



**2013 Achievement in Internationalization Award
Citation for Dr. Tess Astatkie**

The recipient of the Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture Achievement in Internationalization Award for 2013 is Dr. Tessema Astatkie, Department of Engineering.

Dr. Astatkie has contributed to a number of international initiatives over the years, both as a representative of the Faculty in other countries and hosting and mentoring international colleagues on the Dalhousie Agricultural campus. His activities have had an impact on research, teaching and science and agricultural education around the world.

Some of Dr. Astatkie's most significant contributions come from his role as the director of the "Agricultural Sustainability" and the "Post-harvest Management to Improve Livelihoods in Ethiopia" projects. These projects involved research activities both here and in Ethiopia, sharing of technical expertise with colleagues in Ethiopia, training and support for Ethiopian scholars and internship opportunities for several undergraduate students. Through the projects Dr. Astatkie has led, the local Ethiopian community has experienced an increase in agricultural sustainability and post-harvest management of food. We, in Nova Scotia, have benefited from learning more about African agriculture and have been enriched by the opportunities for invaluable cross-cultural exchange. As one colleague notes: "His dedication to supporting international development in Ethiopia and providing cross-cultural training opportunities for faculty, staff and students from both countries is admirable."

An additional impact of the Ethiopia projects has been the institutional capacity building provided to our partner, Jimma University, including curriculum development as well as training in pedagogy, research practices and institutional management. Another colleague highlighted the overall impact of the projects Tess has led this way: "(The) projects with Jimma University in Ethiopia have had a dramatic impact on the quality of their library, the implementation of new undergraduate and graduate programs, the update of science labs and has resulted in a dramatic rise in the quality rating of the university."

Dr. Astatkie maintains collaborative relationships with researchers around the world, resulting in numerous co-authored peer-reviewed articles and conference presentations. He has authored papers in 46 different international journals. He also regularly hosts international scholars and graduate students, bringing new perspectives on teaching and research to our campus. He plays an active role in training programs for Ethiopian scholars that are provided both in Ethiopia and at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus.

Dr. Astatkie also plays a personal role in internationalizing campus. He helps provide pre-travel orientation for faculty, staff and students who will be visiting Ethiopia, as well as helping visitors and students from Ethiopia adjust to Nova Scotia when they arrive. He readily shares his international development project experience with others and has helped encourage students to take advantage of international mobility and internship opportunities.

Dr. Astatkie's role in internationalization is ongoing. He will be an active member in new initiatives in Ethiopia and is participating in projects in the Caribbean. Through his extensive commitment to internationalization and development, Dr. Astatkie has made a significant impact within the Faculty of Agriculture and around the world.

In consideration of his dedication and effectiveness in promoting internationalization at the Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture, we present the 2013 Internationalization Award to Dr. Tess Astatkie.