

## Educating 20,000 More Agri-Food Leaders

The Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) has a thrilling challenge. We must educate 10% - 20% more students, over the next few years, to meet food and agriculture sector workforce demands in Ontario. Early in 2012, OAC with partnership from our alumni association and foundation, released results from the *Planning for Tomorrow for OAC: Input From Industry* survey. The survey, which included over 100 Ontario agricultural and food processing companies and organizations, revealed a large gap between the supply of graduates trained in OAC programs and employer demand.

Ontario produces 200+ commodities and the agriculture and food sector includes 3,000+ companies, employing over 200,000 people. Employment of hires directly from university will increase over the next few years by 10% - 20%. That's 10,000 - 20,000 new jobs in Ontario alone. Two thirds of surveyed agriculture and food employers also prefer hiring graduates who have been trained in OAC programs. It is obvious that OAC has a strong reputation of educating knowledgeable and inventive industry leaders in our four areas of focus: food, agriculture, rural communities and the environment.

To meet the ever-growing demand for OAC trained graduates we are actively recruiting. Through an Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities condoned program, that serves the Specialist High School Majors program with Reach Ahead Days and other liaison initiatives, we're bringing more students and high school teachers onto our campuses. As a result of these efforts, over the last three years, OAC undergraduate applications have risen 30%.

With the support from our network of alumni, industry partners, and government agencies and initiatives, OAC is a trailblazer in education and research. It is with this support, and our tradition of quality programs and positive student experiences, that we will continue to supply industry leaders into the world's workforce.

As evidence of this leadership, I want to share some of our top stories from 2012. The following pages showcase OAC's amazing student and faculty successes, research initiatives, and community engagement stories. It is with great pride that I share these stories with you.

Robert Gordon  
Dean, Ontario Agricultural College  
Guelph • Alfred • Kemptville • Ridgetown

Since 1874, OAC has been producing top-notch graduates and agri-food industry leaders. Pictured here are Kevin, Anne-Miet, Wade, Duncan and Eric, graduates of the OAC Class of 2012; and graduates at the 1924 OAC convocation.



# Students & Faculty

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- > **In March, Food Science students took first place at the Research Chefs Association Culinary Competition held at the Culinary Institute of America in San Antonio, Texas.** As the only Canadian team, they competed against some of the most prestigious culinary and food science colleges and universities in the US. This year's challenge was to develop a Tex-Mex style appetizer and their creation, "Cowboy Carnitas", took home the top prize.
- > From the wild ponies of Dartmoor Heath to the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, **students from the Kemptville Campus equine programs toured England in May**, visiting some of the most iconic places in the country for horse breeding, racing, research and business.
- > **During the Winter Semester, Professors Chris Hall and Cynthia Scott-Dupree from the School of Environmental Sciences acted as coordinators for the University of Guelph – Centre for International Programs 2012 - India Semester.** The two coordinators and 25 students spent their 12 weeks of study travelling throughout India visiting NGO's and historical/cultural sites highlighting the country's amazing diversity.
- > **Mélanie Sanscartier and Alicia Desaulniers of Campus d'Alfred won the \$2,500 first prize in the Project Soy competition diploma category for developing Ricosoy;** a soy ravioli with soy-infused ricotta cheese and available in both sweet and savoury flavours. Bon appetit!
- > **Animal and Poultry Science** students took home the first place award at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge® in March.
- > **Lydia Harrison, a fourth year OAC student completing a degree in Honours Agriculture, won the 2012 Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture (CYSA) senior competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.** Lydia is a student in the Agricultural Communications class run by Professor Owen Roberts.
- > The University of Guelph hosted its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Sciences Symposium (ESS) on January 21. **The non-profit, student-run event brought in 170 attendees and focused on this year's theme: "Environmental Outlook on Agriculture: A Public Perspective."**
- > Thanks to the generous support of alumni, donors, and industry partners, **more than 350 OAC awards were given out in 2012 to OAC diploma (80), undergraduate (135) and graduate (135) students, totalling more than \$635,000.**
- > **Bachelor of Landscape Architecture students entered the annual Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association's Student Design Competition and won four of the top five prizes.** This year's competition recognized the best green visions for the revitalization of a former pit. As part of the competition students' winning panels were part of the Cambridge Galleries' Common Ground exhibition, a landscape/environment awareness event that showcased the work of leading Canadian landscape architects and visual artists.



▲ **University of Guelph Culinary Team members Lizzie Chan, Aneta Rybak, Brandon Guild and Derek Vella, receive their first prize from Janet Carver, president of the Research Chefs of America.**



▲ **The University of Guelph's winning team members Christopher Bartels, Robyn Walsh, Mark Wynands, coach John Walton, and Wade Deaken at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge®.**



▲ **School of Environmental Sciences professors, Chris Hall and Cynthia Scott-Dupree, with students during their semester abroad in India.**



▲ **Professor Claudia Wagner-Riddle addresses the student-run Environmental Sciences Symposium**

# Research

- > **The University of Guelph is Canada's most inventive university, according to a survey conducted by The Impact Group.** Guelph ranks No. 1 both in the number of inventions per faculty and in the number of inventions in proportion to research funding. Of the 181 University of Guelph disclosures made in 2011, a whopping 160 of them came from the Department of Plant Agriculture. In total, the Catalyst Centre, the University's technology transfer and industrial liaison office, cited 92% of disclosures in 2011 came from OAC.
- > **School of Environmental Sciences, Professor Madhur Anand, received the prestigious James S. McDonnell Complex Systems Scholar Award for research in human-environment sustainability.** This is the first time a University of Guelph faculty member has received the award. She will receive \$450,000 over five years starting in 2013. Anand plans to generate models of complex forest-grassland mosaic ecosystems based on Brazilian and Indian examples that incorporate human behaviour and ecological dynamics.
- > **The Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy, based in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (FARE) hosted "Growing our Future: Making Sense of National Food Strategies"** in Ottawa in April. Over 130 people came together at this unique conference to examine national food strategies. **The Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy later received a \$750,000 gift in September from TD Bank Group to create the TD Agricultural Policy Research Fund.** The fund will support economic research, debate, and analysis on new farm policies, especially those affecting the health and prosperity of the agri-food sector and rural communities.
- > **School of Environmental Design and Rural Development Professor, Nonita Yap, received a three-year, \$200,000 research award** from the partnership development program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Nonita will work with Indian colleagues to study factors that promote and hinder the spread of cleaner production technologies among micro and small enterprises in eastern India.
- > **The University of Guelph's Bioproducts Discovery and Development Centre (BDDC) received \$2-million from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) in November.** The funding will be used to purchase equipment and expand the centre. BDDC scientists turn plant materials into resins, polymers and tough fibres to make biobased plastics and bioproducts.
- > OAC and the College of Management Economics have established a new institute at the University of Guelph to tackle the world's most important food issues through research, innovation, commercialization and action. **The Food Institute is believed to be the first such initiative covering global issues in all aspects of food – production, safety, security, and the impact of food on culture, economies and the environment.**
- > **A study by Department of Animal and Poultry Science researchers, released in the journal PLOS ONE, is the first to experimentally demonstrate signs of boredom in captive animals.** Rebecca Meagher, a postdoctoral researcher and the study's lead author, along with professor Georgia Mason, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Animal Welfare, studied captive minks and found that animals in confined empty spaces avidly seek stimulation, which is consistent with boredom.
- > **A study by Food Science professors, Shai Barbut and Alejandro Marangoni, and PhD candidate Alexander Zetzl revealed a healthier way to make hotdogs.** Research found that frankfurters made with a combination of canola oil and a modified fibre instead of traditional pork and beef fat have the same flavour we've come to expect from a hot dog, without the negative health impact that comes with consuming large amounts of saturated fat. **Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations also named Professor Marangoni one of the "10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians 2012".**

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# Community



^ Anita Stewart - The world's first Food Laureate



^ Students "tug" a 13,000 lb tractor to raise money for the Right to Play children's charity at the annual student-run event. Photo by Farm Boy Productions.

- > **The OAC commissioned *Planning for Tomorrow for OAC: Input From Industry* survey, released in early 2012, revealed a large gap between the supply of graduates trained in OAC programs and employer demand.** The survey included over 100 agriculture and food processing organizations and companies representing the sector in Ontario (excluding retail and food service). The results reveal that employers in Ontario's agriculture and food sector will increase the number of hires directly from university over the next few years by 10% - 20% on average. Thank you to OAC Alumni Association, the OAC Alumni Foundation, Pioneer Canada, CropLife Canada, The Agronomy Company of Canada, RBC Royal Bank, the Waterloo, Wellington Dufferin Workforce Planning Board, and Farm Credit Canada, for their financial support of the survey.
- > **Campus d'Alfred director, Professor Renée Bergeron, was re-appointed for a second term.** She will continue in her administrative role at OAC's francophone campus until 2017.
- > **The OAC Student Federation (SFOAC) held their annual "Tractor Tug for Tots" event in November and raised over \$6,000 for the children's charity Right to Play.** The event hosted 26 teams of eight, from across the University of Guelph, competing to tug two 13 000 lbs tractors 50 feet in the fastest time.
- > **The Canadian Research Institute for Food Safety (CRIFS), part of Department of Food Science, partnered with food industry leaders to train sector employees.** In collaboration with Loblaws, The Loblaw Academy was launched in September 2012 to improve food safety knowledge of Loblaw vendors. The program was delivered through distance education and benefited over 3,500 vendors.
- > **The late Dr. Gary Ablett, first director of the University of Guelph Ridgetown campus, was inducted into the Kent County Agricultural Hall of Fame.** Ablett was a key figure in Ridgetown college's amalgamation with the University of Guelph.
- > **Five new inductees to the Order of OAC** were recognized for making contributions to the college in excess of \$100,000; James and Shirley MacDonald, Ron and Doreen McCracken, Gintarius (Ginty) Jocius, June Laver, and Andrew Wilder.
- > Thank you to all the donors and supporters of the **The BetterPlanet Project**; a \$200 million University of Guelph fundraising campaign. **OAC has already raised almost \$25 million since the start of the campaign and aims to raise at least \$15 million more before the campaign wrap-up in 2014.**
- > **In early November, Anita Stewart was appointed as the University of Guelph's first Food Laureate.** It's believed to be the first such position in the world. As an expert on food and Canadian cuisine, she will serve as the University's honorary food ambassador, providing advocacy and leadership for food initiatives.
- > Three staff members from the regional campuses participated in the University of Guelph Leave for Change program. **Patti Goodman (Kemptonville Campus), Susan Kelner (Ridgetown Campus), and Nicole Tessier (Campus d'Alfred) travelled to developing nations, on short assignments, sharing their knowledge and skills with resident professionals and development programs.** They travelled to Vietnam, Ghana, and Burkina Faso, respectively.

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