



**Sandy Warley**  
**Tribute Issue**  
February 2019

## What's Inside?

This *FARE Share Special Issue* is a dedication to the late Dr. Thorald Keith (T.K.) Warley (1930-2018). Known to most as Sandy, his contribution to the University of Guelph spanned decades, including the roles of professor and chair of the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (FARE).

Praise for Sandy could fill volumes; we've included just a sampling of remembrances and reflections from colleagues and friends, including past and present faculty and students. You'll read about Sandy's many contributions to their lives, to the University and his extraordinary commitment to the entire agricultural economist community.

**Contact:**  
**Getu Hailu**  
**Editor, FARE Share**  
**ghailu@uoguelph.ca**

The *FARE Share Newsletter* features research and analysis from faculty and students in the Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (FARE).

# Remembering T.K. Sandy Warley

*By: Getu Hailu, Professor, FARE; Editor, Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics; Associate Editor, Journal of Agribusiness in Developing & Emerging Economies; and Editor, FARE Share Newsletter*

It is a great honour for me to pay tribute to the late Professor Sandy Warley – an outstanding agricultural economist and teacher. He was a tireless advocate for the discipline and the key role agricultural economists play in informing policy design. Like many of my colleagues in our field, I was saddened when I learned of his passing on September 10, 2018. Sandy was most generous in sharing his knowledge and expertise as a service to the agricultural economics society.

**“Sandy was most generous in sharing his knowledge and expertise as a service to the agricultural economics society.”**

Sandy first arrived at the University of Guelph in 1970, serving as Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and later as the Director of the School of Agricultural Economics and Extension Education. He retired in 1991, but his commitment to the



*Dr. Thorald Keith (T.K.) Warley  
(1930-2018)*

University was steadfast and indelible. He made invaluable contributions to the OAC Alumni Association, the OAC Alumni Foundation and the University of Guelph Alumni Association.

In 2003, Sandy received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree to recognize his pivotal role in the University's growth. His contributions were also recognized with the Alumni Volunteer Award in 2005. In 2008, he was awarded the Lincoln Alexander Medal of Distinguished Service, which honours individuals who have made significant contributions in areas that have substantially improved the academic life, character and governance of the University. In 2012, he was also the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his significant contributions to Ontario and Canada.

Tributes to Sandy in this special issue of *FARE Share* come from the people whose lives he touched. I believe Sandy impacted the lives of many. He will be missed by all who met and knew him.



**Institute for the Advanced Study  
of Food and Agricultural Policy**

**FOOD | AGRICULTURE | POLICY**

**UNIVERSITY  
of GUELPH**

# Intellectual giant

By: Karl D. Meilke, OAC Professor Emeritus, FARE, University of Guelph

T. K. (Sandy) Warley passed away at age 88, in Guelph, on September 10, 2018. Sandy was many things: a husband to Anita for 63 years and a father to Stephan and Linda; a Fellow of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES); a professor of FARE; an expert on international agricultural trade; a voracious reader; a master gardener; and a tireless volunteer. Sandy became Chair of the then Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Guelph in 1970. This was a time of rapid change in what is now FARE. During his tenure, the department added a Ph.D. program and he facilitated the growth of a fledgling agri-business program that provided general business courses for the entire University. Sandy put his stamp on FARE by hiring 10 new faculty – three would become Fellows of the CAES and nearly all had long careers in the department.

Sandy was interested in trade and international relations long before it was fashionable in academia. He followed the Tokyo Round of trade negotiations closely and this led to his 1976 address to the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) on international trade relations where he said ... “(there) is a growing perception that economic interdependence has its costs as well as its benefits.” Sound familiar? Two major economic events framed the 1980s – the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement (CUSTA) negotiations and the Uruguay Round of international trade negotiations. Sandy co-authored an influential Economic Council of Canada report in 1982 highlighting the challenges facing Canada’s agricultural sector and he was active on the speaking circuit during the heated debate about Canada – U.S. free trade. One story he enjoyed telling involved him giving an address at a local Women’s Club. As Sandy told it, before his talk an elderly lady came up to him, shook her cane and said, “If you are not against this Agreement, I am leaving.” Sandy would then chuckle and say, “I wasn’t, and she did.”

## **“Sandy was interested in trade and international relations long before it was fashionable in academia.”**

In the 1980s, Sandy joined a number of working groups formed by the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium to work on various aspects of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. I recall one very long day when myself and a group of ten economists struggled to make sense of a particularly difficult topic. The next morning Sandy presented us with a table that neatly summarized the earlier day’s work into various ‘boxes’ that cut through the confusion and made sense. The group easily divided the remaining tasks and broke early for lunch, all thanks to Sandy. As an aside, and perhaps a sign of the times, near Sandy’s retirement, in 1991, he told me he had never written a paper someone hadn’t asked him to write. I would not suggest this as a career path for a young academic, but it worked for Sandy because of the demand for his writing.

Sandy’s most lasting professional contribution is *Agriculture in the GATT: past and future*, an important and still timely book he co-authored with long-time friends Tim Josling and Stephan Tangermann. Tim, after hearing of Sandy’s passing, noted: “The passing of Sandy leaves us each with a special feeling of loss. In my case, he was both friend and mentor for forty years.” Stephan wrote: “Intellectual giants such as Sandy are a rare species. And people who combine such an intellect with a deep understanding of how the real-world functions, with a broad perspective of the historical background of our culture and institutions, and with an absolutely clear set of values are even rarer. And how Sandy could write!”

As important as Sandy’s written work was, his largest contribution was in the classroom and in one-on-one discussions. Scott Jeffrey wrote: “Professor Warley is one of the people most responsible for my presence as an academic in a Canadian agricultural economics department.”

## **“Sandy left a huge mark on FARE, the University of Guelph and all of his academic friends – he will be missed.”**

At a time when faculty and graduate students shared coffee at 10 am and 3 pm, a fall ritual I witnessed more than once went like this: Sandy would engage a beginning graduate student in small talk getting to know them better. He would then ask: “What are your research interests?” The newly minted graduate student would often give a short answer like: “I am not sure but maybe sugar.” Sandy would respond, then you must have read the 1958 report by the FAO on sugar policy and the student would respond: “No.” Sandy would follow-up: “Well, I am not sure how you are going to work on sugar without reading that report and I also have five file boxes in my office on sugar that you can collect this afternoon.” Later that day you would see a student struggling to carry five jam-packed file boxes of essential sugar material.

Sandy read more widely and deeply than most. His intellectual curiosity and impeccable memory survived until the end, in spite of multiple sclerosis (MS) robbing him of mobility. As he would say, “I am okay from the neck up.” So true. Sandy liked a good debate and his friends were not spared his good-natured scolding if he felt they had missed an important point or were on the wrong track. Still, he was a friend who had your back when you needed it. Sandy left a huge mark on FARE, the University of Guelph and all of his academic friends – he will be missed. Sandy was a wonderful writer and it pains me to end by noting that he would, no doubt, have written this far better than I, but his modesty would have kept him from doing so.

More about Sandy can be found at: <https://necrocanada.com/obituaries-2018/thorald-keithwarley-august-19-1930-september-10-2018/>



# Visionary teacher, leader and volunteer

*By: Franco J. Vaccarino, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Guelph*

I am honoured to have been invited to offer a tribute to T.K. (Sandy) Warley, a longstanding, devoted supporter of the University of Guelph.

Our greatest strength as an institution lies in the commitment to excellence demonstrated by our people. That idea was exemplified in Sandy Warley, whose decades-long service here as a visionary teacher, leader and volunteer have contributed to making U of G one of Canada's top comprehensive universities.

Sandy made significant contributions as a teacher and leader in the forerunner of today's Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (FARE). More than that, he played a pivotal role in enhancing the academic life of the entire University.

His contributions to the University of Guelph included offering input into strategic plans at both college and University levels, enhancing communications with alumni and stewarding endowments to fund student scholarships. Numerous University faculty, administrators and students benefited from his advice and guidance, his knowledge of U of G, and his kindness and caring.

*Sandy and Anita Warley*

**“Numerous University faculty, administrators and students benefited from his advice and guidance, his knowledge of U of G, and his kindness and caring.”**

To recognize Sandy's contributions and achievements, the University awarded him an honorary degree in 2003, the Alumni Volunteer Award in 2005 and the 2008 Lincoln Alexander Medal of Distinguished Service. Beyond campus, his service and contributions to Ontario and Canada were recognized with the 2012 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Today the University of Guelph enjoys a growing national and international reputation as Canada's food university and as an institution dedicated to improving life for tomorrow. For our success today and tomorrow, we say “Thank you, Sandy!”

# Master of agricultural policy

*By: Nancy Brown Andison, OAC 79, Board of Governors,  
University of Guelph*

Professor T.K. (Sandy to many of us) Warley passed away as we were heading into the final legs of negotiations on the ‘new NAFTA.’ During a meeting with OAC Dean, Rene Van Acker, we spoke of how much we were going to miss Sandy and what a bastion of OAC he was. I said, “And who is going to analyze the new trade deal for us?” Not long after, the new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) was signed. I still open my email box each morning looking for Sandy’s pronouncements. Sorely, his thoughtful, concise, clear analysis is not there. We are all the poorer for its absence.

**“Sandy was a master of bringing agricultural policy understanding to students, colleagues, alumni and the broader community in an intellectual, yet most accessible way.”**

Sandy was a master of bringing agricultural policy understanding to students, colleagues, alumni and the broader community in an intellectual, yet most accessible way. One of my favourite stories goes back to the negotiations, and seemingly endless national debate, of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the 80s. Sandy was invited to speak to a senior women’s group. The group had contacted the University saying they wanted to learn more about the FTA issues. Sandy was sent out as the College emissary and he went with some trepidation, not sure how the event might go. I recall him returning to the department highly enthused commenting: “Those ladies were fascinating – they were there through the debates of the Reciprocal Tariff Agreement of 1938 – that was the best discussion on the FTA I have had.” Reaching out to inform, educate and hear those beyond the traditional OAC community was one of Sandy’s most valuable contributions.

Sandy’s practice of life-long learning was a trait we would all be the better for emulating. I had the honour of joining Sandy’s discussion group for one of its regular lunch sessions. He had gathered together a diverse band of experts in the arts, sciences and business to discuss and debate a wide range of topics – a lost art in our world that he kept alive.

**“Reaching out to inform, educate and hear those beyond the traditional OAC community was one of Sandy’s most valuable contributions.”**

And of course, there was always Sandy’s ‘juried’ reading list that he distributed. Anything Sandy sent out we all knew would be well worth the investment of time to read. I will forever retain a folder on my computer simply titled ‘T.K. Warley’ where I have filed away, for future reference, many of those gems.

Sandy’s dedication to OAC and the University as a whole never faltered and he encouraged others to provide their own contributions. He understood the importance of the relationship between the two. I will be forever grateful of his encouragement, coaching and support to me to become a member of the University’s Board of Governors.

**“Sandy’s practice of life-long learning was a trait we would all be the better for emulating.”**

His kind does not come around often. We were the beneficiaries. He will be dearly missed.

Godspeed Prof.

**“Sandy’s dedication to OAC and the University as a whole never faltered and he encouraged others to provide their own contributions.”**

# Agricultural economist and friend

*By: Brady Deaton, McCain Family Chair in Food Security; Professor, FARE; and President of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society*

Since joining the faculty of FARE in 2004, I was in the habit of meeting Sandy at his home from time to time. Each time we met, I found the discussions intellectually stimulating. We discussed a range of topics and shared the view that the history of agricultural economics was not discussed enough.

The last time I met with Sandy (early 2018), he gave me advice on the rough outline of my 2018 Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES) presidential address. My address was motivated, in part, by a question I asked him the year before: “Why did agricultural economics emerge as a discipline?” He more or less answered: “There were a large number of rural businesses [farms] that weren’t doing so well and there was a need to go out there and address their problem.” To be clear, his answer to me was a casual one. (He would likely have had much more to say.) However, his thought captured a number of key elements in my presidential address.

My address highlighted three major points. First point: agricultural economists place a high value on understanding the practical consequences of economic theory. Second point: agricultural economists embrace a broad-based methodology that notably includes reflection on the experiences afforded by extension. Third point: to formulate grounded knowledge, institutional alertness – active attention to the consequences of institutions that were previously unknown or underappreciated – is often paramount.

**“He recognized the value of economic theory and used it to understand the practical consequences of important agricultural policies, like dairy quota. In this effort he provided an alertness to institutional detail that few present-day economists could rival.”**

I believe Sandy’s professional journey embodied all of these points. He recognized the value of economic theory and used it to understand the practical consequences of important agricultural policies, like dairy quota. In this effort he provided an alertness to institutional detail that few present-day economists could rival. Moreover, throughout his career, he fearlessly communicated these ideas to others through effective outreach; Sandy was a brave agricultural economist!

Regrettably, Sandy did not have an opportunity to read my final address. Had he done so, he would, no doubt, have given me both criticism and praise. I’m certain that he would have given me doses of both, because I rarely sent anything his way (papers, podcasts, etc.) that he didn’t follow up with an email or phone call clarifying the ‘good’ and identifying the ‘bad.’

In this regard, Sandy was always a welcomed challenge to my own settled beliefs. And, at times, I feared that challenge. However, I knew that the enduring intellectual benefits of his thoughts greatly exceeded any costs to my ego. (In short, I feared not knowing what he had to say.) For this reason, in part, I kept hoping for the opportunity to speak to him about my work. Initially, I came to visit him as a curious colleague seeking to understand my department. Later, I came as an admirer and beneficiary of his thinking. These remained enduring reasons for my visits.

**“Sandy was always a welcomed challenge to my own settled beliefs.”**

But most happily, at some point, and by his good grace, I came to visit him as a friend. And our friendship, above all, is what I will cherish most.

# Great debater

*By: Rene Van Acker, Dean, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph*

Sandy Warley was a remarkable man who leaves a lasting impact on agricultural economics, his Department, our College and the University.

Sandy was named Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1970. During his tenure, 10 new faculty members were hired, and the Department launched its Ph.D. program. These watershed events led to unprecedented growth in the Department, and the rise of scholarship addressing contemporary policy issues.

Sandy was no stranger to policy issues. He had a deep, profound, and sometimes controversial, impact. But his contributions were always grounded in fact and evidence, and were brought forth with courage, fortitude and willingness to debate.

Debate. Discourse. Discussion. These were things Sandy embraced regardless of who the debater was: a faculty member, administrator, student, farmer or journalist. But as you stepped forward to the debate, you needed to be prepared for his sharp mind, eloquent narrative, and ability to cut through the “bovine biomass” (his words, not mine!).

Sandy’s ability to debate and engage on policy issues came from a deep well of knowledge and understanding about agricultural and agri-food trade policy. It is this understanding, his analysis, and his ability to contribute meaningfully to the discipline that led

**“...his contributions were always grounded in fact and evidence, and were brought forth with courage, fortitude and willingness to debate.”**

to Sandy being named as one of the first Fellows of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society in 1987.

But foremost, Sandy’s legacy reflects how he cherished his relationship with students, staff, faculty and friends. People mattered to Sandy. A point we need to remember and remind ourselves of in this fast-paced, inter-connected world. People matter. So did our friend and colleague Sandy. Remembering him and what he stood for is important.

---

# Brilliant teacher

*By: Ellen Goddard, Professor, Co-operative Chair in Agricultural Marketing and Business, Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta*

Years ago, I took my first Agricultural Policy class from Professor T.K. Warley. In many ways, that class turned out to be the reason I ended up as an agricultural economist. I was fascinated by the material covered and the way Professor Warley taught. It was also amusing to see him ‘encourage’ the boys in the class to remove their baseball caps. I remember that I did a term paper on the United States Public Law 480 Programs (US PL 480) and dug up everything I could find in the library about the nuts and bolts of the program. My term paper was a very boring regurgitation of the details of how the program worked and didn’t work, in some cases. Professor Warley certainly let me know that the paper was a disappointment since he was really looking for some original empirical analysis which I did not provide.

When I joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Education at the University of Guelph as an assistant professor many years later, Sandy was enormously helpful. He shared class notes (which were always impeccably organized) and ideas for the classes I was teaching. I still use an outline he created for one of his classes as the basis for the term-paper assignments I deliver in my classes at the University of Alberta. And, yes, I expect the students to do original empirical work in their term papers.

Sandy was a brilliant teacher and also very, very kind to me. He contributed an enormous amount to the agricultural economics profession in Canada and Ontario, even if sometimes the supply management boards felt less than enraptured by his talks on supply management as an economic instrument!

**“He contributed an enormous amount to the agricultural economics profession in Canada and Ontario...”**

# Critical thinker

*By: Alfons Weersink, Professor, FARE and University of Guelph Research Leadership Chair*

T.K. (Sandy) Warley had an indelible impact on my career path.

For many years, Sandy taught a course on the Introduction to Agricultural Economics to all B.Sc. Agriculture students at the University of Guelph. It is one of the few courses that I can recall from my time at Guelph as an OAC 82. I remember going to the class in Room 102 JD MacLachlan Building and choosing a window seat near the back so I could gaze outside and let my mind wander. Professor Warley, however, would not let that happen. He was a strict disciplinarian, but he rarely had to admonish anyone for misbehaving or not paying attention. Instead, he held court naturally with his oratory skills.

Those communication skills transfixed me, and I rarely stared aimlessly outside. I remember two classes in particular. In the first, he passionately described the history of supply management and all the benefits associated with such an orderly marketing system. I was convinced after the class that quotas and guaranteed prices were the ideal means to sell any farm product.

I wondered why other commodities were not marketed similarly and could understand why politicians such as Eugene Whelan fought hard for such a system. The same Eugene Whelan who also fought to have T.K. Warley removed from the University of Guelph for his opposition to supply management.

In the next class, Sandy described the reasons for his opposition. He clearly laid out the disadvantages for a marketing system that he had portrayed as the ideal in the previous class.

I found the presentation of the pros in one class followed by the cons in the next confusing. As a first-year student, I was looking

for someone to just give the answer and the reasons for it. It was the system that worked in other courses – this is carbon cycle, memorize the process and be prepared to describe it in the next test. Instead, Professor Warley forced us to use our critical thinking skills to assess the advantages and disadvantages of any policy option and come to our own conclusions. While presenting both sides of an argument was not unique among instructors, Sandy had the ability to have us so vehemently believe one approach and then swing us in the completely opposite direction.

In addition to providing the skills to question, T.K. Warley also

**“Professor Warley forced us to use our critical thinking skills to assess the advantages and disadvantages of any policy option and come to our own conclusions.”**

reinforced my interest in agricultural economics. He highlighted the tradeoffs involved with any individual, market or government decision and the importance of understanding those tradeoffs. He made economics seem real and relevant. He fostered a curiosity in economic issues in me that pushed me on to graduate school and to my current position.

It was a curiosity that kept him engaged until his passing. Sandy definitely followed the phrase at the bottom of his email “It’s better to wear out than to rust out.”

# Articulate adviser

*By: Robert Gordon, Provost and Vice President Academic, Wilfrid Laurier University*

I will forever remember meeting Sandy Warley shortly after becoming Dean of OAC in 2008. It was during this time that the College was facing serious challenges including significant budget reductions and reduced enrollments across a number of its academic programs. During that initial conversation Sandy challenged me to the point where I thought I was being interviewed for a job that I had just started. But I quickly realized he was simply testing me for the road ahead and also providing his commitment for support moving forward.

From there we immediately struck a friendship that continued throughout my nearly eight years as Dean and even after I moved on to Wilfrid Laurier University. What I will most vividly remember about Sandy is that although long retired — he

remained engaged with the life of OAC and the wider University of Guelph community on a daily basis.

Throughout the years, I frequently reached out to Sandy for his counsel on a range of issues related to the College and the broader state of affairs with both the agriculture industry and government. These were usually late-afternoon meetings at his home – often over a glass of wine. In all of these meetings he was always brutally honest, articulate and upfront. Nothing was whitewashed for my sake. These meetings have in countless ways helped me to shape how I approach complex and difficult decisions. For that, I will forever be grateful of my friendship with Sandy.

**“... he remained engaged with the life of OAC and the wider University of Guelph community on a daily basis.”**

# Unparalleled influencer

By: Alan Ker, Professor; OAC Research Chair in Agricultural Risk and Policy; and Director, Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy, FARE, University of Guelph

Sandy (T.K.) Warley had an arguably unparalleled influence on both the Department of Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics and the Ontario Agricultural College over the past six decades. During my – in comparison, trivially short – time at Guelph, Sandy served as a colleague, confidant, and trusted advisor to me. We would spend many afternoons chatting about the academy, our discipline, and Canadian agriculture, focusing on the role of the department within each.

Sandy had as much passion as anyone for the academy, and specifically, the University of Guelph; he continually kept abreast and influenced high-level directions at the University long after retirement. Throughout, Sandy always promoted the principals of economics in decision-making (i.e., idea of opportunity cost), the strengths of the department (i.e., quality of the research), and our ability to deliver on the mission of the University (i.e., relevance and impact of our research to society).

**“Sandy had as much passion as anyone for the academy, and specifically, the University of Guelph; he continually kept abreast and influenced high-level directions at the University long after retirement.”**

He loved the world of possibilities the academy offered, both to the students and the faculty. While I never had Sandy as a professor, he loved interacting with students and would do whatever he could to further their intellectual curiosity. He would continuously challenge students with sound economic principles.

Sandy maintained the highest standards for research. He believed that research had to be impactful and relevant to society. He felt that faculty needed to actively influence society with their research.

**“...he loved interacting with students and would do whatever he could to further their intellectual curiosity. He would continuously challenge students with sound economic principles.”**

Sandy loved both economics and Canadian agriculture. Our last few interactions reflected on the role of China in world agricultural markets and how that would influence the future of Canadian agriculture. I had just recently been on a two-week trip to China giving lectures at universities and visited various regions. I was taken aback by the technological advancement, wealth generation, and efficiency by which certain things were done. However, it struck me that China had yet to seriously focus on agricultural production and when it did, what world markets and Canadian agriculture might look like. What is fascinating about this from an economic perspective is the pure size of the Chinese market relative to the rest of the world and what that would mean under a single-decision entity once its domestic productivity reached the levels of the western countries. Sandy and I would discuss the risks to Canadian producers and how they might effectively be managed through private and public programs.

Sandy was always intellectually curious and intellectually engaging. Every conversation was a source of great energy for me. I will miss those conversations immensely. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

**“Sandy maintained the highest standards for research. He believed that research had to be impactful and relevant to society.”**



Food, Agricultural  
and Resource  
Economics



University of Guelph  
Department of Food, Agricultural  
and Resource Economics (FARE)  
J.D. MacLachlan Building  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1  
Telephone: 519-824-4120 x53625

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/fare/>