

CAFS Mission

The Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS) promotes critical, interdisciplinary scholarship in the broad area of food systems: food policy, production, distribution and consumption. CAFS recognizes the need for coordinated interdisciplinary research efforts in response to societal needs for informing policy makers, assessing the outcomes of community-based work, and demonstrating the environmental and social impacts of changes affecting food systems and food policies. Members are drawn from an array of disciplines including (but not limited to) adult education, agriculture, anthropology, economics, environmental studies, health it. studies, home economics, human nutrition, geography, philosophy, policy studies, public health, rural studies, sociology, social work and urban planning. Membership is open to academics, students, professionals and others interested in food studies research. CAFS encourages research that promotes local, regional, national, and global food security, but does not advocate or endorse specific policies or political platforms.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR FOOD STUDIES

www.foodstudies.ca

Vancouver Conference a stimulating success



Delegates to food security conference in Vancouver enjoy great conversation, wine and food.

By Alison Blay-Palmer

With over 425 Canadian delegates in attendance, this was the first ever Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC) conference to happen outside the US. The event took place from October 7 to 11 at the incredible Sheraton Wall Center in the heart of Vancouver and welcomed food security experts from as far away as Perth Australia and Dublin Ireland. With a wide range of presenters and experts the conference offered a fantastic combination of learning and networking opportunities.

The conference was launched with an information-rich, thoughtful and provocative public talk by Wayne Roberts (Toronto Food Policy Council) and Lori Stahlbrand (Local Flavor Plus) who addressed the question, Is Local and Sustainable Food Just around the Corner? Saturday and Sunday offered full and part day tours of local food initiatives including a Granville Island Public Market Walking Tour, and visits to Vancouver urban agricultural projects and successful small food enterprises. The

Please see **CONFERENCE**, Page 2



Local food was the centre piece of the Taste of British Columbia: Harvest Celebration dinner.

Conference hears of challenges

Continued from Page 1

field visits set the stage for the workshops and presentations over the next few days.

Sunday evening officially kicked off the conference as delegates gathered in the Sheraton Ball Room for the opening reception and to break bread together. Old connections were rekindled and new ones begun as delegates from around the world shared their enthusiasm for creating a food secure world.

Workshops, short courses and plenary sessions over the next three days gave conference participants a chance to hear about cutting edge programs such as Localizing a Food System: Connecting Communities, Farmers and Food presented by Glynwood Center, Northwestern Health Unit and the Rainy River Federation of Agriculture; innovative assessment tools such as the

Measures of Health (for more information checkout http://www.measuresofhealth.net/additional_resources/; and, helped us to push the boundaries on thinking about food security challenges and solutions through workshops such as Food Security 101 and the Media Bootcamp. The themes for the conference were: Food Secure Communities; Food and Institutions; Food and Cities; and, Global Food Issues.

Food Secure Canada held its annual AGM before a packed crowd. Mustafa Koc stepped down as Chair — his enormous contribution to the organization was enthusiastically recognized and applauded. Cathleen Kneen presented Mustafa with a basket laden with local treats in recognition of his invaluable role in setting Food Secure Canada on a solid foundation.

As part of the meeting, the Chair and Director reports (Healthy and Safe Food

by Ellen Desjardins; Zero Hunger by Micky Fraterman; Sustainable Food Systems by Cathleen Kneen; International, Stuart Clark; and the Treasurers' report by Jacqui Meckling) were approved. Special thanks were extended to Fiona Knight for her outstanding contribution to Food Secure Canada. With this meeting completed, the stage was set for the planning meetings over the course of the next two days.

The Monday evening Taste of British Columbia: A Harvest Celebration dinner began with a prayer of peace and thanksgiving to honour the delicious local food that the delegates shared. Local food was definitely the centre-piece of the evening. Delegates were treated to local seafood delicacies, squash risotto, salads, artichoke, lamb, wild salmon and other delicacies all complemented by regional wine and beer.

Updates from the Ryerson Centre for Studies in Food Security

Certificate in Food Security

On June 1, 2006, the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education sponsored an event to “celebrate food studies at Ryerson”. Members from the Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS), in town for their first annual conference, were treated to a wonderful feast of locally produced, organic foods and drinks, catered by ARAMARK.

The highlight of the event was the celebration of the first graduates from our Certificate in Food Security Program.

It was a very proud moment for all of us associated with the program, which has continued to grow in terms of student enrolment and number of courses being offered, both in English and in Portuguese.

For more information on the Certificate program, go to: www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/certificate.html.

Conference — Encounter in Food Security: Canada, Brazil and Angola

Held on June 14-15 as part of the project Building Capacity in Food Security in Brazil and Angola, this two-day conference brought together people from universities, civil society organizations and governments to talk about the similarities and differences in food security issues in the three countries.

About 80 people attended the two days, listening to the presentations and, most importantly, participating in the follow-up discussions (simultaneous English-Portuguese translation was provided).

For conference presentations, see the following site and click on the link to the

Encounter in Food Security: www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/brazilangola/publicEngagement.html

Summer Internship in Fortaleza, Brazil

Two students from Ryerson’s School of Nutrition, Nancy Lemieux and Elisa Ferrante, were selected as the first interns in a new program of summer internship in Fortaleza, Brazil.

During their six weeks of internship, the students participated in and learned about a number of food security projects being undertaken by two of our partners: Vida Brasil (a non-governmental organization), and SESC (a social service agency funded by the private sector).

Current Research

Current research projects at the CSFS include the following:

- Indigenous youth exploring identities through food security
- Combating HIV/AIDS in urban communities through food and nutrition security: The role of women-led micro-livestock enterprises and horticultural production in Nakuru town, Kenya
- Women’s identities and food: Practices of settlement and resistance in immigrant Toronto
- Effective governance for food security: Exploring the role of civil society organizations

For more information about the research programs and other activities of the CSFS, please visit our website at: www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity.

RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ontario Farm to School Network gratefully received a \$10,000 seed grant from Centre for Urban Health Initiatives to conduct 5 preliminary research probes designed to assist in the development of healthy-food programs in Ontario’s public schools. In June, we selected five excellent researchers to conduct these studies.

Amanda Montgomery is analyzing farm to school programs in the US, the UK, and Canada;

Eva Meriog is studying food issues in the Ontario public school curriculum (K-12);

Tony Winson is examining public attitudes to healthy food programs in the schools;

Marni Price is doing a case study of a healthy food program in one multicultural school in Toronto;

Fiona Knight is interviewing school board trustees, Ministry of Education officials and elected politicians in the three main parties to ascertain their attitudes on various food issues in Ontario schools.

Their reports will be submitted in early November and on Wednesday,

November 29, from 10 to 4 (location TBA), the Network will hold a meeting in Toronto to assess the results and to plan our next steps. If you wish to attend this meeting, please contact Susan Butler at: fttschools@foodshare.net

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteer editors of future newsletters. Please contact Rachel Engler-Stringer at: rr.engler-stringer@umontreal.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Rachel Engler-Stringer, Postdoctoral Researcher, Universite de Montreal
Alison Blay-Palmer, Assistant Professor, Queen’s University
For contributions to the next newsletter email: rr.engler-stringer@umontreal.ca

CAFS First Annual Conference and a New Executive Committee

By Fiona Yeudall and
Elaine Power

CAFS First Annual Conference was held at York University in Toronto on June 1st and 2nd, 2006. The response to the conference was overwhelming. We knew we had hit on an idea whose time had come when abstracts poured in from across the country in response to the call for papers. Seventy-seven papers of high calibre, representing a diversity of disciplines, were presented over the course of the two days.

The atmosphere was electric with the pleasure of intellectual exchange and stimulation, and as old friends greeted each other and new friendships were made. The conference demonstrated that Food Studies in Canada is coming of age and holds much promise for an exciting future.

At our 1st Annual General Meeting on the second day of the conference we elected a CAFS 2006/07 executive committee.

They are as follows:

President:

- Mustafa Koc, Department of Sociology, Ryerson University

Vice Presidents:

- Anne-Marie Hamelin, Sc. des aliments et de nutrition, Université Laval
- Elaine Power, Health Studies, Queens University

Secretary/Treasurer:

- Fiona Yeudall, Nutrition Studies, Ryerson University

Members at large:

- Diana Ambrozias School of Communication, Simon Fraser University
- Annette Desmarais Department of Justice Studies, University of Regina
- Ellen Desjardins, Ontario Public Health Association, Food Security Network, PhD student, Wilfred Laurier University
- Steffanie Scott, Faculty of Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo
- Sarah Wakefield, Department of Geography, University of Toronto
- Patricia Williams, Department

of Applied Human Nutrition, Mount Saint Vincent University

2007 Conference Program Chair:

- Catherine Phillips, PhD student, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University

2007 Conference Co-Chairs:

- Carol Henry, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan
- JoAnne Jaffe, Department of Sociology and Social Studies, University of Regina

Conference chairs and program chairs serve for one year to secure closer collaboration between the executive committee and the conference organizing committee. Our 2007 Conference will be in Saskatoon and 2008 will be in Vancouver.

The executive committee's mandate is for two years but we will call for elections again in 2007 to make sure that the membership is in support of the directions undertaken.

See you in Saskatoon!