



For the alumni and friends of Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Agricola News

Volume 36, Number 1, 2011

Picture this...



Past



Present



Future

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THEN &
NOW**
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FUTURE**
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Nova Scotia
Agricultural
College

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Agricola News

For the alumni and friends of Nova Scotia Agricultural College

A Message from the Editor



Dear Friend,

Happy New Year to you and your family and best wishes for 2011! It's hard to picture what the year ahead of us will bring. One can only imagine...

As this edition of *Agricola News* highlights, NSAC has come a long way since it opened in 1905. Campus has seen many changes.

From just a few buildings with a handful of program offerings, to additions of residences and a degree program, to a sustainable campus with no idling zones and a tray-less cafeteria, to a governance transition.

Don Drayton (Class of '58) compares the changes he's noticed on campus from his days as a student to when he returned for his 50th class reunion, two years ago. His story is quite moving.

But what does the future hold? Plans are underway for a horse barn (page 15) and a proposition has been made for upgrades to Alumni Theatre (page 10), among many other improvements (page 12). However, one can merely sit back and picture what NSAC will look like in 10, 30 and 50 years from now.

It's definitely an exciting time to be witnessing first-hand these changes from my office at NSAC. I look forward to the future at NSAC, whatever that may look like, working with you and your classmates!

As always, I hope you'll keep in touch and let me know what you've been up to. We enjoy hearing from alumni!

Enjoy this edition of *Agricola News*.

Regards,

Alisha Johnson

KEEP IN TOUCH! Follow us Online

You can now reconnect with former classmates, hear about events and find out what's going on at NSAC by following us online. Join us on the following social media sites:

Twitter: twitter.com/nsacu

Facebook: facebook.com/nsacu

YouTube: youtube.com/nsacalumni

If you haven't already, sign up for our monthly alumni **e-News** by sending a request to alumni@nsac.ca

To request your version of **Agricola News** electronically e-mail us at alumni@nsac.ca

"In Touch!"

Submissions for the regular feature in *Agricola News* can be sent to alumni@nsac.ca, through a Facebook message, or by mailing the Development & External Relations office, PO Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3

Address Change

Update your address by calling 902-893-6721, e-mailing alumni@nsac.ca or fill out our online form at nsac.ca/alumni/update



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NSAC alumni have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their *alma mater*, their communities, the Province of Nova Scotia and beyond. Our alumni stars were awarded at NSAC's 2010 Blue & Gold Awards Gala.

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A Message from NSAC's Co-Presidents

As co-presidents of Nova Scotia Agricultural College, we are very pleased to provide you with an update on the activities and developments taking place at your alma mater.



If we were asked to close our eyes and picture an ideal NSAC, what would it look like?

We would only have to open our eyes for the answer.

This has been an extraordinary and historic year for our university. NSAC is poised to become a board governed post-secondary institution in just a few short months (April 2011). This transition is the first, but significant step, in NSAC's transformation to a more vibrant, competitive and responsive organization - empowered to define itself.

Although we have enjoyed our roles as co-presidents during this time of transition, plans are underway for the recruitment of an interim president to lead our university forward. The process will be an accelerated one with involvement from key stakeholders, including our alumni, through a brief survey which will be distributed for input over the next several weeks.

This fall saw us reach our highest enrollment in our 105 year history with 961 students, surpassing an all-time high of 950 students in 1996. Of these students, 85 were new international students from nearly 20 countries bringing international student enrollment to 19 per cent of the student body - another all-time high!

For the fourth consecutive year in a row, NSAC is ranked No. 1 in research intensity among Atlantic Canada's 18 universities according to Research Infosource Inc. and its Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List.

An official sod turning was held in early November for the Atlantic Centre for Agricultural Innovation (ACAI) which is set to open its doors this summer. The centre will be the first building on our campus to be built to LEED Silver standards, following the Green Building Rating System. ACAI will be a one-stop-shop for new agri-business development and will pursue incubation of new products, attraction of new agri-business and acceleration of new technologies.

We were also pleased to be able to interact with many of our alumni over the past year at many special events on campus and various reunions held across the region. We were particularly pleased to participate in honoring three of our alumni stars at the annual Blue & Gold Awards Gala. (see page 21).

Many of our alumni who were once honored with scholarships during their time as students have returned to participate

as donors at our annual scholarship banquet. This year close to \$1 million in scholarships and bursaries was distributed to one third of our student body. We are very appreciative of this support and enjoyed an insightful speech, given by guest speaker and alumnus Ryan Riordan (Class of '04), who was recently elected to the New Brunswick legislature (see page 7).

So as we begin a new year we look forward to all that is possible for our university, our staff and faculty, our students and you, our alumni. We wish you and yours much prosperity and success. The year 2011 promises to be a great one!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Leslie MacLaren in cursive.

Dr. Leslie MacLaren
Co-President, Vice President Academic

Handwritten signature of Bernie MacDonald in cursive.

Dr. Bernie MacDonald
Co-President, Vice President Administration

NSAC Governance Transition Project Update

As part of our commitment to keep our alumni informed as our governance structure transitions, I am pleased to provide you with this update.

As you know, we are currently working towards a new governance model that establishes NSAC as a distinct legal entity, governed by a board of governors and an academic senate.

This transition was made possible by the passing of the NSAC Act in 2008 which will enable us to be competitive in the post-secondary education market and to more effectively contribute to the province's economic and social fabric.

A crown corporation model was one of three governance options considered including operating as a stand-alone university or merger with another. This model provides the administrative processes most suitable to a post-secondary institution and is free of civil service constraints. It is the most feasible option and faces the least opposition and risk. The process of transitioning to a crown corporation model also completes the intermediate steps necessary for consideration of the other two options in the future.

The NSAC Act was passed on May 27, 2008 and partially proclaimed on February 11, 2009. This allowed for the establishment of a transitional board of governors and formalization of the project. The Transitional Board of Governors includes Bob MacKay, Chair, Arnold Rovers (Class of '65), Frazer Hunter, Dan O'Brien, Sarah Campbell and Mike Chisholm, Secretary.

The initial focus of transition for April 1, 2011 will be on making the administrative changes necessary to provide the foundation for longer term transformation as a stand alone institution.

The following elements fall within the project scope:

1. Establishment of an NSAC Board of Governors and support structure
2. Establishment of an initial NSAC corporate management team
3. Provisioning of a corporate operational support environment
4. Transitioning of NSAC employees to the NSAC corporate entity
5. Initiation of some longer term transformation visioning activities.

The NSAC Governance Transition Project is following three phases:

Planning and preparation – fall of 2010. This phase involves reviewing the current environment, identifying alternatives and developing evaluation criteria for the alternatives with the Transitional Board.

Design and development – spring of 2011. During this phase preferred solution paths will be selected and more detailed plans developed. This includes negotiation of possible service level/business arrangements.

Implementation – spring 2011 and onward. All the "must-haves" will be implemented or with a clear line of sight to completion as determined by the Transitional Board and the government.

Future of NSAC

When asked about the future of NSAC under the new model, Bob McKay Transition Board Chairperson offered the following comment, "After transition, the new NSAC will be better able to deliver on its important role in developing the bio resource and agri-food sector in Nova Scotia and beyond. We're excited about the possibilities."

Please visit the NSAC Governance Transition Project website where you will find information on the roles and responsibilities of the NSAC Transitional Board of Governors; terms of reference for the Steering Committee and Executive Sponsor as well as the NSAC Governance Transition Project team and the project governance model, which have been defined and posted at <http://nsac.ca/governance>.

Sincerely,



Bernie MacDonald,
Co-President, VP Administration
Executive Sponsor, NSAC Transition

Around & About...

Passion turned to Career *Meghan Hickey (Class of '03)*



After graduating in 2003, Meghan Hickey knew she wanted to go on an experience of a lifetime. Armed with her passion for wine-making, which she discovered while studying at NSAC, Meghan headed to New Zealand then the UK. While having the time of her life, she's also now in the midst of turn-

ing her passion into a career.

"I fell in love with wine making during my small fruit production class at NSAC," says Meghan. "Dr. Hal Ju took our class on a tour of Jost Vineyards and vineyards in the Annapolis Valley - ever since, I've been hooked."

When Meghan received her diploma at NSAC, she knew she couldn't settle for working in a garden centre. She wanted to work towards her dream job.

"I would love to be a winemaker and vineyard manager of a small boutique winery," says Meghan, "one that produces top class wines."

When she first settled in New Zealand, Meghan worked in various vineyards learning the ropes of grape growing. "Getting my first job at a vineyard in New Zealand was easy," she says. "There is a huge demand for seasonal workers." She knew almost instantly that she could never handle an office job. She needed to be outside tending the vines.

"Right away I wanted to go back to school and study wine making," she said.

A few years ago Meghan and her husband moved to England. She is in now in her second and final year, at Plumpton College (part of University of Brighton), where she is taking her passion to the next step.

"In some ways, Plumpton College is a lot like NSAC," says Meghan. "However it has a fully functional commercial winery, with 10 ha of vines." The school also boasts an equine unit with over 20 horses.

When she graduates next year, Meghan and her husband are contemplating heading back to New Zealand. However, returning to Nova Scotia isn't out of the question either. "During a recent trip home, we visited the Annapolis Valley and were shocked at the amazing quality of wine being produced there," says Meghan. "So, who knows?"

As for Meghan's favorite wine, "I always get asked that question," she says. "It always changes too, but at this moment in time my favorite would have to be the Pegasus Bay Riesling, from the Waipara region of New Zealand. However, 'Blow me Down', from Blomidon Estate in the Annapolis Valley is closing in on second."

Seeing the Glass Half Full *Jim Hamilton (Class of '74)*

It didn't take a career in international development to open Jim Hamilton's eyes to the way people live around the globe. He loves traveling and has visited more than 25 countries.

But it is his commitment to improving water conditions in developing countries that has taken him to some of the most challenging regions of the world.

One of those countries is Bangladesh, where naturally occurring arsenic in groundwater may be exposing as much as 20 per cent of the population to chronic poisoning and other arsenic-related health problems.

Jim was recently involved with the CIDA-funded Bangladesh Environmental Technology Verification – Support to Arsenic Mitigation Project (BETV-SAM). In a nutshell, the project aimed to improve the safety of drinking water for Bangladeshis.

It did this by verifying the performance of selected arsenic removal technologies. It also helped local Bangladeshi laboratories carry out the verification and monitoring of arsenic removal technologies.

"We provided Canadian technical expertise to enhance the knowledge and skills of Bangladeshi scientists," says Jim. "This allowed Bangladesh to draw on international best practice in the design and delivery of environmental technology verification programs."

"BETV-SAM provided Bangladesh scientists with the skills and tools to ensure that only certified arsenic removal technologies would find their way into the marketplace; ensuring only technologies with proven performance were sold to people in arsenic-contaminated areas. In this way, the consumption of arsenic-unsafe water and the ensuing effects of arsenicosis could be avoided."

In addition to training Bangladeshi scientists, Jim's project team introduced quality assurance/quality control and standard operating procedures to participating laboratories. One government laboratory, at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Analytical Chemistry Lab, has become the first government laboratory in Bangladesh to achieve ISO 17025 international accreditation. The achievement underscores the effectiveness of the capacity building work undertaken by the project.

"Bangladesh is a small country with huge population pressures, limited natural resources and frequent natural disasters,



amongst other issues of political, religious and civil challenges," explains Jim. "But it is also very dynamic and has great potential for mobilizing human capital for economic benefit and social progress.

"The majority of Bangladeshis are no different than you or I. They have their own aspirations, family commitments and personal goals."

Leading a career he characterizes as serendipitous, Jim has been living NSAC's brand of "making a difference."

In his new role with CHF, a Canadian non-profit international development organization, Jim continues to make a difference.

CHF works with local developing country partners to provide targeted support to poor rural communities through transfer of skills and knowledge, technical expertise and livelihood assistance to help lift them out of poverty.

According to Jim, "There are so many people of various cultures, ethnicities and educational backgrounds around the world; including vulnerable and excluded groups which have limited opportunity, but all kinds of potential. They deserve our attention and stewardship."

'The Guy on the Bike' *Ryan Riordon (Class of '04 & '09)*

Does the story about the young politician, who visited everyone in his riding using only his bicycle for transportation, sound familiar? That young politician was Ryan Riordon, a 28-year-old MLA candidate, in NB.

Last fall, Ryan wanted to campaign differently from his competitors. That he did. By visiting 3,020 homes out of 4,000 on his bike, Ryan achieved something many said could not be done.

Ryan became a conversation piece for people and was quickly known as 'the guy on the bike'. The benefits of using this mode of transportation helped not only his campaign, but also the environment and his health, as his busy schedule didn't leave much time for exercise.

He is proud of this campaign choice saying, "if you always do the same thing, you'll get the same results. People always campaign using a car, but my goal was to think outside the box and still get to visit everyone in my riding."

Riordon succeeded in gaining the title of MLA of Nepisiguit, NB in October 2010.

He is also known around NSAC as an accomplished former student. It was just in 2009 that he completed his M.Sc. in Ruminant Animal Nutrition and prior to that a B.Sc. in Animal Science (Agr.) in 2004.



Ryan enjoyed his student life at NSAC for its small class size, excellent facilities and professors and staff that were passionately devoted to the education of those enrolled. He was a multiple scholarship winner each of his four years in his undergrad degree and also received a significant scholarship with his Masters program.

Though he never planned a career as a politician, he decided to run after watching his province collapse over the past four years. With the support of his friends and family, he decided to step forward in the hopes of helping his riding of Nepisiguit.

"I don't like watching from the sidelines. Too often we sit back and say 'why are they doing that? That doesn't make sense! If I was in that position I'd do it differently! I was always told, if you are going to complain, suggest a better way and do it. But if you want it done right, do it yourself. So I got involved."

Ryan's journey is only beginning in this new position. He was sworn in as a Member of the Legislative Assembly on Oct. 23, 2010, a surreal moment for him.

In his new role he has learned a lot about different backgrounds and new perspectives. He understands how important it is to act on behalf of his community and bring their voices and opinions to the Legislative Assembly.

Ryan will work as an MLA for a four-year term and cannot say for certain if his career in politics will continue after that. He is still interested in his original field of study and jokes that maybe one day he will be able to combine the two interests of politics and agriculture.

He encourages current students saying, "whatever you do, do it passionately and without regret. It doesn't matter how hard you hit, what matters is how hard you can get hit and keep moving towards your goal."

North Kingston Young Farmer Encourages, Leads

Justin Beck (Class of '08)

You could say Justin Beck was born to be a farmer.

His father, Terry Beck, has been a pork producer in Nova Scotia for 30 years and, while Justin remembers times growing up when he would rather have been playing than doing barn chores, "farming was always part of my life and I just sort of evolved into it being my career choice."

When he realized he'd rather be working in the barns or the fields than playing games or watching television, he knew farming would be his future and took steps to learn even more about his chosen profession.

The 24-year old from North Kingston now has a degree in bio-environmental systems from NSAC, works full-time in crop and processing systems at Lyndhurst Farms in Canning, helps his father with the 650-sow farrow-to-weaner hog farm, raises corn, soybeans and cereal crops on his own 60-acre operation and is

involved in a variety of volunteer organizations.

Having a staunch, long held belief that young farmers are the key to a successful agricultural future in Canada, Beck has been actively involved in several organizations to foster growth and development of youth in agriculture. He is currently past chairman of the Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum, having served as chairman for the past four years and is in his third year as the director representing Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador on the Canadian Young Farmers Forum, where he also serves as vice-chairman. Both organizations are educational groups as opposed to lobby organizations, dedicated to fostering up-and-coming leaders in agriculture, helping to nurture ex-



perience and skills for service on commodity boards and other agricultural agencies. "Young farmers need to build up confidence in their abilities, gain some experience and plan for their farming futures and succession concerns," Beck says. "When we get informed and work together, we can really make things happen - including influencing future agricultural policy."

Beck is quite proud good management decisions helped his family's farm

weather the on-going crisis in the Canadian hog industry.

"That's not to say it hasn't been tough at times and we're still not out of the woods," he acknowledges, "but we believe in having a positive attitude towards our profession and our industry and that has helped us through both bad and good times."

Beck's father, Terry, has been a strong and positive influence on his own development as a young farmer.

"My father has always been innovative and willing to do things a little differently, with a focus on good management practices, and not merely expansion for the sake of getting larger."

As far as his own future goes, Beck is gradually taking more of a lead role in the farm, allowing his father to work on another facet of their operation: marketing their own pork directly to consumers. Beck is keen to develop a completely local product, where even the grains milled into hog ration are all grown on the farm. His experience with environmental science and agricultural engineering has him also studying ways to harness the methane from manure for energy to produce electricity.

"There's always more to learn in agriculture and new, even better ways of doing things," he says.

"If I can encourage other young men and women to see the opportunities in farming, and share the huge job satisfaction that can come from agriculture, I'll be well pleased."

Tree Climbers Compete Among Truro's Branches *Steve Munroe (Class of '00)*

As Steve Munroe waits for his chance to climb a tree, it's easy to see that he's a man who loves his job.

A resident of Fredericton, Munroe was one of 60 arborists from Atlantic Canada who gathered in the town of Truro in Oct. for the International Society of Arboriculture Atlantic chapter's tree climbing championships, an event run in conjunction with the Canadian Urban Forest Conference.

The event featured events such as rescuing an injured person from a tree, getting to the top of it as quickly as possible and navigating through the branches in a manner that would not place too much strain on the tree. All events required the use of an elaborate system of ropes, pulleys and harnesses.

Munroe said he's been involved with the industry ever since he graduated several years ago from NSAC. He's worked in the U.S. as well as Canada and is now glad to be working near his hometown of Saint John, N.B.

He said the event is different from his day-to-day work because of its competitive nature.

"A lot of us are really good climbers, but some of us don't do really well under pressure," he said. "There's a time element to a lot of these events, but in real life you get the job done safely without worrying about time."

The Canadian Urban Forest Conference focused on issues of planning and the significance of trees in towns and cities. It occurs every two years, usually in large cities. Truro, the smallest location to host the conference, landed the event because of its active urban forestry program.

As he prepared to strap in to his harness and retrieve a mannequin from a branch, Munroe's inner child was beaming.

"I get paid to climb trees all day," he said. "How fun is that?"



Written by Michael Gorman of The Chronicle Herald. Re-printed by permission of The Chronicle Herald.

NSAC's New Ring Catches On

NSAC's new ring, which was launched last spring, is gaining attention.

That's why NSAC alumnus Arnold Blenkhorn (Class of '41), decided to purchase the university's newest symbol.

"I really liked it when I saw it on the news," says Blenkhorn.

"I said go for it, life's too short," adds his wife of 65 years, Catherine.

Nearly 90 years-old, Blenkhorn took a drive to NSAC, from his home in Southampton, NS, this past summer and placed his order. He completed his stainless steel ring by having "AB '41" engraved on the inside.



Arnold proudly wearing his new ring at home.



When NSAC's Development & External Relations staff members, Executive Director, Jim Goit, and Development Officer, Alisha Johnson, presented Blenkhorn with his ring, at his home, he was all smiles. Blenkhorn, who never wore a wedding ring, proudly tried it on.

"It feels great," he said.

However, this wasn't Blenkhorn's first NSAC ring. "I had one of the old ones, back in the day," he said. "But I wore it out."

Delivering the ring to Blenkhorn wasn't a simple task. Despite his age, he maintains a very active social schedule. As the calendar, managed by his wife, indicated, Blenkhorn is a busy man. "I'm part of a group that sings to seniors every week," he says with a laugh.

Blenkhorn says he won't wear this ring out. "I'm not going to wear it all the time, just for special occasions."

But Blenkhorn's not the only one proudly wearing NSAC's new ring. Since it was launched, NSAC has been astounded with the number of sales. The "barley ring" (or tractor tire, animal footprints – whatever way you want to interpret it), has made its way on the fingers of countless proud alumni.

Not only is it being worn, but also recognized! The Alumni office has had many reported sightings of rings across the country.



Arnold with wife, Catherine

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Alumni Theatre Then & Now

New Recognition for Donors:

A new plaque is now mounted on the wall outside of Alumni Theatre in Cumming Hall. The plaque clearly indicates the location and names of designated seats in the theatre.

Alumni Theatre Project:

Following a recommendation to the Alumni Association, in the early 1970's, a capital projects committee was formed to address the furnishings and decoration of the auditorium in Cumming Hall.

At the Alumni Association's annual meeting in 1974, the committee proposed a project to help convert the old auditorium/gymnasium into a theatre. The Province of Nova Scotia had previously agreed to support the project, providing the Alumni Association would raise at least \$50,000, as its share.

The proposal was endorsed and the theatre project became NSAC Alumni Association's first capital campaign. While steps were taken to expand NSAC's charitable status to include fundraising for campus enrichment, a new committee was appointed to organize and conduct the theatre fundraising campaign.

After receiving guidance from Harold Chute (Class of '44) who had fundraising experience at the University of Maine, the campus enrichment fund campaign committee, Dr. Ross Mitton

(Class of '47), Charlie Douglas (Class of '33), Reg Gilbert (Class of '33), Paul Gallant (Class of '67), Karl Winter (Class of '51), Moris Kennie (Class of '46), Peter Hamilton (Class of '44), Dale Ells (Class of '59), Rollie Hayman (Class of '64),



Dick Huggard (Class of '56) and NSAC Development Officer, Alisha Johnson, hang the new plaque.

Harold Chute and Parker Cox, went to work.

The plan was to contact every NSAC alumni, as well as organizations and friends of the institution, seeking donations. The goal of the committee was to raise \$100,000 towards the theatre renovations, doubling the initial requirement from the government.

Two years into the campaign, an impressive amount of nearly \$104,000 was gathered through the committee's fundraising efforts. In the end, the total exceeded \$132,000.

Alumni Theatre was first used in January 1980, for the Department of Agriculture and Marketing's staff conference. The official opening was held as part of NSAC's 75th anniversary celebrations on February 14, 1980.

Special gifts to the theatre project were acknowledged with engraved plaques on designated seats, in the first few rows. These designated seats, along with their engraving, are indicated on the new plaque.

Alumni Theatre Project Phase II:

Over 20 years later, Alumni Theatre has been the stage for countless NSAC student plays, community productions, children's concerts, campus events, meetings and even a few weddings. But with age and constant use come a number of issues.

Alumni Theatre is now in need of an overhaul - Theatre Project Phase II. In addition to a new central air system, the theatre also requires upgrades to lighting, sound and paint. These improvements would modernize the theatre, making it more functional and comfortable for its audiences and stage users.

To help pay for these costs, the remaining unnamed or undesignated seats could be sold for a minimum donation. To move forward with this phase, making upgrades to Alumni Theatre even possible, a fundraising committee is required.

If you would like to be part of this rewarding experience, that would see the theater modernized and help make a difference for our community, contact **902-893-6022** or **ajohnson@nsac.ca**

Nova Scotia's Farm Equipment Museum's Success Continues



Dick Huggard says a few words at the opening event in Oct.

From tractors, hay loaders, milk bottles, to tea pots and even old sports equipment, you can see the progression of farm life since the mid 1800's as you tour through Nova Scotia's Farm Equipment Museum. The dedicated individuals who came up with the concept never pictured the museum to be what it is today.

"Once an old piece of farm equipment is destroyed or lost, it is gone forever," says current museum Chairman, Dick Huggard (Class of '56). "The museum allows us to preserve this part of our heritage and let others enjoy it."

That's exactly why, in the late

1980's, a group had a vision and ran with it. In 1991 the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Farm Equipment Museum was established in the "old blue building", as it is commonly known, on the exhibition grounds. The objective was to collect, save, restore and display as much farm history as possible.

Run by a committee of devoted volunteers, the museum has been doing just that. Their success is evident.

In 2004 fundraising began to help construct a new building to properly house and display the growing number of artifacts collected by the museum. The building became a reality and was opened in time for the Provincial Exhibition in 2005. "This building enabled us to better display some of our antique farm equipment," said Huggard.

Four-years later another expansion was required. In early October, 2010, guests filled the museum to officially open its newest facility, replacing the "old blue building". The latest edition attaches to the building that opened in 2005.

Nearly 2,000 farm related treasures are displayed in the entire facility, spanning 11, 600 square feet, with vibrant red steel roof. "It's all because of the generosity of many organizations, groups



and individuals," says museum volunteer, Page Baird (Class of '54), of the museum. "So much financial support and in-kind donations made this possible." He added in-kind donations included anything from building supplies to ground work.

Supporters of the museum do not go unnoticed. Gifts of \$100, or more, are acknowledged with engraved wooden plaques, made by the committee, which are hung on the museum wall. Seventy-five new plaques were added from the latest museum expansion.

"It's never hard to get people interested in supporting the museum," says Baird. "It's something people want to preserve, they realize the importance." And it's not just local support. Individual donations from as far away as the USA have been received.

"It's so rewarding when someone comes in and hands us a cheque," adds Baird, who, along with wife, Joan, were honoured to be ribbon cutters at the new facility's official opening.

This feeling is all the more meaningful for Baird, Huggard and other committee volunteers. While they have dedicated countless hours to fundraising for the two constructions, they've also spent many days manually working on the museum expansions and preserving artifacts.

"Right before the official opening, we were scrubbing the concrete floor to make it shine,"

says Huggard with a laugh. Unfortunately, no photos were taken as evidence.

Both with agricultural backgrounds, Huggard and Baird have had an active role in the museum since the early 90's. Many of the items on display in the museum they have donated themselves.

"We're not just interested in farm equipment," says Baird, which explains the vast array of collections. "But all things that relate to rural living."

Recognized as having one of the finest collections of farm-related artifacts in eastern Canada, they don't see the museum's success slowing. "Each time you come back," says Huggard, "you'll see a change."

"If it wasn't a successful adventure," adds Baird, "we'd still be in the old blue building".

The museum is open during the Provincial Exhibition in August, as well as other times of interest such as 4-H weekend and the local car show. It also opens for tours, as requested. There is no admittance fee, but donations are graciously accepted.



Page and Joan Baird cut the ribbon at the new facility's official opening in Oct.

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Opening of Provincial Agricultural College

At Bible Hill, Truro, N. S., Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1905

Metropolitan

Blank

CENTRE TABLES.

Clover Leaf Shape.

NSAC – Past, Present and Visions for the Future



Six faculty members, a handful of buildings and 25 students made up Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1905. Over the first years, women enrolled in classes, barns were added and off-campus sites were included.

Throughout time, a fire damaged campus, the Alumni Association was shaped and a brand was established for NSAC. Classrooms and lab space was added, residences were constructed and campus roads were paved. During these changes, numbers of staff increased and enrollment continued to grow.

During the past 106 years, campus has seen significant changes, as have the programs, facilities, students and staff of NSAC. In recent days, wireless internet has been installed in residences, television monitors have been hung in buildings across campus, the Cobequid Trail has been cut across the grounds and enrollment is at an all time high.

But what changes will the future bring?

Countless renovations and upgrades monopolize the “to do” list. Initial architectural planning has been completed for a new residence, upgrades are required for Alumni Theatre (see page 10), the Athletic Centre and learning facilities.

Enhancements to outreach and partnerships are a priority, as is upgrading programs to meet the demands of modern students and modern employees.

A lot of the changes at NSAC will be determined by the governance transition, which will take effect April 1 (see page 5).

“Developments at NSAC need to occur without degrading who we are,” says Executive Director, Development & External Relations, NSAC, Jim Goit. “It’s the agricultural of the future that’s important, not the past. We need to adapt to that.”

Among these many changes one thing has stayed the same, NSAC has always provided a high quality agricultural education to its students. Regardless of what the future will hold, a top-notch education at NSAC is a given.



Fifty-Two Years Ago—A West Indian at NSAC

Submitted by Don Drayton (Class of '58)

Two years ago, I returned to NSAC for the first time in the 50 years of graduating from this noble institution and it was a wonderful experience, joining my classmates in reminiscing and celebrating this very special occasion.

However, just as I was saying goodbye to everyone, Cameron Fullerton, who, as I remember, always asked awkward questions that sometimes would bring out the sardonic wit of our beloved Professor Stevenson (math and physics), posed one such important question. He said, "Don, did you ever encounter prejudice while you were a student here?"

My response was immediate, "not with any of you guys." If I correctly recall, his reaction was one of relief. I then had to rush off. Since then, I recently read an interview with one of our popular classmates, Don Grant, on NSAC in those days and thought I might add a touch of colour to our reminiscences.

Of course, my response to Cameron's question could never be the total answer. Life at NSAC and in Truro did not consist only of interaction with fellow classmates. As a young man leaving my home, in the then colony of British Guiana, for the first time in 1956, I joined other West Indians

at what was then a small college in the not so well known town of Truro and one of the lesser known Canadian provinces, Nova Scotia.

There was no hall of residence and all students boarded in and around Truro. In my case, the Registrar, Parker Cox, wrote to say that he was seeking accommodation for me. His subsequent letter announced that Mrs. Davidson had agreed to take in West Indian students and that I now had a place to stay. I have thought from time to time on the role of Parker Cox in finding accommodation for all students, most of whom were from the Maritimes and he then had an additional burden of placing overseas students who were both racially and culturally different from the average Canadian.

Parker Cox was fully aware of the status of blacks in the Truro community, yet, he soldiered on in his quest to find places for West Indians. There was no agricultural degree granting institution in the Caribbean, so the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States were popular educational outlets for aspiring agriculturists. I must state here that in my two years of association with Parker Cox, I held him in high regard, thought him a firm, no-nonsense, but totally unbiased person, to whom I went for and received wholesome advice. So, this too, is a further answer to Cameron's question.



That year (1956), there was seven of us from the Caribbean and initially, three of us were boarded at Mrs. Gertie Davidson's, who, when she got to know us, called us "my boys". Gertie was a kindly person who looked after us well. She and her husband, Archie, had purchased a house in Truro and moved there from their farm somewhere else, with the objective of taking in boarders. We learnt from her that a son of theirs had graduated some years earlier from NSAC.

How did we cope with the town at large? Soon after arriving, we discovered that, for the most part, there existed a massive social gap between the black and the white residents of the community and the twain did not meet, not even at church. Two of us arrived two weeks ahead of the start of the school term, to capitalize on Steevie's maths revision course and immediately encountered what we detected as overt racial prejudice. We had arrived too early!

When the college term began and we could somehow be identified as NSAC students, the reception was different. To us, this was a totally inadequate salve on an obvious sore. I had known nothing of the racial situation in Nova Scotia and was unprepared

for some of what I encountered.

For some unknown reason, I missed my flight connection from Montreal and had to take a later flight, thus arriving in Halifax late that night, making it necessary for me to overnight in Halifax. I asked a taxi driver to get me to a modest hotel. We went to three hotels and at each, were told "sorry, we're full". At the fourth, I was told that the only room available was an expensive one, since they were otherwise full. I was desperate and dug into my meager first year funds to pay for the room. In the morning, there was only one other person in the lobby.

On the train to Truro, I reflected on the night's experience and was perturbed by it.

In Truro, we learnt of the clusters of black homes in the Hill, the Marsh and the Island and of course, we visited them and made acquaintances. But we were not there to change the status quo.

We were all mature and into our 20's (or older) when we got to NSAC, definitely serious students and prepared to ignore the social tide in the interests of pursuing our goal. However, in my case, I had been a member of a Y's Men's club (then the service club of the YMCA) in my country and there was one about to be chartered in Truro within months of my arrival. I was asked to join the club and accepted.

I attended club meetings and made friends socially. One family in particular, the Doanes, let me know that I could consider theirs my home away from home and I enjoyed many moments sharing their company.

Here's a funny little incident that I recall from this period. Through Mrs. Elsie Doane, I learnt of the Community Concerts which afforded small communities, like Truro, the chance to have high class musical performances. I took the opportunity of attending my first full symphony orchestra concert. On the next occasion, a piano recital, I was again the only black person in the audience and the gentleman sitting next to me periodically gave me a quizzical stare.

Finally he could no longer contain himself and said in an aggressive manner, "you are not from around here, are you?" I was tempted to say, "yes, I am", but good sense got the better of me and I gave the appropriate response, "I am at the college". He was no longer agitated; he relaxed and ironically, soon went into slumber land.

In our second year we were installed in the newly opened Truman Hall and therefore less dependent on Truro itself. Another batch of West Indians joined us in their first year and we were a part of the life of the college, playing some of the games (no hockey, while we wished there had been soccer and tennis), singing in the Glee club led by Ed Shuh, debating and so on. Life was better!

At graduation, I was given the honour of being class valedictorian (while Alan Elliot outdistanced the entire class academically) and with my farewell words of appreciation on behalf of the class I recall distinctly expressing a special note of thanks for all that had been done for us, the West Indians.

My quick visit to Truro for our 50th anniversary, two years ago, showed me an entirely different Truro, physically. I could hardly recognize the land marks of old and thanks to Fred Pearce, was able to see the changes first hand. He told me that there had been a substantial drop in the black population of the town and I hope that, over the years, race relations had seen a transformation for the better. I was tremendously impressed by the staggeringly big improvement and scope that had been gained by our *alma mater* and the role played by classmate, Les Haley, in accomplishing this. All of this makes me a proud alumnus of NSAC.

So, Cameron, there is your answer. Thanks for opening up this opportunity for me to reflect on these aspects of our experience at NSAC between 1956 and 1958.

Cobequid Trail Constructed Across Campus



Last fall, construction began to construct a 2,000 meter piece of Colchester County's Cobequid Trail through campus. A partnership with the County of Colchester, Town of Truro and the Village of Bible Hill, the Cobequid Trail is a 14 km walking and cycling trail network

through central Colchester County.



Cobequid Trail entrance points on campus include the woodsman lot, Butterfly Meadow and the Bible Hill Recreation Park.

An official opening will take place this summer.



Alumnus Shares Christmas with FAFU Students

Scott Jeffrey (Class of '96) and wife, Angie, welcomed a group of FAFU students into their Bible Hill home over Christmas. Jeffrey, an aquaculture technician, thought it would be nice to celebrate the season with students who were unable to return home. The group enjoyed a pot luck dinner and cookie decorating.

NSAC's Barons Pride Stable Needs Your Help

The history of NSAC is rich with equine culture. In its early years, NSAC was renowned for the quality and genetic superiority of their equine breeding stock, playing a major role in enhancing the quality of horses on Nova Scotia's farms and stables. In time, however, with the transition from horse-powered to conventional agriculture, NSAC's equine unit eventually dissipated. But it has not been forgotten.

Today, the maritime equine industry is diverse, strong and vibrant and growing with potential for new entrants. To capture industry demand in 2005, NSAC set forth in developing its Diploma in Enterprise Management (DEM) - Equine program.

The objective of this program is to provide first class education and training to students who are interested in the care and management of horses for recreation, sport or business. The program is designed to give students a solid background in business management while at the same time, tailoring to their equine interests.

In addition to business management skills, students gain communication and leadership skills and study courses in animal biology and genetics, equine facilities management, equine health, growth and nutrition.

While our DEM-Equine program has proven strong to date, the number one recommendation by current and prospective students has remained consistent - to have ready access to horses on campus.

Having a small equine unit on campus would facilitate hands-on learning, broaden learning objectives within the program and would serve as a "home" for the students in the DEM Equine program to help foster student pride.

In an effort to harness program potential, a modest proposal to construct an equine facility on NSAC's campus, with the capacity to house two horses, throughout the academic year was presented to NSAC's senior management committee. Details of this proposal included proposition of the concept of a student managed facility, whereby students would be responsible for the husbandry of the animals and the care of the facility (under direct supervision by staff).

This would enable students to obtain the desired hands-on learning and access firsthand experience in operation/management of a small (model) stable. Horses housed at NSAC would be

obtained from a rescue center, enabling students to take part in their rehabilitation and help to improve the quality of life for the horses.

Not only would this facility be of primary benefit to NSAC's DEM program, but this facility would also enhance the student learning experience in other programs such as the veterinary technology and the animal science degree programs offered at NSAC.

Interest and support for such a venture has been well received throughout NSAC's community and the senior management committee has expressed their eagerness to proceed with the equine facility as proposed.

The stable's name has been chosen, "Barons Pride", in light of the significance the infamous Clydesdale stallion, Barons Pride, had in moulding the success and integrity of the equine unit in the early years of NSAC. Barons Pride was a foundation sire to the Clydesdale breed and was considered to be one of the greatest breeding stallions ever known. Barons Pride was the sire or grandsire of numerous

great horses at NSAC, helping to improve the quality of horses on Nova Scotia's farms and stables.

It goes without saying that the construction of a facility of such nature is a significant financial undertaking. Though in-kind and institutional support, at various levels, a large portion of the funding has been allotted to build the structure itself. Through various fundraising initiatives, NSAC's DEM program is committed to raising as much of the remaining funds necessary to finish the interior of the facility (purchase stalls, lumber, matting, barn supplies, fencing and pasture supplies) and to help with annual up-keep and repairs.

If you are interested in supporting this worth cause, donations can be made:

Online - <http://nsac.ca/donate/> (simply indicate "Equine Development Fund" in the other designate space)

Mail - NSAC

Development & External Relations

PO Box 550, Truro, NS

B2N 5E3

Phone - 902-893-6721

We recognize the generosity of our alumni and are very grateful for any financial support.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting venture, or have questions regarding how you can help, contact Gillian Fraser 902-893-6024 or the Development & External Relations office at 902-893-6721.



Research...

Working to sustain the Christmas Tree Industry in Atlantic Canada

Christmas tree growing and exporting is a \$100 million industry in Atlantic Canada employing 20,000 people. In the future, most of these trees may be NSAC created "SMART Balsams."



Dr. Raj Lada

NSAC'S Dr. Raj Lada, driven by a commitment to rural sustainability, is providing support and research to sustain the Christmas tree industry in the region. Lada has established the first, national Christmas tree Research Centre (CRC) at the university.

"The Christmas tree industry is being challenged by issues that, if unresolved, could result in a devastating loss of business and community in the Atlantic region," explained Lada.

At the CRC, Lada and his team develop products and technologies to enhance needle retention as well as produce what they call a "SMART Balsam", which epitomizes an ideal tree - full, sturdy architecture, unique fragrance, blue-green needles, retains its needles for up to three months or more and is pest free.

"Solutions need to be found to increase both needle retention and the public's interest in purchasing a real tree instead of an artificial one," he added. "If they are not, the Christmas tree industry in Atlantic Canada will surely suffer."

Researchers at the CRC will study needle retention as their main focus to understand and intercept the hormone that triggers needle drop. They already know trees are susceptible to stress and are quite likely to drop their needles during stress and aggressive physical movements, some of which are regularly used in the selling of trees such as dragging, shaking, baling and transporting. They have also discovered that LED lighting with a certain spectrum of wavelength can delay needle drop.

Lada has also established the Atlantic Christmas Tree Research and Development Consortium to open communication and discussion among researchers in various universities, those working in the industry and Atlantic provincial government departments.

This month, Lada will relocate his \$6 million research program to AgriTECH Park – the university's commercialization wing. AgriTECH Park provides a fertile environment necessary to grow and develop innovative bio-economy products, services & technologies within the agri-food, marine & environmental sectors.

"I am very pleased to lead researchers and those working in the industry through this process as well as to be part of the change myself," said Lada.



Lada has been awarded several grants and research support through national, regional and provincial funding agencies including Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency – Atlantic Innovation Fund, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, AgriFutures – Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food, NB Growing Forward, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia and Smart Christmas Tree Research Cooperatives Limited.

Early Stage Commercialization Fund Awarded to NSAC

NSAC has been awarded nearly \$42,000 from Innovacorp in support of two important research projects led by Drs. Zaman and Rupasinghe.

Innovacorp's Early Stage Commercialization Fund helps move Nova Scotia university and community college research to market by assisting the academic community in the pursuit of commercialization opportunities.

Dr. Richard Donald, vice president of research, extension and outreach at NSAC, welcomed the investment. "Problem solving research that addresses the leading issues facing agriculture is critical to the future sustainability of the industry," he said. "We are grateful to Innovacorp for investing in two of NSAC's leading researchers."



Dr. Qamar Zaman

Dr. Qamar Zaman is working to develop precision agriculture technologies for Atlantic Canada's wild blueberry industry that will maximize horticultural profitability and minimize environmental impacts. Dr. Zaman received \$31,500 in support of his Variable Rate Sprayer technology.

Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe's research involves developing and commercializing innovative, socially and economically acceptable value-added foods, food additives and ingredients, natural health products and other bioproducts from cool climate fruits.

Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables as well as the use of novel food ingredients derived from fruits and vegetables will be important in helping to manage current and emerging health care challenges. Dr. Rupasinghe received



Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe

\$10,000 for the design of a vacuum-based dryer system for his apple chips technology in partnership with Noggins Corner Farm.

Innovacorp helps early stage Nova Scotia companies commercialize their technologies for the global market. The organization is committed to strengthening the province's post-secondary research commercialization capacity and entrepreneurial activities. The Early Stage Commercialization Fund is supported by Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development.

Canada Research Chair Valued at \$500,000



Research excellence at NSAC was awarded in December with the presentation of a Canada Research Chair valued at \$500,000 to the university.

Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe received a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in fruit biochemistry and bioproducts valued at \$100,000 annually for the duration of the term. Tier 2 Chair positions are tenable for five years and renewable once and are intended for exceptional emerging researchers,

acknowledged by their peers as having the potential to lead in their field.

"NSAC is proud to be part of the Canada Research Chairs program and in particular of Dr. Rupasinghe and his leading-edge research," said Dr. Richard Donald, NSAC vice president, research, extension and outreach. "Dr. Rupasinghe's research is a key component of NSAC's research program and contributes greatly to our ability to support, healthy, sustainable communities."

Dr. Rupasinghe's research involves developing and commercializing innovative, socially and economically acceptable value-added foods, food additives and ingredients, natural health products and other bioproducts from cool climate fruits.

Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables as well as the use of novel food ingredients derived from fruits and vegetables, will be important in helping to manage current and emerging health care challenges.

"Less in the abundance though they are, some non-nutrient components in fruits such as polyphenolics have remarkable power in promoting human health and wellness," said Dr. Rupasinghe.

Research will be expanded to identify unique antioxidant compounds of fruits that can play a major role in reducing the risk of chronic diseases like brain disorders and heart disease. The new funds will allow Dr. Rupasinghe to explore the processes of isolating these valuable components from under-utilized fruit bio-resources

in Atlantic Canada and then to develop novel bio-products.

NSAC holds three prestigious Canada Research Chairs - one in agricultural biotechnology, one in organic agriculture and currently fruit biochemistry and bio-products.

In Memory

The university, along with NSAC's Alumni Association, acknowledges the passing of the following alumni members and extends our sympathy to friends and family.

Mr. Albert W. MacPhee.....	1938
Mr. Seymour M. Stewart.....	1942
Mr. Emerson W. Hennigar	1942
Dr. James G. Purdy.....	1943
Mr. Wilbert R. Telfer	1947
Mr. C. R. MacLellan	1948
Mr. Morley E. Smith.....	1950
Mr. Eldon W. Chaisson.....	1952
Mr. Gordon A. MacEachern	1954
Mr. Terry P. Flemming.....	1959
Mr. G. Melvin Barclay.....	1961
Mr. Carl E. Upham.....	1962
Mr. Philip Stead	1965
Mr. Dana M. Patterson.....	1982
Mr. David A. Van de Sande	1997

Events & Reunions

Reunions 2010

Many classmates reunited and NSAC memories were reflected in 2010. From coming back to campus to weekend getaways, the number of class reunions increased significantly.



Class of '50

The Class of '50 took advantage of NSAC's annual Open House in July and returned for a private tour, as well as the staff and alumni BBQ. Class members also enjoyed an evening of "show and tell" at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro.

Class of '60

NSAC's Class of '60 celebrated their 50th anniversary in July.



Class members and wives had a guided tour of campus, before having lunch in Jenkins Hall and attending NSAC's staff and alumni BBQ in the Athletic Centre.

Attendees enjoyed breakfast at class member, Garth Coffin's house, the next morning before heading to the Valley, where members either participated in the Agri-Golf Classic or went sightseeing.



Class of '70

The year 2010 also marked a milestone for the Class of '70. Forty years after graduating, classmates reunited in July for the annual Open House.



Class of '59



Members of the Class of '59 gathered twice this past summer. In late June, classmates met in Berwick, NS, enjoying the day at Lone Pine Farm. In July, a larger group spent an afternoon in the Truro area. After sharing "news and views" over lunch at the Palliser Restaurant, class members visited the Glooscap Heritage Centre and NSAC's aquaculture centre. The group later joined Classes of '50, '60 and '70 members on campus at NSAC's staff and alumni BBQ.



Class of '56

As they have been doing every year for the past 10 years, graduates and wives of the Class of '56 spent a weekend in late September together.



Gathering at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton, the group shared many stories and laughs, while also enjoying tours of Baddeck, including to the Bell Museum. A report from class members also indicated the wives enjoyed a fair amount of shopping.

Highlights from the reunion were guest speaker Jim St. Clair, speaking about great expectations, as well as having NSAC's Co-President and Vice President Administration, Dr. Bernie MacDonald and wife Ann, in attendance. Dr. MacDonald talked to the class about the direction of NSAC and alumni outreach.



In the spirit of the local culture, the group also enjoyed class member, Danny Stewart, piping in the hagus and a rendition of Ode to The Hagus by other class member, George MacKenzie. The Class of '56 looks forward to their 55th reunion which will be held at NSAC in July, 2011.

Class of '85



Members of NSAC's first degree class (Class of '85) celebrated their 25th anniversary by returning to campus. In October a group of classmates came back for a tour and a BBQ.

Classes of '95-'99



Along with their families, Aggies from '95-'99 gathered in PEI for a weekend celebration in mid-August.

Events 2010

Ice Cream Social



NSAC staff and alumni gathered in the Alumni Gardens in late August to enjoy the campus' Ice Cream Social. It was a perfect day to enjoy the nice cool treat!

First-Year Students Display their Artistic Side – with Hay!



NSAC's Alumni Association hosted a bale sculpting contest in September. This contest, which was for first year students, took place during NSAC's annual Orientation week activities.



In teams of residences and off-campus group, students were encouraged to work together, to express their artistic side and show their NSAC pride, by creating a bale sculpture. To complete the task, groups were permitted to bring two items on site to assist with the competition and were given a package of random items to use in their design.

Alumni judges, Jean Lynds (Class of '90), Barb McDonald (Class of '82), Colette Wyllie (Class of '10) and Dan Muir (Class '10) were astounded with the extent of the creativity displayed!



The winning prize of NSAC hoodies was won by team Fraser for their very creative "Fraser House Devil" sculpture.

Alumni in Victoria, BC



A great group of NSAC alumni gathered at a reception in Victoria, BC in June with NSAC Development & External Relations staff Jim Goit and Alisha Johnson. Pictured L-R: Keith Fuller (Class of '65), Bob Mitchell (Class of '73), Maureen Mitchell (Class of '77), Michael Kelly (Class of '75), Brenda Kelly, Darrell Kelly (Class of '76), Jim Goit and Roger Fuller (Class of '73).

Open House 2010 Hands on learning and fun for all!



Highlights:

- Visits to the Rock Garden to watch as the talented artists of the Truro Art Society captured the beauty of NSAC's campus.
- Tours of our TREEhouse – an eco-friendly home renovation project.
- Interaction with Dean Falconry Services and Wildlife Control. Learned about an environmentally friendly approach to nuisance bird control.
- Animal behaviour and training specialist. A demonstration on operant conditioning or "clicker training" with dogs.



2010 Blue & Gold Awards Gala

Nov. 12, 2010

NSAC alumni have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their *alma mater*, their communities, the Province of Nova Scotia and beyond. Many have achieved great distinction and success in their professional endeavours, have made significant contributions to progress in their field of work and/or humanity and have made extraordinary contributions either through their work, their volunteer efforts, or their financial support to the university. The Blue and Gold Awards program honours the recipients' achievements and demonstrates NSAC's pride in these accomplishments.

Young Alumni Achievement Award

The Young Alumni Achievement Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of NSAC alumni within recent years of receiving a degree/diploma or a graduate degree. Alumni are recognized for truly outstanding achievement that may have earned them regional, national or international prominence through service to humanity, in their profession and/or volunteer organizations, through community service, the advancement of knowledge and service to NSAC.

Alumni Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year Award honors a volunteer, who has consistently and enthusiastically donated their time and talents to advancing the objectives of the university and/or the Alumni Association and with whose support has significantly enhanced the success of various programs. The nominee must be a member of NSAC's Alumni Association and have represented NSAC as well as an ambassador.

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is NSAC's most prestigious award, recognizing truly outstanding service and commitment to NSAC, industry and the Alumni Association. Nominees must have distinguished themselves in their area of expertise, bringing honour to the university.

And the winners are...

Patricia Bishop (Class of '99) Young Alumni Achievement Award 2010

In merely 11 years since graduating from NSAC, Patricia Bishop, an eighth generation Annapolis Valley farmer, has become an incredibly respected and well-known agricultural entrepreneur in our province.

Patricia was raised on a farm in Greenwich, NS. After graduating from NSAC in 1999 with a B.Sc. in Agricultural Environmental Studies, she continued her studies at Acadia University, earning a degree in education.

Following a hiatus from her roots, Patricia eventually turned back to where she started. In November, 2007, she and husband, Josh Oulton, purchased 23-acre TapRoot Farms.

Drawn to organic agriculture, Patricia and Josh quickly learned that natural produce would not sell itself. In 2009 they launched a newly adapted business model – Community Shared Agriculture (CSA). Customers register as “members” to receive regular food baskets of organic produce.

Patricia and Josh's immediate success was realized when they more than doubled their expected CSA membership.

They now deliver baskets of fresh TapRoot Farms organic produce to over 200 families, every week of the year, in communities from the Valley to the Halifax Regional Municipality. As many families are also added in during the summer months.

Patricia's farm concept doesn't stop at producing organic food. TapRoot Farms also offers a “farm stay”. Guests can experience Patricia and her family's passion by staying at the on-site guest house while learning about agriculture first-hand.

In addition to her own farm, Patricia is also active with the family operation, Noggins Corner Farm.

Patricia's work in recent years to promote locally grown foods and preserve agricultural lands has built province wide awareness of some of the most important issues affecting the future of farming: food security, land use, and the viability of local farms.

Patricia and Josh have set a great example of how to capture new opportunities while maintaining the grassroots values of rural life. Along with their three children, they have successfully found a way to provide healthy, delicious food for their family and community while loving what they do.

Patricia is past president of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture and served on the Nova Scotia Agricultural Land Review Committee. Last fall, she was a guest speaker at the Nova Scotia Food Summit and she has just been invited, by the Minister of State for Agriculture, to the inaugural meeting of the National Future Farmers Network in Ottawa.

For their accomplishments and leadership in the agricultural industry, Patricia and Josh were named Atlantic Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2010 and received the 2010 Spirit Nova Scotia Local Foods Award.

Patricia Bishop is what NSAC would call a “real alumnus”.



Dr. Garth Coffin (Class of '60), former principal, presents Patricia with her award.

Jean Lynds (Class of '90) Alumni Volunteer of the Year 2010

The search for the 2010 recipient of NSAC's Alumni Volunteer of the Year award didn't have the committee looking far. This year's recipient is one of NSAC's own. Staff member, graduate and volunteer, that is.



Co-President, Dr. Leslie MacLaren, Jean and President, NSAC Alumni Association, Dwane Mellish (Class of '75).

Jean grew up on the family farm in River John, NS. Graduating from NSAC in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Plant Science she eventually returned to campus to work. Currently, Jean fills the role of crops and ruminant coordinator at the Ruminant Animal Centre.

Jean volunteers many hours at NSAC, working above and beyond her regular job description. As an active member of the NSAC Alumni Association Board of Directors, Jean is a critical part of the team. Not only does she bring forward great ideas to advance the board's mandate, but she never hesitates to take ideas or tasks to fruition. She is always keen to represent the Alumni Association at various events and act on behalf of the directors. Jean's involvement on campus doesn't stop there. She can always be counted on to coordinate farm tours for Recruitment or external groups. Even when given little notice, she pleasantly accommodates groups of all sizes and ages.

Jean is also active with College Royal, Orientation activities, NSAC's Christmas Parade float and live nativity scene and has even volunteered during NSAC athletic events.

Amid all of this work, Jean still makes time to dedicate to the local community. She has held various roles with minor hockey and soccer and has coached baseball. She has spent time as a Sunday school teacher with the North River United Church and has assisted with the after-school program at North River Elementary School.

Charities have even been touched by Jean. The Terry Fox run celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. This milestone marked Jean's 29th year participating for the well-known cause. On top of also being a regular blood donor, she has participated in the Relay for Life and been involved with the United Way.

Jean lives in North River, NS with her husband and two children. Jean is a perfect example of NSAC's belief that one person can make a difference.

Jean Lynds couldn't be more deserving of this award. Characterized by those who know her, Jean is witty, mischievous and good humored. She is a quiet crusader who is always keen to lend a helping hand and expects nothing in return.

Jean grew up on the family farm in River John, NS. Graduating from NSAC in 1990 with

William Swetnam (Class of '56) Distinguished Alumnus Award

Raised in Port Mouton and Liverpool, NS, William (Bill) Swetnam, graduated from Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1956. Bill discovered what he was destined to do when he purchased a farm in Sheffield Mills, NS in 1958.

As a young farmer, Bill began in broiler production and became involved with the Broiler Association. In 1970 he increased his quota and built his first large broiler barn. His first flock of turkeys were marketed in March, 1971.

Throughout his career, Bill dedicated countless hours to many boards. As a founder of the Nova Scotia Turkey Marketing Board he also spent time on the County South and East Livestock Health Services Board, the NS Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission, Canadian Livestock Feed Board Advisors Committee, as well as Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board. Bill also served as president of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture and became a member of the Council of Leaders with the Federation.

In 2004, the NS Federation of Agriculture recommended Bill to the Farm Practices Board of Nova Scotia for a three year appointment. He has served as Chair of this Board for the duration of his two terms. Bill's latest appointment is to the Agriculture Land Review Committee given to him in October 2009.

Aside from his devotion to the agricultural industry, Bill has exhibited dedication, commitment and community leadership in many ways. As a member of Canard United Church, he has served as an elder,

Chair of the Board of Trustees, a steward, a Sunday school teacher and a member of the Men's Club. Bill has represented Canard United Church in the Valley United Church Presbytery and has chaired both the Finance and Property committees.

Bill is a member of the Kentville Rotary Club, has been a Scout Leader and served as President of the Sheffield Mills Community Association.

Even the health field in NS has been touched by Bill. Serving on the Board of the Valley Health Services Association, Bill led the fundraising campaign to help build the Valley Regional Hospital.

Bill's dedication to his community has not gone unnoticed. In 2002 he was honoured by the Queen with the Golden Jubilee Medal.



Classmate, Dick Huggard, presents to Bill.



Bill, center, with Class of '56 representatives and NSAC's Co-Presidents, Dr. Bernie MacDonald and Dr. Leslie MacLaren.

Today, Bill's family farm includes Wilmar Acres Ltd. and Dominion Produce Ltd. Spanning over 750 acres and including six broiler chicken barns and quota, the farm produces field crops, fresh market carrots and onions.



Blue & Gold Award recipients were presented custom NSAC rings for the achievements. Bill is pictured trying on his new ring at home in Scheffeld Mills in Dec.

Many times Bill has expressed his appreciation for life with his family living in Sheffield Mills. If asked why he has devoted so much of this time and resources to community, church, recreation and agriculture he would probably say, "because it's the right thing to do!"

Bill and his wife Mary have five children and 12 grandchildren.

Bill has truly distinguished himself in his area of expertise, bringing honour to NSAC and the Alumni Association.

UPCOMING EVENTS

President's List Reception - February 3

Founding Day - February 14

Convocation - May 6

Class of '56 Reunion - July

Class of '66 Reunion - July

Open House - July 21

Agri-Golf Classic - July 22

Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame

Agriculture in Atlantic Canada is successful thanks in large part to the hard work and innovation of individuals, families and industry.

On October 28th, 2010 four worthy Atlantic Canadians were recognized for their contributions during their induction into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame. These deserving inductees were honoured by their peers, families and fellow Hall of Fame members for their innovative and tireless commitment to agriculture in Atlantic Canada during a well-attended ceremony in Alumni Theatre.



Dr. Michael Bland from Newfoundland and Labrador was nominated by the Egg Producers of Newfoundland and Labrador for his leadership in the veterinary community of the province and for his considerable volunteer contributions.

The National Farmers Union (NFU, District Direct, District 1 Region) nominated Prince Edward Island's Urban Laughlin for his life-long commitment to agriculture and significant contributions to the NFU.



Jean-Paul Losier rose above physical challenges to become a leader in crop development and production, which led to his nomination by the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick.

William (Bill) McCurdy's innovative spirit and leadership has influenced many in the agriculture industry in Nova Scotia, where he was recognized by Scotsburn Co-Operative Services Ltd.



Portraits of the inductees will hang in the Hall of Fame gallery in the upper foyer of Cumming Hall. To read more about each of this year's inductees, please visit the AAHF website at www.nsac.ca/halloffame

Scholarship Banquet 2010

Outstanding academic performance was honoured at NSAC with the presentation of close to \$1,000,000 in scholarships and bursaries to 363 deserving students during the university's annual Scholarship Banquet program in October.

Close to 38 per cent of the student body or one in three students received a scholarship, bursary or other academic award, including 211 scholarship recipients from Nova Scotia, 45 from New Brunswick, 21 from Prince Edward Island and 12 from Newfoundland and Labrador.

Students from 12 different countries including Jamaica, Ghana, Pakistan, Nepal, USA, UK, Chile, Russia, Sri Lanka and Bulgaria were also honoured.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP DONORS AT NSAC

NSAC is proud to announce the establishment of new awards to the wide selection of scholarships and bursaries currently available to students.



Executive Director, Development & External Relations, NSAC, Jim Goit (back row, second from left), is shown with new donors (back row): Ms. Marlene Conrod, representing the \$300 Nova Scotia 4-H Council Award, accompanied by Mr. Don

Conrod; Heather-Jo MacDonald and Mrs. Reba Jenkins, daughter and wife of the late Dr. William Jenkins who recently established the \$1,000 Dr. Bill Jenkins Memorial Scholarship. Front row: Ms. Sherry Williams and Mr. Michael Malcolm, representing Pictou Mutual Insurance Company who established the \$1,000 Donald McInnes Award in 2009.

First Presentation of the \$1,000 T. Beverley Milligan Gale Memorial Scholarship



David Crawford, Dartmouth, NS, a first year Environmental Horticulture Technology student, is the first recipient of the \$1,000 T. Beverley Milligan Gale Memorial Scholarship. This is a new scholarship established by Beverley Gale's husband, Bob, in recognition

of Bev's spirit and love of the gardens at NSAC. The \$1,000 award will go annually to an NSAC student who is enrolled in any year of study at NSAC who has shown an interest in horticulture particularly landscape design and care. Preference will be given to

mature students. Selection criteria will include career plans, academic performance and financial need. David is shown with Mr. Bob Gale and his sister Trish Hattie, at NSAC's Scholarship Banquet.

Gail Semple Memorial Bursary Awarded for First Time



Dr. Ted Semple, sessional lecturer, Plant & Animal Sciences Department, NSAC, is shown with the recipient of the first \$1,000 Gail Semple Memorial Bursary, Modou Camara, Lower Woods Harbour, NS, a student currently studying at AVC in PEI. In memory of Ted's late wife,

Gail Semple (nee Johnson, Truro, NS), who had a strong commitment to animal welfare, a \$1,000 bursary is awarded annually to a student who has completed at least one year of study at NSAC planning to study veterinary medicine or who were admitted to AVC in the current year. To be eligible applicants must be either currently or previously registered as a Pre Vet student at NSAC, or currently in the first year of the DVM program at AVC, having completed their Pre Vet requirements at NSAC. Selection criteria include financial need, academic performance and a background with demonstrated experience in animal welfare.

\$1,000 B.S. Sodhi Memorial Bursary Added to NSAC's Scholarship Family



Parghat Singh Gopal, The Nilgiris, India, a first year B.Tech., Environmental Horticulture student, was the first recipient of the \$1,000 B.S. Sodhi Memorial Bursary. Members of the Sodhi family attended NSAC's Scholarship Banquet to make the presentation:

Mrs. Dashan Sodhi, wife of the late B.S. Sodhi, daughter Anjula, son Sandeep Sodhi and wife Nina, granddaughters Serena, Jasmine and Nya Sodhi. The \$1,000 B.S. Sodhi Memorial Bursary is awarded annually to a student paying international student fees. Students in all programs of study are eligible. Preference will be given to students in undergraduate and technical programs and will be based on financial need.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS



Stuart & Ruth Allaby Graduate Studies Scholarship
Ashley Gillcrist, Bayview, NB, a M.Sc. Animal Science student at NSAC was presented with the \$1,000 Stuart & Ruth Allaby Graduate Studies Scholarship. Mr. Stuart Allaby and daughter Sonia Totten are shown congratulating Ashley. The scholarship is awarded to an M.Sc. student at NSAC concentrating on animal research.

Truro Student Receives Karen Meek Memorial Scholarship



Kent Mader, New Germany, NS, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Environmental Sciences student was presented with the \$1,500 Karen Meek Memorial Scholarship. Mr. & Mrs. Eric Meek (Class of '54) are shown congratulating Kent. The award is in memory of Karen Meek, who studied Agricultural Business at NSAC 1980–82, the scholarship is awarded annually to a student in the B.Sc.(Agr.) Environmental Science program. Selection criteria also include academic performance, financial need, and contribution to campus life.

\$1,500 Gordon B. Kinsman Memorial Graduate Scholarships Presented



Mrs. Virginia Kinsman and son Brian Kinsman are shown with the 2010 recipients of \$1,500 Gordon B. Kinsman (Class of '47) Memorial Graduate Scholarships. Center of photo is Aitazaz Farooque, Faisalabad, Pakistan and David Hobson, Kelowna, BC, both M.Sc.(Agr.) students. The scholarships are awarded to graduate students in Horticulture at NSAC.

P. Max Kuhn Scholarship Awarded



Ross Hayman, Tatamagouche, NS, a third year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student was presented with the \$2,500 P. Max Kuhn Scholarship. The scholarship is presented to an NS student with a farm background and enrolled full time in any year of any program whose course and project work and summer employment demonstrate an interest in working in the agricultural industry after graduation. Shown congratulating Ross are (from left), Executive Director, Development & External Relations, NSAC, Jim Goit, Mr. Ross Osborne and Mrs. Mary Osborne, representing the Kuhn family.

\$1,000 Class of 1950 Bursary



Jack Johnson, representing NSAC's Class of '50 and wife Trudy, are shown congratulating the 2010 recipient Jodine Thomas, Rock River, Clarendon, Jamaica, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student. The Class of '50, in commemoration of their 50 anniversary of graduation from NSAC, established a bursary fund to assist NSAC students in financial need.

\$200 Chuck Harrison Memorial Bursary Presented



In memory of Chuck Harrison, Class of '70, a \$200 bursary is awarded to a final-year Agricultural Business Technician student. Selection criteria include leadership and involvement in athletic and other activities at NSAC, as well as a sound academic record. Fellow class member, David Thompson, is shown with the 2010 recipient of the award, Jenna Rog, Fredericton, NB, a second year Diploma in Enterprise Management - Equine, student.

Several NSAC Alumni Family Bursaries Presented at Scholarship Banquet



NSAC is pleased to present several \$1,000 and \$500 bursaries to family members of NSAC alumni studying at NSAC. Executive Director, Development & External Relations, NSAC, Jim Goit, is shown with some of this year's recipients (back row, from left) – Brianna Sinclair, Goshen, NS, a first year B.Sc.

(Agr.) Agricultural Business student; Christopher Oram, Bishops Falls, NL, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Plant Science student; Mr. Goit; Samantha Sinclair, Goshen, NS, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student; Megan Crouse, Valley, NS, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student; and William Swetnam, Centreville, NS, a third year B.Sc.(Agr.) Agricultural Business student. Front row: Maxwell Clark, Saint John, NB, a second year Environmental Horticulture Technology student; Amy Versloot, London, ON, a second year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student; Emily Colwell, Quispamsis, NB, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student; and Tyler Fraser, Tatamagouche, NS, a fourth year B.Tech. Applied Science student.



Back row, from left – Caitlin Congdon, Great Village, NS, a third year B.Sc.(Agr.) Plant Science student; Adam Mackinnon, Grand River, PE, a first year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student; Mr. Goit; Kelsey Cheverie, Elmira, PE, a first year Engineering student; Jennafer Bent, Lawrencetown,

NS, a first year B.Sc.(Agr.) student; Matthew Linton, Scotch Ridge, NB, a second year Diploma in Enterprise Management - Farming student. Front row: Terra MacDonald, Truro, NS, a first year B.Sc.(Agr.) Pre Vet student; Robyn McCallum, Tabusintac, NB, a second year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student.

Missing at the time of photo was Jeanette van der Linden, Antigonish, NS, a second year Bachelor of Administration (Honours) in International Food Business student currently studying at Drontheim University of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands.

Alumni Family Bursary Update

Created in 2008-09, NSAC's Alumni Family Bursary, was developed to provide financial relief to students with alumni relatives. Since then, the bursary has distributed \$500 and \$1,000 awards to 45 deserving students.

With many long lines of families attending NSAC, the bursary, which is primarily based on family relations, could support many more students.

When the Alumni Family Bursary was created, funds were committed from the 2nd Century Endowment Fund for three years. The intent was for this fund to top-up the bursary until enough was raised for the Alumni Family Bursary to sustain itself.

With the three year period now over, the Alumni Family Bursary fund is still not large enough to maintain itself while awarding the same amount of financial support to students.

While a decision has not yet been made, the Alumni Family Bursary will have to either borrow from another fund, or simply lessen the amount of awards given to eligible students in future years. This will continue until enough money towards the Alumni Family Bursary is raised.

If you would like to support NSAC's Alumni Family Bursary donations can be directed to:

NSAC

Development & External Relations

PO Box 550

Truro, NS

B2N 5E3

Donations can also be made online at

<http://nsac.ca/donate/>

For more information, contact 902-893-6022.

Athletics Update



Ken-Wo – July 23, 2010

Results

Hosted by NSAC Athletics

Winning Teams

Business

1. Shur-Gain (63) (retrogression)
2. Novartis (63)
3. CFIA, PEI/Green Diamond Equipment Ltd./ Farm Credit Canada (65)

Farm

1. Fisher Farm (64)
2. Cornwallis Farm (65)
3. NB McCullums (66)

Alumni

1. Team McCabe (63)
2. Watts Alums (64)
3. Downhill Golf Team (66)

Overall

1. Team Carroll (61)
2. Shur-Gain/Novartis/McCabe (63)

Sponsor

1. Eastlink One (66)
2. Eastlink Two (67)
3. Pepsi (76)

Deputy Minister Challenge

1. PEI (68)
2. NS (72)

Putting contest – Kyle Murray

Closest to the hole – Frank McCloskey

Longest drive (m) – John Mullin

Longest drive (f) – Cheryl Burgess

Closest to the line – Arthur West



Team Fisher Farms

The 14th edition of the EastLink Agri-Golf Classic, hosted by NSAC's Athletic Department, at Ken-Wo Golf and Country Club was a huge success! The 30 teams competed on the manicured course under perfect conditions.

In addition to the challenge of the 18 holes, participants had the chance to win one of four hole-in-ones: a 2010 Dodge Journey (Pothier Motors), 2010 Rustler 4X4 RTV (Blueline New Holland), 3520 John Deere (Green Diamond) and \$10,000 (TD Insurance Meloche Monnex). Unfortunately, there were no hole-in-one winners.

Also supporting the event were product sponsors Pepsi Cola, Scotsburn Dairy Group, Molson Canadian, Chartwells Food Service, Pepsi Cola (bag sponsor), Pfizer (ball sponsor).

Participants left looking forward to the 2011 event, which will be held at the Fox Meadow Golf Club in Stratford PEI on July 22.

Athletics would like to thank the hosting committee (Garth Coffin, Ken Marchant, Alisha Johnson, Stephanie Rogers, Fred Fergus, Cathy Myette, Jonathan Kennedy, prize sponsors and the major sponsors for their support of NSAC student-athletes.

For more info, list of sponsors and pictures visit

<http://nsac.ca/athletics/golf/>

Varsity and Club Fall Results

Soccer

NSAC's men's soccer program has new coaches at the helm. Head coach is Keith Partridge and assisting is Pierre Hanna. For the women, head coach Claude Caldwell, has his same coaching team in place – Treasa Pauley and Jen Cameron.

Men's and women's soccer teams had a large number of rookies in the line-up this year. Both teams had a great season, but fell just short of play-offs.

ACAA Award Winners:

Rookie of the Year - Jessica Hill

All-Conference Members - Megan Turple, Kaleigh McDonald, Kent Mader and Trevor Seymour

Women's Rugby

The women ,although laden with rookies, made a run at the semi taking Mt. Allison to overtime before losing by three.

All-Conference members – Sarah Nichols, Georgia Lewis and Caitlyn Swinkels.

Golf

NSAC's women's team finished the year with a second place finish in the ACAA Championship held at Fox Meadow, PEI. Mark Canfield, as the lone entry, on the men's side, finished fourth.

Cross Country

NSAC fielded a full women's team in this year's four competitions and the men's group had three runners. Top finisher for NSAC was consistently Thomas Teakles, who finished third in two meets and fourth in the final run. Thomas also ran in the CCAA Nationals hosted at STU Nov.13. Thomas bettered his previous time on the same course and finished 62nd of 148 runners.

Equestrian

Twenty-four riders comprise the NSAC Equestrian Team for 2010-11. There have been three competitions thus far, with NSAC finishing in the top three in each competition. Two more competitions will be held in the winter semester.

Women's Volleyball

The Rams have solidified their squad for the 2010-11 year and with one addition in January, are expecting to challenge for the final. At the break they were 3-4. Championships are being hosted by NSAC, giving the Rams an edge.

Women's Basketball

Rams were 1-4 going into the Christmas break. The top two teams in the ACAA are very strong. Rhonda Kennedy, as a transfer student-athlete, is leading the Rams in scoring.

Men's Basketball

With rookie head coach Colter Simmonds, the Rams are improving every time they hit the court. They were 1-6 at the break and are working hard to move up in the standings. Several rookies/transfers are helping the offense and they are confident they will pick up a couple more wins in the winter.



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Visit nsac.ca/cde to see what might interest you!

Look Who's Talking

Debra McLellan (Class of '99 & '08)

Biography

Raised on Vimy Road, Bible Hill, NS, Debra McLellan chose her current career path because it was available in her backyard. Literally. Recently, her career has taken her within close proximity to that same spot.

"I was initially drawn to engineering at NSAC because it was available so close to home," says Debra. Having such a great experience, she returned to NSAC a few years later, part-time, to earn her M.Sc. "The professors were excellent and they always went above and beyond," she says. "Not to mention, the great campus community and facilities."

Since graduation, Debra has held numerous roles at Nova Scotia Power. From environmental engineer, to supervisor and recently, project manager, she has worked her way up the corporate ladder.

Debra's work in her most recent position has gained media atten-



Debra, pictured left, talking with MLA Karen Casey during a site tour.

tion. She spends her day's project managing Nova Scotia Power's largest wind farm project, to date.

"This farm will generate enough renewable energy to power 15,000 homes," she says of the 45MW wind farm project, with 22 wind turbines located on Nuttby Mountain, NS.

At the site located on mainland NS's highest point, there's no such thing as a typical day. "It depends on the stage of the project," adds Debra. "Whether it's planning, execution, or closure, it could involve safety procedures, observing work practices and progress on the project, or communicating progress to management."

Anyone who's ever visited Nuttby Mountain knows it's well suited to produce wind energy. "It feels great to be involved in a project that is technically interesting and a bonus that it also happens to be adding renewable energy to a grid, produced in my home county," she says.

Debra recently returned to campus to speak to potential engineering students during the department's annual program open house.

It has been a couple of years since you graduated from NSAC. What memories does this bring back of your days as an NSAC student?

It's been said before, but my favourite memories come from the relationships I made while at NSAC. Since the class sizes are so small, strong relationships are usually formed between classmates. Which is what happened in my case, we were a close knit group.

Highlights include spending time with the other engineering students, helping each other work on assignments, challenging math problems and lab reports. We also spent a lot of time talking about potential summer jobs and potential career goals. We worked hard but had a lot of laughs too!

What do you see as the most significant and positive changes at NSAC since you were a student?

It hasn't been too long since I was a student at NSAC, but there have been a number of changes, which I noticed during my recent visits to campus. Improvements in the library, availability of information on the website and streamlined processes for class registration, stand out the most.

I've also noticed interesting developments in the course offerings and more promotion of NSAC programs, which there wasn't as much of, when I was a student.

If you had a vision for NSAC and how it would look 20 years from now, what would it look like and why?

In 20 years, I would hope NSAC would still offer the high level of quality programs, resources and facilities it has today. I would also like to see the hands on access to research work, taking place on campus, maintained.

This issue of Agricola News highlights where NSAC "has been" and where we are going. Enrollment is at its highest, governance changes are occurring and campus is growing. Can you comment on this?

It's fantastic that enrollment is increasing and more students are taking advantage of a quality school! It is important to maintain the history and solid foundation of NSAC, seeing the positive growth and vibrant work taking place is exciting. Changes like these make my degree and diploma feel all the more valuable.

All the while, similar changes are also taking place with agriculture in Nova Scotia. What do you think of the way agriculture has changed? Where do you see agriculture in our province in 10 and 20 years?

There is more growth in the organic field and movement to philosophies such as the 100-kilometer diet will bring changes in agriculture that can only benefit NSAC and Nova Scotians alike.

In my opinion, things are really moving in a positive direction with respect to sustainable choices in agriculture and more generally in lifestyle.

What are your thoughts on wind energy? Do you see a future of wind mills everywhere we look?

The science and engineering of harnessing wind energy is very interesting and has come a very long way over the last couple of decades. As we move toward increasing the amount of energy generated from renewable sources, I believe wind will continue to be in the mix.

To read more about Debra and her role atop Nuttby Mountain with NSP, visit nsac.ca/alumni/profiles

In Touch!

Class of '69

Mills, Jim...Living in PEI and working as a farm laborer and for a health supplement business.

Class of '72

Cyr, Pierre...Living in Dunlop, NB, Cyr was the NDP candidate for the local riding of Nepisiguit, NB in the fall election. His votes were outnumbered by Class of '04 alumnus Ryan Riordon. Cyr is considering running for the leadership of the NDP party of NB. He has two children and three grandchildren.

Class of '74

Steeves, Jim...Retired in Dec. 2009 after spending over 30 years in food inspection. Steeves' career began as a record of performance dairy inspector and finished as a multi-commodity inspector (fresh produce, processed products, maple syrup and fish) with CFIA in Darmouth, NS. His career covered NB, NS and PEI.

Class of '92

Simpson, Susan...Working as a director for the National Research Council, Simpson was recently appointed as the 2010-11 president for Junior League of Halifax. She previously served as co-chair for Homes for the Holidays.

Class of '96

Beaton, Niki...Living in Stillwater Lake, NS, Beaton's first book, *Secrets of the Year Round Vegetable Gardener*, will be published in the US next year by Storey Publishing and distributed across North America.

Jeffrey, Scott...Recently moved to Bible Hill, NS from PEI with wife, Angie. Now working on campus as an aquaculture technician.

Class of '03

Schofield, Paula...After graduating from the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition as a registered holistic nutritional consultant, Schofield recently accepted a permanent position at Healthy Habit Health Store in Truro, NS.

Class of '06

Davis, Cory...Graduated from the four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the Atlantic Veterinary College in PEI last spring, after spending two years in NSAC's pre-vet program in 2004 and 2005. Davis is now a veterinarian at Prairie Animal Health Centre in Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

Class of '10

Tonita, Paul...Working for Novartis Animal Health Canada Inc. in the aqua division as an aquatic husbandry technician since Feb. 2010. Tonita's five year plan includes enrollment in a graduate program at the Atlantic Veterinary College.

NSAC's Annual Appeal



Enhancing grounds, improving campus for our community

Every year we ask alumni and friends to give generously in support of current and future students of NSAC. Our annual appeal financially supports an NSAC project or area deemed high priority.

This year your gift will be used to enhance NSAC's picturesque grounds and not only make campus more functional for students, but also for our community.

It's not too late to donate!



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Development & External Relations
PO Box 550
Truro, NS
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Thank you for making a difference!

For more information visit ***http://nsac.ca/annualappeal/***



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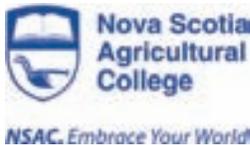
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¹Certain conditions and restrictions may apply.

*No purchase required. Contest ends on January 14, 2011. Total value of each prize is \$30,000 which includes the Honda Insight EX and a \$3,000 gas voucher. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. Skill-testing question required. Contest organized jointly with Primum Insurance Company and open to members, employees and other eligible people of all employer and professional and alumni groups entitled to group rates from the organizers. Complete contest rules and eligibility information available at www.melochemonnex.com. Actual prize may differ from picture shown.

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