

## **Barley Party 2016**

### **Honourary Ring Recipient – Dr. Keltie Jones, Assistant Dean, Students**

As part of the Agricultural Campus' ring tradition, the Alumni Association allows for an honorary ring to be presented each year. Honourary 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.

Simply put, the 2016 honorary ring recipient is one of the strongest pillars on this campus.



**(L to R) Alumni Association Chair Jean Lynds, honorary ring recipient Keltie Jones and DASA President Robyn McCallum**

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

Since her arrival in 2009, she has made endless positive differences to this campus. Her work to make orientation more inclusive, welcoming and free of hazing has impacted students immensely. In fact, this individual has been in the horseshoe welcoming new students and their families each year, taking photos to share at presentations later, sharing helpful tips, encouraging helicopter parents to let go and making new students feel at home. She is one of the first AC faces new students see, and we have her to thank for turning what is often a difficult transition into a positive experience.

This individual is a strong role model on campus. Her work with various groups including Aboriginal students, domestic and international students, the cross-country team, DASA, Women in Science, Ruminare and more make her highly-visible and able to continuously engage with the entire student body. Her educational background is inspirational - international work, a law degree and recent Doctorate degree are all examples of her ambition for lifelong learning. Her passion for diversity and acceptance for all creates a positive message on campus. She has worked on numerous proposals to successfully upgrade and establish new programs on campus, including the Landscape Architecture program. She was a key player in launching the Aboriginal Health Sciences Success Program, led a quality assurance review for Diploma in Business Management programs and drafted and reviewed governance procedures and policies post-merger for the new Faculty of Agriculture. She chairs various committees, including the Student Success Committee, Academic Coordination Committee, Inclusivity Committee and Faculty Council. Having been a part of many of these committees, we know that she puts student interests first and foremost at all times.

This individual has worked extensively with DASA over the past eight years on projects such as student programming, orientation planning, event coordination between administration and students, committees and more. She was instrumental in drafting DASA's new policies and procedures, our Memorandum of Understanding with DSU and in assisting us in applying for incorporation. She is a wealth of knowledge and only ever an email or call away (although visits are better because she usually has cookies). Her legal and administrative backgrounds make her contributions to DASA highly valuable, but it is her passion for a positive student experience that makes her so widely respected.

Yet another way she demonstrates commitment to this campus and its students is her dedication to athletic teams. She can be found on the sidelines of various athletic events in all seasons. She photographs athletes, cheers them on and relentlessly spreads the AC spirit. She willingly dons multiple layers of winter clothing and brings lots of coffee for the early morning woodsmen competition start each February. She knows all of our athletes, and for them, her positive encouragement does not go unnoticed. She is actively involved with the cross-country team; in addition to attending practices, she makes them nutritious and delicious meals at her home before each race. She welcomes the team into her home with open arms, and facilitates puppy snuggles to students.

When you ask others to describe this individual, they all provide the same description: fair. She is above all else, fair. Although part of her job involves judicial procedures and student discipline, she is well-known to be fair, kind and considerate. She earns the respect of all students, even those facing tough

consequences or troubles in school. She is often the stepping stone to students finding their better selves, and for that, our campus is indebted to her.

As DASA president, I have personally had the opportunity to know our honorary ring recipient for the past eight years and observe how caring and compassionate she is to students and to the campus community. Whether it's getting to know each student by their first name, teaching them about diversity, advocating for a Women in Science group on campus, running orientation training sessions or hosting the cross-country team for supper, she is a friendly face away from home.

This individual is who truly comes to mind when we reflect on who positively impacts student life, enhances the campus community and makes a difference at the Faculty of Agriculture.

Dr. Keltie Jones, we are pleased to name you the 2016 Honourary Barley Ring recipient. Congratulations!