

## **President's Report July 21 2004**

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve the society as president and as part of the superb team that makes up the CSAS Executive. This past year has been filled with many activities, changes and challenges including trying to understand the relationship between us and AIC, the whole web experience of learning to communicate and provide the members with timely news items by email. I'd like express my appreciation to the members of the 2003/04 CSAS Executive for their dedication and diligent hard work over the past year. A special thank-you goes to outgoing Executive members: Shannon Scott (Past President), who remained very active in the affairs of the society (attending meetings on our behalf and also managing to recruit an impressive slate of candidates for positions in the society; Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein (Western Director and Honours and Awards Chair), Robert Berthiaume (Eastern Director and Membership Chair), who left no stone unturned in his quest to recruit new members, and Alan Iwaasa (Director-at-Large). I would also like to thank those members who will be continuing on the Executive: Johanne Chiquette (Eastern Director and Honours and Awards Chair), Kees Plaizier (Western Director and Membership Chair), Christiane Girard ((Secretary/Treasurer), who has done a outstanding job in her second year in this challenging position); Duane McCartney (President), Paul McCaughey (President and Web Master/Journal Liaison), Erasmus Okine (Past-President), Mick Price (Editor, CJAS) and John Basarab (Director-at-Large and CSAS 2004 Conference Planner). These members have volunteered generously of their time and have contributed enthusiastically to the activities of the society. A warm welcome is extended to Mike Dugan (Vice President), Steve Miller (Eastern Director and Membership Assistant), Kim Stanford (Western Director and Awards Assistant), and Lyle Rode (Director-at-Large and CSAS 2005 Conference Planner) who join the Executive for the 2004/05 term.

This 2004 CSAS Annual Meeting is an historic event, as the society combined forces with 2 other societies (The Canadian Societies of Agronomy and Soil Science) to organize this conference under the theme "The Science of Changing Climate: Impact on Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands". This conference would not have been possible but for the efforts of the co-chairs Mick Price, Duane McCartney and Jag Bhatti and from CSAS representatives (Stephen Moore, John Basarab, Tennis Marx, Erasmus Okine, Desmond Pink, Russell Coleman, Joanne Morrison and a host of students). We are benefiting from their all their hard work and thoughtful planning this week.

Plans are already under way for us to join the American Societies of Animal and Dairy Science at their annual conference meeting in Cincinnati next year (2005). The conference in 2006 is up in the air and I invite membership to get together to put a bid in for the year 2006. The Manitoba group have bid for 2007 and the Maritimes are seriously thinking about hosting us in the year 2008.

It has indeed been an a privilege and an honour for me to serve as president of the CSAS. I want to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to work with such a gifted and dedicated team on the Executive. It is with great confidence that I turn over the leadership of CSAS to Duane McCartney, and I am certain that the society is in good hands with Duane as we navigate through new waters with AIC, the Scientific Societies among other challenges.

Erasmus Okine (President, CSAS)