

Celebrating BITS Student Mentors

Professor Danielle Donnelly

Dr. Danielle Donnelly is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Sciences of McGill University. She is an expert on plant tissue culture (micropropagation) technology. She often works as a consultant to the industry. Her research is focused on the genetic improvement of potato and other certified clonal crop plants. She has particular interest in the nutritional aspects of potato and its long-term role in contributing to human health.



Dr. Danielle Donnelly in the McGill Greenhouse [photo S.M Jan. 2014]

Dr. Donnelly initiated the BITS program, and has worked diligently along with UWI Co-directors Dr. Angela Fields and Mr. Jeff Chandler since its inaugural summer in 2009. During the BITS semesters, she teaches Tropical Horticultural Ecology with Dr. R. Maurya at UWI, ably assisted by Jeff Chandler. In 2014, Dr. Valerie Gravel, of the Plant Science Dept. at McGill will also participate in this course. Dr. Donnelly also teaches the Barbados Interdisciplinary Project course with UWI Co-directors and local mentors. Preparation for this course is an ongoing activity for BITS organizers that actually starts the summer preceding the project work! In 2014, BITS organizers will launch a new phase of the project course. While research projects will continue, more projects will be devoted to Agricultural Tourism in Barbados. This new departure is eagerly supported by the UWI community, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and the business community.



Professor Donnelly pictured at UWI with BITS 2014 grads and Barbados mentors

Dr. Donnelly's Philosophy on BITS

- The BITS program is done in association with the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the National Conservation Commission (NCC) of Barbados. The Ministry of Agriculture has also become an important partner to BITS. **BITS partnerships are critically important.**
- This program involves students from the temperate zone in an International tropical experience focussed on food, nutrition, and alternative energy. **This knowledge is vital to successful future international work by participants.**
- Teaching staff and students from UWI and McGill share the classroom. **This leads to international networking, new friends and work associates forever.**
- Groups of students have the opportunity to work together on research projects with national importance to the host country, Barbados. **Undergrad research matters and has contributed a lot to Barbados!**



During BITS 2014, Professor Donnelly & her students at Welshman Hall Gully

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