

# Celebrating BITS Student Mentors

## Professor Don Smith

**Dr. Don Smith** is a Professor, and former Chair of the Plant Science Department of McGill University. He has published prolifically in varied agronomic fields, including: nitrogen-fixation, plant-microbe signaling, use of plant growth regulators, inter-plant competition, and most recently, affects of climate change on crop plants and biofuel production. This has led to nine patents and a spin-off company (Bios Agriculture Inc.). Don led the Green Crop Network for 5 years; this was a federally funded nation-wide research network, looking at sustainable greenhouse gas management in agriculture. He now leads BioFuelNet Canada, a Network of Centers of Excellence, funded at 5 million per year for 5 years.



Dr. Smith participates in teaching the Tropical Energy & Food course. He takes students to visit several different institutions across the island; a sugar cane factory is the highlight. Don's particular contribution to the course is a complete picture of the costs and benefits of bioenergy and bioproducts, as well as discussion of the feasibility of biofuels on an island nation such as Barbados.



Dr. Smith lecturing at the St. Nicholas Abbey [Photo J. Chandler].

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