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in and around the university

Guelph students and new graduates receive prestigious Canadian and international awards to continue their studies, while the University recognizes the international contributions of eight honorary degree recipients. In addition, U of G experts make news with their work in fundraising, human health, fisheries and environmental studies.

on the cover

Prof. Julia Christensen Hughes gains a new view as dean of the College of Management and Economics.

Photo by Martin Schwalbe

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESS

Guelph graduate, professor and administrator — Julia Christensen Hughes is one of the University’s strongest advocates for experiential learning and strategic planning.

TALKING TO CANADIANS ABOUT SCIENCE

It’s not enough to do great science. Guelph researchers find themselves on the front lines of improving science literacy among Canadians and recruiting the country’s next generation of scientists.

ALUMNI PROFILES

The stories of four Guelph graduates highlight their diverse careers and their memories of U of G.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTERS

The centre of The Portico magazine is always reserved for the alumni newsletter produced by your college and/or college alumni association. The Portico distributes a newsletter for each of the University’s seven colleges. To read all of them, visit the magazine online at www.uoguelph/theportico.
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Earlier this month, the 15-year-old Guelph Jazz Festival filled the streets of our city with creative and improvised music and thousands of visitors. Last fall, the City of Guelph and local biotech companies launched a marketing strategy called “Grow Guelph” to build recognition of the life sciences and agri-food opportunities in Wellington County.

What these disparate events have in common is the University of Guelph, specifically U of G faculty engaged in research. Without their contributions, the jazz festival and “Grow Guelph” would not have happened.

There are some educators who say all of Canada’s research dollars should go to its biggest universities, but U of G’s incredible research success dispels that notion. Our research engine is not the biggest in Canada, but it is one of the most productive. Ask the local arts communities, young entrepreneurs mentored by our business faculty, the bioscience companies in our region, or the agri-food industry, which benefits from the University’s partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. It’s been documented that every dollar invested in agricultural research at U of G returns more than $20 in provincial economic impact.

A strategic research plan approved by Senate last fall describes how Guelph research responds to societal needs in our core areas of expertise: environment, ecology and biodiversity; agriculture, food and bioproducts; physical and biological structures; promoting health and preventing disease; and cultural transformation and social change.

The report also identifies one of our key strengths as the ability to form connections between major areas of academic research and scholastic endeavour. Our ability to link research with teaching is a defining characteristic that has long established Guelph’s place among all Canadian universities, big and small.

The annual university rankings in Maclean’s magazine, the University Report Card in the Globe and Mail and the “Research University of the Year” survey by Research Infosource have documented that Guelph offers a unique learning environment because of our ability to partner student learning and research intensity.

Learning at its best is discovering new knowledge. So across the board, the U of G curriculum strives to ensure that research opportunities aren’t just the domain of faculty, staff and graduate students, but that undergraduates, too, can experience the process of discovery.

Our students prove the point. From the 2009 graduating class, Adam Lewandowski earned a coveted Commonwealth Scholarship to Oxford University. He credits his desire to pursue a career in medical research to the experience of working with two Guelph professors.

Through active learning, U of G engineering students earned top spot at the national round of the Institute of Engineering and Technology competition for their design of an electronic pediatric stethoscope. A team of students from a Guelph business class tied for first place in a competition at the World Food and Agribusiness Forum and Symposium in Hungary. And four justice studies students from the University of Guelph-Humber captured first place in an international crime scene investigation competition held in Maryland, where they competed against 24 teams from U.S. universities.

U of G’s unique discovery-oriented, active learning style is key to our success as educators. The University’s 21st-Century Curriculum Committee recognized that the benefits to individual learners and Guelph’s intellectual environment as a whole are enormous. And so there is continual effort on the part of our faculty to enrich their teaching with current research results.

At the University of Guelph, we are committed to a research agenda that addresses some of the world’s most pressing needs while nurturing the educational experience we offer to students. And that is what sets us apart.

Alastair Summerlee, President
A NUMBER OF award announcements this spring focused attention on the scholarship and research potential of eight University of Guelph students and graduates.

OFF TO OXFORD

Adam Lewandowski, B.Sc. '09, received a prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan to study cardiovascular medicine at the University of Oxford. The award covers all major expenses, including airfare, tuition and living costs.

He developed an interest in cardiovascular research while studying human anatomy with Prof. Lorraine Jadeski, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences. He also credits the opportunity to work with Prof. Jim Petrik, Biomedical Sciences, and PhD student Nicole Solinger, B.Sc. '06.

Lewandowski hopes to combine his interests in cardiovascular clinical research with medicine, to one day work as both a researcher and a medical doctor.

FIRST VANIER RECIPIENTS

Three U of G PhD students received inaugural Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships, the most prestigious doctoral awards in Canada. Worth $50,000 a year for up to three years, the scholarships were awarded to 166 of the world's leading students from Canada and abroad.

Veterinary science student Sherilee Harper plans to investigate the impact of climate change on surface drinking water and infectious gastrointestinal illness in Inuit Nunavat. Her advisers are population medicine professor Scott McEwen and adjunct professor Victoria Edge of the Public Health Agency of Canada. Tal Avgar works with Prof. John Fryxell, Integrative Biology, studying movement patterns, habitat selection and range delineation in woodland caribou. And Tristan Pearce, MA '06, is conducting research in a small Inuit community with geography professor Barry Smith to study adaptation to climate change.

RIGOROUS AUDITION PAID OFF

Shortly before graduating in June, Nigel Gough, BA '09, was accepted into the world-renowned master's program at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, England. The school is part of the University of London and has maintained a reputation for top theatre training for more than a century.

CONVOCATION HONOURS

Eight people received honorary degrees from U of G and the University of Guelph-Humber during summer convocation ceremonies:

- Louise Arbour, the former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada who is known for being a chief prosecutor for tribunals into the genocide in Rwanda and human rights abuses in the former Yugoslavia;
- Jean Augustine, the first African Canadian woman elected to Parliament, a former cabinet minister and now Canada’s first fairness commissioner;
- Tim Bray, B.Sc. '81, an Internet pioneer who is widely recognized as an expert in web architecture;
- Leo Gerard, president of the United
Gough took part in a rigorous 12-hour audition process in New York City and received offers into both the advanced performance master's program and the music theatre master's program at Central School.

TOP GRADUATE STUDENT

**Melanie Ammersbach**, DVM '07, a PhD student in the Department of Pathobiology, is among 24 top-ranked graduate students to receive a $25,000 Julie Payette-NSERC Research Scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. She is combining her PhD with a residency in clinical pathology, with the goal of finishing the degree and becoming board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in five years. Ammersbach's research with Prof. Dorothee Bienzle focuses on feline immunodeficiency virus.

**HEADED FOR COPENHAGEN**

The University of Copenhagen has awarded Nico Merk and Kristen Weirsink, both B.Sc. '09, scholarships to its master's program in human biology. The university offers scholarships to just five international students each year; the awards are valued at more than $87,000 each over two years.

"The school has nearly 40,000 students," says Merk, who hopes to go on to medical school. "It attracts a lot of international students and, like Guelph, has a strong focus on research."

**ANIMAL ADVOCATE LEAVES $7.5 MILLION TO U OF G**

The University of Guelph has received its largest-ever single donation from the estate of Toronto businesswoman Mona Campbell, who was a tireless advocate for animals. Her $7.5-million gift reflects a 20-year relationship with the University. During that time, she supported various programs in the Ontario Veterinary College and the Ontario Agricultural College, including a research centre in animal welfare that was named in honour of her late husband, Col. K.L. Campbell. The bequest will provide further support for animal welfare research.

"We are so grateful for this incredible gift, not only for the financial support and tremendous opportunities it affords but also for the spirit in which it was made," says U of G president Alastair Summerlee. "It reflects Mona's passion for and dedication to animals."

Mona Campbell was chair and CEO of Dover Industries, a company she inherited from her father at age 33. At the time of her death in 2008, the firm was Canada's largest flour-milling company, with revenues of $228 million and some 500 employees. She was also the first woman elected to the board of the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

She was a patron of numerous cultural, educational and business organizations, and her Mohill Farms was known for its numerous award-winning show horses and cattle, as well as her beloved dogs that she had rescued.

Steelworkers and a vice-president of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations;

**Jack MacDonald**, a former physics professor and vice-president at U of G who left to head the Manukau Institute of Technology in New Zealand;

**Marangu Njogu**, head of the non-profit Windle Trust Kenya and a member of World University Service of Canada;

**Christopher Plummer**, one of Canada's most celebrated actors and the winner of Tony and Emmy awards; and

**Barbara Stymiest**, chief operating officer of the Royal Bank of Canada, who was named among the "50 Most Powerful Women" by *Forbes* magazine.
Joanne Shoveller, U of G's vice-president (alumni affairs and development), has been named to the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Commission on Philanthropy. She was selected for the prestigious posting from a pool of international nominees and is the sole Canadian on the commission, serving a three-year term. The commission comprises 18 senior development professionals from around the world.

"This is wonderful and well-deserved recognition for Joanne," says U of G president Alastair Summerlee. "It reflects the quality of her leadership, both with our alumni affairs and development team and among her peers, and her reputation for excellence in philanthropic fundraising."

CASE is one of the largest non-profit education associations in the world. Its membership includes more than 3,400 colleges, universities, independent elementary and secondary schools, and educational associates in 81 countries.

The CASE Commission on Philanthropy frames and directs research to examine and evaluate professional practices, and creates and monitors programs and services in development. It also ensures that practices reflect current knowledge, emerging issues and trends, and the highest ethical and professional standards.

At U of G, Shoveller heads a team of 45 staff who are responsible for U of G's institutional advancement, including all fundraising activities and alumni relations.

Watch your circadian clock to help your ticker

Allowing your inner circadian clock to fall out of sync with the 24-hour world outside your body can cause heart disease. That's the finding of a study whose lead author took up a new faculty post at Guelph this spring.

Prof. Tami Martino, Biomedical Sciences, says doctors, nurses and pharmacists — virtually the entire medical profession — need to heed circadian rhythms in diagnosing and treating heart disease patients.

"We now know that our behaviour, body physiology and molecular processes differ dramatically during the day versus night, and the basis for this is the molecular clock mechanism," says Martino.

Through an intricate mechanism involving hormones and feedback loops, every cell in the body synchronizes itself to the passage of day and night.

Your eyes convey information about light levels to the brain's hypothalamus. From there, molecular pathways distribute signals throughout the body and help set the clock mechanism in every one of your cells. This mechanism exists in most creatures. A version also runs in plants, helping to govern key processes such as flowering time.

In healthy humans, the circadian clock keeps everything ticking in sync. Upset the daily rhythm and you introduce stresses that may cause various ailments.

The study, which was co-authored with Toronto researchers and appeared in the American Journal of Physiology, found that disrupting circadian rhythms in hamsters led to cardiovascular and renal disease. In 2004, Martino and her collaborators published the first paper using gene microar-

and off from night to day.

Your heart rate and blood pressure fall at night and increase by day in a predictable curve, she says. Platelet clumping happens more often early in the day, increasing the risk of heart attack at that time. Indeed, most hospital admissions for heart attacks occur in the morning, she says.
Study may help salmon populations

U of G researchers have used DNA bar-coding techniques to shed new light on controlling the spread of the salmon louse, a parasite blamed for devastating wild Pacific salmon stocks and costing British Columbia's salmon-farm industry millions of dollars each year.

The research team, led by integrative biology professor Elizabeth Boulding, also confirmed that the Pacific salmon louse is a distinct "sister species" of the salmon louse that has plagued the East Coast and salmon fisheries and fish farms on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. They analyzed 239 samples of lice from wild and farmed salmon hosts from British Columbia, Alaska and Japan, as well as 180 samples from areas on both sides of the Atlantic.

The researchers discovered significant differences in gene frequencies between lice samples from salmon caught at different locations along the B.C. coast, as well as between samples from wild salmon and farmed fish taken from the same waters. This suggests a low level of migration of lice back and forth between farmed and wild fish.

Boulding cautions that this was a limited study, but she notes that the dispersal of lice appeared to be limited during their free-swimming larval phase. This suggests that the lice could not be transmitted between farmed and wild fish if net pens are kept far enough away from the migration routes of the wild salmon.

Environmental hub finds a home

The environment gets a boost in more ways than one as U of G prepares to overhaul an old building to create a cutting-edge environmental teaching and research centre.

The project involves retrofitting and renovating the Axelrod Building to house faculty and students from the School of Environmental Sciences, as well as components of the School of Engineering, the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development and the Faculty of Environmental Sciences. It will also be home to the Guelph Institute for the Environment, which is headed by former federal environment minister David Anderson.

The renovation plan was kick-started in May when Gary Goodyear, minister of state (science and technology), and Guelph-Wellington MPP Liz Sandals visited the campus to announce a $33.6-million investment from the federal and provincial governments. Guelph's project is one of 28 that received support from the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program as part of a joint government plan to repair and expand research and educational facilities at Canada's colleges and universities.

"This significant contribution will allow us to cluster our expertise in a state-of-the-art teaching and research hub and to showcase our innovations and green technologies," said U of G president Alastair Summerlee.

NOTEWORTHY

- U of G's John Bell Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to university education, was presented to physics professor Ernie McFarland for his contributions to physics education and student mentoring. He is known for his science demonstrations on CTV's Good Morning Canada and for the Fantastic Physics Fun Show performed at local elementary schools.
- Second-year science student Fedin Oke and third-year arts and sciences student Lauren Wallace were named among Canada's "Top 20 Under 20" by the Globe and Mail. Oke was honoured for his achievements in science and mathematics; Wallace was recognized for her volunteer efforts to fight poverty and HIV/AIDS in Africa. Each will receive a bursary worth up to $5,000 to benefit their education.
- Psychology professor Hank Davis is receiving media attention for his new book, Caveman Logic: The Persistence of Primitive Thinking in a Modern World. Davis, a specialist in evolutionary psychology, strives to explain why more people today believe in ESP, ghosts and angels than in scientific theories such as evolution.
- U of G engineering students earned top spot at the national round of the Institute of Engineering and Technology competition. Alyssa Randall, Danielle Boucher, Janith Peduruge and Dana Reynolds designed a pediatric stethoscope that filters out extraneous noise and slows the sounds of a heartbeat, allowing doctors to more accurately diagnose heart defects.
- The College of Management and Economics received a Guelph Chamber of Commerce award for a new course called "Service Learning in Housing," which opens the minds of students to the struggles of low-income families in the housing market.
From her ninth-floor office in the MacKinnon Building, Prof. Julia Christensen Hughes sees the University from a vantage point similar to that of the crane operator perched above a new pathology building going up on the west side of Gordon Street. The campus below them is filled with energy — vehicles, people and a few four-legged mammals bustling back and forth.

While the crane operator concentrates on lifting steel beams and tubs of cement, Christensen Hughes is building a different kind of structure — an academic edifice that frames the University’s teaching and research programs in management and economics.

“I’m excited to have the opportunity to build on the unique strengths of the University’s newest college,” says Christensen Hughes, who was appointed dean of the College of Management and Economics (CME) in May. She received her CME hard hat from economics professor Chris McKenna. He spent more than four years as foreperson during the design and construction of CME, including a three-year stint as its first dean. The college was launched in 2006, evolved from the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences in response to growth in the Department of Marketing and Consumer Studies, the Department of Economics and the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. A new Department of Business was added in 2007, with Christensen Hughes serving as its first chair.

She’s been part of the changing landscape surrounding the University’s business programs since arriving on campus as a student in 1977. She was enrolled in the School of Hotel and Food Administration (Hafa), which became the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management in 2003.

While working at a Burlington, Ont., golf course during high school, Christensen Hughes had met two Hafa grads who convinced her that U of G would be a great place to call home, if only for a few years as an undergraduate.

“I got the sense that Guelph had a really friendly student culture, and I liked the idea of a business program that included courses from the sciences,” she says.

One of the highlights of her undergraduate years was a managerial accounting course taught by Prof. Bill Braithwaite, who celebrates his 50th anniversary of teaching accounting at Guelph this fall.

“Bill was always able to provide practical examples,” she says. “He made accounting relevant and interesting.”

Another highlight was a senior-level hospitality course taught by Prof. John Patterson, now retired. “John challenged us and used the case method. In his classes, you always had to be prepared, always ready to defend your position.”

Patterson hired Christensen Hughes to help with a research project comparing electronic point-of-sale systems that were just being introduced to the industry. The following summer, she got a job in Toronto supporting the installation of the systems in hotels and restaurants, then training managers and staff in their use.

Today, she’s one of Guelph’s strongest advocates for experiential learning — getting students out of the classroom and into real-world work settings where they can apply theory and develop essential skills.

“Learning isn’t just about absorbing disciplinary knowledge — it’s also about developing the ability to apply it,” says Christensen Hughes. “Leadership skills and interpersonal skills are integral to professional success. We need to create learning environments where students have the opportunity to develop these types of skills as well.”

After earning her B.Comm. in 1981, she worked in management for the Keg restaurant chain and earned an MBA from the Schulich School of Business at York University before taking a teaching position at
heads Guelph's newest college success

CME dean Julia Christensen Hughes has a bird's-eye view of the University Centre and McLaughlin Library. Off to the left are Rozanski Hall, the Büning and Day Hall, where she spent 10 years as director of Teaching Support Services.
SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CORPORATE WORLD

Teaching students about sustainability and corporate social responsibility is one of CME's top priorities, and the hiring of Profs. Elizabeth Kurucz and Rumina Dhalia in the Department of Business is a major step in that direction.

"The University's tag line — 'Changing Lives, Improving Life'— is practically a definition of sustainability," says Kurucz. "This is a powerful place to be doing this research because the ideas are so consistent with everything U of G does and stands for."

Kurucz says, "We need to emphasize a longer-term perspective."

Reflecting the success of these efforts, CME's B.Comm. program was recently named to Corporate Knights magazine's list of top 10 undergraduate business programs that integrate CSR into the school experience. The national business magazine's annual survey looks at how business schools incorporate environmental concerns and issues of social justice, human rights, professional conduct and cultural diversity into their academic programs.

Christensen Hughes is thrilled by Guelph's ranking.

"CME has been working hard at embedding sustainability across the B.Comm. curriculum as well as offering students unique CSR-focused learning opportunities in our MBA and MA (Leadership) programs," she says. Faculty throughout CME's four departments have been pursuing CSR-related initiatives for some time, she says, but last year’s hiring of Profs. Elizabeth Kurucz and Rumina Dhalia gave this important area dedicated focus.

"Without question, sustainability has become an increasingly important component of our curricular and research activity, and I am personally committed to ensuring that it continues to help us build on Guelph’s
LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Named for the University's chancellor emeritus and presented in 2009 to retired Canadian general Rick Hillier, the Lincoln Alexander Outstanding Leader Award highlights CME's commitment to recognizing strong leaders and developing similar leadership values in its students. This fall, CME adds a new PhD in management to support the study of leadership at the highest levels.

unique approach to management and economics education.”

Christensen Hughes is quick to point out what she sees as the college's underlying strengths: “our industry-focused programs in real estate, hotel and food administration, and tourism; our breadth and depth in economics; our consumer behaviour orientation; our well-established graduate programs in economics and marketing; our graduate programs in leadership that attract executives from a variety of industries; and our new PhD in management, set to launch this fall.”

To those building blocks, she adds recent achievements in the Department of Business, whose faculty numbers grew from four to 17 under her guidance.

“Building the Department of Business was an incredibly rewarding experience,” she says. “I was delighted with the calibre of the faculty we were able to attract and with the invaluable role senior faculty played in helping to mentor our newest members and providing leadership for our various initiatives.”

Those initiatives included a curricular review of the human resource management major, leading to the introduction of a capstone research course in which undergraduate students complete projects with organizations in the local community and the requirement that students take a course in leadership. In addition, the major now includes all courses needed for the certified human resources professional designation.

The Department of Business is also launching a new major in accounting that will similarly provide all courses in support of a professional accounting designation (CMA, CGA or CA). “That’s something Bill Braithwaite and others have wanted for many years,” says Christensen Hughes.

Business students are also working with students in other majors and local business people to develop new product ideas and actually launch their own small businesses.

Among her other achievements is a scholarly book she recently co-edited, to be published this fall. Taking Stock: Research in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education features contributions from more than a dozen internationally renowned educational researchers, who discuss how students learn and the systemic changes that are needed in support of student learning. The book calls on all those working in higher education to collaborate to bring about these changes.

For her work on academic integrity, Christensen Hughes earned the 2007 Edward F. Sheffield Award for research excellence from the Canadian Journal of Higher Education. In 2008, she received U of G’s John Bell Award for outstanding educational leadership.

This fall marks a time of intense focus on developing strategy and structure for CME, but the dean says she’s excited about the potential for putting the college at the top of the list for people wanting to study management and economics.

“It’s about ensuring that all our programs are of the highest possible quality, that we’re meeting the needs of our students, and that we’ve got the structures and mechanisms in place to support that. We have to continue to strengthen our reputation, communicating the amazing work — both teaching innovation and research — being done here. This fall, we will be building excitement and momentum. I’m excited about the future of CME and the University of Guelph. I truly think our time has come.”

GUELPH TEAM SHARES TOP PRIZE

A team of Guelph undergraduates tied for top prize in a case competition held at the 2009 International Food and Agribusiness Management Association conference in Budapest, Hungary. They shared the prize with a team of MBA students from Santa Clara University in California. From left: Matthew Ball and Nicole Beechey, B.Comm. ’09, with business professor Elliott Currie. Other members of the team were Blair Cameron, B.Sc. ’09, and Emily Bogaert, B.Comm ’09.

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STUDENTS LAUNCH THEIR OWN BUSINESSES

This summer, six student-run businesses were launched thanks to a partnership among CME, the Guelph-Wellingt0 Business Enterprise Centre and the Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services. Kim Alterdsoo, a four-year management economics student, launched Kim’s Swims and taught swimming lessons. “Because it’s my business, I care a lot more about the job I do and the image I project,” she says.

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STUDENTS LAUNCH THEIR OWN BUSINESSES

This summer, six student-run businesses were launched thanks to a partnership among CME, the Guelph-Wellingt0 Business Enterprise Centre and the Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services. Kim Alterdsoo, a four-year management economics student, launched Kim’s Swims and taught swimming lessons. “Because it’s my business, I care a lot more about the job I do and the image I project,” she says.
Imagine trying to sell your research to Don Cherry. Guelph scientist Mike Dixon faced that challenge a few years ago when he ran into Cherry and his Hockey Night in Canada sidekick Ron MacLean at the Edmonton airport.

A professor in the School of Environmental Sciences, Dixon was on a cross-country road trip for U of G's Tomatosphere project, which since 2001 has enlisted hundreds of thousands of school kids to grow tomato seeds that have been in outer space. He and Canadian astronaut Bob Thirsk — who has tomato seeds on board the International Space Station right now in preparation for next year's growing season — have made annual visits to classrooms across the country, trying to lure kids into space science.

"I tell them the first Canadian horticulture mission specialist on a trip to Mars is currently in Grade 3," says Dixon.

He told Cherry and MacLean the same thing but wanted to convince them that growing plants as a life-support system for a trip to Mars is just as vital for Canada's future as "Coach's Corner" is for legions of hockey fans across the country. Dixon's story covered everything from food, atmosphere and water needed for long-distance space flight to jobs, economic health and technological advancement back here on Earth. Growing plants for space is our next

Talking to Canadians about science

By Andrew Vowles

Canadarm, he said. "This is probably the single most significant economic engine for Canada that you can imagine."

By the time his plane left, Cherry said he had a new appreciation for the importance of space research. "In 15 minutes, I convinced Don Cherry that space exploration was not only doable but also a necessary project for Canada," says Dixon, who likes to share his "Cherry tomatoes" story with members of the Canadian Space Agency.

Instead of Don Cherry, substitute any Canadian. And replace Tomatosphere with any science project by any Guelph researcher. The challenge is the same: how to find user-friendly ways to explain your work to the masses, not just to persuade agencies to fund your project but also to score a bigger goal: improving science literacy in Canada.

A scientifically literate society is one where people "can understand the basics of science and its relation to everyday life," says Prof. Kevin Hall, U of G vice-president (research). "They have the ability to take information they read or hear in the media and have a basic understanding of how it affects them, their health, the planet, their lifestyle."

A 2006 article in Policy Options magazine defined scientific literacy as knowledge of basic scientific concepts and processes, including such skills as information man-

PHOTOS FROM CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY, MIKE DIXON AND GETTY IMAGES
Tomatoes, outer space and hockey show us the impact science has on our lives

Besides inadequate knowledge of scientific concepts, consider economic woes affecting the auto assembly plant located a short drive from his Oshawa-area farm. "The next generation of jobs is going to require much more skill in science, engineering and technology," he says. "We can no longer depend on the auto sector. We're not getting the skills base needed for the next economy."

Canada's economic well-being depends on our understanding of science and technology, says U of G engineering professor Valerie Davidson, who holds the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council/Research in Motion Chair for Women in Science and Engineering. "We need innovation, new technological ideas developed into potential working concepts," she says.

A similar innovation message came out at a "Science Day" conference held in Ottawa last spring, attended by Guelph chemistry professor Richard Manderville. Organized by the Public Policy Forum, the event included discussion of recent reports by the Council of Canadian Academies and the federal Science, Technology and Innovation Council. According to those reports, Canadian industry lags that of most other industrialized countries in R&D spending even as our public-sector research — including that done at universities — is considered among the best in the world.

Beyond the need to find better ways to turn research into products, another science challenge looms, says Manderville. "Where are all these young scientists going to come from? They've got to come from our youth."

That could be a problem. Canada ranks 20th among industrialized countries in the proportion of science and engineering grads, behind the averages for countries in the European Union and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), according to a 2005 OECD report. Almost two-thirds of the brightest 15-year-old science students in Canada and other western countries aren't interested in pursuing research careers, said another OECD study released this year. That study found that many youngsters shun science for several reasons: lack of role models, little awareness of career options, too few teachers equipped to teach science properly, a curriculum that is light on science, and stereotypes of researchers locked away in laboratories day and night.

Not even U of G science faculty and staff are immune. As recruitment officer for the College of Physical and Engineering Science and a Guelph chemistry grad, Bonnie Lasby knows about the need for scientists and the importance of science literacy. Earlier this year, she helped run U of G's first-ever Science Olympics for high school students. But her own two teenage sons plan to study something else after high school. Prof. Reggie Lo, Molecular and Cellular Biology, a longtime Guelph scientist who has judged numerous regional science fair projects over the past three decades, wryly notes that his daughter's perception is that "all scientists are geeks."

Hall gives Canada a grade of six out of 10 for scientific literacy. "I think we do a good job with young people. It's easy to develop interesting programming with seven- to 10-year-olds. Where we fail is to capture people as they grow older."

So how do we "de-geek-ify" science for the masses?
We have to look for ways to tailor the message to the audience, he says. "Universities have a huge role in public outreach."

In a way, nearly every degree parchment handed out during convocation signifies that Guelph has already done something to increase the country’s scientific literacy. But for other Canadians — of whatever age — plenty of outreach opportunities exist here, on and off campus.

Rather than reinvent wheels, U of G has established formal and informal ties with external science outreach groups already focused on kids, such as Schmidt’s Let’s Talk Science. Many University departments run science workshops, summer camps and competitions to encourage elementary and high school students to have fun with science. Faculty, staff and students coach science fair teams and “take their show on the road” by visiting area schools. Even College Royal is an opportunity to help kids get excited about science.

In the pages that follow, we offer more examples of U of G efforts to increase science literacy among Canadians and to recruit the next generation of Canadian scientists.

Helping people understand science...

In partnership with Let’s Talk Science, about 30 Guelph grad students volunteered last year with local schools during classroom visits, field trips, lab tours and workshops. DVM student and site co-ordinator Joanna McPherson hopes to double the number of volunteers this fall.

Veterinary professor Scott Weese concluded the 2008/2009 Café Scientifique series with a talk on how people and pets influence each other’s health. Café Scientifique is hosted by the Faculty of Environmental Sciences on the first Tuesday of each month (October through April) at the Bookshelf in downtown Guelph.

Laurel Nailer, BA ’04, is the visitor experience manager at the Waterloo Regional Children’s Museum, where she is planning a U of G collaboration in nanoscience for this fall’s National Science and Technology Week.

This spring, 450 Ontario high school students took part in Guelph’s first Science Olympics. Members of the University’s four science colleges ran activities such as building catapults and contests in math “Jeopardy,” chemistry “Scramble” and “Survivor” biology.

The School of Engineering’s annual WindENG contest drew 200 Ontario high school teams to show off their energy-generating wind turbine designs and compete for cash prizes. “Our goal is to engage young people and get them to think about ways that engineering can be fun and contribute in positive ways to society,” says engineering professor Warren Stiver.

U of G is celebrating the International Year of Astronomy with a lecture series that included a June presentation by physics professor Robert Brooks on modern telescopes and what they see.
The annual Ken Hammond Lectures on Environment, Energy and Resources honour a U of G graduate and environmentalist by bringing "expert" speakers to campus to discuss emerging environmental issues. Lectures are free. Everyone's welcome: www.envsci.uoguelph.ca.

Helping high school teachers learn to teach evolution was the purpose of a daylong workshop held by this year's organizers of a Darwin-themed Yodzis Colloquium in Fundamental Ecology. About 50 teachers spent the day discussing ideas for teaching evolutionary biology. Prof. Ryan Gregory, Integrative Biology, hopes the event will strengthen links between U of G and high schools and lead to similar workshops on other science topics.

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Prof. Lorraine Jadeski and grad student Geoff Collins, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, led the development of anatomy workshops for high school classes. Last fall, more than 1,000 students from schools in southern Ontario visited Guelph's cadaver lab for instruction tied to the high school biology curriculum. "Science is more than a textbook," says Collins, whose master's thesis compared the learning effectiveness of hands-on workshops versus video-only instruction.

Philosophy professor Andrew Wayne is involved in Scientists in Schools, an organization that runs science workshops across Ontario. He's even led physics and chemistry sessions at his children's school in Guelph. A former physics student himself, Wayne now studies and teaches the philosophy of science.

For more than two decades, physics professor Ernie McFarland and technician Tom Kehn took their "Fantastic Physics Fun Show" on the road to Ontario schools. "In a world of increasing technology, I think it's important to have some fundamental understanding of how the physical world around us works," says McFarland.

For the past 20 years, Guelph students have become science communicators by writing for the SPARK (Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge) program run by the Office of Research. Their articles have appeared in the University's Research magazine, local newspapers, commodity publications and The Portico.

Last winter, the Advanced Foods and Materials Network - a national Centre of Excellence program based at U of G - provided research internships at five universities for aboriginal Canadians. Two Ottawa-area students spent a week in Guelph labs as part of the program called "Be a Food Researcher for a Week."

When they talk to the media, U of G scientists help to educate us all about the impact of science on our lives. Prof. Cate Dewey of the Department of Population Medicine was one of many faculty who stepped forward last spring to talk about the H1N1 flu virus. A professor of swine health management and epidemiology, she described how the virus is transmitted and why the "swine flu" moniker is misleading to consumers.

U of G researchers who receive funds from the Ontario Research Excellence Program and Early Researcher Award Program must use up to one per cent of their funding for youth outreach. Amy Cook, B.Sc. '01, helps them do it in her job as senior policy adviser in the youth outreach unit of the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation.
The telescope dome at California's Palomar Observatory is normally a quiet place. So when applause filled that space one September evening in 1997, it meant something unusual had occurred. Indeed it had, says astronomer and Guelph graduate John “JJ” Kavelaars.

Back up a few months to earlier in the summer. That year, Kavelaars was still a graduate student at Queen's University. He had accompanied a colleague, Brett Gladman, to the 200-inch Hale Telescope at Mount Palomar. More or less out of interest, they'd gone looking for comets. But it turned out that summer was off-season for comet spotting. Prompted by Gladman's supervisor, they looked for irregular satellites of Uranus instead. And they found them, although they didn't realize it right away.

Using a telescope like the Hale to observe the sky yields more data and images than one can absorb at once. So it was a few weeks after that summer trip that Gladman reviewed their obser-
vations. He spotted something that made him pick up the phone to call Kingston. Twelve years later, Kavelaars, now a researcher with the National Research Council’s Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in Victoria, B.C., recalls Gladman’s words.

“He called me immediately and said, ‘There’s something very odd. I think I’ve found a moon of Uranus. I can’t believe this has happened. You have to look at this right away.’”

Kavelaars checked the electronic images arriving on his computer, and sure enough, there they were — two tiny dots of reflected sunlight against black night.

“Our two careers were altered significantly at that point. I still remember the moment.”

Career altering? Two new chunks of rock found orbiting a planet in the outer solar system? Consider: Uranus was first sighted in 1781 by William Herschel, peering through a seven-inch homemade telescope set up in his backyard in England. Within a few years, he spotted two moons circling the planet. By the time Gladman collected his data from the Hale Telescope, Uranus had been in astronomers’ sights for more than two centuries, and 17 moons had already been recorded by subsequent viewers. No wonder Kavelaars was skeptical.

“This couldn’t be true,” he says. “How could we be finding satellites of Uranus?”

The pair decided they’d keep quiet until they’d had a chance to visit Mount Palomar again. That happened Sept. 6.

“We pointed the scope at the location where the satellite should be,” says Kavelaars. “We took an exposure, and there it was. I’ve never been in a telescope dome where the observers have cheered when they saw the first image. We were so ecstatic. There were shouts of joy.”

The Hale discovery knocked some of his own plans out of orbit. After finishing his PhD, he’d arranged to begin a post-doc at McMaster University to study globular star clusters. He did head for Hamilton, but with a new focus.

“When I showed up in September, I had transferred from a galactic astronomer to a solar system astronomer.”

He spent the next decade as a “moon hunter.” Along with colleagues, Kavelaars eventually found more moons orbiting Uranus, Neptune, Jupiter and Saturn. He’s named dozens of planetary satellites, including Saturnian moons dubbed Ijiraq, Kiviuk and Sariaq to reflect his interest in native Inuit mythology. The moons of Uranus are named for Shakespearean characters, although Kavelaars points out a homegrown twist. He named one moon Francisco for a lord in The Tempest — and indirectly for his daughter Catherine Frances, 11. (Margaret, a moon discovered by another astronomer, is named for the servant of Hero in Much Ado About Nothing and happens to be the middle name of Kavelaars’s 13-year-old daughter, Ruth Anne.) What about his wife, Joanna Rippin? He laughs. “Try to find a Jonna in a Shakespearean character. She’s never noticed that.”

As for Kavelaars, his own name is unusual orbits. Last year, he and other scientists found a comet in the Kuiper Belt orbiting backward around the sun. The comet, dubbed Dracula, is one of two such oddballs in the outer solar system, about 4.5 billion kilometres from Earth. The astronomers are now looking much farther out to where they expect to find a “reservoir” of Halley-type comets. He’s also looking at binary or paired objects in the Kuiper Belt, including one pair of natural satellites that orbit each other at roughly walking speed rather than a more customary tilt-a-whirl pace.

His goal? He hopes studying these leftovers will tell us more about how planets and planetary systems form, including gaining clues about the formation of the solar system some 3½ to four billion years ago. These primordial objects probably retain more of their original structure, unlike the planets themselves, whose formation involved drastic changes over some 100 million years — a blink of an eye in astronomical terms. “I’m completely focused now on the remnants of the planetary formation process.”

He’s not alone. The recent discovery of extrasolar planets — about 300 have been found orbiting distant stars — has sparked interest in planetary formation among astronomers worldwide. In Victoria, Kavelaars is working with Gladman and two other scientists as the co-ordinator of the Canada-France-Ecliptic Plane Survey. That’s part of an international project using the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope in Mauna Kea to discover and track objects in the outer solar system.

That sounds exotic — until Kavelaars explains that the last time he actually visited Hawaii was in 2003. That’s when the group developed a system that allows them to send observing instructions to the telescope and receive electronic data back. Housed in a huge computer, that information is now as close as his laptop. That’s how all of Canada’s astronomers work today, he says. Admittedly, computers and electronic communication have taken some of the romance out of sky-watching, he adds, but the system makes for more economical science than his previous monthly flights across the Pacific.

“I got to know the beaches of Hawaii reasonably well, but it’s not an efficient way of doing things,” says Kavelaars, who is an adjunct physics and astronomy professor at McMaster and the University of Victoria.

“I’ve never been in a telescope dome where the observers have cheered when they saw the first image. We were so ecstatic. There were shouts of joy.”
Chasing celestial objects was hardly what he had in mind when he arrived at Guelph in 1984. Sure, he’d grown up staring up at the night sky on the family farm southwest of London, Ont., but his plan was to study agriculture and return to the farm. About a month into his first semester, he realized he’d made a mistake. By semester two, he was enrolled in physics. Recently he broached the subject of that earlier career switch with his dad, who still runs the farm.

“I felt like I had really disappointed my family,” says Kavelaars, the only son among three children. (His sisters have carved out their own high-profile careers away from the farm: Ingrid Kavelaars is an actress and Monique Kavelaars competed in fencing in the 2004 Olympics.) What did his dad say? “He said it surprised him when I said I wanted to be a farmer. It didn’t seem to fit with my interests.”

Working with Guelph physicists such as Ross Hallett and Jim Stevens, now both retired, showed Kavelaars what being a scientist was like. He laughs as he recalls another not-so-subtle hint near the end of his undergraduate studies, when he was pondering his next move. One day, he opened his locker and out fell a cosmology textbook, clunking him on the head. A subsequent talk on cosmology by a visiting Queen’s researcher led him to apply for graduate studies in Kingston.

Now in Victoria, Kavelaars, 42 — “I’m currently looking for the answer to life, the universe and everything” — is looking to the Kuiper Belt in more ways than one. Along with another Guelph physics grad, Alan Scott, B.Sc. ’91, he is pushing the Canadian Space Agency to fund the development of a suitcase-sized microsatellite that would more precisely survey the outer solar system. Positioned in low-Earth orbit, that satellite could be used to map objects in the Kuiper Belt and even out to the Oort Cloud, believed to be the source of long-period comets at the edge of the solar system. Scott is a program scientist helping to make hardware for satellites at COM DEV Canada in Ottawa. He’s currently involved in building a guidance sensor for the James Webb Space Telescope. Due for launch in 2013, that infrared telescope will look for planetary systems forming around other stars.

For their proposed microsatellite, Scott and Kavelaars have completed a concept study and now hope to begin developing a satellite. The last time they worked together was in student government at U of G in the late 1980s.

“I think it’s got a good chance,” says Scott of their proposed microsatellite, likely to cost about $22 million. (He’s also kept a hand in at Guelph, working with Prof. Mike Dixon, Environmental Biology, on advanced life-support systems for future space missions.)

Beyond planets and other space rocks, Kavelaars says he’s as interested as anyone in the Kuiper Belt and even out to the outer planets. “We looked for moons around Uranus on a whim as much as anything,” Others said there were none to be found. We

That curiosity is apparently ageless. He recalls a talk he gave to a group of retirees. Afterward, they had lots of questions. Someone asked whether we’ll ever reach another planet. Someone else wanted to know about extraterrestrial spacecraft possibly making the reverse trip.

Kavelaars takes such questions in stride. “The reason we get so swept up in UFO sightings is not because people really think it happens but because of an innate desire that it would happen.”

By Andrew Vowles
It's no wonder Theresa Firestone, B.A.Sc. '78, places a high value on volunteering; she's convinced her volunteer experience helped her get her first job.

Firestone hadn't done any volunteering in high school, but not long after she enrolled in U of G's family studies program, she and some friends dropped by the campus volunteer office. It was a spur-of-the-moment decision, but it changed her life. Two opportunities caught her eye: working with children with learning disabilities and helping developmentally handicapped adults living in a community residential setting.

"I found that I liked it," says Firestone. "In fact, I liked it more than going to classes because it was reality, being in the real world. In those days, we didn't have much in the way of practicums, and I liked being where the action was and working with real people."

Soon she was spending 30 hours a week as a volunteer while continuing to attend classes and keep up her grades. She graduated with not only a degree but also a track record of hundreds of hours of volunteer work experience.

"Because I was able to talk about my volunteering, I was hired into a more management-type position than other grads were," she says.

Her volunteer work meant much more than padding out a résumé, however. Firestone believes it helped her become more compassionate and more understanding of the needs of others facing challenges.

Working with the Ontario Ministry of Health, she moved through a number of positions with significant responsibility. She says that's one of the advantages of public service — the opportunity to gain broad experience in less time than it would typically take in the private sector.

Early in her career, she worked in home care, legislation policy, and public and mental health, and was also director of the ministry's psychiatric hospitals branch, overseeing the 10 psychiatric hospitals run by the province. She went on to serve as director of the Drug Reform Secretariat and then director of the ministry's drug programs branch.

Firestone says her proudest accomplishment was leading the team that developed the province's Trillium Drug Program, which helps employed people who have prescription drug costs that are high in relation to their income.

"Before the program was introduced, people were having to make decisions about whether to eat or buy their medications," she says. "There were also people making significant amounts of money who still couldn't afford their drugs because they were so expensive. It's a program I'm very pleased to have been involved with."

In 1996, Firestone left public service to become president and CEO of the Canadian Wholesale Drug Association. In 1999, she went to work for Pfizer Canada Inc. as vice-president, government and public affairs. After six years in that role, she decided she'd like a different perspective of the business, so she switched jobs with the vice-president, sales.

"I had no experience in sales, and he had no experience in government, so it was an interesting experiment. It was great for me to have a chance to learn the other side of the business."

She obviously learned it well, because two years later she was appointed country manager for Pfizer Austria, responsible for managing all aspects of the company's business in the country.

Much was different in Austria — for one thing, business is conducted in German, which Firestone doesn't speak — but she was surprised by one aspect that was familiar. When she met with representatives of the Austrian health-care system and mentioned she'd worked for the Ontario government, they told her they had copied and used the province's pharmaceutical guidelines — guidelines she had actually developed and implemented years before.

"So I still had these connections to home," she says.

Firestone's husband moved to Vienna with her, but her son and daughter remained behind to attend university. In 2009, she moved back to Canada to take on new responsibility as general manager of the established products business unit at Pfizer Canada.

Before moving to Austria, Firestone had been involved in a lot of charitable work, including serving as vice-
chair of the Childhood Cancer Foundation. Language was a barrier to getting similarly involved in Austria, but she actively promoted volunteering among her Pfizer employees.

"People could sign up and take a half day or day off to do volunteer work with one of the charities we support in Vienna," she says. "Pfizer donates funds as well, but many places don't need just funding — they also need people to help out. Our program tries to make it easy for people to volunteer by giving them time off and encouraging them to sign up with their colleagues."

It was Firestone's commitment to volunteering at U of G and beyond that inspired the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences to introduce an annual Student Volunteer Award in 1999.

"I'm very pleased about that award," she says. "I know that for many students, volunteering seems tough to fit in. It can be hard with school, maybe a part-time job and making the adjustment to living away from home, but volunteering is such an important part of life. We need to give back."

She credits U of G with giving her the sense of social responsibility that has guided her in making decisions throughout her career.

"It started for me when I went to that volunteer office and made those connections. I don't know if I would have had the same experience or developed the same values if I'd gone to university anywhere else."

By Teresa Pitman
do feed the animals

Eduardo Valdes, M.Sc. '82 and PhD '94, head of animal nutrition at Walt Disney World, is a key player on that team. “Hippos are probably the most challenging animals to get to lose weight,” says Valdes. “I had cut their food intake back, but it wasn’t helping. So the animal-care team trained the animals to swim from one end of their lake to the other, then back again, a few times a day. The treats they used as rewards were calculated into their diet.”

Helping hippos stay trim wasn’t what Valdes had in mind when he came to Canada from his homeland of Chile. He’d completed an undergraduate degree in animal science at the University of Chile and wanted to continue his education at U of G. First, however, he spent four years working as a zookeeper at the Toronto Zoo.

“That time as a zookeeper changed my whole career,” he says. “I developed an interest in exotic animals and began to see nutrition in a different way.”

That’s why, after completing his PhD at Guelph, Valdes headed back to the Toronto Zoo as an animal nutritionist — work he loved. But in 2001, he was invited to apply to Walt Disney World to oversee the feeding of some 7,000 animals (more than 200 different species). After an interview, he was offered the job but intended to turn it down. When he arrived home that day, however, he discovered Disney had sent his family a bouquet of flowers and toys for the children.

“My daughter greeted me at the door and said: ‘Daddy, we’re going to Disney World!’ They made the decision for me.”

And as it turned out, it was a great decision, he says.

Today, Valdes oversees the feeding of animals throughout the theme park — everything from the white ponies that pull Cinderella’s carriage and the elephants on the Kilimanjaro safari ride to the huge tanks of fish and marine mammals that make up the Living Seas in Epcot.

“Feeding animals in captive conditions is challenging,” he says. “It’s often hard to mimic their natural diet, and if they’re deficient, the effects may not show up right away. Over the years, zoos lost a lot of animals because of their diets. Animal feed companies tended to assume that because a giraffe is a ruminant, they could just take cattle feed, change the name on the package, and it would be OK for giraffes. But a giraffe is not a cow.”

Valdes says his approach to creating appropriate diets has involved several steps. “I first look at what an animal is known to eat in the wild and at the kind of digestive system it has.”

If the animal’s natural food isn’t available, he looks for substitutes. The Disney giraffes, for example, eat willow instead of acacia leaves. Customized pellet foods he’s developed help make up any nutritional deficiencies.

Coming up with an appropriate menu is just the beginning, he says. “You have to consider how the animals are fed — are they alone or in a group? With the fish and marine mammals, they’re in tanks, so that’s another challenge. We also continuously monitor and analyze the water quality.”

In addition, Valdes has to take into account the need for animal enrichment and training. He provides the food rewards that Disney staff use in working with the animals and makes sure they’re factored into the animals’ diet plan. The training isn’t to get the animals to shake a paw or do tricks — it’s aimed at making any needed medical care less stressful. The gorillas, for example, have been taught to stand at the barrier and allow veterinarians to do cardiac ultrasounds to detect heart problems; they’ll also hold up an arm for an injection.

“In other places, these animals might have to be sedated for these procedures,” says Valdes. “This is a big advancement because we can do this preventive health care in a way that is not stressful for the animals.”

Because the animals are constantly monitored (even their feces are collected and assessed), he can identify when an individual animal’s levels of a particular nutrient are too low.
"We can make changes in the diet and monitor the results very quickly," he says. "Now we have 10 years of data on what the animals were fed and the outcomes. I'm putting together some research papers, and I might write a book."

That's something he learned at U of G, he adds — how to interpret research and how to conduct studies that yield useful results. He's also incorporating another skill from his Guelph days: teaching. Disney encourages its animal-care experts to contribute beyond the theme park boundaries, says Valdes, who's on graduate committees at several universities and has travelled to Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Chile and Puerto Rico to teach in local communities.

In Puerto Rico, he's also been involved in conservation efforts to protect the Puerto Rican crested toad, an endangered species. "This project started when I was at the Toronto Zoo, and I've continued it here." His favourite classes may be the ones with the youngest students because they give him an opportunity to share something else he heard a lot about at U of G.

"Even when I was a student, people were talking about the importance of protecting the environment. When I go to Puerto Rico, I talk to the middle-school kids about what we're doing to save these toads and what they can do to protect their habitats. We can't do conservation in a vacuum; we have to share what we're learning with people around the world."

By Teresa Pitman
When Justice Sharon Nicklas, BA '89, dons her robes to preside over the Mental Health Court in Kitchener, Ont., for the first time this October, she will have come full circle. Four years ago, she played a key role in starting the court while she was deputy Crown attorney for Waterloo Region.

The road that led Nicklas to this particular courtroom had its beginnings, as many roads in life do, in serendipity. When she enrolled at U of G in 1984, her plan was to major in biological sciences, but she ended up switching to co-op psychology. A few years later, with a BA in sight, Nicklas had another plan: graduate school. But serendipity wasn't through with her yet.

A member of the women's hockey Gryphons, she was often teased by her teammates for her dedication to her schoolwork. "We'd go out, and after a while I'd say: 'Gotta go' because I needed to study." It was those teammates who convinced her to consider law as a career.

"They thought I was outgoing and said I always had an opinion. I don't think that was actually very flattering, but they did succeed in getting me to give it a try."

After graduating from Guelph, Nicklas enrolled at the University of Toronto's law school. Summers and breaks were spent getting real-life experience, including a stint at the prosecutor's office in Kitchener.

After articling with Hamilton's Crown attorney, she was called to the bar in 1994 and served as assistant Crown prosecutor in Hamilton, Brantford and Waterloo Region before being appointed Waterloo's deputy Crown attorney in 2003.

Although her psychology studies were long behind her by now, they were still playing a significant role in her career.

"There were so many cases involving people with mental health issues. I started tracking them and worked with defence lawyer Steve Gehl, who defended many of these cases, to determine whether they might be better served in a different court."

The next step was to approach Justice Gary Hearn about starting a special Mental Health Court in Waterloo.

"You're seeing people at their lowest point, and you're able to have an impact on their situation and help them find their way to a better place."

Region. He gave the go-ahead to launch the court in September 2005. It runs one day a week, with four local judges taking turns presiding, and was one of five similar programs in Ontario when it began. Since then, other jurisdictions have created such courts.

"People are still held accountable," says Nicklas, "but we look at cases from the perspective of: 'Does this person need help, and can we connect him or her to the help he or she needs?'"

At the same time, the court aims to protect the rights of the public as well as the accused while maintaining the integrity of the criminal justice system.

She notes that if a defendant is found not criminally responsible by reason of mental disorder for any crime, the Ontario Review Board takes over.

"It determines whether someone can be safely reintegrated into the community. I believe there are cases where the board doesn't release people back into the community if the risk remains too high."

To make the Mental Health Court program work, Nicklas built connections and attended many meetings with staff from local hospitals and community mental health and support programs.

"We were looking for community-based solutions," she says. During this process, she reconnected with Gryphon hockey teammate Helen (Fishburn) Calzonetti, BA '90, who works in this field.

The court has a support co-ordinator who helps link people accused of crimes with the services they need: psychiatric assessments, housing, counselling, access to medication or in-hospital treatment.

"It's not a 'get-out-of-jail-free card,'" Nicklas emphasizes, but linking people with the supports they need can significantly reduce the risk of reoffending. The court benefits not only the mentally ill who appear before it but also the entire community, she says.

When she served as deputy Crown attorney — and acting Crown attorney in 2007 — her work became focused on management, but she missed the courtroom setting. Applying to become a provincial court judge seemed like the next logical step in her career. In August 2007, she was appointed to the bench in Kitchener/Guelph, becoming one of the younger judges presiding over Ontario courtrooms.

The transition from prosecutor to judge has gone smoothly, says Nicklas,
although she faced a fairly steep learning curve in preparing to adjudicate family law situations after many years of dealing solely with criminal cases.

"Initially it appeared to be a very daunting task, but once I review the facts and the law on the issues in a case, the decision usually becomes apparent. You find a pathway through the case and an understanding that makes sense to you."

She does spend a considerable amount of time reflecting on her cases and researching current law — more than she had anticipated. There's no easing into the new responsibilities of a judge, she says.

"They can't really just start you out on easy cases and later have you move to the harder ones. You get the cases that come in, and I have had some really challenging ones. Fortunately, I have a broad criminal law background, and that has helped."

She adds that she has received great support from her colleagues, including another U of G graduate, Justice David Carr, BA '71.

Despite her long hours, Nicklas hasn't forgotten her love of hockey. "My best experience at Guelph was playing on the varsity hockey team," she says. "I made great friends and still play hockey with Karen Rooney, B.Sc. (H.K.) '88, and Mari-Jayne Woodyatt and Pat Fogarty, both BA '88."

She also coaches her daughter's hockey team and throws in a little soccer coaching for her son as well.

"I had the best coaching I've ever had when I played at Guelph, and that makes you realize how important coaching is. I try to be a mentor to the girls on my daughter's team."

Nicklas, who's married to former football Gryphon Al Anonech, BA '94, says she works hard at balancing her work life and family life. "My husband was my biggest cheerleader in my pursuit of the bench and has been terrific in helping me achieve this balance," she says.

She appreciates that her role as a judge allows her to give back to the community in a unique way.

"You're trying to help people through the worst crises of their lives. You're seeing people at their lowest point, and you're able to have an impact on their situation and help them find their way to a better place."

By Teresa Pitman
Volunteers shine in UGAA awards

Each year, the University of Guelph Alumni Association honours alumni, a staff member and a student through its awards of excellence. Meet the 2009 recipients:

Alumnus of Honour
Neal Stoskopf, BSA '57

Neal Stoskopf was a U of G administrator and faculty member for 37 years before retiring in 1994. He taught more than 28 introductory and senior undergraduate courses during his career and served as director of the associate diploma program. From 1988 to 1993, he was also the curriculum coordinator for the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program.

Stoskopf's innovative research in wheat breeding has been widely recognized in Canada and abroad. In 1995, he and two colleagues received China's Friendship Medal, the country's highest honour given to foreign researchers. Their work introduced winter wheat to China and increased wheat production by up to 25 per cent.

In retirement, Stoskopf has worked with the Canadian Executive Service Organization on assignments in China, the Philippines, Bolivia and Bulgaria, teaching sustainable agricultural practices. He's also been president of the board of directors of Resource Efficient Agricultural Production since 2000.

Alumni Volunteer Award
Mary Lynn McPherson, B.Sc.(Agr.) '80

Mary Lynn McPherson's volunteer involvement with OAC over the last 20 years has led to various leadership positions with the OAC Alumni Association, the OAC Alumni Foundation and the UGAA. She also co-led a negotiation skills course for three Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program classes.

In addition, McPherson dedicates her time to various community groups, including the Ontario 4-H Foundation, the London Chamber of Commerce, the Centre for Rural Leadership, the Woolwich Community Health-Care Centre, Toastmasters and Strive. In addition, she has co-led a negotiation skills course for three Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program classes.

Employee Volunteer Award
Jennifer Beehler, ADA '92

Jennifer Beehler became a campus volunteer when she joined the Central Animal Facility in 1989 and got involved in United Way activities. She is now secretary to the chair of the Department of Clinical Studies in the Ontario Veterinary College. Beehler served as OVC area co-ordinator for the U of G United Way campaign before being asked to co-chair the 2008 campus campaign, which raised $490,000. She will complete a second term as co-chair this fall. Beehler is also a talented singer/songwriter who performs in the Guelph area and uses her talents to raise money for many community organizations.

Student Volunteer Award
Cailey Campbell, BA '09

While completing her degree in anthropology, Cailey Campbell dedicated many hours to human rights issues on campus. She organized anti-sexism, anti-racism and anti-ableism workshops to enhance the personal growth and social consciousness of students, co-ordinated events to raise awareness of human rights violations in Haiti, and participated in a human rights travel seminar in El Salvador. She was external commissioner for the Central Student Association (CSA) from 2007 to 2009, served as events co-ordinator with the CSA's human rights office and was on the board of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group.
Networking

Reunions, reunions, reunions

The Ontario Agricultural College diploma class of 1959 was one of 34 special reunion classes that celebrated during Alumni Weekend 2009. The diploma class held a 50th-anniversary dinner at the Arboretum. The OAC degree class celebrated with 1959 grads from the Ontario Veterinary College and Macdonald Institute at the sold-out President’s Lunch. A separate alumni dinner honoured silver-anniversary celebrants.

In total, more than 1,200 alumni were back on campus June 19 and 20 to reconnect with friends and classmates. The reunion classes spanned almost seven decades from 1939 to 2004. Combined, they have provided $6.6 million to the University in lifetime giving.

Plans for Alumni Weekend 2010 are already under way. If your class is planning a reunion, contact Helen McCairley at hmcailr@uoguelph.ca.

Gryphonville takes silver

The hockey day in Gryphonville reunion event, which was held for the first time last fall, reunited hockey alumni and honoured the 1958 OAC championship team. The event was recently recognized by the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education in its Prix D’Excellence awards program, earning the silver award in the best alumni event category.

Hockey Day in Gryphonville will be held again Nov. 14, 2009, celebrating the 1975/76 championship Gryphons. For more information, contact Jacqueline Watty at jroberts@uoguelph.ca.

To learn more about giving to U of G scholarships, visit www.alumni.uoguelph.ca.

Alumni show their pride

Alumni reunions are special times, offering old friends and classmates a chance to reconnect and rekindle fond memories of time spent on campus. Whether the class is celebrating 25, 50 or 60 years, returning alumni feel a strong connection with their alma mater. Certainly this happens with most universities, but I have found it’s more pronounced at Guelph.

Alumni have many reasons to take pride in the University today. U of G is taking a leadership role in dealing with world priorities involving food, animal/human health, environment and communities.

Several of this year’s reunion classes have made a strong commitment to their alma mater through financial support of tangible projects, reflecting their appreciation of the University’s impact on their lives and their desire to help U of G make a difference.

I met with the OAC class of 1959, whose members decided to support student education through international travel as their legacy gift. They felt strongly about the importance of internationalism and real-world experience. Relationships like this among the University, students and alumni continue to deliver great benefits all around.

My colleagues and I welcome opportunities to meet with alumni to explore ways to strengthen your connection with the University and your personal legacy or that of your class.

Joanne Shoveller
Vice-President
(Alumni Affairs and Development)

PHOTO BY HAMILTON SCHWARTZ

JOHNNY QUILT

PHOTO BY KYLE RUSPOLI

PHOTO BY DANIEL HOI

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UGAA launches new year

A new slate of directors was approved at the University of Guelph Alumni Association’s annual general meeting June 20. Front row, from left: Sandy Warley, H.D.La. ’03; president Linda Hruska, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’85 and M.Agr. ’88; past president Trish Walker, BA ’77 and M.Sc. ’90; and director of alumni affairs Jason Moreton, BA ’00. Back row: recording secretary Vikki Tremblay; vice-president external Ted Young, ADA ’65; Brandon Gorman, B.Comm. ’06; Meaghan Hourigan, BA ’07; Colin Henry, BA ’91; Ian Rumbles, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’79; vice-president internal Brad Rooney, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’97; and David Bruce, B.Sc. ’76. Absent: Debby Pavlove, BA ’94 and MA ’96.

Praise for athletes

The cover story in The Portico Summer 2009 issue generated comments from current and former varsity athletes, including this from football Gryphon Stephen O’Brien, BA ’05 and MA ’07, of Mississauga, Ont.

“The rigours and challenges associated with being a student-athlete are something many people don’t understand. I am proud that my alma mater is now offering financial support to its student-athletes. These students are fantastic ambassadors for U of G. Their continued individual success is integral to the overall success of the University of Guelph. I have supported and will continue to support Gryphon athletics. Go, Gryphons!”

To read O’Brien’s full letter and comments from other alumni, see The Portico online at www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.ca.

Applauding students

Guelph’s undergraduate students initiated and supported an energy conservation referendum in April 2007, pledging $10 each per semester for 12 years. Graduate students followed suit the following spring, bringing student pledges up to more than $4.3 million and creating an Energy Conservation Fund that is already paying dividends in reduced energy use and costs.

The students who initiated this program showed remarkable vision. Their gift to the University and the students who have yet to arrive on campus is a powerful demonstration of leadership and foresight. But it’s not surprising. Guelph students are known for their social responsibility, environmental awareness and civic engagement — a big part of the exemplary student experience at U of G.

Guelph is one of the first universities in Canada to take on such a project. It’s a perfect example of how students are demonstrating their commitment to their alma mater and to future generations; they’re already thinking and acting like alumni. In addition to posting immediate benefits on campus, U of G students are setting an example and making a difference throughout the world.

The University of Guelph Alumni Association couldn’t be more proud of today’s students and this extraordinary pledge to the University and to the environment. The UGAA’s 92,000 alumni members salute you!

LINDA HRUSKA
B.Sc.(Agr.) ’85, M.Agr. ’88
President, UGAA
OAC ’49 stays connected 60 years after graduation

Those who graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College 60 years ago had much to celebrate. With the Second World War behind them and their BSA degrees in hand, the 261 graduates were full of life, and life was full of promise.

The class of ’49 was more than twice the size of the OAC classes preceding it because it included 177 veterans; many were already married and had families. Academics was a priority for the ’49ers, but class president Dave Adams says there was still time for fun and a tremendous esprit de corps. Their memories include the morning the campus woke to find a Hurricane fighter plane assembled nose-down in crash position on Johnston Green. And there were romances, including that of Murray McRae and Dorothy Knapp, who met in the program and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1999.

When they graduated, class members bought a clock for the tower of Johnston Hall.

“We wanted something of our own, something permanent that would stand out and always be visible,” says class secretary Don McArthur. “We were proud of OAC and wanted to leave something of value that would contribute to the enjoyment and the identity of the campus.”

Since then, OAC ’49 has continued to give generously to the University. About $815,000 has been raised for commemorative projects that have enhanced the campus.

“I think our class has felt a very strong urge to try to repay Guelph in some small measure for the good start it gave us in our careers and our lives,” says Adams.

He adds that nearly 80 people — 35 class members and their guests — attended their 60th-anniversary reunion at Alumni Weekend 2009, coming from Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Michigan and Florida.

Read more about OAC ’49 at www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 25 to 27 • HTM 40th anniversary. The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management invites all HTFM alumni, guests to attend the annual event. For more details, visit www.alumni.uoguelph.ca/htm40.

Sept. 26 • Homecoming 2009, games vs Western Mustangs, at 7 p.m., Alumni Stadium.

Sept. 28 • Alumni get together for grads of Real Estate and Housing at the Steam Whistle Brewery, Toronto.

Oct. 1 • Networking event for human resource management (HRM) alumni, 7 p.m., Bursar in the Athab. Join former classmates, current students, faculty and staff for the first HRM alumni event. Learn about changes to the HRM degree program, and listen to a panel of faculty discussing hot topics in human resources.

Oct. 15 • U of G’s president John W. Vine will address the University’s 140th-anniversary convocation ceremonies.

Nov. 12 • OVC dean Elizabeth Storo invites alumni for her presentation at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Ottawa, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For details, visit www.alumni.uoguelph.ca/ovc.

Nov. 14 • Hockey Day at Greyhounds 2009. All former varsity hockey players and their families and friends are invited to honour the 1977/78 team, which made a national junior championship in September. For more information, contact Jacqueline Wady at 519-824-4123, Ext. 64773.

Nov. 19 to 22 • Fall Mennonite Craft Show and Sale University Centre. Visit www.uoguelph.ca/aggex/mseauhtml.

June 18 and 19, 2010 • Alumni Weekend. To plan a reunion, contact Helen McGallay at mmcgallay@uoguelph.ca

Dress for Success

Guelph grads enjoyed an evening of mingling and shopping at Banana Republic’s flagship store in Toronto July 8. More than 150 U of G and McMaster University alumni attended the event.
Saving ‘the lungs of the planet’

Nineteenth-century conservationist and naturalist John Muir once said: “When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

More than 100 years later, it’s a quote that U of G zoology graduate Thomas Leuteritz, B.Sc. ’90, often refers to when asked about the importance of his life’s work.

Now stationed in the tiny African nation of Gabon, Leuteritz is the newly appointed director of the Gabon Biodiversity Program for the Smithsonian Institution. In this role, he is working to advance the Smithsonian’s goal to develop more environmentally friendly and sustainable management practices for resource extraction in the Gamba Complex. He will also create biological research stations to attract scientists from around the world who are interested in ecological research in this region.

“I’m a conservation ecologist, so I like the idea of taking the things I do as a scientist and the research that’s been done by others and applying it to practical applications people need,” he says.

Leuteritz’s work focuses primarily on a busy resource extraction corridor between the Loango and Moukalaba-Doudou national parks, which are rich in plant and animal biodiversity. On its own, Loango boasts more than 2,000 tree species, 67 species of reptiles and amphibians, 200 bird varieties, 18 species of medium-sized and large mammals and a dozen varieties of small animals.

“It’s one of the more pristine parts of the Congolese rainforest in west-central Africa,” he says. “Eighty-five per cent of the forest is intact, and we want to maintain that.”

But amid activity by the oil industry, which has had a strong presence in the area for 40 years, and the more recent introduction of selective logging, striking a balance between ecology and the need for resources is critical. For example, Leuteritz and his team are working to develop protocols to combat the movement of fire ants, an invasive species that can crawl into the wheel ridges and other parts of vehicles used by oil extractors. This may involve a strict policy of fumigating vehicles before they leave the region, he says. The team is working on this in partnership with Gabonese scientists, the Shell Foundation, Shell International and Shell Gabon.

“The reality in this world is that we need certain resources, but we also need to consider the biodiversity,” says Leuteritz. “Ecosystems in places like the Congolese rainforest, the Amazon Basin and New Guinea contain large tracts of rainforest that offer a variety of ecosystem services, which are basically the lungs of the planet. When one species is lost, that puts the entire ecosystem, including humans, at risk. It’s much like a spider web: when one thread is snapped, the entire structure becomes compromised.”

This is not his first time working in Africa. After earning a master’s degree at the University of Michigan, he studied tortoises in Madagascar as part of his PhD research at George Mason University. He also did a post-doctoral stint in South Africa. Both of these nations have biological “hot spots” because of the high levels of biodiversity and the high levels of threat from such things as hunting and habitat loss, he says.

Leuteritz has also served as a consultant in the United Arab Emirates and taught conservation biology at the University of Redlands in California and at the University of Hawaii.

By Rebecca Kendall
Braids over the ocean

Eight-year-old Taya Kendall has braided the lives of several Guelph graduates because of her desire to help other children. She is the unlikely publisher of a book by acclaimed children's author Robert Munsch, H.D.Lett. '00.

Taya is the daughter of Paul Kendall, BA '90, and Rebecca Kendall, BA '99, a writer in U of G's Department of Communications and Public Affairs. Last January, Taya started a newspaper at Sir Isaac Brock School in Guelph as a way to raise money for Children of Bukati, a charity founded by veterinary professor Cate Dewey, DVM '79, M.Sc. '88 and PhD '92. The school regularly raises money for the charity, which assists more than 650 HIV/AIDS orphans at Bukati Primary School in Butula, Kenya.

After a chance meeting at the local library, Munsch sent Taya an unpublished story about braiding hair to print in the school newspaper. She asked other students at Sir Isaac Brock to draw pictures for the story, and the response was so great, she eventually produced a 36-page book called Braids.

A former adjunct professor at U of G, Munsch has written more than 40 books and has sold 30 million copies.

The story about Braids has garnered national media attention, with the children of Bukati being the ultimate winners. "Profit from the sale of one book will feed an orphaned child for a week and provide a pencil for the child to use at school," says Dewey.

For more information about Braids, go to www.childrenofbukati.com.
Deborah Poff, BA ’74 and PhD ’88, has been appointed the 16th president and vice-chancellor of Brandon University. She joined Brandon Aug. 1 from the University of Northern British Columbia, where she was founding dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and served for 10 years as vice-president (academic) and provost. A philosophy professor, she co-founded and continues to edit the Journal of Business Ethics and the Journal of Academic Ethics. She is also president-elect of the National Council on Ethics in Human Research and vice-president, development, of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Poff is married to retired U of G philosophy professor Alex Michalos, who is chancellor of UNBC.

Doug Romanek, B.Comm. ’79, has been operating a special-ty bakeshop called Nana’s Bakery for 10 years in Windsor, Ont. Its specialty products include diabetic and gluten-free baking. He also offers classes for people with special dietary needs.

Patricia (Richards) Steer, B.Sc. 70, retired from teaching science and family studies in Burlington, Ont., in 2005 and now helps her daughter and son-in-law run Angel House Bed and Breakfast in Creemore. The B&B offers a 10-per-cent discount for Guelph grads.

Bob Stephenson, BA ’74, retired from the Ontario Ministry of Revenue in 2008 after a 30-year career with the federal and provincial governments. He and his wife, Daniele, live in Newcastle, Ont., and are enjoying retirement, pursuing their love of skiing, golfing and cycling. They have two grown sons and a grandchild.

Laura Tryssenaar, B.A.Sc. ’75, of Listowel, Ont., has retired after 28 years of teaching high school family studies. She was the lead writer for the textbook and teachers’ guide Parenting in Canada: Human Growth and Development, published in 2003. She received a PhD from the University of Western Ontario in 2005 and now writes and teaches additional qualification courses in family studies for Queen’s University.

1980s

Linda Bolton, DVM ’84, a veterinarian in Walkerton, Ont., received the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association’s Award of Merit this year for her many contributions to veterinary medicine and animal welfare. Those contributions include her involvement in the Cat Lake Project, which takes volunteer-
Enthusiastic about agriculture

They were breathing in smoke and watching the ash fall all summer, but Matthew and Molly (Bannerman) Thurston, both B.Sc.(Agr) ’04, say the fires around Kelowna, B.C., were inconvenient but not devastating to the Okanagan Valley, where they both work in the agricultural industry.

He’s a credit adviser with Farm Credit Canada; she’s a horticulturalist with the Okanagan Tree Fruit Cooperative. When the north-south highway was closed for a few days, trucks of cherries were delayed getting to the packing house in Kelowna, says Molly “Overall, the summer heat was wonderful for the fruit growth, but we experienced very dry conditions and water shortages. Several fruit growers exceeded their water allocations.”

Molly is on home turf in Kelowna; she met Ontario-born Matt when both were studying at U of G. They enjoyed a variety of summer jobs in the agricultural industry and, after graduation, worked in Lethbridge, Alta., and on organic farms in England, Scotland and Wales before settling in Kelowna. Matt’s first job in the Okanagan was helping to manage a vineyard, and he has taken additional courses in viticulture and banking. In addition to their current jobs, they’re running their own small organic farm.

Matt also referees in the Western Hockey League, averaging 15 games a month for the Kelowna Rockets. Both enjoy running and cycling and often take cycling vacations.

for the last 20 years. “I have many fond memories from my time at U of G and visit the campus at least once a year,” says Patrick. “My wife and I actually took baby Jana for a stroll up Vineyard Walk and hiked through the Arboretum this summer. Maybe someday my daughter will be lucky enough to attend the University of Guelph.”

- Christine Fraser-McDonald, BA ’87, recently completed a municipal administration program course en route to becoming clerk for the Township of Georgian Bluffs, surrounding Owen Sound, Ont.
- Richard Guio, B.Sc. ’83, has been with the Ontario Provincial Police for 24 years and is currently a staff sergeant and unit commander of the central tactics and rescue unit at OPP headquarters in Orillia. He and his wife, Anne, have two children: Tom, 16; and Michelle, 14.
- Brad Honeywill, BA ’81, was elected president of the Southern Ontario Newspage Guild in 2006 after 25 years as a journalist at the Windsor Star, Hamilton Spectator and Toronto Sun. With two children in university and a third about to go, Honeywill says he is “seeking a financial bailout from the provincial and federal governments.” He lives in Toronto.
- Elaine (White) Huxter, B.Com., says her husband built a straw bale house in Eden Mills.
- Mary (Atkins) Carley, M.Sc. ’90, received Conestoga College’s 2009 Aubrey Hagar Award for Teaching Excellence. She joined Conestoga’s nursing faculty almost 30 years ago. Her husband, Robert, M.Sc. ’83, is also a Guelph graduate, as are her parents, Janet, DHE ’37, and George Atkins, BSA ’39 and H.D.Ia. ’89. Carley’s grandfather was Prof.W.C. Blackwood, for whom U of G’s Blackwood Hall is named.
- Jackie Fraser, B.Sc.(Agr) ’94 and M.Sc. ’96, and her husband, Derek Roberts, welcomed their first daughter, Charlotte Willow, in June 2008. They have opened Fraberts Fresh Food in the old marketplace in Fergus, Ont., offering local produce, meat, gourmet cheeses and ready-made meals. A number of their suppliers are U of G grads, including Krista Harrington, B.Sc.(Agr) ’05 (From These Rooks gourmet jams); Katie Wilman, B.Sc.(Agr)

South Walk and hiked through the ship of Georgia Bluffs, surrounded by trees and ticks and rescue unit at the University of Georgia, has been named a Regents Professor by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. The honour recognizes her internationally renowned research on atmospheric biogeochemical and climate change. Leclerc joined the University of Georgia in 1995 and heads the Laboratory for Environmental Physics and Atmospheric Biogeochemes. Previously, she taught at Utah State University and the University of Quebec at Montreal. Leclerc was also honoured recently by Peking University, receiving the title of Honorary Professor at its State Key Laboratory. In addition, she was the first woman and youngest person ever to be voted president-elect of the International Society of Biometeorology.

Laura Murray, B.Sc. ’89, has been working at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto for 10 years and is currently co-ordinator of the Innovation Centre.

1990s

- Ruth Bowes, BA ’98, a realtor based in Rockwood, Ont., has become an accredited green agent, allowing her to bring her environmental interests and green business practices to her work. She took green a step further this year when she and her husband built a straw bale house in Eden Mills.
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- Jackie Fraser, B.Sc.(Agr) ’94 and M.Sc. ’96, and her husband, Derek Roberts, welcomed their first daughter, Charlotte Willow, in June 2008. They have opened Fraberts Fresh Food in the old marketplace in Fergus, Ont., offering local produce, meat, gourmet cheeses and ready-made meals. A number of their suppliers are U of G grads, including Krista Harrington, B.Sc.(Agr) ’05 (From These Rooks gourmet jams); Katie Wilman, B.Sc.(Agr)
Derek Roberts, Jackie Fraser and daughter Charlotte '97 (dairy goat products); and Brad, ADA '80, and Heather Fraser, BA '78 and ADA '80, (Harvest Goodies).

■ Derek Künsken, B.Sc. '94, who lives in Gatineau, Que., published a short story called Getting High With Thomas the Apostle in the spring 2009 issue of the literary magazine sub-Termin. It's the story of three boys living on the streets of Honduras and is his first publication outside of science fiction.

■ Jefferson Frisbee, B.Sc. (H.K.) '92, M.Sc. '93 and PhD '97, has been selected by the Microcirculatory Society, Inc., to serve as editor-in-chief of its official journal, Microcirculation. Frisbee is an associate professor of physiology and pharmacology at West Virginia University.

■ Celeste Gray, BA '90, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and worked in purchasing after graduating from Guelph. She's now a child-care worker in Germany, where she has lived for the past five years with her husband.

■ Derek Künsken, B.Sc. '94, who lives in Gatineau, Que., published a short story called Getting High With Thomas the Apostle in the spring 2009 issue of the literary magazine sub-Termin. It's the story of three boys living on the streets of Honduras and is his first publication outside of science fiction.

■ Alain Lajeunesse, B.Sc.(Agr.) '90 and MBA '99, and his wife, Paula Rogers, B.A.Sc. '92, announce the arrival of their son, Malin, who is 2½ and was born in Ethiopia. Lajeunesse was recently appointed manager of business development and communication services with Holstein Canada, based in Brantford, Ont.

■ Laura-May Mason, BA '96, lives in Fergus, Ont., and is a social work consultant with the Upper Grand District School Board. She also works privately as a personal transformation counsellor/coach/consultant.

■ Mark McCutcheon, BA '95 and PhD '06, is an assistant professor of literary studies at Athabasca University in Alberta. His article "Downloading Doppelgängers: New Media Anxieties and Transnational Ironies in Battlestar Galactica" recently appeared in the journal Science Fiction Film and Television.

■ Ross Mitchell, M.Sc. '98, has been a social impact assessment specialist at Goldar Associates Ltd. in Calgary since 2008.

■ Alan Smithson, B.Sc. '99, started his own DJ business, Star Productions Inc., when he was a student at Guelph and was the resident DJ at the Brass Taps and the Bullring from 1996 to 1999. In 2005, he went back to the business full-time and now offers both audiovisual and DJ services. He was nominated for an Entertainer of the Year award in 2008. This year, Star Productions won a Canadian Event Industry Award for best use of lighting. The company's website is www.starproductions.com.

■ Joy Sterritt, MA '91, is a...
supervisor with the field services division of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. She lives in Brockville.

- Laura-Jane Swan, BA ’94, teaches English and dance at a secondary school in Auckland, New Zealand. Last year, she was one of six teachers selected from across the country to travel to Zambia to pilot the ChildFund Global Schools Program, which focuses on the quality and sustainability of education in developing nations. For more information, visit www.childfundchallenge.co.nz/LauraSwan.

- Graham Takata, B.Sc.(Env.) ’98, went on to earn a master’s degree at Ryerson University and is now head of research and client services for Zerofootprint. Previously, he worked for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and an environmental consulting firm. He lives in Toronto with his wife, Judi; their son, David; and their dog, Ralph.

- Stephen and Lee-Ann (Thorne) Turley, both ADA ’92, will celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary Oct. 15, not their 13th as reported in the summer issue of The Portico. They have three children: Eric, 12; Joshua, 10; and Grace, 3. Stephen works for the City of Kitchener Cemeteries and is a volunteer firefighter with the Mapleton Fire Department, Drayton station. Contact them at stephenrturley@hotmail.com.

- Robin White, B.Sc. ’96, earned an MA in international environmental policy at Tufts University in 2006, then worked for a foreign affairs critic on Parliament Hill before joining Environment Canada as an economist. He is analyzing the impact of various climate change policies on the Canadian economy.

2000s

- Nathalie Bendavid, BA ’03; Brook Hilditch, B.Sc. ’03; and Mario Gallo, B.Sc. ’00, all former rugby Gryphons, competed in the first Women’s Rugby 7’s World Cup in Dubai as members of the Canadian National Women’s Rugby Team. Canada finished sixth in the tournament of 16 teams, losing to England in the bowl final.

- Jennifer Duff, B.Sc. ’07, is in the third year of a five-year veterinary medicine program at the University of Glasgow.

- Alex Folkl, B.Sc. ’06 and M.Sc. ’08, is in his second year of medical school at the University of Vermont and did some clinical work in Guelph this summer. He was married in May 2008 to Kathryn Kuntz, M.Sc. ’04, who is co-ordinator of national conservation programs for the Nature Conservation of Canada in Toronto. Both are avid rock climbers.

- Jaclyn Hill, B.Sc. ’02, completed a PhD at Rhodes University in South Africa in 2008, specializing in stable isotopes.

- Michelle Le Chien, BA ’05, is assistant curator and registrar at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery in Owen Sound, Ont. She organized the gallery’s 46th annual Juried Art Exhibit and had her first curated exhibit...
reviewed by the Toronto Star in May. It was titled "Mapping the Group: The Travels of the Group of Seven in Canada."

- **Greg MacArthur**, BA '08, is an officer with the Guelph Police Service and has joined the Gryphon men's hockey team as an assistant coach. He played defence with the team for four years as a student.
- **Brandon Mosgrove**, BA '07, is the accounts payable administrator at Cambridge Memorial Hospital in Cambridge, Ont., and is working towards his CGA designation.
- **Owen Mullings**, B.Sc.(Eng.) '06, has joined Desire2learn Inc. as a product designer. He's also completing a master's degree in engineering systems and computing at U of G.
- **Eamonn O’Connell**, B.Sc. '06, is the national stakeholder relations manager of the Campaign to Control Cancer, a Canadian coalition of more than 70 cancer organizations.
- **Philippe Rinn**, B.L.A. '05, works for Site360 Consulting Inc. in Kelowna, B.C.
- **Debby Seed**, ADH '04, has been hired as a supply teacher to oversee the greenhouse program at North Peel Secondary School in Brampton, Ont.
- **Dave Toms**, BA '06, of Oakville, Ont., writes that he's "having a blast drumming in a country-bluegrass-psychedelic-rock–roots-metal band called GCDC. Guelph really let me see what's important in life, and pursuing my dreams seems vital. Thank you for such a rewarding opportunity to shape my world view!"

### PASSAGES

- **William Abraham**, B.S.A. '47, July 30, 2009
- **John Agar**, D.V.M. '54 and M.Sc. '70, June 28, 2009
- **Craig Alexander**, B.A. '49 and M.S.A. '51, March 23, 2009
- **John Allin**, A.D.A. '67, December 4, 2009
- **James Barlow**, B.A. '49, March 30, 2009
- **William Brack**, D.V.M. '49, April 26, 2009
- **Russell Bruce**, B.A. '47, May 11, 2009
- **Denton Brumwell**, B.A. '61, March 14, 2009
- **Elizabeth (Jackson) Cardiff**, D.H.E. '41, April 6, 2009
- **Brian Cardy**, B.Sc. '77, M.Sc. '81 and Ph.D. '86, Jan. 18, 2009
- **Alexander Carman**, B.A. '50, April 23, 2009
- **Leanne (Sniely) Chalmers**, B.A. '89, May 20, 2009
- **Matthew Chapman**, B.A. '07, May 9, 2009
- **Alan Christie**, D.V.M. '49, Sept. 12, 2007
- **William Cochrane**, B.A. '51, May 28, 2009
- **Melanie (Bant) Dale**, B.Sc. '03, June 21, 2009
- **Frederick Gillies**, B.A. '50, April 26, 2009
- **Arthur Godard**, D.V.M. '51, April 20, 2009
- **Anna Liu Gonthier**, B.A. '93, April 15, 2009
- **Barbara Gregory**, B.Sc. '87, Feb. 2, 2009
- **Selwyn Griffith**, B.Sc.(Agri.) '71 and M.Sc. '74, July 13, 2009

- **John Hare**, B.S.A. '43, March 23, 2009
- **Michael Hawrylcz**, B.Sc. '81, Feb. 17, 2009
- **Daniel Helsberg**, B.A. '77, May 20, 2009
- **Richard Herrner**, B.A. '53, April 15, 2009
- **Thomas Henderson**, D.V.M. '59, Feb. 26, 2009
- **Ernest Hochhalter**, B.A. '62, Feb. 21, 2009
- **Douglas Humphreys**, D.V.M. '54, April 2009
- **Elizabeth (Goddard) Jamieson**, B.H.Sc. '64, March 23, 2009
- **Leonard Johnson**, B.A. '36, May 13, 2009
- **Robert Johnston**, B.A. '42 and M.S.A. '49, April 15, 2009
- **Michael Kamener**, B.A. '75, Feb. 28, 2009
- **Willard Karn**, D.V.M. '54, May 8, 2009
- **Wallace Knapp**, B.A. '48, April 16, 2009
- **Allen Knight**, B.A. '39, March 20, 2009
- **Cheryl (Gandy) Korody**, B.A. '68, February 2009
- **Hassan Lalani**, B.Com. '92, March 18, 2008
- **Herbert Lavine**, B.A. '50, June 17, 2009
- **Bruce McCallum**, B.A. '64, June 26, 2009
- **Kenneth McEwen**, D.V.M. '51, March 31, 2009
- **Barrie McFadzean**, A.D.A. '47 and B.A. '51, May 18, 2009
- **George McGowan**, D.V.M. '47, May 26, 2009
- **Edward McNinch**, B.A. '49, March 25, 2009
- **Mildred (Taylor) Misener**, D.H.E. '35, December 28, 2009
- **Ruth (Srigley) Morris**, B.A. '74, May 26, 2009
- **Joseph Morrison**, B.A. '51, Feb. 11, 2009
- **Harry Mount**, D.V.M. '41, April 15, 2009
- **Donna Murdoch**, B.A. '74, Feb. 25, 2009
- **Kenneth Pennifold**, D.V.M. '50, Jan. 6, 2009
- **Michael Pontello**, B.A. '84, July 19, 2009
- **William Roach**, D.V.M. '49, April 22, 2009
- **Walter Saidak**, B.A. '53, May 5, 2009
- **Lawrence Salmon**, A.D.A. '48, May 14, 2009
- **Mary (Cox) Scott**, D.H.E. '38, March 17, 2008
- **Tina-Lisa (McDowell) Skerrett**, B.A. '91, May 19, 2009
- **John Stone**, B.A. '72, March 31, 2009
- **Boyce Taylor**, A.D.A. '53, March 10, 2009
- **Shirley (Herron) Taylor**, D.H.E. '37, July 19, 2009
- **William Tom**, B.A. '50, June 25, 2009
- **Dragoslava (Petrovich) Vesselinovitch**, D.V.M. '59, Jan. 2, 2009
- **Jeffrey Wheeler**, B.Com. '95, May 23, 2009
- **Donald Whillans**, B.A. '50, April 21, 2009
- **James Wright**, A.D.A. '61, May 9, 2009
- **John Young**, A.D.A. '40, April 12, 2009
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