

# AGRICOLA NEWS

For the Alumni and Friends of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College

*Volume 31, Number 1, Winter 2007*



Here, there...  
Everywhere!



# Embrace Your World

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Given that NSAC continues to expand its program offerings it is also important for NSAC's brand to evolve to represent who we are today.

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Part of this brand evolution includes the recent introduction of a new tag line, "Embrace Your World".

Among other reasons, this slogan was selected because it represents NSAC students' interest in the wider world around them and their desire to participate in solving today's problems with a caring attitude.

**NSAC**  
*NSAC. Embrace Your World.*



**Nova Scotia  
Agricultural  
College**

*NSAC. Embrace Your World.*



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For the Alumni and Friends of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Volume 31, Number 1, Winter 2007



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## Here, there..Everywhere!

*NSAC Goes Global!*

*If you haven't been to the campus in the last year or two, you will see a difference in the student body since your time here. The number of international students continues to grow, from less than three per cent of the student body to more than six per cent in 2006-2007.*

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*The Horticulture Training Program fits in well with Nova's philosophy that helping women find jobs will enable them to contribute positively to the community upon release.*

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*Front cover:  
NSAC's international development activities span over 25 years and 25 countries.*

# A Message from the Editor



## *It truly is a global village!*

Preparing for this first issue of a brand new year, I realized, that although I am sitting here at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro,

I am truly connected to our alumni all around the world. Alumni who are making a difference in the wider world around them. NSAC. *Embrace Your World* is the new tagline for the university and aptly describes the theme of this issue as we focus on the university's accomplishments and goals from an international perspective and the successes of our students and alumni.

In our Look Who's Talking feature this month, I 'spoke' with Jim Hamilton, Class of 1974, who is currently working as a Project Field Manager on a three-year CIDA-funded Bangladesh Environmental Technology Verification—Support to Arsenic Mitigation Project.

The goal of the project is to address environmental health issues and basic human needs in Bangladesh. Expected impacts of the project include the introduction of community-appropriate certified arsenic removal technologies thus reducing consumption of arsenic-contaminated groundwater.

NSAC has been involved in International projects for over 25 years in 25 different countries and one only has to look out the window at our beautiful campus to see a wonderful mosaic of smiling faces.

We are proud of the fact that the number of international students on our campus has grown from less than three per cent of the student body to more than six per cent this year. You would also notice that many of these students are from China, the result of an agreement that the university signed with the Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University. The first students under this agreement arrived at NSAC in September of

2005. Please see our cover article entitled *Here, There and Everywhere, NSAC Goes Global* for more information on our international efforts.

International projects such as this can lead to increased opportunities for our faculty, staff and students as well. A travel opportunity to Ethiopia became a transforming experience as two of our students discovered this past summer. (See *Dairy Research in Ethiopia: a Transforming Experience*)

Here at home, things are looking up as well. Literally! The university is enjoying a five per cent increase in overall enrolment for the 2006-2007 academic year; the third such increase since 2003-2004.

And you have helped. During the first semester of the 2006-2007 academic year, a survey was completed by a sample of first year NSAC students. Students were asked how they heard about NSAC and the number one reason students gave was word-of-mouth. We take a great deal of pride in the fact that many of our students find us because of someone else's recommendation. If you are one of these people that share your positive NSAC experiences with potential students—Thank You. (Please see *Heard You Were Talking About Us—Keep It Up!* for more ways you can help.)

I certainly hope you find this issue informative and interesting from no matter where you may be sitting. And as you look forward to another year and no matter where your travels lead you, I hope you always feel at home with us here at NSAC.

From our NSAC family to yours, we wish you peace, prosperity, health and happiness in 2007.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rogers

P.S. Be sure to get your very own NSAC luggage tags - more information on page 17.

## Letters

Dear Stephanie,

I am writing to thank you for the marvelous job done to produce the *Agricola News* with the Winter 2006 issue being a perfect example.

I greatly appreciated the features on classmates Byron Beeler and Ted MacNintch. In addition the *Around and About* article on Reg Gilbert brought back great memories.

I was the ring announcer at the 1956 (or was it '55?) College Royal. Reg was in attendance and presented a Judges Cane to the Royal. I wonder if that cane is still used? And as Director of Agricultural Education, it was through Reg that we New Brunswickers applied to a (yearly) \$400 interest-free loan to further our agricultural education.

Unfortunately, my name was missing from the list of Class of '56 members who met last July in Kings County. That gathering was arranged by a committee consisting of Bill Swetnam, Gerry Foots, Gilbert Allen and myself.

*Agricola News* is a wonderful reminder of a lovely time of my youth.

Sincerely,

David E. Ward

## AGRICOLA NEWS

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# A Message from the President



*Our overall enrolment is up five per cent this year; the third such increase since 2003-2004.*

Dear alumni and friends of the NSAC,

It is my privilege to extend to you my greetings for the happiest of New Years. I am excited that this first issue of 2007 is focusing on our university's accomplishments and goals from an international perspective. We are truly embracing our world and the results speak for themselves.

I am especially pleased at this time to have the opportunity to report to you that our overall enrolment is up five per cent this year; the third such increase since 2003-2004.

We are also enjoying a 20 per cent increase in the number of first-time students to our campus as well as experiencing one of the largest influxes of international students. Forty-nine students from 16 different countries are calling NSAC home. This represents an increase of 85 per cent over last year and is a testament to the commitment the university has placed on internationalizing our campus and our curriculum.

A large majority of these students are from China. This development is the result of an agreement NSAC signed with the Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University (FAFU). The first students to come to campus under this agreement arrived at NSAC in September, 2005 and are expected to graduate this spring.

These are not the first international students to graduate from our institution and the number will continue to grow. There is an existing group of international alumni who have returned to their home countries and are wonderful ambassadors for our university. As we face the growing demographic challenges all Atlantic universities are wrestling with these days, we see a significant opportunity for us as an agricultural institution, to tap into a growing international market - and our alumni can help. We need to position ourselves to take advantage of this growing opportunity.

As such, the campus community has been

re-engaged in the strategic planning process as we work towards the development of our 2008-2013 Strategic Plan. Strategic planning is essential for the continued growth and success of NSAC. It engages our entire community, both internal and external, in active dialogue about our key issues, priorities and opportunities. The ultimate goal of the strategic planning process is the development of a common vision, helping us focus our collective efforts on a select number of strategic priorities over the next five years as we work towards the realisation of NSAC's potential.

A Strategic Planning Advisory Committee has developed a discussion paper to kick-start the process and lay the foundation for the next strategic plan. We invite and encourage all alumni to review this discussion paper which is available on the web ([nsac.ca/admin/stratplan/discussion.cfm](http://nsac.ca/admin/stratplan/discussion.cfm)) and to provide feedback electronically.

Thank you in advance for helping chart the future of the NSAC and I hope you enjoy this issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Hicks". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

*Dr. Philip Hicks, President*

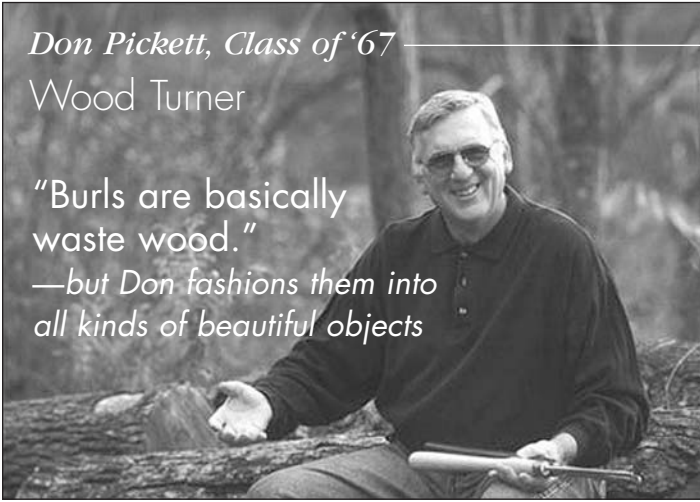
# Around & About...

*Don Pickett, Class of '67*

Wood Turner

"Burls are basically waste wood."

—but Don fashions them into all kinds of beautiful objects



*Don Pickett, a woodturner who lives in Hillandale and whose workshop and home is in a century-old farmhouse built by his grandfather, explains that burls are normally used to fill holes in the road or just left to rot, but he can fashion them into all kinds of beautiful objects—from salad bowls to coffee tables and decorative lamps.*

Hillandale is a lumbering area and local woods include maple, beech, birch, cedar, black cherry and bird's eye maple, known for its attractive grain.

"All my wood comes from within a 25-30 miles radius of where I live, explains Don. "I pick up the burls here and there and my son-in-law, who works in the forest, finds me pieces that have been rejected. Burls can't even be used for firewood. It's impossible to chop them with an axe. You'd have to use a chainsaw."

*His work is now found in galleries across the country and his customers come from as far afield as Hawaii and Australia.*

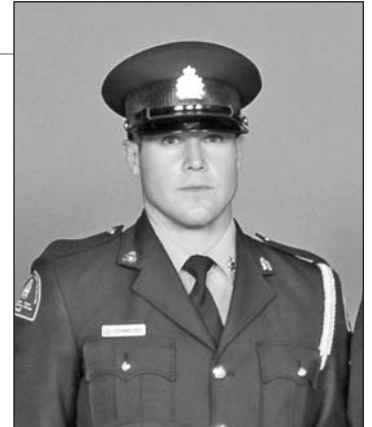
Don's fascination with burls—an outgrowth (or "irritation" as Don puts it) on a branch or a tree trunk—started eight years ago when he gave up his job as a trucker. He wanted to earn a living closer to home, so he bought himself a lathe, put up some signs on the highway and launched his new career. His work is now found in galleries across the country and his customers come from as far afield as Hawaii and Australia.

"When a customer comes to my house, I show them a burl and try to get them to visualize what the finished product will look like. They can't be in a hurry. Green burls take at least three months to dry out. If the end product isn't what they want, then, of course, they can pick out something else. I want my customers to be satisfied." [www.hillandalewoodturning.com/](http://www.hillandalewoodturning.com/)

*Jared Crawford, Class of '02*

Doctor's Brook Native's Education Put to Great Use

*The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has been fishing for officers and found a great catch in the Antigonish area.*



Jared Crawford

Doctor's Brook native Jared Crawford recently began work as a fisheries officer in the Sherbrooke area and is putting years of experience on the water and his education to great use.

"I fished with my father and my uncle commercially since I was a teenager," Jared explained. "I fished lobster, crab, herring and mackerel." After completing high school, Jared said he continued his education at NSAC, where he completed his Bachelor of Science in Aquaculture.

"After that, I went to Memorial (University) in Newfoundland and I did my masters in marine studies—fisheries resource management."

When he completed his masters, Jared said he traveled to Norway, where he did a student internship with the Department of Foreign Affairs. There he did work in marine biology and aquaculture for six months. When he returned home, Jared landed a job with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in St. Andrew's, New Brunswick.

"I worked as a marine finfish technician there," he said. "I think (the internship in Norway) really helped me land the job in New Brunswick."

Last fall, while still in New Brunswick, Jared said he saw an advertisement on the DFO website for a job as a fisheries officer in the area. After completing a number of interviews and tests, Jared was accepted into training in April of this year.

Jared said the training process was long, but very thorough. Officially getting the position hinges on the completion of training, Jared said, but he finished, and graduated in early August. However, he said he didn't mind the training too much, because he was familiar with a lot of the material, thanks to his university education and was accustomed to being out on the water.

Now that he is on the job, Jared said his focus is conservation protection. Jared adds he also deals with conservation inland.

"There's a lot of angling—protecting trout and salmon populations, protecting the habitat. It's about conserving what resources are out there now and protecting them."

*Nicole MacHattie, Class of '07*

Top of the Group

*Nicole MacHattie is part of an elite group. Earlier in the summer she earned her Level A accreditation with the Canadian Pony Club, the top level of achievement in the equestrian group. In non-horsey terms the level of commitment and dedication in achieving the goal is equivalent to earning a black belt in martial arts.*

This year just 19 people nationwide attempted the test - seven in Cookston Ontario, where three passed, including MacHattie and 12 in the west. Results from that test are unavailable.

The 22-year-old, Middleton area woman who did the bulk of her riding at Killeavy Stables, Annapolis County and now studies at the NSAC, got a break this year with a new policy.

"Usually the maximum age for Pony Club is 21, but the group decided to include associate members up to the age of 24. If they kept the old rules I would have been out of luck and never completed Level A."

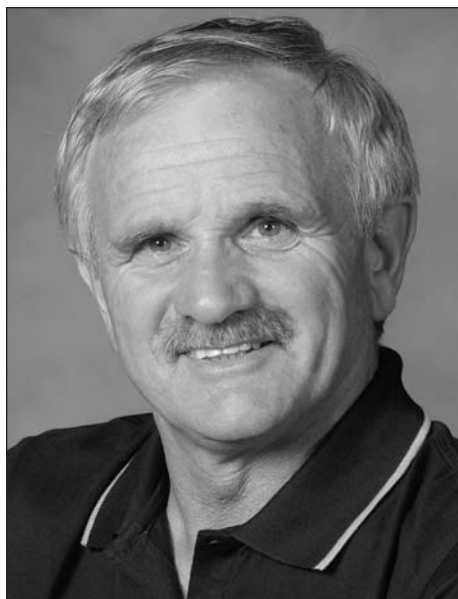
That level includes separate sections for riding (RA) and horsemanship (HA). According to the Pony Club website, a rider must be an all round and effective horseperson: able to carry out basic training of a young horse, capable of correcting faults in an older horse, improving the way it performs, able to ride an unknown horse on the flat and over stadium jumps and capable of performing all movements described in the Manual of Horsemanship. HA, the highest non-riding certificate, tests a candidate's competency in stable management. They must have a high degree of knowledge about equine anatomy, health, feeds and nutrition, illnesses,



*Nicole MacHattie earned A level accreditation in Canadian Pony Club. Pictured with her is Nish a Dutch warmblood mare owned by Amy Skelton, Margaretsville. Spectator photo*

unsoundness and foot knowledge as well as many other items related to the care and management of a stable.

Next on MacHattie's list of goals is getting her level one with the National Coaching Certification Program to allow her to continue working with children, though she insists that coaching for a living is not on her radar screen.



*Ron Sampson*

*Ron Sampson, Class of '70*

Energetic, World Travelling, Udder Health Technologist

Ron Sampson probably starts his day's work earlier than any other government employee.

As an udder health technologist with the APEI Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, he arrives at dairy barns early in the morning to provide one-on-one advice and assistance to producers on udder health and other milk quality issues. Because milking takes place early in the day, Ron's hours begin at milking time.

"Producers appreciate the fact that you are there for them when they need you," he says. It's that kind of commitment that led to his name being suggested by the dairy

industry to represent the Public Sector Union in a featured television ad campaign about provincial employees that go above and beyond the call of duty in service to their clients.

He has not only worked extensively with dairy producers in PEI, but also traveled to Newfoundland four times to work with producers and train staff there, twice to Russia and once spent a three-month stint in China, all doing similar type work.

*Continued on page 7*

**Anne Stone (nee Simmonds), Class of '81**

**Women in a Home Office**

*When women strike out on their own as entrepreneurs there is only one thing missing: a water cooler. It's an essential part of the office environment. Needed not to quench a physical thirst but a social one.*



Anne Stone

It's the place coworkers hang out and brainstorm about everything from current events and restaurant recommendations to work projects and company policy. Becoming an entrepreneur who works from a home office can mean death to water cooler camaraderie. We may revel in the idea of being our own boss and enjoy being able to do a load of laundry in between important sales calls with international clients, but bouncing the ideas for a business plan or marketing strategy off our three-year-old just doesn't cut it. To build a business successfully, we need contact with other adult, like-minded professionals. They are invaluable resources that can validate our decisions or stop us from reinventing the wheel.

*On the surface, Women in a Home Office looks like any other networking organization with monthly or bi-monthly meetings and teleclasses, interesting guest speakers, introductions, and members giving presentations on their specialties.*

The idea for Women in a Home Office was born shortly after her two children. After many years in the corporate world with Kodak in Toronto, Anne traded nine to five and a commute for kids and a contract to work from home. She started meeting other women in her community and found that there was a big void that needed to be filled for women trying to balance their contradictory worlds of freedom and responsibility. They all had an innate need to connect in a caring and supportive environment.

From that first small step of putting an ad in the local paper in 2000, the organization has grown to over 1500 subscribers in 14 locations, spread throughout Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta and it is continuing to grow rapidly. On the surface, Women in a Home Office looks like any other networking organization with monthly or bi-monthly meetings and teleclasses, interesting guest speakers, introductions, and members giving presentations on their specialties. It's when the formal part of the sessions is over that the real

Anne Stone (nee Simmonds) ('81) is an entrepreneur who has found a way to quench that social thirst for peer input and advice. She is the founder of Women in a Home Office, a national networking organization designed to support women who work from home and/or operate a home-based business. The

*Continued on page 29*

**Up in the trees...**

**Alumni passionate about tree-climbing**

Arborists say this is a sport that involves a great deal of skill.

It may be a job for some, but to many members of the International Society of Arborists, tree climbing is a passion. It's those who are most enthusiastic about it who gathered on the grounds of Old Government House on Friday, Sept. 8, to take part in the Atlantic Tree Climbing Championship.

Among the 12 participants showing off their skills was Keanen Jewett,

Class of '00. The arborist with the City of Fredericton has been climbing for seven years and, on Friday afternoon, he became the Atlantic Tree Climbing Champion. That means he will be heading to Hawaii in 2007 to take part in the International Tree Climbing Championships. "I took landscape horticulture and (aboraculture) is one of the programs they offered," he explains. "I got hooked from there." Jewett is quick to add that, "the tree competition is more of a sport than your actual job." He enjoys the competition because it gives him a chance to get together with arborists from all over Atlantic Canada. "There is quite a bit of skill (involved)," he says of tree climbing. "You really don't want to be hanging from 80 feet not knowing your knots." He admits the work he does is unique, but it's something he really enjoys. "It's a job where you can get exercise and have a lot of fun. We all climbed trees as a kid and this way you just get to keep on doing it." He says he climbed trees all the time when he was growing up, but that's a little different than what he's doing now. "They probably weren't this big."



Steve Monroe, Class of '00, another arborist with the city, has been climbing trees for five or six years. "I like to be physical, to be outdoors. The job keeps you active, too. It's a way to keep the pounds off." He does a little bit of climbing when he's not working, he says, but tends to focus on other hobbies. "I've always been interested in the landscaping industry," says Monroe. "Eventually I went to the Agricultural College in Nova Scotia. They had an aboraculture course there as part of the curriculum." Monroe worked for awhile in the US. for a company that only did tree work, so he got lots of experience. "It's fun," he says of his job. He notes that the compe-

*Continued on page 28*



## NSAC Luggage Tags

Traveling abroad or just out of the province? Why not travel in style with NSAC Luggage tags?

If you are an NSAC alumnus, just mail us your business card and we will return to you an NSAC luggage tag, ready to be attached to your luggage — Free-of-charge!\*

Please forward your cards and return address to:

NSAC Alumni Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Truro NS B2N 5E3

\*Limit four per alumnus.



### Ron Sampson continued from page 5

Besides his work in the dairy industry, Ron has worked on many of the programs of the department over a number of years, from the days of family farm program, to clients in the present Future Farmer Program. He has successfully introduced the concept to producer management clubs to Island agriculture and carried out a pilot project testing new ways to bring the services of the department to the farm gate.

Ron has also been energetic in getting groups of producers together to seek out new ideas and information. He has organized and chaired many Island conferences featuring expert speakers from across North America, organized a number of investigative travel trips for groups of producers to see operations in the Maritime provinces, Ontario and Quebec and was also invited to speak at many agriculture courses and meetings on a variety of technical and management subjects.

Ron has been active in a number of other projects involving the dairy industry. He was a member of AVC Research Committee project, looking into ways to prevent off flavors; a member of the NSAC Technical Committee on development and testing methods of milk house waste; a member of the technical committee for the Canadian Quality Milk Program; a member of the planning committee for the National Mastitis Council and chair of the sponsorship committee which raised over \$85,000 for the 2007 Holstein convention. He was also a member of the Canadian Task Team for the On-Farm Quality Assurance Program and lead regarding robotic milking and milk quality issues; a member and regular attendee at the National Mastitis Council meetings; and member and secretary of the Canadian Milking Management Association.

If all that were not enough to fill his professional career, Ron also managed and owned an organic fertilizer company on a part-time

basis for nine years. The company, called P.E.I. Mussel Mud Incorporated, mined 15,000 tonnes of mussel mud from estuaries on PEI which was sold to the agriculture community. Over that time period, 16,000 tonnes of compost, using 15 different ingredients, was made and sold. The company employed five full-time employees.

Ron is looking forward to the new challenges facing the agriculture industry. "I still have a number of ideas on how our department can be more responsive to producers, even with reduced staff," he says. He points to the pilot of a very successful program, modified from a Pennsylvania State University program, in which successful producers mentor a beginning operation as an "advisory team".

"I see a great deal of merit in trying such a program on a larger scale," he says. "Producers have a lot of solid and practical information that can be shared with other producers."

Ron's energy and drive came at an early age. He was the youngest Canadian professional boxing champion and youngest person to be inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame. He was one of four Canadian coaches selected to go to England to take special training under that country's national coach.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Ron is a director of the Queen's County Federation of Wildlife. Other voluntary activities include membership on the advisory committee of the Prince Edward Island Farm Health and Safety Program. He served as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent and worked with a Boy's Club. He also volunteered to offer his services as a composting specialist.

And he still gets up early in the morning, looking forward to what another day will bring. ☺

# Here, there... Everywhere!

## *NSAC Goes Global!*

*If you haven't been to the campus in the last year or two, you will see a difference in the student body since your time here. The number of international students continues to grow, from less than three per cent of the student body to more than six per cent in 2006-2007.*

**Y**ou would also notice that many of these students are from China, the result of the agreement that NSAC signed with the Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University. The first students under this agreement arrived at NSAC in September, 2005.

Read more about this group in the article by our International Student and Exchange Coordinator, Mark Mason. We also welcome students from our partner institution in Jamaica, the College of Agriculture, Science and Education in Port Antonio. (NSAC worked with CASE to develop their Bachelor of Technology program; students from CASE have come to Canada for undergraduate and graduate training.)

Our link with the Agricultural University of Norway has facilitated Norwegian stu-

dents to study at NSAC, with one student coming each semester over the last few years. One to two Canadian students have made reciprocal visits each year, taking courses ranging from aquaculture to international business. The North American Mobility program,

*Although the number of international students is an obvious change on campus, the overall level of internationalization is also increasing.*

last year and three will study abroad in January. A Mexican student is at NSAC now under this agreement. Graduate students also come from a number of countries with the number expected to increase as our faculty continue to develop strong and internationally focussed research

initiatives.

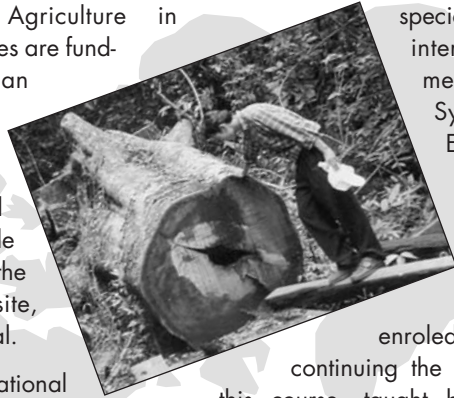
Although the number of international students is an obvious change on campus, the overall level of internationalization is also increasing. NSAC has been involved in international projects for over 25

years. Some of these early links persist in the international projects NSAC currently has in The Gambia and in Ghana. New links have been forged in the last two years by the joint efforts of faculty and the

International staff, led by Mary Breen. NSAC now works with Jimma University College of Agriculture in Ethiopia, and has recently signed a five-year agreement with the



Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia. These initiatives are funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. You can read more about our focus for international projects in Mary's article and find more details on the projects at our website, [www.nsac.ca/international](http://www.nsac.ca/international).



As Mary mentions, international projects can lead to increased opportunities for NSAC faculty, staff and students. A number of our students have been able to obtain international work experience through these projects, including three students in The Gambia and two in Ethiopia, over the last two years. We have used our project in Ghana as the springboard to obtain funding through the Canada Corps program, with two students spending the fall, 2005 semester in Ghana.

Each year a number of students take the Agroecosystems of Cuba study tour led by alumnus Gloria Martin, with some students using this opportunity for course credit. Three students last year completed the new

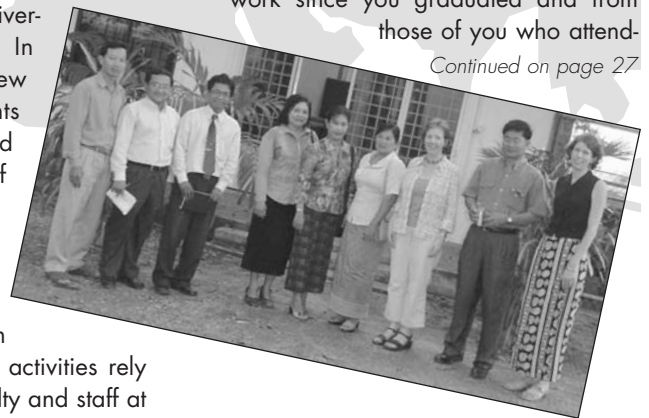
*international projects can lead to increased opportunities for NSAC faculty, staff and students.*

special topics course in international development. Agricultural Systems of Central Europe which includes a study period in Slovakia, Austria and Hungary, had seven students enrolled in Spring 2006, continuing the strong enrollment in this course, taught by Dr. Nabil Rifai. Faculty and staff continue to investigate opportunities for NSAC students to obtain academic credit for courses and study terms. Memoranda of understanding have been signed with a number of international universities. In 2006 new agreements included the Chernihiv State Institute of Economics and Management in the Ukraine, Chiba University in Japan and the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Pakistan. These international activities rely on the strong support of faculty and staff at

NSAC. Experienced individuals bring an international dimension to the teaching at NSAC. It is common to see international case studies and examples used in the classroom. International project participants, both from Canada and from overseas, give seminars and classroom presentations. NSAC recognizes achievements of faculty and staff through the Internationalization Award. The 2006 recipient was Dr. Nabil Rifai; the decision on the recipient is always difficult as there are a large number of worthy candidates.

So how can you as an alumnus assist in the NSAC internationalization effort? We would very much like to hear from those of you who took advantage of international opportunities while you were a student, from those who have taken up international work since you graduated and from those of you who attend

*Continued on page 27*



## International Development

by Mary Breen

*NSAC's international development activities span over 25 years and 25 countries.*

Providing services to international students is often the first thing that comes to mind when people think of International offices in universities. While NSAC International now provides these services, the International office was originally developed as a focal point for international development work. NSAC's international development activities span over 25 years and 25 countries. People often ask us why NSAC engages in International Development activ-


ities. The reasons are numerous and individuals within NSAC also have their own personal motivations.

International development work provides

*International development work provides an opportunity for professional development in the areas of expertise of NSAC faculty and staff.*

an opportunity for professional development in the areas of expertise of NSAC faculty and staff. First-hand knowledge and

experience are exchanged between Canadians and their counterparts in developing countries. In addition, personal development for these individuals through cross-cultural exchanges, travel and the establishment of personal relationships is also a key benefit. Many at NSAC refer to their international experiences as life-altering, giving an understanding and appreciation for different cultures, livelihoods and political systems.



NSAC faculty and staff bring their professional and personal development back to the classroom through their interaction with students and by incorporating international agriculture into the curriculum. This assists with NSAC's internationalization goal to ensure that students and staff are provided with the tools to become leaders in a globalized food system. Some of our projects have also provided opportunities for students to participate directly in international work through work placements overseas, as well as interacting with international scholars who come to NSAC for professional development.

NSAC can build on the relationships established through development projects with universities and colleges to develop collaborative research projects, joint degrees, and opportunities for international students

*Canada's international development mandate is to support sustainable development in order to reduce poverty and contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world.*

to study at NSAC. An example of this is the FAFU 2+2 program, which emanated from the Community Based Conservation Management project. This program has brought large numbers of international students from China to study at NSAC.

There is, however, another important reason for NSAC's international development work - that is to provide service to the global community. Canada's international development mandate is to support sustainable development in order to reduce poverty and contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world. The large pool of expertise and experience in agriculture, the environment, entrepreneurship, aquaculture and engineering available at NSAC can contribute to fulfilling this mandate. We do this by enhancing the capacities in universities, colleges, governmental and non-governmental organizations in the countries where we work.

The following principles, which are endorsed by CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, underlie NSAC's development efforts:



### Local Ownership

The developing country is in the driver's seat. This means that NSAC responds to needs identified by the governments and civil society of our partner countries. The Ethiopian government, for example, prioritizes the need for education and training in agriculture as a means to agricultural development led industrialization (ADLI). NSAC's Agricultural Sustainability project in Ethiopia addresses this priority by enhancing the capacity of JUCAVM staff to train their students in community-based education. These students will, in turn, become teachers of agriculture or agricultural extension workers. [JUCAVM is the Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, our partner in this project.]



### Empowerment

NSAC tries to provide the skills and knowledge required by people in developing countries so that they can adapt and apply them as needed to their circumstances. This enables them to take greater control of their own lives. In the Developing Rural Entrepreneurs project in Ghana, training programs in entrepreneurship address not only the technical knowledge such as business planning, but also the attitudes and characteristics of an entrepreneur which can be applied to many aspects of people's lives.



### Partnership

One of the keys to successful cooperation is strong partnerships. A solid partnership leads to a strong commitment on all sides to achieve the objectives of any development project. Our Ghana project comprises a unique partnership of postsecondary educational institutions, local NGOs and a private consulting company.



### Capacity Development

NSAC acknowledges the substantive capacity that already exists and the valuable local knowledge of our partners. We attempt to develop that capacity further by enhancing the existing skills and knowledge of our partners. This can be done through formal education, training, institutional strengthening, curriculum development, adaptive research, and the transfer of knowledge and know-how. In the Sustainable Food Security project in The Gambia, the last two years have been spent building the capacities within the Gambia College's School of Agriculture in curriculum development. The end result is that a new curriculum, which was developed by the faculty at the School, was piloted in October, 2005.



### Gender Equality

An essential component of all development projects, gender equality is a cross-cutting theme that has long been neglected in agriculture. While women perform the majority of agricultural activities in developing countries, they have less access to and control over resources such as credit, inputs, extension services and land, and they are responsible for both productive and reproductive work within the household. Women are also under-represented in decision-making positions within government and the private sector. Our development project in Cambodia —Agri-Education for Extension - attempts to redress this imbalance by ensuring extension workers are aware of the needs of women in agriculture and by providing leadership training for female students at the Royal University of Agriculture.



### Accountability

NSAC is accountable to the Canadian government which funds most of our development work. We are accountable to Canadian tax payers whose taxes are used for development initiatives. We are accountable to ourselves as an institution. But above all, we are accountable to the women, men and children of our partner countries who are trying to emerge from poverty and improve their livelihoods.



# Precious Cargo arrives at NSAC.....

## 2:35 AM: HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

The Air Canada flight touches down with its precious cargo. Within minutes the sound of many feet and excited voices precede the passengers as they descend the final flight of stairs. Although the excitement is familiar the ring of the voices is not. The precious cargo is 19 international students from Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University in China and they were all speaking their native language! After more than two days in transit and a couple of delays, the largest single group of international students to the Nova Scotia Agricultural College arrived at the Halifax international Airport for the last hour van-ride to campus. The story, however, doesn't start here.



*One precious cargo arrives at NSAC.*

The story starts over five years ago when an agreement was signed between the Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University (FAFU) and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC). The articulation agreement provided for cooperation in several areas between the two universities. Over the last several years faculty and staff from the NSAC have visited China to develop curriculum, deliver courses and recruit students into the FAFU 2+2 program. The 2+2 pro-

gram is a unique opportunity for the Chinese students to commence their first two years of study at FAFU and then complete their degree here at NSAC. Thus the 2+2 concept, two years in China and two years in Canada. As with any agreement it takes time to work out wrinkles that slow the forward process, but the university's management, faculty and staff involved have worked tirelessly to make the program a success. The first FAFU students arrived in August of 2005. Then, in August of 2006 a greater success was heard in the halls of Fraser House residence as the 19 students rolled their luggage up the stairs to their rooms.

## EARLY NEXT MORNING, AUGUST 2006 — COLOURS OF THE WENTWORTH VALLEY .....



The International orientation commenced. Over the next two weeks the 19 students plus Dr. Zonghua Wang, their FAFU faculty representative, were exposed to the culture, sites and foods of Truro and Nova Scotia. Included in the orientation were introductions to the NSAC campus, services, faculty, staff and hospitality. Some of the cultural highlights of the two weeks were trips to Victoria Park, exploring Truro, local games and two wonderful BBQs hosted by NSAC faculty. By the end of the orientation the stu-

dents felt much more comfortable in their new surroundings and had chosen the direction of the next two years of academic studies in collaboration with their advisors. Behind the scenes of the orientation were the people and planning of the International House team. The International team along with the assistance of many of the faculty and staff at the NSAC were able to make the initial time and activities rewarding and fulfilling.

## SEVERAL MONTHS LATER... FROSH WEEK ACTIVITIES .....

The students have faced many challenges and have achieved much success in their studies and acclimatization. With the support of the International Student Coordinator, International House team and the cooperation of all departments at NSAC, the program continues to unfold. Although the FAFU group is the largest on campus many other international students attend NSAC each year. All of these students, whether from Jamaica, Mexico or Britain, contribute to the Internationalization

*Continued on page 23*





### A Gift of Property to NSAC



*Gifts of Property, or as it is sometimes called, Gifts in Kind, can have an important benefit for NSAC and the person making the donation to NSAC.*

Examples of gifts of property include real estate, equipment, art, books and documents and live animals. Time and services are not considered property and ARE NOT eligible for receipting under Canada Revenue Agency rules. NSAC will accept gifts of real property as charitable donations if such property is consistent with NSAC's investment or collection aims.

NSAC has a simple procedure to follow before a gift-in-kind is accepted. The first is that the merit of the gift must be determined. Gifts of art will be approved by the President while gifts of books, manuscripts, documents, etc. will be approved by the NSAC Chief Librarian. Other gifts of property must be approved by the Vice-President Administration and/or Vice-President Academic in consultation with the appropriate expert faculty or staff member.

The Development Office is the only body at NSAC that can issue an official tax receipt for a gift of property and for new items it requires a copy of an itemized invoice from the company donating the goods indicating that the invoice is not to be paid and documentation showing that NSAC has actually taken receipt of the goods. For used goods received it must be provided with an independent appraisal from a reputable appraiser of the items being donated or, if the gift is \$1,000 or less in value, appraisal from a qualified NSAC staff member.

In general the appraiser should not be associated with either the donor or NSAC. Dealers, appraisers and other individuals knowledgeable about the market value of the object being donated may

give a written expert evaluation. If finding an independent appraiser is difficult, or involves unwarranted expense, the Canada Revenue Agency will consider an appraisal done by qualified NSAC staff members, even though the value might be more than \$1,000;

The appraisal must be an estimate of the fair market value of the object as of the date of the donation. Although the term "fair market value" is not defined in the Income Tax Act, the generally accepted meaning is the price the property would bring in an open market transaction between a willing buyer and a willing seller, acting independently of each other, and each having full knowledge of the facts.

NSAC has had some significant gifts-in-kind in recent years. We have received the gift of a piece of woodland property donated by Dr. Harold Chute (Class of '44) as well as a valuable book collection given by Don Hilton. Important laboratory equipment was donated by both the Atlantic Cat Hospital and Doug Conley.(Class of '54) . In October, Dupont Canada presented Dr. David Percival with the gift of a Great Plot Tender 22 self-propelled field sprayer (seen above) that will be used in support of the wild blueberry program.

Gifts of property can significantly enhance programs at NSAC as well as meet objective of donors. If you have questions about donations of property to NSAC, contact the Development Office at (902) 893-6721. [Development@nsac.ca](mailto:Development@nsac.ca).

## Heard You Were Talking About Us—Keep It Up!

*Students were asked how they heard about NSAC and the number one reason students gave was word of mouth.*

During the first semester of the 2006-2007 academic year, a survey was completed by a sample of first year NSAC students. Students were asked how they heard about NSAC and the number one reason students gave was word of mouth (parents, friends, alumni, etc.). A similar study was conducted in the fall of 2003 and 2004, and again word of mouth was reported as the main channel that students heard about NSAC.

We take a great deal of pride in the fact that many of our students find us because of

someone else's recommendation. If you are one of these people that share your positive NSAC experiences with potential students—Thank you. NSAC is a small institution compared to many other universities in the region and sometimes it is difficult to get on the radar screens of students who are shopping for a university education. It is a challenge that marketing and recruitment face regularly, but approach with a lot of enthusiasm because like you, we believe in our school.

Marketing will continue to use a combination of approaches to generate awareness and support recruitment efforts. As you can tell from the survey results, grassroots efforts need to be an important piece of NSAC's promotional mix. The role that alumni play

in promoting NSAC is a vital one. Like any service, positive endorsements go a long way. Think of the last time you needed to find a service provider, how did you go about it? I bet you asked at least one person where they go for the same service, whether it is car repair, dry cleaning or a hair cut. And as the cost of that service goes up, so does the risk associated with making the right decision. When selecting a university you are investing a lot of time and money, so you want to make the best possible decision. Hearing from someone else who has already had experience with making that decision and using the service can have a lot of weight.

Alumni play a vital role in NSAC's marketing efforts and we encourage you to talk

*Continued on page 29*



# Fat Taxes to Control Obesity

*Will taxing high fat or unhealthy foods aid in the battle against obesity? Researchers at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College say no.*

Obesity and in particular, childhood obesity, is an increasingly important health issue facing Canadians. The National Population Health Survey finds that 30.5 per cent of Canadians between 20 and 64 are obese (Statistics Canada, 1995) with rates rising among children and teenagers.



Dr. J. Stephen Clark

Dr. J. Stephen Clark, of the Agriculture and Resource Economics Research Group in the Department of Business and Social Sciences at NSAC was recently invited to give expert testimony to the Parliamentary Committee on Childhood Obesity. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Health invited Dr. Clark to participate in the "Economic incentives and disincentives" part of the Committee's work on Childhood Obesity on October 5, 2006.

Advocates of fat taxes suggest that taxing unhealthy or high fat foods will discourage unhealthy eating choices and mitigate obesity by lowering the amount of fat consumed. There are two kinds of proposed taxes, ad valorem and excise taxes. An ad valorem tax is applied to a particular commodity group such as "junk food" and "fast foods." An excise tax is applied to the nutrient



content of food or rather all foods would be taxed by the percentage of fat in the foods themselves.

"Key to understanding how fat taxes could affect the intake of fat is recognizing that, when you tax a food group like "junk food", you are taxing junk food and not the fat content of junk food" explained Dr. Clark.

The problem is that a food group contains numerous foods, all of which have different fat contents. Furthermore, within every food group, the foods that have a lower fat content tend to be higher priced, higher quality foods and tend to be more expensive to produce. Lower fat foods are considered to be higher quality because consumers are aware that eating too much fat can cause health problems.

"The increase in price of the overall food group will not stop consumers from eating food within that food group; however it will cause consumers to try to lower the impact of the tax by substituting low price, low quality foods for high priced, high quality foods within that food group, he added. "These low quality foods also tend to be the highest fat. Therefore, increasing the price of the overall food group using fat taxes will cause consumers to eat higher fat, lower quality

*Continued on page 22*

## Vegetation Management arrives in the Atlantic Provinces

*Over the past 30 to 40 years, herbicides have been the number one method used to destroy weeds in the wild blueberry and carrot industries. Producers have now reported the recommended rates of herbicides are not getting rid of the weeds.*

Continually spraying large amounts of herbicides on fields has not only allowed some weed species to survive but has resulted in fields with little or no vegetation. Therefore, the wild blueberry and carrot industries are trying to find different ways of eliminating weeds without decreasing profits. The industries predict that weed control will be a problem in the future but they want to reduce its herbicide usage by 40 per cent. The person they have chosen to look at reducing herbicide usage and to find environmentally friendly methods of weed control is Dr. Nathan Boyd, Class of '00, a new assistant professor and Vegetation Management Research Chair (VMRC) at NSAC.

Dr. Boyd joined the NSAC staff in early 2006 with a Ph.D in weed science from the University of Manitoba. With an extensive background in plant physiology and weed science, he has organized a research program looking to develop cutting edge and

environmentally friendly weed control methods which use little or no herbicides.

"Vegetation management combines integrated techniques and approaches to control weeds and manage crops. We look at everything from herbicides to cultural techniques. By studying general plant biology and ecology we can incorporate this knowledge with new technologies to manage different plant populations," Dr. Boyd explains. The research program will give the wild blueberry and carrot industries new weed control choices, application methods and the information needed to make weed management systems successful.

Dr. Boyd is currently working on a number of projects, which are primarily funded by Oxford Frozen Foods. He is trying to discover new plant species that may be able to promote the growth of blueberries and carrots, while minimizing weed growth. Trials are being con-

*Continued on page 28*

# The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children and NSAC

*What does the NSAC and the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children (NSHCC) have in common? At first glance, perhaps not much.*

The NS Home for Colored Children was established in the early part of the 20th century to provide care for black orphans and neglected children since they were not accepted in white institutions. The specialized facility outside Cole Harbour is sensitive to the needs of boys, girls and families and to Nova Scotia's Black community. The Home is still in existence today, though it is no longer exclusive to black children. NSAC on the other hand has provided education and advanced training for the agriculture sector in the region for over 100 years from its base of operation in Truro.

The answer is Dr. Melville Cumming, the first principal of NSAC. Dr. Cumming succeeded Henry G. Bauld as President of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children and served from 1948 - 1966.

Born in Stellarton, Nova Scotia, he graduated from Dalhousie University in 1897. After graduation, he worked his family farm in Pictou County and became a herdsman on the model farm in Truro. He attended the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph and Iowa State College in the United States, where he earned a Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture degree.

Dr. Cumming returned to Nova Scotia in 1905. Upon his arrival, he became the first Principal of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, a position he held for the next 42 years. In 1907 he was elected Secretary of Agriculture for Nova Scotia and held that position for 20 years. He then was Director of Marketing in Nova Scotia from 1927 to 1934. Known as "Mr. Agriculture", Cumming combined his primary interest in the improvement of animal husbandry and dairying in his



*The answer is Dr. Melville Cumming, the first principal of NSAC. Dr. Cumming succeeded Henry G. Bauld as President of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children and served from 1948 - 1966.*

home province with a lifetime concern over humanitarian issues. It was the latter that drew him to the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children, where he initiated a scientific experimental produce farm.

Dr. Cumming had been associated with the Home for Coloured Children and its farm operation since 1932. Through the combined expertise of Dr. Cumming and Ross Kinney, a leading member of the African United Baptist Association and founder of the Home for Colored Children, the farm played a crucial role in the further progress of the Home. By the 1950s, the farm had expanded to 70 acres of land, 200 to 300 pigs, 20 cows and thousands of chickens. In its best year it generated an income of \$55,000.

In recognition of his contribution to the Home, a brick addition was built in 1961 and named in honour of Dr. Cumming. The Cumming Annex included sleep quarters, enlarged dining room facilities, modernized kitchen and a basement gymnasium. It was used extensively until 1978 when the Home relocated its operations to a new group home facility. The Cumming Annex, vacated for two decades, was demolished during the summer of 2000.

While the produce farm ceased operations decades ago, those associated with the NSHCC remember the contributions of Dr. Cumming. NSAC and NSHCC have recently held discussions on how they might celebrate some of the aspects of this association and what might be done together in the future. The idea of resurrecting community garden efforts have been discussed.

Dr. Cumming would be pleased. ☺

## NSAC Leading the Pack!

### *Enrolment up by five per cent*

*NSAC is enjoying a nearly five per cent increase in overall enrolment for the 2006-2007 academic year; the third such increase the university has experienced since 2003-2004.*

NSAC's Registrar Wayne Paquet explains that "our overall enrolment has increased from 758 students to 793 students to date. This, at a time when most of our sister institutions are reporting a decline, is very impressive."

The university has also experienced a 20 per cent increase in the number of first-time students to its campus which can be attributed to a variety of factors including transfer students from other campuses.

"Students, in this day and age, can be very transient, experiencing multiple universities before committing to one where they feel most comfortable," explains Paquet. "NSAC's small class sizes and 12:1 student to professor ratio can be very appealing compared to other, much larger universities."

As well, the university welcomed one of its largest influxes of international students to campus this fall. Forty-eight students are calling NSAC home this year including students from China, Norway, Mexico, Japan and Rwanda.

Managing enrolment is an ongoing endeavor involving the entire campus. "Having prospective students consider our campus and to enrol in one of our programs is wonderful but it is only half of the equation," added Paquet. "Now we have to ensure that our students have a positive and productive experience and remain at NSAC throughout their program of study." ☺



# Cultivating Hope

10 Years of Horticulture Training at Nova Institution for Women

*"With a garden, there is hope." -Grace Firth*

*The horticulture training program fits in well with Nova's philosophy that helping women find jobs will enable them to contribute positively to the community upon release.*



*Through the program, the women learn to love fresh vegetables and healthy eating promotes healthier lifestyles.*

*The students in the horticulture training program are proud of their landscaping work, displayed in the Nova Institution's centre court.*

The women are celebrating on the day I visit the Horticulture Training Program at the Nova Institution for Women in Truro, Nova Scotia. At a small, informal ceremony, they receive their Certificates in Landscape Installation Techniques and proudly tell me about what they have accomplished.

NSAC's Centre for Continuing and Distance Education (CDE) has played a pivotal role in the program since its inception in 1996. CDE designed the program and its curriculum and provides experienced horticulturalists to teach the courses as well as regular guest speakers, who offer expertise on particular topics.

The Horticulture Training Program fits in well with Nova's philosophy that helping women find jobs will enable them to contribute positively to the community upon release. "Horticulture is a high-employment area," says Marlene H.G. Wells, Program Coordinator for the Nova Institution. "The skills the women gain through the program help them acquire employment or further their education upon release."

Employment skills are a definite priority for the women who participate in the program. Karen, an inmate in her 20s, says that she is convinced that successful reintegration hinges on finding employment. "If we get out and can't find jobs, we re-offend," she says.

Sherry says she was worried about finding a job upon release, but she is more confident now. "When I get out, I can make some calls, maybe get a job working in greenhouses or in a store that sells plants and flowers," she says.

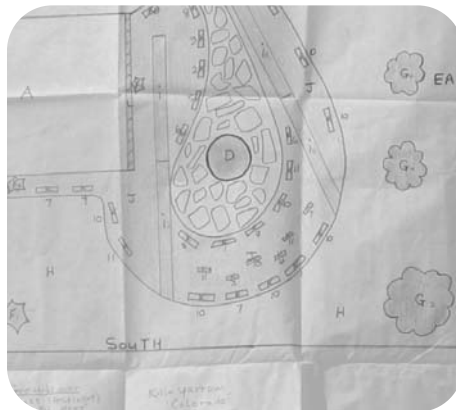
There is more to this program than employment skills, however, and the women are quick to point that out. "It's therapeutic," says Rhonda, an older woman who is nearing her release. "I want to weed and I want to mulch because then I see the final product and I'm proud of what I've accomplished," says Kate, a soft-spoken woman in her 30s.

## Healthy Choices

At Nova, inmates earn their own spending money, order their own groceries and prepare their own food. "Through the Horticulture

program, the women learn that vegetables are a healthier and more cost-effective option," says Lana Chisholm, Program Instructor of the Horticultural Training at Nova. "Healthier eating in turn promotes healthier ways of living,"

Gardening is a life skill, explains Chisholm, one that students are anxious to apply outside the walls of the facility. "Anybody can plant a garden and grow their own food," says Kate.



Chisholm says that, with each participant, there is a turning point in the program, that moment of epiphany when the seed of hope gets planted in their minds. As part of Nova's approach to corrections, life on the inside reflects community living. Inmates earn their own money to buy the things they want. Attending the horticulture program is one way to earn a wage. "At the beginning, some are there for the money," Chisholm says. "But then you capture their attention, and they start to see the possibilities. Suddenly, they just start dreaming about the future."

"They see the possibility of getting out and finding a job—something that may have seemed unattainable before," says Chisholm.

## Applied Learning

The program incorporates book learning and lectures with applied knowledge and hands-on experience. As part of the program, the women are encouraged to advocate for extra equipment and supplies that they feel will enhance their learning in the program. "They recently were successful in submitting a proposal to the warden to expand their vegetable garden by 50 percent," says Chisholm. "They worked together to write the proposal and met with staff to explain their needs."

*Continued on page 29*

# Dairy Research in Ethiopia: *a Transforming Experience*

by Mariela Frits

*Murray Gillies is only 21 but he has had the opportunity to see a different world already.*

He went to Ethiopia for three months to do research as part of his undergraduate thesis for the Bachelor of Agricultural Science program he is taking at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

Gillies and Carley Thomas, a fellow student from NSAC, were selected to travel to Ethiopia through NSAC's Agricultural Sustainability project, which is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The project aims to contribute to Ethiopia's poverty reduction program by increasing agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers, by promoting gender equality in agricultural activities and by providing access to training. The funds covered his ticket and vaccinations while the university in Ethiopia provided accommodations and food.

"Our college partnered up with the Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary medicine in Ethiopia," said Gillies.



*Continued on page 27* Murray Gillies and Carley Thomas with new Ethiopian friends.

## *Class of '56 Plunges into the Issues of Rural Water Supply and Management*

*In celebration of their 50th anniversary at NSAC, members of the Class of 1956 established a class fund with the goal of raising \$50,000 in support of water quality and water supply issues in Atlantic Canada.*

Their first class initiative was a rural water management symposium and discussion workshop held on November 8th and 9th at the university entitled "Water Management: Understanding Issues in the Rural Context".

The event, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, explored water policy issues facing the agricultural sector in the Maritimes and featured presentations by water experts from across North America. More than 150 people in



*Class of 1956*

attendance were given a unique opportunity to hear experts on topics covering the geology, economic, social and physical nature of water supply and demand, the policy development process and the ramifications of water regulation in the agricultural sector.

The overall message of the day was the need for the farm population to participate in water policy planning and development for agricul-

ture. Michael Langman, of Nova Scotia Environment and Labour, emphasized that to effectively share water as a resource, the community's real needs must be articulated and there has to be cooperation between policy makers and industry during the policy development process. Ron Bonnett, President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, stressed that the key to success in cooperative water management is for the government to allow and facilitate the full involvement of farmers through their organizations. He added that governments need to recognize that the farm community has a strong environmental ethic, a wealth of knowledge on physical processes and the motivation to ensure that the quality and quantity of our water resources are maintained or enhanced over time.

Dr. Larry Antosch, Director of Environmental Policy at the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, provided a model policy development framework that supports active engagement from the agricultural community. His presentation "Engaged or Outraged? The Choice is Yours," outlined some key principles for productive rural com-

munity involvement in water policy planning. He said that farmers must be involved in targeting issues of priority, in developing policy solutions and in creating an environment of trust and comfort.

Day two saw 40 invited farm sector leaders (including Bill Swetnam, Gilbert

Allan and Carl Levo from the Class of 56) discuss the state of water policy development in Atlantic Canada with symposium speakers. The idea of farmers being pro-active players in water policy development and in defining the water needs of the farm sector was the key theme for the day. The day long discussions were facilitated by Paul Cormier of RANA International.

*Continued on page 30*

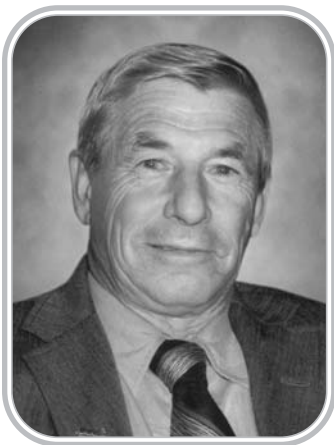
# Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame

## 2006 Inductees

The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame was established by the Atlantic Livestock Council in 1968 as a means of honouring individuals in Atlantic Canada for their contribution to the development of the livestock industry in the region. Each year, one person from each of the four Atlantic Provinces is honoured at an induction ceremony and reception held at the NSAC during the month of October.

The 2006 nominees include NSAC alumni Jack Johnson, NS, Class of 1950; Walter Fiander, NL Class of 1958, the late Colbourne Clow, PE Class of 1960 and Robert Acton, NB.

The 2006 nominees include NSAC alumni Jack Johnson, NS, Class of 1950; Walter Fiander, NL Class of 1958, the late Colbourne Clow, PE Class of 1960 and Robert Acton, NB.



**Robert R. Acton**  
New Brunswick

Robert Acton's contributions to the well being of his industry and his community can best be described as generous and unwavering. His knowledge of the industry and his expertise as a stockman, livestock judge and cattle buyer have made him a valuable resource person in animal industry circles both near and far.



**Jack D. Johnson**  
Nova Scotia

Jack Johnson has played a key role in the development of the crop and livestock industry in NS and also on a national level. While employed full time with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing, he operated the family farm in Onslow for over 30 years.



**Walter H. Fiander**  
Newfoundland & Labrador

Walter Fiander is widely known and respected by the farmers and the agricultural sector, both within NL and across Canada. He was the owner/operator of Avalon Farm Supplies from 1975-1985.



**A. Colbourne Clow**  
Prince Edward Island

The late Colbourne Clow farmed at his fifth generation home farm since 1962. He was the founding member of the Purebred Poultry Association and was an official judge for Holstein Canada.

The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame operates as a result of the support given by agricultural organizations, public agencies, corporations and private individuals. Complete citations can be viewed at: [nsac.ca/halloffame](http://nsac.ca/halloffame)

## NSAC Receives a Proof-of-Concept Fund Award



Developing a biological method to control common weeds associated with agricultural production has earned the NSAC a Proof-of-Concept award valued at \$20,000 from Springboard Atlantic Inc. programs.

With a mandate to increase commercialization of academic research, each year Springboard provides \$20,000 for promising early stage inventions through its Proof-of-Concept Program and \$10,000

for investment-ready technologies through its Patent and Legal Fund.

NSAC Professor Glen Sampson received a Proof-of-Concept program award valued at \$20,000

for his research proposal entitled *Mycroherbicides for use on Gallium species in Canada*.

The award will enable Professor Sampson and his team to devel-

*Continued on page 28*

# Homecoming Weekend 2006

Alumni and their families were welcomed back to the NSAC October 20-21 2006 for the annual Fall Homecoming Weekend.

It was also varsity alumni reunion weekend as well as College Royal. There was great attendance at the Blue & Gold Awards brunch held in Jenkins Hall and the Class of 1946 received their 60 year anniversary pins from NSAC President Philip Hicks.

Stay tuned, all those celebrating an anniversary in 2007 (Class years ending in 2 and 7) will be contacted soon, to begin the

process of organizing their classes to return to campus. This year, campus will be open for the day - Friday, October 19th with events planned for alumni, culminating in the Blue & Gold Awards program on Saturday. Keep posted to the alumni website for details as they develop. If you are interested in helping to organize your class, please contact us as alumni@nsac.ca

## Class Shield Winners

Class Shield Awards were presented to those class years with the most graduates in attendance during Homecoming weekend.



Intermediate Class Shield winners were members of the Class of 1956.



The Senior Class Shield award was presented to the Class of 1946.



Winners of the Junior Class shield award were members of the Class of 1966.

## 2006 Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award



The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Sherry Porter, Class of 1975.

A generosity of spirit and an unending desire to give back, best characterizes NSAC alumnus Sherry Porter, Class of 1975, our 2006 Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award recipient.

The concept of giving back is important to Sherry as evidenced by her wide variety of community involvement. She is incapable of being marginally involved in an organization and she and her husband Doug are very generous to all organizations in which they are involved and understand that it is very important to lead by example. She is a wonderful ambassador for NSAC.

Sherry Porter

For her generosity of spirit, her unending desire to give back and the many contributions she has made to her community, Sherry Porter is the ideal recipient of the Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award.

For her generosity of spirit, her unending desire to give back and the many contributions she has made to her community, Sherry Porter is the ideal recipient of the Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award.

## The 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Alton McEwen

Growing up on a dairy farm in Ormstown, Quebec, provided a good foundation of basic skills for what would become a very successful career for Alton McEwen in the food business. His sense of



Alton McEwen

timing, the importance of making hay while the sun shines, the need to get a job done and get it done well, the nature of a business, the essence of good inter-personal relations and above all, the critical role of good management can likely all be traced back to that farming experience.

Alton brought those basic skills to NSAC with him and reinforced them with technical and scientific knowledge, graduating with a diploma in agriculture in 1964. He later earned

his Bachelor of Science in Food Management from Macdonald College of McGill University in 1966. With his bundle of knowledge and skills in hand, Alton then got on the fast track to a long and distinguished career.

## Blue & Gold Awards Presented at Homecoming 2006

As part of Homecoming 2006, a Blue and Gold Awards brunch was held to honour the many accomplishments of our alumni membership. Awards were presented for the Alumni Volunteer of the Year and Distinguished Alumnus Award. Full citations for the award winners can be viewed on the alumni website at [nsac.ca/alumni/awards](http://nsac.ca/alumni/awards).

## Alumni Services

Were you aware that the NSAC Alumni Office is ready and willing to help you organize your next class reunion or event?

If you are interested in bringing your class together for a reunion, please let the alumni office know at [alumni@nsac.ca](mailto:alumni@nsac.ca) or by phoning (902) 893-6721. We can help you with your preparations by providing class lists, booking rooms, sending letters to classmates and so on. We are here to help. Let us know what you need.

## Alumni E-News

Distributed monthly via e-mail, the Alumni E-News is a centennial project aimed at keeping alumni up-to-date with news from the university including important announcements, student and alumni achievements, athletic news and upcoming events. You will still receive your alumni magazine, the Agricola News, by mail, free-of-charge.

In this monthly, electronic newsletter you'll find brief news items and for most, a link to our alumni website for more detailed information. To ensure you receive your monthly Alumni E-News, please make sure the Alumni Office is aware of your E-mail address by simply sending us a brief e-mail to [alumni@nsac.ca](mailto:alumni@nsac.ca) or by calling (902) 893-7247.

## The Nomination Process

Please consider nominating a deserving individual for our 2007 celebration. You may do so online at [nsac.ca/alumniawards.asp](http://nsac.ca/alumniawards.asp) or by calling the alumni office at (902) 893-7247

2007

# Calendar of Events

President's List . . . . .	February 7th
Woodsmen's Weekend . . . . .	February 10
Founders Day . . . . .	February 14
NSAC University Day . . . . .	March 5
AC Theatre Society Production . . . . .	March 1, 2 and 3
Convocation . . . . .	May 4th
Canada-Wide Science Fair . . . . .	May 12-20th
NSAC Open House . . . . .	July 26
Alumni Summer Reunion Program . . . . .	July 26th
NSAC Agri-Golf Classic . . . . .	July 27th
Homecoming Weekend . . . . .	October 19th -20
Varsity Alumni Weekend . . . . .	October 20th
Autumn Assembly . . . . .	October 25th
Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame . . . . .	October 25th

## Upcoming Alumni Gatherings....

There will be a "mini" summer homecoming held on **Thursday July 26th** to coincide with NSAC's annual Open House and Agri-Golf Classic. The NSAC Alumni Family Barbeque will be held in the Alumni Gardens beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Alumni will have the opportunity to tour campus during our open house, visit with retired faculty and staff and enjoy the grounds of campus. Please keep posted to our website for further details as they develop and plan to attend this summer reunion.

Many NSAC alumni also attend the Agri-Golf Classic to be held this year in Memramcook New Brunswick, **Friday, July 27th**. Keep posted to the NSAC website and Alumni E-News for further details as they develop.



# Homecoming Weekend October 19-20, 2007



# Convocation 2006

## Governor General's Medal Winners



Dr. Philip Hicks, President, NSAC, is shown with the 2006 Governor General's Medals recipients. Recipient of the Bronze Governor General's Medal was Stephanie Appleby-Jones, Fall River, NS, a High Honours graduate of the Environmental Horticulture Technology program; Emily Fraser, Dartmouth, NS, a High Honours graduate from the B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science program, was recipient of the Silver Governor General's Medal; Emily also received the K.S. Marchant Award for a Degree student; and recipient of the Gold Governor's General Medal was Gaye MacDonald, Brookfield, NS, a graduate of the NSAC/Dalhousie Master of Science program.

## Award Winners, May '06 Convocation



Numerous award winners were announced during Convocation in May 2006. Student presentations included—Front Row: Kathryn Farrell, Truro, NS, who received the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society Book Prize. Kathryn graduated with Honours from the B.Sc.(Agr.) program, Agricultural Economics program; Megan Anthony, Maitland, NS, received the Ketchum Manufacturing Company Limited Prize. Megan was a High Honours graduate from the B.Sc.(Agr.) program, Animal Science option. Back Row: Denise Zwanepol, Bridgewater, NS, was the recipient of the Novartis Award. Denise graduated with High Honours graduate of the Animal Health Technology program; and Sally Wilson, Rexton, NB, recipient of the Klaus de Geus Memorial Prize for Plant Science. Sally was a High Honours graduate of the Plant Science Technology program. Sally also received the Noel Enman Memorial Award.

## Two Honourary Doctorate Awards



Two honorary doctorates awarded this year at NSAC. Dr. Murray McLaughlin, who graduated from NSAC in 1966, completed his B.Sc. at McDonald College (McGill University) and eventually went on to receive both his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Dr. McLaughlin also presented the Convocation Address this year. A second Honourary Doctorate was awarded to Richard J. "Dick" Huggard, who graduated from NSAC in 1956, and received his B.Sc. (Agr.) in Animal Husbandry from Macdonald College, followed by his M.Sc. degree in Animal Nutrition from the University of Illinois in 1965. Dr. Philip Hicks, President, NSAC, is shown offering congratulations.

## Class of '06 Life Executive & Valedictorian



Jeff Morton, President NSAC Alumni Association and Environmental Horticulture Instructor, accompanies Valedictorian and Life Executive award winners for a photo. Marco Gehrig, Saint John, NB, an Honours graduate of the B.Sc.(Agr) program, Animal Science option, was elected Valedictorian of the Class of 2006; Emily Nicks, New Glasgow, NS, was elected Life Secretary of the Class of 2006. Emily graduated of the B.Sc.(Agr.) program, Agricultural Economics option; Nicolas Roy, Fort Ellis, NS, was elected Life President of the Class of 2006 by fellow classmates. Nicolas was a B.Sc. (Agr.), Agricultural Business graduate.

## The '06 Faculty Teaching Award



The 2006 recipients of the NSAC Faculty Teaching Awards were Dr. Jim Duston, Associate Professor; and Gail Weeks-Bouma, Teaching Assistant, Animal Science, NSAC Class of 1995. Linda Jack, Chair (Class of 1980), Instructional Development Committee, is shown offering congratulations.

## The '06 Faculty Research Award



The 2006 recipient of the NSAC Faculty Research Award was Dr. David Percival, Associate Professor, Environmental Services. Dr. Glenn Stratton, Professor and Department Head, Environmental Sciences, is shown offering congratulations. (F)



# Summer Reunion 2006

The Class of '51 celebrated its 55th reunion on July 27 when NSAC held its annual Open House. A dinner meeting was held at the Best Western at which 11 Degree and Advanced Farm Class members plus spouses were present. Win Langille also joined the group as he has at previous reunions. Also Bob and Vickie Hanes were guests.



## Reunion '06

Front Row, (L to R) Win Langille, Bill MacDonald, Ken MacKay, Don Beeler, Lew Ricketson

Back Row, (L to R) Bob Horsburgh, Vaughn Nichols, Dick Morton, Floyd Smith, Mac Eaton, John Roope, Karl Winter

Most of the Class met again for brunch on the 28th hosted by Don and Margie Beeler at their cottage near Brule.

## The Class of '56

Twenty-three members of the Class of '56 met in Truro during the NSAC Open House event and visited that weekend, bringing along their spouses to catch up with old friends and professors. Celebrating their 50th reunion, class members came from BC, Alberta, Ontario, NB and across NS. One class member even came all the way from Connecticut.

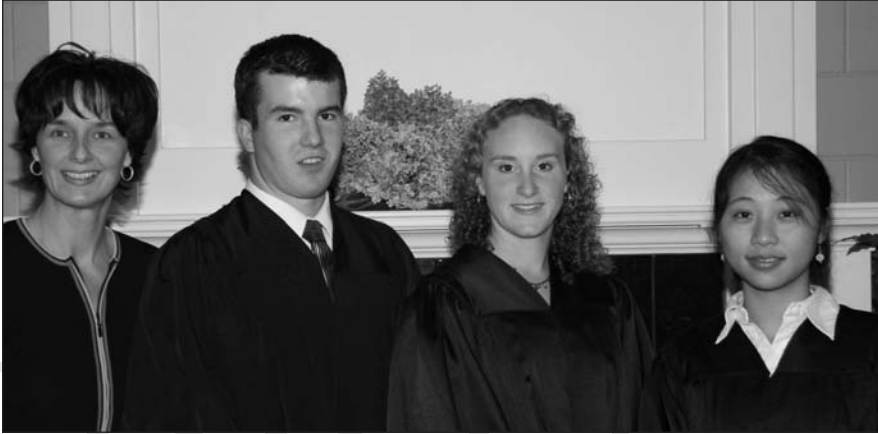
The group gathered to take in the festivities of the Open House event and held a class meeting that evening. One highlight of the reunion was a visit to the Bio-Environmental Engineering Centre at the AgriTECH Park where Dr. Rob Gordon, with other speakers, outlined many of the programs and projects undertaken by BEEC.

The Class of '56 is a sponsor of a Water Quality Management Symposium to take place November 8th and 9th. Several former professors were guests at the anniversary dinner held in Jenkins Hall Friday evening and a brunch was held Saturday morning at the home of Douglas and Shirley Byers in West New Annan which brought the reunion to a delicious close.

Plans have been made to hold an informal gathering next summer in New Brunswick. (F)



# Autumn Assembly



## Alumni Funded Scholarships

Stephanie Rogers, Coordinator, Alumni and Public Relations, is shown with students receiving alumni funded scholarships. Recipients included—Nathan Roberts, Great Village, NS, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student, who received the \$1,700 A.C. Neish Memorial Trust Scholarship; Laura Coulter, Halifax, NS, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student, recipient of a \$600 Angus & Tena MacLellan Memorial Scholarship; Shuyi Cheng, Xiamen, Fujian Province, China, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Environmental Sciences student, who received the \$100 Dr. Kenneth Cox Memorial Scholarship.



## Rick Russell Memorial Bursary

Barry Russell, NSAC Class of 1976, attended recent Autumn Assembly exercises at NSAC to present the \$500 Rick Russell Memorial Bursary to Kyley Cole, Middle Musquodoboit, NS, a second year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student, active on the NSAC's Woodsmen team.



## Class of 1950 Bursary

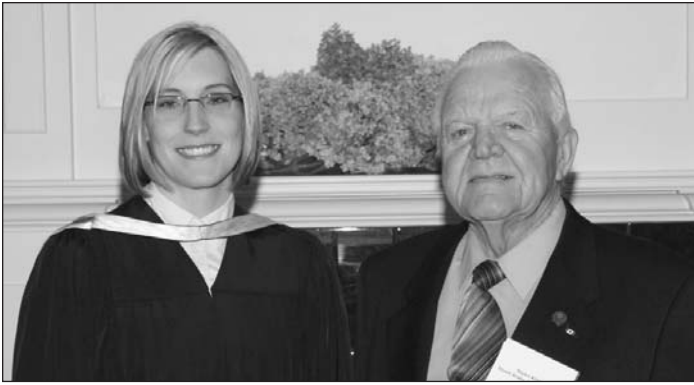
Fred Walsh presented the \$1,000 Class of 1950 bursary to the 2006 recipient, Sharlene Rowe, Brown's Town, Enfield, St. Mary, Jamaica. Sharlene is a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student at NSAC.



## Alumni Association Scholarships

Jim Goit, Executive Director, Development and External Relations, NSAC, is shown congratulating the 2006 recipients of \$1,000 NSAC Alumni Association Scholarships. Laura Bokma, Shubenacadie, NS, a first year B.Sc.(Agr.) student and Alison Walsh, Charlottetown, PE, a first year Veterinary Technology student. Congratulations to both students. Alison also received a \$500 Co-op Atlantic Bursary.






### Stuart & Ruth Allaby Graduate Scholarship

NSAC Class of 1949 member, Stuart Allaby, is shown congratulating this year's recipient, Krista Budgell, Hardwoodlands, NS, an M.Sc. student at NSAC, on receiving the \$1,000 scholarship. Stuart Allaby established this scholarship to recognize and support an M.Sc. student concentrating on Animal Research.



of the campus through their daily class routine and activities. Many of the international students participate on the varsity sports teams and bring their uniqueness and skills to the pitch or court. Stories have circulated of the international students' experiences in the adventure club as they camped out overnight or hiked through the wilderness. Each international student brings his or her personal touch to the NSAC campus. Even if their stay is for a semester while on an exchange program, the campus is changed. 'Embrace Your World,' is aptly applied when speaking of the international students. When a unique corner of the world is sitting in the desk next to you, it is much easier to grow as a global citizen. 



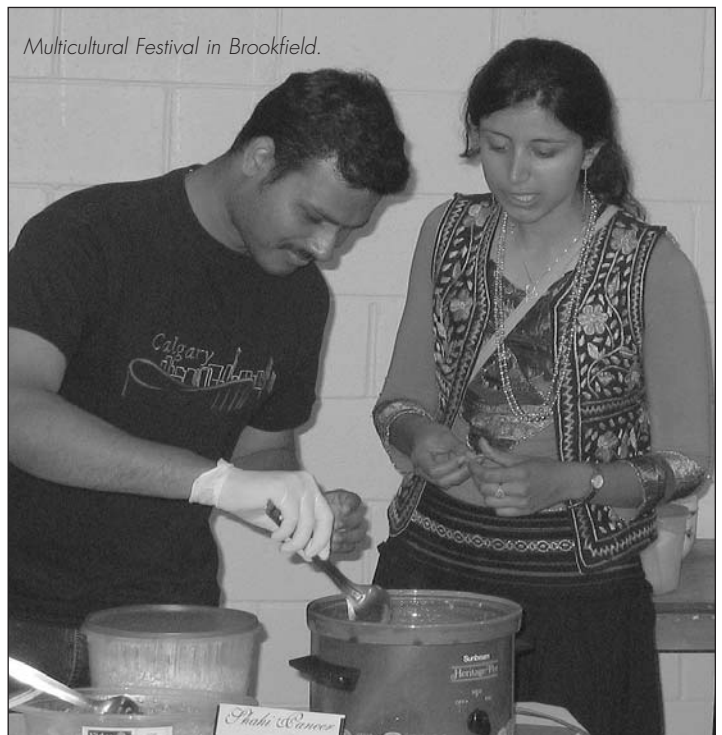
## In Memorium

October 1, 2004 - October 1, 2005

The university, along with the NSAC Alumni Association, acknowledges the passing of the following alumni members over the past year and extends its sympathies to their friends and families.

- Mr. John H. Morris ..... 1951
- Dr. Robert W. Perry, DVM ..... 1962
- Mr. Ross C. MacDonald ..... 1948
- Ms. Sylvia Brookhouse ..... 1990
- Mr. Thomas M. MacIntyre ..... 1938
- Mr. Christopher H. Winters ..... 1972
- Mr. Laurie I. Ells ..... 1949
- Mr. Richard E. Melanson ..... 1941
- Mr. George M. Major ..... 1964

The NSAC Alumni Database is constantly evolving and occasionally errors do occur. We apologize for an error that occurred in the Summer 2005 issue of the Agricola News when Peter A. MacNutt, Class of 1964 was acknowledge as deceased. Mr. MacNutt is alive and well and we apologize for any hardship this may have caused.





# ATHLETICS

## VARSITY REPORT - FALL 2006

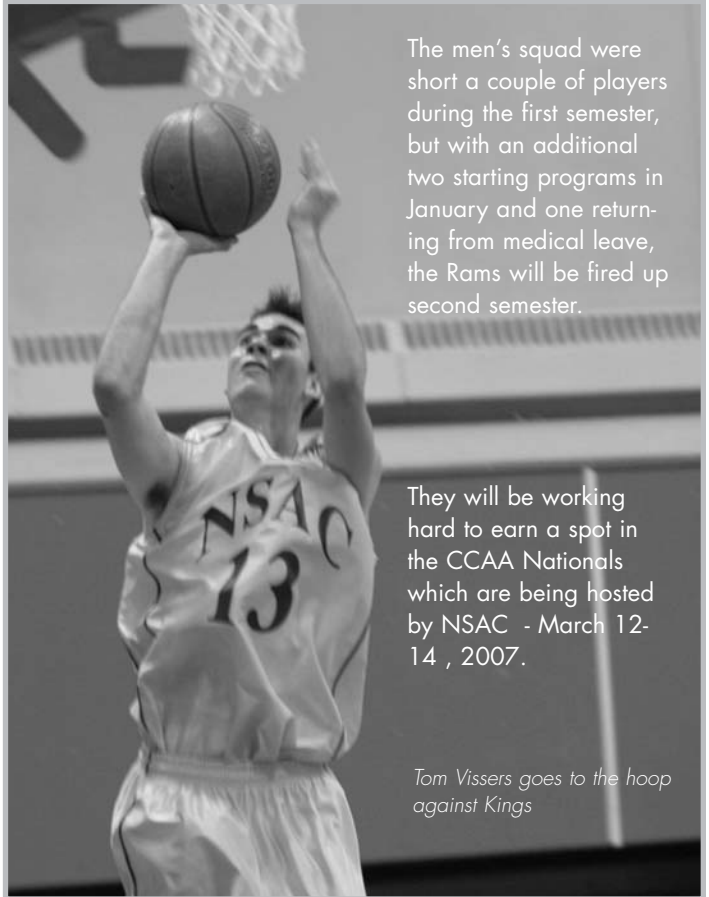
### Women's Basketball



*Candace Hoeg drives to the hoop*

The women's team are off to a great start and while presently in 6th (tied with three teams for 4-6) are expected to climb in the standings second semester. Two very successful recruitment years mean the Rams will be tough in March!

### Men's Basketball



The men's squad were short a couple of players during the first semester, but with an additional two starting programs in January and one returning from medical leave, the Rams will be fired up second semester.

They will be working hard to earn a spot in the CCAA Nationals which are being hosted by NSAC - March 12-14, 2007.

*Tom Vissers goes to the hoop against Kings*

## ACAA Award Winners



- All-Conference*  
Marcus Fiddes, Pat Mitchell
- Bob Coe Award*  
Marcus Fiddes
- All-Conference*  
Megan MacLellan, Nikia Stewart,  
Trina Bennett, Kaili van Vulpen
- Jerry LeBlanc Award*  
Mandy Vandenberg

## NSAC 5K Homecoming Run



*NSAC Womens Top three finishers: l - r Kristen Higgins (volleyball) Janet Walker ( woodsmen ) , Cassandra Allard-Morin (vball)*

## Women's Soccer



*The Champs*

The women's team captured the ACAA Championship—the first for NSAC since 1997. With the win, the Rams traveled to CCAA Nationals in Burnaby, BC where they competed against Langara (#1), Durham (#3) and NAIT (#6). Results and story of the Nationals experience can be seen on the NSAC Athletics website ([www.nzac.ca/athletics](http://www.nzac.ca/athletics))

The team did not come home with a win, but they really stepped up to the competition and played their strongest soccer of the season. They were also the recipients of the CCAA Fair Play Award.



*Ron O'Flaherty ACAA Chair, Kaili VanVulpen, Trina Bennett, Megan MacLellan, Nikia Stewart at the NSAC Soccer All Conference Banquet*

## Men's Soccer



*Dane Henderson moves the attack against UNBSJ*

The men's soccer team also competed well, but failed to make the play-off round.

## Volleyball

Losing four of last year's starters, the Rams are a little slow off the mark this season but are steadily improving sixth spot in a very competitive ACAA league. The men's group are in fourth spot in the ACAA.

## Rugby

The women had a strong season, finishing with a close semi-final loss in play-offs to Mount Allison. All-Stars for 2006 are - Meghan Miller, Holly McLean, Marissa Lynch

The men also had a good re-building year. Rookie Coach Rae MacInnis developed a strong unit and there should be an excellent core returning to continue the progress in 2007-08.

## Equestrian Club Team

The NSAC Equestrian Club Team are 2-0 for the fall semester. Winning competitions at Acadia and NSAC, the riders are pleased with their results.

2006-2007 NSAC Woodsmen



Fielding three teams (two mens and one womens) this year, the Rams are rebuilding after graduating most of the A teams from 2005-06. Finishes in the top five in both fall competitions means they are on track for a strong finish in February.



**Don't Forget—July 27, 2007!**

The 11th Annual NSAC Agri-Golf Classic. Further details will be announced in the Alumni E-News

**NSAC Agri-Golf Classic**

July 2006

The 10th edition was held at the prestigious Granite Springs Golf Course in Bayside NS. Hosted by Course Manager and Turf Specialist Andrew Chant, the 22 team event was a huge success.

The Winning Teams were:

- Overall—Granite Springs
- Business—Novartis—Steve Myette Team
- Alumni- Steve Watts Team
- Farm—Fisher Farms

**Golf Club Team**

NSAC competed in the ACAA/AUS Tournament in October. The course of play this year was Dundarave. The NSAC men finished in fifth spot.



**Volleyball  
2007 Championships**

ACA Volleyball Championships  
February 24-25 at the Langille Athletic Centre  
[nsac.ca/athletics](http://nsac.ca/athletics)

International Development, continued from page 10

NSAC International has been successful in securing approximately six million over the last eight years to fund its international projects. As a result, NSAC has worked in many countries including Cambodia, The Gambia, Ghana, Ethiopia, China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Colombia, Jamaica and Estonia. Over 60% of NSAC faculty and staff members from all areas of campus have participated in international development initiatives either overseas or in Canada.

For more information, please visit our website [nsac.ca/international](http://nsac.ca/international).

CCAA Men's Basketball  
National Championships, March 12-14  
[nsac.ca/nationals](http://nsac.ca/nationals)



**Men's National  
Basketball  
Championship**

March 2007 Mars

"We went from the end of April until the end of July." It was the first time Gillies traveled outside North America. He withstood 15 hours of traveling that included three flights and three cities—Toronto, Frankfurt and Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia.

Gillies lived at the female residence of the Jimma University and faced some interesting changes. "My bed was small, the wash-room was European style and there was no hot water," he said, adding that instead of a toilet there was a hole. "And the food was very different," he said. "They eat injera all the time, which is a flat pancake made out of teff grain and they put a stew on top of it and eat it with their hands."

However, he admitted that people at the university spoiled them. "They gave us potatoes and rice sometimes because they knew we needed it, but they did not give any to the other students." Although water was scarce, he was able to buy bottled water. "Water tasted good," he said. "It's made with Canadian technology." He said that people were very friendly and welcomed them all the time. "They were always willing to help," he said. "They would take us for little tours and kids would always smile at you."

Gillies said that because he was in a rural area sometimes people would stare at him. "It was funny," he said. "They look at you because you're white and they don't see that often. "Some kids would call us "forengee" which is their Amharic form of foreigner." However, Gillies said he did not take their words as racism. Neither did he feel in danger being there.

"I was always with locals," he said. "I spent a lot of time with students at the student centre, doing some touring and I even got to see hyenas." He did his research in local dairy farms which he described as small and behind in technology. "Farms were a lot different from what we have here in Canada," he said. "Farms had four to five cows, barns were made out of mud and sticks and they did not have much land."

His research was about mastitis in cows

and how this affects milk production. Gillies discovered factors that can also affect milk production—farms were dirty, animals were not properly fed and there was a lot of in-breeding.

"Cows were fed only hay, they did not have water all the time," he said. "They hand-milked the cows in every farm." This is the opposite of what they do in Canada.

"Here cows are fed a combination of forages, high energy food (grains like corn) and have water all day," he said. "We use artificial insemination which prevents the in-breeding that may cause small animals, genetic defects and less production."

*"You could see members of old tribes still practicing their traditions," he said, "wearing their traditional clothes and doing their rituals. Ritual clothes were colorful and with lots of jewelry."*

For Gillies the trip was rewarding to share with his fellow students how things are made in Canada. "It was nice to talk to them about how we do things in Canada," he said, "like agricultural sustainability."


Gillies was also surprised by the landscape in Ethiopia. "It's not the poor dry desert that many people associate with Ethiopia," he said. "I liked the country side; there were lots of trees, monkeys and birds."

He was particularly fascinated with birds and monkeys. "Monkeys were like squirrels there," he said, "they will jump on the trees and power lines." "It was nice to see birds on my window at the residence," he said, "I would get crackers and feed them."

He also notes that Ethiopia was an ancient civilization and that makes it very interesting. "You could see members of old tribes still practicing their traditions," he said, "wearing their traditional clothes and doing their rituals. Ritual clothes were colorful and with lots of jewelry." He also has fond memories of the coffee ceremonies. "Coffee originated in Ethiopia," he said. "It's stronger and very good but they don't export it. They will always have a coffee ceremony after the meals in every hotel." After three months of a very different lifestyle, Gillies took a vacation trip to Egypt and afterwards made his way home. He realizes now the trip has changed him.

"It's kind of cool how travel is more available to young people now," he said, "and

how it opens your eyes to how different the world is." He said this experience has made him value more what he has at home and also created some global responsibility. "It's an experience of a lifetime," he said. "It opens your mind to see different pictures and to work towards international development."

Gillies' experience in Ethiopia helped his chances of being admitted to the University of PEI's veterinary program. "It was worthwhile," he said. "They accepted me at the AVC (Atlantic Veterinary College) in PEI and I'll start this fall." Gillies resides in Belleisle and works at his family's dairy farm, M. Gillies & Son. 

*NSAC Goes Global continued from page 9*

ed NSAC as an international student yourself. Your experiences can help us guide current students and a link with someone who has lived or worked overseas can help a student overcome that first reluctance to participate. Do you have suggestions for projects, for publicity and presentations, for sources of funding to assist students with

*Internationalization has been and will continue to be a pillar of NSAC strategic planning.*

travel and tuition? We'd like to hear from you. Will you be on campus? Come to

NSAC International and meet the staff. Do you have an international experience or problem you'd like to present or discuss? We'd be pleased to work with you to set up a seminar or meeting. Your attendance and input are very welcome at NSAC workshops and presentations. Watch our website and the NSAC News for announcements.

Students today face an increasingly global society. More opportunities to learn (and play!) with international students, opportunities to study and work abroad and classes taught by faculty and staff with an international focus all contribute to a student's chance for success after graduation. This means that internationalization has been and will continue to be a pillar of NSAC strategic planning.

*Dian Patterson  
Professor and Director,  
Internationalization  
NSAC*



tion is a bit different. "Because you're competing for time. You're doing things and jumping out of your comfort zone a little more, trying to beat the clock." He believes climbing trees at this level is something anyone can learn to do, though it helps to be comfortable with heights. "I have a bit of a fear of heights, or I used to. Not so much now. Once you get used to the climbing and moving around, when you do it every day, it's not so bad." Safety is a key component of his job, which adds to his comfort level. "You've got to know how your knots work and trust them. That's the big thing. If you can't trust your knots and ropes and stuff, you're not going to be a very effective climber."

Another of the competitors, Neil Trebble, Class of '94, is also an arborist with the city. He's been climbing for about 10 years. Trebble originally got into it, he says, because he saw a pamphlet for Nova Scotia Agricultural College with a picture of a guy up in a tree. "I always liked working outdoors and I thought, 'Well there, that's something for me.'" He enjoyed climbing trees as a kid, but his real interest came when he went to college. "I just loved it - I still do," he says. "There is something always different in every tree and really I get a thrill working with a bunch of people that do something really different." During the contest, participants always have their

eye on the clock, so they tend to rush through things. "In the real world, you never rush a tree," notes Trebble. "It's not for everyone, but I really enjoy it," he says of climbing trees.

Competitor Danny LeBlanc, Class of '87, now lives and works in Moncton, but he worked in Fredericton for about six years. He's been climbing trees for almost 20 years and he's been the Atlantic Tree Climbing Champion nine times. "I do love it. You get a sense of accomplishment. "You can see the effects of your work almost immediately after you're done, depending on what you're doing. It's pretty gratifying." He wasn't really a kid who climbed trees, instead discovering the field while at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. "It was a professor there who thought I'd make a better arborist than landscape designer," he says. When he first started, he had his doubts. "Because everybody has a comfort zone with heights. I didn't have to go very far in a tree before I definitely felt uncomfortable." He stuck with it, though, and his comfort zone expanded. "You don't just have to know how to climb. To be able to do the work and do it properly, you have to understand what you're working with," he says. "That means understanding the tree biology, physiology, the impact of what you do and what it actually does to the tree." (F)

by LORI GALLAGHER  
© 2006 *The Daily Gleaner Fredericton*

op and formulate a unique biological herbicide for the control of common broadleaf weeds associated with agricultural production. Plant pathogens can be used to control weeds in a similar way to chemical herbicides. The term bioherbicide is used to refer to herbicides based on any living organism. When the active ingredient used is a fungus, the product is called a mycoherbicide.

Common broadleaf weeds such as cleavers and bedstraw have become one of the emerging priorities for weed control in North America as its aggressiveness has led to greater yield losses in both forage and field crops. Inundation by mycoherbicides is the only method of biological weed control that is applicable to intensively cropped areas. The method is faster acting than other biological control methods and can be easily incorporated into an

Integrated Pest Management program. Professor Sampson and his team have discovered some fungi that have proven damaging to bed straw and cleavers. Because the fungi used in mycoherbicides usually occur naturally in the areas where they are utilised, they tend to be less harmful to the environment than chemical herbicides. The fungi are often more selective in their mode of action so the risk of damage to other plants is reduced.

"We are very excited about this award as it is exactly what is needed to take this concept to the next level," said NSAC Professor Glen Sampson. "These funds will enable us to demonstrate how a naturally occurring fungus can aid in weed control and possibly become a commercially viable product."

Professor Sampson and his team will have the next 12 months to conduct their research. (F)

ducted to try to find ways to improve the herbicides that the industry is presently utilizing. He is also looking at air temperature and soil moisture values to develop a model that can determine the best time to destroy the weeds. Additionally, Boyd and his research team are looking at the management of grasses in blueberry fields as well as recognizing blueberry harvesters themselves as the culprit of spreading weed seeds from field to field.

*In the meantime, Dr. Boyd continues his search for long-term and more sustainable methods of weed control.*

"We can develop advanced technologies such as GPS to help the industry but the majority of the small producers wouldn't be able to afford it. So right now we are focusing on the simple technologies," adds Boyd. These technologies will increase or maintain wild blueberry and carrot production in the Atlantic provinces. In the meantime, Boyd continues his search for long-term and more sustainable methods of weed control.

Dr. Boyd is originally from Norton, New Brunswick and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Dalhousie University. He completed his Masters in Organic Potato Production at NSAC in 1999.

Nathan went on to pursue his PhD at the University of Manitoba in Weed Ecology. After completion of his PhD he worked for two years as a post doctoral scientist in Salinas, California, with the United States Department of Agriculture. During that time he worked on organic vegetable production systems with emphasis on weed management and the incorporation of cover crops into the production system.

In November, 2005, Dr. Boyd was hired as an assistant professor in the department of environmental science to conduct research on integrated weed management in low-bush blueberry and carrots. His research interests include plant ecology, weed management, integrated pest management, and organic food production. (F)

magic begins. Anne says people don't want to leave. The social, connecting side of the women kicks in and, as a result, strong relationships are developed, business partnerships and alliances are formed, a natural mentoring process emerges and a community of help and support is established.

The key to the success of Women in a Home Office is keeping chapters small and friendly, but with access to many valuable resources and a website that connects it all. The meetings are held in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere with groups of 20 to

*The key to the success of Women in a Home Office is keeping chapters small and friendly, but with access to many valuable resources and a website that connects it all.*

50, designed to encourage networking on every level. During the meetings ideas are exchanged and referrals given on everything from babysitting to corporate taxes. An

environment is created where women can share their success and find support in their struggles. Anne says the women who participate are there to give, not take. They care about their communities and want to contribute, but they all experience that care and support tenfold. There is no distinct profile for the women who attend. They come from all walks of life, all shapes and sizes, all nationalities, all occupations, all types of businesses. The age range is from 30 to 75. From filmmakers to bookkeepers, lawyers to web designers, they have one thing in common: they are entrepreneurs. Although Women in a Home Office started in Toronto, Anne now operates the business from Calgary, where she lives with her husband and two children. The move has allowed her to expand the organization. Like many entrepreneurs, she has taken the step of trusting others to help operate the business while she takes care of the big picture. There are strong chapter leaders (franchisees) in place in each community who run the meetings. Anne is still trying to get used to the idea of being a franchisor! Anne believes that you never know when you might meet the next person that makes a difference in your life. She enjoys creating the environment that gives people a


chance to connect and grow. Going to a Women in a Home Office meeting is like taking a trip to that water cooler once a month. What you hear there could change your business and your life.

Anne still has her strong "Aggie" roots deeply embedded and one of her goals is to connect women in the rural areas of Canada through her network as well. Although many government programs exist, there is still the need for organizations that are privately-owned. She believes it is important to be living the same life as your customer, the entrepreneur. She is actively seeking Chapter Directors for various communities in Canada. If you have interest in being a part of the organization or knowing more about leading a chapter, please contact Anne at [info@womeninahomeoffice.com](mailto:info@womeninahomeoffice.com). The web site is [www.womeninahomeoffice.com](http://www.womeninahomeoffice.com). You can also sign up for the free e-bulletin which is published bi-weekly on the web site.

Originally written by Adrienne Sharp and published on [www.brilliantonline.ca](http://www.brilliantonline.ca). 

Keep it Up, continued from page 12

about your positive experiences at NSAC. Visit [nsac.ca](http://nsac.ca) to stay connected to the latest NSAC news. Some quick facts to keep under your hat for the next time you run into a potential student:

- NSAC is experiencing a more than five per cent increase in enrollment, which marks three years in a row that enrollment gains have occurred (during a time where many universities in the region are experiencing declines in enrollment).
- The High School Introductory Program (HSIP) has students and their families visiting the NSAC campus—this fall's HSIP had the highest number of attendees ever with 136 participants.
- The women's soccer team won the 2006 Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association championship.
- The Atlantic Poultry Research Center, which is being constructed on campus is the only center of its kind in eastern Canada. It will be equipped with the latest technology and cutting edge research will happen in this facility. The construction is scheduled to be completed in spring 2007. 

Miranda was unable to attend the program on the day I visited, but her handwritten letter explains how the courses have given her "a thirst for learning." "I now choose horticulture-related reading materials for my personal leisure reading," she writes. Miranda has another dream, too, one that would see the Horticulture program expand outside Nova's walls. "I believe there is awesome

*"I believe there is awesome potential for us to reach out to youth at risk in the community using a horticulture-based approach,"*

potential for us to reach out to youth at risk in the community using a horticulture-based approach," says Miranda.


After the certificate ceremony, the women are eager to show me their garden, where they proudly display the vegetables they're harvesting. It seems to me that, along with the carrots, onions and potatoes, Miranda and the other women in the program have unearthed something even better for them than fresh vegetables or employment skills. They're harvesting hope, and in that hope, dreams take hold. "Once you feel confident about yourself, you realize you can achieve almost anything," Chisholm says.

*"Once you feel confident about yourself, you realize you can achieve almost anything."*

"A lot of the women in the program have never felt that way before. Dreaming is a good place to start."

- Rachel Boehm Van Harmelen



You can help the program—and the women who benefit from it—by donating good quality, used gardening books and magazines. For more information, please contact Lana Chisholm at 893-6665. 



### Class of 1959

WILLIAMS, Sherman.....I am now retired and my wife and I have four wonderful grandchildren; I am currently involved as a field naturalist and in continuing education. The last two items are often in combination.

### Class of 1961

Melvin Barclay, Degree class of 1961, Upper Kintore, NB was presented The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal to recognize his leadership in 4-H. It was noted that "Melvin has been an outstanding 4-H leader in the Western District and has contributed greatly to the development of our young people." The citation also said that "Melvin's contribution to the potato and beef industries in our area cannot be measured.

The Golden Jubilee Medal was certainly not Barclay's first accomplishment. He has received the Distinguished Services award from the NB Institute of Agrologists, he is a Fellow of the AIC and he has received the James Robb award - the highest honour given by the NB Federation of Agriculture. Congratulations Melvin!

### Class of 1964

TRAVERSE, Ross.....Ross Traverse, well known gardening broadcaster and horticultural advisor, has launched a new book entitled Ask Ross Traverse About Gardening: Practical Advice for Gardeners in a Cool Climate. The book is based on questions and answers that Traverse has been asked throughout his 40-year career as a horticulturist in Newfoundland and Labrador. In addition to giving professional advice on gardening, Traverse and his wife Marcie operate a greenhouse and plant nursery in Torbay.

### Class of 1974

HAMILTON, Jim..... I am presently the Project Field Manager on the three-year CIDA-funded Bangladesh Environmental Technology Verification - Support to Arsenic Mitigation (BETV-SAM) Project. Since my initial

studies at NSAC, I worked on PEI for several years before heading off to Nigeria with CUSO. Following my CUSO experience, I worked for a year at NSAC before going to St. FXU to obtain a BBA and then, MSc in Agricultural Economics with emphasis on rural planning and resource development from U of Guelph. Since graduating from Guelph, much of my professional career has been in international development working in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Mongolia.

### Class of 1980

JARVIS, Patrick.....a few months ago, after several years of suffering with a disability I turned my carving hobby into a drum carving business. I still deal with agriculture as I have to rely on local farmers for the hides I use for drum heads. As well I do some organic farming for my own food supply. I wouldn't mind hearing from any of the engineering gang from my class year. It has been too long. Ancient Hermit Drums Ltd [www.ancienthermitdrums.com](http://www.ancienthermitdrums.com) [patrick@ancienthermitdrums.com](mailto:patrick@ancienthermitdrums.com)

### Class of 1990

MACPHAIL, Mark.....Hey its Mark MacPhail - BSc Plant Science 1990. Since graduation I've been working with McCain Foods. I started with McCain at home in PEI, but currently my wife Natalie, our son Owen (11 months) and I live in Plainfield IL and I work as the Director, McDonald's Worldwide Business Unit. We just spent a month back on PEI enjoying the summer weather and introducing little Owen to the fun of farm life (cows, tractors, etc). Picture of Owen and I - following this he moved on to a bigger tractor with his grandfather.



### Class of 1996

WHITE, Wallace.....We just registered our new business Twilight Gardens and Nursery this year (2006). It is a part-time business right now and I am working full-time in the telecommunications industry. Hopefully within two years, I'll be working with the Nursery full-time. I am back at NSAC this fall taking a class to finally complete my Agricultural Technology program I started in '96' (yep that one last credit). Strange being back ten years

later. That hill from Cox to College Road is harder to get up when you get this old! It would be nice to hear from the Animal Science Tech Grads of '95'.

LUNN, Yvette ( Gardiner).....This is Yvette Lunn (Gardiner) Class of '96 Animal Science. I am married with two children (13 and a 2 year-old) and we live in Avondale, Prince Edward Island. I work on the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAIS) in Charlottetown.

### Class of 1997

MCNUTT, Tim.....After graduating in '94 from biology lab technology, I returned to take plant science ornamental horticulture, finishing in '97. I married Jennifer Coldwell that summer. My life has taken many twists. We moved to Chatham, Ontario where I did landscaping, then became a computer network engineer. After that I was hired as a repair technician in Toronto. There I became senior tech in charge of IBM Thinkpad screen repairs for IBM for a variety of countries. Then I left. And I joined the army as a land communications and information systems technologist. I did basic training in Esquimalt, BC and was posted to Kingston, Ont. for two years. Now I live in Oromocto, NB where Jennifer and I have settled in (til I'm posted again)with our three children: Rebecca age 8,Carolynn age 6 and Johnathan age 3. I highly recommend the military as a career choice, at the least you become very fit! Currently I am thinking of returning to studies again, possibly at the Royal Military College or Athabasca. Not sure yet.

### Class of 1998

TURNER, Sarah.....Hello to all my AC pals.....Just wanted to update what I am doing. I started a new position in September with Alberta Agriculture as the Program Coordinator for the Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network. I miss working with the pork producers and the pigs, however this new position is very exciting as well.

### Class of 2000

SHAW, Douglas.....Hi guys, Hope everyone is doing well. I've recently moved to the interior of BC from Alberta and I am working on getting established in my teaching career. I married a BC girl (Lisa) three years ago and we have moved back to her stomping grounds. Really looking for-

ward to riding the slopes here this year and hope to make it back to Nova Scotia next summer for a visit.

### Class of 2001

TAYLOR, Andrew.....I am now married to Anne-Marie Dickie, we got married on July 8th 2006. We are living in Sussex, New Brunswick and have a new puppy.

### Class of 2002

BARRETT, Ryan.....I completed my B.Sc (Agr) in Animal Science in 2002. I then attended the University of Guelph, where I completed an M.Sc in Animal Science (Animal Breeding) in 2004. Proud four year resident of Fraser House. I at the moment have two jobs. I work full time for Jersey Canada, the national breed association for Jersey dairy cattle. I am Publications Editor, with specific responsibility for the creation of the breed magazine, The Canadian Jersey Breeder. Also, I work in my spare time as the Secretary-Manager of the Canadian Milking Shorthorn Society, the national breed association for Milking Shorthorn dairy cattle. At times, life is quite busy, but I love my jobs! [milking.shorthorn@gmail.com](mailto:milking.shorthorn@gmail.com)

### Class of 2005

AITCHINSON, Julia.....An Animal Science Technician graduate Julia recently recorded a CD entitled "Through Heaven's Gates." a genre of easy listening gospel music songs that she has written and recorded herself. Julia received the Governor General's Medal for highest average in the Technology and Technician's courses at graduation from NSAC and was on the President's List for the three years that she attended the school. Congratulations Julia! 🎉

Rural Water, from page 16

The Class of 1956 is very pleased with the success of the water symposium and will be looking for future opportunities to encourage policy development activities in this very important area, which is relevant not only to the vision of future research and development at NSAC but also to the health and prosperity of all concerned. 🎉



# Look Who's Talking



## Jim Hamilton, Class of 1974

*Look Who's Talking is a regular feature of Agricola News. An alumnus, each issue discusses his or her thoughts on various topics relevant to the NSAC. This issue, we asked Mr. Jim*

*Hamilton, Class of 1974, to take time to sit down and talk with us.*

1. *It has been more than 30 years since you left the NSAC. What memories does this bring back of your College days?*

Although, I graduated from the Plant Science Technician diploma program in 1974, it took me a number of years to truly leave NSAC behind. In fact, I returned in 1977 to complete a Directed Studies Technologist diploma program and then, in 1983, following a two and a half year period working in Nigeria as a Livestock Development Officer, I worked with Rick Russell for several months in the swine barn at NSAC.

Reflecting upon it now, I think that it was more than serendipity that led me to NSAC because, it was there that I began to grow and appreciate a different perspective of the world which had only remotely occurred to me up to that time. I made lifelong friends at NSAC and learned basic tenets that have served me throughout my professional life.

2. *What do you see as the most significant and positive changes in the NSAC since you were a student?*

When I arrived at NSAC in 1972, the vast majority of the student population was comprised of students who were male and mostly, from rural upbringings. The following year saw an influx of students from an urban background and more female students as well. Today there is a 60 - 40 split female to male. And despite, a larger student population, the NSAC professor-to-student ratio is second to none.

At that time, College students either completed their technician/technologist programs and moved on with their careers or, they completed the first two years of their degree program before moving on to MacDonald College at McGill University or, my [other] alma mater, University of Guelph. Of course, that has all changed now and students have the option to complete their degree programs at NSAC or, migrate to Mac or U of Guelph or other universities.

College courses focused on traditional subjects in relation to basic sciences for the degree programs and functional/context-related courses for technician students. The College has evolved with the times and now offers a full gambit of applied sciences for careers in agriculture, engineering and environmental services, business and social sciences and so on. Of course, the NSAC has also upgraded their facilities to move with and anticipate future demand in the agriculture and environmental services sectors.

3. *This issue has an international focus highlighting our success with international projects and research collaborations, enrolment and programming. Your career has certainly had an international influence. Do you think this is important for students today and what has it meant to you and your career?*

Yes, of course, students must be aware of the wider world and its influences—both positive and negative—that these may bring to bear. Trade pacts and other barriers (i.e. non-tariff barriers and phyto-sanitary considerations) may impact positively/negatively on any particular commodity and require changes in production patterns and volume. Raw and renewable resources are used in the supply chain and as we are increasingly impacted by each other's trade/utilization demands, it is imperative to understand the political economy of the global village. As developing and transitional countries evolve in terms of their socio-economic condition, demand for goods and services increase and opportunity is created for those enterprising individuals and businesses with measured risk tolerances.

Increasingly, resources are derived from marginal lands because industries and society's requirement is insatiable. Raw materials must be exploited in more environmentally sensitive and/or politically unstable regions. Resource industries are required to conduct environmental assessments (EAs) and environmental management plans (EMPs) in order to develop finite resources in these marginal areas. EAs and EMPs require community and stakeholder engagement and a whole public consultation process to ensure that all engineering, environmental and social safeguards are properly dealt with and in place. Resource industries' proponents, stakeholders and governments have influence on legislative frameworks to ensure that proper safeguards are in place for the protection of the land(s), habitats and communities impacted by development. EAs and EMPs are conducted by people with expertise in engineering and environmental services (e.g. agronomy, bio-physical and wildlife, aquatics, noise, air, hydrogeologists, geologists,

*Continued on next page*

archaeologists, anthropologists, socio-economists, legal and public consultation specialists, etc.); NSAC offers degree programs which emphasize many of these applied and social sciences.

From relatively humble beginnings working as an agriculturalist on Prince Edward Island, my interest and enthusiasm for international development work blossomed following an assignment in Nigeria as a Livestock Development Officer under the auspices of CUSO. An appreciation for the importance of international development work in an increasingly inequitable world compelled me to return to university to complete undergraduate and graduate programs. Since that time, much of my professional career has been in the service of bilateral and multilateral development organization projects in countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Mongolia.

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

I would encourage professors and students alike to think in a holistic fashion and understand the inter-relationships and inter-dependencies between different disciplines. Experience has taught me that it is imperative to understand the other's perspective; whether we [eventually] represent a public policy perspective, resource and private industry perspective, university and non-governmental, and/or societal perspective. We have entered an era of increasing inter-dependence and rivalry for resources and it is paramount to our national sovereignty and overall well-being to appreciate the challenges and opportunities which those derive. Not to undermine the importance of institutional learning, however I envisage increased inter-connectedness and distance learning with other universities, research institutions and individuals wherever they may find themselves in the world.

As such, inter-connectedness will be transposed across language and cultural barriers so that a student can use his/her indigenous/national language for study and knowledge sharing. As it stands now, international English as a Second Language (ESL) students must have a higher level of English language (reading, writing and speaking comprehension) to pass the TOEFL or equivalent exam so that they may even be considered for college and university-level studies in Canada. Experience from developing countries has taught me that students may attend a so-called English-speaking university in their own country at the undergraduate level but, professors and lecturers may well use the local lingua franca in the classroom. So, in effect, the student has a cursory level of English language for reading and, perhaps, writing but, speaking and other comprehension skills may be limited. And, unless the baccalaureate graduate is working in an English environment their English language skills may recede into memory. At any rate, my point here is that the computer age and inter-connectedness should resolve language barriers so that higher learning does not become exclusionary. I also think that we will begin to embrace and integrate traditional knowledge systems when and where appropriate.

I would encourage NSAC to continue with upgrades and expansion of their research facilities so that they may address research interests/issues of local, regional, national and inter-


national environs. I agree with others who have suggested that NSAC should promote disciplines where they may have a particular niche and competitive advantage.

## Biography

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Jim Hamilton obtained a Plant Science Technician Diploma (1972) and Directed Studies Technologist Diploma (1978) from NSAC. Following a number of years working in the Maritimes and Nigeria as an agriculturalist, he returned to university to complete a Bachelor of Business Administration degree (1987) at St. Francis Xavier University. Jim then went on to the University of Guelph where he completed a Master of Science degree (1990) in agricultural economics with emphasis on rural planning and resource development. Jim conducted his M.Sc. thesis work in Tanzania with support from a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) scholarship.

Since graduating from the University of Guelph in 1990, Jim's professional career has taken him to live and work in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Mongolia for rural planning and resource development projects. After more than 10 years working overseas, he returned to Calgary in 2003 to work as a senior social science specialist with a large Canadian engineering and environmental services company. In January 2006, Jim returned to international development work and, more specifically, as Project Field Manager on the 3-year CIDA-funded Bangladesh Environmental Technology Verification—Support to Arsenic Mitigation (BETV-SAM) Project. The goal of BETV-SAM is to address environmental health issues and basic human needs in Bangladesh through the verification of performance claims for arsenic removal technologies. The expected impact of the project is the introduction of community-appropriate certified arsenic removal technologies at the point of use; thereby, reducing consumption of arsenic-contaminated groundwater.

Jim lives with his wife and son in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He is currently a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and Agriculture Institute of Canada, Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, and International Agricultural Economics Association. Jim may be contacted at [jhamilton@oceta.on.ca](mailto:jhamilton@oceta.on.ca) or [Hamilton\\_Family@shaw.ca](mailto:Hamilton_Family@shaw.ca). 


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*Fat Taxes, continued from page 13*

foods and increase their fat intake.”

In fact, the evidence in Dr. Clark's study suggests that *ad valorem* fat taxes may actually increase the amount of fat consumed. Fat taxes will make Canadian consumers poorer and may simply force them into cheaper, high fat, low quality foods. This is particularly true of poor Canadians.

A better approach may be to make low fat, healthy foods more accessible and most importantly, affordable to Canadians within all food groups so that they are better able to make informed, affordable, healthy food choices. High quality, low fat foods are more expensive to produce than are high fat, low quality foods. Therefore they tend to command a price premium.

Dr. Clark is an international expert on the subject of fat taxes and to date has presented his work on three continents and three national capitals around the world as well as across Canada. 

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