rememory

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When I speak with University of Guelph alumni, they often tell me a story from their student days at Guelph that “changed their life” or “opened their eyes” to a new career option. For many grads, it was the close-knit residence community where they made lifetime friends. Others mention a professor who inspired them or a political figure who challenged the status quo when speaking on campus.

Some grads talk about getting involved in student government or social and political activism, while others say they landed a good position in a tough job market because of the skills they learned at Guelph.

I enjoy these stories, but I think it’s important that you know these are more than just great memories of times past. The University experiences that impacted and improved your life are still happening on our campus. Whether your degree is a few years or a few decades old, it speaks to the core values of the University of Guelph.

Our focus has always been on providing our students with a unique learning experience, and that commitment gives us a competitive edge in terms of quality and leadership. Your alma mater is the top-rated university in Canada for student satisfaction and quality of education. That’s according to the Globe and Mail’s annual University Report Card, which reflects the opinions of university students across the country.

U of G professors received A’s for subject knowledge, teaching quality, and interaction with students. We also earned top marks for tolerance of diverse opinions and ideas and for our sense of community. These marks underscore the characteristics that make Guelph a university where “life-changing” experiences still happen.

The campus has changed, of course — new buildings, new faculty, more students, perhaps a change to the academic program you took. These are all part of the University’s strategic plan to maintain our leadership position in undergraduate education.

Ten years ago, U of G was the first university in Canada to introduce supplemental instruction (program-based learning groups, peer tutoring, library learning commons) into its teaching and learning strategy, and this fall we became the official go-to place for Canadian post-secondary institutions that want to bring similar programs to their students.

When Maclean’s magazine issued its reputational survey of Canadian universities in November, your alma mater was second among comprehensive universities for quality of education, innovation and graduating leaders of tomorrow. That opinion comes from 12,000 people, including CEOs of major Canadian corporations, high school counsellors and academic administrators.

Within days, Guelph master’s student Ashley van Herston was named one of 10 Canadian students to receive a future leaders scholarship supported by Canada’s Outstanding CEO of the Year award program. David Johnston Monje, a PhD candidate in plant agriculture, led a team of six student researchers to the medal podium in an international science competition held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Their project proposed a genetically-engineered solution to vitamin A deficiency in children in the world’s poorer countries.

Outside the classroom, more than 500 students volunteered in the community during Project Serve day and 1,450 collected $87,000 worth of food donations for the local food bank. Aboriginal students hosted three days of awareness programs. The Central Student Association sponsored a talk on Darfur during Genocide Awareness Month, our students lined up to vote in the federal election and many participated in Peace Week activities.

Sadly, peace and poverty are not new concerns in our society, but it is important that the University of Guelph continues to be a place where students get involved in the issues and work to improve the lives of others while “opening their eyes” to their own future ambitions.

Alastair Summerlee
President
Someday a robot in your home

Imagine having a personal service robot that can clean up your child’s room and load your dishwasher.

A U of G team led by engineering professor Medhat Moussa has developed the first intelligent system for a robot that can communicate, learn and be programmed by the average person through voice commands. Their research was published in IEEE Transactions of Robotics, the highest-ranked journal in robotics.

Unlike robots that are programmed by experts to operate in controlled settings such as laboratories and factories, robots designed to help out in the home must be able to learn different tasks based on the user’s needs and adapt to an ever-changing environment, says Moussa, who’s been working on the design for seven years.

He and PhD student Maria Ralph asked 15 people with different levels of technological expertise to train a robotic arm to pick up five different household objects using natural language. All 15 were successful in training the robot to pick up a comb, a spoon, a key, tweezers and a tensor bandage clip within 45 minutes. Moussa says the training time will become shorter as the robot learns patterns of commands and can start predicting which command will come next.

The biggest factor standing in the way of commercializing these learning robots is the hefty price tag. Moussa’s robot costs about $25,000, even though he’s applied the technology to a somewhat simple design to keep costs down. But he anticipates it won’t be long before these robots become common enough to drop in price.

“Japan expects the robotics industry to become bigger than the automotive industry by 2025,” he says. “There is definitely a lot of interest in this.”

NEW VP (RESEARCH) NAMED AT GUELPH

The University of Guelph welcomed Kevin Hall, former head of the Department of Civil Engineering at Queen’s University, as its new vice-president (research) Jan. 1.

President Alastair Summerlee says Hall’s expertise and research focus are aligned with Guelph’s strategic priorities around internationalism, humanitarianism and environmental sustainability. He also shares U of G’s multidisciplinary approach to research and learning, says the president.

At Queen’s, Hall was director of the Centre for Water and the Environment and chaired the advisory board of the Institute for Population and Public Health. He is also an international consultant in coastal and river engineering and water resources.

Bioenergy adds value

Bioenergy research and the bioeconomy will be the focus of U of G’s new Centre for Agricultural Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CARES), which opened at the Ridgetown Campus in October.

The first project is a farm-scale biodiesel demonstration plant. More than $900,000 is being provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program.

In addition to government and University support, the Southwestern Ontario Bioproducts Innovation Network (SOBIN) was instrumental in the conception of CARES.

U of G and SOBIN will work together to substitute non-renewable materials in many manufacturing sectors, consumer goods and services.
RSC ELECTS BONEN
Prof. Arend Bonen, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, considered this country’s senior academic honour. Renowned for his work on the role of muscle activity in metabolic diseases, Bonen holds the Canada Research Chair in Metabolism and Health.

“Although I am honoured to have been elected a fellow, there are many people who have contributed to my efforts,” he says, naming technicians, graduate students, researchers and colleagues in his department and around the world. “Present-day science relies extensively on these multi-faceted collaborations, without which my work would not have flourished.”

Bonen joined U of G in 2003 from the University of Waterloo, where he was chair of the Department of Kinesiology. He also taught at Dalhousie University.

His research combines physiological, biochemical and molecular approaches. It focuses on the mechanisms that regulate fuel (glucose and fats) entry and utilization in heart and muscle that enable normal functioning, such as beating of the heart. Many of the same metabolic biochemical processes are also provoked by lifestyle factors such as eating a high-fat diet or living a sedentary lifestyle, he says. His studies suggest that exercise can prevent or treat some types of diseases such as type 2 diabetes.

Grad student wins national honour

Guelph graduate student Brae Anne McArthur is one of eight scholars nationwide to be named a Desjardins Academic All-Canadian by Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS). The award recognizes both athletic and academic achievement. To be eligible, students must already be Academic All-Canadians and maintain an average of at least 80 per cent.

A three-time Academic All-Canadian, McArthur has twice been named track-and-field MVP at U of G, holds the University’s record in the pentathlon and ranks third all-time in the high jump and long jump. This season, she was the CIS pentathlon bronze medallist, the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) high-jump bronze medallist, the OUA pentathlon silver medallist and an OUA All-Star.

A 2006 BA graduate, McArthur is now completing the master’s portion of a PhD in child clinical psychology.

U of G joins elite global group

“Supplemental instruction” may not be snazzy terminology, but U of G’s designation as a national centre for supplemental instruction is a big vote of confidence in the University’s expertise in teaching and learning.

Only a handful of universities worldwide are designated as centres for supplemental instruction, following a model created more than 30 years ago by the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Ten years ago, Guelph became the first university in Canada to introduce supplemental instruction when it launched weekly review sessions for historically difficult courses. Led by senior students, these sessions help undergraduates navigate course material, connect with other students and develop learning strategies. Last year, more than 3,000 students participated.

U of G’s new designation makes it the go-to place for Canadian post-secondary institutions wanting to bring supplemental instruction to their students.
Scientists discover treatment for water-borne disease

University of Guelph scientists believe they’ve uncovered a promising treatment for one of the world’s most common water-borne diseases. They discovered that an antibody used to detect the parasite Cryptosporidium parvum, which causes cryptosporidiosis, can also be used to fight off the bug itself.

A team of environmental biology professors set out to find a better way to detect this nasty intestinal bug, but they ended up finding that specially engineered recombinant antibodies used to detect the parasite can also prevent the bug from physically binding to human intestinal cells, blocking infection.

C. parvum is transmitted through drinking water contaminated by the feces of infected animals. Proper water and sewage treatment and filtration, as well as correct disposal of animal waste, normally prevent the disease from spreading, says Prof. Jack Trevors, one of the study’s authors.

In healthy people, the parasite causes severe diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever for a week or two. In very young or very old people or in immune-compromised individuals, the symptoms may be more severe and may cause death. No effective therapy exists.

Co-author Prof. Hung Lee says he hopes other researchers will use the Guelph work to develop a treatment based on using antibodies. “Potentially we could also use this new approach to address other intestinal infections.” The research team also included Prof. Chris Hall and graduate students Nicholas Pokorny and Jeanine Boulter-Bitzer, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’97, M.Sc. ’00 and PhD ’07.

Using FIV to understand HIV

About 2.5 per cent of the approximately 64 million pet cats in the United States are infected with the feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), and the proportion in Canada is probably about the same. FIV is a virus similar in structure to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and Guelph pathobiologist Dorothee Bienzle is studying it in the hopes of taking a step toward a cure for HIV.

She is interested in the role dendritic cells play in FIV development. These cells are important messengers in the mammalian immune system. Their main function is to take potentially dangerous foreign material that enters the body and display portions of the invader on their cell surface — effectively sending a message to the rest of the immune system. Dendritic cells then travel to the lymph nodes, where they interact with cells responsible for fighting foreign invaders such as white blood cells to help the immune system tailor an appropriate response.

This process doesn’t work properly for people infected with HIV. Researchers suspect HIV exploits the messenger system by binding to receptors on dendritic cells and getting a free ride to the core of the host immune system. Once there, HIV can infect other immune system cells, eventually causing AIDS.

“Dendritic cells are the first to be infected after exposure to the FIV or HIV virus,” says Bienzle. “By understanding their response to infection, we may uncover keys to decreasing the virus mode and virus spread.”

Other collaborators on this project include research associate Xin Wen, techniciain Mary Ellen Clark, Prof. Felipe Reggeti and master’s candidate Alex Folkl.

Cross-Country, Lacrosse Teams Win Gold

Of G’s women’s and men’s cross-country teams won the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships held at Laval University Nov. 8. It was a record-setting fourth consecutive win for the women’s team and third consecutive title for the men. In addition, Gryphon Matt Brunsting won the men’s individual gold medal in the 10-kilometre race with a time of 32:08.3, and by teammate Kyle Boorsma, who won silver. On the women’s side, Lindsay Carson won the bronze medal in the five-kilometre race despite nursing a foot injury, with a time of 17:59.3.

On Nov. 9, the Gryphon men’s lacrosse team became national champions, beating out McGill University 14 to 9 to win the Baggataway Cup. It was the men’s third overall championship title, with previous wins in 1995 and 2000, all under head coach Sam Kosakowski, B.Sc.(H.K) ’92.

Guelph was led by attacker Braden Gallant, who scored three goals and three assists. Gryphon attackman Jason Mainier was awarded the UnderArmor Player of the Game award for his performance of four goals and one assist.
There was an impromptu photography session a few years ago.

“Funny how you lose sight of some things and memory others” — from *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison

In the photograph, she is an 80-year-old woman, eyes shut, soft white hair a stark contrast to the black background, fine lines and wrinkles illuminated by the light of the camera’s flash.

But hidden behind those closed eyes is a young girl, just at the beginning of who she will be. You can’t see her on the surface, but she is there. For they are one and the same; these two, separated only by years.

It’s a symbiotic relationship caught on film, yet not visible to a beholder’s eye. But look closer, deeper, and you will see hints of the duality — like the old woman’s gentle smile, the kind only a sweet memory can bring.

For when photographer Susan Dobson’s camera shutter closed, Lois Etherington Betteridge ceased to be all that she has become. Gone was the celebrated metalsmith, artist, pioneering teacher and Member of the Order of Canada. Instead, she was a nine-year-old girl again and back in her secret place, the space she created under the basement stairs where everything began.

Betteridge doesn’t know why she picked this place to visit in her mind. Dobson just asked her to close her eyes and think of something from the past. Betteridge had eight decades’ worth of memories to choose from, but she crawled back to her childhood hideout almost instantly.

“I had a little chemistry lab in the basement,” she says. “I built it up out of the space under the stairs, made it safe and secure. I had been given a chemistry set for Christmas and used to make smoke bombs and things like that down there.”

Laughing, she adds: “I don’t actually have a great memory, so I don’t remember a lot from my childhood. But I’ve often thought of that space, about what it was like just to be in it. The beginning of my career was there. It really started under those stairs.”

So the image of her that Dobson’s camera caught is really a reunion between woman and child, patron and protegé, time and timelessness. Exactly the kind of photograph Dobson intended it to be.

“It’s about looking back to the past while being very much aware of the present,” says Dobson, who has taught photography in the University of Guelph’s School of Fine Art and Music full time since 2002. “The past frequently interferes and intersects with the present. There’s an interesting dichotomy between the two, and I wanted to show that photographically.”

Betteridge’s photo is one of 68 that make up the Portico memories photography by Susan Dobson story by Lori Bona Hunt
up Dobson’s “Rememory” exhibit, which had its inaugural showing at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre in the fall. All the subjects were photographed with their eyes shut, in the midst of a memory. The photos are all head-and-shoulder shots, and everyone is wearing black. The collection was too large to show all at once at the art centre, so Dobson painstakingly edited it down to two dozen images.

The portraits are displayed larger than life, with some of them, including Betteridge’s, four feet tall. Dobson wanted viewers to see the faces over-sized, to examine in detail the physical traces of memory and to really experience the corporeal manifestation of her subjects’ concentration.

Her inspiration for “Rememory” came from several different sources, none of them directly related yet all of them connected to the passing of time and a desire to cling to or run away from the past.

“Some things go. Pass on. Some things just stay. I used to think it was my rememory. You know. Some things you forget. Other things you never do.” — Beloved

There was an impromptu photography session a few years earlier with her then nine-year-old daughter, Emma, who was about to embark on a multi-year journey into orthodontia. Dobson wanted a keepsake of her daughter’s childhood smile, which featured an endearing jutting front tooth.

“I took a photograph, and just as I released the shutter, she blinked, so her eyes are closed in the picture.”

Dobson was both charmed and intrigued by the resulting image and by her own longing to simultaneously embrace her child as she was and as who she will be.

“I tacked up that photograph in my studio, and it hung there for years as I thought about it. I felt there was something else going on in it. It seemed rather subversive to close your eyes in a photograph, yet still there was something about it, something else going on in there.”

She was also in the midst of working out a complicated past-present relationship of her own — with her profession. In 2006, she began developing a course that merged digital and non-silver photographic practices. A fan of traditional darkrooms, large-format cameras and Polaroid film, she found herself looking for ways to teach her students about digital technology while instilling a historical understanding of media, materials and processes.

It got her thinking about books she’d read that tackled similar themes, including In Rethinking France: Les Lieux de memoire by French historian Pierre Nora, who talks about the process of rememory in understanding national identity, and Toni Morrison’s novel Beloved, which explores the past and its tangible existence in the now. In Beloved, the protagonist’s memories, which the author calls “rememories,” are actively present in her life.

“I read Beloved later and enjoyed that...
like doing, sometimes you have to take a risk,” he says.

The image Dobson caught of Hall is captivating. He appears deep in thought yet at peace. The laugh lines on either side of his mouth hint at someone who has spent years either smiling or grimacing. Three earrings in his left ear are visible against the black backdrop.

What Hall remembers most is not the memory he called up but the magic of being photographed in the dark. Nagging worries and tedious “must dos” seemed to dissipate with the light, as if time were standing still.

“I think all of us tend to be ‘on’ all the time at work,” he says. “I mean the ‘on switch’ is really pushed all the way to high speed when you’re dealing with people.” When the lights went off, so did his “on switch.”

“I remember feeling as if I was going into myself, totally relinquishing, just wiping the slate clean. When you’re sitting with your eyes closed in a dark and quiet place with minimal stimulation, you really go into who you are. In a way, this is the only picture I’ll ever have of the true me, the person no one ever sees.”

“Funny how you lose sight of some things and memory others.” — Beloved

More than one person has likened the “Rememory” collection to deathbed photos. Indeed, Dobson acknowledges that the subtle toning and black-and-white prints may evoke images of post-mortem photography.

“But you can see the people concentrating. The intensity about the face shows they are very much alive. I enjoy the tension between life and death and between past and present in the photographs. In fact, the life/death paradigm is central to the reading of any photograph.”

As with every other detail in her project, Dobson’s decision to photograph her subjects this way was intentional and purposeful. “I chose to deliberately subvert traditional expectations of portraiture by asking everyone to close their eyes.”

She wanted the photos to capture the relationship between past and present, rather than between the subject and the photographer. But more important, she wanted to block the traditional pathway people take to see the soul of a portrait.

“You read a face through the eyes. I wanted to close that off to see what else you can actively portray without that access. I wanted the attention on the rest of the face.”

It was a risky move, says Robert Enright, a U of G research professor in art criticism who is one of Canada’s foremost art writers and critics. “The eyes are the most expressive part of a face, and not taking advantage of that narrows the range of possibilities for a photographer.”

Of course, Dobson’s willingness to take that risk is what made all the difference.

“She’s not taking advantage of the obvious thing in portraiture, capturing how
people look at the world,” says Enright. “She’s asking us to look inward instead, inside our own head and emotions.”

The resulting images are distinct, dramatically lit and intriguing, he says. “It certainly would have been a less intimate show if the eyes were wide open.”

Enright’s interest in “Rememory” is both professional and personal — he also posed for Dobson. In his portrait, he appears tranquil and passive, the polar opposite of his everyday self. He says the memory he was thinking about is too personal to divulge, but he likes to share his “Rememory” photograph, something he does with Dobson’s permission. A frequent contributor to national and international magazines and art catalogues, he is often asked to supply a photo to accompany his work.

“The irony of it is too much to resist — an art critic with his eyes closed.”

“Thank God I don’t have to rememory or say a thing because you know it. All.” — Beloved

As much as he likes his portrait, Enright wasn’t prepared to see it blown up larger than life in a public art gallery.

“It was disconcerting. Despite the fact that I’ve been involved in public activities for a long time, I’m on a lot of factors, so finding it, especially quickly and on-demand, can be complicated. It requires a lot of activity on cellular, molecular and even anatomical levels.

“It’s a dynamic process,” says Winters, whose research focuses on the building blocks of memory. “A memory isn’t just put away and then sitting undisturbed for 20 years. It’s processed, reprocessed, reactivated and even embellished. The age of the subject, the nature of the memory, how far removed it is and how long ago it was stamped into the brain determine the systems that will be activated to recall it.”

Winters says it’s likely that the long-term memories Dobson’s subjects were thinking of were all declarative, which means they’re consciously available. This is different from proce-
a very private person in a lot of ways. To have your private face made intensely public is a strange feeling. You walk in and tend to avert your eyes from your own portrait.

Hall, in fact, didn’t attend the opening of the exhibit. The very idea of it was just too daunting. So he didn’t know his photo was four feet high until people who’d seen it started coming up to him. And it wasn’t until the final week of the exhibition that he actually worked up the nerve to go see it.

Betteridge has one word to describe seeing her portrait: harrowing. “When I went to have my picture taken, I didn’t think beyond the fact that

I was lending myself to her to do this thing. I was interested in her, in watching how she works. So when I got to the exhibit, I was really stunned. Of course, at my age you see a lot of blemishes that don’t show on the young people.” Laughing, she adds: “I didn’t realize I looked as old as I did.”

But she’s gotten over the shock. She speaks fondly about that day, of travelling to her childhood places and spaces through memory, and even about the resulting image Dobson caught on film. “People have told me it’s an interesting picture, a good picture, in spite of the wrinkles!”

—

some things just stay

Boyer Winters

Winter 2009 13
The last great gift

University of Guelph students and anatomy instructors honour the medical and artistic knowledge gained during society’s long history of studying the human body through dissection by re-creating the mood of Rembrandt’s 1632 painting, *Doctor Nicolaes Tulp’s Demonstration of the Anatomy of the Arm*, Mauritshuis Museum, The Hague, Holland.

From left: Master’s student Geoffrey Collins, B.Sc, ’06; anatomy technician Premila Sathasivam; undergraduate Jimmy Duminie; secondary school co-op student Chris Onderisin, undergraduates Justan Lougheed, Jamie-Lee Munroe and Chris Gabor; and Prof. Lorraine Jadeski.

PHOTOS BY DEAN PALMER
Jaime-Lee Munroe remembers feeling an overwhelming sense of gratitude. She was standing with her classmates at the front of the human anatomy lab. Stainless-steel tables were lined up in rows before them. Lying on the tables, covered by plastic sheets, were the donors they would be learning from.

“I was about to meet my donor,” says Munroe, a fourth-year biological science student. “All I could think about was how incredible it was that someone had given their entire body to us so we could learn.”

She knew she was fortunate to have this experience. Typically, students have to wait until medical school before getting the opportunity to study a human cadaver. The University of Guelph may be the only university in the country that allows students to do full-body dissections during their undergraduate degree.
physical limitations and capabilities of the human body. They need to have a good understanding of how the body works so they can portray figures accurately. As an artist, you need to be able to get the proportions right.”

Although most art classes engage a student's imagination, this one is a test of concentration, focus and observational accuracy, says Maddison. Artists have a natural fascination with the human body and a curiosity that makes them want to look as deeply as they can into what we're made of, she says.

Limited to 30 students, the course offers two three-hour sessions in the anatomy lab. Webb says drawing muscles and joints and understanding how they function and are connected are important steps in learning to portray the illusion of movement. The course also helps art students understand just how fragile, complex and beautiful the human body is, she says.

For some students, this becomes a springboard to a career in anatomical drawing and/or medical illustration.

A recent initiative of Guelph’s anatomy program is an outreach program that has generated a huge amount of interest from both high schools and community colleges.

Last year, more than 2,000 high school students from Guelph and the Greater Toronto Area took part in educational sessions, and the HHNS labs have hosted college students enrolled in clinical programs such as massage therapy, dental assisting, dental hygiene and advanced-care paramedics.

Jadeski says Guelph’s outreach program supports the curricula of these visiting students by enhancing their understanding of anatomical concepts and facts and their awareness of how structure-function relationships within the body vary as a function of relative health and disease. The program also allows many more students to learn from the donors who so impressed Munroe.

“As one of only 10 schools of anatomy in the province, we feel obligated to make the most of the generous intentions of the individuals who donated their body to science,” says Jadeski. “Our goal is to promote as much learning as possible.”

With Webb and Sathasivam, Jadeski is launching a website to provide information to potential donors about how to donate their body to Guelph’s anatomy program. It also explains the importance of talking to loved ones about the choice of whole-body donation.

“We will give the family or the donor as much information as possible, then have all the paperwork in place in advance so that when the time comes, the donor's loved ones do not have to deal with it,” says Sathasivam. “We want the transition to happen with the utmost respect and as smoothly as possible.”

Although more than two years have passed since Munroe's first day in the anatomy lab, she says she is still grateful to her donor for everything she learned during those eight months.

“I truly believe it would have been difficult to learn as much as I did if it weren’t for our donors. Nothing compares with seeing all those structures in real life. During the written tests, I found myself thinking back to what I’d seen in the lab rather than the pictures in my textbooks. There’s just no substitute. The human anatomy course is still my favourite and has made coming to university worthwhile.”

Munroe is currently taking the program's fourth-year research course. She's not sure what she wants to do after graduation, but

Students say thank you

When someone donates his or her body to the University of Guelph to be used in the human anatomy course, it is not a gift taken lightly.

“We are passionate about respecting our donors and appreciating that they have given us the ultimate gift,” says Prof. Lorraine Jadeski, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences (HHNS). “It is a truly selfless act to donate your body, and there is so much to be gained and so much to be learned from the people who do. This gratitude to our donors is a theme that runs throughout the course.”

Each spring, HHNS holds a memorial service to recognize and thank those who have donated their body for the sake of education. The service was launched in 2000, partly to provide closure for all who participate, says technician Premila Sathasivam, who co-ordinates the human anatomy lab.

“I work so closely with every donor that it is particularly meaningful for me,” she says.

At the service, students have an opportunity to speak about their experience and say thank you. “You develop a connection with your donor over the span of the course,” says Jamie-Lee Munroe, who spoke at last year’s memorial service. “Each week of the course, the donor reveals something new.” She says it was gratifying to be able to stand up and publicly express her appreciation.

After the service, students place flowers around a tree in the Arboretum that was donated by the 2001/02 human anatomy class, the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences and the Human Kinetics and Human Biology Alumni Association.

To learn more about U of G’s human body donation program, visit www.uoguelph.ca/humananatomy, call 519-824-4120, Ext. 56171, or send e-mail to anatomy@uoguelph.ca.
Pathobiology, where he earned his D.V.Sc. with now retired professor Dean Percy. (That came after McKerlie spent two years as a country vet in England, a stint that landed him in the middle of that country’s BSE crisis of the early 1990s.) A co-applicant for the grant that funded the TCP, McKerlie assumed the centre’s head post last spring after serving as interim CEO during its design and construction.

Referring to researchers’ use of its facilities — and varied mice, tissues, gametes, stem cell lines and DNA housed here — for learning more about human health, he says: “The genetic and molecular mechanisms that cause disease are very similar between humans and animals.”

Put together an organism’s genetic material — its genome — with physical traits we can see or measure — its phenotype — and you get “phenogenomics.” Here at the TCP and elsewhere in Canada and abroad, researchers are taking the next steps beyond mapping genomes for humans, fruit flies, dogs, mice and other creatures. In painstaking fashion, they’re now learning how DNA’s biochemical code works by selectively manipulating the function of each of the mouse’s roughly 22,000 genes and observing the results in tissue or in live animals. From there, they hope to learn more about how those genes work in us.

“The mouse is going to prove to be the most powerful mammalian model system for us to use and functionally annotate the human genome,” says McKerlie, who gave OVC’s 2007 Chappel Memorial Lecture. “One of the greatest scientific challenges of the 21st century is to understand the function of all 22,000 genes in the human genome. And for any human gene, there’s a 95-per-cent chance that there’s a mouse gene that has a very similar function. It’s the gene in the mouse, not the human, that we can manipulate. We can establish a mouse model of that gene’s function and, when it doesn’t function, get on with the biology and creation of new drugs.”

Observe a mouse with a precisely mutated gene and you can make some inferences about causes and treatment of disease involving the comparable bit of DNA in humans. For example, a spontaneous mutation means the “SCID mouse” has no working T or B cells, making it ideal for learning more about
“One of the greatest scientific challenges of the 21st century is to understand the function of all 22,000 genes in the human genome. And for any human gene, there’s a 95-per-cent chance that there’s a mouse gene that has a very similar function.”

Not that the mouse is all things to all researchers. Guelph pathobiology professor Geoff Wood, DVM ’93 and D.V.Sc. ’07, split his own graduate time between U of G and McKerlie’s labs at SickKids and Mount Sinai. Wood still studies mice, but he has broadened his focus to dog phenogenomics, using canine cancer patients arriving at the OVC Teaching Hospital. For all the value of inducing pinpoint mutations in experimental rodents, he expects dogs sharing our homes and even our food will tell us other things about environmental factors involved in real-life spontaneous cancer. Studying both species, Wood says, “gives us an opportunity to mine these two data sets of what changes go on in the dog and the mouse, what’s similar and different.”

Susan Newbigging, DVM ’03 and D.V.Sc. ’07, who also worked in McKerlie’s TCP labs, now directs pathology studies at the Toronto centre and is a team investigator at SickKids. She agrees it’s important to look at all kinds of influences on various diseases. “Maybe the mouse model helps determine which genes are causing asthma, but you need a larger animal model, too.”

Still, Mus musculus remains the workhorse of the genetics lab. Up to 200,000 mice will be housed in the secure, climate-controlled Toronto facility designed to keep its occupants free from potential contamination. Staff and visitors from scientists to dignitaries must don their street clothes, don scrubs and take an air shower before entering the below-ground holding area. Cage rooms are independently ventilated with a set number of air changes each hour. Animal attendants and a robot add sterilized bedding and food to the cages, up to 36,000 of them eventually, each identified by a computer code. A second robot empties and cleans used cages. Lise Phaneuf, DVM ’98 and D.V.Sc. ’06, is associate director of TCP research and facility operations, overseeing day-to-day care and research use by staff and scientists.

Last spring, the TCP won a 2008 North American facility-of-the-year award for its design. The modern building blends into the city backdrop of Toronto’s Discovery District. It was designed to be cost-effective and secure with areas for interaction, collaboration and training and flexible space to address future needs. A tightly constrained urban site, underground utilities, rigid zoning restrictions and plans for future vertical expansion all drove the requirement for an innovative design. Sixty per cent of the floor plan is underground. The future master plan includes a 300,000-square-foot, 15-storey tower to be built above the TCP.

Research here occurs in three main facilities connected to various researchers at member hospitals. At the Centre for Modeling Human Disease, researchers make and analyze mutant mice as well as tissue, cell lines and genetic material alone. The Canadian Mouse Mutant Repository preserves and distributes mutant mouse lines and tissue, working with researchers and clinicians in those nearby hospitals and with scientists in Canada and abroad through the Federation of International Mouse Resources. The Mouse Imaging Centre uses optical and digital technology to study the animals at all life stages.

“It’s a one-stop shop” for studies of mouse genetics, pathobiology and human disease, says Wood. But not a stand-alone shop. The Toronto facility works with larger groups, including the Canadian Mouse Consortium, the International Knockout Mice Consortium, and North American and European organizations all developing genetically engineered models of human disease.

That spirit of collaboration drove the development of the facility, which was funded by the federal and provincial governments, the four member hospitals and industry. No one scientist or institution alone could have put together the TCP, says McKerlie. Liking the centre’s programs to the scope of the Human Genome Project, he says: “This is big science, so it required big facilities. But more important, it requires a big community of science based on sharing to make it work.”

At the same time, Newbigging says the TCP mandate hits near home. Whether cancer or heart disease, “everybody is touched by disease in their family. I’ve had family members with different illnesses. I want to do something about it.” Overseeing pathology in her unit is several steps removed from the bedside, but “I’m getting to help people even though not directly. I can say we’re finding out why it’s happening, how disease works. These are the first steps to treatments and cures.”
Internet thieves are killing Canada’s music industry

The next time you consider illegally downloading a new album or single, know that Internet piracy is killing Canada’s once thriving music industry, says Graham Henderson, BA ’79. He’s president of the Canadian Recording Industry Association, a job where music piracy and the exploitation of musicians is a daily concern.

“Legislation in Canada needs to change,” says Henderson. “We can’t have a rules-free environment. It’s not good for the economy, it’s not good for business, and it’s not good for the creators.”

With a law degree in hand, Henderson joined the music industry as digital music was making its appearance and an online peer-to-peer file sharing service was launched by Napster.

“I knew things were changing,” he says, “but what I didn’t count on was that artist rosters would decline as fast as they did and that retail music sales would drop from $1.4 billion annually to $650 million. With the advent of Napster, the reputation of record companies went into a tailspin.

“If you have regard to what is happening in the rest of the world, you’ll see that what is happening in Canada is rather backward,” he adds. “There are thriving digital marketplaces out there. They’re just not here — yet. In the end, I think property rights will win out over anarchy.”

The Senate is not retiring

For being part of what some citizens call “a retirement club for the old boys,” Canadian senator Lorna Milne, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’56, says she’s never worked so hard in her life.

Milne may be the only U of G graduate now serving the Senate of Canada and is one of few women ever appointed to the upper house. Finding her place in the male-dominated Senate presented a new set of challenges, but Milne says she’s always felt confident in her ability to affect change.

“It was no more of a problem than being one of only four women in an OAC class full of men,” she says. “When I joined the Senate, there were maybe 15 women there. In the past 14 years, that number has more than doubled.”

It was Milne who proposed that hemp be legalized as an agricultural product in Canada. The bill was passed in 1997, and today there is a fruitful hemp industry in Manitoba, sending a message that hemp is a good alternative crop. She was also responsible for the release of Canada’s historic census results after Statistics Canada had decided they would remain secret forever. Milne currently serves on standing Senate committees that deal with energy, environmental affairs and natural resources, and legal and constitutional affairs.

Knowing what consumers want is the key

As the world looks to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, Brenda Woods, B.Comm. ’81, will also be watching with great interest. Woods is vice-president of marketing for Visa, and the Olympic Games is one of her best opportunities to get the Visa brand out to a global audience. Visa has been an official Olympic sponsor since 1986.

Woods describes her work at Visa as a “dream job” that provides the benefit of working for a company with a strong global brand and a large local marketing presence.

Beginning with her experience in
The University of Guelph Alumni Association acknowledges and appreciates the generosity of our many alumni, donors and volunteers who demonstrate their philanthropic vision on a daily basis.

We are fortunate that our alumni engage in the life of the University and invest in the next generation of leaders — and they do so in many different ways. U of G alumni are involved in the governance of the University as advisors and committee members. Others enrich the learning experience by offering student co-op work experiences, giving guest lectures or acting as mentors. Still others partner with faculty and graduate student researchers in the endless quest for new knowledge.

Alumni are ambassadors for the University and are effective champions with the public, the media and legislators. Financial contributions from alumni also enrich the learning experience of students at Guelph.

Philanthropy is the spirit and act of assuming responsibility to improve the quality of life for others. It can be practised by all. Large or small in our means, we all have the ability to make a difference. Our alumni prove this each day. Thank you for all the ways you contribute.

Linda Hruska, 
B.Sc.(Agr.) ’85, M.Agr. ’88 
President, UGAA

The University of Guelph honoured one of its most successful football coaches, Tom Mooney, during Homecoming weekend Sept. 19 and 20. Pictured at the game with Gryphon football co-captain Sean Riley, Mooney was also honoured at a reception celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1958 football team he coached to a championship title.

Three-sport athlete Jack Reeves, BSA ’52, is a new inductee into the Gryphon Athletics Hall of Fame. He competed in football, hockey and track and field, earning a total of eight varsity letters. In football, Reeves helped lead his team to the Intermediate Intercollegiate Championship in 1949 and was team captain in 1952, playing both halfback and quarterback. In hockey, he was the top scorer every year he played. Competing only one season in track and field, he won the 100-, 220- and 440-yard events in 1951 and received the Hamilton Olympic Club Trophy.

Also inducted into the Gryphon Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008 were the 1997 women’s cross-country team, the first women’s team in Guelph’s history to bring home a national title, and the 1955 football team, which captured OUAA, OQAA and Dominion Intermediate Intercollegiate titles.

Gryphon records in the 50, 100, 200 and 500 freestyle events. Many of these records stood for more than 10 years. On the national stage, he was a Swim Canada medallist in 1973, setting a Canadian relay record, and swam for Team Canada in 1971 and 1973.

Alumni matters
The School of Languages and Literatures held an alumni reunion at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre in September. Among the 50 attendees were, from left: Prof. Frédérique Arroyas; master’s student Samantha Read; Prof. Stéphanie Nutting; Lauren McGann, BA ’08; and master’s student Julia Scott.

Gryphons in love

Did you meet your partner at U of G? If so, we want to hear about how you met! Share your story with your University of Guelph Alumni Association and you’ll be automatically entered in a draw for a romantic dinner for two at a restaurant in your city.

We’ve identified more than 3,000 U of G couples, and we’d like to find more. Share your story with us by e-mail at ugaauoguelph.ca or by regular mail to the UGAA at 50 Stone Rd. E., Guelph, ON N1G 2W1.

Not your typical networking event

More than 400 people attended “Knocking Down Silos,” a networking seminar led by Dave Howlett, B.Sc. ’81, Nov. 5 at War Memorial Hall. He coached the audience on strategic networking and communication, all with the goal of connecting with others and increasing co-operation and teamwork in any setting, whether professional or social.

Attendees included members of the Guelph business community, alumni and students. The presentation inspired the exchange of business cards, résumés and camaraderie. Howlett has also appeared on ROBTv and Citytv and has been featured in the London Free Press.

“Dave’s use of humour and his focus on real-life situations motivated everyone to advance or kick-start their careers,” says Alumni Affairs director Jason Moreton. “The University of Guelph is proud to call him one of our own.”

New Leadership in Advancement

Alumni Affairs and Development welcomed Kathy Hay as its new associate vice-president (advancement) in October 2008. She was formerly executive director of advancement at the University of Toronto Mississauga, where she led the advancement team to successful completion of a $160-million campaign for capital expansion.

“I consider my role in advancement at the University of Guelph to be just that — advancement of the University’s mandate in education, research and community engagement,” she says. I feel excited and privileged to play a role in advancing the University and ensuring that our alumni and stakeholders have the opportunity to be part of the solutions for the future.”

Hay has also worked in development and fundraising for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel, Families and Children Experiencing AIDS, and the Canadian Foundation in São Paulo, Brazil. She has experience in the financial service sector and has been an active board member for the United Way of Peel Region.

“I believe we all have a responsibility to our community to do what we can to the best of our ability — and make a difference,” says Hay. “It matters. I am committed to that.”

PHOTO BY RICHARD BAIN
PHOTO BY ROSS DAVIDSON-PILON
Memories

Lawrence Massey, ADA ’67, has both good news and bad news to report. He has retired from farming for health reasons after 32 years on the family’s century farm in Northumberland County. He was the fifth generation to operate Aquadale Farm, which had been in the Massey name since 1869. The good news is that he is finding success in a new writing career begun in 2002. He has published two articles in national magazines and four books — a family history, a chronological summary of his battle with Parkinson’s disease and a two-volume set of Aquadale farm history. “The farm history books proved to be the most challenging yet most rewarding of my writing endeavours,” he says. “I would be remiss in not giving credit for the support and contributions of family members in these projects, particularly my father, who, at the ripe young age of 93, still retains the gift of a photographic memory.”

Joseph Arbour, M.Sc. ’78, and his wife, Edith, have moved to La Spezia, Italy, where he is deputy director of the NATO Undersea Research Centre. He was previously at Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Bedford Laboratory of Oceanography in Dartmouth, N.S. Their daughters, Victoria and Jessica, remain in Canada studying at university.

Stepan Belej, B.Sc. ’74, has worked for BASF Plant Science for more than 22 years, starting in Canada and moving to New Jersey in 2000. In October, he transferred to BASF Plant Science LLC in Research Triangle Park, N.C. He is now group IS manager of the BASF plant biotechnology group.

Craig Pearson, M.Sc.’71,
U of G classmates tell stories

Classmates 20 years ago when they were both studying English at U of G, Sally Cooper, BA ’88 and MA ’90, left, and Sylvia Markle-Craine, BA ’89, had a few minutes to reminisce at the campus authors recognition event hosted by the U of G Library Oct. 30. The annual program is designed to celebrate the book-publishing accomplishments of members of the University community and to make their books available through the library.


was honoured by the U of G Library for a book written with Macdonald Stewart Art Centre director Judith Nasby. The Cultivated Landscape: An Exploration of Art and Agriculture uses more than 70 illustrations of art to visually enhance a discussion about the evolution of agriculture — how we think about agriculture, its use of the land and impact on landscape, and how landscape has been portrayed historically in art. Pearson, who is U of G’s presidential adviser on international programs, is a former dean of OAC and a former chief scientist with Australia’s Bureau of Rural Sciences. The book is available in the library and at the University Bookstore.

Constance Roy, B.Sc. ’76, is thrilled to report that, after a long sojourn in New Mexico, she has returned to Canada and hopes to spend the rest of her life in Powell River, B.C., where she is a registered nurse at the Powell River General Hospital. She would love to hear from “any and all U of G alumni. It is so good to be home!” She can be reached at mconstance@netscape.net.

Steve, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’79, and Alice Uher, B.Sc. ’79, have been operating Uher’s Performance Feeds, a Purina dealer in Chatham-Kent, Ont., for almost 20 years. They have four grown children: Katy, Andrea, Stephanie and Mark — the only aggie in the lot — who graduated from U of G’s Ridgetown Campus in 2008 and is now studying renewable energy technology at Selkirk College in Nelson, B.C.

Darryl Williams, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’75, lives near Markdale, Ont., where he started Grey-Bruce Beef Marketing Ltd. in 2006. After graduating from U of G, he earned an MBA at the University of California, Davis, and a D.Sc. in medicine at the University of Florida. He taught anatomy and physio at a medical school and worked in France, Mexico and the United States before returning to Canada.

1980s

Karen Bailey, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’80 and M.Sc. ’83, who works for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon, received the Canadian Phytopathological Society’s Award for Outstanding Research in 2008. Her career has focused on developing scientific innovations that improve plant health through the management of plant pests, notably pathogens and weeds. She has contributed to reduced reliance on synthetic pesticides in agricultural field crops, horticulture, forestry and urban centres.

Monique Leclerc, M.Sc. ’82 and PhD ’87, received the 2008 American Meteorological Society’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biometeorology. A professor at the University of Georgia, she received the award for research that has advanced understanding of temporal and spatial patterns of local and regional carbon exchanges, and for global leadership in the advancement of biometeorology.

Connie Lesnick, B.Sc. ’84 and M.Sc. ’87, and her husband, Tim, B.Sc. ’82 and M.Sc. ’87, have lived in Rochester, Minn., for 11 years. They both do research at the Mayo Clinic — she in hematological malignancies and he in biostatistics (statistical genetics of Parkinson’s disease). Connie took a sabbatical to stay at home after their first son, Colin, was born in 2000 and went back to work in 2006 when their second son, Torin, was three. She writes: “We love our city, our work and our family life with two active boys and three cats. We’d love to hear from any old friends. Our e-mails are lesnick@mayo.edu and lesnick.connie@mayo.edu.”

Ronald MacDonald, B.Sc.(Eng.) ’81, received the 2008 Canadian Society for Bioengineering (CSBE/SCGAB) Maple Leaf Award for his outstanding leadership in the profession through service, extension efforts and consulting engineering activities. This is the highest award given by the society, of which MacDonald is a 27-year member. He is president of the Guelph consulting firm Agviro, which provides livestock environmental consulting services in North America and Asia. Earlier in his career, he worked with Ontario Hydro and with the Ontario Agricultural Energy Centre, where he played a leadership role in developing heat exchangers and heat pumps for the electricity industry.
for agricultural applications. He received the CSBE/SCGAB Young Engineer of the Year Award in 1996 and the John Turnbull Award in 2005.

■ Mike Mooz, B.A. ‘83, is a Canadian naval officer recently promoted to commander and appointed deputy director of the Canadian Forces Leadership Institute within the Canadian Defence Academy. He will begin a doctoral program in war studies this year at the Royal Military Academy.

■ Rob Neill, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’81, is global head of marketing for Syngenta Crop Protection based in Switzerland. He and his family recently moved back to Switzerland after spending several years in North Carolina.

■ Ted Reesor, B.Sc. ’87, is director of marketing for BLS Systems in Oakville, Ont. After graduating from U of G, he studied respiratory therapy in Toronto. Later, he helped create the respiratory therapy department at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington. He has been involved in many projects related to health care, including an international air ambulance. Since earning an MBA in health services management, he has been marketing oxygen therapy devices designed for patients with suspected respiratory illnesses such as influenza, TB and SARS. He lives in Burlington with his wife, Colette, has two sons.

■ Sandy B. Sc. ’86, and “three future U of G grads.”

■ Tannis Slimmon, B.A.Sc.(Agr.) ’82 and M.Sc. ’88, was named Contemporary Singer of the Year at the 2008 Canadian Folk Music Awards. Her sophomore solo album, Lucky Blue, is a collaboration with her partner, Lewis Melville, B.Sc. ’86, who produced the album and shared writing credits. A former member of the Bird Sisters, she has written songs for or performed on more than 65 albums over the past 25 years. Her first solo album, Oak Lake, was released in 2001. Melville is a veteran of the alternative music scene and has produced a number of Canadian and international albums. A roots musician, he also has a keen interest in experimental music and is an original member of the Woodchoppers Association, a Toronto-based freestyle jazz orchestra. Both Melville and Slimmon are also scientists who work at U of G — she in the Department of Integrative Biology and he in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology.

■ Stephen Tanner, B.A. ‘82, was recently sworn in as chief of police in Kingston, Ont. He was previously Belleville Police Service chief, a position he held for seven years. Before that, he served in Guelph and Halton Region. Besides his Guelph degree in psychology, Tanner holds a master of public administration from the University of Western Ontario. He and his wife, Colette, have two sons.

1990s

■ Kendra Arthur, B.Sc.(H.K.) ’91, is an athletic therapist and co-owner of Bio-Connections Health Care Centre in Exeter, Ont. She married Gord Craig in 2003 and has two children.


■ Karen Daynard, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’94 and M.Sc. ’97, has been selected to participate in the Canadian Nuffield Scholarship program. Over the next two years, she will travel around the world, meeting up with other Nuffield members and researching a specific agricultural issue. Daynard, who is volunteer editor of the OAC Alumni News, says she’s interested in learning how to attract more students into agricultural studies and careers. “I specifically want to look at how agricultural universities around the world recruit students, and the role that events can play in making agricultural careers ‘cool.’”

■ Colin, B.A. ’91, and Karen Godwin, B.A.Sc. ’90, work with Canadian Baptist Ministries and have been teaching seminary in Kigali, Rwanda, since August 2008. They write: “We have left pastoral ministry in Liege, Belgium, after 12 years and thought we’d try another
Grad heads NR portfolio

Newly elected MP Lisa Raitt, M.Sc. ’93, has been appointed to Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s cabinet as minister of natural resources. She represents Halton and is one of four Guelph graduates serving as MPs from Ontario. The others are Olivia Chow, BA ’79, the NDP representative for Trinity-Spadina; David McGuinty, K.Dip. ’81, a Liberal serving Ottawa South; and Mike Wallace, BA ’87, a Conservative MP for Burlington.

Originally from Cape Breton, N.S., Raitt has an undergraduate science degree from St. Francis Xavier University and studied environmental chemistry at Guelph. She went on to Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto and trained with barristers in the United Kingdom, specializing in intellectual property, commercial litigation and shipping arbitration. She joined the Toronto Port Authority in 2000 as general counsel and later served as harbourmaster before being promoted to CEO, a post she held from 2002 until her election to Parliament in October.

Raitt lives in the Halton community with her husband, Dave, and two young sons.

Grad heads NR portfolio

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done just that in her Fashion blog, comparing the European flair of Guelph’s downtown with fashion hot spot Paris, France.

Kristin McDonald, BA ’07, studied fine art and art history at U of G and is pursuing her dream of being an artist. In her current work, she uses paper, paint, foam core and recycled prints, all mingling together in the form of paintings and paper works. “I’m interested in creating dreamscapes — places imagined but never visited,” she says. McDonald was invited to show at the One of a Kind Show and Sale in Toronto in November. To view her works, search the Internet for GlueSTICK Dreams.

Scott Moccia, B.Eng ’08, celebrated his convocation with his parents Sandra (Tiffin), B.Sc. ’76, and Rich Moccia, B.Sc. ’76 and M.Sc. ’78. Sandra is a registered nurse, while Rich is a U of G professor, chair of the M.Sc. aquaculture program and interim associate vice-president (research) for agrifood and partnerships.

Homero Marconi Penteado, MLA ’04, is a professor of landscape architecture at Universidade Federal do Espirito Santo in Brazil. He has taken a four-year leave to pursue a PhD at the University of Oregon on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Jay and Mindy (Martin-dale) Squire, both B.Sc.(Agr.) ’02, were married in August 2004 and welcomed their first child, Brendan Jay, in June 2008.

Janet Stanley, BA ’07, received the 2008 Jane Graham Memorial Award from the Guelph Arts Council. The award was established in memory of Guelph artist Jane Graham, BA ’83, after her death in 2005. Stanley works primarily in oil painting and is using the financial award to participate in a four-week studio residency in Vermont. To learn more about her work, visit http://guelpharts.ca/janetstanley.

Jacquie Thompson, B.A.Sc. ’07, married T.J. Reeds at Henderson Estate in St. Catharines, Ont., Aug. 1. They live in Hamilton, where she is completing a dietetic internship with Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation.

PASSAGES

Anna (Davidson) Armitt, DHE ’37, June 30, 2007
Marie Brown, DHE ’40, May 31, 2008
Donald W. Carter, DVM ’68, Oct. 12, 2006
Russell Craig, DVM ’51, Oct. 4, 2008
Eric Cresswell, MSA ’55, Nov. 14, 2008
Doris (German) Darrach, BSA ’42, Nov. 5, 2008
Elizabeth (Freudemann) Dryden, DHE ’36, Oct. 5, 2008
Robert Dunn, ADA ’61, July 26, 2008
Mary (Elliott) Enright, DHE ’47, Sept. 6, 2008
Elizabeth (Roe) Ewart, DHE ’38, Januray 2008
Howard Fainty, ADA ’47, Oct. 29, 2008
Morrey Findlay, BSA ’49, July 8, 2008
James Fuller, BSA ’48, Aug. 18, 2008
John Ghetty, BSA ’51, Oct. 15, 2008
David M. Gray, BSA ’50, Oct. 19, 2002
Errol Hancock, DVM ’24, July 31, 2008
Gordon Hitchin, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’70, June 11, 2008
Mary Horchak, BA ’71, March 2006
Gerald Jelly, DVM ’52, Aug. 1, 2008
Catherine Jewson, DHE ’41, April 16, 2008
Genevieve (Waugh) Johnson, DHE ’42, July 28, 2008
William Jordan, BSA ’51, Aug. 16, 2008
Hugh Knowles, BSA ’44, July 6, 2008
Kenneth G. McPhee, BSA ’34, Nov. 1, 2008
Ross Mitton, DVM ’52, Aug. 31, 2008
Allison Morgan, BSA ’50, April 9, 2008
Marion Penhale, DHE ’31, Sept. 24, 2008
Francis Powell, BSA ’41, May 1, 2008
Fernand Plante, B.Sc. ’70, Nov. 12, 2008
Richard “Rick” Richards, BSA ’38 and Fell. ’83, former dean of the Ontario Agricultural College, Oct. 19, 2008 Please view www.uoguelph.ca/president/blog/2008/10/
Fred Roemmele, BSA ’49, July 25, 2008
Lori Schaefer, BA ’96, July 29, 2008
Harold Shield, BSA ’51, July 13, 2008
John Shivas, BSA ’41, Sept. 16, 2008
Lyde (Montgomery) Smith, DHE ’40, Sept. 14, 2008
Arnold Stansell, BSA ’40, March 18, 2007
Hilary (Gidney) Sullivan, M.Sc. ’95, May 22, 2008
Donald Ulmer, DVM ’59, in 2007
Stuart Walley, BSA ’26, Sept. 16, 2008
John Woodcock, DVM ’38, July 4, 2008

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Prof. Arend Bonen is elected to the Royal Society of Canada, a bioenergy research centre opens at Ridgetown, an engineering team develops a robot that can learn, and environmental scientists discover how to stop a water-borne disease—all expanding U of G’s research reputation as the University welcomes a new vice-president (research).

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS
Most of us discard the photos in which someone has their eyes closed. Fine art professor Susan Dobson turns the accidental image into a purposeful study of memory.

THE LAST GREAT GIFT
Since the 1960s, Guelph students have had the privilege of learning from people who made the greatest gift of all by donating their body to science education. Today’s anatomy instructors and students remain grateful for the knowledge they receive.

BIG SCIENCE, SMALL MAMMAL
Guelph veterinary graduates take on key roles in one of Toronto’s newest facilities dedicated to genetic research and human health.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT
Introducing five Guelph alumni whose stories are also featured in the Portico online version at www.uoguelph.ca/theportico/

Leadership and philanthropy are top-of-mind as the University of Guelph Alumni Association, the Department of Alumni Affairs and Development and the Board of Governors contemplate the impact that University donors have on the Guelph student experience. Leaders also shine in some of U of G’s distinguished Gryphon alumni.

on the cover
Studio art grad Javy Wong, BA ’07, poses for the camera of Prof. Susan Dobson.
Photo by Susan Dobson
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book for the more emotive side of what rememory might be,” says Dobson. “All these things — these scraps of paper and scraps of ideas — just seemed to come together all of a sudden and form a body of work. That was very exciting to me.”

She shot the photos with four-by-five-inch Polaroid film, which is rarely used today. “I had hoarded the film over the years, waiting for just the right project.”

She used a large-format view camera exactly like those common in the late 19th century, although portraits taken during that era were always reproduced as small prints. “You’d never see photographs this large in a historical context.”

Dobson’s subjects were asked to sit perfectly still to maintain a proper framing and focus. She then married those old-time practices with modern techniques, scanning the images, turning them into digital files and then producing them as oversized prints, a style explored by photographers in the last few decades.

“We’re bringing the past and present to play in a photographic medium,” she says.

“Whatever is going on outside my door ain’t for me. The world is in this room. This here’s all there is and all there needs to be.” — Beloved

People who posed for “Rememory” say it was an experience like no other. They sat in a small room in absolute darkness for more than an hour. Dobson wanted her subjects to disengage from the camera, from the act of posing, from her and even from themselves. “The darkness was intended to encourage them to regress into memory.”

In the dark, amid the silence and waves of memory, she would take pictures without warning. She’d take two, three, sometimes four or more until she captured just the right image, the right “rememory.” “With some people, it was five minutes before I took a single picture. With others, it was only a few seconds.”

She found her subjects by first asking friends and acquaintances to sit for her. Often, someone who posed would suggest someone else — a friend, a colleague — and the “Rememory” community grew from there.

While in the midst of their memories, some people smiled, some cried and one even laughed out loud. Mindful of their privacy, Dobson never asked them to reveal what they were thinking. “Some would tell me afterwards; some wouldn’t. I think many of them were surprised by how emotional the process was.”

Michael Hall recalls his emotions being high from the start because there’s nothing he hates more than being photographed. A colleague of Dobson’s, he runs the slide library for the School of Fine Art and Music and has worked at the University for 27 years.

When asked to take part, he reluctantly agreed. “When there’s something you dis-
Higher U.S. salaries entice Canadian grads

HIGHER WAGES are enticing some Canadian university graduates to start their careers in the United States, with some bringing in up to 50 per cent more than their counterparts who stayed in Canada.

That’s the finding of Guelph sociologist David Walters, whose research with David Zarifa of Statistics Canada is the first to compare the early economic returns of new graduates who stay in Canada and those who head south. They found that the difference in earnings between Canada and the United States was most pronounced among grads with degrees related to computer science and engineering. (The average earnings difference was almost 50 per cent for these grads and 24 per cent overall.)

Although the total number of grads lured to the States was small — only about 400 made the move, compared with 6,000 who remained in Canada — the researchers found that most of those who migrated south are concentrated in fields vital to the economy.

“They are physicians, nurses, engineers, professors, computer scientists and entrepreneurs, and those few fields are important for Canada’s productivity in a global knowledge economy,” says Walters.

UN panel hears from Guelph researchers

F OUR MEMBERS of Rural Women Making Change (RWMC), a think tank on Canadian rural issues based at the University of Guelph, spoke at the United Nations in New York City Oct. 16 to a gathering of UN staff, international NGOs and the media.

The panel discussion helped launch the second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

Guelph representatives were RWMC director and sociology professor Belinda Leach, program co-ordinator Susan Turner, researcher Colleen Purdon and research assistant Evelyn Encalada-Grez.

RWMC is made up of community organization members and academics.

Leach says some delegates were surprised by the presentation: “They didn’t hear how great things are for rural women here in the ‘First World.’ In fact, rural poverty, a lack of opportunities and gender inequality are huge issues in rural Canada, just as they are in developing nations around the world.”

In Canada, rural women are a diverse group, working in the agricultural industry as farmers or labourers, the manufacturing industry and the service industry, says Turner. Lack of access to job and skills training and public transportation as well as shrinking community resources put rural women on an unequal footing, she says.

“Canada is a leader in exporting gender equality to developing nations, but our own record is sketchy. Rural women around the world suffer from poverty, lack of transportation and declining rural opportunities, and they are not a priority with governments. Our research shows that this is perfectly true in Canada right now as well.”

NOTEWORTHY

• U of G’s Centre for Families, Work and Well-Being (CFWW), celebrated its 10th anniversary in December. Co-founder Prof. Donna Lero says the unique research centre currently has 27 active research projects, partnerships with more than 100 community organizations and collaborators in at least a dozen countries, all aimed at improving the lives of families, workers and communities.

• The University’s horse health centre, Equine Guelph, has launched an online calculator that allows horse owners to estimate the risk of infectious disease on their farms. The website considers current farm practices and suggests biosecurity measures that can help protect your horses’ health. Visit the Equine Guelph site at www.equineguelph.ca.

• For over a year, Prof. Doug Larson, Integrative Biology, collected pieces of wood, stone, turtle shells, bits of ivory, fish fossils and other items connected to U of G research and scholarship. From these biological objects, he built a guitar that makes beautiful music and tells stories of local history. He was inspired by the Six String Nation guitar that was built by Nova Scotia luthier George Rizsanyi from 60 pieces of Canadiana. Larson’s made-in-Guelph guitar has already made several appearances in the city.

• U of G’s renowned L.M. Montgomery Collection — the largest and most comprehensive in Canada — is now accessible to scholars and fans around the world via the Internet. Many items in the Guelph collection are now digitized and available through the new L.M. Montgomery Research Centre website (www.lmmrc.ca) and the “Our Ontario” gateway, which is sponsored by the Ontario government.
Munroe recalls the class was given several minutes to adjust to the sights, sounds and smells of the lab before being assigned to a donor. Everyone was silent as the instructor reminded them about being respectful and taking care of this gift they had been given.

In groups of six, the students were directed to a table. Before them was the donor they would be studying for the next eight months. “At the time, I had no idea just how much I would learn,” says Munroe. But learn she did — about the human skeleton and the muscles that move it, the nerves and blood vessels, and how all these parts work in relationship to one another.

“Human anatomy is a very old science, and dissection has been the cornerstone of anatomy education for centuries,” says Prof. Lorraine Jadeski, who is director of the anatomy program at Guelph.

Hippocrates II was the first to write about human anatomy during the “golden age” of Greece (500 to 300 BC). Human body dissection for the purpose of studying anatomy flourished during the Renaissance among both scientists and artists, and remain one of the basic principles of modern medicine.

Human anatomy is sometimes referred to as the ‘physics’ of medical science, and while new teaching methods and computer simulations have been developed to aid the study of human anatomy, none can truly replicate the experience of human dissection, says Jadeski.

The Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences (HHNS) offers a third-year course that explores human anatomy through lectures and associated laboratory dissections, with lab-based studies the main focus. “This gives our students the opportunity to learn anatomy in the best way possible,” she says.

“A thorough study of the human body in a hands-on anatomy course is essential to fully understand the intricacies of the human body. If you have a clear understanding of anatomical structures, their functions and relationships, then health and clinical applications become somewhat intuitive.”

In addition, the nature of lab-based courses gives students a wealth of valuable experiences that may not be perceived as traditional academic pursuits, she says. Anatomy students are actively engaged in small-group learning and peer-teaching exercises. They are continually discussing concepts as a dissection team and must interact with their peers, graduate students and instructors. The scenario is similar to team-based medical education and health care.
Jadeski teaches anatomy to about 300 students a year. “Each new class brings a hard-working and dedicated group of students,” she says. “Their talents, energy and enthusiasm for learning are limitless. Many graduates are now pursuing careers in the health sciences.”

She adds that learning human anatomy is important for students heading for medical school, but it can also be an advantage for those pursuing other careers such as physiotherapy, chiropractic, dentistry, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy and biomechanics.

“Our graduating students are open books in terms of their future studies,” says Jadeski, whose goal is to prepare her students by exposing them to as much detailed anatomy as possible.

The program is restricted to students enrolled in biomedical science or human kinetics, and even then, there’s a long waiting list of students hoping to be admitted, she says.

“We have to limit the number of students because of lab availability. Access to an adequate number of donors is our major problem.”

Premila Sathasivam, a longtime HHNS technician who co-ordinates the human anatomy lab in the Powell Building, says it is one of the most popular courses offered by the department. It is also one of the most valuable, say graduates.

After beginning graduate work at the University of Toronto, Megan Fisher, B.Sc. ’07, wrote a letter to U of G president Alastair Summerlee to thank the University for the excellent courses she had taken as an undergraduate.

“The classes I took have allowed me to enter into my master’s with a relatively easy transition. I feel much more prepared than my classmates for the academic courses I am now taking, and I hope future students will always have the same great anatomy experience at Guelph that I did.”

Those sentiments are echoed by Antonio Pino, B.Sc. ’08, who says having a year of human anatomy at Guelph has helped him during his first year at dental school, where he’s required to take another full-body dissection course.

“I have a huge advantage over my classmates because I have done all this before,” he says. “I feel really prepared, whereas for many of my classmates, it’s the first time they’ve picked up a scalpel.”

Sathasivam says HHNS is working hard to ensure that the anatomy program at Guelph continues to flourish despite a decline in the number of full-body donations in Canada. U of G receives most of its donors from medical schools, but as their own programs expand, they’re finding it increasingly difficult to supply Guelph, she says. As a result, HHNS has begun its own body donation program. “We hope that accepting our own donors will ensure that we can continue to offer a high-calibre anatomy program,” she says.

The human anatomy course was launched in the 1960s by biomedical science professor William Boyd, who taught it for two decades. Following his retirement, Francine Pilon led the course until Jadeski took over a few years ago.

Although the anatomy course was originally designed for science students, U of G has found ways to maximize the gift of their donors by allowing students in other disciplines to study them. A fine art course, for example, gives young artists the opportunity to spend time in the lab sketching the different layers of the human body in detail.

“It’s an entirely different collection of students and an entirely different way of learning,” says HHNS professor Alison Webb, who started “Anatomy for Artists” four years ago and teaches it with fine art professor Jean Maddison.

Drawings from each course are exhibited in the Zavitz Hall art gallery, and several from the winter 2008 course are reproduced as part of this story.

U of G did have a similar course when the human anatomy lab first opened in the 1960s, but it eventually lapsed. Webb, who is an artist herself, brought the course back because “it’s vital for artists to understand the
Donald Ziraldo, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’71, the son of an immigrant from Friuli, Italy, is credited with taking Canada into the small club of countries that make and export the highest-quality wine.

He and his Austrian partner, Karl Kaiser, established Inniskillin Wines in Ontario’s Niagara Peninsula and developed it into one of the most important producers in Canada. Ziraldo’s marketing expertise developed the VQA designation as a mark of quality for Niagara wines and introduced uniquely Canadian icewine to the world.

For these reasons, his name was a natural choice for one of the world’s most important winemaking awards — Italy’s Masi Civiltà Del Vino Prize.

Ziraldo’s horticulture degree from Guelph helped fuel a passion that started when his mother gave him the ring that his father, who died when Ziraldo was only 15, had always wanted him to have. Engraved on the inside of the ring was the image of a bunch of grapes.

“My father had put my destiny inside that ring,” Ziraldo has said.

The gift began his dedication to viticulture and winemaking. Inspired by his father’s homeland and the excellent wines produced in the Friuli region, he decided to make similar quality wines in the Niagara Peninsula. The Masi prize demonstrates his success.

In announcing the award, the Masi Foundation lauded Ziraldo’s focus on research and innovation for wine in the Niagara region.

“His actions are closely compared to what Sandro Boscaini, president of Masi Agricola and vice-president of the foundation, has done for years by promoting the art of winemaking in the Veneto through the use of native grapes and traditional methods, updated with the latest technology.”

The prize includes a special cask of Amarone, which Ziraldo shares with others recognized by the Masi Foundation. Considered the prince of wines for the Venetian region, the Amarone cask was presented in the Valpolicella region of Verona in late September, the time of year when grapes selected for making Amarone are laid out on bamboo racks in the traditional appassimento method.

During Ziraldo’s years at Inniskillin, one of his most prestigious prizes was the Grand Prix d’Honneur received for the 1989 Icewine at the 1991 Vinexpo in Bordeaux. That win signalled the start of international interest in Canadian wines. A member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, he left Inniskillin in the hands of the Constellation Group in 2006 and has since focused on research and development projects as president of Vineland Research and the Innovation Centre of Horticulture.

For information about his new venture, visit www.vinelandontario.ca.
Two floors below street level in downtown Toronto, Heather Goodman leads the way along a wide deserted corridor lit by fluorescent ceiling panels. Her baby-blue slip-on booties muffle her tread against the spotless floor. In matching scrubs, she looks like a hospital staffer, but her actual title is supervisor of technical services for the Toronto Centre for Phenogenomics (TCP).

Goodman stops outside a door whose red-tinted window keeps out the corridor light at night when the room’s occupants enjoy total darkness during their active period. As it’s now early afternoon, the interior lights are on.

Swiping her ID badge through a reader, she pushes open the door just enough to poke a head inside. The room is filled with stainless-steel shelving racks packed with plastic cages, row on row. Lights or no lights, it’s difficult from the partly opened doorway to make out what’s inside them. But that busy rustling is an unmistakable sound. Sure enough, behind the plastic lid of an upper-shelf cage nearest the door, a telltale form appears — one of the thousands of occupants housed in this new research facility.

Listen hard enough, and that scrabbling of mice in their cages might begin to sound like something else: a hoped-for groundswell of genetic information coming from the TCP that will help us learn more about ourselves and how to treat and perhaps cure cancer, heart disease, asthma, arthritis, neurodegenerative disorders, diabetes and numerous other diseases.

Opened in fall 2007, this $69-million facility is among the largest genetic centres in the world dedicated to the development and study of mouse models for human health and disease research. The three-storey, 120,000-square-foot centre stands within walking distance of its four supporting research hospitals: Mount Sinai, St. Michael’s, the Hospital for Sick Children and the University Health Network.

You can’t see the University of Guelph from here, but you can follow numerous research and teaching connections between the TCP and the Ontario Veterinary College, beginning with the two-time Guelph grad who heads the Toronto centre.

CEO Colin McKerlie, DVM ’91 and D.V.Sc. ’97, says the TCP is much more than a breeding nest for laboratory mice. “It’s a research centre that’s all about enabling human health research,” he says.

The University of Toronto professor and SickKids researcher holds an adjunct appointment in U of G’s Department of...
Guelph’s hotel and food administration program, she’s been interested in the area of consumer insight. “I was interested in why people think a certain way about brands, how to create the impression of a brand and how to encourage people to think positively about a product or brand,” she says.

Woods says keeping her finger on the pulse of the needs and wants of the consumer is important in the competitive field of marketing and branding. So is planning ahead and anticipating change. “Changes in the marketplace bring opportunity, but they also pose the biggest challenges,” she says.

Don’t forget the children

Over the past 25 years, Dirk Booy, ADA ’78 and MA ’88, has worked to evoke change and improve the lives of children throughout the developing world, from a mud-stick hut in rural Sierra Leone to his current office at World Vision Canada, where he now serves as the organization’s executive vice-president.

In this role, he’s responsible for developing strategic priorities, deciding on resource allocation, handling government relations and overseeing multi-million dollar global investments. Yet, one of his biggest challenges is helping individual Canadians understand the scope of the situation.

“What we do and how we lead our lives here has an impact on people around the world and on their ability to live a good life,” he says. To resolve the global food crisis, for example, he advises us to first make sure that our own daily practices have a positive impact on the food situation in the world and says we should call our government to account to ensure that Canada maintains its commitments to international aid.

“It is about global change to ensure that fair and free trade exist. It is about ensuring that in our drive to find alternative energy sources, we don’t starve people in the process. In the end, it is about justice.”

There’s a great future downtown

American architect, Hugh Newell Jacobsen once said: “When you look at a city, it’s like reading the hopes, aspirations and pride of everyone who built it.” As executive director of the Downtown Guelph Business Association, Audrey Jamal, BA ’98, reads the hopes, aspirations and pride of those who built U of G’s hometown.

“People often look to the downtown as an indicator of a community’s health, and I think if we’re serious about protecting the environment we need to be able to attract intensification, investors and business downtown,” says Jamal. “We also have to grow in a way that’s denser and more sustainable, and begin to grow our city up, rather than out.”

Jamal says she cultivated a real understanding of where the needs lie in a community when she was a student at Guelph.

After graduation, she worked as an advocate for people with disabilities at Bloorview MacMillan Children’s Hospital in Toronto and later with the Canadian Arab Federation, where she advocated for Mahar Arar and his wife, Monia Mazigh.

Stepping back from some of the rigors of federal advocacy work, Jamal returned to Guelph with her family. “I was excited to start this new chapter in my life and career because I saw there was room to effect change on the municipal level and to build stronger relationships between government and business.”

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Ever talked to Shamu the whale at San Diego’s Sea World? Not the real whale, but the mascot whose costume can be traced back to fashion and software designer Susan Lazear, B.A.Sc. ’79. Her company, Cochenille, sells software programs that assist home sewers and knitters, as well as manufacturers who make clothing for major retailers like The Gap.

“In a way, my business was the culmination of all the 4-H projects I did in rural Ontario as a teen,” says Lazear, who grew up near Stratford, Ont. “It started in the late 1980s, when I was working in the fashion industry in San Francisco and looking for new ways to do designs, and I thought computers might be helpful.”

At the time, that was a revolutionary concept. Personal computers were not mainstream, but Lazear found someone who could help her program in a link between her knitting machine and her computer. “It was hard at first,” she says. “I learned a lot through experimenting and trial and error.”

Once she had a working system, Lazear realized it was something other knitters might find useful. She founded Cochenille to distribute the products in 1989. Starting her own business was a huge leap, but her industry experience had helped to prepare her. “I’d had to learn a lot of things I hadn’t even thought of when I was attending university — how to do purchase orders, sampling, keeping business records.” Those skills, combined with the knowledge she’d acquired at school, prepared her for running her own company.

From the early knitting machine software, Cochenille has expanded to offer software for people working in various textile arts and crafts, as well as sewing. Garment Designer, for example, is like magic for the home sewer. It allows users to input their measurements, choose from a menu of clothing items (skirts, pants, etc.) then select and make adjustments to the collar, sleeve, pockets and other elements. Finally, the completed pattern is printed out and ready to be used.

As the business expanded, Lazear worried that she wouldn’t enjoy working on her own. “I am a people person, and developing the software and writing the manuals is something you have to do alone. What I found was that I went to a lot of trade shows — and I still do — so that keeps me in touch with the people who use my products,” she says. “My reward is seeing what people do with the tools I’ve given them.” She’s traveled to New Zealand, Australia, England and other parts of Europe to attend shows and teach people how to use Cochenille software.

She’s also been teaching fashion design at San Diego’s Mesa College for more than ten years. “I love being in front of students and getting inspired by them,” she says.

Lazear has a master’s degree in clothing and textiles from San Diego State University and was department chair for apparel design at Bassett College in Portland, Oregon, before joining the faculty at Mesa College.

By Teresa Pitman
Where do we go from here?

WHAT A YEAR 2008 WAS for the University of Guelph! We continue to rank among Canada’s top research universities, and with good reason. Groundbreaking research conducted at Guelph has brought life-changing improvements to people, communities and the world. We are focusing on what matters — food, environment, cultures, community, and health and wellness.

The new year is a great time to look forward and bring focus to the challenges that lie before us. People are concerned about the safety of our food supply; the quality of our air, water and soil; human and animal health; and the sustainability of our communities. The world is facing highly complex challenges that demand new kinds of transformational approaches.

Where do we go from here? Through new forms of partnership, collaboration and leadership, we plan to accelerate our mission to “change lives and improve life.” Guelph is fortunate that a culture of philanthropy weaves its way through the fabric of the University community — our students break national records in food bank contributions, and our alumni remain dedicated to raising money for their alma mater.

Supported by this foundation of philanthropy, the University is undertaking an ambitious fundraising campaign that will end in 2014, the year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Guelph’s incorporation as a university.

The financial goal has yet to be confirmed, but our vision is to increase the pace of change and life-enhancing transformation through the support of strategic faculty positions and programs. As always, the support, vision and dedication of our alumni and donors provide the foundation from which we will grow. Please join us in this next phase as we focus on what matters now.

Joanne Shoveller

Vice-president (Alumni Affairs and Development)
WHAT DO these things have in common?

The Jahazi Coffee House in Kenya, where the owner wants to set up an Internet café and educational programs; the world-famous breast cancer research program at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto; Ogrant, an online program that lets students apply for scholarships using videos and digital photos that tell their stories in creative ways; and a shelter for abused women in Toronto. They’re all worthy causes, but the main thing they have in common is that they’ve all received funding from Reach Out Toronto, a fundraising organization created by Dr. Hanif Jamal, B.Sc. ’02, and some of his friends, including another Guelph graduate, Saroop Bharwani, B.Sc.(Eng.) ’03.

These two Toronto friends were roommates during their years at Guelph. They hosted a radio show on CFRU and worked as deejays at parties and events to pay for their textbooks and tuition fees. It was when they were asked to deejay a CFRU fundraiser that they got their first taste of involvement with a charity event.

After graduating from Guelph and starting on their career paths, Jamal and Bharwani turned their attention to another way to use the skills they’d developed: helping others. They collaborated with other friends from the Toronto area: Vivek Moorby, Anish and Sachin Bhalla, Shachin Ghelani, Rommel Gajadhar, Shaun Pohanit and Rajiv Butany.

“When the tsunami hit at the end of 2004, we wanted to do something to help,” says Jamal, referring to the Southeast Asian disaster. “We knew that people our age like to go out and party, and we thought we could turn that into something that would raise money for a good cause.” He and his friends staged an event with music, dancing, a silent auction and a 50-50 draw, pulling in some 700 young people and ending up with $14,000 to hand over to the Red Cross.

“Afterwards, people kept saying to us that this was a great concept,” says Jamal. “You hear so much about violence and problems at clubs; here was a chance to do something positive while having a great time.” Inspired by the success of that first event, the friends have organized two or three events each year and have donated the funds raised to a different charity each time. That’s added up to more than $70,000 since 2005.

“We try to have a mix of local, national and international charities that we support,” says Jamal. Partnerships with club owners and a willingness to contribute many volunteer hours keep overhead costs low.

Although they’re all busy with burgeoning careers, the Reach Out friends still carve out time to organize, promote and run these events. Jamal studied medicine at McMaster University, did a residency in family medicine there and is now practising in Oakville. Bharwani completed a co-op computer engineering degree at Guelph and now works in Dallas as a professional telecommunications consultant for an international consulting firm. They both believe Reach Out provides a release from the stress of their jobs and a chance for a good group of friends to get together and have fun.

“It doesn’t feel like work,” says Jamal. “We’re all so busy that sometimes it’s only when we’re working on a fundraising event that we have time to talk and interact.”

www.reachout-toronto.com
Dani, BA ’95, and her husband, Arjan, were married in London, England, in 2006. Their son, Lyndunne Peter, was born July 7, 2007. Their e-mail is tinkerbellecursor@yahoo.ca.

2000s

Karen Blair, BA ’03, completed a master’s degree at Acadia University and is now working on a PhD at Queen’s University. She is currently recruiting participants for a longitudinal study of same-sex and other-sex relationships, with a key focus on how intimate relationships affect our health and well-being. She invites all interested parties to contact her for more information at www.klbresearch.com.

Janis Conrad, BA ’01, has returned to school to add to her Guelph degree in psychology. She is completing a bachelor of education program at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ont., and will be doing her practice teaching placements in Cambridge with a Grade 3/4 class.

Sarah Desmarais, BA ’03, received the 2008 Alice Wilson Award from the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). The award, which honours the first woman elected a fellow of the society, recognizes a woman of outstanding academic qualifications who is entering a career in scholarship or research at the post-doctoral level. Desmarais, who is originally from Nepean, Ont., went from Guelph to Simon Fraser University and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia.

Jason Dunkerley, BA ’03, won a bronze medal in the men’s 1,500-metre race for the visually impaired at the Beijing Paralympics. A former U of G cross-country runner, he also competed at the 2000 and 2004 Paralympic Games, capturing silver medals at both.

Zanna Farmer, BA ’06, is helping to honour U of G friend Collin Cureatz, B.Sc. ’07, who died in June 2007. She’s organizing a shinny hockey tournament to raise money for a bursary at his former high school, Trinity College, in Port Hope, Ont. She invites everyone who knew Cureatz to enter a team in the tournament or to just attend the free event Jan. 24. For details, contact Farmer at 7zztf@queensu.ca.

Melissa Harvey, B.Sc. ’04, graduated from medical school at the University of Ottawa in 2008 and is now a pediatric resident at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa. We learned of her achievement from another biological science graduate and one of Harvey’s former teachers at Dr. John M. Denison Secondary School in Nipissing, Ont. Catherine Dallen, B.Sc. ’79, is the school’s student success and advocacy teacher and has followed Harvey’s career through U of G and beyond.

Daniel Janetos, B.Comm. ’08, is attending culinary school at George Brown College and working at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto. He recently helped run the first Chef’s Congress at Michael Stadtlander’s (Eigensenn Farm) with George Brown and chef John Higgins.

Heather Loney, BA ’06, was recently featured in a Guelph Mercury article about her selection as one of Canada’s top 10 fashion bloggers. Toronto-based Fashion magazine asked Loney to be part of a fashion blogging team to reveal the range of shopping and fashion to be found in Canadian cities. Loney said writing about fashion makes it possible to touch on the history and architecture of a city. And she’s

Captain Stu O’Neil, BSA ’58, of Denfield, Ont., displays a goalie stick used in the 1958 OAVC Redmen hockey championship season. The stick, which was signed by team members during a recent reunion on campus, was covered in galvanized metal so that it could last the entire season. Coach Al Singleton was very creative and is said to have hated the expense of replacing a broken goalie stick.

Singleton died in 1995, but his players remembered him during the Nov. 15 celebration of Gryphon hockey history, aptly dubbed “Hockey Day in Gryphonville.” A profile series produced by the Department of Athletics includes the story “Al Singleton, Never Say Never.” To obtain a copy, contact Gail Kendall at 519-824-4120, Ext. 52368, or gkendall@uoguelph.ca.

Lacing their skates for Hockey Day in the twin-pad arena, are, from left: Gerry Pullin, ADA ’67, Settlers Supplies Inc. of Sheffield, Ont.; Laury Ego, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’67, Ego’s Farm Market and Greenhouse in Coldwater, Ont.; and Bob Lewis, BSA ’61, Human Resources Consulting Service, Toronto.
Do you know who I am?
I recently received the fall 2008 Portico mailed to me by my mother in Canada. I now live in the United States with my husband and two children and have not changed my information, until now. I am an avid reader of the Portico because it brings me a little bit of home, reminding me of my life in Canada and my time at U of G.

I still feel so much passion for the University and what it represents to Canada and to its past and present students. I feel proud of the University when I read the Portico and can hardly believe I was a student at such an outstanding institution. When friends and colleagues ask where I went to school, I proudly tell them “the University of Guelph — that’s spelled G-U-E-L-P-H, Guelph.” Their reactions are pretty funny.

In the fall issue, there’s an article called “Stories About Linc.” I think the graduate in the photo is me. I have the same picture and want to share my story about Lincoln Alexander.

I came home for convocation from the University of Alabama, where I was doing graduate work in forensic science. I didn’t want to miss convocation. I’d worked too hard at Guelph and was the first person in my family to receive a university degree.

My mom and dad were taking a ton of pictures outside War Memorial Hall, and along came the great Lincoln. He asked me: “Do you know who I am?” I replied: “Do you know who I am?” He giggled and asked if he could join our picture taking. My dad almost had an attack because he knew exactly who this wonderful man was. I’m sorry to admit that I didn’t put two and two together.

Later, during the ceremony, I giggled when I saw him up on stage. When it was my turn to kneel, we looked at each other with big smiles, and he said: “I now know who you are. Do you now know who I am?” My smile was 100 miles long, I’m sure. It was a great ending to my U of G chapter.

The time I missed at grad school cost me two zeros on two exams, so I graduated with a 3.9 average instead of 4.0. Was it worth it? Absolutely. I loved my time at U of G and would love to meet the Hon. Lincoln Alexander again.

KATHERINE (Helmeczy) Gaines, B.Sc. ’99, Raleigh, N.C.

Editor’s Note: To share your story about chancellor emeritus Lincoln Alexander, write to alumni@uoguelph.ca. And if your mom is forwarding your Portico magazine, get it faster by sending your new address to alumnirecords@uoguelph.ca.

She likes us!
Your fall 2008 issue of the Portico was the best yet. It was very informative. Keep us posted on these discoveries and issues. Thank you.

DONNA PREE, B.H.Sc. ’67, Jordan Station, Ont.

RCAF women on campus
I was most interested in your article “A Campus on the March” in the winter 2008 issue of the Portico. I was in the first contingent of women to come on campus to be trained as cooks. We were members of what was then the RCAF Women’s Division.

We started training in Toronto in November 1941 and came to Guelph later the same month. Since no one in Canada was used to women on active duty, we were a novelty to say the least.

We were quartered at the golf club and paraded to and from the college campus each day. Our meals were taken in Creelman Hall with all the men. (I agree with the statement about the Aussies!)

Because we had, as yet, no non-commissioned officers, some of the men were assigned to march us to and from classes. One of my favourite memories is of the little girl who stood on a corner as a corporal marched us down the street. She pointed at us and said: “Those are my daddy’s girls.” I felt for poor daddy!

I had graduated from Macdonald Institute in 1938, and everywhere we went, I was pointed out as “the Mac grad.” I was also picked out if a demonstration was needed. It was flattering but wearing. The nice part, though, was the warm greetings I received everywhere, especially from people like “Pop” Spires and his staff in Macdonald Hall and “Scotty” in Creelman Hall. It helped me realize what a difference the attitude of janitorial staff can make and stood me in good stead later in my working career.

Later on, more Mac grads took the course. I was by then a messing officer in the RCAF and was always delighted to have a Mac grad come on my staff.

Keep up the good work. The Portico is great. I regret not being able to visit the campus, but I’m afraid our travelling days are over.

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