of Andrew Sytsma and Jordan Bujold was also fourth.



Luke MacKinnon serves at the Dal AC badminton event

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