Gaping Generation Gap

Today's workforce is a demographic quartet

Mature

Baby Boomer

Generation X

Millennial
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in and around the university

OAC names a new dean, the University renews its partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and OVC begins a new era in veterinary medicine. In addition, U of G students and faculty continue to earn kudos for their innovative ideas.

on the cover

Prof. Sean Lyons immerses himself in the stereotypes of today's workforce.

Illustration by Amanda Duffy
Photo by Ross Davidson-Pilon

10 cover story

THE GAPPING GENERATION GAP

Business professor Sean Lyons discusses the issue of generational conflict in the workplace and answers the age-old question: "Why can't we all just get along?"

24 alumni matters

As U of G prepares to host Alumni Weekend, the campus remembers alumni leaders who shaped our history and honours those who are defining our present and building our future. We also celebrate the accomplishments of Gryphon athletes and report on a recent survey of alumni opinion.

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U of G researchers create "lakes in tanks" to study biodiversity in ecosystems from the Great Lakes to Africa's Serengeti Plain.

18 WHO SAYS PHYSICS CAN'T BE FUN?

Guelph grad and Illinois physics professor Mats Selen has a classroom, a laboratory, a travelling "physics van" and his own television show — all part of his effort to inspire a new generation of scientists.

20 MENTORING SUCCESS

Who understands the rigours of Guelph's DVM program better than our students? OVC graduates, of course!
U OF G’S MILITARY HISTORY TAKES FLIGHT

Locating Burtch Airfield

THIS IS JUST A SHORT NOTE TO thank you and Herb Shoveller for the great article about the campus military history.

During my studies at Guelph, I served as a part-time reservist in the 11th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, which was a home away from home for me and many other OAC students over the years.

While reading the article, I noted two references to Burtch airfield being “south of Guelph at Burlington” and later “near Hamilton.” Burtch airfield is 11 kilometres south of Brantford, and after the war, became part of the Ontario prison system known as the Burtch Reformatory or the Burtch Correctional Facility.

Keep up the good work.

ED PANCOR, B.Sc.(Agr.)’70
Brantford, Ont.

Portico passed on

MY GRANDDAUGHTER, Michelle Bassie Brown (B.Comm. ’92) and her husband, Wm. Drew Brown (BA ’92), gave me a copy of your magazine, The Portico, winter edition, noting that it would be of special interest to me.

It was, indeed, as I and approximately 80 other hopeful youngsters became the 55th Entry at No. 4 Wireless School. It was October 1942. The course took seven months to complete. Learning to receive and send Morse code, plus procedure, took the longest time as we started off at four words per minute. Proficiency was 25 words per minute, although 20 was passable.

During the course, we were promoted to Leading Aircraftman and had a propeller sewn on our arm and a white flash to wear on our wedge caps denoting that we were air crew, defenders of the land, and to be much admired by one and all!

During my time at Guelph, I met a young girl from nearby Galt, and we were married the day after I graduated as a winged Sgt. (W.A.G.) from bombing and gunnery in Jarvis. June 26, 2008, will be our 65th anniversary.

I have fond memories of Guelph and the college. In addition, my granddaughter met her husband-to-be there and they have given Mary and I two lovely great-grandchildren.

EUGENE LOCKARD

Squadron pictured

A COPY OF your magazine, The Portico, featuring the military history at the University of Guelph was loaned to my father-in-law. As he read it, he was surprised that the squadron grad picture shown in the article was that of his squadron.

During a recent trip to a reunion of his No.4 Wireless School group, he pulled us into the campus to show us the memorial plaque that they had dedicated to the University. He was very proud. The group has also held a couple of their reunions at Guelph. To date, he is still in contact with several of that graduating group.

ROBERT SMITH
Windsor, Ont.

Wing’s Parade

They rank by class, officers. The band strikes up the King. The sun creeps overhead. And with a mustached nod The air marshal fumbles The coveted wings into place. Silken manhood pinned crookedly over the heart.

Editor’s Note: “Wing’s Parade” is one poem in a collection called Trainer written by English grad Peter Taylor, BA ’76, and published in 1980 by Paget Press. The collection of poems is based on the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, 1939-1945, and follows the chronological experience of his father’s logbook through flight training and service overseas with the RNVR(A) during the Second World War. Several of Taylor’s poems and accompanying photos are published in The Portico online edition — along with more detail from other letter-writers — at www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.

Guelph’s unique approach to education

I READ WITH INTEREST Dr. Alastair Summerlee’s editorial in the last Portico.
I graduated from U of G in 1970 and moved out to British Columbia to do my dietetic internship. The west coast had captured me as a wonderful place to live. It was not until many years later, during the 1980s, when people started to include community development in health care here in B.C. that I truly began to appreciate the education I had received at Guelph. I had the chance to speak with one of my professors when I attended a dietetic conference some years later to say “thank you.” That was when I discovered that their approach to making the education experience so rich was very deliberate.

I have noticed over the years that my colleagues who graduated from Guelph also have a unique approach to our profession. We appreciate what you have done for us and hope that you continue for many more years to come.

Beverly Grice, B.H.Sc. ’70
Vancouver, B.C.

Prof. Ceboratev remembered
Thank you for sending me the recent Portico. I enjoyed reading through it and keeping up with events in Guelph. I was disappointed, however, that there was no notice of the death of one of U of G’s beloved professors, Nora Ceboratev; one of the founders of both the Women’s Studies and International Development Studies programs.

She taught rural sociology at U of G beginning in 1970, became professor emerita in 1994, supervised almost 100 graduate students and still had three students when she passed away in August 2007. A tribute to Nora was set up by Prof. Kris Inwood at www.nora-cebotarev.org.

Although Nora was my cousin, and I was aware of her activities, I did not realize the full impact of her work until I heard the tributes to her at the celebration of her life that was held in the Arboretum Oct. 14. The impact she had on the lives of individual people from all walks of life, both close by Guelph and around the world, was amazing. Her entire estate went to a U of G scholarship for women from developing countries, and a tree was planted in the Arboretum by her family and students in her memory.

Nora never had the time to seek out tributes. Even as she lay dying, she told me she didn’t have time to lie in the hospital as she still had so much to do! She was devoted to changing the situation in the world one step at a time, particularly by empowering women. The University of Guelph has lost an amazing and wonderful professor with Nora’s passing.

John Burke, M.Sc. ’74 and PhD ’76
Atlantic Veterinary College
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Tribute to Jeanne Burton
My husband and I received The Portico last week and were sad to see that Dr. Jeanne Burton had passed away. In the obits she was listed as having a B.Sc. She in fact received three degrees from Guelph and was a distinguished scientist and associate professor at Michigan State University.

She was an outstanding person who left a lasting impression on everyone she met. These websites outline her career and her passing: www.newsroom.msu.edu/site/indexer/3156/content.htm and www.newsroom.msu.edu/site/indexer/3156/content.htm.

Tannis (Armstrong) Neheli,
B.Sc. ’81
Beamsville, Ont.
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DROP A PEBBLE into a puddle and watch the ripple. It's a ritual we've all done time and time again to pass the time, or perhaps to teach a simple physics lesson. And because of it, we all understand what it means to cause "a ripple effect."

I always think of this analogy as summer convocation draws near. A faculty colleague or an invited speaker will invariably make reference to the ripple effect we as teachers have had on the lives of these new graduates, and by extension, on the professions they pursue and the communities they serve as citizens.

There is power in the pebbles of knowledge we toss to students in our classrooms and in the scholarship and research discoveries we produce. A good example of the University's reach is the recent renewal of our partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

Leading up to the signing of a new 10-year agreement, we learned from an economic analysis by Deloitte and Touche LLP that the partnership returns about $20 in provincial economic impact for every $1 invested by OMAFRA; a total return of over $1 billion per year.

Deloitte and Touche also interviewed a number of industry stakeholders who said the education, research and service programs we provide are essential to the development of agricultural innovation in Ontario. They pointed to our work in the genetic improvement of livestock and crops, best-management practices on Ontario farms and research in floriculture and nutraceuticals.

It seems even an egg can generate an impressive ripple through the agri-food industry, the Ontario economy and the health of Canadians...if it's an Omega-3 egg developed at Guelph.

Earlier this spring, another pebble dropped on campus when the Ontario Veterinary College turned sod on a new building — important in itself, but more so because it's the first step in a massive redevelopment of facilities and programs at the college. Future veterinarians will train at a new OVC Health Sciences Centre where the relevance of veterinary medicine to human and environmental health will advance in step with its contributions to the health and welfare of animals. It's a move indicative of the tremendous effect veterinary education and research can have in areas such as public health and cancer research.

We know the importance of the work we do in all corners of the University and the opportunity we have to generate ideas and discussions that can improve the way we live and the way we treat others. When we host the annual President's Dialogue on June 11, we will invite participants and audience members to consider the topic "Human Rights and Human Wrongs." The dialogue begins at 10 a.m. in Rozanski Hall. It is free and open to the public because we believe the University of Guelph has a responsibility to encourage discussion of the important issues of our time.

The guest panel for this event will include Inuit environmental activist Sheila Watt-Cloutier, former U.N. Force Commander in Rwanda Roméo Dallaire, Afghan scholar and political adviser Ashraf Ghani, and Canadian diplomat and U of G chancellor Pamela Wallin. Their experiences will challenge us to define human rights in times of crisis and remind us of the power of an idea — much like a pebble — how easy it is to toss and how powerless we are to stop the waves that form.

There is a lesson here beyond the principles of physics. And that, of course, is the ripple effect we hope to create.

Alastair Summerlee
President
Making It Work

U of G engineering students Andrew Morris, Anina Sakaguchi, Micha Wallace and Katie Bell won the inaugural James Dyson Design Award for up-and-coming Canadian inventors. Their development of a single-handed bicycle braking lever went on to finish second at the international level of the competition, which was judged by Dyson himself, the inventor of one of the world's most famous vacuum cleaners. The one-handed braking system was inspired by a nine-year-old Guelph girl with a disabled hand. It can be used on any bike and may ultimately prove useful for other cyclists with disabilities or those who often have to brake with a single hand, such as police officers and bicycle couriers.

U of G, OMAFRA renew partnership

The University of Guelph and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) recently signed a 10-year contract to renew their education and research partnership.

The University will receive $300 million in the first half of the contract, with a review after five years. “This renewed partnership gets to the heart of what the future of our agri-food sector is all about: research and innovation to better protect our health, economy and environment,” said Leona Dombrowsky, minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs.

Agriculture is Ontario’s second-largest industry, contributing $30 billion to the province’s economy and employing more than 700,000 people.

U of G and OMAFRA first entered into an enhanced partnership agreement in 1997. Under the agreement the University manages research and education programs and related facilities, including the three regional campuses at Alfred, Ridgetown and Kemptville.
A sod-turning ceremony Feb. 29 at the Ontario Veterinary College marked the start of a major construction project and a new era at the college.

A large-animal isolation unit is the first "bricks and mortar" component in a series of initiatives that will anchor the OVC Health Sciences Centre — what dean Elizabeth Stone describes as a bold new vision for the college that will transform the OVC Teaching Hospital and shape the future of the veterinary profession.

The health sciences centre will focus the college's efforts on several key initiatives, including a new educational centre in primary health care and animal welfare; an animal cancer care centre; an equine performance and reproduction centre; and other improvements that will enable the hospital to continue to deliver leading-edge medical, surgical and diagnostic services.

The large-animal isolation unit is funded through infrastructure grants from the federal and provincial governments, with support from U of G.

It's part of a package that also supports construction of a new building to house the Department of Pathobiology and the Animal Health Laboratory. Completion of that project in 2010 will clear the way for a major expansion of the teaching hospital.

"Many of our clients already see the OVC hospital as a kind of 'Mayo Clinic' or 'Hamilton Health Sciences' for animals," says Stone. "The creation of the OVC Health Sciences Centre captures what we do and what we want to do in health-care education, research and service delivery."

Read more about OVC expansion plans at www.ovc.uoguelph.ca.

KUDOS

- Physicist Carl Svensson has received an E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, considered one of Canada's premier science and engineering prizes. Svensson is known internationally for his experimental work and for leadership in designing and building tools needed to probe the inner workings of atoms.

- Svensson is the PhD supervisor for grad student Paul Finlay, recipient of this year's Brock Doctoral Scholarship. Funded by OAC graduate Bill Brock and his wife, Anne, the scholarship is U of G's largest. It will enable Finlay to continue work at TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for nuclear and particle physics.

- Drama professor Judith Thompson won the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for her political play Palace of the End. She is the first Canadian to receive the $20,000 U.S.-based award, which recognizes an outstanding woman playwright each year.

- A student company that plans to distribute biodegradable plastics products placed in the top four in the Nicol LaunchPad $50K regional competition held in Waterloo in March. College of Management and Economics students Kwasi Danso and Jonathan Wolff made their business pitch for plastic made with an additive that allows microbes to break it down. They will compete in May in the national competition in Ottawa.

- The University of Guelph website won gold as the best university website in Canada in a competition sponsored by the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education. Go to www.uoguelph.ca.
U of G leads project to bar-code marine life

A U of G project that aims to identify and catalogue the estimated 230,000 species of things living in and around the world’s oceans has received $1 million to accelerate the project by bar-coding up to 85,000 specimens in four major museum collections around the world. The grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation includes $240,000 for U of G’s role in co-ordinating these field projects.

Post-doc Dirk Steinke is principal investigator for the international Marine Barcode of Life project. He’ll oversee the initiative from the Canadian Centre for DNA Bar-coding at U of G’s Biodiversity Institute of Ontario. Both are initiatives of Integrative Biology professor Paul Hebert.

In the last two years, the marine project has catalogued 8,000 species. Organizers hope to complete bar codes for at least 50,000 species in the database by 2010. The specimen collections to be analyzed are housed at the Florida Museum of Natural History, the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris and Queensland Museum in Brisbane, Australia.

Besides cataloguing ocean creatures, Guelph scientists work on similar projects involving animals, fungi, plants and one-celled organisms.

Canada Not Doing Enough to Ensure Water Security

D ESpite Walkerton, climate change and recent water export controversies, most provinces and territories have yet to introduce measures needed to address threats such as water scarcity and environmental flows.

That’s the finding of a two-year assessment by Prof. Rob de Loë, Geography, who says the country needs to do more to ensure water security.

“In Canada, we are still caught up in the myth of abundance. We think we have lots of water, but we are not immune to water scarcity. Shrinking water supplies are a problem across the globe, and in Canada we aren’t dealing with it very well,” he says.

The study found that, although some jurisdictions in Canada are gathering ecological information, water allocation policies are being developed at the municipal level in most provinces and territories.

THE PORTICO ONLINE
To read these stories, visit www.uoguelph.ca/theportico:

• U of G announces a new master plan for athletics facilities
• Hockey players suffer from dehydration
• Today’s volunteers know what they want from the experience
• Project Soy produced soy fortune cookies, pizza, pasta and candy
International prize recognizes ecologist

Prof. John Klironomos, Integrative Biology, has received a prestigious Humboldt Research Award, one of the top international prizes recognizing cutting-edge achievements in science. The Guelph ecologist was chosen for his pioneering research on the relationships among plants, fungi and other organisms in the soil.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which was established in Berlin in 1860 in memory of the famous scientist and explorer, grants up to 100 research awards annually. They are intended as a lifelong tribute to the outstanding impact of internationally recognized scientists and scholars on their area of study.

It’s an impressive achievement for someone as young as Klironomos, who joined the U of G faculty in 1996 after completing a PhD at the University of Waterloo and a post-doc at San Diego State University.

The award is valued at close to $88,000 and allows recipients to carry out research projects of their choice in Germany for up to a year in cooperation with German colleagues.

For Klironomos to be nominated by German scientists for this award speaks volumes about the calibre of his research, says CBS dean Mike Emes. “We are truly proud of his achievements.”

Klironomos will spend three months this summer and next in Germany working to complete a book on plant ecology. He’s also working with German collaborators on research projects in mycorrhizal associations, or interactions among plants, soil and fungi.

Study finds way to detect ovarian cancer earlier

Prof. Jim Petrik, Biomedical Sciences, and his colleagues have discovered a protein expressed by ovarian cancer cells that may act as an identifying marker at the onset of the disease.

“Finding a marker that can help in detecting ovarian cancer in the early stages is probably the most important component of beating this disease,” says Petrik, who worked on the project with Prof. Roger Moorehead and PhD student Jim Greenaway. “It’s a very treatable disease if you can catch it in time.”

The protein they identified is expressed almost immediately in mice after the cancer cells interact with the ovary. The next step is developing a screening test, which Petrik says could be as simple as a blood test.

This research is supported by the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

NOTEWORTHY

- A graduate student referendum at U of G this spring mirrors a commitment made by undergraduate students in 2007 to contribute roughly $20 a year in new fees for energy conservation measures on campus. Over the next 12 years, the two student groups will contribute more than $5 million to be matched by the University and earmarked for energy conservation measures.
- Beginning this fall, the University of Guelph-Humber will offer a new undergraduate degree program to prepare graduates for work as personal trainers, kinesiologists, wellness consultants and fitness practitioners. More than 430 students applied for the first 60 spots in the program.
- A three-year, $1-million donation from Toronto-based Kinross Gold Corp. will create a research and teaching partnership between U of G and several Brazilian institutions. The Canada-Brazil network will include student and faculty exchanges, joint courses and research projects, particularly in natural resource management.
- Tannis Slimmon, a technician in the Department of Integrative Biology, released her second solo album in January. Called Lucky Blue, the album was produced by fellow musician Lewis Melville, also a technician in Integrative Biology.
- U of G President Alastair Summerlee is serving as 2008 campaign chair for the Guelph and Wellington United Way. U of G holds the largest United Way drive in Guelph, donating more than $424,000 last year.
- An operetta called Earnest, the Importance of Being by University professor emeritus Eugene Benson had its world premiere in February at the Jane Mallett Theatre in Toronto. Benson, worked on the operetta with noted composer Victor Davies.
Demographics in the Workplace: Diversity or Demon

By Rebecca Kendall

How was your work day? Did you spend time planning your next career move? Go to the gym at lunch? Get or give a pat on the back? Did you text message your co-workers, or arrange a face-to-face meeting to solve a problem?

Whatever your job or the challenges you faced today, the way you approach your work day has a lot to do with when you were born.

You've probably experienced that, says Guelph business professor Sean Lyons, if you work with or manage a workforce of people who vary in age from twenty-something to qualifying for a senior’s discount. Those differences are causing major headaches for employers who are, for the first time in history, managing the wants and needs of four separate and distinct age groups: matures, born before 1945; baby boomers, born between 1945 and 1964; generation X, born between 1965 and 1979; and millennials, born from 1979 and on.

"There's tremendous new interest in this as the millennial generation is starting to enter the workforce," says Lyons, who joined the new College of Management and Economics in January. "I knew this was going to happen because as a professor I've seen some of these same changes in the classroom in terms of attitude and values. I knew this tsunami was going to eventually hit the workplace."

For the past year or so, his phone has been ringing off the hook and e-mails have been filling up his inbox as employers grapple with office issues resulting from differences in work attitudes. Some of these calls for help are coming from employers who haven't done any major hiring in 15 years and are now having difficulty with new employees.

"They're recruiting this new generation, but don't know how to manage them. Employers think millennial employees are so different and harder to please," says Lyons. "Neither group knows the other's expectations, and this has created a situation where help is needed to bridge the gap."

Many of the differences and dilemmas being encountered can be attributed to the political and economic realities people grew up in, says Lyons, who hails from Windsor. The formative experiences of the oldest
Mature

If you don't produce you're fired

Baby Boomer

My accomplishments speak for themselves

Generation X

Why does the boss want to meet every week?

We need more feedback

Millennial
Generation gap makers
Each generation’s attitudes are shaped by the major personalities and events experienced during their formative years.

Matures
(also called the silent generation)
Sports figures: Cassius Clay, Jackie Robinson
Movies: Singing in the Rain, Rebel Without a Cause, From Here to Eternity
Music: Rogers and Hammerstein, big bands, Bing Crosby
Inventions: Transistor, splitting the atom, a house in the suburbs
Television: Only a few people had one
Big deals: Sputnik, Cold War, Korean War, rising divorce rate

Baby boomers
Sports figures: Rocky Marciani, Mickey Mantle
Movies: Psycho, Rocky, Sound of Music
Music: Elvis, the Beatles, Woodstock
Inventions: Hula hoop, SaIk vaccine, heart transplant, Barbie dolls
Television: Neil Armstrong walks on the moon, Archie Bunker
Big deals: Martin Luther King assassinated, Dr. Spock, Dr. Seuss

Money matters:
Matures: Put it away, pay cash
Baby Boomers: Buy now, pay later
Generation X: Be cautious, save, save, save
Millenials: Earn to spend

workers included the Great Depression, the development of medicare and the Second World War. Their generation rebuilt after economic disaster, and they have always been known as hard-working, disciplined and industrious.

Baby boomers had a very different experience. They were born amid an explosive population boom and entered the workforce alongside an unprecedented number of same-age workers. This made them highly competitive and success-oriented, so work often took priority over family. Boomers are a generation that values company loyalty and believes in staying with one employer for their entire career. This generation was also the first to see unprecedented numbers of women entering the workforce, divorce rates sky-rocket and birth rates plummet, says Lyons.

Watching all this family breakdown and work stress unfold was generation X. At age 35, Lyons is a member of this group. “Generation X was never signing up for that deal,” he says. “From the beginning, Gen X-ers have always been about work-life balance.”

With three small children, Lyons admits to choosing the University of Guelph partly because he and his wife liked the city and its location—close to friends in Toronto and a reasonable drive to visit their families in Windsor and Ottawa.

When generation X entered the Canadian workforce in the 1980s and 1990s, the national economy was weak, and as a result, they had a more difficult time getting their careers established, he says.

“With corporate downsizing squeezing people out of jobs, they found themselves in competition with baby boomers. Entry-level jobs were being filled by people with a lot more experience, so generation X went back to school and many of them took underemployment jobs in order to make do.”

This resulted in a highly educated and underemployed generation, he says. Social realities such as distrust of authority and government, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and an ailing planet also had effects on this group and gave them a strong sense of independence and individualism.

And most recently, the millennials have made their entrance into the work world. This group has largely been taught by their
baby-boomer parents to be independent-minded, to question authority and negotiate with their parents and teachers rather than listen to authority. “They’re the product of the self-esteem parenting movement and have received a lot of positive attention throughout their lives,” says Lyons.

Although seemingly harmless, this has had extreme consequences, including a generation that has an extremely high sense of self-esteem that’s not rooted in any sort of achievement or proven success, he adds. “When you teach people to have high self-esteem for no reason, it leads to narcissism. They’re concerned with self-admiration, self-centeredness and self-regard, which are never considered to be positive personality traits.”

As a result of differences between these groups, each generation wants different things from their work. “That’s the biggest finding from my studies,” says Lyons. “Matures want to be respected for their loyalty and want to continue to be relevant, even as they move toward retirement. Baby boomers are looking for balance and meaning in their working lives as they head into the late stages of their careers. “Looking to the future, these two groups are concerned that generation X and the millennials do not have the dedication and drive needed to take over the reins from them, so giving up the company reins is likely to be difficult for them.”

When advising employers on how to handle the myriad personality types and office players, Lyons asks them to view generational value differences as a legitimate form of diversity and treat each generation’s concerns, needs and challenges as valid.

“There’s often an impulse to assume that young people think and act the same way we did when we were their age, but the world in which today’s young people live is very different and has shaped their view of the world differently. They’re not wrong or naive, just different.”

Lyons also recommends that baby boomers begin to see that their view of what’s good, bad and normal must be adjusted to include other perspectives.

“Now that they are being confronted by a new set of values and expectations, boomers wonder why younger people don’t do things normally, rather than considering that what’s normal has changed,” he says.

Lyons also has advice for the younger cohorts, including the importance of having realistic expectations about their careers and lives.

“We’ve been told by our parents that we can be anything and do anything, but success in the ‘real world’ requires a realistic assessment of our own strengths and weaknesses.”

He also asks millennials and Gen Xers to remember that baby boomers still largely sit at the top of the corporate food chain and says it’s important for younger employees to try to understand the values and perspectives of more experienced co-workers. Generation X and millennials must also recognize the existence of negative stereotypes about their own age groups and should actively work to dispel them, says Lyons.

Equally important, Lyons warns younger workers about comparing their own careers with those of baby boomers, who generally joined the workforce earlier in life and didn’t carry the debt load of today’s university and college graduates. “It’s not reasonable to assume that you can achieve the same wealth and success by the same age as your parents,” he says. ■
Premium brewing for ecosystem health

0% alcohol by volume...

...but U of G’s 48,000-litre lake in a tank will be teeming with algae, bacteria, copepods and rotifers

Story by Andrew Vowles / Photography by Ross Davidson-Pilon
So they’re brewing beer now on the U of G campus? That’s what you might think after a glance at the six stainless-steel tanks standing upright in a two-storey room in a new building on the west side of campus.

You’d be half-correct. Those are modified beer vats — indeed, the research team using them called on Sleeman Breweries to help design them — and they’re brewing up something here using micro-organisms. But it’s not beer.

This is the University’s world-renowned Biodiversity Institute of Ontario (BIO). And inside those new steel tanks, Guelph ecologists plan to create experimental ecosystems — think “ponds in tanks” — to help us better understand the complex natural world.

Early this year, a Guelph research team completed installation of the limnotron (“limno” is Greek for “lake”) at the south end of the BIO Building. That building opened in 2007 on the site of the University’s former seal research facility. Headed by integrative biology professor Paul Hebert, the BIO includes the limnotron as well as the Ontario Agricultural College’s insect collection and herbarium (the latter two facilities are housed nearby in recently renovated quarters in the Bovey Building and Zoology Annex 1, respectively).

The BIO brings together ecologists and biologists studying biodiversity, or the variety of living things on Earth. Most of the offices and labs in the building are devoted to the Canadian Centre for DNA Barcoding, a central node for national and international efforts to use technology developed at Guelph for identifying species of organisms using a telltale bit of genetic material.

As more of those species creep towards threatened or endangered status — the BIO website says we’re in “a global biodiversity crisis” — it’s important to catalogue the Earth’s existing diversity. But Prof. John Fryxell, Integrative Biology, says we also need to understand what sustains the range of living things on the planet, how that diversity itself shapes life and what might happen if we continue to lose certain species — a critical aspect of that biodiversity crisis. Contrasting his neighbours’ work in species identification with the ecosystem studies planned in the limnotron’s steel tanks, Fryxell says: “They’re developing new ways to measure biodiversity. Our challenge is to figure out what it all means to real ecosystems.”

He’s getting the limnotron ready along with departmental colleagues Prof. Kevin McCann, Denis Lynn, Tom Nudds and John Klironomos,
as well as post-doc Neil Rooney. By early February, the six upright vats — each 15 feet high and 12 feet across — had been installed, filling most of the two-storey space. (Each tank — all 2,400 pounds worth — was swung in horizontally through a roll-up garage door, then manoeuvred upright during a pas de deux involving two forklift trucks and careful attention to Archimedes’ principle of the centre of gravity.) Installed later this winter were a catwalk connecting the tanks and plumbing, and pumps to run the freshwater systems inside them.

Opening a chest-high sealed door in one tank, Fryxell points out a giant metal propeller inside to stir the vat’s contents. “Combine beer-vat technology with your mom’s Mixmaster,” he quips. That door will also allow workers to slip inside the empty tank for cleaning or maintenance. In addition, the tanks have a self-cleaning system that consists of a cleaning ball and solvents and works a bit like a dishwasher, or indeed like a beer vat between batches.

The brewing analogy is more than just rhetorical. When the team began looking around for equipment, they realized that what they wanted was something like a fermenting vat. Fryxell knew where to go for that. A neighbour at home in Guelph is Doan Bellman, who studied microbiology at U of G before joining Sleeman Breweries about 20 years ago. Now technical vice-president with the company — he was previously brewmaster for an eight-year stretch — Bellman knows all about designing brewing tanks (although adding growth lights at the top of the vat was a new twist).

Speaking of the beer-brewing operation, he says: “We have to provide an optimal environment for our yeast organisms so they ferment and metabolize at the proper temperature and conditions” — something not far off the idea of a limnotron. Bellman ended up reviewing the researchers’ plans and offering advice. He also hooked up the team with a Quebec supplier that made the tanks.

Eyeing a tank in the new BIO space, Fryxell says: “This is a modified beer-vat design. Running a beer operation is like running an ecosystem.”

A series of portholes down the side of each tank will allow researchers to pull out samples from the top to the bottom of their “lake in a vat.” A quick glance at a water sample might disappoint a casual visitor looking for something exotic. It’ll be mostly, well, water. But then Fryxell points out you wouldn’t exactly find your bucket teeming with fish if you simply dipped it into, say, Lake Simcoe. What’s important is what you can’t see: the teeming populations of critters that become visible only under a microscope. Think algae, bacteria and other invertebrates such as copepods (mini-crustaceans with legs like oars) or rotifers (creatures whose heads bear rings of beating hairs that look like spinning wheels). Although the limnotron could eventually support larger invertebrates and even fish, the scientists plan to start out small, in both critter size and model complexity.

But even with only a few populations of tiny organisms, the Guelph researchers expect to learn a lot about prey-predator relationships and other aspects of ecosystems. By observing their “world in a vat” and using sophisticated mathematical models of ecosystem dynamics, they hope to understand more about how those relationships work and change. Ecologists have long studied those ideas in the field, but there remain huge gaps in our understanding of nature’s workings, says McCann.

Take food webs. Experts have long believed that webs with lots of species are inherently more stable — more able to withstand and recover from disruptions — than less diverse systems. But McCann says that scenario contains plenty of unknowns. How big does an ecosystem have to be? Which comes first: diversity or stability? Are large ecosystems more stable because they’re big or because they’re more diverse? Besides providing more information about those systems, the answers can help us better understand our own impacts. In a study published two years ago in *Nature*, he and his colleagues found that top predators in a complex ecosystem — the animals most threatened by human activity — are most important in holding that food web together, or in destroying it. Fish the oceans clean of tuna and you affect not only their prey species but everything else down to phytoplankton as well. Speaking in 2006 about their study, Rooney said: “It indicates that top predators keep food webs in check and that if you remove them, the systems will unravel.”

Fryxell has looked at the same kinds of questions by studying lions and wildebeest on Africa’s Serengeti Plain. He has found that ecosystem stability depends on animals’ social groupings. Drawing on decades of observations of prey-predator interaction, he and his international colleagues effectively overturned a nearly century-old model that ignores social groups, assuming instead that predator and prey individuals are evenly spaced over the landscape. In their paper published in *Nature* last year, the scientists explained that understanding group dynam-
ics rather than individuals alone is most important in determining interactions between hunters and hunted. And that's useful to know in understanding the effect of humans — the most social of predators — on those systems and the need to curb activities that disrupt animals' social structures.

"Anything that tends to fragment aggregates of animals could work against the protection that group formation provides, threatening the stability of the whole food web," says Fryxell.

It might seem like a long way from ocean tuna and Serengeti lions to mostly invisible invertebrates swimming in a vat of fresh water. But the researchers say there's a lot to learn from simple systems that may apply to real-world interactions. Besides, for all its benefits, fieldwork takes place in messy real-world conditions that make it difficult for researchers to run uncluttered experiments or to alter variables in a systematic way. Ask Prof. Karl Cottene, Integrative Biology, who has studied kelp forests in California and is now looking at pond zooplankton in the Canadian tundra. "You can't control everything," he says, referring to varying field conditions that may play havoc with the most carefully designed experiment. Although most of his early work will take place in the North, he expects to use the limnotron eventually to complement those studies.

In a sense, the new facility will give ecologists a way to bring the field into the lab. Call it a "water-world" version of the controlled-environment growth chambers nearby in the Bovey Building or atop U of G's new science complex. In those systems, researchers vary temperature, light and pressure to learn about land plants grown in anything from earthbound greenhouses to food-production systems for a potential Mars colony. In the limnotron, scientists will be able to control conditions for temperature, light, acidity, salinity and other aquatic factors. Sophisticated temperature controls, for example, will allow them to mimic real-life conditions that occur in lakes, right down to making a thermocline — a warm-cool dividing line in the water column.

Lynn plans to study communities of bacteria and flagellates and ciliates (single-celled creatures with whips and hair). "We've built the limnotron so we can perform experiments on ecosystems that approach in size real-world systems, but at the same time ones that we can control in relation to the physical variables influencing them — light, heat, nutrient inputs," he says. "The research will touch the world outside the campus by giving us insights into the factors that control the functioning of aquatic food webs. It will enable us to test conclusions of how natural ecosystems might function that were previously based on field observations and experiments."

That makes sense for ciliates living in water. But why would the limnotron draw Klironomos, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Soil Biology? Using mostly old fields, farms and forests, he studies fungi below ground that affect plant populations. He explains that it's the basic questions about diversity and food webs that matter, not where the system exists. "We still don't understand how terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems work," he says, adding that the limnotron makes sense for Guelph, given the University's long-standing research strengths in aquatic ecology. "Most ecologists are interested in information that's transferable."

Besides learning more about how things work in nature, the U of G team hopes to help understand what might happen when they don't work, or when systems break down under such things as pollutants, invasive species or climate change. In the limnotron vats, they can warm or cool the water, add carbon dioxide, inject different nutrients, alter "seasons" or introduce invaders. "This happens around us all the time, and we learn inadvertently," says Fryxell. "We can pre-empt negative experience."

Frustration edges his voice as he talks about how little we really know about basic natural processes, a gap that too often leads to misguided attempts to manage nature. By now, he says, we should be improving our predictions and designing better experiments whose results can help guide public debate and policy-making. Klironomos says identifying the factors that drive ecosystems — on land or in the water — will form the basis for any resource management or environmental decisions we make outside those vats.

McCann nods, adding that he hopes the limnotron will help underline the benefits we gain from our natural life-support system. Think about clean air and water. Consider how nature detoxifies and decomposes waste material, and how the Earth's systems regulate climate, regenerate soil fertility and produce all that biodiversity in the first place. We may not think about them much, he says. There's no market for trading these services — "ecosystem services" in eco-parlance these days — but they're vital commodities all the same. Maybe, says McCann, the new U of G facility will help us start to put a price tag on some of those services, a step toward helping us better preserve and manage Limnotron Earth.
Story by Rebecca Kendall

He isn't trying to change the laws of physics, but Mats Selen is certainly trying to change the way it's taught. For the past 15 years, this University of Illinois professor has been developing new ways to engage people of all ages with physics.

Teaching was the furthest thing from Selen's mind when he came to U of G in his first year, and physics wasn't even on his radar. He knew he liked science, had taken some chemistry courses in high school and thought veterinary medicine might be a good field to pursue. This plan was short-lived, however, after he enrolled in first-year zoology and soon realized that memorization wasn't one of his strong suits. He began to reconsider his options and search for something he could excel in. Selen says Prof. Jack MacDonald, then chair of the Department of Physics, helped him find that.

"He's the reason I'm in physics," adds Selen. "He was a really great teacher, and that's what I think made me interested in teaching, too. With physics I didn't have to memorize anything. Any given topic in physics is usually built on one or two key concepts from which the rest just sort of follows. It's logical." It was also logical for MacDonald to hire him in the summer of 1979 to help create some of the electronic components for the physicist's research lab.

Selen also praises retired physics professor Innes MacKenzie for inspiring his interests in learning and teaching, and with these two Guelph mentors, he completed an undergraduate degree in 1982 and a master's degree in 1983, followed by a PhD at Princeton University in New Jersey.

Now at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Selen runs a research lab related to particle physics and cosmology. Ultimately, though, teaching is where his heart is, and this commitment has been recognized through a number of teaching awards from UIUC for his work on campus.

He developed "Physics 123," a course designed for students in UIUC's teacher-training program. Teaching future educators how to foster a love of science and technology in children is important, he says. Children are born with a natural sense of curiosity and often have a strong interest in science in elementary school, but in many cases, this interest drops when puberty hits.

It doesn't help that some teachers make science and physics boring and harder than it needs to be because they don't know how to teach the material well, says Selen. This results in students hating science.

"The key to increasing the number of scientists and engineers is to offer kids a better experience," he says.

* In Star Trek Episode 7, Season 1, Scotty displays a stroke of genius, when he is able to change the laws of physics in under an hour to save the
Enterprise and its crew, but not before declaring to Capt. Kirk: “Ya can’t change the laws of physics! I’ve got to have thirty minutes!”

Selen has been creating better experiences since 1994 using the Physics Van, a travelling science show that uses university students to run experiments and lead activities in assembly-style fashion.

“We do big, noisy, messy stuff, and the kids just love it,” he says. “It’s important to find ways to make kids remember what they saw, show them that students who do science are cool, and remind them that we’re not all a bunch of weird white guys with funny hair.”

In addition, he’s been bringing physics into the homes of early risers in the Urbana area as the host of Whys Guy, a weekly television spot that has aired for six years on WCIA’s Morning Show. What began as a one-time booking to discuss the laws of physics on Galileo’s birthday quickly grew into a weekly gig for Selen.

“I’ve been there so long, I’ve outlasted every one of their newscasters,” he says.

He’s even reaching north of the border through the i-clicker, a hand-held device he helped develop at Illinois. Formally called audience in-class response systems, clickers have recently been adopted for in-class use by U of G and a number of other Ontario universities. They’re used in a number of ways: to poll student opinions, as a form of peer teaching, to help the instructor determine whether key concepts are being understood, and in some cases, as an in-class grading tool.

“The best way to teach in big lectures is to get students involved in the classroom,” says Selen. “The idea is to ask them a question, discuss it and have them vote on the answer. For years I had them raising their hands or cards with A, B or C written on them. This never really worked all that well because I couldn’t keep track and students couldn’t answer anonymously. The technology we use in the i-clicker is simple, and that’s the best part. It can be used straight out of the box.”

Besides being a proud entrepreneur, as well as a husband and father of four, Selen takes pride in simply knowing that people think he’s a good teacher. “It makes me feel like I’m doing something good in the world. I really want to give kudos to Jack and Innes for being the great guys that they are. When I was a student and still wet behind the ears, I could tell they liked me and cared whether I did well or not, and that made a huge difference to me. Any measure of success I’ve had is because of them, and I try to emulate their approaches to teaching and research.”

He says it’s been years since he’s been in touch with MacDonald, who now lives in New Zealand, but he ran into MacKenzie last year while visiting U of G. “He’s still as active as ever,” says Selen. “Every once in a while I’ll get a hand-written letter where he’s outlining some great new idea he’s had. He’s just brilliant and always has been. He’s such an inspiration to me.”
Getting in is

No one understands the challenges of becoming a veterinarian better than the graduates of OVC... and no one makes a better mentor for current students

Story by Barry Gunn

Each September, about 110 highly accomplished and enthusiastic students are welcomed to the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) and into the veterinary profession at a ceremony held before friends and family gathered in War Memorial Hall.

Beaming with pride as they receive their stethoscopes and signature blue lab coats — their dreams coming to fruition after years of effort — few can truly appreciate that getting into veterinary school was perhaps the easy part. Thriving in the four-year DVM program — well, that can be something else entirely.

Fortunately, OVC students have access to a lot of help — not just from faculty and staff, but also from alumni who volunteer their time in a variety of ways. From teaching and coaching in the "Art of Veterinary Medicine" courses to building one-on-one relationships as mentors, alumni provide students with a lifeline to the outside world.

"They've been through similar experiences. They may have even taken the same classes with the same professors," says Peter Conlon, OVC's assistant dean of student affairs. "They can offer advice that's based on empathy and grounded in real-world experience."

Alumni volunteer as mentors in a variety of ways that take into account their availability and interests, from offering career advice via e-mail to providing job shadowing opportunities to students, to maintaining regular contact as practice-group mentors assigned to a group of students.

Life inside the OVC bubble is an intense and intensive existence. The typical work week of a first-year DVM student involves about 24 hours of class and lab time — compared to 15 hours for most full-time undergraduate students taking five courses — and they're expected to spend at least an hour hitting the books for each hour of classroom instruction, says Conlon.
On top of that, there are virtually endless opportunities for college-related volunteer and extracurricular activities. And the workload increases over four years until they...
Alumni practice the art of communication

Alumni volunteers play an integral role in delivering the "Art of Veterinary Medicine" courses that form a core component of the DVM curriculum.

More than a dozen veterinarians from throughout the Guelph region contribute as coaches in the clinical communications labs, where students learn the skills needed to interact effectively with clients. In client simulations, students encounter a variety of challenges — from dealing with a language barrier or a distraught or angry owner to discussing euthanasia — all within a safe environment where they can try different approaches, make mistakes, and learn what works and what doesn't.

"These are teachable skills and they are so valuable everywhere in life," says Alec Martin, DVM '84, who manages the Veterinary Skills Training and Enhancement Program (VSTEP) at U of G. A joint venture of OVC, the College of Veterinarians of Ontario and the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, VSTEP is a primary source of education and re-training for internationally educated veterinarians wishing to practice in Canada. Martin took on the management role after 15 years in private practice.

He says volunteering with today’s students has many rewards for him too, not the least of which is the chance to acquire new skills and refine old ones. "Everybody gains from the experience."

Through sharing their real-world perspective and approaches to interacting with clients, each coach adds a unique authenticity to the communications labs, says Jason Coe, DVM '01, who recently joined the Department of Population Medicine as the faculty co-ordinator of the clinical communications modules.

"These veterinarians enrich our students' learning experiences by exposing them to a variety of perspectives, personalities and communication styles," says Coe. "Without the veterinarians who volunteer their time as communication coaches, it would be difficult to provide as complete a learning experience for students."

For Brampton, Ont., practitioner Joy Courley, DVM '85, being an AVM coach takes three to four hours per week, including travel time, plus two to three hours of prep work, over a five-week period each semester. "It's improved my own communications skills," says Courley. "It's made a difference with our lay staff, it's made a difference with all of us in our practice. And it's nice to give a little bit back to OVC."

Courley says it's rewarding to watch as students progress from being skeptical and even a little apprehensive to understanding that there is a method to effective client communications and that learning the skills will make them better practitioners.

"There's always much more to the story. And getting the story, building the relationship of trust with the client, is how you most effectively treat the patient."

join the ranks of the roughly 10,000 who have graduated from OVC since 1862.

So perhaps the mentors’ most important contribution is reminding students there is life outside of vet school.

"I think I offer students a window into the 'real world' outside OVC as well as a professional contact they know will always be available for them," says Kim Pascos, DVM '99, who has been a practice-group mentor since 2005.

"I felt it was a great opportunity to get involved with OVC, to make new contacts and to renew old ones. I am fortunate; the students I am working with are incredibly diverse, interesting and highly motivated individuals."

Practice-group mentors are drawn from the ranks of recent graduates (within the last seven years) and assigned to a group of approximately nine first-year students with whom they remain in contact throughout their four years at the college. Practice-group mentors must commit to regular contact, mostly by e-mail, and meet face-to-face with their group at annual dinners and as time allows.
"What is rewarding for me is I feel involved in their program," says Pascos, "guiding them and encouraging them, to see each of them emerge with new confidence after each semester!"

Often the biggest challenge is opening the lines of communication, and keeping them open. The students are typically high achievers who may be reluctant to admit when they need help and whose program is highly regimented. They can look at their schedules and know what they'll be doing virtually every hour of every day until the end of the year.

"I find it important to touch base whenever possible to try to provide a forum of discussion that is rewarding for everyone without being overwhelming," says Pascos.

Third-year student Jaqueline Parr says the nature of their relationship has evolved since she first met Pascos in 2005. During first and second year, there was a lot of academic advice, like how to cope with the first "bell ringer" exam (testing in a lab setting where students move from station to station answering questions within a limited time) or simply accepting that one can't possibly learn everything — a difficult admission for some.

"Now we're at the point where she is giving more life advice," said Parr. "Kim's not very long out of the program so she remembers the stress of it all. She's been tremendous that way. She's in tune with what students are up to."

For Tony Mutsaers, DVM '97, and a PhD candidate in medical biophysics at the University of Toronto, the challenge has been to connect with students who tend to be focused on clinical practice rather than careers in research or academia. A cancer researcher who also works one day a week in the oncology service at the OVC Teaching Hospital, Mutsaers will be among the first mentors to work with the same student group from frosh year to graduation.

"I did emphasize from the start that if this program was meant to introduce a real-world perspective to the students, I may be one of the farthest from the real world that you could get," says Mutsaers, who hopes to wrap up his PhD in the fall of 2008.

"I joked with the students at our first meeting that it was going to be a race between them and me to see who finished first. Honestly, I thought I'd beat them. But I didn't because they finished in April."

Phil Meadows, DVM '01, became a practice-group mentor to give something back to the college, and finds volunteering has its own rewards — from the simple pleasure of helping his junior colleagues network with members of the profession to staying current with developments at OVC.

"I offer an ear to listen, and in the process I learn how to help them achieve their academic and professional goals," says Meadows, a dairy health management specialist and partner in a mixed-animal practice in southwestern Ontario.

"They didn't have anything like this when I was in vet school. I made it happen on my own by spending time during holidays and even skipping the odd school day to spend on the road with area bovine veterinarians who all mentored me by some degree."

For third-year DVM student Michael Kim, it took a while to recognize the value of what Meadows had to offer.

"I'm seeing the benefits more as I go through the program and recognize that some of the things Phil has been saying since we were in first year are now coming to fruition. There's plenty of support within OVC on the academic side," he says. "The mentors show you the perspective from outside the campus environment."
“Gord was one of the fundamental movers and shakers of the University. Without his drive and passion, we would be a very different place.”

Those words from U of G President Alastair Summerlee might be applied to a number of people who helped shape the University of Guelph. But the late Gordon Nixon was certainly one of the most iconic. “Well known on campus for seven decades, he was an inspiration to several generations of students, staff, faculty and alumni,” says Summerlee.

Even today, many students and recent grads will recognize his name, his photo and his reputation as a quintessential Guelph graduate. Dozens of students benefit each year from the Gordon Nixon Leadership Awards. Established by an alumni advisory council more than 10 years ago, the cash awards are presented annually to help fund student organizations and projects that encourage campus participation.

Nixon graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1937 and spent most of his career working for the Lightning Fastener Co. Ltd. Nixon travelled a great deal for his employer. In each city he visited, his evenings were often spent on the phone talking to other OAC graduates. “That was Gord’s way of staying connected with other aggies and making sure they knew that their alma mater valued their involvement,” says Paulette Samson, director of OAC advancement.

She knew Nixon for more than 30 years, and says his motto as a volunteer for both OAC and the University of Guelph was always “share of heart comes before share of purse. Gord followed that principle throughout his long association with the campus,” says Samson.

Nixon was a past-president of the OAC Alumni Association (OACAA) and former chair of the OAC Alumni Foundation, on which he actively served as honorary chair until his death Feb. 9. The foundation has established the Gordon Nixon Teaching Trust and invites friends to remember him with a donation to the trust fund.

As president of OACAA, Nixon led the effort to bring together alumni from OAC, the Ontario Veterinary College and Macdonald Institute after the University was established in 1964. He was elected the first president of the University of Guelph Alumni Association (UGAA) and is shown in the accompanying photo signing the UGAA constitution in 1968.

UGAA president Trish Walker says: “The University of Guelph Alumni Association was born with more than 10,000 members, and Gord was key to each year the University of Guelph Alumni Association Awards of Excellence are presented to three outstanding alumni. The 2008 recipients are:

Alumnus of Honour — Jeff Lozon, BA ’76, a member of the University’s Board of Governors and president and CEO of St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto.

Alumni Medal of Achievement — Mick Bhatia, PhD ’95, a professor at McMaster University and a recognized leader in the field of human hematopoietic stem cell biology and embryonic stem cells.

Alumni Volunteer Award — Terence Rothwell, B.Sc. (Eng.) ’75 and M.Sc. ’96, president of Agriculture and Energy Engineering.

These award winners will be recognized at the President’s Lunch, June 21, during Alumni Weekend.
winning their support and reminding the organization of its central mission to engage Guelph alumni in the life and future of the University.”

The list of awards Nixon received attests to the amount of work he did on behalf of his alma mater:
- OAC Centennial Medal, 1974
- Alumnus of Honour, 1978
- Alumni Volunteer Award, 1994
- Member, Heritage Fund Board of Trustees
- Lincoln Alexander Medal of Distinguished Service, 2000
- Order of OAC, 2002

Guelph was always in his heart. It was on campus that he met the late Joan Nixon, DHE ’36. Their daughters, Nancy Nixon, BA ’70, and Catherine Jane McCallum, BA ’73, are Guelph graduates. So are Gord Nixon’s son-in-law, Don McCallum, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’72; his sister, Mary Walters, DHE ’38; and two of his three grandchildren.

Nixon also shared his heart with young people through more than 50 years of service to the 4-H movement; he was a past-president of the Canadian 4-H Foundation. His church in St. Catharines, Ont., and the Gyro and Kiwanis Central clubs also benefited from his experience, as did the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce.

One of Nixon’s closest friends, Marion Park, accompanied him to campus in 2007 when he was recognized as honorary chair of Alumni Weekend. The designation was more than a symbolic gesture to Nixon, who despite his 92 years, took an active role in planning the event and considered it one more way to strengthen the University’s connection with its alumni.

“Gord Nixon will always be an inspiration to his fellow alumni and to University staff,” says Joanne Shoveller, vice-president (alumni affairs and development). “His 70-year commitment to the University was outstanding, reflected by many other alumni who continue to emulate his spirit and his passion for the University. I believe he saw U of G as a conduit to the development of young people as capable and caring citizens.”
UGAA reports on alumni survey

To help set the future direction of its programs, the University of Guelph Alumni Association (UGAA) launched a web-based survey to its alumni. Almost 1,800 alumni responded to questions about UGAA affinity programs, services and communications.

The UGAA board of directors will incorporate the survey results into its planning, and president Trish Walker is already smiling because 90 per cent of those who responded gave a thumbs-up to UGAA’s top priorities: provide opportunities for alumni to reconnect; enhance U of G’s profile; and celebrate alumni achievements. UGAA’s goal to foster student/alumni interaction received a vote of confidence from more than 77 per cent of respondents.

“We’re thrilled to know that we’re on the right track,” says Walker. “The survey results will help us decide where to put our greatest effort and which programs should be evaluated.”

UGAA will also be looking closely at the activities which received the highest interest ratings. Homecoming, College Royal and class reunions have been most often attended by those who responded to the survey.

“These results suggest that our alumni are interested in activities which help alumni stay in touch with one another, especially events held on campus,” says Jason Moreton, director of alumni affairs. He notes that more than 60 per cent of the respondents were interested in opportunities for professional development, educational events, hearing faculty and off-campus speakers, and networking.

The survey also shows that continuing education courses and the online community are among the services that alumni are most likely to use.

Considering that 45 per cent of the survey respondents were under the age of 45, Guelph professor Sean Lyons (see story on page 10) might suggest these preferences are a Generation X characteristic, says Moreton, “but they certainly fit with U of G efforts to maintain connections with alumni and promote lifelong learning. It’s important information to help both UGAA and the Department of Alumni Affairs and Development with future programming.”

How will we let grads know about future events? More than 90 per cent of the survey respondents say they are most likely to read The Portico and the monthly Alumni E-News. The Portico is mailed to all alumni for whom we have a current address. If you want to receive the electronic newsletter, send your e-mail address to alumniarecords@uoguelph.ca.

For information on the online community, go to www.alumni.uoguelph.ca/services/services_benefits_ole. More results from the UGAA alumni survey are available in The Portico online edition: www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.

Lockyer lectures at U of G

James Lockyer, founder of the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted, was the guest speaker in a political science lecture series launched Jan. 9 at U of G. Lockyer has been involved in a number of high-profile wrongful conviction cases and is one of Canada’s most prominent lawyers and advocates for justice. He drew a full house of Guelph students, alumni and community members.

Alumni Weekend

It’s wonderful to see so many reunion celebrations taking place during Alumni Weekend. The importance of reconnecting with former classmates and your alma mater is echoed in the theme for this year’s celebrations — “A Connection that Matters.” With more than 30 classes joining the Alumni Weekend festivities, the level of participation signifies the importance of re-establishing and maintaining the friendships that were made at the University of Guelph. Welcome back to campus.

Joanne Shoveller
Vice-President
Alumni Affairs and Development

HAFA/HTM grads look ahead

The HAFA/HTM Alumni Association is looking ahead to the 40th anniversary of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (formerly HAFA) in 2009. Alumni are invited to participate in planning events and fundraising activities. For more information, contact Heidi Wilker at hwilker@blessedevents.ca or visit the school website at www.htm.uoguelph.ca.

Making the connection with future alumni, the association hosted a career night Jan. 22 at PJ’s Restaurant. It was a great night for information sharing.
Make A Connection that Matters at Alumni Weekend
June 20 and 21

This year’s Alumni Weekend theme is “A Connection that Matters.” Many, if not all of us, have a connection with our alma mater — a University that continues to change lives and improve life.

We are all looking forward to reconnecting with friends and fellow alumni to rekindle memories of the time spent at Guelph and how the experience has changed our lives! I look forward to seeing everyone in June.

WILLIAM BROCK, BSA ’58, HON. FELLOW ’98, LL.D ’02, HONORARY CHAIR OF ALUMNI WEEKEND
The OAVC Redmen celebrated some of Guelph's greatest athletic success in 1958 and 1959. Championships were won in senior and intermediate soccer, cross-country, track and field, rugby and archery. The hockey, football, basketball and wrestling Redmen also experienced a great deal of success during those years. Now, 50 years later, their successes will be celebrated by the Department of Athletics this fall.

The Mooney Years

The 1958 and 1959 seasons were memorable for the OAVC football, basketball and wrestling teams. Their success was due largely to the leadership of coach Tom Mooney. He led the football team to championships in both years and the basketball team to a championship in 1959. The wrestling team also finished second overall at the McGill senior tournament and first in the Western intermediate finals in 1958.

“Mooney’s legacy may well be that he took charge of a small band of student athletes and demonstrated what determination, teamwork and hard work can do to achieve a common goal — lessons that many of his players live out to this day,” says Harold Grunau, who wrestled and played football under Mooney.

Plans are under way to celebrate the “Mooney Years” at Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 19 and 20. The 1958 football team will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their championship at a Friday night reception following the Hall of Fame dinner. On Homecoming Saturday, former athletes, staff and friends from the 1956-1961 era of football, basketball and wrestling will honor Mooney at a breakfast before heading to the Gryphon game against McMaster at 1 p.m.

Hockey greats

The OAVC hockey team skated to a nine-win, one-tie record in 1958. Coached by Al Singleton, the team was crowned provincial champion for the first time in history.

“Coach Singleton was a gentleman, and he knew his hockey,” says Tom Sawyer, ADA ’59 and BSA ’64, a former team member and one of several alumni co-ordinating the hockey reunion. “You wanted to play for him.”

There were several factors contributing to the team’s success, including gritty play and the efforts of goalie George Irving, DVM ’59, a fourth-year vet student at the time. “You knew you could gamble on defense,” says Sawyer, “because we had one of the best goalies around to back us up.”

Most of the team’s 22 players will attend a U of G reunion Nov. 15 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their championship.

Lasting legacies

Director of athletics Tom Kendall is enthusiastic about the reunion activity: “These tremendous teams and coaches have left a legacy of excellence on which the Gryphon traditions are built. They established a foundation for the building of great varsity teams that followed them, and they will always be remembered for their commitment and loyalty to Guelph’s athletics programs.”
From frosh to OAC legends

Seventy years since their graduation from the Ontario Agricultural College, the Class of 1938 will gather June 21 for Alumni Weekend and a reunion celebration. Former OAC dean Rick Richards remembers their first days on campus in 1934 when the world seemed to revolve around the large personalities of then OAC president George Christie, registrar Archie Porter and Dick Sands, who was dean of men. Little did they realize how important their freshman class would be to the development of the college, the University and Canadian agriculture.

The class included several future Guelph professors and department heads, including Richards and Frank Chase, bacteriology professor in the Department of Pathobiology. Others who contributed to the agri-food industry were Robert Gault, manager of the Dairy Farmer’s of Ontario; Angus Adams, a research scientist at Vineland; Thomas Burnett, a research scientist with the Agriculture Canada Central Experimental Farm, and William Grierson, professor emeritus of the University of Florida.

“We did not know how we would be a part of and contribute to the growth and development of our beloved alma mater and to agriculture at home and abroad,” says Richards. “It has been said, ‘the bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you refuse to take the turn.’ OAC ‘38 has been part of many turns, such as helping to purchase Tom Thompson’s The Drive and other paintings for the University collection.”

Not all of Richards’ classmates turned to careers in agriculture. Many joined the military and contributed to society in other ways, including surviving classmates Lloyd Hooper, a United Church minister; Lloyd Minshall, who taught school; Glenna Mortimore; and Fraser Rae, who was a safety director of the Mines Accident Prevention Association.
The U of G Ottawa alumni chapter held a successful curling bonspiel Feb. 23 at the North Grenville Curling Club in Kemptville, with more than 50 alumni and friends attending. The late Don Fletcher, BSA '39, was a founding member of the Ottawa chapter, and with his wife, Mary, was a strong supporter of the annual bonspiel. Their daughter, Carolyn Brown, continues the tradition by presenting the Don Fletcher Memorial Trophy to Jim Brown, BSA '53, centre, and his teammates Elwood Hodgins, Don Welbanks and Bob McAleese.

1960

David Brewster, BA '68, is a professor of pediatrics at James Cook University School of Medicine in Cairns, Australia. He recently moved there from the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva, where he was dean.

Margeree Edwards, B.H.Sc. '64, spurred development of a web-based image bank called Green Images of Canada that provides environmental, ecological and nature photography for the corporate and non-profit sectors. She went on after Guelph to earn a PhD and later spent 15 years working as a consultant in social marketing and communication for health and environment clients. She lives in Peterborough, Ont.

Gordon Garlough, BSA. '64, wrote to say that he appreciated the story about Doug Hoffman, BSA '46 and MSA '49, that appeared in the Winter 2008 Portico in a feature called "A Campus on the March." Garlough writes: "In my undergrad years, Doug Hoffman was in the (then new) Soil Science Department headed by B.C. Matthews. Then in the summer of 1962, I was fortunate enough to find summer employment with the federal-provincial program that came up with the Canada Land Inventory, a soil capability classification system that is still used, in a modified form, to evaluate the agricultural potential for soil regions. Doug Hoffman was our boss, but he was as well a teacher and mentor." Garlough also went on to soil science teaching, then dairy farming. He says he is now "mostly" retired. "In my farming career, I spent considerable volunteer time in farm politics (OFA) with a special interest in rural urban friction points involving soil, water, etc."

Gordon Heaps, ODH '68, is manager of Cannon Nurseries west of Edmonton, Alta., and breeds and grows orchids as a hobby. One of his hybrid orchids, 'Thuntesana Janet Elizabeth "Fire Dancer"' was chosen by Canada Post as one of four orchid stamps issued in Dec. 2007. The photo was taken by his wife, Janet.

1970s

David Beckerson, B.Sc.(Agr.) '76 and M.Sc. '79, heads the Beckerson Group in Guelph, consultants in marketing, communications and fundraising. He says: "Life has been grand since graduating from U of G. There are always the ups and downs, of course, but overall what a ride."

Holly (Jordan) Brown, B.A.Sc. '78, and Randolph Skidmore, B.Sc.(Agr.) '76, met four years ago at a triathlon, and now enjoy their combined families, including five children and one grandchild. Brown is a diabetes educator in Orillia, Ont., and just finished a five-year volunteer position with the Canadian Diabetes Association's nutrition sub-committee, helping to develop the "Beyond the Basics" education material. The working group received the Frederick Banting Award for 2007. She also works for Primacy's Healthy Living program found in grocery stores. Skidmore owns and operates Muskoka Lakes Construction, which has been in business for nearly 30 years: cottagebuilddesign.ca.

Richard Burgis, B.Sc.(Agr.) '71, is general manager of the Hidden Valley Golf Resort in Lethbridge, Alta. He and his partner, Sheron, sold the Briar Fox Golf and Country Club in
Belleville, Ont., in April 2006 after 10 years and moved to Alberta where they had lived from 1976 to 1990. "We would like to hear from our friends from the University and receive their updated addresses and info." Contact them at lafash@telus.net.

- Jim Fraser, B.Comm. '78, says he has worked 14 years in the private sector, three years self-employed and 14 years teaching high school at Innisdale Secondary School in Barrie, Ont. “Guelph prepared me well, for which I am very thankful.” He says he would like to know more about the contributions of the late Stanford Reid and retired professor Mary Rogers.

- Major General Timothy J. Grant, B.Sc. '77, began a career in the Canadian Forces after graduating from U of G. Among his notable positions were chief of staff, Land Force Western Area, and two tours in National Defense Headquarters in the joint operations directorate. He has commanded soldiers from troop to brigade level in Canada, Australia and with NATO in Germany. From Nov. 2006 until Aug. 2007, he commanded all Canadian forces in Afghanistan; for the last six months of this period, he commanded tactical operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Kandahar province. Grant is also a graduate of the Allarms Tactics Course (UK), Canadian Command and Staff College, the Advanced Military Studies Course and the National Security Studies Course. He was invested as an officer in the Order of Military Merit in 2003 and was promoted to his current rank following his tour in Afghanistan. He assumed the duties of deputy commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Command in Oct. 2007.

- Denis Rodet, B.Sc.(Agr.) '79, is married to Lori Bell, B.Sc.(Agr.) '82. They import young Warmblood horses from Europe and train them for sale in North America. Horse Haven Farm specializes in dressage horses, hunters and jumpers.

- Donald F. Smith, DVM '74, is professor and dean emeritus at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. In 2007, he received the “Veterinarian of the Year Award” from the New York State Veterinary Medical Society.

- Beverly MacPherson) Sommer, BA '74, is taking early retirement after 21 years as manager of heritage services for the City of Surrey, B.C. She was responsible for the restoration of the eight buildings of the historic Stewart Farm (c. 1890); the planning, construction and opening of a new 24,000-square-foot museum in 2005; and recent conversion of the 1912 Municipal Hall to the city archives building.

1980s

- John Campbell, DVM '85, and D.V.Sc. '91, a professor with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, has received the 2007 Carl Block Award. Presented annually in honour of one of the founders of the Canadian Animal Health Coalition, the award recognizes his commitment to the Canadian livestock industry through robust animal health. Campbell teaches beef cattle herd health production medicine and epidemiology, he conducts clinical work for beef clients in the Saskatoon area and he is a member of the college’s disease investigation team.

- Cynthia Comacchio, PhD '87, a professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, is also a director of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) and one of the organizers of the society’s 2008 conference, which will be held June 13 and 14 at U of G. Her co-organizer is Debra Nash-Chambers, BA '77, MA '81 and PhD '88, president of the Guelph Historical Society. For information: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

- Chris Dudar, B.Sc.(H.K.) '88 and M.Sc. '92, is a supervisory anthropologist at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C. After graduating from Guelph, he completed a PhD in anthropology at McMaster University and held a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Florida. After conducting field-work on a Navajo reservation, he went to the Smithsonian as a consulting physical anthropologist in the repatriation office. Now he manages the repatriation osteology lab. “We are tasked with documenting the thousands of Native American/First Nations skeletal remains held in the physical collections, determining potential cultural affiliation to a descendant community, and ultimately offering the remains for repa-
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triation to the appropriate federally recognized tribe. It is a very rewarding research career, and one that sees my activities change on a daily basis.”

- Stewart Gill, PhD '84, was principal at Emmanuel College, University of Queensland, before being appointed adjunct professor in the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics. He is also president of the Association of Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand and chairman of the Pacific Asia Network in Canadian Studies.

- Gordon Hak, MA '81, is a history professor at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, B.C. His book Capital and Labour in the British Columbia Forest Industry, 1934-74 (UBC Press, 2006) was more recently published in paperback.

- Jitka Janecek, BA '86, lives with her son and daughter in Port Elgin, Ont., and says she loves working with DL students, which follows her work at Priory Park School in the late 1980s.

- Gregory Klages, MA '01, recently finished a PhD in history at York University. His website entitled Death on a Painted Lake: The Thomson Tragedy has been chosen by the Department of Canadian Heritage to inaugurate its revamped and highly popular Canadian Mysteries instructional website. Klages enrolled Ontario's chief forensic pathologist Michael Pollanen to complete a new assessment of evidence surrounding the death of painter Tom Thomson.

- Janice MacDonald Gougeon, B.Sc.(Eng.), '84, lives in Ottawa with her husband, Glen, and sons, Nick (17) and Brandyn (15). After working 20 years at Nortel, she is now enjoying early retirement.

- Laura Russell Maguire, B.A.Sc. '86, lives in Thorold, Ont., with her husband, Billy, and sons, Aindriu (12) and Sean (6). She works as a recreation therapist at Niagara's Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre.

- Laurie (Allison), BA '87, and Terry McDonald, B.Sc. '85 and BA '87, and their daughter, Allison, are living in Guelph once again after teaching in Tanzania and England. “Our motto for the seven years while we were away was: 'Every day's an adventure,'” they say. “Each day was a geography field trip in its own way. We were privileged that our experience as geography teachers was appreciated in both countries.”

- Michael Moir, MA '80, is president of the Champlain Society, the oldest publisher of sources for Canada's history. He is also an archivist at York University and spoke at U of G this spring about careers in archives and records management to members of the University of Guelph History Society.

- Lorraine Twffik, B.Sc. '80, has recently become assistant dean of the School of Education at SUNY Old Westbury, a four-year liberal arts college in Long Island, N.Y. She earned a PhD three years ago from St. John's University and says her son is studying engineering as a junior at SUNY Stony Brook, also on Long Island.

### From Alumni Stadium to the Georgia Dome

**Tom Dimitroff, BA '90,** a former Gryphon football player, is the new general manager of the NFL Atlanta Falcons. He played five seasons for the Gryphons and captured the team for three years 1987 to 1989. He was named a second team OUAA All-Star in 1987. The Gryphons advanced to Yates Cup championship twice during Dimitroff's playing years, but finished second both times.

His family roots run deep into Gryphon football as his father, Tom Dimitroff Sr., coached the Gryphons from 1979 to 1983. His brother, Randy, BA '86, played for the Gryphons when they won the 1984 Vanier Cup.

Tom Dimitroff began his career as a scout in the Canadian Football League, moving on to the World League, where he scouted all NFL, CFL and World League rosters. He served in the scouting departments for three different NFL teams, landing in Boston with the New England Patriots. Not only did he lead them to last year's historic 18-0 season, but was also with two music stores: the Octave Music Centre in Guelph and Grand River Music Centre in Kitchener. They sell instruments, including pianos, guitars and violins, and music books. They also oversee music schools at both stores with more than 500 students in total. Formerly corporate controller, Deborah recently became director of marketing and promotions. Contact her at deborahwilson@theoctavemc.com or visit www.theoctavemc.com.

### 1990

- Edmund Abaka, MA '91, is associate master of Mahoney Residential College, director of the Africana Studies program, and associate professor of History at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla.

- Mary (Young) and Rob Baker, both ADA '95, recently moved to southern Ontario. He is an Ontario Provincial Police officer in Norfolk County; she works for the Simcoe branch of the CIBC.

- Paul Dickson, PhD '93, has...

- **Robert Gruber**, BA '92, worked 16 years for the YMCA-YWCA of Guelph before becoming manager of partnerships, community and policy development for the Department of Recreation Services in the Town of Ajax in 2007. He says: "This is an exciting new position that manages corporate and community festivals and events, community development, corporate sponsorship, marketing and revenue generation for the Town of Ajax. After attending U of G and securing a position with the YMCA-YWCA of Guelph, I made Guelph my home. This new position in Ajax is an exciting one in a growing and vibrant community, but I will miss the many friends, colleagues and relationships I built throughout my university days and my career with the Guelph Y."

- **Clark Hargreaves**, BA '95, is a project manager with Bell Canada. He describes three "crazy" weeks in his life in June 2007: "received a promotion, bought my first home and got engaged. Only the engagement was expected and planned."

- **Wendy Holmes-Jamieson**, B.Comm. '96, recently graduated from Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute in Ottawa and now works with her husband, Matthew Jamieson, as a chef at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

- **Karen Houle**, MA '92 and PhD '01, is a professor in U of G's Department of Philosophy. She recently published her second book of poetry, *D11uring*, with Gaspereau Press. She describes the book as "a study of continuity, of being in process and of seeing through." Drawing on the diverse combination of influences that characterized her debut 2000 collection, *Bal­last*, she depicts friendships, siblings, marriage, parenting, break­ups, work and loss through the oblique angles of biology, geol­ogy, forestry and philosophy. *Bal­last* was nominated for the Gerald Lampert Award in 2001, and Houle's essay "Double Arc" was published in *Dropped Threads 2*.

- **Wook Kim**, B.Sc. '98 and M.Sc. '01, is a post-doctoral fel­low at Harvard University's Center for Systems Biology. He obtained a PhD in microbiology from the University of Calgary and married Sonia Gingues in 2005 and welcomed their baby daughter, Sadie Havna, in 2007. They live in Boston, Mass. He says: "I miss the student life in Guelph; contact me at wook.kim3@gmail.com to catch up."

- **Jeff Laucke**, B.Sc. '93, lives in Sarnia, Ont., with his wife, Karen (Tamborine), where they are active in "teaching, coach­ing volleyball and chasing after our four-year-old daughter."

- **Heather Lekx**, B.Sc. (Env.) '96, was featured in the fall newsletter of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences. After leaving Guelph, she enrolled in the sustainable agriculture pro­gram at the University of Cali­fornia, Davis, and then moved to
Florida for an internship with the Educational Concerns for Hunter Organization (ECHO). With ECHO, she studied tropical and subtropical crops in Honduras and Belize and helped to lead a community away from slash-and-burn agriculture to more environmentally friendly methods. Her next move was back to Ontario to work with a Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) farm outside Kingston, followed by a stint as a plant breeding technician at Cornell University. She is now beginning her seventh season with Guelph’s Ignatius Jesuit Centre, helping to establish a CSA.

- Tyler, B.Sc. (H.K.) ’93, and Nancy McPhail, BA ’92, operate D.C. Guelph Classic Tile, formerly D. Centurione Guelph Classic Tile. Before they purchased the business in March 2006, both worked at other Guelph companies. They met at U of G and decided to marry and settle in the community. Their showroom and business serves Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo and the surrounding areas, providing tile products and service to new home builders, renovators and do-it-yourselfers.

- Will Pascoe, BA ’93, published A Noble Game: A History of the Negro Baseball Leagues in 2006 with Booksurge publishers and also writes for film and television. He directed the documentaries Noam Chomsky: Rebel Without a Pause and The Three Passions of Bertrand Russell (TV Ontario and PBS). He has also written for dramatic television, including Degrassi: The Next Generation. His first comedy feature film, Charming Grace, will be filmed this year.

- Kurt Randall, B.Sc. ’96 and M.Sc. ’02, was married in 2006 to Sarah Dillon. They live in Ottawa, where he works as an entomologist for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada. Their first child, Felix, was born Jan. 16, 2007.

- Emily Rose, B.Sc. (H.K.) ’99 and M.Sc. ’02, returned to her home in Barbados in 2002 and enrolled in an MBA program at the University of Durham business school. She graduated in 2007 with the highest mark ever awarded for an MBA dissertation at the school. The title was “The Effect of Displays, Display Location and the Moderating Influence of Price, Promotion and Signage on Unit Sales in a Barbadian Supermarket.” She works as a nutrition specialist and food buyer for Super Centre Ltd.

- Calum Ross, B.Comm. ’96, and his wife, Michelle, recently celebrated the birth of their second daughter, Alexis Elizabeth. Their older daughter is Abigail Mackenzie Victoria. Ross has completed a graduate MBA in finance from the Schulich School of Business, where he also guest lectures and assists future graduates. He is an executive in the mortgage banking industry, serves on various boards and contributes actively to the financial press and personal finance sectors. He speaks throughout the United States and Canada and is a regular mortgage columnist in various publications.

- Daniel Sellen, PhD ’96, joined the World Bank in Washington, D.C., when he left Guelph. He spent the last four years in India and now heads the Bank’s office in Côte d’Ivoire, home country of his wife, Madie. He says he has fond memories of life at U of G, including serving on Board of Governors, but adds that he can’t remember what he studied.

- Edward Snowden, BA ’94, completed a history degree at Guelph, graduated from George Washington University with a master’s degree in project management in Dec. 2007 and began a PhD in Feb. 2008.

- Kelly Thornton, BA ’94, will receive the 2008 YWCA Toronto Woman of Distinction Award for Arts and Letters. Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre, she has focused her professional career on advancing the lives of women and girls in theatre. Her nominators say Thornton has “produced a long list of plays No secrets to tell

There are no real secrets to a long and healthy life, but Malcolm “Bud” Crozier, BSA ’45, believes taking care of matters of the heart has a lot to do with it.

And he should know. At 87, Crozier has been happily married to his wife, Ruth, for 66 years and counting. They were high school sweethearts, raised four children and watched six grandchildren grow. Last year, they welcomed a great-grandson into their family.

Crozier says he came to U of G because of Ruth and his desire to create a wonderful life with her. They went into business with Ruth’s father, who owned a greenhouse in Clarkson, Ont.

“We sold cut flowers as wholesalers, and I had the perfect background from Guelph in the biological sciences to succeed,” says Crozier. He brought new ideas and technology to the business, like growing chrysanthemums—which were at one time a once-a-year product—all year round.

When he was in his early 50s, Crozier spent some time in hospital, and to recover, he began to jog each day in the rows of germinating plants in the greenhouses. This new found love of running sprouted a personal goal to complete a five-kilometre road race.

“At my first race, I met a chap who was a member of the Ontario Masters of Track and Field, a group of athletes 40 and older. I joined the group and started running five- and 10-kilometre races, and eventually I built up to marathons.”

Crozier has run the Boston Marathon twice. He also became a member of the Mississauga Track Club, where he is an assistant coach that still holds records in the 1,500-, 5,000- and 10,000-metre contests. In August 2005, he completed a 5,000-metre race in a time of 37.55 minutes. In addition, he’s travelled internationally to compete in the world masters championships.

“Running brought so much to me. I just thoroughly enjoyed it,” he says.

Today, after much wear and tear on his body, he’s given up running. Instead, he hits the gym five mornings a week, spending up to two hours doing stretches and yoga. “I’m in the gym at 6:30 a.m., and I’m usually the only one there.”
by, for and about women. The works she produces also challenge the status quo of artistic vision, displacing the centrality of the male experience."

2000

- Matthew Briden and Tara Mikulak, both BA '03, were married in Oakville, Ont., Oct. 22, 2005. He works for Toyota as a cost management specialist in finance; she is a sales co-ordinator for a BMW dealership. They live in Waterloo with their one-year-old daughter, Jada Corinne.
- Melinda and Matthew Bullock, both B.Sc.(Eng.) '02, were married Oct. 6, 2007 in Windsor, Ont. They live in Ottawa and are expecting their first child this fall.
- Kim, BA '00, and Matt Goodman, BA '01, welcomed their first child, Brendan Alton, on Jan. 26, 2008.
- Umair Khan, B.Comm. '07, finished his degree in marketing and management, then attended AdWeek in New York City to gain a better understanding of media corporations and emerging trends in digital media, advertising, politics and social networking. He says he is pursuing several job opportunities as a result of that networking.
- Matthew Mackenzie, BA '05, has returned to OEB Enterprise in Toronto as a consultant, after a stint at the Canadian Bankers Association. He says he's "having a great time working in communications and government relations."
- Heather Mattila, PhD '05, received considerable media coverage in 2007, appearing on the Discovery Channel's Daily Planet and on CBC Radio's Quirks and Quarks. Recipient of Guelph's Forster Medal in 2005, her PhD was supervised by Prof. Gard Otis, Environmental Biology. She is now a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell University in the neurobiology and behaviour department, where she works with bee biologist Tom Seeley.
- Matt Milner, MA '02, earned a PhD from the University of Warwick and served as a part-time professor of the Reformation. He is a member of the Elora Singers, a professional choir conducted by Noel Edison. The Elora Singers' CDs are devoted to the music of Estonian Avro Part and have risen to number five on the British classical music charts.
- Vanessa (Cotterell), B.Sc.(Env.) '02, and David Schmidt, BA '02, welcomed their first child, Maxim Statton Schmidt, a 7-lb.,15-oz. boy born Feb. 3. Dad says: "Little Max will undoubtedly grow up hearing fond stories about U of G from his parents. We might have a future Gryphon on our hands."
- Charlotte Woodley, BA '01, was a guest of the University of Guelph History Society this spring, speaking about her role as archivist for the regional municipality of Waterloo.
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