

Barley Party 2015 Honourary Ring Recipients

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

This year's honorary ring presentation needs no explanation or justification, but for the sake of tradition, hear me out.

The 2015 honorary ring recipients both play a vital role in the student experience at the Agricultural Campus. The dedication and commitment these two individuals display toward campus on a daily basis goes above and beyond their job descriptions. The relationship they have developed with students, staff and faculty is a testament to how much they truly care about the Agricultural Campus.

These two individuals complement each other. Together they have a tremendous impact not only on the lives of students living in residence at the AC, but the staff, faculty, alumni, community members and guests. Their hard work is noted and appreciated by all of these groups.

With a full team of staff behind them, they would be the first to try and defer the credit. However, they truly are the faces of their department. Their sense of leadership allows them to manage an incredible team and always ensure that students, staff, faculty and visitors to the campus are happy. Their creative minds always ensure the best possible experience for everyone and their sense of humor and kindness always leave everyone around them feeling warm and welcome.



Student testimonials describe the two recipients as friendly, dedicated, and a wonderful asset to campus. Often times, our recipients are the first people students talk to when they wake up in the morning. Students describe them as a breath of fresh air. They say that our recipients have the ability to turn a bad morning into a brighter one—something that can be difficult to do with sleep deprived and hungry students.

Our honorary recipients are always accommodating to the needs of the students. They hold regular monthly meetings with student representatives to hear feedback and will implement this feedback to meet the requirements of the students. They know students on a first name basis and make campus feel like a home away from home.

One of our recipients started working on campus at the age of 16. Her first shift must have gone well because the manager asked her to come back again the next day. Her career has led her to other campuses, but eventually found her way back to the AC, where she remains today, devoting much of her time to accommodate the needs of others.

By far, she exceeds all expectations. In 2011 she travelled to China to experience the culture and to develop a better understanding of how to prepare meals for our FAFU students. She takes great pride in her work. She loves the interaction with the students and she loves the campus. She has the magic of being a friend to all her staff and is able to balance being a leader as well. In all honesty, without her, the campus would not run as smoothly as it does.

Our other recipient has been with us for 40 years. He started out as a dishwasher in 1975 and within six short years, made his way to chef and has been here ever since. Like his co-worker, he is devoted to his job on campus. He loves the students on campus and treats them as if they are his own. If they ask for something, he goes out of his way to accommodate their needs.

His dedication to the students is phenomenal. In 2004 during White Juan, one of the biggest snowstorms Nova Scotia has ever seen, he walked from Salmon River to campus to ensure the students on campus had a hot meal. He knows everyone by name and has the ability to turn anyone's day from bad to good. He is kind, caring and devoted to his job.

His kind heart and sense of humor make the students feel at home on campus, no matter where they come from. He always knows what is going on in his kitchen and where things are. To his co-workers, he is a friend and a leader. He truly is an asset to the campus and without him, the atmosphere not be the same.



Together, our two recipients always find the best way to meet the dining and catering needs of the campus and community. From the Scholarship Banquet to real country fairs, they understand budgets and make it work. They are open and creative and are always coming up with something new. They are always looking for ways to buy local whenever possible, often looking for ways to support our alumni run businesses. They guarantee students are provided with healthy, delicious meals, a variety of snacks and a great

amount of choice every time a student swipes their meal card.

Together they make a great team and make Chartwells and the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus very, very proud.

Julie Andrews and Victor MacKinnon, we are pleased to name you the 2015 honorary ring recipients. You will both receive a Barley Ring. Congratulations!