

2019
ANNUAL
REPORT



Canadian Foundation for
Food and Agricultural Education



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President's Message



As I prepare to retire from the Foundation this spring, after six years as a Director including four as President, I wish to thank my fellow Board members for their service and say, once again, what a privilege it has been to serve with such wonderful people in such a good cause.

In 2019, our financial position remains very good and our scholarships continue to support students at agricultural colleges and universities across the country. In 2019, we provided scholarships to the exceptional students who are profiled in the following pages. In addition, a new fund for to sponsor students at educational events such as the Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference was set up, to allow sponsors to donate through the CFFAE.

In 2019, with the help of Iris Meck Communications, the Foundation created a new information package and launched a corporate fundraising campaign which has boosted the profile of our organization in the Canadian agricultural community.

We welcomed new Director, Ginelle Pidwerbesky (Saskatchewan), Co-founder and Executive Director of

Women in Ag. With experience in agriculture, marketing, communication and sales in the agricultural seed and chemical industry, plus 10 years of experience on a family-owned grain farm in Saskatchewan, Ginelle has become an active member our Fundraising Committee.

Many thanks to Yvonne Thyssen-Post, who is retiring from the Board in 2020 after six years, also. Yvonne has been the chair of our Scholarship Advisory Committee since 2018 and provided a valuable perspective and insight to the Board during the transition to our new name and corporate identity in 2017.

A special thank you to Dr. David Chanasyk who has chaired our Education and Scholarship Awards Committee for five years. This committee, which reviews scholarship applications and recommends award recipients, is the heart of our Foundation. David retired from the committee in 2019 and has been succeeded by Dr. Diane Duplessis.

I would like to pay special tribute to Frances Rodenburg, who is retiring as manager of the Foundation after nine years. It is certain that the CFFAE would not exist in its current form without her. Her excellent work and dedication are why the Foundation is in such good shape today. I know our new manager, James Facette, who started in January 2020, will maintain her high standards.

The CFFAE Board of Directors is encouraged by the support we continue to receive from our Patrons and the general public. Sadly, we said goodbye to one of our staunchest patrons and supporters, Dr. Robert (Bob) Church, who passed away in September. As a new decade begins, we look forward to expanding our education and scholarship programs with new board members and a renewed sense of purpose.

On behalf of the Board, I wish all of our retiring and incoming directors, committee chairs and staff, all the very best for the future.

Janice Elmhirst, PhD
President 2016-2020

Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education 2019-2020

President

Janice Elmhirst, PhD, British Columbia

Directors

Ron Bolton, BSc, MSc, Ontario

Mary Leggett, BSc, PhD, Saskatchewan

Iris Meck, BSc, Alberta

Ginelle Pidwerbesky, Saskatchewan

Yvonne Thyssen-Post, BSc, MEd, PAg, Nova Scotia

Manager

Frances Rodenburg, BA (to December 2019)

James Facette, BA (from January 2020)

Accountant

Patti Proulx, CPA, CMA

Douglas McRorie Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is made available through the generous support of the RBC Foundation. It was established in 1990 to honour past-president and agri-finance innovator Douglas McRorie, PAg, FAIC. In 2019, two graduate students in agricultural business, finance and/or trade were awarded scholarships



Monica Shandal is a Masters student in Agriculture and Resource Economics at the University of Alberta. Her Masters dissertation is titled *The Causal Effect of Public Infrastructure on Women's Empowerment in Rural Rice Farming Communities of India*.

Monica has worked as a research assistant on a number of international projects. She is currently involved in a project focusing on women's empowerment in rural rice farming communities through the University of Alberta and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

She is Head Delegate of the University of Alberta Model United Nations Group and is responsible for preparing a team of University of Alberta undergraduate students to participate in an official National Model United Nations simulation in New York.

She is a Graduate Student Mentor with the Golden Key International Honour Society, engaging with middle school, high school, and undergraduate students in Edmonton to discuss the benefits of advanced education. She is also an In-School Mentor with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and a registered Tutor with the Aboriginal Student Services, helping undergraduate students understand and improve their linear algebra skills.



Emilie Zentner is a Masters student in Agriculture and Resource Economics at the University of Alberta. Her research interests center on the benefit distribution of biotechnology and specifically the distribution between upstream technology providers and downstream farmers in Canada and globally.

As part of her undergraduate research, Emilie led work on a project examining how the agronomic and economic benefits generated by new proprietary seed varieties are distributed between breeders and poor farmers located in developing countries.

Emilie has worked as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. She has also participated in the University of Alberta's Undergraduate Research Initiative, an academic support service for undergraduate students interested in pursuing research and creative activities. Her volunteer role involved a number of outreach activities to increase student awareness and engagement in research opportunities as well as peer advising.

In addition, Emilie was recently elected chair of the Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology Graduate Students' Association which represents the interests and well-being of graduate students in her department.

Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship for Students in Soil Science and Related Studies

The Karl C. Ivarson Soils Scholarship provides financial support to a student entering her/his second or subsequent year of graduate studies in soil science in the areas of agriculture, agro-ecology, resource management, environment, geology or other related disciplines.



Daniel Saurette is a PhD student in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph. He is pursuing graduate studies while concurrently working as a Land Resource Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Daniel served as a Mentor in the Women in Scholarship, Engineering and Technology Program while completing his MSc at the University of Alberta and more recently has been involved in the Envirothon and AgScape programs which provide an opportunity to highlight soil science as a career to high school students.

Soil maps are used for land use planning, to determine relative suitability of different soils for agricultural production, and as input data for various modelling exercises. Predictive digital soil mapping (PDSM) is an ensemble of tools used to apply a statistical or data driven approach to soil mapping by building relationships between environmental factors and soil properties. Daniel's PhD research is focused on development of sample design optimization procedures to reduce uncertainty in PDSM while increasing the efficiency of field programs.

Daniel is a member of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) and is co-chair of the Pedology Committee, in which role he is leading a Working Group that is assessing the feasibility of developing an updated version of the Canadian System of Soil Classification.

Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Agricultural Scholarship

This scholarship was created by Dr. Karl C. Ivarson through a bequest to the Foundation. In keeping with Dr. Ivarson's wishes, the scholarship supports students from his home province of Alberta in their pursuit of studies in agricultural sciences.



Kris Guenette received the scholarship for PhD students. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in Soil Science at the University of Alberta. His research is aimed at improving cereal crop productivity while reducing its environmental footprint, ultimately providing producers with agronomic information on how to optimize inputs and reduce associated costs.

He is a teaching assistant and has been a guest lecturer for a course on Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Alberta, and is the Alberta Soil Science Workshop student representative. He participates in agriculture field days where he speaks to producers and industry personnel about his research and implementation of best management practices. Kris has also volunteered for the university's U-School, presenting hands-on learning about the importance of soil to elementary students.

He has previously worked at Corteva Agriscience as a research associate where he helped implement and manage their Alberta field research program. Kris' career objectives are to continue contributing to his family farm and to work in the agricultural industry researching agronomic practices that can help improve crop yield, reduce associated costs and mitigate the environmental footprint of farming through novel crop, weed and soil management techniques.



Nicole Zukiwsky received the award for Masters students. She is majoring in Animal Science at the University of Alberta. Her research focuses on the management and production of poultry using an automated precision feeding system to study behavior, feeding management and growth performance of broiler breeders and broiler chickens.

She volunteers with two university-based programs, U-School and Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association, to help elementary school children and adults learn about agriculture and animal science. She is a member of the Poultry Research Centre Student Club, serving as Vice President from 2016-19. Nicole has also volunteered as a student learning coach for an undergraduate poultry science course.

She held a teaching assistant position for an introductory animal agriculture class at the University of Alberta and has worked on poultry farms assisting with flock vaccinations and bird transfers.

In the coming year, Nicole plans to attend several academic conferences to present her research and expand her academic and industry networks. After graduation she hopes to find a job in the Alberta poultry industry and longer term to pursue a teaching career focusing on animal agriculture, and to have her own backyard flock of chickens.

The Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education's Purposes

To advance education by developing and supporting education programs in the agricultural sciences for Canada's agricultural community and the general public;

To advance education by developing and supporting scholarship programs to foster continued interest in the study of agricultural sciences by university students;

To promote excellence and efficiency in the Canadian agriculture and food sectors by supporting research on matters of importance to the agricultural community and the general public.

Your donation to the CFFAE supports a strong future for Canadian agriculture

Donating to the Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education supports professionalism in the agricultural and food sector in Canada. For information about CFFAE's work, visit the CFFAE website cffae.ca. The Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education is a registered charitable organization (federal registration number 12193 4947 RR0001).

CFFAE Honorary Patrons

Mary Buhr, PhD

Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan

Garth Coffin, PhD

Principal (retired), Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Arthur Froehlich, BSc

Owner, President and CEO, Agriview Inc.

Robert Gordon, PhD

President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Windsor

Kim McConnell, BSc

Founder and former CEO, Adfarm; Member of the Order of Canada

Ed Tyrchniewicz, PhD

Senior Scholar, Department of Agribusiness, University of Manitoba

Hon. Lyle Vanclief, BSc

Minister of Agriculture, Canada, 1997-2003

CFFAE Patron Dr. Robert (Bob) Church, PhD,

passed away on September 6, 2019 after a life of exceptional accomplishment. He was a distinguished professor and scientist whose work resulted in his membership in the Order of Canada, the Alberta Order of Excellence and induction into the Canadian and Alberta Agriculture Halls of Fame. We sought and respected Dr. Church's advice and we are grateful for his financial support of our Foundation, which helped us continue to deliver our scholarship programs to Canadian students in agriculture and food. We are proud to have been associated with him.

CFFAE Donors

The Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education is a registered charity and all donations are tax creditable.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of all individual and corporate donors in 2019. Your donations provide vital assistance to our scholarship programs and operations.

Our sincere thanks to the RBC Foundation for their most valued support of the Douglas McRorie Memorial Scholarship.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on April 17, 2019.

We welcomed Ginelle Pidwerbesky to the Board of Directors. Ginelle is Executive Director of Saskatchewan Women in Agriculture, an organization she co-founded in 2012 that provides programs, opportunities and events that connect, support and empower women in agriculture.

We said goodbye to retiring Board members Yvan Jacques (Ontario) and Larry Spratt (Saskatchewan). Yvan Jacques served as a Board member for eight years and was a very active member of the Fundraising Committee. Larry Spratt served as a Board member for six years and as President in 2015-16.

The Foundation's Fundraising Committee, chaired by Corrina Dawe, continued development and implementation of a corporate fundraising campaign for our proposed new scholarship programs. A new information brochure was created and is being used to build the Foundation's profile in the agricultural community across Canada.

The Education and Scholarship Committee is chaired by David Chanasyk, PhD, and is responsible for selection of recipients of the Foundation's scholarships. We are extremely grateful to the members of the Committee for the tremendous amount of time they volunteer to the Foundation for review of the scholarship applications. Their work allows us to fulfil our charitable objectives.

The Foundation's financial statements are available on request to the CFFAE office.



**Canadian Foundation for
Food and Agricultural Education**

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