



# AGRICOLA NEWS

For the Alumni and Friends of Nova Scotia Agricultural College

*Volume 34, Number 1, 2009*

## The Power of One...

Members of NSAC's community making a difference  
one at a time.



Nova Scotia  
Agricultural  
College

*NSAC. Embrace Your World.*

# A Message from the Editor



Dear Johnathon,

I am pleased to provide you with your summer 2009 edition of Agricola News. Before you start reading further, I'd like to introduce myself as NSAC's new Development Officer. I started the position in January, after graduating from Mount Saint Vincent University with a Bachelor of Public Relations. As a student, I completed two work terms at NSAC, as Marketing and Communications Assistant. I also grew up in the Truro area, so I am no stranger to campus.

In my new role I will be working in the Development & External Relations office to help plan your class reunion, arrange alumni events for you and your classmates, provide communication to you on what is happening at NSAC and with your *alma mater*, coordinate NSAC's annual appeal campaign and other fundraising initiatives, as well as helping with various other campus events.

It's been a busy few months here at NSAC, as you'll see inside and it's not going to let up. We're continually striving to provide students with a quality education, be leaders in research, to make a difference and encourage others to follow suit.

As a recent member of our alumni association and part of the Class of 2006, you are one of our greatest ambassadors. We couldn't be where we are without you. We understand you're busy and that you don't have enough hours in the day, but we hope you can still take time to reflect on your fond memories of NSAC and share them with everyone around you.

We also hope you can keep in touch and let us know what you're up to. We love to profile the accomplishments of our alum, just like Sebastian Margarit, who you may remember; he is profiled in the Look Who's Talking section. Or check out Around & About, where you'll see updates on other alumni.

I really look forward to meeting and hearing from you!

Regards,

Alisha Hannam  
Development Officer



Calling All  
**Alumni**

## Know any alumni who didn't receive the Agricola News?

We would love to hear from them... tell them to call home!

To update your contact information contact the Alumni office:

Phone: 902-893-6721

Email: [alumni@nsac.ca](mailto:alumni@nsac.ca) or

Online: [nsac.ca/alumni](http://nsac.ca/alumni)

## Forest Stewardship Council

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We have adopted this practice in our efforts to be sustainable and conscious of our environmental footprint.

## AGRICOLA NEWS

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## The Power of One...

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Some of the world's biggest challenges are directly related to agriculture, our specialty. NSAC is leading by example. The university has been collecting data and changing behaviour on campus.

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The new model of governance will ensure that NSAC's research and educational mandates will be carried out more effectively.



#### Alumni Family Busary Update \_\_\_\_\_ 23

Since it was created in April 2008, NSAC's Alumni Family Bursary has become a major priority for fundraising at NSAC.



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NSAC's new bus has arrived on campus and will soon be hitting the roads.



#### How are NSAC Students Making a Difference? \_\_\_\_\_ 12

Mattea Tracey, Colette Wyllie and Adam Wile all living with energy, enthusiasm and a commitment to excellence based on their education at NSAC.



#### Report to Donors 2008-09 \_\_\_\_\_ 15

Despite the crisis in the economy, NSAC's Alumni/Foundation had another successful year of fund raising in 2008-09.

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Front cover:

At NSAC we believe one person can make a difference in the world.

Concept design by Jo-Anne Jordan and Sarah Morris.

# A Message from the Transitional Board

As Chair of NSAC's newly established Transitional Board of Governors, I am pleased to bring you greetings and provide introductions on myself and the other board members. This is an exciting time of change for NSAC and I am very happy to be embarking on this step with the university.

At this point, the board is in the process of gaining as much information as it can possibly absorb with respect to NSAC. Over the next number of months, the board will be working towards establishing a work plan and time schedule in respect to discharging the mandate that has been presented by the province. The mandate is quite defined and includes duties such as determining budgets, establishing strategic plans, setting policies and appointing a president.

The Transitional Board is enthusiastic and invigorated by the opportunity to play a role in transitioning NSAC to a self-governed entity.

As we progress with this transition, I look forward to providing you with more updates. I also hope to meet you at various NSAC functions.

Best regards,

Robert MacKay  
Chair, NSAC Transitional Board of Governors

## NSAC Transitional Board Members



### Robert MacKay

Beginning his career as an educator, he served as the Acting Superintendent of Schools for the Town of Glace Bay, on the Board of Governors for the universities of the College of Cape Breton and Mount Saint Vincent and on the Board of Advisors to the School of Business at Memorial. Mr.

MacKay held various senior management roles with the Province of Nova Scotia in the 1970's and senior management positions with Petro Canada in the 1980's and early 90's. He returned to public service in 1995 and served as Secretary to Cabinet and in various Deputy Minister positions until 2004. He was involved in the restructuring of the Nova Scotia Community College in an exercise similar to the NSAC governance change. Mr. MacKay currently owns and operates RAMentor Strategic Consulting Services.

Executive Director at InRich Business Development. Since 1990, Mr. Hunter has operated a certified organic dairy, beef and sheep farm with an on-farm milk processing facility. Mr. Hunter has held many prominent board positions on various industry associations and is a past president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.



### Daniel O'Brien

Dr. O'Brien served as President of St. Thomas University, New Brunswick from 1990-2006. Dr. O'Brien came to St. Thomas following 21 years at Dalhousie University in administrative posts. Dr. O'Brien is an authority in the fields of social research and planning. Upon retirement from his academic posts, Dr. O'Brien started his own

consulting firm and just recently served as Chair of the Governance Review Task Force for the Canadian Medical Association and NS Teacher Education Review Panel. He is a recipient of the Order of Canada (2007).



### Arnold Rovers

Mr. Rovers held many senior executive positions within the Department of Agriculture during his 29 years with the department; culminating in the role of Deputy Minister. In 1996, he led the establishment of the new Department of Business and Consumer Affairs (now Service Nova Scotia) as Deputy Minister. In 1997, he entered the

private sector as the first President and CEO of Emergency Medical Care (EMC) Inc. EMC became the first accredited Ambulance Centre of Excellence in Canada. In 2005, Mr. Rovers started his own consulting firm and successfully replicated the EMC model in New Brunswick, PEI and Ontario. Mr. Rovers is a graduate of NSAC.



### Sarah Campbell

Ms. Campbell is a corporate/commercial lawyer with Patterson Law in Truro and teaches part time at Dalhousie University. She has also lectured at NSAC. Ms. Campbell is a member of the Rotary Club of Truro and Chair of the Canadian Bar Association (Nova Scotia) Business Law section. Ms. Campbell brings a wealth of expertise

advising on corporate board governance protocols and processes for board governance.



### Frazer Hunter

Mr. Hunter began his career as an educator at the Northumberland College of Agriculture, in England during the 1970's. In 1978, he assumed the position of Senior Land Use Development Office with the Cape Breton Development Corporation. From 1988-96, he served as an

# A Message from NSAC's Co-Presidents

*As co-presidents of Nova Scotia Agricultural College, we are pleased to update you on the activities and achievements of your alma mater, as well as our campus.*



agriculture, environment and bioresource development in rural communities.

In May, NSAC celebrated its 104<sup>th</sup> Convocation. One hundred, forty-three diploma and degrees were awarded to 142 graduates at this year's ceremony. Later in the

Some of the most compelling environmental issues in the world today are related to agriculture. NSAC recognizes our responsibility to lead by example and address these problems. This edition of *Agricola News* highlights the sustainability efforts of our community. You will read about changes implemented by our staff, research conducted by our faculty, as well as lifestyles led by our alumni. The common thread throughout all of the stories in this edition is a conscience for the environment. You will also be impressed by the differences made by our students. NSAC students are outstanding individuals who continue to make us proud.

Our students are the driving factor behind everything we do and it shows. Enrollment continues to increase at NSAC, we are pleased to report a seven per cent increase for September 2009. This includes a growing international student population, which accounted for ten per cent of our student body this past year. Our rising international representation is celebrated at NSAC. Our goal is to provide excellence in learning that builds leaders, to develop innovations that sustain communities and to create opportunities that shape global agriculture. That can only be achieved through sharing knowledge, culture and practices worldwide.

We will continue to foster global leadership with a new program this fall. September's enrollment includes the first in-take of Bachelor of Administration in International Food Business students. This new degree is being offered in partnership with Dronen University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands.

Our efforts in international development continue, with faculty and staff working on projects in the Gambia, Ghana, Ethiopia and Cambodia. A new \$3 million development project in Ethiopia has begun to improve postharvest technologies and thus improve the sustainability of the Ethiopian food supply.

Locally, we have completed a novel microfactory project that results in value-added nutraceutical production from agricultural products such as blueberries. This type of project supports agriculture, business development and diversification in rural communities.

NSAC has continued to move forward with our governance change. As you've read on the preceding page, NSAC's Transitional Board of Governors has been appointed. The board will guide us through the changes yet to come and assist us to become more effective and efficient at delivering our mandate and better enable us to maintain our focus on

month, we celebrated the opening of the Chute Animal Nutrition Centre. The \$1.9 million building is a state of the art, animal feed preparation facility that supports animal nutrition, as well as teaching and research activities on campus. Our campus also went live with public wireless internet. In keeping with the latest technologies, this will give students, staff, faculty and guests on-line access in all buildings.

All of these activities and changes make for an exciting time, now and for the future, at NSAC. As you are an important part of our family, we are happy to be experiencing these times with you and look forward to what is ahead.

Enjoy this edition of *Agricola News*!

Sincerely,

Dr. Leslie MacLaren  
Co-President, Vice President Academic

Dr. Bernie MacDonald  
Co-President, Vice President Administration

# Around & About...

## Alyson Chisholm, Class of '84 Having Impact



*Alyson Chisholm may be tall and have large feet, but she's made small ecological foot-prints on our globe.*

Chisholm has spent her career impacting those around her. She has travelled the world farming, teaching and working as a community developer and project manager. Working with people of other cultures and seeing other parts of the world provided her with eye-opening experiences. She incorporates these into her daily routines and will take them with her as she prepares for her next expedition.

"I was presented a different side to my, up until then, conventional North American life," says Chisholm of her travels. "I learned to live with little and I did so in respect to those around me who had so much less. I got to see a broader picture of the world and developed the gem of an understanding between the haves and have-nots."

Chisholm left university and headed to Southland, New Zealand to fill a position on a crop and sheep farm with the International Agricultural Exchange Association. After almost a year, she came back to Canada - but not for long. She soon joined the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and headed overseas

*Continued on page 6*

## Patrick Jarvis, Class of '80 Alumnus Finds Beat After NSAC

Patrick Jarvis (Class of '80) is one of the most creative graduates of NSAC. After completing his farm equipment technology course, Patrick went on to work in various positions. However, in recent years, his career path has taken an even more interesting turn.

Patrick's years of hard labour and repetitive work in various jobs led to an addiction. Instead of allowing himself to succumb to the addiction, Patrick made the decision to get clean. His decision, coupled with amazing timing, led to the creation of his own business and a truly unique career as a carver of ancient African drums.

"My decision to get clean and my invitation to a drum circle came on the same day. The drums spoke to me and I had a spiritual awakening," says Patrick.

When he was 12 years old, Patrick picked up his father's carving tools for the first time. Over the years, his skill grew, although he had not attempted carving drums before his experience with a drum circle.

"In 2004, after being introduced to the drums, I decided I wanted to start carving them. I studied and tried different methods and taught myself how to carve them."

Today, Patrick carves several types of drums including the djembe, bougarabou, ashiko, djundjun and dondo. Each drum has its own history, sound and playing technique.

The decision to carve drums was and is an easy one for Patrick. The actual act of carving them isn't always as easy in a place like Nova Scotia though.

"The weather has a real effect on the drums. Too much humidity means re-tuning the drum repeatedly. The skins expand and contract at different rates than the wood, which can warp the sound."



The challenges Nova Scotia weather poses haven't stopped Patrick from building a successful business, Ancient Hermit Drums Inc., and sharing his love for the art form with others.

"I have recently begun using drums as a means of helping troubled youth find a spiritual path toward a better outlook on life. After my first workshop, I noticed the effect the drums had on the teens and wanted to pursue the opportunity further."

While it may be hard for some to understand the profound effect something as small as a drum can have, the elements of drumming, and music in general, are key in developing skills for a successful life.

"Drumming is a way to help the teens focus. I start by teaching them simple rhythms and then their focus, attention and interest grows. They seem to find a real spiritual connection to the drums. It is a way to connect to the spiritual aspect of every indigenous culture around the globe."

Although Patrick has moved outside of agriculture, he has not forgotten NSAC.

"I grow my own veggies organically every year and use hides from Nova Scotia farms exclusively for the heads on the drums. My NSAC education gave me a sense of direction and I remain an Aggie at heart."



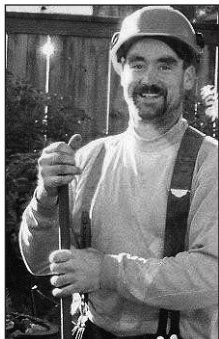
## NSAC Alumni Assumes Presidency of NSIA

Congratulations to Chris Atwood, Class of '90, who took over as President of Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists (NSIA) at the organization's annual meeting in April. Vimy Glass, Class of '01, is Past President.

Congratulations to Prof. Diane Dunlop, Class of '85; alumni Merridy Rankin, Class of '85; Brad McCallum, Class of '06 on their election to NSIA Council.

## Robert A. Murray P.Ag., Class '52 Distinguished Life Member

Robert was presented the NSIA Distinguished Life Member Award on April 10, 2008 at the Annual Honours & Awards Banquet at the Glengarry Convention Centre, Truro.



## Matthew Horne, Class of '90 No Regrets

*Although a formal education was not a requirement for his area of interest, one NSAC alumnus has never looked back on a decision he made over 20 years ago.*

Matthew Horne chose to expand his landscape interest and applied to study ornamental horticulture at NSAC. His decision to obtain a diploma before pursuing the career further has had its perks.

"It's two-fold," explains Horne on furthering his education. "It gave me an edge. The education put me on a professional level, plus it's recognized. I became superior and more respected. Yet others are intimidated and envious of my background."

And better yet? He has had no regrets and simply loves what he does. As an arborist and horticulturist, Horne has had a fulfilling career. He has been involved in tree care for the past 13 years and has managed his own company, ABC Tree, in BC for the past seven years.

"I enjoy everything about it," replies Horne when asked what he likes best about his career. "It's the networking, dealing with different people, talking to customers and on-lookers, the rat-race in the morning, the sounds of the equipment and the fresh smells of the outdoors with the changing seasons. What I do has become me."

*Continued on page 32*

Mary McKenna, Class of '78

## You Can Take the Girl Out of the Agriculture...



*"We have four generations of doctors in my family. My mom, dad and grandfather are engineers. I'm the 10<sup>th</sup> generation on my family farm. I have no family background in agriculture, but that's what I want to do."*

We've all heard lines similar to the first three before. But, how many times have you heard the last one? While it's obviously common to step outside the family career path, doing so to move *into* agriculture isn't. However, after visiting several farms on school trips, Mary McKenna (Class of '78) decided that's what she was going to do.

To attend NSAC, Mary moved from her home in Sussex, NB. With no family background in agriculture, she did so based on the love for farming she found after her school visits. However, once Mary arrived, plans changed slightly.

"I realized I just wasn't cut out to be a farmer. I didn't have the means, financial and otherwise, to make it."

Upon her realization, Mary began speaking to her professors about what to do.

"Professor McConnell, my biochemistry professor, suggested nutrition. If I'd been at a bigger school, I don't think I would have been given this advice. I wouldn't have had the same interaction with my professors. All of the professors at NSAC were so helpful and the quality of teaching is excellent. They taught relevant, pertinent information."

After leaving NSAC to complete a food science (nutrition) degree at McGill, Mary obtained her masters in nutrition at Cornell on a graduate fellowship.

"I was a little concerned about doing well in the Ivy League, but to my relief, my courses at NSAC had prepared me well."

She began working at University of New Brunswick (UNB) in 1986 and completed her PhD at the University of Nottingham (England) in 2000.

The focus of Mary's PhD, school nutrition policy, led her to contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the States. The timing was perfect as CDC was interested in her research and sought Mary's input on school nutrition. This input

*Continued on page 14*

**Having Impact**, continued from page 4

again to Mochudi, Botswana to teach agriculture in a junior secondary school.

Although sharing her skills and passion was fulfilling, it was time to move on again after three years of teaching. With a friend, Chisholm bought a Land Rover and spent six and a half months driving across Africa, where she witnessed jaw-dropping sights. "You just can't give a true explanation of how other people live, until you see it with your own eyes," says Chisholm.

After the tour, she had another short jaunt in Canada and then was back to Africa, Lesotho, this time, where she worked as a farm project manager with WUSC.

Next was a three-year stint in Albania. Chisholm worked with a group of people in Shkodra, a remote part of the country, to create a rural development plan. Once acquiring funding, she helped build primary schools, drinking water and irrigation systems in the community. She also organized a course in Permaculture while training local people in participatory rapid appraisal and started working with another group of people in a different district before leaving again for Canada.

"The meaning of sustainability really sunk in," says Chisholm of her experience. "Sustainability is my guiding force, though I am still very unsustainable in many ways. It is a work in progress."

Deciding it was time to stay home Chisholm wanted to put her worldly experiences into practice in her own country. She settled in the West Coast of Canada where she spent a year or so working with FarmFolk/CityFolk Society, an organization that promotes food security in BC.

She then joined a group of people who were trying to buy a farm in the Fraser Valley and they formed the Glen Valley Organic Farm Cooperative. With the farm, Chisholm found her niche. She was able to put her education, life skills and world observations into every-day practice to make a difference in her own community.

Once purchasing the farm, Chisholm began farming with two other people.

*"Sustainability is my guiding force, though I am still very unsustainable in many ways. It is a work in progress."*

Since then, she has been growing salad greens and basil for market, raising chickens for eggs and milk goats for on-farm consumption (milk, yogurt, cheese). The co-op consists of approximately 60 people who have shares in the farm, about 20 of whom are active either farming or on various committees running the co-op.

Chisholm's appreciation for the environment is seen in every aspect of her life. "I am a total non-conformist and flout convention whenever I can," she says. "I live as lightly as I can on our planet: buying second-hand clothing, composting everything including humanure, living in a very small house, growing all my own food and eating 95 per cent seasonally, driving the smallest most fuel-efficient vehicle I can find when I absolutely have to, buying as little as possible, working cooperatively and sharing as much as I can with my community."

Although Glen Valley Organic Farm Cooperative is very near and dear to Chisholm's heart, she is preparing to embark on her next journey. In October 2009 Chisholm and her partner, Will Pederson, will travel across the country to McKees Mills, NB and take up residence on their dream farm. "It was a hobby farm," says Chisholm, "we hope to develop a working farm that provides us with our own food and produce to either sell at farmers' markets or to develop a Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program in the area. I am bringing my goats and am interested in developing a small commercial goat dairy. Will is interested in growing vegetables, small grains and keeping bees on a small scale."

The move to the Maritimes will bring Chisholm back to where she started and close to her family. "I've come full-circle," she says. "I've had a convoluted, unconventional and totally un-career-like career."

She may have been far across the country or globe before, but she was never far from her NSAC roots. Chisholm's entire career has been a testament to NSAC's belief that one person can make a difference. And what a difference she has made.

## Chute Animal Nutrition Centre



*A grand opening for the Chute Animal Nutrition Centre was held on May 27. Located at 19 Farm Lane, NSAC Campus, the new building is adjacent the Atlantic Poultry Research Centre.*

The centre is a state-of-the-art feed preparation facility with capabilities for all animal species. The feed facility allows for increased biosecurity and versatility in production, classroom use, large quantity pelleting production, as well as capabilities to follow Good Management practices.

The Chute Animal Nutrition Centre is named after Dr. Harold Chute, Class of '44. Dr. Chute was an active member of his class and was instrumental in several fundraising efforts at NSAC over the years.



*NSAC Co-President, Dr. Bernie MacDonald and Jim Goit, Executive Director, Development & External Relations were on hand for the official opening along with members of the Chute family, Harold's wife, Mrs. Marion Chute (far left) and their daughter, Hazel Lee Richard (far right).*



# Remembering Professor Mathewson

Boyd Crouse, Class of '78 recently reminisced on his time at NSAC including his memories of Professor Bill Mathewson. He submitted the following account and poem to our office in memory of Professor Mathewson.



Top left to right: Boyd Crouse, Jim Schoonhoven, Bill Mathewson, Bottom left to right: Peter Sullivan, Nell Gardner, Mike Sandeson

Below is a brief recollection of one of my most cherished experiences as an "Aggie" and a poem that I wrote upon learning of Professor Mathewson's passing. Looking back on my time at NSAC, I can honestly say it was a blast.

It was November of 1977 when a livestock judging team representing the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill made its way to the Inter-Agricultural College Livestock Evaluation Competition in Ontario. Professor Bill Mathewson and Anne Parsons were team chaperones who escorted the five member team to Toronto. We stayed in a downtown hotel as we fanned out to various judging locations by bus during the days of the competition. We judged livestock at a number of farm locations and gave oral presentations on the reasons for our placing in class. Along the way we toured some agricultural museums, attended a number of events and visited the Royal

Agricultural Winter Fair and the CN Tower.

On one of our outings our group was moving through a bustling esplanade when somehow I became separated from the party. Whether it was a momentary distraction or the rush of people that surrounded me I can't recall, but there I was, a stranded Maritimer in a sea of strange humanity. I remember turning in a number of different directions to try to get sight of the rest of our group but to no avail. After a few anxious moments I turned to see Professor Mathewson coming towards me through the crowd. "We're over here

Boyd," he said as he directed me back to the group. "Wow" I quipped, "this place is as big as the whole town of Lunenburg!" Professor Mathewson got a great chuckle out of that.

Looking back on the experience it's clear to me now that I witnessed a true demonstration of the man's shepherding nature. Taking the time to ensure the welfare of every member of the flock, that was Professor Mathewson's way.

The last time I spoke to him was October 19, 2004 at a BSE Rally held at the then Maritime Cattle Market in Murray's Siding. He still possessed that wit and humor that I remembered from my days as a student at NSAC. While I am saddened at his passing, I consider myself fortunate to have known and studied under him.

## Ode to Professor Mathewson

When I read of the professor's passing  
It stirred profound sadness within  
I reflected on some of the lessons  
Learned in classes led by him.

I remember his caring demeanor  
And his ability to inspire  
The emphasis placed on soundness  
In selecting the very best sire.

For he became both friend and teacher  
Always taking the time to understand  
In him I saw instructor and mentor  
A brethren of the land.

It's clear he had a deep fondness  
For both cattle and sheep  
To him they held great value  
Far beyond mutton and beef.

And I feel in some measure cheated  
Having known him for a brief span  
For of him it can truly be stated  
He was a fine and gentle man.

To perpetuate the memory of Professor Mathewson, donations can be made to the Professor Bill Mathewson Memorial Bursary.

Donations can be made by sending a cheque payable to NSAC (noting it is for this bursary):

Development Office  
Nova Scotia Agricultural College  
PO Box 550  
Truro, NS  
B2N 5E3

Donations can also be made online at:  
[nsac.ca/donate](http://nsac.ca/donate)

# *The Power of One...*

*NSAC taking action to make a difference.*

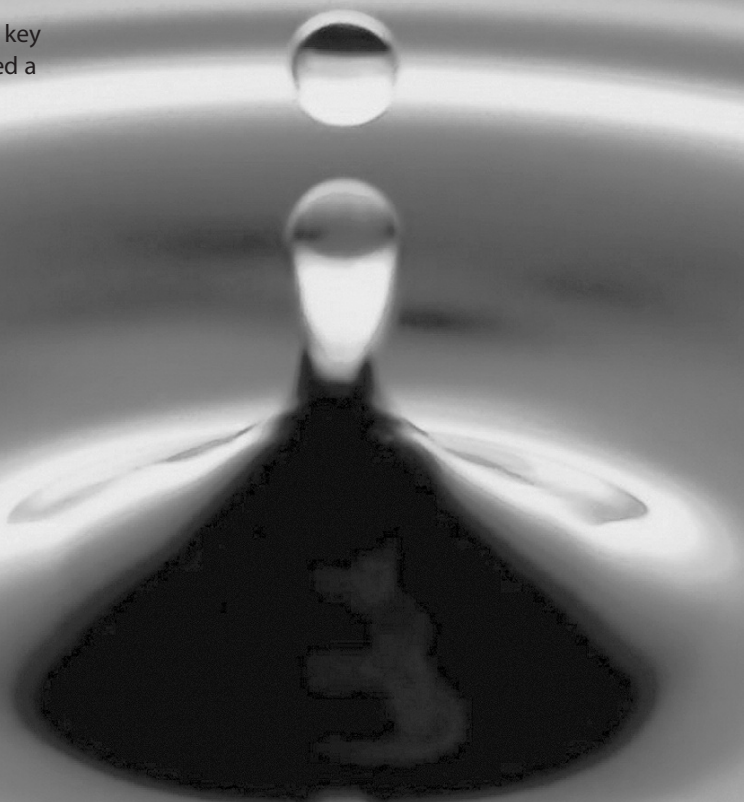
*Some of the world's biggest challenges are directly related to agriculture, our specialty. NSAC is leading by example. The university has been collecting data and changing behaviour on campus. We have begun communicating to stakeholders the values we have always shared: we believe one person can make a difference when it comes to environmental responsibility.*

**O**ur brand campaign, Embrace your World, has many components that help us communicate our organizational values. One component launched this year is an interactive website, [embraceyourworld.ca](http://embraceyourworld.ca), that invites individuals to weigh in on the three most pressing environmental issues worldwide; global warming, alternative energy crops and water conservation.

Change doesn't come only through dialogue on key issues, it comes by doing. This year, we completed a campus-wide evaluation of all our printing activities. With the help of Xerox and its proprietary Sustainability Calculator, NSAC's entire printer, copier and multifunction device fleet has undergone an environmental impact assessment.

Xerox provided each department with recommendations to reduce energy use, solid waste, greenhouse gas emissions and operating costs. Once all recommendations are

put in place NSAC will save 88 million BTUs of electricity, one ton of solid waste, and divert 13,758 lbs of greenhouse gases each year. That's the equivalent of powering 5,000 homes and taking one car off the road for an entire year.



*“Some very small changes to what we do each day can have a huge impact in reducing our environmental footprint.”*

“Some very small changes to what we do each day can have a huge impact in reducing our environmental footprint,” says Dr. Bernie MacDonald, Co-President, Vice-President Administration.

In addition to examining how we use print in our offices, NSAC has also undergone a major overhaul of its print centre this year. NSAC’s Print Centre has been outfitted with ENERGY STAR machines that use Xerox’s earth-friendly toner. This toner is grown, rather than ground, takes 40 per cent less energy to produce and prints 50 per cent more documents. There is a wide variety of paper products available to campus including high yield paper and recycled stocks. Print projects can even be printed under the strict guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

While we have made some changes at the institutional level, we believe in the idea that one person can make a difference. For example, one car left idling on our campus can produce more harmful greenhouse gas emissions than a car in motion on our local streets. NSAC is raising awareness of the environmental impact of idling while we wait for someone, make a delivery,

*“The changes we have made will foster the spirit of environmental consciousness among our people and our students.”*

or start our heating and cooling systems. As a result of a partnership with *Drivewiser*, NSAC has designated the campus an “idle-free zone.”

“In February, we posted no-idle signs in ten of the highest traffic areas on campus,” says Elaine

Rector, Safety and Security Coordinator. “We hope that by asking people to turn off their engines we can inspire them to think even further about what they can do to help the environment.”

Grassroots sustainability initiatives are important to NSAC. “No matter what we change on an administrative level, environmental efforts will only be successful when folks put their own effort into it on an individual level,” says Dr. MacDonald. “The changes we have made will foster the spirit of environmental consciousness among our people and our students.”

All around campus, individuals are taking the challenge. NSAC’s food services provider, Chartwells, has instituted *Trayless Tuesdays* and *Thursdays*. Diners carry their plates and drinks to their dining table in hand rather than on a tray. Not having to wash trays has cut liquid waste in half on these days. Chartwells has also seen a significant drop in food waste on trayless days, probably because trays make it convenient for diners to take an excess of food. Without trays, diners take only what they need.

NSAC’s Campus Sustainability Initiative (CSI), a student-led group, has organized campus swap shop events. These events reduce

*“No matter what we change on an administrative level, environmental efforts will only be successful when folks put their own effort into it on an individual level.”*

waste by allowing people to swap unwanted or unused items for items they do want or need. CSI also oversees a community garden on campus that they started three years ago. With increased awareness and growing demand for organic produce, the community garden doubled in size this year from 20 to 40 plots.

“Everyone gets the chance to grow their own food and it doesn’t travel any distance except from the garden to their home,” says Nicole Lefebvre, Co-President, Campus Sustainability Initiative. “Everything is grown 100 per cent organically, we are very strict about this rule.”

Sustainable agriculture continues to drive operations at NSAC’s Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC). The centre has been working since 2001 to facilitate research and education for organic producers and consumers in order to build sustainable communities.

According to Dr. MacDonald, projects like these are steering NSAC’s sustainability initiatives in the right direction. “Distributed responsibility is built into every successful sustainability model across Canadian universities. We want every NSAC employee and student to see their role as sustainability leaders very clearly,” says Dr. MacDonald. ♻️

# Growing Grass for Pellet Fuel

*Researchers at NSAC are working to ensure a brighter future for farmers in the Atlantic Region.*



**A** team of researchers at NSAC are working to ensure a brighter future for farmers in the Atlantic Region. Dr. Yoseph Papadopoulos, NSAC Adjunct Professor and Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has applied his personal interest in biofuel

to his work in breeding forage and legumes. Papadopoulos and his team are growing test crops of tall grasses at the Bio-Environmental Engineering Centre (BEEC) at NSAC.

"I look at the big picture of utilizing crops for sustainable livestock operations," says Papadopoulos. "This is a value-added opportunity for farmers in our region."

According to research conducted at NSAC, approximately 170,000 hectares of agricultural land in Nova Scotia is used for crop or pasture. An additional 45,000 hectares of cleared land is not used. With this unused land, there is great potential for bioenergy crop production in our region.

"The longer land sits unused, the more unviable it becomes for crop growth," says Papadopoulos. He adds that many farmers produce more hay than needed for their livestock in order to keep their land arable.

Energy costs and environmental concerns are rising worldwide, forcing consumers to source renewable heat options. At the same time, the supply of sawdust for traditional wood pellet production is not meeting the increasing domestic and export demand for pellet fuels. Farmers, pellet suppliers and heating industry representatives are showing an increased interest in using bioenergy crops for fuel production.

Tall grasses, specifically switchgrass and reed canary grasses, have tested as viable alternative energy crops. Dr. Papadopoulos is working to determine which varieties are best suited for growth in our climate. Grass crops were first planted at the BEEC in 2006 using low input crop management. Over the three years of crop management, the research team has focused on determining the correct nitrogen inputs required for high yield crops, measuring the greenhouse gas emissions created during growth, and reducing the ash content of their crops. The team consists of Michael Main, Research Associate; Dr. Alan Fredeen, Plant and Animal Sciences Professor; Dr. Derek Lynch, Canada Research Chair



*"This project will provide much needed research for farmers and industry interested in pellet fuel."*

in Organic Agriculture; Dr. David Burton, Environmental Sciences Professor, and Adam Wile, first year graduate student.


These experiments are providing valuable research training for NSAC students, like Adam Wile. "NSAC allows me the unique

opportunity to have an impact on agriculture while I pursue my graduate degree," says Wile. "It's important to me that my work has a benefit to farmers. It's about building a career, not just an education."

There is substantial grassroots interest in grass pellet fuel in the Atlantic Region. Tall grasses can be grown with minimal inputs on large acreages and do not require specialized equipment for farms already producing hay.

In April, AgraPoint International hosted a forum in Truro examining the potential for growing grass for pellet fuel in Nova Scotia. The event drew a large crowd and many interested parties

had to be turned away due to limited space. Discussions included input from NSAC researchers, renewable energy consultants, pellet producers, and heating industry representatives.

"This project will provide much needed research for farmers and industry interested in green energy solutions such as forage-based pellet fuel," says Dr. Leslie McLaren, Co-President, Vice President Academic at NSAC. "NSAC is pleased to be able to continue its tradition of applying science and innovation to provide solutions for society." 



*"It's no surprise that NSAC has ranked first in research intensity among all Atlantic universities for the second consecutive year."*

# NSAC Hitting the Road!



*NSAC's new bus has arrived on campus and will soon be hitting the roads.*

The bus features design work on all sides, front and back, as well as the top, to give NSAC visibility in local communities and beyond. The bus will be used to transport teams to athletic events and students for field study.

The bus features larger than life representation of two NSAC students, NSAC's logos, website and a complete list of our programs. From all angles people will recognize NSAC coming.

The two students featured were chosen to represent NSAC because of their commitment to the university and community.

Modou Camara has one semester left in NSAC's Bachelor of Science program. He is

majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Aquaculture. Camara is an international student from The Gambia, West Africa and plays on NSAC's men's soccer team. He gives back to the community through his works with Imhotep Legacy, a tutorial program for African-Nova Scotia students at Truro Junior High and activities of NSAC's International Student Association.

"I love being part of a movement," says Camara, "anything that involves significant or positive change really gets me motivated."

Mandy MacDonald is a local student who comes to NSAC from Milford Station, NS. MacDonald recently completed year three of her Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Animal Science.

"It's very exciting and flattering to be chosen from such a large student population to represent NSAC," says MacDonald. "This is a once in a lifetime experience."

Serving as team captain for the past two years, MacDonald plays on the women's volleyball team at NSAC. MacDonald's commitment to agriculture and community development is highlighted by her ten year 4-H membership.

Look out for these exceptional students as the bus takes to the roads! ☺



## 10th Generation on the Family Farm. Fourth Generation at NSAC, First Year of University

Robert Newcombe came to NSAC knowing only a very few people. Thanks to the varsity teams offered at the university, he was able to meet people and settle in even before classes started.

"I didn't really know anybody when I first started at NSAC; I only had one friend from high school come here. Playing on the soccer team, before classes even started, I met a lot of people who introduced me to the school and everyone on-campus," says Robert.

Although Robert, who is in his first year of the engineering program, didn't know a lot about the program or the students involved in the program, he certainly knew about the university.



*"My great grandfather, Robert F. Newcombe, graduated from NSAC in 1907, just two years after the school opened."*

"Four generations of my family have come to NSAC. My great grandfather, Robert F. Newcombe, graduated from NSAC in 1907, just two years after the school opened. Robert H. Newcombe, my grandfather, graduated in 1945 along with his brother Don. Robert "Craig" Newcombe, my dad, graduated in 1986 and my mother Geneve (nee Gardner) also graduated in 1986 (both with their BSc majoring in animal science). My dad's two brothers Andrew and Brian both graduated in 1991 and their wives Audrey and Edna are also NSAC graduates. Now I'm here. My family history definitely played a role in me selecting NSAC for university."

Not only is attending NSAC becoming a family tradition, playing sports while here is also the norm.

*Continued on page 32*



## How are NSAC Students Making a Difference?

### Mattea Tracey - *Having a Big Impact*



With another year at NSAC come and gone, Mattea Tracey doesn't have to look back thinking she wasted her time or could have done better. She's accomplished a lot. Earlier in the school year, this third year Animal Science student, made a big impact on a lot of people in the community. For that, she should be proud.

Tracey led NSAC to raise over two metric tonnes of food for Drive Away Hunger. The drive was a partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC), who started the initiative five years ago.

"It was a perfect fit for NSAC and our Students' Union," says Tracey of the drive. "Since we're an agriculture focused school and this was food based, students felt a close connection to the project. Not to mention everyone involved realized the importance it had to our community."

Tracey began organizing the project last summer. She worked on correspondence with campus and Farm Credit Canada, as well as logistics and planning the campus effort for the campaign. When classes began in September her load didn't lighten. That's when the campaign really kicked in. On a daily basis she devoted time to planning, raising awareness and covering all of the details for the final weigh-in day, which took place on October 14.

In an interview with the Truro Daily News before the weigh-in, Tracey indicated she hoped NSAC would 'make a big impact'. And that they did, helping families who rely on the Colchester Food Bank. "Everyone thinks of NSAC as the small school," adds Tracey, "and we are, we pride ourselves on that, but we also have a really big heart and can make a difference."

Tracey believes the Drive Away Hunger campaign improved relations across campus. It brought different groups of students, staff and faculty together. While many volunteers and supporters helped with NSAC's effort, there's a lot to be said about Tracey's leadership role.

And that did not go unnoticed within the community. Tracey, who is from Windsor, NS, was presented the Village of Bible Hill Special Recognition Award, in April, for her efforts.

Yet this initiative was not Tracey's first time making a difference. Since arriving in the Bible Hill area over three years ago to begin her education, Tracey has impacted others while participating in Shinerama for Cystic Fibrosis and Operation Red Nose, a free designated-driver service that keeps impaired drivers off the road during the holidays. She also volunteers on campus with Orientation, Open House, University Day as well as the Career & Craft Fairs. In addition she is a member of the Agrologist Club,

Ambassadors Clubs, Students' Representative Council, Students' Judicial Committee, Financial Planning and Policy Committee, Grounds Policy and Traffic Control and Library Council, among others. Tracey has been on the Students' Council for two years, including during the 2008-2009 school year, as Vice President of Communications.

For the past two years Tracey has received the Canadian Millennium Foundation Award of Excellence scholarship, as well as President's List designation, NSAC Student Leadership for Student Government Award and the NSAC Leadership Recognition Award.

When asked why she feels volunteering is so important, Tracey had to think really hard. "I don't know," she responds, "it's just really important, so I just do it!"

Knowing that there were so many different activities at NSAC is part of the decision why Tracey chose the university. "Every school will give you a degree, but NSAC is the other piece of the puzzle. We're small, but our voices can be heard. We can be involved and that gives us well rounded experiences."

### Colette Wyllie - *Staying Involved*



The old saying, "practice what you preach" is not taken lightly with Colette Wyllie, a third year Environmental Science student at NSAC. Wyllie has a long resume, dedicating countless hours to volunteer initiatives and extracurricular activities at school and in her community. She recently allocated time in her busy schedule to share with elementary school children the importance of staying involved.

"It was a neat experience," said Wyllie of her trip to Valley Elementary during NSAC's February break. "I had a lot of fun." In the gymnasium, she addressed the students, grades primary through to grade four with her views on staying active, involved and volunteering.

Wyllie was an excellent choice to discuss the topic. One of her recent accomplishments was leading her residence (Trueman House) to raise \$400 for a local AIDS walk in September.

However, that's not all she has accomplished. In all three years she has been at NSAC, Wyllie has taken initiative as a leader with RESPECT (Real Energy Supporting Peer Education on Current Topics), educating peers on health issues and she volunteers two hours a week at NSAC's Writing Centre, helping classmates write papers. She has also been a member of house council for two

years –this year as president and last year planning events for residence students. She also assists with athletics events and volunteers with Sutherland’s Lake Trail Groomers Association.

In addition to these activities, Wyllie is a member of NSAC’s Student Ambassadors. She volunteers with Recruitment, travelling to various schools to speak on behalf of NSAC, assisting with University Day by giving welcomes, participating in debates and speaking on the students’ panel, as well as guiding campus tours. She is also a statistics assignment marker and worked for the Alumni Family Bursary phone campaign in March.

“I have learned more in my time at NSAC from being involved, than I have from any other endeavor I have undertaken. I have improved upon my citizenship, my relationships, my professionalism and my view of the world.”

Wyllie manages these activities while also being a valuable member on NSAC’s women’s soccer team and maintaining an 85 per cent average to hold her renewable scholarship, the prestigious Atlantic Scholar Award. She has also earned many other awards during her time at NSAC including President’s List designation, Most Improved Women’s Soccer and University Leadership Award for Health Education in 2008 and most recently, the Excellence in Student Leadership Award and All Academic Athlete.

“We can’t be paid for everything we do. If that were the case, many great things would never be accomplished. I am happy to make a difference wherever my skills allow,” comments Wyllie.

While one glance at this young women’s weekly calendar may exhaust some, Wyllie’s reasoning for being so involved in school is two-fold. “I strongly feel that getting the most out of your education requires more than just studying. Universities play a large role in our lives – to give us the education we need to enter the real world, but also to give us the life skills we need in order to succeed in the real world. Those life skills aren’t going to find you, you need to get out and seek them. Joining clubs and teams teaches teamwork and how to deal with others. Working and volunteering teaches us how to serve others. Studying teaches us self-discipline. All of these things together teach us time management. By being involved in campus life, you will take away much more than just education from this school. Not to mention, you will give so much.”

Wyllie had no doubts when first approached to speak to the elementary students. She realizes the significance of instilling in young students the value of donating their time and being active. Early on in her life Wyllie starting taking piano lessons and playing soccer and she even received a citizenship award in grade five. In junior high, she extended her activities and began volunteering, sitting on committees such as yearbook and prom. In high school she was even more involved as grad class president, a member of Reach for the Top (a trivia club) and elected valedictorian, among other activities.

Continuing her education at NSAC just seemed like the next step. From Glenholme, NS, her university choice allowed her to remain close to her family and friends. Not to mention her grandfather and father are small crop farmers and she has spent the past five

summers working as a Weigh Scale Operator at C.L. Stonehouse in Debert for Bragg Lumber Company.

“I was not afraid to pursue an education in agriculture,” laughs Wyllie. “It challenges me and I love it!”

When Wyllie’s fourth and final year begins in September, her ‘to-do list’ will only grow. In March she was elected Students’ Union President for the 2009-2010 academic year. In her opinion, activities just make life more fun.

“I believe that you take away a more fun, vibrant, memorable, and overall better university experience if you are involved with campus life. These are the times that will stay with you the rest of your life, so you might as well make the most of them and make a difference at the same time!”

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## Adam Wile – *Living Sustainably*



For Adam Wile, sustainability isn’t just something you learn about; it’s a roadmap of his lifestyle, his research and his free time. Adam strives to live sustainably, growing or gathering much of his food, cutting wood to heat his house and researching the environmental impacts of crops.

Prior to beginning his Master of Science, Wile spent three years working at NSAC collecting and analyzing greenhouse gas measurements from crops and studying the economic impacts of nutrient management on the farm. This work fostered Wile’s interest in rural economic sustainability and alternative energy development. With the support of a Graduate Research Training Initiative (GRTI) scholarship, Wile began his M.Sc. in spring 2008. For his research project, Wile is studying alternative energy crops, specifically tall grass crops. He hopes to determine which tall grass crop, switchgrass or reed canary grass, has the highest economic potential for Nova Scotia farmers with the least negative impact on the environment.

“I wanted my work to be practical for Nova Scotia farmers wanting to increase their farm income,” says Wile. “I also hope to provide information to policy makers so they can better develop sustainable energy programs and increase general awareness about energy crops.”

Wile was this year’s recipient of the Syngenta Crop Protection Award. The \$1,000 award is given each year to a top M.Sc. student conducting research in sustainable agriculture.

“Adam is dedicated to his work, but even more so to exploring new opportunities to enhance the sustainability of agriculture in our region,” says Dr. David Burton, Research Chair in Climate Change at NSAC. “He is always thinking of what can enhance the profitability of the farmer while protecting the environment; his research shows it.” Wile works hard to minimize his own impact

*Continued on page 29*

## Building Alumni Value



When you graduate from NSAC, you expect the value of your degree or diploma to grow over time. We share your expectation. That's why we work to carefully build our reputation as a world-class university.

Every now and then, we like to know how we're doing. Here are some of the latest stats on how our students rate the university experience and the value of their NSAC education.

- 94 per cent of NSAC students are satisfied with their decision to attend NSAC *National average is 92%*
- 89 per cent of NSAC students are satisfied with overall quality of education *National average is 85%*
- 90 per cent of senior students rate their NSAC educational experience as good and excellent *National average is 77%*
- If they could start over again, 92 percent of senior year students would still attend NSAC *National average is 78%*
- 93 per cent of NSAC students are satisfied with instructional facilities including classrooms, labs and equipment *National average is 84%*
- 96 percent believe NSAC professors treat them as individuals rather than numbers *National average is 84%*
- Average debt load of NSAC students in all years of study is \$14,490 and 29 percent of NSAC students have \$20,000+ in debt.
- 26 per cent are very concerned they will have insufficient funds to complete their education.

## Show Your NSAC Pride

Current and prospective students can benefit directly from your pride as an NSAC grad. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Become an ambassador, promoting NSAC to prospective students in your area
- Share your story in one of our university publications
- Share your time by participating on committees or mentoring student clubs
- Help us fundraise for an important project
- Send in a donation to help NSAC students pay their way through school

Contact the Alumni Office today to find the right opportunity for you. E-mail [ahannam@nsac.ca](mailto:ahannam@nsac.ca) or 902-893-6022.

### Data Sources

*National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).* Each year, NSSE asks students at hundreds of universities to share their university experiences. Students are polled on the many indicators of 'student success' at university. These results help prospective students identify if any given university is right for them. [www.nsse.iub.edu](http://www.nsse.iub.edu)

*Canadian University Survey Consortium (CUSC).* CUSC is a group of Canadian universities working cooperatively to gain a better understanding of the Canadian undergraduate student population. Participation is open to any degree-granting member university of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). This year's survey represents 31 universities from across Canada. [www.cusc-ccre.ca](http://www.cusc-ccre.ca)

**Mary McKenna**, continued from page 5

allowed her to develop more connections at the CDC, which ended up leading to a new opportunity.

"In late 2002, the person who had been helping me with my PhD was promoted. I was contacted by CDC and offered his position in the Division of Adolescent and School Health. I couldn't pass up the opportunity, so I took a five year leave from UNB and moved to Atlanta, Georgia."

Her decision proved to be a smart one and enabled her to work on implementing legislation from the 2004 US farm bill that required school districts to adopt wellness policies that addressed healthy food choices and physical activity. Working as a health scientist for school nutrition, Mary was thrown into the centre of activity.

"My PhD was a perfect fit. I had experience with the topic so I was very busy developing resources and traveled a lot to assist jurisdictions with developing policies. I helped create a book called 'Making it Happen: School Nutrition Success Stories' – about 50,000 copies were distributed. I was also heavily involved in a CDC project that resulted in establishing national nutrition standards for food in schools. It was an exciting time."

Mary continued her work with CDC until 2006 when she was called back to work for UNB.

*Continued on page 32*





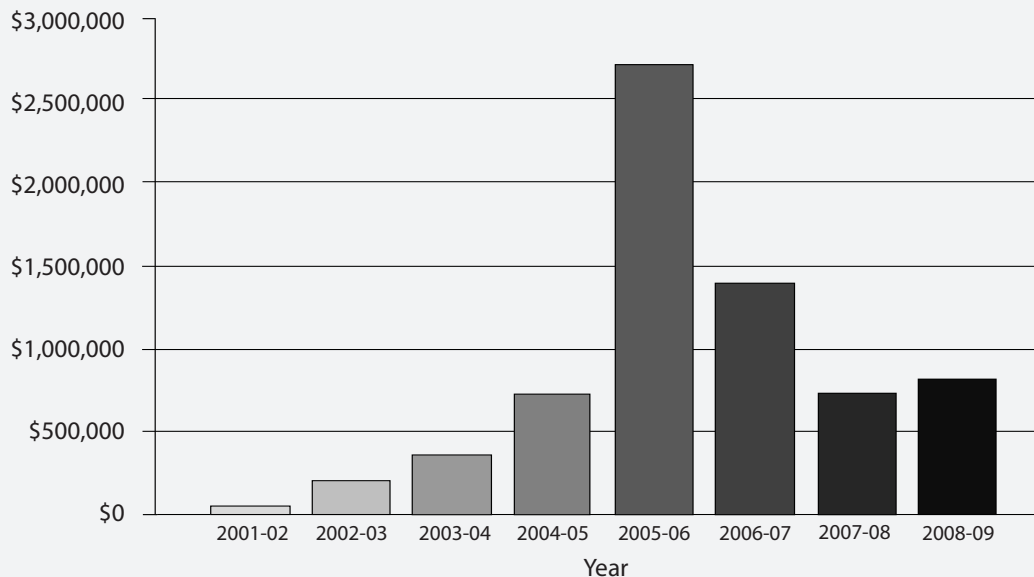
# NSAC Development and Alumni Relations

## Report to Donors 2008-09

Despite the crisis in the economy, NSAC's Alumni/Foundation had another successful year of fundraising in 2008-09. Total donations and transfers into Foundation accounts during the fiscal year amounted to \$813,434.

This was slightly higher than the 2007-08 but still less than our totals in 05-04 and 05-06. The total fund balance stood at \$6,014,641. Historical donation totals are found in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Donation Total



*While the average size of donation remains high, the number of donations continues to slide. We are not acquiring new donors as fast as we are losing those them.*

With the assistance of Alisha Hannam who took on the role of Development Officer in January 2009, initiatives were begun to try to correct this trend. NSAC is not unique in reduced donor numbers as economic conditions have worked against all universities. We are fortunate however to

have such a core of loyal alumni and efforts are sure to improve the situation in years to come.

The various designated campaigns by which we receive donations include: annual mail appeal, scholarship appeal, research funding, special events and memorials. Other includes money for development projects deposited with the Foundation for investment that will be used for NSAC programs. A comparison with the previous two years is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Total Donations and Transfers into Foundation Accounts**

	<b>2006-07</b> <b>Donations</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2007-08</b> <b>Donations</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008-09</b> <b>Donations</b>	<b>%</b>
2nd Century Endowment	\$65,619	4.7%	\$9,746	1.4%	\$319	
Annual Appeal	\$70,533	5.1%	\$101,170	4.1%	\$95,203	12%
Scholarship Appeal	\$355,090	25.6%	\$161,749	22.5%	\$112,975	14%
Memorials	\$7,249	0.5%	\$107,350	14.9%	\$5,760	1%
Research	\$414,494	29.9%	\$48,367	1.4%	\$17,700	2%
Special Events	\$3,231	0.2%	\$2,790	0.4%	\$2,900	0.4%
Other	\$469,920	33.9%	\$287,896	40.0%	\$578,578	71%

The Second Century Endowment Campaign was in its fifth and final year in 2008-09 as the last of the pledges were collected. While funding for research projects, scholarships and the annual appeal donations was lower during the year, contributions to international projects increased.

The annual appeal campaign had a very strong showing as the mailing went out at a good time and was particularly targeted to student support. This year we received \$95,203

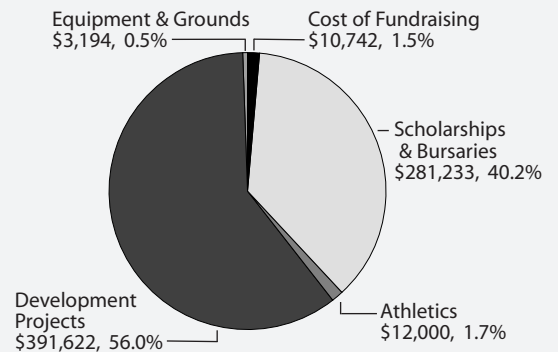
through the mail appeal, newsletters and personal solicitations. There were 217 donations for a 4.9% response rate on the mail out and phone campaign. This is our best result to-date in terms of a percentage return. A total of \$5,924 was spent on materials for the annual campaign yielding a return of \$16 per dollar invested. Table 3 shows the historic trend in the annual appeal.

**Table 2. Historic Annual Appeal Trend**

<b>Year</b>	<b># Sent</b>	<b># Ret</b>	<b>% Ret</b>	<b>\$ Donated</b>	<b>Avg.\$/Gift</b>	<b>\$ Ret/\$ Invested</b>
2008-09	4400	217	4.9%	\$95,203	\$438	\$16.07
2007-08	4700	205	4.3%	\$101,169	\$494	\$53.47
2006-07	4750	182	3.8%	\$70,533	\$387	\$28.31
2005-06	5400	170	3.1%	\$42,647	\$250	\$11.55
2004-05	5400	260	4.7%	\$89,950	\$345	\$19.00
2003-04	5400	170	3.1%	\$21,369	\$125	\$4.44
2002-03	5500	137	2.5%	\$14,595	\$106	\$3.40

**Figure 2. Disbursement Area 2008-09**

The real measure of the impact that the fundraising efforts are having is shown by the amount of support that can be provided back to NSAC each year. Total disbursement for the year was \$698,790. This was greater than the disbursement of 2007-08 by over \$213,000. The breakdown of the disbursements from the various funds appears in Figure 2. A total of \$281,233 went out in support of scholarships and bursaries. While there were no expenditures for research this year, it is expected that a significant amount will go out next year. The Ghana and Ethiopia projects account for the bulk of the development expenditures.



**Table 3. Total Fund Balance/Disbursements**

Year	Fund Balance	Disbursements
2008-09	\$6,014,641	\$698,790
2007-08	\$6,086,095	\$485,180
2006-07	\$5,696,166	\$1,577,255
2005-06	\$5,557,006	\$225,792
2004-05	\$2,212,894	\$273,563
2003-04	\$1,672,116	\$215,259
2002-03	\$1,457,315	\$158,425
2001-02	\$1,363,455	\$67,649
2000-01	\$1,332,706	\$54,914
1999-00	\$870,208	\$31,549

Table 3 shows the total fund balance held by the Foundation and the total disbursements made annually since 1999-2000.

The fundraising effort has resulted in significant return to NSAC over the years. Even in a hard economic time, contributions to NSAC for the various causes continue. It is obvious however that there is considerable potential for improvement. The addition of Alisha helped increase the number of donations at the end of the season and plans are well underway to make significant gains in 2009-10. We continue to build and seek opportunities to increase our donor base and establish our credibility with alumni and donors. Increased assistance of volunteers both on and off campus will help us meet our objectives.

**Donations in Action**



**\$1,000 Merle Cail Memorial Scholarship Presented**

*Maria Angelica Rojas, Richmond Hill, ON, an M.Sc. student, was the 2008 recipient of the \$1,000 Merle Cail Memorial Scholarship. Mrs. Faye Cail is shown congratulating Maria on receiving the scholarship. The award is presented to a student whose course or project work reflected an interest in organic agriculture. Selection criteria include academic performance, financial need and commitment to organic agriculture.*



**Truro Area Student Receives Karen Meek Memorial Scholarship**

*Colette Wyllie, Debert, NS, a 3rd year B.Sc. Agr. Environmental Sciences student received the \$1,500 Karen Meek Memorial Scholarship in 2008. The scholarship recognizes academic performance, financial need and contribution to campus life. Pictured with Colette are Eric and Pauline Meek, Canning, NS, parents of Karen Meek, who studied at NSAC in 1980-82 and in whose name the scholarship is given.*

**NSAC Donor Summary**

**Donations made between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009**

*The following is a list of all those who have donated to NSAC between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 arranged alphabetically by donation size range. For donors who are alumni, their class year is shown following the name. In cases where there are multiple numbers, it indicates more than one class year or class years of married alumni.*

*We do our best to ensure accuracy in the information however we apologize for any errors or omissions that may have occurred.*

**Planned Gifts**

- Mr. Peter Hamilton 1944
- Mr. Malcolm MacQuarrie 1948
- Mr. John Atkin

**Matching Gifts**

- Kraft Canada Inc.

**Gifts and Contributions Above \$100,000**

- Canadian International Development Agency

**\$25,000 - \$99,999**

- Mr. John Bragg
- Stuco Holdings Limited

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Atlantic Provinces Hatchery Federation  
Compass Group Canada  
Dr. Robert G. Ross 1947  
Mr. Mark Starratt

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Nova Scotia Turkey Producers Marketing Board  
PEI Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry  
Syngenta Crop Protection

## **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

ACA Cooperative Limited/Eden Valley Farms Limited  
Mrs. Margaret Archibald  
Atlantic Fertilizer Institute  
Chartwells  
Chicken Producers Association of Nova Scotia  
Mr. Robert N. Clark 1959  
Dr. William B. Collins 1946  
Co-op Atlantic  
Mr. Bill Crowson  
Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia  
Mr. Thomas J. Dunphy 1958  
Dykeview Farms  
Egg Producers of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Farmers Dairy  
Ms. Catherine Folinsbee  
Dr. Donald L. Grant 1958  
Mr. Campbell Gunn 1959  
Dr. Les Haley 1958  
Mr. Peter Y. Hamilton 1944  
Mr. Robert L. Johnston 1961  
Mrs. Jessie King  
Kings Mutual Insurance Company  
Dr. J. Allan MacKay 1943  
Mr. Malcolm MacQuarrie 1948  
Mr. L. Mapplebeck & Ms. L. Sanderson 1975  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Meek 1954  
TD Insurance Meloche Monnex  
MER Enterprises Ltd.  
New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists  
Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture  
Nova Scotia Animal Breeders  
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture  
Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists  
Nova Scotia Power Incorporated  
Ms. Sherry E. Porter 1975  
Mr. James Retson  
Rotary Club of Truro  
Royal Bank of Canada  
Shur Gain/Nutreco Canada Inc.  
Syngenta Pest Management  
Mr. & Mrs. David Thompson 1970  
Mr. Harold J. Trask 1948  
Mr. Havey Whidden  
Ms. Barbara E. Whiston, PAg 1990

## **\$250 - \$999**

Anonymous  
Mr. Glibert Allen 1956  
Animal Nutrition Association of Canada  
Atlantic Association of Landscape Designers  
Atlantic Land Improvement Contractors Association  
Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society  
Bedford Horticultural Society  
Mr. Byron E. Beeler 1956  
Bible Hill Garden Club  
Mr. Donald C. Bishop 1947  
Dr. H. Garth Coffin 1960  
Mr. Donald S. Cox 1946  
Mr. Harry C. Cox 1954  
Mr. Malcolm M. Crone 1949  
Mr. John E. Dalton 1971  
Dr. Robert W. Daniels 1963  
Dartmouth Horticultural Society  
Mr. Trevor & Ms. Shari Dillman 2000 & 2003  
Mr. Brian S. Ellsworth 1957  
Dr. Gisela E. Erf 1979  
Fundy Community Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Goit  
Mr. Robert W. Hanes 1949  
Mr. Stephen & Mrs. Patti Healy 1973  
Mrs. Edith Hudgins  
Dr. Dick Huggard 1956  
Inverness County Federation of Agriculture  
Isgonish Chapter IODE  
Mr. Jack Johnson 1950  
Dr. Gwyneth Jones  
Kraft Canada Inc.  
Landscape Nova Scotia  
Ms. Clara LeBlanc 1975  
Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture  
Dr. Ken MacKay 1951  
Mr. Clifford W. MacLellan 1979  
Mr. Alastair J. Mathewson 1985  
Mr. Ernest G. Maynard 1959  
Mr. Irvin B. McCormick 1959  
Nova Scotia 4-H Council  
Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association  
NS/NF Holstein Association of Canada  
NSAC Association of Grad Students  
NSAC International  
Dr. Dian Patterson  
Patterson Law  
Ms. Audrey S. Payne 1964  
Pictou Mutual Insurance Co.  
Dr. Nancy L. Pitts 1978  
Pork Nova Scotia  
Prince Edward Island Potato Board  
Prince Edward Island Swine Breeders' Association  
Mr. Donald A. Ramey 1959  
Mr. Trevor P. Richardson 1977  
Rix Family Farm  
Mrs. Nerenne Russell  
Mr. Bruce L. Sinclair 1985  
Stewiacke Valley Garden Club  
Mr. Victor W. Sutherland 1954  
Mr. Bill Swetnam 1956  
Mr. Jess M. Thompson 1958  
Mr. Mark G. Tracey 1982  
Mr. & Mrs. Gaskin Trueman 1975 & 1961  
Ms. Carol J. Versteeg 1975  
Dr. Vernon R. (Vic) Vickery 1947  
Village Garden Club  
Mr. Gary D. Wallace 1983 & 2005  
Wentworth Garden Club  
Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

## **Up to \$250**

Mr. William P. Abraham 1952  
Mr. David R. Aiton 1972  
A.J. Walkers  
Mr. Stuart F. Allaby 1949  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Allen 1988 & 1988  
Mr. Murray Amirault  
Mr. Don Anderson 1978  
Mr. Bruce & Ms Theresa Andrews 1994 & 1989  
Mrs. Isabel Archibald 1952  
Mr. Dan Armstrong  
Dr. Steven C. Backman 1982  
Mr. G. Melvin Barclay 1961  
Mr. David P. Bent 1978  
Mr. Arnold G. Beyer 1978  
Mr. Sterling Bishop  
Mr. Peter W. Boswall 1981  
Ms. Bonnie Boyd  
Dr. Gord. Brewster  
Mr. John A. Brown 1975  
Mr. Donald L. Byers 1963  
Mr. Greg Caldwell  
Dr. Claude Caldwell  
Mr. Grant D. Campbell 1983  
Mr. Neil Campbell  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
Mr. Bert Carr  
Mr. Paul M. Carroll 1987  
Ms. Christine D. Carroll 1985  
Carsand Mosher Photographic Ltd.  
Mr. Stephen D. Casselman 1966  
Cavendish Agri-Services  
Ms. Teresa Childs  
CIBC  
Mr. Richard C. Cochran 1963  
Mr. Willis Cock 1950  
Mr. Edgar Coffin  
Mr. Robert M. Colpitts 1954  
Mr. Ronald V. Colpitts 1954  
Mr & Mrs Jeff Cowell 1985 & 1983  
Ms. Audrey J. Connell 1999  
Mr. Archie M. Cook 1960  
Ms. Janet Coombes 1975  
Cornwallis Farms  
Mr. Francis E. Cotter 1964  
Dr. Don Craig 1945  
Mr. Donald Crober  
Mr. L. James Crooker 1966  
Mr. Doug Crouse 1956  
Mr. Boyd R. Crouse 1978  
Mr. Andrew B. Crouse 1980  
Mr. Frank A. Crouse 1982  
Mr. Harry F. Crouse 1956  
Mrs. Engelina E. Crouse 1987  
Mr. J. Gordon Crowe 1946  
Dr. Wayne E. Davidson, DVM 1962  
Mr. Keith R. Douglas 1965  
Mr. Edward B. Doyle 1981  
Mr. Randal L. Drake 1992  
Mr. Jonathan Drake  
Mrs. Shirley Drisner  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Duivenvoorden 1983 & 1992  
Mr. Brian H. DuPlessis 1971  
Mr. William C. Durant 1951  
Eastern Veterinary Technician Association  
Mr. John B. Eaton 1957  
Mr. Freeman S. Eaton 1954  
Mr. Dale Ells 1959  
Dr. Charles G. Embree 1961  
Mrs. Mary Esposito  
Mr. Evans N. Estabrooks 1962  
Farm Credit Canada  
Farm Focus  
Mr. David L. Faulkner 1966  
Ms. Catherine Faulkner  
Ms. Jean Fearon  
Ms. Joyce A. Ferguson 1982  
Dr. Nigel Firth  
Fisher Farms  
Mr. Bernard Forbes  
Mr. Ronald Fraser 1965  
Mr. Jim Fraser & Ms. Donna Langille 1972 & 1969  
Ms. Crystal D. Furlong 1983  
Mr. Tony Glencross 1963  
Ms. Kathleen E. Glover 1978

- Mr. & Mrs. William Glover 1987 & 1985  
 Ms. Carol D. Goodwin 1976  
 Ms. Evelyn Gould  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerrit Groenberg 1984 & 1985  
 Mr. Arnold J. Hagen 1985  
 Mr. William L. Hanlon 1952  
 Ms. Greta Harop  
 Ms. Wendy O. Harris 1979  
 Mr. Zelma Hartling  
 Mr. Leslie Harvey  
 Mr. Richard H. Harvie 1948  
 Mr. Laurie D. Hennigar 1960  
 Mr. Rhodes L. Hennigar 1945  
 Mr. John D. Hilchey 1941  
 Mr. Charles V. Hiltz 1966  
 Dr. Richard A. Holley 1964  
 Mr. Bradford C. Hood 1974  
 Dr. Robert L. Horsburgh 1951  
 Ms. Frances Hounsell  
 Mr. John M. Hutchings 1978  
 Mr. Don Huxter  
 Dr. A. James  
 Mr. Paul J. Jenkins 1979  
 Ms. Sally Johnson  
 Rev. Grant Johnston 1971  
 Mr. Toomas Karmo  
 Mr. James S. Keen 1986  
 Mr. John E. Kelly 1983  
 Mr. Earl R. Kidston 1969  
 Ms. Shannon Kilyanek  
 Ms. Heather Anne Kinsman  
 Mr. George A. LaBelle 1955  
 Mr. Jonathan P. Langille 1985  
 Dr. Kyra L. Larkin-Sladek, D.V 1990  
 Mr. Hibbert G. Lawrence 1949  
 Ms. Anne M. Lelacheur 1978  
 Mr. Kenneth F. Lingley 1979  
 Dr. Robert Livingston  
 Mr. Chesley L. Lockhart 1948  
 Mr. Norman S. Logan 1950  
 Mr. Robert E. Longmoore 1964  
 Mr. J. D. Lubin 1960  
 Mr. James L. MacAfee 1972  
 Dr. Bertrum H. MacDonald 1971  
 Mr. Frank MacDonald  
 Mr. Donald G. MacDonald 1975  
 Mr. Donald L. MacDonald 1960  
 Mr. Joseph L. MacDougall 1970  
 Dr. Donald C. MacKay 1943  
 Ms. Jane R. MacLaurin 1993  
 HCol C. R. MacLellan, MC, CD 1948  
 Mr. Rod & Mrs. Robin MacLennan  
 Mr. William E. MacLennan 1949  
 Mr. Edward MacMillan  
 Mr. Michael MacMullin  
 Mr. Donald G. MacNeil 1956 & 1958  
 Dr. Ted MacNintch 1956  
 Mr. Eric P. MacPhail 1947  
 Mr. John E. Madiill 1966
- Mr. Arlington S. Mair 1948  
 Mr. Kenneth Marchant  
 Ms. Helen Marks  
 Mr. Bruce Marshall  
 Dr. Ralph Martin  
 Mrs. Carolyn Maxwell  
 McCain Produce, Inc.  
 Mr. Brian R. McCullum 1977  
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas McDonald 1984 & 1982  
 Mr. Donald P. McInnes 1955  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale Mclsaac 1973 & 1978  
 Ms. Debra L. McLellan 1999 & 2007  
 Mrs. Cynthia A. Mitchell 1988  
 Mr. Bill Moore  
 Mrs. Darby L. Mullen 1985  
 Mrs. Grace Munro  
 Ms. Tracey G. Murdock 1986  
 Mr. David Murphy  
 Mr. Neil L. Murphy 1964  
 Mr. Vernon R. Murray 1954  
 Mr. Lloyd Murray  
 Mr. Larry M. Nason 1990  
 Ms. Pat. Nelson  
 Mr. Lloyd Nelson  
 New Holland Canada Ltd.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Craig Newcombe 1986  
 Mr. Craig R. Nichols 1985  
 Mr & Mrs. Fraser Nicholson 1976 & 1979  
 Mr. Shawn Nolan  
 Mr. Charles Noltie  
 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture  
 Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition  
 Novartis Animal Health  
 Mr. Patrick J. O'Brien 1978  
 Ms. Glenda O'Brien 1978  
 Mr. William G. Oulton 1975  
 Mr. Brad Palmer  
 Mr. Wayne Paquet  
 Mr. Robert L. Parks 1954  
 Ms. Treasa & Mr. Michael Pauley 1998 & 2002  
 Mr. Art Perry  
 Ms. Lisa D. Peters 1998  
 Dr. Robin M. Phillips, DVM 1961  
 Mr. Kenneth Pierce  
 Mr. Fred Pierce 1958  
 Mr. & Mrs. D. A. Porter 1993 & 1989  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Prentice-Hudson 1981  
 Mr. Greg & Mrs. Pansy Rand 1984 & 1982  
 Mr. Bruce E. Rand 1970  
 RBC Charlottetown  
 Ms. Sandra Reesor  
 Dr. Charles L. Ricketson, PhD 1951  
 Mrs. Betty Ritcey  
 Mr. Ronald F. Roach 1939  
 Mr. Harold E. Robbins 1950
- Mr. Phillip S. Robichaud 1979  
 Mr. Jeff Robichaud  
 Ms. Martha H. Robinson 1985  
 Ms. Betty Ross  
 Dr. Kristi Rouvinen-Watt  
 Ms. Nancy Saunders  
 Mr. Alfred J. Scotthorn 1946  
 Mr. David A. Shaw 1964  
 Shur Gain  
 Mr. George W. Sinclair 1964  
 Mr. Sedgewick P. Sinclair 1964  
 Ms. Inga Skundberg  
 Mr. Larry Slipp  
 Ms. Julie Small  
 Mr. Darrell W. Smith 1971  
 Rev. Angus J. Smith 1952  
 Mrs. Nancy J. Smith 1984  
 Mr. Al Smith 1957  
 Mr. Isaac W. Smith 1968  
 Mr. Alford L. Smith 1972  
 Mr & Mrs Ron Somers 1970 & 1969  
 St. James Presbyterian Church  
 Mr. & Mrs Jim Steeves 1974 & 1976  
 Mr. Daniel Stewart 1956  
 Mr & Mrs Greg Sullivan 1995 & 1995  
 Mr. Donald W. Sutherland 1972
- Mr. G. Ian Swan 1953  
 Ms. Margaret E. Tate 1983 & 2005  
 Mr. Stuart L. Taylor 1973  
 Ms. Judy Thompson  
 Dr. David W. Thorne 1966  
 Mr. Calvin R. Tilley 1954  
 Mr. Brian L. Trenholm 1972  
 Mr. Stephen W. Tweedie 1977  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Van de Wiel 1992 & 1993  
 Mr. John B. Van den Hof 1979  
 Mr. Harry W. Van der Linden 1976  
 Ms. J. Van Dyk & Mr. J. McLellan 1978 & 1977  
 Mr. Peter M. Van Wychen 1988  
 Ms. Bonnie Waddell  
 Mr. James G. Walsh 1963  
 Mr. Stanley J. Warwick 1959  
 Mr. Steven W. Watts 1983  
 Mr. Blair Waugh  
 Wesley United Church  
 Mr. Thomas S. Whitman 1979  
 Ms. Crosbie Williams 1989  
 Ms. Marianne Yorke  
 Mr. Wade Yorke  
 Ms. Nancy L. Zwicker 1981

### Donations Totals 2001-2008

by Class Year

<b>1922</b>	\$50	<b>1959</b>	\$24,294	<b>1985</b>	\$3,587
<b>1933</b>	\$800	<b>1960</b>	\$4,525	<b>1986</b>	\$705
<b>1934</b>	\$50	<b>1961</b>	\$6,367	<b>1987</b>	\$420
<b>1935</b>	\$50	<b>1962</b>	\$4,923	<b>1988</b>	\$2,795
<b>1936</b>	\$1,700	<b>1963</b>	\$3,717	<b>1989</b>	\$1,842
<b>1938</b>	\$2,060	<b>1964</b>	\$6,492	<b>1990</b>	\$8,140
<b>1939</b>	\$52,691	<b>1965</b>	\$4,797	<b>1991</b>	\$705
<b>1940</b>	\$2,950	<b>1966</b>	\$6,297	<b>1992</b>	\$1,448
<b>1941</b>	\$2,020	<b>1967</b>	\$25,765	<b>1993</b>	\$1,035
<b>1942</b>	\$1,510	<b>1968</b>	\$290	<b>1994</b>	\$650
<b>1943</b>	\$29,950	<b>1969</b>	\$1,935	<b>1995</b>	\$1,000
<b>1944</b>	\$56,394	<b>1970</b>	\$12,320	<b>1996</b>	\$2,489
<b>1945</b>	\$37,020	<b>1971</b>	\$6,285	<b>1997</b>	\$634
<b>1946</b>	\$40,037	<b>1972</b>	\$3,050	<b>1998</b>	\$965
<b>1947</b>	\$21,896	<b>1973</b>	\$11,303	<b>1999</b>	\$895
<b>1948</b>	\$32,089	<b>1974</b>	\$3,430	<b>2000</b>	\$1,084
<b>1949</b>	\$13,885	<b>1975</b>	\$21,683	<b>2001</b>	\$145
<b>1950</b>	\$23,717	<b>1976</b>	\$3,065	<b>2002</b>	\$520
<b>1951</b>	\$8,157	<b>1977</b>	\$3,195	<b>2003</b>	\$295
<b>1952</b>	\$4,880	<b>1978</b>	\$3,173	<b>2004</b>	\$500
<b>1953</b>	\$2,075	<b>1979</b>	\$5,710	<b>2005</b>	\$65
<b>1954</b>	\$15,297	<b>1980</b>	\$2,040	<b>2006</b>	\$60
<b>1955</b>	\$3,062	<b>1981</b>	\$5,170	<b>2007</b>	\$70
<b>1956</b>	\$39,285	<b>1982</b>	\$2,700	<b>2008</b>	\$20
<b>1957</b>	\$4,355	<b>1983</b>	\$3,538		
<b>1958</b>	\$10,374	<b>1984</b>	\$1,975		



# 104<sup>th</sup> Convocation



NSAC held its 104th Convocation ceremony on Friday, May 1 in the Langille Athletic Centre. The class of 2009 had 142 graduates who were awarded 143 degrees and diplomas.



Graduates included students from every Canadian province except Saskatchewan as well as from China, India, Botswana and Germany. Some graduates were able to study in Norway, Mexico and at Virginia Tech in the United States as part of their degree requirements.

This year's valedictorian was Shauna Berkvens from Antigonish, NS who graduated with a B.Sc. in Bio-Environmental Systems Management with Honours. Berkvin's address to her fellow graduates was a humorous account of her time at NSAC. She inspired her class to embrace the opportunities they will encounter in life.

"You will make mistakes or may even fail many times when starting out, but keep at it and don't give up," said Berkvens. "A little persistence goes a long way."

During the ceremony, Jeff and Debra Moore, founders of *Just Us! Coffee Roasters Cooperative* were each bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Laws. In addition, Paul Millman, Executive Director, Nova Scotia International Student Program was recognized as a Friend of NSAC.

Millman and his team at NSISP have brought nearly 1000 international students to Nova Scotia to study at local junior and senior high schools. Annually, he brings ESL camps to campus so participants can experience NSAC first hand and at every opportunity Millman promotes NSAC to international markets.

"Paul's expertise and advocacy of NSAC has been invaluable to the internationalization of our campus," says Monica Sani, Manager of Recruitment, NSAC. "We have seen our international student population grow from four percent in 2007, to seven percent in 2008, to close to ten percent this year."



### Life Executive

Arnold Hagen, President, NSAC Alumni Association is shown offering congratulations to the 2009 Life Executive and Valedictorian.

L-R: Arnold Hagen, Shauna Berkvens (Valedictorian), Kaitlyn Kennedy (Life Secretary) and Jaclyn Mosher (Life President).



### Silver & Bronze Distinction Awards

Silver and bronze distinction awards were presented at NSAC's Convocation Banquet for academic achievements.

L-R: Kaitlyn Kennedy (Bronze Distinction), Kaylah Jenne (Silver Distinction), Maryella Maynard (Silver Distinction) and Jenna Hazelton (Silver Distinction).



### Another NSAC Family

Maryella Maynard (center) is shown with her parents at Convocation. This marked a special celebration for the Maynard family as Maryella's mother, Liz, graduated 33 years ago (Class of '76) and her great grandfather, Walter Trueman Wright, 90 years ago (Class of '19), all from NSAC.

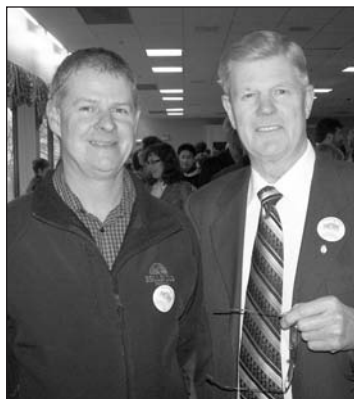
This family history at NSAC will not stop with Maryella. In September, NSAC will welcome her sister and cousin.

Millman also shares in NSAC's commitment to rural development. He has developed the Chignecto Central Leadership Camp, a camp dedicated to taking local students to another country to make a difference in a community in need. The work of Millman and the Moores prove that one person can make a difference.

Key student award winners included Renee Garbes, Truro, NS (Gold Governor General's Medal); Julie Berkshire, Wileville, NS (Silver Governor General's Medal); and Karen Nelson, Fredericton, NB (Bronze Governor General's Medal).

The Convocation ceremony also featured the presentation of awards for teaching, internationalization and research excellence.

"Our goal is to build leaders, develop innovations that sustain communities and shape global agriculture," said Dr. Leslie MacLaren, NSAC's Co-President, Vice President Academic during her opening remarks. "As I looked at this year's graduates, I saw a group of individuals that will help us meet that goal."



Cousins Martin Gillies (Class of '84) and Dick Huggard (Class of '56) pose for a photo at the Convocation reception. Martin and his wife Sylvia (Class of '85) were back on campus to watch their oldest daughter, Ashley, walk across the stage to receive her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business degree.

## Honorary Doctorates: Jeff and Debra Moore

Jeff and Debra are proponents of the philosophy that we each have the power to use our purchases to promote and support social justice, community development and environmental sustainability.



Jeff and Debra Moore, founders of *Just Us! Coffee Roasters Cooperative*, are shown with NSAC's Co-Presidents, Dr. Bernie MacDonald and Dr. Leslie MacLaren, as well as Dr. Ralph Martin, who read their citation, after being presented Honorary Doctorate Degrees of Laws. L-R: Dr. Bernie MacDonald, Dr. Ralph Martin, Jeff, Debra and Dr. Leslie MacLaren.

There are few people who have had such a major impact on their community as Jeff and Debra Moore. Together they have been largely responsible for beginning a trend to fair trade business practices, as well as the economic and social redevelopment of rural areas around the globe. Not only have they been practicing their new business program in far off countries, but also right here in Nova Scotia.

In 1996 Jeff and Debra, along with three friends, established the *Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-operative*. The co-operative came not only as a means to earn a livelihood but also to assist marginalized regions in receiving a fair and equitable price for their products. Today, they now purchase coffee from 12 co-operatives in countries around the world.

*Just Us!* has been recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in Atlantic Canada with sales in excess of \$5 million while employing over 65 people in processing and wholesaling and in its cafes. *Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-op* is Canada's first certified fair trade coffee roaster, collaborating with producer partners the globe over in the promotion of an international trade system that believes in "people and the planet before profits." The company now deals in fair trade organic coffee, tea, chocolate and sugar.

Sustainability has always been one of the main focuses of *Just Us!* In addition to being 100 per cent fair trade and 100 per cent organic, most of the café ingredients and approximately 90 per cent of the fresh produce served is sourced locally. The town of Wolfville is Canada's first "fair trade" town and is committed to fair trade's principles locally as it applies to 'buy local,' a testament to the influence of the Moores and *Just Us!*

This business has become a model of how social and environmental responsibility can be merged with economic productivity and education for all. The fair trade movement is now well established for many products in Canada, thanks to the work of *Just Us!* ☺



### Presentation of Class Gift

The 2009 Grad Committee Co-Chairs, Jaclyn Mosher and Lisa Deveau are shown presenting the class gift, a *Picea omorika* "Bruns" tree, to NSAC's Co-Presidents, Dr. Bernie MacDonald and Dr. Leslie MacLaren. The new addition to NSAC's landscape is located by the side entrance of the Collins Building.



## *The 2008 President's List*



NSAC honored the universities highest caliber students on February 4th. One hundred and nine names were added to NSAC's President's List, recognizing students for their outstanding academic achievements from the winter and fall semesters of 2008.

To be named to the President's List, students must be within the top ten per cent of their program of study and have a term average of 80 percent or higher. Students must also be enrolled in four or more courses per semester.

Honorees enjoyed an inspirational address from Dr. Kevin Sibley, Chief Operating Officer, Atlantic BioVenture Centre and Professor of Engineering at NSAC, titled *Metaphors for Living Life*.

Dr. Sibley provided students with insights for looking at the world in a new way, through a compilation of short contemplative metaphors for dealing with life's ups and downs.



*Dr. Bernie MacDoland , Co-President, Vice President Administration, stands with the Colchester County students recognized at NSAC's President's List.*



*President's List recipients raise their glasses – are they half full, or half empty? during Dr. Kevin Sibley's insightful metaphor address?*



# Alumni Family Bursary Update

Since it was created in April 2008, NSAC's Alumni Family Bursary has become a major priority for fundraising at NSAC. The bursary, which was first distributed in September 2008 to 13 students, provides \$1000 and \$500 awards to students who are directly related to alumni.



Back row left: Mr. Arnold Hagen, President, NSAC Alumni Association; Casey McLellan, Noel Shore, NS, 1st year DEM - Dairy Farming (\$1,000); Stephanie MacLean, Waterville, NS, 1st year DEM - Equine, (\$500); Jason Van Kessell, New Glasgow, NS, 1st year Engineering (\$1,000); and William Swetnam, Centreville, NS, 1st year B.Sc.(Agr.) Agricultural Business student (\$500)

Front row, left: Caitlyn Congdon, Great Village, NS, 1st year B.Sc. (Agr.) Plant Science (\$1,000); and Briana Dillman, Musquodoboit, NS, a 1st year Diploma in Enterprise Management - Dairy Farming (\$1,000)

The Alumni Family Bursary is of huge importance as it has the potential to provide financial relief for many families with long family roots at NSAC. We recognize that attending university is a major financial commitment and it is important to provide as much support as we can.

Based on applications for the bursary in 2008, it is clear that the student demand and eligibility for the bursary is much higher than the funds that are available. Unfortunately we are unable to provide support to all eligible students until the fund grows substantially.

We can predict that as more awareness is built around the Alumni Family Bursary, the demand will only grow as well. The fund currently holds approximately \$136,000 and it is estimated that \$750,000 is needed in the endowment to sustain the bursary and meet the demand of eligible students. In 2008, \$10,000 from the bursary was paid out in awards, while \$30,000 could have easily been awarded to provide support for every eligible student.

In March, a targeted phone campaign was held to help increase funds in the bursary. Over four nights, NSAC students, many of

whom were recipients of the Alumni Family Bursary, called approximately 400 prospective donors seeking financial support.

A total of \$13,865 was raised in pledges. Donors were given the option to pay for pledges through a monthly or annual payment plan over three years. As of May 1, \$3,251 had been paid in.

Expenses for the phone campaign included production and mailing costs for appeal letters to prospective donors, as well as pledge cards and student wages. Total expenses equaled \$1,431.

We are very thankful for the support received from donors. Your support will go a long way to help students reach their career goals.

Please do not forget to fulfill your pledges!

If you have not already done so, you can support the Alumni Family Bursary and help students with their education costs. Please contact the Development & External Relations Office at 902-893-6721, or you can make a payment online by visiting [nsac.ca/donate](http://nsac.ca/donate)

Help continue the tradition of alumni supporting alumni by contributing to NSAC's Alumni Family Bursary. ☺

## BC Reunion

Ashley Shepard, NSAC's Senior Student Recruitment Officer was in Abbotsford, BC in late February recruiting prospective "Aggies"

While in the area, she hosted a meet and greet for NSAC alumni at the abc Country Restaurant on February 18th. Ashley, who is also an NSAC alumna, was happy to report that those who attended had a great time catching up, sharing some memories and laughs and of course, snacking on some tasty treats!



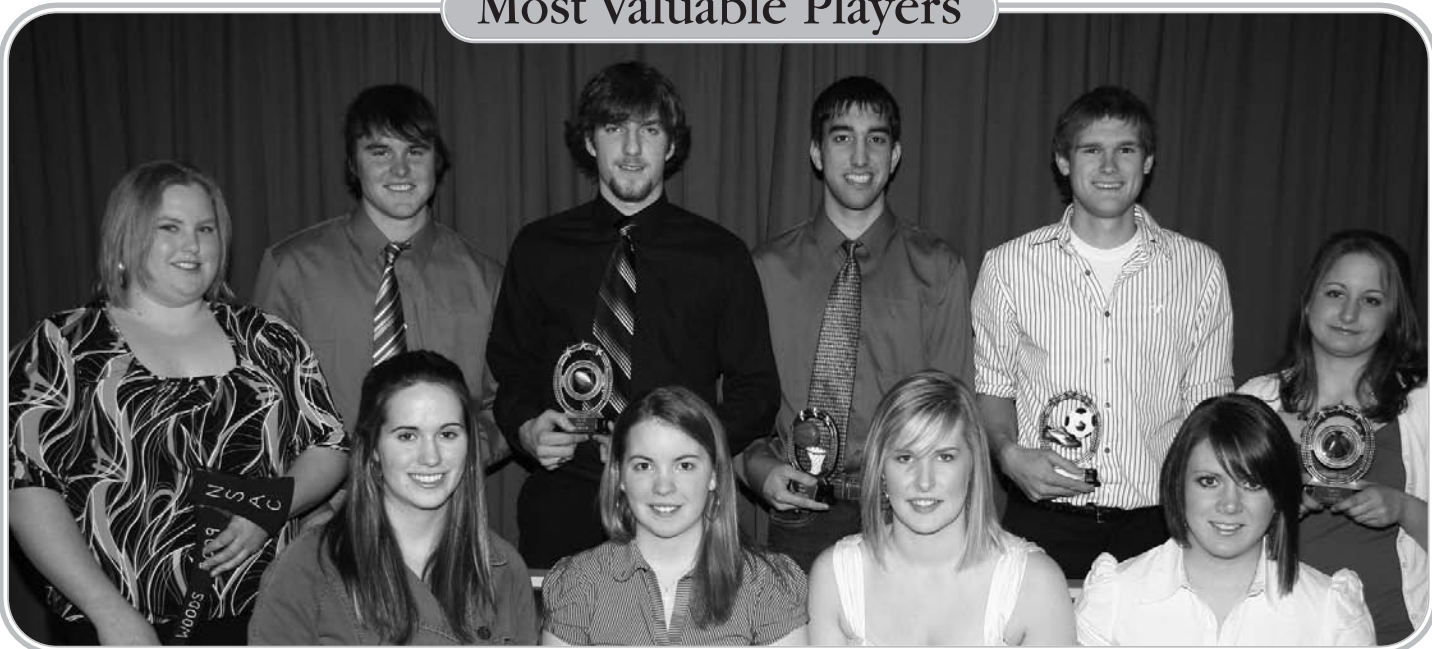
Pictured from left to right: Ashley Shepard Class of '07, Katie Zubec (Roach) '85, Margaret Walsh (Salter) '67, Bob Mitchell '73, Maureen Kelly (Mitchell) '77, Grant McMillian '02, Tara MacKinnon '06, Gerry Russell '00, Matthew Horne '91.



# ATHLETICS

## The 2009 Athletic Awards

### Most Valuable Players



Front l-r: Mandy McDonald (Volleyball), Jaclyn Mosher (Soccer), Jenna Hazelton (Basketball), Kelsey Harpman (Rugby)  
Back l-r: Kyley Cole (Woodsmen), Mark Verleun (Woodsmen), Scot Fram (Rugby), Josh McGill (Basketball), Scott Brown (Soccer), Mary Lomas (Equestrian Club)

### Athletes of the Year



Dian Patterson, Acting Associate Vice-President Academic presents Athletes of the Year Awards to Kyley Cole Middle Musquodoboit, NS, and Dan Gillis Inverness, NS.



### Hustle Award

- Basketball (m) Thomas Teakles
- Basketball (w) Kelsey Harpman
- Rugby (m) Dylan Allain
- Rugby (w) Victoria Gilby
- Soccer (m) Kent Mader
- Soccer (w) Janice Cameron
- Volleyball (m) none
- Volleyball (w) Bethany Holliday
- Woodsmen (m) Jeff Campbell
- Woodsmen (w) Jenelle Patriquin

The Hustle Award is presented to the athlete who demonstrates the most effort and works the hardest during the season.

# ATHLETICS

## Woodsmen Award



Woodsmen coach, Scott Reid, sprays the saw for Candace Black.

NSAC's Woodsmen had another strong season attending all four competitions held throughout the year. NSAC's men's team is rebuilding as many talented players have joined the team. The young team finished fifth in the overall rankings this season.

NSAC's women's team one swept the board this year winning every competition. These wins marked a milestone for the team as they received the CILA Cup for five years in a row. NSAC's

second women's team also had a successful season finishing fifth in the league and showing promise for future seasons.

Results for NSAC's Rick Russell Woodsmen competition:

NSAC W1 - 1st  
NSAC W2 - 6th  
NSAC M1 - 4th



### CILA M.V.P.

(Canadian Intercollegiate Lumberjacking Association)



*CILA is awarded to the athlete who scores the most points in their registered events, over all four competitions of the season.*

Kyley Cole. (Kyley also came 2nd in the CILA STIHL TIMBERSPORTS Challenge.)



### ACAA All-Conference

#### Soccer

Jaclyn Mosher (1st team)  
Sara Seemel (2nd team)  
Scott Brown (1st team)  
Robert Newcombe (2nd team)

#### Rugby

Kelsey Harpman  
Patti Gilroy  
Victoria Gilby  
Holly Morton - *Rookie of the Year*  
Derek Baird  
Kirby Taylor

*ACAA All Conference awards are presented to athletes deemed to be the best players in the conference, as voted by all team coaches.*



# ATHLETICS



## SIRC-CCAA Academic All-Canadian



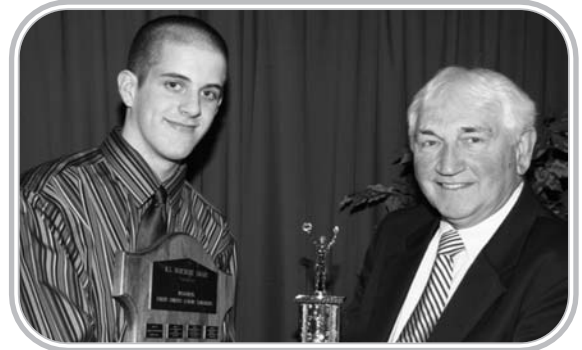
### **Soccer Players: Jaclyn Mosher and Sara Seemel**

CCAA's most prestigious student athlete award; epitomizing their mandate of recognizing excellence in academics and athletics. To achieve this honor a student athlete must be named to his/her respective Conference All Star teams in a CCAA sport and must achieve a GPA standing of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent as defined by his/her institution.



## K.S. Marchant Award

*Of all athletes, the student with the highest standing in all degree programs.*



Recipient, Luke Wiseman (basketball) with Ken Marchant



## All-Academic Athletes

*All-Academic Athletes have demonstrated excellence in academics and athletics, achieving the required average of 80 or above for "honors" and a position on a varsity team.*



## Equestrian Team

The equestrian team, coached by Dara Pelkey-Field, had yet another very successful year. The team won three overall championships from the four competitions attended and some very good placements by all individual riders. The team is looking forward to another successful season in 2009/2010.



## Rookie Award

- Basketball (m) Luke Wiseman
- Basketball (w) Felicia Strickland
- Rugby (m) Kirby Taylor
- Rugby (w) Patti Gilroy
- Soccer (m) Robert Newcombe
- Soccer (w) Sara Seemel
- Volleyball (m) none
- Volleyball (w) Codi Cole
- Woodsmen (m) Casey McLellan
- Woodsmen (w) Natalie Davis
- Equestrian Chantelle Penney

*The Rookie of the Year Award is presented to the best first-year player on the team, as voted by all team members.*

### **Basketball**

Jonathan Kennedy Josh McGill Luke Wiseman

### **Rugby**

Bryan Savage Will Vosman  
Nicole Mayne Ashley Mullins

### **Volleyball**

Bethany Holliday Lindsay Smith

### **Woodsmen**

Shauna Berkvens Jessica Ellison  
Jessica Dowe Mark Verleun  
Robert Schicht Josh Aalders  
Kyle Gallant

### **Soccer**

Nick Brown Ben Crouse Kenton McNutt  
Nadine Brooks Jaclyn Mosher Sara Seemel  
Tina Straathof Colette Wyllie



## Up-Coming Events and Reunions

### Class of '56 Reunion

June 19-21

Liscombe Lodge, Guysborough County Program will include a bon fire with s'mores and singing, Sherbrooke Village Tours, boating trips, as well as a plank salmon dinner with local historians

### NSAC's 38th Annual Open House

July 23  
10 am - 2 pm

### Alumni & Staff BBQ

July 23  
4 pm

Catch up with former classmates and co-workers; maybe even meet some new ones! Also enjoy a delicious meal and entertainment!

### Class of '59 Reunion

July 23

NSAC Campus

Luncheon in Riverview Room, Jenkins Hall and presentation of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift, followed by guided campus tours

### 13th Annual Agri-Golf Classic

Friday, July 24, 2009

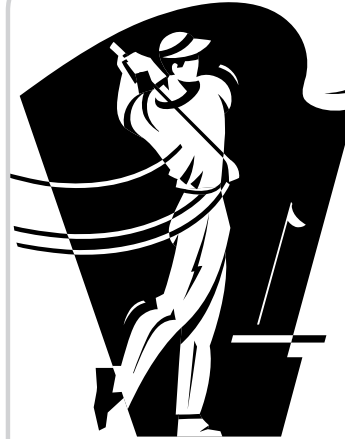
Northumberland Links, Pugwash, NS  
To register contact Kent Loughead at agrigolf@nsac.ca or 902-893-6660 by June 30.

### Class of '54

September 11-12

Class social & dinner in Truro, NSAC campus tours, visits to the NSPE Antique Farm Equipment Museum, Maple Moon Farms, Balmoral Grist Mill, Steam Saw Mill, Lismore Sheep Farm, as well as Forbes Brothers Furniture store

**Mark Your Calendars!**



## 13th Annual Agri-Golf Classic

Friday, July 24, 2009

Northumberland Links, Pugwash, NS

## In Memoriam

*The university, along with the NSAC Alumni Association, acknowledges the passing of the following alumni members and extends its sympathies to friends and family.*

Mr. Bruce E. Blacklock .....	1922
Mr. John S. MacRae .....	1939
Mr. Lawrence W. Spurr .....	1940
Lt. Col. Ernest A. Grant .....	1940
Mr. Courtney S. Gilliatt.....	1941
Mr. Donald M. MacKay.....	1941
Mr. Frederick G. Proudfoot.....	1941
Mr. John D. Hilchey .....	1941
Ms. Phyllis MacKay.....	1943
Mr. Frank W. Calder .....	1944
Mr. Arthur L. O'Neill .....	1946
Mr. Malcolm G. Fuller .....	1950
Mr. Gordon M. Dunphy.....	1953
Mr. L. Edwin McClare .....	1954
Mr. Lloyd G. Tattrie .....	1956
Mr. Max E. Colpitts.....	1956
Mr. Jean-Louis Ruet .....	1958
Dr. Robert N. Horner.....	1959
Mr. John R. Longley.....	1960
Mr. Arnold S. Graves .....	1963
Mr. Keith M. Keddy .....	1967



### Class of 1947

**Vickery, Vernon...** Worked on staff at NSAC from 1949-1961 then at Macdonald Campus, McGill University from 1961-1986. I was then Emeritus and worked there on research until 1999. Following that position, I helped found Lyman Entomological Museum, where I was the curator for 25 years. I was a founding member for the Orthopterist's Society and president from 1985-89. I was also a visiting professor at the University of Florida, Australian National University and CSIRO. As an expert on Locusts and Grasshopper pests, I spent time visiting all continents (except Antarctica), some several times. I am now caring for wife, who has cancer and growing flowers.

### Class of 1974

**Mitchell, Harvey...** In 2007 I successfully completed the first Dan promotion test as prescribed by the World Taekwondo Association for my black belt. I live with my wife, Marlene R.N, and son Stephen in Eglinton, PE. I continue to operate Mitchell Seed Inc. in nearby Primrose, where I grow processing potatoes, corn, food grade soybeans for export to Japan, turf grass seed, milling wheat, barley and canola for the non GMO market.

I started farming in 1978 on a parcel of leased land, growing peas and grains to feed hogs and supply my pedigreed seed

business. In 1989 a transition from hogs to potatoes was made and the farm has grown to include approximately 1700 acres of crop land.

### Class of 1977

**Tweedie, Stephen...** I started my own consulting engineering business four years ago, providing building mechanical systems design, energy consulting, and building commissioning services. In this short time, it has already grown to nine full time and two part time employees. As a result of the success, I have started a second company that does in-situ thermal conductivity testing for geothermal heat pump systems. My interest in geothermal systems has grown as a result of receiving an international ASHRAE award for the design of such systems, and receiving accreditation as a certified systems designer through the Canadian Geo-Exchange Coalition. This has led us to numerous projects throughout the Maritimes utilizing geothermal energy.

Also, after spending a year working for us, my son Christian is entering NSAC this September in Engineering, with hopes of taking over the business from dear old Dad.

### Class of 1978

**O'Brien, Glenda...** Glenda is the Plant Manager of an Oscar Mayer meat plant with close to 600 employees in NE Missouri producing premium bacon and whole muscle sliced ham. She has worked for Kraft for 14 years and during this time, has managed a pickle plant, a pudding plant and a cheese plant. Her next hope is a chocolate plant! She and her husband (Patrick) live on a lake in Northeast Missouri but always

make time to visit PEI in the summer. They really enjoyed the Alumni Golf Tournament in 2008.

**O'Brien, Patrick...** Pat is at work on various construction projects in NE Missouri. He enjoys lakefront living and hopes to catch a big one soon (has given up on his golf career after the last NSAC tournament).

### Class of 1979

**Darling, Jackalyn...** Hi everyone! Up here in lovely Woodstock- John Higgins had big shoes to fill-maybe I can fill one of them!

### Class of 1982

**Audu, Andrew...** I got married in April 1986 and have been blessed with four children (ages 12 - 21 years). Three are in university and the last is in high school. My wife is a senior immigration officer. We are based in an Army Post in Lagos where I grow catfish in five concrete ponds. I grow about 5000 fingerlings per pond to harvest. I am now a Brigadier General in the Nigerian Army rounding off a Masters in Staretic Studies in University of Badan. I will soon report to my new post as the Chief of Staff in an infantry division. Please keep the Agie spirit. I would love to hear from all of you. I invite those of you who love travelling and adventure to visit Nigeria.

### Class of 1985

**Scott, Connie...** Plant Science Degree-Greetings everyone. After working in various positions since graduation, including a geology lab in Calgary (lived there for five years), moved home to Truro in 1991. My husband, Sheldon, and I started a small excavation business. I then

went back to school and took several bookkeeping, computer and small business management courses. I then worked for the local fertilizer plant on a seasonal basis for a few years. After a couple more positions, I am now happily working as the Office Manager of Fundy Veterinarians in Truro since 2001. Since we are a mixed practice, I still get to work with a lot of the local farmers. My husband and I are into lots of outdoor activities (motorcycling, ATV'ing, kayaking, snowshoeing, etc.).

### Class of 1998

**Barry, Kirk...** I am living just outside of Bridgewater, NS. We have beautiful twin girls (four years old). I've been constructing (along with my workers) the interior of the New Justice Centre in Bridgewater for the past year.

### Class of 1992

**Morrison, Nicole...** I have changed over from showing and caring for registered horses to showing registered dogs. I still have my first registered dog, a shih-t zu, Bailey, who is 12 and a retired beach bum. I did obedience, agility and flyball with him. Now I have a year old german shepherd female, Yasmine, who is pretty well doing everything or going to be doing everything - conformation, obedience, rally obedience, agility, schzthund hoping- tracking obedience and protection, and therapy dog once she grows into her brain! Other than that, I have been busy with purchasing a house and doing upkeep. ☺

on the environment. He grows a large portion of his own vegetables on his two acre property in Earltown, NS, where he lives with his partner, artist Adele McFarlene.

"I follow sustainable farming practices in my garden including rotations of green manures, cover crops and low inputs," says Wile.

When Wile consumes produce he hasn't grown himself, he buys it from local producers or from his membership in Vista Bella Farm, a Community Supported Farm (CSF) near Malagash, NS. He also gathers wild foods including maple syrup, cranberries and field mushrooms.

"I try to eat as much locally grown and harvested, organic, free-range foods as possible with an emphasis on low inputs," says Wile. "To eat local year-round, I preserve many summer fruits and vegetables through drying, freezing or canning."

"Adam is always thinking about how we can reduce our carbon footprint as farmers," says Sebastian Margarit, NSAC grad student and farmer, Vista Bella Farm. "He emphasizes the need for green change to be paired with economic viability on the farm."

Wile's concern for the environment clearly stems from his love of nature. He enjoys many outdoor activities including hiking, canoeing, mountain biking, snowshoeing and walking his two year old yellow lab, Aldo, named after the famous conservationist Aldo Leopold. He hunts in the fall, fishes in the spring, and is a member of the Valhalla Gun Club in East Mountain, NS.


An avid camper, Wile has camped in various locations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. "Cape Chignecto has to be my favorite location for camping," says Wile. "The scenery there is some of the most beautiful I have ever seen."

In April, Wile took one of his most extreme camping adventures to date. He spent a weekend in the Tobeatic Wilderness Area in southwestern Nova Scotia, an area known as the wild soul of the Maritimes. The trip included a 55 km canoe and hiking trek through unmarked wilderness. He also has a camping trip planned for Gros Morne National Park in Newfoundland this summer.

Ensuring others enjoy the nature that surrounds them is just as important to Wile as his own enjoyment. As a member of the Cobequid Eco-Trails Society, Wile is currently volunteering his time to work on the Nuttby Mountain to Gully Lake trail. He has also worked on mountain bike trails in Scotsburn, NS and the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Wile grew up in Brookdale, NS, a small town just outside of Amherst. After graduating from Amherst Regional High School in 2000, Wile moved to Ontario where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Western Ontario in 2004. After receiving his BA, Wile began studying part-time towards his M.Sc. at Western. In 2005, he made the decision to move back to Nova Scotia to work at NSAC and qualify to complete his M.Sc. here.

According to Wile, spring is the most enjoyable time of the year as it is full of activity and planning for summer and the harvest. As the green shoots start to emerge in his vegetable garden, Wile is also digging further into his research on renewable energy.

"It's the perfect time of the year for everyone to roll up their sleeves, dig into the mud, and give back to the earth," says Wile. 

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## Look Who's Talking...

**Sebastian Margarit**—Class of '07

*"You get a practical education that is constantly being adapted to meet industry trends and new technologies. The experiences at NSAC are hands on."*

*What is it that you enjoy most about NSAC?*

I know it's what everyone says, but I'd have to say the class sizes. Although everyone gives that answer, I think some people forget why. Because of the so few students per class, professors can take a completely different angle to the way they teach and what they teach. Professors can customize their lessons to the interests of the class.

With so few students in the class, students also have the opportunity to ask more questions. Therefore, professors can gauge the major interests in the class and focus more on those particular areas. Not to mention, it's easy for students to get information to their questions.

I think we often take this type of benefit for granted. Every professor has office hours, but here we don't really abide by them. It's not like one professor has over 150 students trying to access him/her per class to get their attention. Because there are few of us, professors are usually quite flexible when it comes to being available outside of class.

*You've been at NSAC for a few years now, over the course of your undergrad degree and throughout your masters. Would you say you have witnessed any significant and positive changes to the institution?*

Absolutely! There's the obvious governance change, which has been progressing over time and recently taking further steps.

On another change, NSAC has made movement with sustainability. The Campus Sustainability Initiative, (CSI) has improved awareness and made people more conscious of their environmental footprints. More and more students, staff and faculty are also branching out to make their own differences. While this is great news, I believe there is still a lot to be done. NSAC has also made positive changes with technologies and other trends. Computer facilities are always being updated and made current with the latest models. Technical support is always improving to match the demand. Things like the demonstration garden are always kept up to date. I have even heard that the Plant Science degree has been modified to better prepare students for their next steps.

Some of the world's biggest problems are related to agriculture, changes like these are really important to provide students with a quality education so they can be leaders in solving these problems. Staying current with trends is also important to keep NSAC attractive to new students and above par with the competition.

*Why should alumni be proud of their NSAC experience?*

Alumni should be proud of the variety of opportunities, life skills and quality education that NSAC provided them and continues to provide to students. Alumni will always be apart of that and they should be proud.

NSAC is honest as to what career opportunities are out there for grads, there are no surprises and the professors prepare you

for success. You get a practical education that is constantly being adapted to meet industry trends and new technologies. The experiences at NSAC are hands on.

Because of the size of the university your voice can be heard and you can have a say. You can also involve yourself in such a variety of activities from athletics, to Students' Union, to clubs and leadership activities. This only adds to your experience.

Alumni at NSAC are continually hiring grads. That should say something.

*This issue of Agricola News highlights NSAC's commitment to sustainability and how we believe one person can make a difference. Can you comment on this and provide some of your own thoughts or opinions?*

Definitely, I agree with the idea of sustainability one hundred percent and think everyone should be doing their part to make a difference.

The focus of my master's project is to find alternative usages for waste, as we have so much of it. We have enough garbage for it to be useful tools for the next 20 years. We need to find a way to reuse our waste and turn it into resourceful tools.

I believe NSAC has its finger on the pulse of sustainability. I discussed a few of NSAC's initiatives earlier, but we have it right here on our campus. Just take a look at some of the research of other grad students. People would be shocked to see the caliber of research taking place here

*Continued on next page*




*Look Who's Talking*, continued from previous page

and the impacts it will have on our environment.

For the size of this university, no one is more close to improving sustainability initiatives and there is a huge potential for these improvements in agriculture. Society is really catching on too and there is more knowledge of sustainability because people of influence are starting to care. There used to be no way to connect economic sustainability and environmental sustainability, but the



new generation and leaders are proving we can. I encourage all alumni to follow suit. Be leaders in waste management. It's not a huge lifestyle change, just minimize your waste.

*Look Who's Talking* is a regular feature in *Agricola News*. Each issue, an alumnus discusses his or her thoughts on various topics relevant to NSAC. For this issue, we asked a very recent grad, who is actually still an NSAC student, to take time to talk and share his opinions. 

## Biography

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Animal Science two years ago, Sebastian Margait is a recent member of NSAC's Alumni Association and is approaching the final months of his Master of Science.

Growing up in Amherst, NS, he first developed an interest in agriculture while working for two summers growing a community garden. The program was through a summer employment grant with Labatt's People in Action, which provided youth with summer employment, while also benefiting a charity. All produce from the garden was donated to Feed Nova Scotia.

After a former high school teacher and blueberry farmer realized his interest, he opened Margarit's eyes to the opportunities at NSAC. Drawn to the university, Margarit quickly diverted his studies from the Arts Program at Kings College, to Plant and Animal Science at NSAC. Throughout his studies Margarit was presented a number of research awards which peaked his interest for NSAC's master's program.

Now, almost finished his master's, Margarit is farming his own land in Malagash for his degree and providing his community with fresh local produce.

*Passionate about eating his own food and providing others with a local product, this will be Margarit's first year testing the new initiative.*

Through his farm, Vista Bella, Margarit recently developed a Community Sustainable Agriculture (CSA) program. Passionate about eating his own food and providing others with a local product, this will be Margarit's first year testing the new initiative. Last year, Margarit sold his products at the local farmers market. He believes the new program will allow him to have a stronger connection with his customers, a relationship he values.

Community members are encouraged to buy a share in the farm. In turn, shareholders are guaranteed eight food deliveries, direct to their doors, over the season. Margarit is still accepting shares for this season but he anticipates he will grow approximately seven acres of veggies including beets, sweet corn, purple cauliflower, blue potatoes, asparagus and salad, among other cultivars.

Since it is difficult for Margarit to complete all of the farm work alone, he trades with his friends, exchanging a share or half a share for their labor. For

more time consuming tasks, such as picking berries, Margarit plans to hire local students.

Margarit's idea to start a CSA program in his own community developed from his summers growing produce for Feed Nova Scotia, as well as through his work for his master's project.

Titled, *Alternative Fertility Management Strategies for Asparagus*, Margarit is excited about the contribution he will make to the scientific community through his research. Margarit has been growing two different cultivars of asparagus while looking for alternatives to conventional fertilizers. Specifically, he is looking at reusing waste products (such as green bins) while ensuring the food supply is not being altered.

Since enrolling at NSAC six years ago, Margarit has discovered his dream – farming. Although he realizes it is becoming more and more challenging to make a living this way, it's what he loves and he plans to work in agriculture somehow.

Margarit and his wife, Brenna have a two-year-old son, Yuri and are expecting a second child in late July.

## Alumni e-News

### Do you receive our regular monthly Alumni e-News?

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### What is NSAC's Alumni e-News?

The Alumni e-News is an electronic monthly publication that is emailed to subscribers in the middle of every month. The email provides a picture and a few lines on different news, events, research and athletics stories at NSAC. After each brief story, there is usually a link for more information on the specific piece. In each edition a different alumni is also featured through a personal profile.

To subscribe to NSAC's Alumni e-News visit:

[nsac.ca/e-news](http://nsac.ca/e-news)

### No Regrets, continued from page 5

Horne's business specializes in tree care, specifically tree removal, pruning, tree health and arborists reports. Working in the Mapleridge area, he and his partner employ a full-time staff of four. While there can be controversy in the tree business, ABC Tree is accountable for their work.

"Our ratio for planting trees to removing trees is almost equal," adds Horne. ABC Tree knows the importance of being sustainable. "Not only is it crucial for the future and our environment, it just makes us feel good." Horne is a strong believer that values like that were instilled in him during his education. "One of my most favorite memories of NSAC was the hands on work, particularly when our professors would take us to plant trees on campus."

Although everyday on the job is different, memories and lessons like this from NSAC are never far from Horne's mind. "I still go back to what I learned and it is reinforced everyday."

Working in landscaping throughout his high school summers, Horne decided to apply to NSAC and pursue his interest. Since he wasn't 100 per cent sure as to what he wanted to do, he also applied to Saint Mary's University (SMU) for business. Horne was placed second on a waiting list for NSAC's horticulture program and immediately accepted at SMU.

Within months he was removed from the waiting list and enrolled at NSAC. He chose NSAC over SMU for the small class sizes, campus and unique program. "I knew if I picked NSAC I wouldn't come out years later into the same saturated market as everyone else," he says, "I would have options."

Horne was right. His positive attitude and strong work ethic also played a part. After graduation he continued to work in landscaping and lawn care until he made his way up to foreman. After working in Australia for a few years, he and his wife decided to settle in BC where he started the business. "Because of my area of expertise, I could pretty much work anywhere," adds Horne.

Aside from being a workaholic, the pure passion for what he does is evident in his lifestyle. In Horne's spare time he and his wife enjoying taking walks in their local park, as well as swimming and fishing. He returns to his hometown of Enfield, NS once a year to visit his family and to Australia to visit his in-laws every three years.

As for the future, Horne hopes to retire in approximately ten years. But there are no big changes in the plan. "My hope is to get into tapping maple trees with my brother," adds Horne, reassuring himself once again on his education choice. "This is what I know best."

If you wish to contact Horne, feel free to do so at: [ghorne46@yahoo.com](mailto:ghorne46@yahoo.com)

### 10th Generation, continued from page 11

"My grandfather and his brother both played hockey on NSAC's team, my father and both uncles also played intramural hockey and my Dad won the scoring trophy for hockey one year. My uncle Brian, and my father both are regular

participants in the Agri-Golf Classic. During my Mom's four years at NSAC she was employed by the Athletic Centre as a lifeguard."

Unlike many universities, at NSAC, students are able to be on more than one varsity team. Robert has taken advantage of this by being a member of both the soccer and volleyball teams. This past fall, as a soccer rookie, Robert was selected to the ACAA All-Conference Soccer – 2nd Team.

"With each sport I make new friends. It's fun travelling around to the different schools and places with the teams. Both my parents recommended NSAC because they knew I'd have a lot of fun, be close to home and get a solid education. They were right."

Robert hails from Port Williams, NS. He hopes to become an industrial engineer when he is finished his degree. When not living on-campus, Robert lives on his family farm where he is the 10th generation Newcombe.

### Mary McKenna, continued from page 14

"I knew it wouldn't be a permanent thing but I was glad I took the opportunity. And it all happened because of an e-mail I sent when doing my PhD. So don't ever hesitate to ask and put yourself out there. You never know what may happen."

Since her return, she has continued to work on school nutrition programs and policies from her position as a professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology at UNB.

"Nova Scotia, along with a few other provinces, is actually doing pretty well with school nutrition policies. However, we always have room for improvement. It's interesting for me because some policies are now moving more towards supporting local agriculture and being environmentally sustainable. With my background from NSAC, I'm able to understand and participate in the discussions. My NSAC education has been a great asset to me."



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