

Nuffield International Report

By Kelvin Meadows 2011 Nuffield Scholar and Chair of Nuffield International



It is a great pleasure to report to all of the global alumni and supporters of Nuffield International (NI) about the events of 2017 and all that has been accomplished this past year, as well as announce our four 2018 NI Scholars, with a fifth Scholar on the cusp of being confirmed. I would like to personally congratulate Brian Dougherty and Archie Griffin from the USA as well as Artur Falcette and Mauro Nakate from Brazil for committing themselves to the Nuffield program. I am sure that they will be great additions to the Nuffield family and wish them all the best.

NI has also undertaken a skills audit to identify two outside directors to complement the board skills while providing preservation of corporate memory. These directors will serve a six-year term with the position being reviewed annually. On behalf of the Nuffield International board I am very pleased to welcome Martin Davies and Brendon Smart as our newly selected external directors. We look forward to their contributions and insights.

As the new Chairman of Nuffield International, I would like to thank the board for the opportunity to serve NI over the next three years and look forward to working with the many partners and supporters of the International program. I would also like to recognise the stellar leadership of Roger Mercer who, for the past three years, has chaired this organisation and kept us moving forward as we navigate the challenges of growing an organisation that crosses so many borders. As an introduction, I am a 2011 Canadian Scholar from Saskatchewan and have just stepped down as the Chairman of Nuffield Canada after holding the position for the past four years. My topic delved into the factors that contribute to a successful farmer owned value chain, including farmer investor relations and expectations, as well as plant capitalisation and board/management composition.

For over 20 years, my wife Shelley and I were pedigreed seed growers as well as owner/operators of a seed sales, cleaning and export business near Moose Jaw. After divesting ourselves of the farm in 2008, Shelley and I moved into value added food processing through an investment in Avena Foods Inc., a Saskatchewan based gluten free oat milling plant, where I served as chair for the past nine years. With the sale of Avena in June we currently own and operate a seed crop inspection business and manage the family owned land development company. We have two grown children who live and work nearby and still have ties to agriculture in what they do.

I am pleased to say that Nuffield International has moved forward on several fronts in 2017.

I would start with the CSC held in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, from the 11-19 March. Close to 80 scholars from ten countries were joined by a variety of guest speakers and alumni to experience Brazil and learn about the culture, the country and the challenges of food production as viewed

through the Brazilian lens. For the scholars, this week was their first opportunity to meet their peers and start their Nuffield journey through listening and contributing to the global conversation generated during the conference. Congratulations to the Brazilian team for a great conference and a great display of Brazilian hospitality.

Nuffield International continued to formalise the organisation with an emphasis on relocating our banking and audit services to the U.K. where we hold our charitable status and make financial and legal compliance easier to manage. Many thanks to Mike Vacher for shepherding the sometimes onerous process of compliance and reporting.

The board has developed a “pathway to membership” document to help aspiring member countries by setting the requirements that will support their move to full country status.

The Nuffield Foundation fund continued to be supported with a gold brick donated by the Jill Willows estate as well as a generous contribution to Nuffield International by the U.K. from the Triennial Conference.

In order to offset the associated costs required to maintain an international program, Nuffield International has created a sponsorship package that seeks to identify companies with an international footprint as well as a shared vision and alignment of values. I am pleased to report the signing of our first two sponsorship agreements with Caterpillar and Syngenta. I especially want to acknowledge Roger Mercer for his efforts in opening the dialogue with Caterpillar.

My last item of note is to inform the alumni that after a number of visits and conversations, Nuffield Zimbabwe has indicated a desire to reconstitute their board and after a seventeen year hiatus, set a goal of naming a scholar for 2019. Jim Geltch and the board have made a commitment in principle to helping Zimbabwe reach their goal and return as a full member country as soon as practicable.

I cannot finish without expressing my admiration for the dedication that our CEO Jim Geltch has put forward on behalf of Nuffield. The challenges of working across so many time zones while managing relationships, scholars and travel is a testament to his belief and commitment to our international program. Thank you Jim for your perseverance and efforts.

Many thanks to all those who give of their time to make all of this possible and, on behalf of the board and executives who support Nuffield International, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year!

I am delighted to confirm that the four NI Scholars for 2018 are Brian Dougherty (Ames, Iowa USA), Artur Falcette (Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil), Steven (Archie) Griffin (Washington, NC, USA) and Mauro Nakata (Sorocaba, Sao Paulo, Brazil). Details below.

Announcing the 2018 NI Scholars

Brian Dougherty (Ames, Iowa)



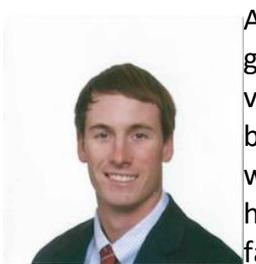
Currently earning his Master's Degree in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University, Brian has experience on farm and in the engineering lab. As co-owner of a 170 cow/250-acre dairy near Waukon, IA, Brian has managed animal husbandry and crop production. Brian is investigating the effects of cropping management practices on soil health and nutrient losses to agricultural tile drainage water. Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, National Pork Producers Board, and the Iowa Farm Bureau are jointly supporting this scholarship.

Artur Falcette (Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul)



Active in production agriculture, Artur manages Sapé Agropastoril Ltda, a 5,500ha operation that produces soybeans, corn, oats, beef cattle, Brangus genetic production, sugar cane, poultry, dairy cattle and technological tourism with a team of 38 employees. He is also a business partner at a agribusiness management consultancy. He will study how the diversification of production, as well as its integration, is happening in different agribusiness players of the world. His goal of this work is to create benchmarking models for producers of all production scales and scopes. Nufarm Brasil is supporting Artur's scholarship.

Steven (Archie) Griffin (Washington, NC)



Archie is the assistant manager for Griffin AG LLC, a farming operation that grows corn, wheat and soybeans for storage and marketing along with other value-added crops. Archie's background includes experience in the small grain breeding department at North Carolina State University, field-based research work with the USDA Agricultural Research Services (ARS), and management of his own sweet corn production and distribution operation. Archie will study farming and technology, looking at the transformational ways crops are sustainably planted, cultivated and brought to market. TIAA-CREF Global Agriculture and TIAA-CREF Global Agriculture II are supporting this scholarship.

Mauro Nakata (Sorocaba, Sao Paulo)



Mauro is a partner in the family tilapia business, consisting of a production farm, processing plant, and distribution arm. In addition to processing the nearly 2,000 tonnes of tilapia per year produced on their farms, they receive product from third-party farmers and a cooperative that the family was instrumental in establishing. Mauro will investigate ways to accelerate the development of Brazil's fish farming sector, taking into account efficient production systems, genetics, scalability of systems, value-adding and managing water quality. Grupo Bom Futuro is supporting this scholarship. This is the organization's first Nuffield scholarship.

Nuffield International announces two New External Directors

Brendon Smart, Australian Scholar



Brendon Smart
1991 Nuffield Scholar
Business Development Manager
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Brendon Smart is owner operator and Business Development Manager of Smart Group, a 5,000-hectare property at Keith and 400-hectares at Victor Harbor in South Australia, producing irrigated and non-irrigated crops of lucerne seed, cereals, pulses, export fodder, vegetable seed and extensive livestock.

The business is run by a board, with three non-family members, independent chair and part-time CEO. And has been awarded the South Australian Premiers Food and Fibre Award, Field Crops, for excellence, innovation and leadership. The business has endeavoured to be at the leading edge of technology either as innovators or early adopters. This pursuit would have been less fruitful if not for the global network of Nuffield and Brendon's constant interaction with it.

Brendon is a 1990 Nuffield Scholar, Nuffield Life Member, Past National Chairman and Chairman Nuffield International Triennial Conference held in Australia in 2011. He has a long career in agri-politics at state, national and international level, holding office for many years mainly with pasture seeds and cereals. He is Past Board Chairman of Seedmark Pty Ltd and Seedco Pty Ltd. He is Member of Adelaide University Agriculture Advisory Board, Past Chairman of Patoa Farms NZ Pty Ltd and Brimbago Asset Co.

Brendon has lectured at Macquarie University, Sydney, the Rabobank EDP Course on Agri-Business Structures and Human Resource Management, and Fellow Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Brendon is married to Robyn and they have three sons. He is a keen pilot with a private pilots license, night VFR spanning 32 years.

Nuffield International announces two New External Directors

Martin Davies, 2006 UK Scholar



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2006 UK Nuffield Scholar
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Martin Davies is a 2006 Nuffield Scholar and will become Chief Executive Officer of Westchester Group Investment Management in January 2018. Since 2014, he has been Chief Executive Officer of Westchester Group, Europe. Prior to this role he was Head of Farmland Investment at Insight Investment Management, a subsidiary of Bank of New York Mellon.

Martin has 25-years' experience in farm, rural business, agricultural investment, company board and governance management. As a Nuffield Scholar, Martin studied the impact of bio fuels on UK arable farming. He has a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Reading and other professional qualifications include professional status at the Institute of Agriculture Management, agricultural valuer with Central Association of Agricultural Valuers. Martin is also a qualified agronomist and fertiliser advisor.

He has been a Director of the Oxford Farming Conference since 2014, and was appointed Chair for the event in 2017.

Martin is a Church Council Member enjoys sport including rugby, cricket, ski touring and running. He participated in the London Marathon in 2002 and 2003, New York Marathon in 2011 and a Marathon in Norway in 2012. Between 2012 and 2017, Martin has completed 17 Olympic and middle-distance triathlons.

Martin also runs a small farmland holding in Wales.