

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 on McGill Macdonald Campus (2016).

Dr. Donnelly initiated the BITS program at McGill, and works collaboratively with UWI Director Dr. Francis Lopez and BITS Co-ordinator Mr. Jeff Chandler. During the BITS semesters, she teaches Tropical Horticultural Ecology with Drs. Lopez, Carrington, and various visiting scientists, ably assisted by Jeff Chandler. Dr. Donnelly also teaches the Barbados Interdisciplinary Project course assisted by Jeff Chandler and local mentors. Preparation for this project course is an ongoing activity for BITS organizers that actually starts the summer preceding the project work! 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.

Website: <http://www.mcgill.ca/plant/faculty/donnelly>

Dr. Donnelly's Philosophy on BITS

- The BITS program is done in association with the University of the West Indies (UWI). The National Conservation Commission (NCC) of Barbados, the Ministry of Agriculture and Williams Enterprises are very important to the success of 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!**
- If you are interested in a Special topics course(s) in Barbados, but need to be in Canada, SKYPE is our friend. International project work is possible through the power of e-mail and SKYPE. Contact D. Donnelly for placements. **Non mobile undergraduate students can also contribute internationally in Barbados!**