

## 2015 Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Agriculture Scholarship Recipients

### Nandika Bandara – PhD Level



Nandika Bandara is a PhD candidate in Food Science and Bioresource Technology in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta. His research is focused on value addition to agricultural and food industry byproducts such as soy meal, canola meal, distillers' grains and poultry feathers through developing bio-based materials through biomimetics and nanotechnological approaches. He hopes his research will benefit agricultural and food industries by generating new income sources for waste/byproduct streams.

He has published several research papers and presented his research findings at number of conferences nationally and internationally. During his graduate studies, he has won several awards and scholarships at the university, national and international levels. Nandika is currently serving as the elected Chair of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science Graduate Student Association at the University of Alberta and has served on many other committees and positions in a volunteer graduate student capacity in the past five years, including mentoring new grad students in the Department. He is co-chairing and organizing the session "Protein Processing and Involved Technologies" for the American Oil Chemist Society (AOCS) Annual Meeting which will be held in 1-4th May 2016 in Salt Lake City, USA.

He earned his undergraduate degree in Agriculture from his native Sri Lanka, following which he worked for a plant protection company and as a bank branch manager. After completing his PhD, Nandika hopes to work as a post-doctoral fellow to gain further training to establish himself in the academic field. His ultimate ambition is to become a university professor and to build a research program that will eventually help in improving sustainable agriculture, the economy and to help the farming communities in Sri Lanka and around the world.

### Amy Mangin – Masters Level



Amy Mangin is a Masters student in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta. Her research is focused on the understanding of the interaction of pyroxasulfone, a newly introduced soil-applied herbicide, and wild oat seed distribution in different cropping systems to optimize efficacy. Wild oat is currently the most economically detrimental weed in Alberta and has developed herbicide resistance to many commonly used herbicides, therefore development of new herbicides for control is critical.

Amy has served as a Graduate Student Representative on the University of Alberta Graduate Student Association during her degree. She has been part of numerous volunteer organizations such as Sustainable Food Edmonton (Little Green Thumbs), Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba, and Ag More than Ever, allowing her to work with elementary

and middle school students to further their understanding of how their food is produced and general agricultural concepts. She is currently a teaching assistant for agriculture classes on weed science and cropping systems at the University of Alberta.

She obtained her Certified Crop Advisor designation while working as a full-time agronomist for Pembina Consumers Co-operative after her undergraduate degree before deciding to start a Masters degree. Amy will finish her Masters degree in spring 2016. Her career objectives include working directly with growers either in an industry or extension research role. She also hopes to pursue a PhD degree in agriculture in the future.