

NSIA Scholarship Winners 2009-2010



NSAC is so pleased to have NSIA support NSAC students by providing two scholarships. Michael Kittilsen, Chair of NSIA's Scholarship Committee, recently attended NSAC's Scholarship Banquet and is shown congratulating the 2009 recipients – Nicole Lefebvre, Truro, NS, a 3rd year B.Sc.(Agr.) Plant Science student; receiving the \$1,000 NSIA Scholarship; and Megan Robertson, Pictou, NS, a 4th year B.Sc.(Agr.) Animal Science student, recipient of the \$1,000 NSIA Anniversary Scholarship.

Editor's Note

Welcome to 2010 and welcome to the new NSIA News Bulletin! After spending most of 2009 considering various options for this publication, we have decided a monthly bulletin was the best way to serve our members.

By increasing the frequency and decreasing the size of the bulletin, we hope to keep members more up to date on current events and industry news.

The Bulletin will be sent on the first Friday of every month. Submissions are due on Wednesday of the same week.

Cheers,
Brad

Coming Events

Meet the Grads

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Richard Donald

January 20, 2010

Best Western Glengarry, Truro

Lunch and Learn with Cheryl Phillips

February 9, 2010

Riverview Room, NSAC

NSIA Curling Bonspiel

March 2010

Truro Curling Club

For more information, please visit:

www.nsgrologists.ca

Understanding Yourself, Understanding Others - PD Session

Submitted by: Niki Petrie, Jeff Norrie and Alana Respondek

The PD Committee is planning a "soft skills" *Lunch N Learn* session for **February 9th 2010**. We have invited Cheryl Phillips to deliver this session titled **Understanding Self/Understanding Others**. The session objective is to become familiar with a model called "Feedback on Personal Style". This inventory will clarify for each Member, their preferences, their strengths as well as their challenges in dealing with others. This in turn will help them appreciate differences between people and provide strategies to deal with what can sometimes be experienced as difficult encounters in the work environment. We will look at strategies to improve how we communicate. Everyone will leave this session with tools to help them find new solutions and new ways of thinking about issues as we learn to deal with the personal and organizational adjustments needed to handle the changing demands around us.

Session flyers will be sent to all members shortly with registration information and location details.

The PD Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and participation in 2009 events and look forward to more fun and learning in 2010!! We are also looking for one or two more people to sit on the committee. If you are interested in participating in the PD committee, please email Niki at n.petrie@agrapoint.ca.

New Research, Extension and Outreach Leadership at the NSAC

Submitted by: Jeff Norrie

In recent months, the NSAC has added leadership firepower into its focus on research and development. A major addition has been that of Dr. Richard Donald as Vice President of Research, Extension and Outreach.

Richard's broad experience as a soil scientist, international consultant on environmental issues, as well as his longstanding relationship with government groups, and the NSAC, Maritime and Canadian research communities, will serve him well in his new post. Understandably, he is still becoming familiar with the NSAC campus, community and the challenges of the job. Richard says that during his first few months he's "...been 'listening' to the research community in an effort to fully understand the scope of my three areas of responsibility; namely, the research, extension and outreach. This has involved considerable consultation with the Federation of Agriculture, commodity groups, the Department of Agriculture, AgraPoint and my colleagues involved in the senior management of NSAC."

Richard emphasizes that while the agriculture sectors in Nova Scotia face many challenges, there are many initiatives that will come together in the next year that will position the NSAC as a leader for research, innovation and change that meet industry requirements, not just in Nova Scotia but throughout Atlantic Canada. To address this challenge, Richard will be leading an examination of how we integrate and focus our efforts on research, innovation and extension.

Further to this, he points out that some of the questions that will be front-and-centre as we move forward on this mission are:

1. What are the opportunities to strengthen and grow our basic research activity, and a scholarly research environment?
2. How do we build and focus our applied research in light of changing industry and the needs of our partners?
3. How can we effectively integrate, and take advantage of the services that AgraPoint brings to the NSAC
4. What is the most effective model for linking research, extension and innovation at AgriTech Park?

Dr. Donald is an excellent communicator and strategic thinker, and brings a wealth of experience to the table. We'll keep in touch with him on these challenges and opportunities over the coming months and years.

Best of luck Richard!

NSAC Agrologist Club Update

Submitted by: Heather-Anne Grant



NSAC Agrologist Club members participated in the 2009 NSIA Fall Tour. Pictured above is Nicholas Brown, Agrologist Club Vice-President, presenting a thank you gift to Shawn Lacey of Scothorn Farms. Ltd.

On September 23rd a dozen NSAC students, from first year to fourth year, gathered to kick off the third year of the university's Agrologist Club. Fourth year students Shawn Loo and Caitlyn Dixon were nominated as the Club's 2009/10 Co-Presidents. Third year student Nicholas Brown was elected as the club's vice-president and will fill the position of 2010/11 President. During this first meeting, club members brainstormed activities and guest speakers for the coming year.

All club activities are promoted campus wide and open to all NSAC students. On average, there are 12 enthusiastic students in attendance at the various events. Club members participated in NSIA's Fall Tour on October 8th. On October 21st, Jamey Coughlin of NSDA addressed the group. The club's third meeting of the academic year was held on November 18th with Yvonne Thyssen Post of Thyagrissen Consulting Ltd. as guest speaker.

The club's fourth monthly meeting of the school year will be held in January. The date will be set in the New Year when students return to classes after the holidays.

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