

OAC Grads in Demand

A recent survey revealed a large gap between the supply of OAC graduates and employer demand. The *Planning for Tomorrow for OAC: Input From Industry* survey commissioned by OAC was conducted by JRG Consulting Group in 2011. The survey included 25 food processing firms and 77 organizations representing the agricultural sector in Ontario. Below are some highlights:

- The sector generates an estimated \$38 billion of Ontario's GDP and includes more than 3,000 companies employing over 200,000 people.
- Employment of new university graduates will increase over the next few years by 10 to 20 per cent (10,000 to 20,000 new jobs in Ontario alone).
- More than one-third of surveyed companies reported difficulty in finding qualified candidates.
- Two-thirds of surveyed employers prefer hiring OAC graduates.
- Industry requires about 500 new diploma graduates annually; 400 diploma students graduate from OAC each year.
- Almost 350 new degree recipients are needed in agriculture and up to 90 are needed in food processing each year. About 100 OAC students graduate from agriculture and about 30 graduate from food science annually.
- Industry needs to fill up to 100 graduate-level positions each year.

A Publication of the OAC Alumni Association
www.oac.uoguelph.ca/alumni | Winter 2013



Reg Hoskins and Doris Kingsmill, pictured with friends, met on the U of G campus.

Four Generations of Aggies

In the last *OAC Alumni News* we asked for your OAC legacy stories. One of our first responses came from Anne Hoskins, B.Sc.(Agr.) '78, who shared her family's story of four generations attending OAC that continues to this day.

The story begins before 1900, when Anne's family members enrolled in OAC and Macdonald Institute. Since then, four generations of her family have earned degrees and diplomas in agriculture, animal science, agricultural economics and apiculture. Their educations have served them in a variety of careers in business, politics and agriculture.

Anne says her decision to attend OAC was partly influenced by her family's history at the school. Her parents, Reg Hoskins, ADA '41, and Doris Kingsmill, DHE '41, met at U of G. After graduation Doris became head dietitian at Victoria Hospital before joining Reg on the farm, where they developed their pure-bred Ayrshire herd.

Anne's own children are now attending OAC at the Ridgetown campus: her son, Reg, is working towards a diploma in agriculture, and her daughter, Kimberley, graduated last spring with a diploma in agriculture. To read more about this family's OAC legacy story, visit www.uoguelph.ca/oac/alumni-and-friends/kingsmill-family.

To submit your own story, contact Stephanie Craig, OAC communications manager, at 519-824-4120, Ext. 56832, or sraig02@uoguelph.ca.

By Maggie McCormick

CHANGING LIVES
 IMPROVING LIFE

UNIVERSITY
 of GUELPH



Left: Peter Warmels. Right: Team OAC '80 members at the OAC Alumni Association golf tournament, from left to right, are B.Sc.(Agr.) '80 grads George Thompson, Brenda Trask, Mary Lynn McPherson and Ian Campbell.

What Brings Us Back

I have come full circle back to OAC as the president of the OAC Alumni Association. The reward of coming back has been the continued camaraderie and support from alumni and faculty throughout the college.

As with any other venture, staying connected to alumni through OAC has its rewards, whether through an extended family of friendship, gains in scholastic knowledge, or simply growing business relationships. The truly enjoyable part of this reward is that it need not be only within your graduating class. OAC alumni connections link through to other classes and different disciplines.

The OAC Alumni Association is a conduit through which I have been able to connect to a different world of friends and re-connect with old ones. A great example of this conduit is events like our annual golf tournament. Last year was our 40th

anniversary of golfing together. We were honoured with the presence of students, recent graduates and our longest and oldest attending alumnus, Doug Williams, BSA '49.

A record number of attendees were supported with kind donations from Dekalb, our platinum sponsor, as well as Gay Lea Foods, OAC Class of '69, Matthew Cole from Investor's Group and Trimble, which were silver sponsors.

The money generated from the golf tournament and the bonspiel held earlier in 2012 will go towards the \$5,000 annual commitment to the OAC dean's highest priority fund. The remaining balance will go to student and alumni initiatives.

Coming back to OAC, whether for a golf tournament, a bonspiel or another event is a great chance to see old friends. Maybe even more important is that these events have become excellent "friend-raising" opportunities. Both are reason enough to come back to OAC.

Peter Warmels, B.Sc. '79
OAC Alumni Association President



Liaison Efforts Bring Students to OAC

Think back to how you learned about OAC. What if you hadn't known about the great opportunities and career paths available through an OAC education?

I first heard of OAC as a high school student, when I spent a summer on a cow-calf operation in Perth County as a junior agriculturalist. The program gave city kids like me exposure to the life and business of farming. It was also a chance to learn about all the career options available in the agri-food system. Some of our orientation courses were held at OAC. I always knew I'd be back for more. My experience demonstrates how important it is that young adults are introduced to all the opportunities an OAC education can provide.

The OAC Alumni Foundation is embarking on a new fundraising project to support outreach to the next generation of OAC students. The foundation is launching a student liaison project to

build on the success of two existing OAC class projects.

In 2002, the OAC Class of '53 established a fund within the foundation directing \$10,000 each year to student outreach initiatives. Last year, the OAC Class of '65 established the Reach Ahead Fund with the goal of raising \$150,000 for their 50th anniversary. This class has already contributed \$10,000 to the college's recruitment activities through the foundation.

The foundation's challenge is to match these efforts, doubling the funds supporting liaison activities and Reach Ahead Days. Through these Reach Ahead Days, OAC has shown great leadership in connecting 23 OAC-relevant programs with the Specialist High Skills Majors program in Ontario high schools. These day-long events focus on prospective students and their teachers, providing a preview of university life, student competitions and professional development workshops for teachers.

Since 2010, Reach Ahead Days have brought more than 1,450 high school students onto the Guelph campus and 50 per cent of them visited in 2012. More than 100 schools have participated, and as a result of these efforts OAC undergraduate applications have risen by 30 per cent over the last three years.

Thank you to the OAC Class of '58A for their leadership pledge to this project to mark their 60th anniversary. Momentum is building, and together we can keep the momentum going.

For more information, or to donate to the foundation's student liaison project, contact Tara Collins, OAC alumni advancement manager, at 519-824-4120, Ext. 56842, or tcoll02@uoguelph.ca.

Linda Hruska
B.Sc.(Agr.) '85 and M.Agr. '88
Chair, OAC Alumni Foundation



Dean Rob Gordon presents Rose Rumney with a dean's scholarship at the fall 2012 undergraduate awards celebration.

What Brought You to OAC?

OAC's global reputation as one of the finest educational institutions in agriculture and food was a major factor in my personal decision to study at the college and the University of Guelph. OAC strives to educate the highest-quality students and future leaders. We produce graduates who discover and implement leading-edge solutions for agriculture, food, the environment and rural communities in Canada and around the world.

I chose to do my graduate studies here because of the ability to connect my education to the real world and also provide an opportunity for my research to have immediate impacts. Additionally, the world-class faculty were and still are second to none. The prestige of studying with these individuals was an opportunity in itself.

To come back to OAC as dean was and continues to be a thrill. I am sincerely proud of OAC's leadership in food, agriculture, environment and rural community education. We strive to draw the best students to our campuses and provide them with the

finest educational experience.

OAC brings in students for many different reasons. Just as impressive, it continues to bring alumni back. OAC alumni are a fantastic group of individuals. You recognize the importance of an OAC education and support our efforts in many ways.

Thank you for your continued donations to support the college and its priorities going forward. These include the OAC Learning Trust, which provides undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in hands-on experiential learning. The college's liaison efforts, including our Reach Ahead events and professional development days, show high school students and their teachers a world of opportunities in OAC. Both of these efforts set OAC at a high level of educational leadership and bring more students to the college.

Take a moment to reflect on what brought you to OAC. Remember how you first heard of the college, or the first time you stepped on campus. Reflecting on these answers emphasizes the value of OAC and the importance of liaison, outreach and sharing your OAC story with others.

Robert Gordon, PhD '96
OAC Dean

Out and About with OAC

Alumni have been busy over the past six months attending OAC events, such as Alumni Weekend at Kemptville Campus and the University of Guelph, the OAC golf tournament and the OAC faculty awards presentation sponsored by the OAC Alumni Association.



1 ■ Isabel Kinnear, K. Dip. '69, and Audrey Baker, K. Dip. '70, pose with K. Dip. '47 grads Ken Hunter, Arnold Gamble, Earl McFadden and Russ McKay at Alumni Weekend at Kemptville Campus.

2 ■ Ridgetown Campus alumnus Gary Paling, R. Dip. '74, centre, works for Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and continues to give back to the campus. He is vice-chair of the Ridgetown Campus Agri-Food Foundation, provides two annual guest lectures on agricultural finance and engages students in FCC's annual Drive Away Hunger Campaign. Here he is presenting students with complimentary FCC farm business management software.

3 ■ Trudy Albers Reid and her husband, Jason Reid, both K. Dip. '02 grads, travelled from Thunder Bay with daughters Olivia and Emma for Alumni Weekend at Kemptville Campus.

4 ■ Team OAC '72 members at the OAC Alumni Association golf tournament, from left to right, are B.Sc.(Agr.) '72 grads Ronald Craig, William Allen, Donald McCallum and Dwight Greer.
"I decided to come to OAC on the recommendation of Dufferin County ag. rep. who was Bruce Mathieson."
— Dwight Greer

5 ■ Prof. Hung Lee, School of Environmental Sciences and 2012 Distinguished Researcher Award winner, with OAC Alumni Association president Peter Warmels, left, and OAC dean Rob Gordon. This faculty award is presented for outstanding research by OAC faculty members.

"I chose to teach at the OAC because I knew it would be a great place to carry out my research. Guelph is also a great city to live in." — Prof. Hung Lee



6 ■ OAC Class of '52 members celebrate their 60th anniversary at Alumni Weekend.

7 ■ Prof. Sean Kelly, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development and 2012 Distinguished Teaching Award winner, with OAC Alumni Association president Peter Warmels, left, and OAC dean Rob Gordon. This award recognizes faculty who play a significant role in the education of OAC students. All OAC faculty members are eligible as are University of Guelph faculty who contribute to the teaching of OAC students.

8 ■ Prof. Mary Ruth MacDonald, Department of Plant Agriculture and 2012 Distinguished Extension Award winner, with OAC Alumni Association president Peter Warmels, left, and OAC dean Rob Gordon. This OAC faculty award is presented for effective extension efforts outside the University.

9 ■ Prof. Christopher Hall, School of Environmental Sciences and 2012 G.P. McRostie Faculty Award winner, left, with OAC Alumni Association president Peter Warmels. This faculty award is presented for effective advising and mentoring by faculty who play a significant role in the education of OAC students.

10 ■ Team OAC '51 members at the OAC Alumni Association golf tournament, from left to right, are BSA '51 grads Clay Switzer, D. Murray Brown and Douglas Mitten with dean Rob Gordon, PhD '96.

***"I made the decision to come to OAC in the fall of '47 for two reasons. First, in high school I entered my potatoes from my farm in a competition held by the Potato Club. The competition was held on the Guelph campus. I toured the campus and was very impressed. The second reason was I was accepted at both Western and OAC. It was only OAC that offered me a scholarship of \$50 a semester for two semesters. Fifty dollars doesn't sound like a lot now but it meant a lot to me then."** — Clay Switzer*

KEMPTVILLE

Grad Returns for Harvest Fest



Jean and Ron Visser

In 1962, Ron Visser of Perth, Ont., arrived at Kemptville College at age 16 from a dairy farm in Portland, Ont. "I quit school in Grade 11 because my dad was sick. I knew I wanted to farm," says Visser, K.Dip. '66. "Our ag. rep. encouraged me to go for the experience and to broaden my vision of agriculture. He helped get me in.

"I was a bit backward socially at first, but I did graduate with a good grade in 1964. I went back to the farm. We had only 20 cows, but we went to 40 right away. Eventually we expanded to 90 milking cows. We had 200 acres to start; now it's 1,000. My son Todd is at home and is taking over," he explains.

Visser and his wife, Jean, came back to Kemptville Campus for Harvest Fest, a major annual fundraiser held by the Kemptville College Foundation. The October 2012 event was a big success with more than 240 guests sitting down to a harvest dinner at the W.B. George Centre on campus. "I always have a soft spot for Kemptville," says Visser. "I had a good time and met a few people I haven't seen in a long time. You meet industry people too."

By Mac Johnston

RIDGETOWN

Recent Graduate Keen to Give Back



Dylan Stewardson

Dylan Stewardson graduated in 2011 but he is already giving back. "I have a strong passion for the campus and for Ontario's dairy industry, and I'm thrilled to be an active member of the Ridgetown Campus dairy education advisory committee," says Stewardson, R.Dip. '11. "I am the youngest member of the committee, and I might take the odd ribbing for that, but being on the committee allows me to see things from a student's perspective, as well as learn from the other top provincial producers in the group."

Stewardson, along with his parents, Jeff and Brenda, operate Stewardson Dairy Inc. in Thedford, Ont. "We milk 250 cows and farm 800 acres, and I'm always keen to learn new herd-management skills or production technologies. I decided to volunteer as an alumnus on the Ridgetown dairy education advisory

committee because I want the students at Ridgetown to have the very best learning experience in the classroom and in the campus's dairy education centre that they can have."

One of the projects the committee has implemented is a large dairy-calf feeding trial that involves 64 calves, more than 80 students and 10 industry partners. The students spend one week doing project work, including weighing, measuring, observing and recording what is happening with each of the calves in the trial.

"The students have team project work to do at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. seven days of the week when it's their turn," says Stewardson. "It's just like on a real dairy farm. When work in the barn goes well and when it doesn't go exactly as planned, it's the best way for students to learn."

By Liz Meidlinger

CAMPUS D'ALFRED

Like Father, Like Son



Alain, left, and Daniel Poirier

Daniel Poirier followed in his father's footsteps nearly 27 years after his father entered the agricultural technician program at what was formerly known as Collège d'Alfred. Poirier chose the college for its reputation and the opportunity to study in French in Ontario. His family's farm was located just a few kilometers from Campus d'Alfred, allowing him to be engaged in student life as vice-president and president of the student council.

Poirier chuckles while pointing out that the most "boring" courses, the management courses, are the ones that provide the most pertinent information for his current role as a co-manager of the family farm located in Lefavre, Ont. The herd, comprised of 90 per cent Jersey and 10 per cent Holstein, boasts nearly 80 cows.

Poirier says he valued the classroom discussions because everyone

contributed and progressed through the program together. He is aware that teaching and learning in a small classroom setting is different. For one, it allows for more interaction with instructors.

At his graduation, he received the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs bursary and the Farm Credit Canada bursary for best farm project. He was also honoured by his peers, who selected him as the recipient of the Philippe Durocher trophy, which is awarded to a student who succeeded academically and showed best team spirit.

By obtaining his diploma in agricultural technology, Poirier has made the first step towards a successful career as a dairy producer. He continues to support Campus d'Alfred in its outreach activities and serves as a volunteer firefighter in his community.

By Nicole Tessier

CAMPUS D'ALFRED

Sur les traces de son père

Vingt-sept ans après que son père ait foulé le seuil de la porte du Campus d'Alfred, Daniel Poirier prend le même chemin pour poursuivre ses études en Technologie agricole en 2008. Sachant que l'établissement avait fait ses preuves, il a choisi le Campus d'Alfred pour étudier en français. Comme la ferme familiale ne se situe qu'à quelques kilomètres d'Alfred, Daniel a profité pleinement de sa vie étudiante en tant que Vice-Président et Président du Conseil étudiant.

Il avoue que ce sont les cours les moins attrayants qui lui servent davantage aujourd'hui. Les cours en gestion lui servent dans l'entreprise qu'il exploite à Lefavre en Ontario, avec son père et sa mère. Le troupeau laitier de 80 têtes comprend 90 % de Jersey et 10 % de Holstein.

Lors de son séjour à Alfred, ce sont les discussions qui découlaient des cours qu'il privilégiait. Chacun y contribuait et collectivement la classe progressait au prochain chapitre d'études. Il est entendu que d'enseigner et d'étudier dans une petite classe facilitait le rapport avec l'enseignant.

Il ne quitte pas l'établissement uniquement avec son diplôme. Daniel reçoit la bourse du ministère d'Agriculture, d'Alimentation et des Affaires Rurales de l'Ontario, la bourse de Financement agricole Canada pour le meilleur projet de ferme, ainsi que le trophée Philippe Durocher, décerné à la personne qui s'est illustrée au point de vue académique et social, et choisi par les pairs.

D'ailleurs, c'est en s'inscrivant au Campus d'Alfred qu'il a fait le premier pas pour la réussite de sa carrière comme producteur laitier. Daniel continue d'appuyer les activités de sensibilisation au secteur agroalimentaire du Campus d'Alfred. Il est aussi pompier volontaire dans sa communauté.

Par Nicole Tessier

An Update on Fundraising at OAC

The University of Guelph is engaged in a fundraising campaign called The Better-Planet Project (BPP). Within the BPP, OAC is actively fundraising for key priorities and has raised almost \$25 million since the start of the campaign.

How to Give to the Campaign?

- Annual gifts directed to OAC. You will likely have received OAC's annual appeal, a letter from your classmates to support your class project, or perhaps have heard from one of our student callers.
- Planned giving and bequests. The OAC Legacy Leaders program aims to help OAC alumni with their estate planning through a comprehensive package and help from planned-giving experts.
- Gifts of stocks, mutual funds, etc. directed to OAC, including the regional campuses.

You can also support OAC through class projects, annual gifts or donations to special projects, scholarships and bursaries.

Is my money going to OAC? If you designate the contribution to OAC, including the regional campuses, that is where it goes.

NEW OAC ALUMNI AFFAIRS STAFF

Tara Collins joined OAC as alumni advancement manager in fall 2012. She is a University of Guelph graduate and brings with her a diverse background of skills and experience.

Collins comes to OAC from the Ontario Veterinary College, where she was alumni advancement manager since April 2011, focusing on alumni engagement, class projects, volunteer initiatives, events and personal fundraising. She is excited to get to know OAC alumni and be a part of the Aggie family.

What about the OAC Alumni

Foundation(s)? There are four foundations within OAC: the OAC Alumni Foundation, la Fondation du Collège d'Alfred, the Kemptville College Foundation and the Ridgeway Agri-Food Foundation. Each foundation has a mission to raise funds to support programs and priorities within OAC at each of their campuses, however, you don't have to give through the foundations to give to OAC priorities and programs.

How does tax receipting work? Official donation receipts are issued for eligible donations to OAC (the University of Guelph) to claim charitable tax credits. There are additional tax benefits for donations through bequests or via traded securities, including stocks and mutual funds.

OAC would like to acknowledge the tremendous support it receives from so many alumni from all four campuses. If you have any questions about giving, contact Tara Collins, OAC alumni advancement manager, at 519-824-4120, Ext. 56842, or tcolli02@uoguelph.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have already begun planning events for Alumni Weekend 2013, including the president's lunch, milestone dinner, tours and other social events. If you are interested in hosting an on-campus reunion during Alumni Weekend, June 14 and 15, contact Tara Collins at 519-824-4120, Ext. 56842, or tcolli02@uoguelph.ca. We hope you will mark this occasion with a visit back to campus!

March 16-17: College Royal

March 23: OAC AA Bonspiel

May 16: OAC AA/AF Combined AGM

2012/2013 OAC Alumni Association Board of Directors

Honorary President

Rob Gordon, PhD '96, Dean, OAC

Past President

Rob Hall, B.Sc.(Agr.) '84

President

Peter Warmels, B.Sc. '79

1st Vice-President

Angela Tellez, PhD '09

2nd Vice-President

Peter Ilnyckyj, B.Sc.(Agr.) '78

Secretary

Sara Avoledo, B.Comm. '03

Treasurer

Laura McDonald, B.Comm. '02

OAC AA Co-ordinator

Shannon McCarthy, B.Sc. '05

Senate Representative

Ted Young, ADA '85

OAC Alumni Association President's Advisory Council

Three-Year Term

Rebecca Hannam, B.Comm. '12

Jeff Miller, Agr.(Dip.) '87

Two-Year Term

Matt Cole, B.Comm. '04

Shannon McCarthy, B.Sc. '05

Stefanie Nagelschmitz, B.Sc.(Agr.) '09

One-Year Term

Sara Avoledo, B.Comm. '03

Matt Grant, Agr.(Dip.) '01

Anna Ilnyckyj, B.Sc.(Agr.) '84

Ryan Stafford, B.Sc.(Agr.) '10

Student Federation of OAC

Jaclyn Pynenburg

OAC Alumni Foundation Chair

Linda Hruska, B.Sc.(Agr.) '85, M.Agr.

'88

Joint Investment Committee Chair

William Bearss, B.Sc.(Agr.) '71

JIC Representatives

Brian Ellsworth, BSA '59

Ove Hanson, B.Sc.(Agr.) '91

Don McCallum, B.Sc.(Agr.) '72

OAC Alumni News – Winter 2013

A publication for the alumni and friends of the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph.

Contact *OAC Alumni News* by emailing Morag Stewart at mostewar@uoguelph.ca or visit www.oac.uoguelph.ca/alumni

