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CHANCELLOR
Pamela Wallin has been appointed to a second term, and Loblaw partners with U of G to promote more sustainable food production systems. Guelph’s newest Brock Scholarship recipient knows how to blend science and art. And U of G biologists are working to protect both plants and people in southern India.

alumni matters

ALUMNI WEEKEND
Events will take grads back to their student days, while today’s students are helping to say “thank you” to alumni donors. The University of Guelph Alumni Association completes its 10-year pledge to help build a classroom building and offers kudos to alumni receiving national and international honours.

on the cover
From left: Charlie Haden, Mary Halvorson, Jamaaladeen Tacuma, George Lewis and Hamid Drake performing at the Guelph Jazz Festival.

PRAISE FOR HAITI
Alumni John and Deb Currelly have lived in Haiti for 30 years; they say life is hard there but deeply rewarding.

WHO WANTS TO BE THE BOSS?
Entrepreneurship flourishes among current U of G students and young alumni.

PROTECT THE POLLINATORS
Guelph scientists lead a national research group working to reverse the drop-off in honeybees and other pollinators.

MUSIC BEYOND MEASURE
Guelph scholars and jazz musicians have created a new field of research in musical improvisation and propelled Canada forward as a world leader in this area.

CANADA COOKS
U of G’s cookbook collection offers a unique perspective on Canadian history.

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cover story
The Portico magazine is published three times a year by Communications and Public Affairs at the University of Guelph. Its mission is to enhance the relationship between the University and its alumni and friends and promote pride and commitment within the University community. All material is copyright 2010. Ideas and opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect the ideas or opinions of the University or the editors.

Support the Gryphons

**Gryphon athletes** from the 1969 CIAU championship cross country team gathered in November to remember their coach and U of G classics professor Victor Matthews at the launch of track and field scholarships in his name. Irene Matthews sent a photo from the Department of Athletics event that honoured her late husband. She wants alumni to know about the scholarship for first-year student athletes and hopes it might serve as an “incentive” for others to make a donation to U of G athletic scholarships.

**Barcoding story draws interest, praise**

Thank you for producing a wonderful magazine: *The Portico*. I read each one from cover to cover and enjoy them immensely. I am a 1961 graduate of OVC and enjoyed the article on DNA Barcoding in the last issue. I find the subject fascinating.

Robert J. Hinton, DVM ’61
Peterborough, Ont.

**Linc made an impression**

You often ask for stories from alumni about chancellor emeritus Lincoln Alexander. My husband, Jeff, and I both have distinct memories of him from our convocation ceremonies.

Jeff loved the years he spent at the University of Guelph — I mean LOVED!!! The day of his convocation brought mixed emotions — pride at his accomplishment, but sadness at the ending of that part of his life. As he crossed the stage, this must have been apparent to Chancellor Alexander because he said to Jeff: “Smile, son, this is supposed to be a happy day.” Little did he know that Jeff was wishing he could start it all over again!

At my convocation, after hearing a wonderful speech by Jane Goodall as she accepted her honorary degree, I crossed the stage as my name was announced, followed by the words “with distinction.” While I was kneeling in front of the chancellor, he held both my hands and said (with a twinkle in his eyes): “With distinction! You should go home and ask your parents for money!”

Considering the thousands of graduates he met over all the years, Alexander certainly made an impression on both of us with a few simple words.

Nancy Ramuscak, B.Sc. ’98
Brampton, Ont.

If you have a letter to submit or would prefer to receive *The Portico* online, contact editor Mary Dickieson at m.dickieson@exec.uoguelph.ca.
As we go about the business of balancing budgets in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, it is sometimes hard to look beyond cost-saving measures. But it is absolutely essential that we focus on the University of Guelph’s mandate and opportunities for future success. During the seven years I have served as president of the University, there has never been a year when meeting the budget was not a challenge. But that hasn’t stopped us from pushing forward with our goal to improve the lives of our students and all of Canadian society.

Back in 2003, we welcomed the much-anticipated double cohort of Ontario high school students. U of G opened Rozanski Hall’s wonderful classrooms, and the first section of the science complex was taking shape. In Toronto, the University of Guelph-Humber was also moving into a new building. Not only have we been able to accept more students on the Guelph campus, but Guelph-Humber has become a resounding success and often leads in increased applications from Ontario high school students.

Opening the science complex in 2006 has allowed us to create new synergies in our science programs and expand facilities for initiatives in the arts and humanities. We’ve also opened a new academic college dedicated to management and economics programs, a research institute for our expanding work in DNA barcoding, and another centre focused on the development of Ontario’s bioeconomy.

In the last few years, five Guelph faculty have been recognized by the Royal Society of Canada; 36 hold prestigious Canada Research Chairs. Two graduates received Rhodes Scholarships, two accepted Commonwealth Scholarships, and dozens more have earned international and national awards to pursue graduate work in fields as diverse as political science, engineering, medicine and environmental science.

We may be struggling with endowments that lost value in the global market decline, but the University continues to advance Canada’s brain trust.

We have accepted responsibility for helping Canadians deal with issues related to food, health, environment and communities, and are sharing our expertise around the world. At the same time, we are maintaining a campus culture that encourages students to consider their moral and ethical responsibilities. As a result, Guelph students have been recognized many times for their voluntarism, civic engagement and philanthropy.

We renewed our teaching and research partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in 2008 after an independent review revealed that our agreement returns $20 in provincial economic impact for every $1 invested. A year earlier, U of G was ranked seventh among universities worldwide for its impact on agricultural sciences. And for each of the last eight years, the University has been listed as Canada’s top comprehensive research institution by a national consulting firm.

You’ve read about Guelph researchers in the media: discovering water on Mars, solving the puzzle of tainted pet food, developing bioproducts from agricultural crops, designing a robot to aid physical therapy, earning international awards for drama and literature, studying the implications of social media, pinpointing the cause of death in Ontario honeybees, pursuing new treatments for cancer, announcing ways to reduce salmonella contamination in food products, determining dietary deficiencies in North American children, and using music to build stronger communities.

There is so much more happening at U of G and so much promise for future discoveries that will improve the lives of humans and animals and the health of our planet. We will be asking Guelph alumni and friends to support us as we build the human capacity necessary to fulfill those promises and to focus our resources on the issues that are truly important to Canadians.

Alastair Summerlee, President
Engineering is on a roll

JASON TYSZKA, recruitment officer for the School of Engineering, loves the reaction when he arrives for a recruiting visit driving the school’s specially branded Toyota Yaris. It’s hard to miss the crimson four-seater with the stylized flames emblazoned on both sides.

Tyszka says the car draws eyeballs, but it’s the school’s new engineering majors that are actually drawing in more students. There are 24 per cent more applicants to the School of Engineering this year compared with 2009.

Many of them are applying to new degree majors in computer engineering and biomedical engineering that will begin this fall. Add in a surge of undergraduates who arrived last fall for the first year of the school’s mechanical engineering degree, and you’re looking at a bigger presence for Guelph among Ontario’s engineering programs.

“That’s changing our place among Ontario engineering schools from being a small player to being a mid-sized school,” says Prof. John Runciman, who helped lead the planning and debut of the two newest majors.

While the mix of existing and new programs — seven in all, compared with four programs just two years ago — raises Guelph’s engineering profile, accommodating the increased enrollment poses a challenge. More than 300 students entered the school last year, raising total enrollment to about 675 undergraduates and 160 graduate students. Those numbers are expected to double in four years.

A planned multi-phase expansion will see new lab space added this year at both the north and south ends of the Thornbrough Building. Plans for the next two years also call for renovating existing labs and the adjoining Richards Building.

LOBLAW, U OF G PURSUE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

THE UNIVERSITY of Guelph has received a $3-million gift from Loblaw Companies Limited to establish the Loblaw Companies Limited Chair in Sustainable Food Production. The chairholder will help lead change in food production systems through education, research, practice and outreach within the context of the essential elements of sustainability: the environment, communities and the economy.

“Working together, we can address the very issues that are at the root of today’s global pressures around food sustainability,” said Galen G. Weston, executive chair of Loblaw Companies Limited. “Through this initiative, we believe we can help to increase Canada’s capacity to produce food sustainably, train tomorrow’s industry leaders, contribute to policy development, meet consumers’ needs and nurture our environment.”

Among other things, the Loblaw chair will lead a national program in sustainable local food production, develop roundtables on the topic and create an industry advisory group to guide novel curriculum development. The chair will also assemble a core of researchers, lead collaborations in the public and private sectors and serve as a key resource for food and agricultural policy development in Canada.
Molecular and cellular biology student Melanie Wills has received U of G’s most prestigious doctoral award to pursue research in cell signalling and cancer, interests she developed during undergraduate lab studies with Prof. Nina Jones, now her PhD supervisor.

The Brock Doctoral Scholarship — worth up to $120,000 over four years — is funded from a $10-million endowment donated by Bill and Anne Brock. Bill Brock is a 1958 graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College and a former chair of Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees.

Jones and Wills study how cells communicate through so-called Shc proteins. Within that family, Wills is looking at the ShcD protein that enables communication between brain cells and between skeletal muscle cells.

That molecule was found by Jones, then a post-doc, and other scientists at Toronto’s Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute. It’s involved in relaying signals allowing the brain and skeletal muscles to function. Wills hopes to learn more about how and why the protein works and what happens when it malfunctions, allowing cancer to occur. She says studying signal pathways could ultimately help clinicians design trials for human patients and develop diagnostic markers.

Wills is from Lindsay, Ont., and began her B.Sc. at Guelph as a 2003 President’s Scholar. Now living in Guelph, she is co-organizer of the annual SharpCuts independent film and music festival. Past festivals have screened her documentaries blending art and science, including Five Degrees, which looked at undergraduate students striving to become scientists in Guelph labs.

Wills began exploring multimedia at age 14 as producer of a community TV program. Today she runs a production company called Double Helix Creations.

Environment Canada announced in February that the University has successfully satisfied the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act allowing the Enviropig™ to be produced using approved containment procedures.

Guelph has been producing a line of Enviropigs since 1999 strictly for scientific study, but the goal has always been to explore practical options for use of the technology to allow the animals to have positive impacts on both the environment and industry. Professor emeritus Cecil Fosberg was lead scientist on the project, working with Prof. John Phillips and then graduate student Serguei Golovan, PhD ’02, who is now a faculty member at the University of Delaware.

The Enviropig was the first transgenic animal created to solve an environmental problem — phosphorus pollution in surface and groundwater. The pigs are genetically modified so they can utilize a normally indigestible form of phosphorus in feed grains. As a result, they produce manure that is more environmentally friendly. Published scientific studies have confirmed phosphorus levels that are 30 to 65 per cent lower than those of regular pig manure.

Applications to other federal agencies to assess the safety of Enviropigs for human food and animal feed are currently under review in both the United States and Canada, says Steven Liss, associate vice-president (research services), and it’s not known when these reviews will conclude.
Helping to protect both plants and people in the developing world is the focus of research by a Guelph botanist that has received funding from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. Prof. Steven Newmaster, Integrative Biology, and his research team will use the $80,000 grant to continue their studies of indigenous knowledge and cultural uses of plants in southern India.

“We’re helping them protect what they see as biodiversity rather than what we see as biodiversity,” says Newmaster, who wants to look closer at differences between men and women and between people of different ages when it comes to plant lore.

“Women have a different knowledge body about biodiversity than men do,” he says. Typically, men look at plants for use in food, shelter or landscape, whereas women consider classification for food and medicine.

Besides preserving indigenous knowledge, the team hopes to help people reclaim areas lost to other uses, including — paradoxically — nature preserves established by governments.

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute promotes joint activities intended to achieve gender equality and reduce poverty.

“This award is a kind of honour to the tribal people who are the source of traditional knowledge gained over thousands of years,” says research associate Subramanyam Ragupathy, who spent the winter working in India.

U of G celebrates leadership

Ted Bilyea

The University’s MacMillan Laureate in Agriculture has been awarded to Maurice Edward (Ted) Bilyea, former executive vice-president of Maple Leaf Foods and an expert on international trade, food and agriculture issues. Under his leadership, Maple Leaf became Canada’s largest food exporter. He continues to play a key role in Canada’s agri-food policy development by chairing the Science Advisory Board of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, serving on the boards of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency and the Canadian Prion Research Network, and advising the board of the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute.

The award was established in 1966 by the late H.R. MacMillan, a 1906 OAC graduate. Recipients are selected by a national panel of academic and industry leaders.

• Canadian senator Pamela Wallin has been appointed to a second five-year term as U of G chancellor, extending her tenure to March 2013.
• The Department of Athletics has hired Stuart Lang as its new head football coach. A five-time Grey Cup champion with the Edmonton Eskimos and Yates Cup champion with the Queen’s University Gaels, Lang served last year as receivers coach with the Gryphons. He is a chemical engineer and a senior business executive with CCL Industries, a specialty packaging company based in Toronto.
• Prof. John Walsh has been appointed to a second five-year term as vice-provost for the University of Guelph-Humber.
• During convocation ceremonies Feb. 16 and 17, U of G awarded honorary degrees to aboriginal leader Phil Fontaine, former Ontario lieutenant-governor James Bartleman and University of Colorado telecommunications specialist Frank Barnes.
• Former CBC reporter Judy Maddren, B.A.Sc. ’72, was one of the speakers at the ninth annual Last Lecture for graduating students. The annual event invites students to reflect on their U of G experiences and achievements. The other speakers were science student Ismail Hirji and political science professor Ian Spears.
• Guelph students raised more than $32,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society during its annual Relay for Life. The U of G race was organized by cancer survivor and French student Samantha Smith-Moskal.
A homeless man heads to the Carnegie Centre in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, where he knows there will be 50-cent coffee and a free music jam.

American free jazz bassist William Parker brings a Guelph audience to tears during an intense avant-garde performance.

Six Montreal youths in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood meet weekly at the Head and Hands drop-in centre to play instruments donated by the city.

Music is the “chord” that connects these people. It’s not just the fact that they are all music makers, but it’s the reason they are all making music that ties them to each other and to the University of Guelph. Their musical experiences are part of the vision of jazz aficionado Ajay Heble, a professor in U of G’s School of English and Theatre Studies.
Raised in Toronto by Indo-Canadian parents, Ajay Heble came to Guelph in 1991 with a PhD in post-colonial literary theory and Canadian literature. He chose the University and the City of Guelph because of their literary and musical sensibilities. U of G’s English faculty were then and still are key players in the study of Canadian literature and the development of new writers and poets. Off campus, the city was ripe for the establishment of a jazz festival. But not just an ordinary small-city jazz festival. Any community could rent venues and bring in jazz musicians. Heble wanted to attract musicians with a message. He wanted to show the world that music — specifically musical improvisation — can lead the way to a more tolerant society. Heble wanted to attract musicians with a message. He wanted to show the world that music — specifically musical improvisation — can lead the way to a more tolerant society. Heble wanted to attract musicians with a message. He wanted to show the world that music — specifically musical improvisation — can lead the way to a more tolerant society. Heble wanted to attract musicians with a message. He wanted to show the world that music — specifically musical improvisation — can lead the way to a more tolerant society.

To the audience, it was a terrific concert. To Heble, it was an experiment in real-time collaboration and creative decision-making. Transposed to the political arena, that kind of creativity and shared responsibility could bring harmony to any number of disputes, he says. Music plays a tremendously important role in society. “By modelling forms of social organization, it can literally help us hear the sound of change.”

In Guelph, he found a community of like-minded individuals who launched the Guelph Jazz Festival in 1994 — a stage for the music — and a conference in 1996 — a platform for the message.

“By exploring how musical improvisation opens up consideration of such vital issues as human rights, community building and transcultural understanding, we are getting at issues that are central to the challenges of diversity and social co-operation in Canada,” he says.

If you’re not a jazz fan, you may not know just how “big” the Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium has become. It attracted an audience of more than 15,000 in 2009, but those numbers are dwarfed by the festival’s stature on the international scene. Well-known jazz improvisers from around the world have not only played the Guelph festival, but they’ve lectured, conducted workshops and become volunteers.

An eclectic audience is attracted by the music and the accompanying conference agenda — improv performers, artists, social activists, politicians, educators and students from elementary school to post-graduate training. They’re people who have no other reason to visit Guelph than that they want to participate in an event that has become a magnet for musicians with a message.

“We have made Canada a focal point for cutting-edge research in musical improvisation,” says Heble. “We have defined it, created a new field of scholarship, and propelled Canada forward as a world leader in this area of research.”

The current measure of Heble’s vision is officially called the Improvisation, Community and Social Practice (ICASP) project. A major Canadian research initiative, ICASP is supported by a $2.5-million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and another $1.8 million from U of G, McGill University, Université de Montréal, the
University of British Columbia, and several community partners.

The impetus for ICASP stems from post-1960s forms of experimental jazz. Jazz is only one example of creative improvised music, but it’s the most recognized in North America and the music we appreciate as having influenced genuine social change.

From Louis Armstrong’s rendition of “Black and Blue” to John Coltrane’s benefit concerts for Martin Luther King, jazz appealed to blacks and whites alike and helped move U.S. communities beyond the traditional paradigms of how black Americans fit into their society. Novelist and cultural critic Stanley Crouch wrote: “Jazz predicted the civil rights movement more than any other art in America.”

New musical voices are emerging in today’s jazz era, and one of them is George Lewis. A trombonist, composer and music scholar at Columbia University in New York City, Lewis is also affiliated with ICASP. His writing promotes improvised music as a means of conflict resolution and consensus-building, and he refutes the idea that improvised music is only about the here and now. Or, as Heble puts it, Lewis tackles the myth that improvisation comes out of nowhere.

“Our research has revealed an enormous history of practice and repertoire of knowledge in improvisation,” says Heble, noting that improvisation is the most widely performed musical practice in the world. He draws on his own ethnic roots to remind us that almost all classical Indian music is improvised. Improvisational music dates to the beginning of civilization in Africa and Asia and is prevalent in many other cultures where folk music is a defining feature.

In western culture, however, improvisation has often been disparaged. Despite the proliferation of summer jazz festivals in North America, there is little pedagogy devoted to improvisational jazz or any musical form that departs from the western musical tradition. Although Liszt, Bach, Mozart and Beethoven were all masters of improvisation, the ensuing centuries have defined classical music as notes committed to paper rather than spontaneous composition.

Still, classically trained musicians like Heble — he began piano lessons at age five — do venture into improvisation, often to deliver a message they can’t easily attach to established musical genres. Accepting this point of view belies a second myth that improvisation is all about the performer. Acclaimed bassist William Parker brought a Guelph audience to tears by drawing on his great skill as a musician to compose “in-the-moment” a concert that relayed a lifetime of emotion.

Heble points to the argument Lewis makes in A Power Stronger than Itself that for most African-American musicians, including Parker, the desire to say something through jazz improvisation is part of their desire to reclaim the past.

Claiming the present was more the goal of Guelph teenager Talia Baskin-Kesselman when she performed during the opening number at the 2009 Guelph Jazz Festival. For her, musical improvisation is all about belonging — feeling that you are valued as part of a community. She has participated twice in an ICASP music program through the KidsAbility centre in Guelph. The 2009 program was conducted by Canadian saxophonist Jane Bunnett, a guest conductor at the festival.

Amy Baskin admits she was teary-eyed when her daughter stepped on stage. “We who parent children with disabilities don’t get many opportunities to see our kids shine like that.” In a blog she writes for Today’s Parent Magazine, Baskin added: “We celebrated the kids as they are — perfect and beautiful and full of rhythm and song. In front of a huge crowd, the kids played piano, shakers, slide whistles and drums. Talia smiled confidently as she took centre stage to sing...
and to play. And, autism or no autism, this girl positively glowed.”

Baskin says the concert was a powerful event for everyone in the audience. “You could see real communication through music between the artist and the kids. It made the kids feel they were valued as performers. Imagine an internationally acclaimed musician like Jane Bunnett giving my daughter high-fives.”

ICASP researchers in Guelph, Montreal and Vancouver use musical improvisation to communicate with many disadvantaged groups — children and adults with disabilities or mental illness, troubled teens and the homeless. Chicago-born saxophonist Matana Roberts works with youth in Montreal’s Notre–Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood, and University of California scholar Rob Wallace ran youth programs in Guelph while completing a post-doctoral fellowship with ICASP.

Roberts and Wallace might well argue that “community” is the most important word in the Improvisation, Community and Social Practice title. Community-building is not just a goal, but it’s the reality of how ICASP came to be and the future it strives for. Without strong support from the Guelph community, the Guelph Jazz Festival could have remained a young professor’s dream.

Now a three-time recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for the Arts, the festival garners international praise while maintaining its focus on the local community through affordable ticket prices and free events, a school program, adult workshops and winter programming.

In his review of the 2009 event, New York music writer Kurt Gottschalk said the annual Guelph festival “invites musicians from around the world for one of the more adventurous weeks of improvisation and exploration in North America.” What really sets it apart, he added, is the colloquium that precedes the festival itself. Several hundred people from 13 countries participated in the conference last year.

“We discovered people all over the world who are doing little projects related to improvisation without any central outlet for their work,” says Heble. “Now they’re coming to Guelph.”

Names like Milford Graves and David Murray were enough to bring a jazz fan like Gottschalk. Graves is a legendary American percussionist who played with saxophonist David Murray for the closing set at the 2009 jazz festival — a performance coup since the two had played together only once since their 1992 duo record, which Gottschalk said “was called ‘The Real Deal’ for a reason.”

They are only two of the jazz artists who come to perform on the Guelph stage and take advantage of the opportunity to network with other musicians and scholars interested in improvisation. The networks created in Guelph helped to build an editorial board for a scholarly journal launched at U of G in 2004 and edited by Heble and Guelph colleagues Ellen Waterman, Fine Art and Music, and Frédérique Arroyas, Languages and Literatures. Academics and students who couldn’t attend festival events in September asked for copies of the proceedings, and the library accumulating on the edge of Heble’s desk became the online journal Critical Studies in Improvisation.

Published twice a year, the journal is web-based and uses open-access software that allows anyone anywhere in the world to use it. The University of Guelph Library provides the structural support and technical expertise to integrate audio and visual clips that allow viewers to hear the music and see the performances described by contributors. A critical paper on Japanese taiko drummers, for example, gains added dimension when you can watch and listen to the performance being discussed.

Guelph English professor Daniel Fischlin
is one of many contributors to the journal’s database. With Heble, he also edited two books based, in part, on papers presented at the colloquium: Rebel Musics: Human Rights, Resistant Sounds and the Politics of Music Making (2003) and The Other Side of Nowhere: Jazz, Improvisation and Communities in Dialogue (2004).

Looking back, Critical Studies in Improvisation was an obvious test case for the ICASP project. “If we could demonstrate that there was significant interest, we could attract a research grant to launch the SSHRC project,” says Heble. Significant interest means participation not just from the funding partners but from researchers at 18 Canadian universities and several international institutions.

By the time ICASP fulfills its seven-year mandate, the project will tally 21 colloquia (seven each in Guelph, Montreal and Vancouver), three summer research institutes, 14 issues of the online journal, five book projects, four policy papers and a research-intensive website that will be launched in September during the 2010 Guelph Jazz Festival. ICASP will also give voice to the research of 35 international scholars, support 17 post-doctoral fellows and sponsor 230 research assistantships for graduate and undergraduate students at the partner institutions.

Through its vast human resources, ICASP will affect communities all over the world. In addition to the outreach programs cited earlier, Heble and the ICASP team are excited about a lecture series that will begin in Montreal in November, co-sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Architecture, and a new partnership with a music therapy clinic in South Africa. Sunelle Fouche, who attended the jazz colloquium last fall for the first time, will draw on ICASP expertise to continue using improvised music to reduce violence among street gangs.

With such momentum behind it, one might ask “what’s next?” for Heble’s experiment in improvisation. On the immediate horizon are the Vancouver colloquium in June and a summer research institute in Guelph, co-ordinated by Arroyas. The Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium runs Sept. 8 to 12, with lectures and workshops based on the theme of “improvising bodies.” The focus reflects one of seven major research areas within the ICASP mandate: gender and the body, text and media, law and justice, social policy, pedagogy, transcultural understanding and social esthetics.

“Gender and body” relates to Waterman’s area of interest, and a highlight of the colloquium will be a discussion of her work with avant-garde composer Pauline Oliveros. An American scholar, Oliveros introduced the concept of incorporating environmental sounds into music performance and developed software that enables severely disabled people to make music. Waterman is co-ordinating the development of a toolkit for teaching improvisation.

The performance schedule for the Guelph Jazz Festival won’t be announced until mid-June, but it may whet your appetite to know there will be an art installation by George Lewis and Canadian artist Eric Metcalfe that composes music based on the movement of people walking through the exhibit space.

Canada’s reputation as a centre for expertise on the social and cultural impact of improvisation will expand once again when ICASP unveils its new research website at the 2010 festival. Heble says the website will answer all of those remaining questions you may have about the use of improvised music as a model for cultural, political and ethical dialogue — and action. After all, it’s the action generated by ICASP that will ensure future inquiry into improvisation and its place in our society. And it’s the outreach provided by ICASP that connects a homeless man in Vancouver, a jazz percussionist in New York City and street gangs in South Africa.
Cookbooks are some of the most precious treasures in the University of Guelph Library — and that’s saying a lot. After all, the University’s roots reach back more than 150 years, so the library is packed with historical gems. The 12,000-plus items in the culinary collection — cookbooks, scrapbooks, personal letters, papers and more — date as far back as the 17th century. They represent cities and towns, individuals and communities across Canada, as well as the rest of North America, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. It’s history from a perspective like no other: people and the past in the truest, rawest form.

Canada cooks
BY LORI BONA HUNT
In a single Saturday afternoon, Jo Marie Powers loaded a century’s worth of Canadian culinary history into her pick-up truck and carted it home. It sat in boxes in her living room for a couple of months, and the now-retired University of Guelph professor would devour a bit each day, savouring lessons from the past in the form of recipes, scrapbooks, papers and letters. Long before she’d had her fill, Powers realized she needed to share her historical find, so she called the U of G Library’s Archival and Special Collections. “I have Helen Gagen’s books and papers,” she told the person who answered the phone. She recalls there was a quizzical pause at the other end of the line. “You have what?”

It took renowned Canadian food writer Elizabeth Driver 10 years to assemble her award-winning bibliography of Canadian cookbooks. She had to fly coast-to-coast and root around in libraries, attics and basements in search of materials. There should be a national collection someplace, she thought. “I kept meeting people who would say to me: ‘I have these cookbooks I don’t need — what should I do?’ I would suggest they send them to Guelph. Soon cookbooks just started showing up in the mail at the library, boxes and boxes of them. So it was decided we should create a culinary collection of cookbooks owned by Canadians.”

There was a time when Jean Paré, the world’s top-selling cookbook author, worried about the fate of the thousands of books, scrapbooks and note-books she had saved since she was a teenager. Over the years, they had grown into a collection of more than 6,000 items. “I always thought I’d hate to see this collection not mean anything to anyone, to have it broken up and just sent off in boxes to one Goodwill or another,” she says. “It seemed a good idea to send it all together somewhere where it would be properly sorted and cared for.”

Cookbooks don’t just tell us how to make dinner; they’re full of history, culture and recipes for right living.
U of G’s cookbook collection is a grassroots expression of Canada, says food writer Elizabeth Driver. Cooking and eating, and everything that goes along with them, have always been fundamental to the human experience, she says, so culinary books are really records of tradition, providing insight into social, cultural and historical transformations.

“If you want to understand how society was functioning at a certain time in history and get to the real truth of how people were behaving, what they were buying, what they did for fun and how they entertained, the answers can be found in cookbooks.”

Take, for example, the pocket-sized 700 Domestic Hints written “by a lady” circa 1840. Besides offering tips on preserving fruit, baking bread and keeping bees, the book lists dos and don’ts for women of the era, illustrating vividly what life was like here once upon a time.

“When visitors arrive, do not walk to the door,” the author advises. “The lady of the house merely rises from her seat, shakes hands or curtsies, according to her intimacy with the participants.” The exception, of course, is “great age or marked superiority of rank requiring, according to the usages of society, a greater degree of attention.”

Then there’s The Lady’s Companion: or An Infallible Guide to the Fair Sex, published in 1760. Now worn and musty-smelling with handwritten notes in the margins that have faded beyond recognition, it includes such tips as how to measure butter with a fist, what fish are in season each month and how to prevent cooking fires from getting too hot. It also contains pages and pages of “rules, directions and observations” on how women should live their lives as “virgins, wives or widows.”

“We see culinary writing as an expression of our country and its people,” says Michael Ridley, U of G’s chief information officer and chief librarian. “Through our food, we can understand much of where we’ve been, where we are and where we’re going.”

Housed in the library’s temperature-controlled basement, Guelph’s culinary collection is just one of the many treasures that draw scholars and students from around the world to U of G’s Archival and Special Collections. It’s here that you’ll also find the University’s world-renowned theatre archives and L.M. Montgomery Collection, the Scottish Studies Collection, an agricultural history and rural heritage section, and a landscape architecture collection. As the collections continue to grow, space is increasingly at a premium, says Ridley, so expanding Archives and Special Collections is high on the library’s wish list.

Like many individual cookbook collections, Guelph’s culinary collection began almost randomly — one cookbook, one collection at a time. For many years, it numbered about 6,000 items and included four major assemblages: the Edna Staebler Collection, the Una Abrahamson Canadian Cookery Collection, the Helen Gagen Collection and the Canadian Cookbook Collection.

Staebler, who wrote a series of cookbooks called Food That Really Schmecks, based on Mennonite home cooking, made the first major donation. The Canadian collection includes books that arrived in the mail following Driver’s informal national appeal. There are also many contemporary works by well-known culinary writers like Anita Stewart, who has authored 11 cookbooks focusing on Canadian cuisine and our food history.

A longtime U of G friend, Stewart is now head of Cuisine Canada, the national alliance of the country’s culinary professionals and co-sponsor with the University of Guelph Library of the annual Canadian Culinary Book Contest. Sixty-eight books — celebrating food and drink and Canadian food culture — are currently being judged for the 2010 contest and will become part of Guelph’s culinary collection.

Both Driver and Powers, a retired faculty member in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, were instrumental in starting the collection in the 1990s.

“This was a time when there was no appreciation of cookbooks as important resources for research,” says Driver. “For the most part, they were considered sort of unimportant ephemeral objects.”

She helped bring Abrahamson’s collection to U of G in 1997. The two met when Driver was working on her award-winning book Culinary Landmarks: A Bibliography of Canadian Cookbooks, 1825-1949. She spent two weeks in Abrahamson’s living room sifting through her one-of-a-kind collection.

“There was nothing like it anywhere,” says Driver, adding that Abrahamson did not collect books randomly; she chose books that were valuable and had historical significance.

“She realized this material was representing the lives of Canadian women over long periods of time, including her own,” says Driver.

A former Chatelaine food columnist and editor who went on to executive positions in public relations and consumer affairs, Abrahamson was hit by a car while crossing a street in 1978. She was in a coma for a year and spent many more years recovering, learning how to walk, talk and write again. But as soon as she was able, she resumed
working on her cookbook collection.

One day Driver asked her what she planned to do with her collection. "I said it shouldn’t be dispersed; it should be somewhere where researchers can get to it. That’s what got her to that first step, and her son was a Guelph graduate, so it was a perfect fit.”

Having Abrahamson’s collection publicly available is a huge asset to scholars in many disciplines, says Driver. "But it’s not just about the books — it’s also about the people who wrote them and their contributions. They should be recognized and celebrated.”

Powers agrees and cites Gagen as an example of someone who paved a pioneering culinary path during her six decades as a journalist and home economist.

Gagen, who died in 1998 at age 89, began her food career in 1930, writing food copy for newspapers and magazines, producing a half-hour radio show called Cooking School of the Air and managing theatre cooking schools. She also worked in advertising and wrote a cookbook and a wedding guide before joining the Toronto Telegram as a food editor in 1963. From 1976 to 1987, she wrote “The Shopping Basket” column for the Globe and Mail.

Powers says Gagen was the first person to emphasize the historical importance of community cookbooks. Informal in nature, they were often created to raise money for a charity or community initiative, with everyday people contributing favourite dishes — a charity or community initiative, with everyday people contributing favourite dishes — and appreciated. But that doesn’t mean the collection has become an international resource consulted widely by scholars in a variety of fields, says Ridley. “It’s used by people all over the world who are looking to understand everything from people’s history to food habits to nutrition to cultural and scientific transformation.”

Kathryn Harvey, who joined U of G in 2009 as head of Archival and Special Collections, says plenty of “regular” people also use the collection. “People call and ask if I can look up a recipe for them from a book that they’re sure we must have.”

Harvey says she doesn’t mind such requests. After all, it only makes sense for Guelph to house the prized collection, given that it’s home to Ontario’s oldest agricultural college as well as Macdonald Institute, which was founded to educate women in the domestic sciences.

One of the newest acquisitions in the culinary collection comes from Marie Nightingale, Nova Scotia’s best-known food writer, who wrote a food column for the Halifax newspaper The Chronicle Herald for 20 years. This “eastern” donation means the collection now represents all of Canada’s geographic regions, says Lynn Campbell, the library’s manager of development and public relations.

In the fall, the culinary archives doubled in size when Paré, founder and author of Company’s Coming Cookbooks, donated her private collection. The books, scrapbooks and papers capture her passion for cooking and run the gamut from mass-produced volumes to specialty publications and from how-to guides to pamphlets.

Paré spent weeks sorting through everything before it was shipped to Guelph — an enormous task given that she’d been collecting since she was a teenager. There were hundreds of “sticky notes” to remove from favourite recipes, as well as numerous handwritten notes and recipes that had been tucked away inside pages. “It seemed in every book I’d find something I’d forgotten,” she says.

It was a cathartic process. “Still, I mourned for the books after they left. I’m over that now, but I did mourn.”

Paré says she now has much more room in her downsized Edmonton condo, and she loves knowing that her collection is being used and appreciated. But that doesn’t mean the urge to collect cookbooks has disappeared.

“I continually have to give myself a talking to because whenever I go into a bookstore, I see a book I just really want to buy,” she says with a laugh. “I think maybe cooking is a sickness.”

She’s quick to add, however, that “cooks should never apologize for how many cookbooks they have. They’re entitled.”
The Earth shook violently, tossing John Currelly’s car from side to side. He had been driving up a mountain toward his home when a powerful earthquake hit Haiti on Jan. 12. The land teetered beneath him. Trees whipped back and forth. It was as though the world had received a hard shove.

After regaining control of his car, John quickly pulled over to call his wife at home. As he sat looking out over the city beneath him, he noticed huge plumes of dust rising up like fog. In a matter of seconds, Port-au-Prince had been destroyed.

For many people, the earthquake would have been the last straw. But John, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’71, and Deb, BA ’71, have invested almost 30 years in Haiti, and they are not about to abandon their adopted country.

“The spirit of Haiti is in pain, but it’s still alive, and it will strengthen. There is no other option,” says Deb.

The Currellys grew up in rural Ontario — he on a family farm, she in the nearby town of Port Hope. They were childhood sweethearts who studied together at U of G and returned to Port Hope to farm after graduation. They moved to Haiti in 1981 after converting to the Bahá’í faith, which emphasizes internationalism.

“As followers of the Bahá’í faith, we believe that everyone is equal and that we should do what we can to redress the inequality that exists in the world,” says John.

Neither could speak a word of French or Creole, and they knew very little about Haiti’s troubled history. Still, they packed up as much as they could into eight suitcases and left Canada with their six-year-old daughter, Alice, and eight-year-old son, Read, in tow.

“I was nervous in spite of the fact that I wanted to go,” says Deb. “I prayed we would be able to stay financially solvent until our two children were grown.”

At that time, Haiti was experiencing a different kind of disaster. Haitians were impoverished under the rule of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier. Many were without work or land. The country’s tourism industry — a major contributor to Haiti’s economy — had almost completely disappeared because of a report that AIDS was becoming a major regional problem. The country’s future was bleak.

But the Currellys soon learned that struggling through difficult circumstances is nothing new to Haitians. The country gained independence from France in 1804 and became the world’s first black republic, but Haiti has never escaped the influence of dictatorships, foreign intervention and natural disasters.

“It’s one step forward, two steps back,” says John. “It’s hard to get ahead in Haiti.”

He and Deb had emigrated to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, where many people still live on less than $2 a day. The couple have faced their share of struggles, too.
Shortly after they arrived, John started a bulk-blend fertilizer business. Sales boomed for a couple of years, and then the dictatorship fell. The country was thrown into chaos. The Currellys remember stories of people fighting and killing each other for land. The justice system collapsed. Any order that had existed was broken, and John had no way to collect on his receivables. So the business folded, and he went to work as a consultant in microfinance.

Deb had begun operating a factory that employed Haitians to do needlework. American consumers who bought do-it-yourself kits but found them too labour-intensive sent their kits to Haiti to have the work done for them. The completed needlework was then returned to the United States.

Deb’s business eventually failed, too, when the United Nations imposed an embargo on all goods entering Haiti.

The Currellys have also been victims of Haiti’s frequent violent crime. But those incidents fade into the background when they talk about the joy and satisfaction their lives there have given them. At age 61, they are planning their retirement on the island.

“Haiti and Haitians have been very good to us,” says John. “We have never thought of leaving. This really is an extraordinary country that welcomes foreigners like nowhere else. I have developed a great deal of respect and reverence for this country.”

John tells many stories of those in extreme poverty sharing the little food they have with foreigners and says these acts of generosity have only increased since the Jan. 12 earthquake.

“The day the earthquake hit, Haitian security guards showed up for work that evening despite having lost family members that day,” says John. “They did this not because they were afraid they would lose their jobs, but because they cared about the people they were protecting.”

The dust John saw rising from Port-au-Prince has settled on the rubble left behind. More than a million are homeless, living in squalid camps without proper sanitation and scrounging for food. Many are injured or have lost limbs from being trapped in the rubble. And almost every person living in Haiti is carrying a heavy heart because they have lost loved ones.

The Currellys’ daughter, son-in-law and four of their six grandchildren live in Haiti. All are safe, and the couple’s home, which sits on a mountain 2,000 metres above sea level, was undamaged. But they did lose friends and co-workers to the earthquake. One close friend was trapped under rubble for 12 hours before she died.

“There are horrible stories like this everywhere,” says John.

But there are also many wonderful stories of people helping each other, and Deb says that’s the natural flow of life returning to Haiti. She and John have tried to emulate that flow. While raising their own family, they have

They’ve endured economic hardship, violent crime, political corruption, hurricanes and earthquakes, but John and Deb Currelly have hope for their adopted country and praise for the Haitian people.

BY DEIRDRE HEALEY

From left: An estimated 1.3 million Haitians were left homeless after the Jan. 12 earthquake; cleaning up after four consecutive hurricanes in 2008; John Currelly, right, with Haiti’s minister of foreign affairs; and Deb Currelly, left, with a family moving into a new home.
provided food, education, jobs and sometimes a home to both children and adult Haitians.

After he turned to consulting, John landed a job with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). He studied Haitian business practices to help develop more effective aid programs. That job led to a position as the country representative in Haiti for the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). During his eight years with PADF, John worked with donors such as USAID, the Canadian government, the World Bank and the Haitian government.

“One of my proudest moments was when the Haitian government decided to invest in PADF,” says John. “It’s rare for a poor country like Haiti to fund a foreign NGO. But we were doing projects that they really appreciated.”

The PADF projects focused on creating sustainable jobs and helping Haitians, particularly farmers, to succeed. John led a project to upgrade a mountain road, allowing farmers to truck their crops instead of losing half of their harvest out of sacks carried by donkeys. He assisted with a project that hired 1,400 people at $2 a day to clean the streets of Port-au-Prince. People applied in huge numbers, both for the wages and for the chance to feel good about improving their city.

John now works for Haiti’s largest bank, Unibank, as the executive director of its foundation. He’s still focused on grassroots development, as the foundation funds projects in health, education and entrepreneurship. Just two days before the earthquake hit, the foundation had launched a training course for construction workers intended to fix poorly constructed buildings.

Even before the earthquake, more aid dollars had been entering Haiti following multiple hurricanes in 2008 and skyrocketing food prices caused by the global economic meltdown. Of the 2010 earthquake, Deb says: “Life has always been hard in Haiti. Now it’s just harder.”

Nevertheless, she says the generous outpouring of money and volunteers from around the world has reassured Haitians that they are not alone. “Canada and the United States should be very proud of their efforts,” she says.

In the months following the disaster, the international community has moved to create employment to stimulate the Haitian economy. For example, the United States has begun a low-wage garment-assembly industry that functions something like Deb’s needlework business.

“This is a good direction because it creates real and sustainable jobs,” says John. “Virtually any initiative of this type is better than aid, because aid has negative, unintended consequences such as hurting indigenous business, stifling new enterprise and creating dependencies. It is always better to let people work for their gain. It’s a cheaper, more effective way to help, and it protects human dignity.”
Nations are built on the backs of entrepreneurs, but self-employment isn’t for the faint of heart. It’s for people who have vision and passion and aren’t afraid of taking risks, says Doug Adlam, B.Comm. ’04 and M.Sc. ’07. He’s got the passion and runs Champion Mortgage Inc. in Guelph, but he also teaches at U of G and is guiding other would-be entrepreneurs through a new course aimed at turning ideas into successful businesses.

The students in Adlam’s fourth-year course spend four months on the background research that unsuccessful businesses often ignore. His students explore potential business concepts or inventions, create a business plan and present it to a panel of judges just as tough as those on the hit TV show Dragon’s Den.

“Leading up to the first course offering, I wasn’t entirely sure what to expect in terms of the quality of work, or whether they were ready for such a challenge,” says Adlam, “but the first class of students definitely stepped up to the challenge.”

One of the business concepts developed in that first course is up and running, and Adlam says four others could become viable businesses within the next year.

After taking the course, Jesse Kirshenbaum and Jordan Gleed are finishing their degrees and plan to launch their new line of sports clothing this fall.

“We came into the class with just a name for our proposed brand, but we left with a 50-page business plan that we could take to meetings and show to investors,” says Kirshenbaum. “I can’t stress how valuable this class was for us. We hadn’t thought about sustainability, investors or all the ways to bring in capital. We just had an idea that we thought had potential. Our business plan gives us and those around us confidence in our goal.”

Kirshenbaum and Gleed are set to join the growing number of young Guelph alumni who are turning their passion into prosperity. Check out some of their stories and their businesses on the next page.
They're Soaking Up Success

It’s not surprising that Andrea Bielecki, B.Sc. ’00, and Jeremy Friedberg, PhD ’03, were running their own companies soon after graduation.

“I have an entrepreneurial spirit,” says Bielecki, who started InVivo Communications, an interactive media company servicing the medical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. “I love the freedom and flexibility of running my own company.”

Friedberg launched Vive Technologies because he feels the same way: “I wanted to do things that would evolve and grow, and the only way to really do that is through a business.” One of Vive’s core services is developing educational software.

Both of their companies are still going strong, but now they’ve teamed up in a joint venture called Spongelab Interactive, a business that brings science to life through interactive 3D digital games.

Spongelab does a lot of custom production, including 3D games, animations, websites, even iPhone Apps, all designed to help other organizations communicate science using technology with an interactive format. Spongelab also creates programs with broader potential beyond the sciences, and they’ve attracted international attention for a product called Genomics Digital Lab that’s designed for high school and first-year university students. Players log onto a website and discover a richly detailed 3D game that teaches them scientific concepts while they conquer the various levels of cell biology.

“It’s a real paradigm shift in the education system to teach with games,” says Bielecki, “but this is what today’s students are used to. We know we’re competing with the gaming market, so we make sure our graphics and gameplay are the highest quality.”

Their efforts are paying off, with customers in 55 countries, awards from the United Nations and the National Science Foundation, and two stories in Science.

Bakery caters to canines

With mixers spinning on high, batter baking in the oven and a dirty apron tossed on the counter, Jennifer Murray’s bakery is in full swing. Her shelves are stocked with ingredients ranging from organic spelt flour and Scotch oatmeal to herbs, eggs, purees and liver. And her tasty creations have a legion of followers across Canada, albeit four-legged ones.

Murray, BA ’04, and her business partner, Brian Burke, a former U of G history student, own the Amelia Biscuit Company in Paris, Ont. They launched the bakery in 2003 and have since expanded their business to include a pet retail store.

“It looks just like a people bakery except everything is baked specifically for dogs,” says Murray. Her interest in baking her own dog biscuits developed just after she adopted a chow-Shepherd cross named Amelia. Not long after bringing Amelia home from the SPCA, Murray discovered that her new dog, like countless other canines across the country, has food allergies.

“I started baking for her,” says Murray, who has since adopted a collie-retriever cross named Sophie and a Boston terrier named Rosie. “From there, my friends started asking me to bake for their dogs, and it just grew and grew. All our recipes are created with a dog’s health in mind.”

Murray and Burke develop their own menu, with each new product taking between 12 and 18 months to develop. Wheat, corn and soy top the list of food sensitivities among dogs, she says.

In addition to a thriving retail segment, they also have a wholesale business that supplies 150 to 200 stores nationally.

Realize your potential

Julian Brass, B.Comm ’06, launched his career as an adviser at a money management firm in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. It’s what he thought he should be doing, but it wasn’t what he wanted to be doing.

“I wasn’t realizing my potential,” says the hospitality and tourism management grad. “I finally decided that if I didn’t go after every single opportunity I believed to have merit, I’d look back with regret.”

Brass wanted to really enjoy his work, challenge himself to build a product people would value and leave a lasting legacy. He remembered the success he’d had creating shows and events when he was in high school and university, so he left his job with an online social engagement website to build NotableTV.com.
Launched early in 2008, the site is geared to young professionals in Toronto. It features lifestyle, business, culture and charitable causes through blogging, photography and video; revenue is generated through advertising and sponsorship.

NotableTV.com was nominated by next MEDIA as one of Canada’s top five emerging digital brands in 2008.

“Among young professionals, we’ve established ourselves successfully as the purveyors of what’s notable,” says Brass. “Through this relationship, we connect them with brands and experiences that make sense for that demographic.”

In addition, Brass uses the site as a platform to interview notable personalities. Wyclef Jean, Rita Marley, Toronto mayor David Miller and Canadian singer Lights are among his most memorable interviews.

LAMBTON FRIENDS ARE BUSINESS PARTNERS

In the late 1990s, three guys became friends while living in Lambton Hall. Although they didn’t know it at the time, their friendship would blossom into a thriving business partnership.

Jacob Fuller, B.Comm. ’00, and Nico Angka, B.Sc. ’01, along with Ryan Fitzgibbon, who started his post-secondary education at Guelph, manage an ever-growing number of companies. One leases domain names. A second, called 207 Media, is a fully integrated marketing, web development and search engine optimization company. Groovle.com is a website they developed to allow users to customize the start pages of their Internet browsers with photos and pre-designed pages.

The partners made international news in December after they won a domain name dispute launched by Google.com. It is only the second time Google has lost such a claim in more than 200 cases, says Fuller.

They also own Canlift Equipment, a company that rents and sells construction equipment to contractors, and recently unveiled a new Facebook bingo application.

“We’ve been successful with most of the things we’ve tried,” says Fuller. “We love doing new things and have been able to use our online experience to partner with people and strategically move in new directions.”

This partnering involves a collection of U of G alumni talent, including physical science grad Jim McFadyen, B.Sc. ’01, and hotel and food administration grad Ryan Barkwell, B.Comm. ’02, who own WizardWorks, a Calgary-based web marketing company.

Next year, Fuller, Angka and Fitzgibbon plan to further expand their reach with the release of a vodka cooler. Distribution for the cooler will be managed by national beverage supplier The Kirkwood Group, which is owned in part by Peter Kirkwood, B.Comm. ’01.

Although Fuller, Angka and Fitzgibbon have a lot on their plates, they say it’s all manageable because they have good support people in place.

“If you go into business for yourself, be sure you are willing to work hard and expect really long days,” says Fuller. “Despite the risk and the hard work, there are many great benefits that await you.”

RETAIL STORE GLITTERS

Corin Comisky, B.Comm ’00, tried two different marketing jobs before realizing that she was working too many hours and still not feeling fulfilled. That’s when she decided to start working for herself.

In 2007, she opened a jewellery boutique in downtown Guelph. Pretty Chic features Canadian-made handcrafted jewellery, including work by some of the country’s top designers.

Comisky says one of the challenges of entrepreneurship is carving out a name for yourself and stepping ahead of the competition. This can be especially true when working with a small budget, she says.

She uses traditional forms of advertising and social media to market her business, but says talking to customers is the best way to engage them. “You need to be confident, and you need to be open. You really just need to listen to your customers,” she says.
It was only the first week of March and the snow was lingering ankle-deep when Paul Kelly headed across the U of G bee yard to answer a question.

Why are those honeybees out hovering like dancing cinders around the front entrances of their box hives? Don’t they know it’s still winter?

They’re doing their business, explains Kelly, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’83, who is now in his twenty-third year of managing the University’s Honeybee Research Centre, located in Townsend House in the Arboretum. Not the business of gathering food, he says, but the other business. We call bees busy: now add fastidious. Instead of defecating inside their hives, they wait for a bright day to go outdoors.

Kelly points out the tobacco-coloured stains on the snow, as well as the bodies of a few unfortunate creatures that hung around outside too long and over-chilled. Most of them dart safely back inside the hive to wait for spring and the real business of gathering pollen and nectar for their new brood and, incidentally, as with other pollinators, helping to feed the rest of us on Earth.

We’re not talking just about honey, or even just about honeybees, although they play an outsized role in the business of pollinating almost every food crop grown on the planet. Is it true that one in every three bites of human food depends on pollinators? Yes, says Prof. Peter Kevan, a longtime insect ecologist who retired in 2009 from the School of Environmental Sciences (SES). He also confirms that, in nature, 75 per cent of all flowering plants depend on pollinators for fertilization — not only bees, but butterflies, moths, flies, beetles and birds.

Kevan is co-founder and scientific director of the Canadian Pollination Initiative (NSERC-CANPOLIN), a national research group supported by a five-year, $5-million grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. CANPOLIN involves about 50 researchers, including a large U of G contingent of ecologists, taxonomists, biologists, landscape architects, mathematicians and statisticians, economists and artists — all working to understand and reverse the drop-off in animal pollinators and the parallel declines in seed and fruit production in both agriculture and natural ecosystems.

Insect pollination is worth at least $1 billion to Canadian farmers; globally, it underpins an estimated $400 billion each year in agricultural and forestry products.

Beyond the farm, consider the central role of pollinators in sustaining plant life, and soon you’re connecting those bugs and birds with maintenance of the planet’s...
Tom Woodcock, a former stream ecologist who now works on campus as a research associate in CANPOLIN’s national office, says: “We need a grand unified law of pollination that allows us to understand how the process maintains healthy plant populations across the landscape and maintains the life support systems that the landscape provides.”

Both managed and natural ecosystems are threatened by largely unexplained declines in those populations of pollinators. “Colony collapse disorder” in the United States — catastrophic losses of honeybees — has generated numerous headlines in recent years. Canadian beekeepers have also lost huge numbers of bees: in some cases, over 30 per cent of their colonies in each of the last three winters. Ontario bees died at more than twice the expected winter loss. Beekeepers have blamed such factors as disease, pesticide exposure, malnutrition and climate change.

Says Kevan: “If the pollinators aren’t there, crop yields suffer. It’s simple supply and demand. If yields are low, the prices of affected commodities go up.”

This winter, one of his departmental colleagues pinned down a major culprit.

Environmental sciences professor Ernesto Guzman says parasitic varroa mites are associated with more than 85 per cent of honeybee colony mortality in Ontario. His study in 2007 and 2008 of more than 400 commercial colonies in the province also found that weak populations and low food reserves in the fall can kill one in 10 colonies.

“We’re pretty sure we’ve solved a great deal of the mystery,” says Guzman, whose research was funded by the Ontario Beekeepers’ Association, the Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, NSERC, and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture.

His study was widely reported by Canadian and international media after it appeared in a leading apiculture journal in January. Based on his study, Guzman recommends beekeepers strictly follow a mite treatment regimen, feed their bees enough sugar syrup and avoid splitting colonies too late in the season. Tim Greer, president of the Ontario Beekeepers’ Association, says the Guelph study will help the province’s roughly 2,200 beekeepers improve their management practices, although the industry still needs reliable treatments for varroa mites.

Finding treatments might also involve Guzman, at least indirectly. He has outfitted his Bovey Building lab with tools and taken on a team of international students and researchers to study genetic techniques intended to help breeders...
Bee sure you know the facts

- Beekeeping at Guelph dates back to 1894.
- U of G’s Buckfast bees trace their ancestry to England.
- The University apiary boasts 300 colonies; only 70 are on campus.
- The apiary produces 8,000 kilograms of honey per year.
- Both students and local customers enjoy Guelph honey on their toast.
- No other university or research centre in the country possesses more beekeeping infrastructure than U of G.

To read more about honeybees and U of G research devoted to pollinators, visit www.uoguelph.ca/news/thenectar.

develop better bees. Considered among the top facilities of its kind worldwide, it resembles a molecular biology lab, complete with PCR machines used to generate numerous copies of bee DNA for closer study. Guzman uses bees at that Honeybee Research Centre on campus and at other locations around Guelph for his studies. Working with Ontario bee breeders, his team will look for genes to improve resistance to mites and diseases, as well as genes of economic importance and even parts of the bee genome possibly connected with social behaviour.

Guzman also works with other researchers across Canada within CANPOLIN’s working group on managed pollinators, which is studying the impacts of diseases, parasites and pesticides on honeybees, bumblebees and related pollinators. As part of that group, Kevan’s interests are in the area of mitigating the effects of stresses such as overwintering, management, diseases and parasites through research on bee nutrition, the environment within the hive and novel medications.

That’s just one of seven working groups within CANPOLIN that involve U of G scientists. Within the ecosystems group, Woodcock and other researchers have surveyed various ecosystems across Canada to learn more about how pollinators and plants work together. Other groups are studying native pollinators, plant reproduction, wind pollination, beekeeping economics and the use of predictive tools to gauge likely impacts of, say, changes in climate and land use.

At Guelph, these groups draw in partners from two departments not directly related to biology. Faculty members in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics are studying economics and social aspects of pollination to ultimately help shape policy and management decisions. Prof. Ayesha Ali, a statistician in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, is studying pollination webs that describe the interaction of diverse species of plants and pollinators. She hopes to develop models to help biologists understand how problems such as habitat loss, forest fragmentation or the introduction of non-native species can affect plant-pollinator interactions.

Another CANPOLIN member is Prof. Cynthia Scott-Dupree, an entomologist who has studied apiculture and agriculture at Guelph for 24 years. As a teenager in Brandon, Man., she helped tend about 100 colonies kept by her dad. Now she works with growers (vegetables, ornamentals and food crops) and industry to help design integrated pest management strategies that mitigate insect pests while avoiding harm to beneficial insects. She has looked at the impacts of pesticides on pollinators as well as invasive species imported with plants intended for Canadian greenhouses. In another project

GROW A POLLINATOR GARDEN

ORNAMENTALS
- allium
- anemone
- angelica
- bachelor buttons
- bee balm
- bergamot
- blue lobelia
- boneset
- Brown-eyed Susan
- butterfly weed
- Canada wild rye
- Cardinal flower
- cornflower
- cosmos
- cow parsnip
- creeping thyme
- crocus
- Culver’s root
- cup plant
- daffodil
- datura
- daisy fleabane
- delphinium
- evening primrose
- fireweed
- flax
- Fuchsia
- golden Alexanders
- goldenrod
- hairy beardtongue
- heuchera
- Indian hemp
- iris
- ironweed
- Joe-Pye weed
- late figwort
- lobelia
- marigold
- meadow sweet
- morning glory
- New England aster
- New Jersey tea
- nicotiana
- ninebark
- pale Indian plantain
- petunia
- phlox
- purple clematis
- purple coneflower
- Queen Anne’s lace
- sand coreopsis
- sedum
- shasta daisy

Hummingbird moth on butterfly bush

Honeybee on tree peony

The Portico
funded by an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/NSERC grant, Scott-Dupree looked at how different ways of growing canola affected wild bees and how growers might alter their management practices to boost pollinator numbers and diversity.

“More seeds mean more oil,” she says, underscoring pollinator diversity as a food security issue. “It’s important to have bees and other pollinators there.”

If that’s true for commercial growers, it also holds for home gardens and public spaces: even former garbage dumps. What many Guelph residents still view as the former Eastview landfill site is intended as the future home of a 45-hectare pollinator park. This project will turn the site into a pollinator demonstration model, says landscape architect Karen Landman. She is a lead researcher on the project, working with a number of Guelph faculty, city officials and other local groups. They’ll begin the rehabilitation this year by planting five hectares of the site with species of flowers that attract bees, butterflies and birds.

Organized as Pollination Guelph, the group also plans to develop pollinator gardens at other demonstration sites around the city, including a garden planned for the Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming, a one-hectare parcel in the Arboretum, and residential sites housing the city’s water pumping stations.

Marianna Horn, a graduate student working with Kevan, is studying urban bee diversity in Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo. She says there are often more bees and more diversity of bees in sites zoned industrial than in many green areas. Recently developed subdivisions, she adds, are the poorest places for pollinators in our cityscapes.

All the more reason, says Landman, to showcase plant materials that attract pollinators and test ideas for low-irrigation, pesticide-free gardening that looks good.

“We’re trying to create functional but esthetic landscapes,” she says.

Victoria MacPhail, M.Sc. ’07, is another member of Pollination Guelph who stresses the importance of educating home gardeners. She served as CANPOLIN’s network manager during its launch in 2008 and is now a natural heritage technician with Credit Valley Conservation. She also wrote a guidebook on pollinator-friendly native plants for the Toronto area, a project of the David Suzuki Foundation.

Many of the plants she recommended for city dwellers are evident in the University’s Gosling Wildlife Gardens and will be planted in the Eastview demonstration site. Their common names are also printed below this story to illustrate the idea that we as individuals can also contribute to CANPOLIN’s overarching mandate: protecting pollinators.

Grow pollen in your garden

Paul Kelly manages the U of G bee yard, but Chris Earley, B.Sc. ’92, likes to claim the honey. An interpretive biologist and education co-ordinator at the Arboretum, Earley teases: “The 70 honeybee colonies located on campus are making Arboretum honey.”

It’s a safe bet that the insects are taking advantage of the Arboretum’s flowering plants, shrubs and trees. In fact, the Arboretum takes care to ensure a plentiful menu of plants within the Gosling Wildlife Gardens to attract bees and other pollinators.

“A lot of people think pollinators and just think of bees,” says Earley. Think again. Other pollinators include numerous species of flies, butterflies, mosquitoes, moths, beetles, bats and birds — not to mention one abiotic factor: wind. “You don’t even think of them as being pollinators.”

Visit the Arboretum at the right time, he says, and you might spot a ruby-throated hummingbird dipping into a trumpet creeper’s scarlet bloom. Or you might see a hummingbird moth, so-named for the insect’s resemblance to the bird, right down to its retractile proboscis and its daytime foraging. Or any one of several species of tachinid bristle flies, whose hairy bodies collect pollen much like a bee’s does.

Goldenrod nectar is a favoured food for butterflies, and a larval bed in the garden contains plants that attract butterflies whose caterpillar stages require special feeding, including the pearly everlasting plant for the American lady butterfly and milkweed for the monarch.

Each photo in this feature depicts both a pollinator and a favoured bloom growing in the U of G Arboretum. Our thanks to the photographers: Chris Earley, Jon Bierley, Lyndsay Fraser and Paul Kelly.
Photographer captures U.K. portrait prize

Mirjana Vrbaski, BA ’01, needed only one click of the shutter to capture the portrait of a young Dutch girl that was awarded fourth place in a prestigious photographic competition hosted by the National Portrait Gallery in London, England. Sponsored in 2009 by a European law firm, the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize drew 6,300 entries.

Vrbaski is currently a student at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague and plans to pursue a career in portraiture. Born in Montreal and raised in Serbia, she completed high school in Canada and studied English literature at U of G. She also worked as a student writer in the Office of Research SPARK program.

“The idea of moving back to Canada is always there in the back of my mind, but for now I am inspired by the people and atmosphere of Holland. Photography is very valued in Holland and there are countless opportunities for a starting photographer,” she says.

“My work revolves around doing away with everything that is claustrophobically personal in a portrait and drawing out something universal and essential instead.”

Vrbaski’s winning portrait, simply called Girl, was exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery with 59 others from the competition. The exhibition is showing at the Shipley Art Gallery in Newcastle until July 6 and will be at the New Art Gallery in Walsall from July 16 to Sept. 12.

Lozon was recognized for his 31-year career as a Canadian health-care professional. Now president and CEO of long-term care provider Revera Inc., he served previously as CEO of St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto, deputy minister of health and long-term care for Ontario and chair of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. He was named U of G’s Alumnus of Honour in 2008.

Jean Augustine, H.D.La. ’09, was the first African-Canadian woman elected to Parliament. She went on to serve as a cabinet minister and Canada’s first fairness commissioner.

Burton Cummings, H.D.Mus. ’01, is an internationally recognized Canadian singer and songwriter. He won numerous Juno Awards with the band The Guess Who and as a solo vocalist.
Networking matters

New chancellor’s award presented

From left: Pamela Wallin, Rachael Vriezen and Alastair Summerlee.

U of G chancellor Pamela Wallin attended a University-wide awards ceremony in February to award the first Pamela Wallin Chancellor’s Scholarship to Rachael Vriezen, a first-year student from Cambridge, Ont. Established in 2009 as part of the Chancellors’ and President’s Scholarship program, the award will be presented annually in appreciation for Wallin’s service to the University and will provide $26,000 over four years to the recipient. Vriezen is studying international development in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

The annual awards ceremony recognized the donors of 40 undergraduate and graduate awards and honoured more than 75 student award recipients. Other new awards included the Tony and Anne Arrell Scholarships, the Al Singleton Hockey Scholarship and the Art Rouse Memorial Scholarship in Veterinary and Comparative Cancer Studies.

We are advancing the U of G vision

Addressing the challenges that face our communities and our world is a priority for the University of Guelph. Your alma mater is a pioneer in research that addresses the fundamental systems of life — our food supply, the environment, animal and human health, and the economic and cultural well-being of our communities. The University’s mission to change lives and improve life matters now more than ever.

To accelerate discovery and change, my academic and research colleagues at Guelph are bridging disciplines, institutions and borders to pursue new forms of partnership, collaboration and leadership.

To facilitate their efforts, the University is beginning a major fundraising effort that will be publicly announced later this year and will culminate in 2014 when we celebrate Guelph’s 50th anniversary as a university. The money we raise could transform U of G as well as our own lives. Together, we will build the capacity the University needs to tackle those big questions.

Thank you from U of G

acknowledged students for their contributions to the Energy Conservation Fund. For the March 27 Earth Hour, “Thank You” tags highlighted the impact of energy retrofit projects on campus sustainability.

Guelph students initiated and supported an energy conservation referendum in April 2007, pledging $10 per semester for 12 years. The student fees, as well as gifts from other individuals, are matched one-to-one by the University administration. More than $1 million has been contributed to the Energy Conservation Fund.

Alumni support is crucial to our success. We have already met with thousands of our stakeholders, and their message has been clear: Guelph alumni understand that the U of G experience sets them apart from others, and they are proud to be strong ambassadors for their alma mater. We invite all of you to join us and to share in the achievements, the momentum and the excitement at the University of Guelph.

Joanne Shoveller
Vice-President
Alumni Affairs and Development
Paid in full

Alumni who have visited Rozanski Hall will have seen the University of Guelph Alumni Association name in tiles on the foyer floor. This is a tangible reminder that, in 2001, UGAA committed to donate $500,000 toward construction of this state-of-the-art teaching facility. The association embraced the opportunity to show leadership support for a building focused on the best teaching and learning for students. This was a decision of remarkable confidence and vision. Without a large sum available at the time, we pledged to provide $50,000 per year for 10 years. These annual donations were financed through UGAA revenue from our affinity partners.

This year, the UGAA board paid not only our 2010 installment but our 2011 amount as well. We were delighted to declare the full $500,000 pledge “paid in full” and to give president Alastair Summerlee the final installment in the foyer of Rozanski Hall.

The president said he couldn’t have asked for a more meaningful expression of support from U of G’s alumni family. The final payment, he said, came at an opportune time for the University and demonstrates the caring and commitment of alumni.

With the completion of this commitment to the past capital campaign, UGAA plans to make a significant donation to the current fundraising effort, which will culminate with the University’s 50th anniversary in 2014. Alumni who have suggestions about the specific form of our donation may write to me at ugaa@uoguelph.ca.

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

Alumni events bring friends together

More than 125 engineering alumni attended the annual Engineering Alumni Association Bonspiel. Current engineering students also participated this year, as did CPES dean Tony Vannelli and Prof. Hussein Abdulrah, director of the School of Engineering.

Dr. Ken Bridge, DVM ’80, a mixed-animal practitioner from Kincardine, Ont., chats with student Megan Noyes at the OVC Watering Hole, a networking event hosted by the OVC Alumni Association and the dean’s office. More than half of OVC’s Phase 4 undergrads attended the inaugural event to receive career guidance.

Former women’s basketball players from the 1950s to today gathered at the second annual Women’s Alumni Basketball Day in January. Alumni attended a reception, a Gryphon basketball game and a gathering at Gryphon’s Sports Lounge.
Three partners support women in science

In January, the University of Guelph celebrated its partnership with Research In Motion (RIM) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) that supports a research chair dedicated to increasing the participation of women in science and engineering programs. According to Engineers Canada, fewer than 20 per cent of undergraduate engineering students in Canada are women.

Engineering professor Valerie Davidson holds the RIM/NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering. Her efforts have included outreach programs in public schools, Girl Guide summer camps, and programs to help female scientists and engineers secure research positions.

Those attending the event included, top row, from left: Robert Crow, RIM’s vice-president for industry, government and university relations, and Prof. Kevin Hall, U of G’s vice-president research. Front row: Prof. Tony Vannelli, dean of the College of Physical and Engineering Science; Joanne Shoveller, vice-president, alumni affairs and development; Prof. Valerie Davidson; and Suzanne Fortier, president of NSERC.

DID YOU KNOW?
Co-operative Education and Career Services at U of G offers a full range of services to alumni free for one year after graduation. Visit www.cecs.uoguelph.ca for information on career planning and job search.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE
Dear University of Guelph Alumni;

Yes, it really does matter which credit card you use, and here’s why.

When you choose the University of Guelph Alumni Association (UGAA) MasterCard from BMO Bank of Montreal, every purchase you make helps support your alma mater with no additional cost to you.

BMO Bank of Montreal is one of U of G’s valued affinity partners. Over the last few years, your Alumni Association has worked with BMO Bank of Montreal to build the foundation for a successful affinity credit card program... one that not only generates revenue to support our work, but also offers valuable benefits that personally reward you for using the card!

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If you don’t have a BMO University of Guelph MasterCard yet, we invite you to review the great features online at bmo.com/guelph. If you already have a card, we thank you, and hope that you’re enjoying the personal rewards from using the card.

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Linda Hruska
President
University of Guelph Alumni Association
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Self-propelled and sustainable

Kristi Mahy, B.Sc.(Env.) ’08, and three like-minded environmental activists want your attention. In fact, they want millions of people from Guelph to Vancouver, down the west coast of the United States and south as far as Costa Rica to take notice of their plan to promote sustainable living.

As soon as Garrett Gauthier picks up his U of G degree in June, he and Mahy will join Justin Pape, BLA ’08, and Viera Linderova on a one-year cycling odyssey covering 16,100 kilometres through nine countries.

They’re starting at a sustainability demonstration home in Guelph called the Onean Project and will end up at a biological reserve near Puntarenas, Costa Rica. They plan to visit and recognize people practising sustainable livelihoods and to convince a skeptical public that sustainability is feasible.

“We want to show that, no matter where you live, you can make meaningful contributions to planetary health,” says Mahy. “We aim to weave a network along our route connecting individuals, families, communities and organizations that demonstrate successful sustainable and socially conscious living initiatives.”

Hoping to share information and resources, the four cyclists will blog, post photos and try to attract media attention. To follow their journey, visit www.pedalacrosstheamericas.com. Use the website to contact them if you live on their 16,000-kilometre route and would like to share your own story of sustainable living.

1940s

• Harry Barrett, BSA ’49, co-wrote the book Alligators of the North, which chronicles the history of a steam-powered warping tug that was nicknamed the Alligator. The West and Peachey Company of Simcoe, Ont., invented and sold Alligators to the forest industry during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The book was published by Natural Heritage Books in March, and proceeds will be used to help maintain the last functioning Alligator which is moored on the Lynn River in Simcoe. For more information, call 519-426-2782.

1960s

• Ken Gardiner, DVM ’65, worked in a large-animal practice for two years after graduation, then began a 30-year career in meat hygiene with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. He and his wife, Judy, have two daughters, a son and five grandchildren, and have retired on a small farm near the resort town of Sylvan Lake, Alta. He plays hockey, and they both curl and golf.

• Richard Helmer, ADA ’62, was one of several Guelph graduates chosen to carry the Olympic torch on its journey across Canada. While running the torch Dec. 23, he thought of his aunt Florence Bell, who was one of the first gold-medal Olympians for Canada at the 1928 Games in the Netherlands. She ran the third leg of the one-by-four 400-metre race. Helmer says it was an honour to be chosen to carry the torch. Afterwards, he headed for Arizona and watched the Vancouver Games in true snowbird style.

• Paul Mooradian, BA ’68, is retired and living in...
Oakville, Ont. He and his wife are looking forward to a month-long trip to China to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

1970s

■ **Dianne Duff**, B.A.Sc. ’72, is teaching online courses in family studies for Queen’s University in Kingston, Ont. “I retired from teaching at the secondary-school level only to find myself teaching at the university level,” she says. “It’s great, and the experiences I had as an undergrad at Guelph are still relevant.” Her daughter, **Jennifer**, B.Sc. ’07, studied animal biology at U of G and is now enrolled in veterinary medicine at the University of Glasgow.

■ **Barry Heath**, DVM ’72, has been appointed to the Saskatchewan Automobile Injury Appeal Commission. His appointment follows 24 years of service as a coroner in Saskatoon and area. Heath retired as a veterinarian in October 2005.

■ **Jane Hilton**, B.Sc. ’77, was recently named president of the Ontario Library Board Association. She is also chair of the Whitby Public Library board and the Southern Ontario Library Service Trustee Council No. 5. Currently on leave from her position in the health human resources policy division of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Hilton is working as a project manager at the Durham College School of Health and Community Services. Her son, Alec Fry, plans to study environmental engineering at U of G.

■ **Vickie and Steve Lawson**, both B.Sc. ’79, live in Warkworth, New Zealand, and welcome email from Guelph friends at vickiemoolenbeek@gmail.com.

■ **Rick Rosatte**, B.Sc. ’78, is a senior research scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources’ wildlife research and development section in Peterborough, Ont. He is based at Trent University, where he is also an adjunct professor in the watershed ecosystems graduate program. He holds graduate degrees in disease epidemiology and is currently studying wildlife diseases, particularly rabies and chronic wasting disease. He is also leading research programs on the restoration of elk in Ontario, as well as the origin and distribution of cougars in the province.

■ **Willem Moolenbeek**, B.Sc. ’77 and M.Sc. ’81, is a saxophonist in demand for studio and club dates, recitals, chamber music, orchestral and solo engagements. He has been teaching since 1984 and gives clinics and concerts for school boards throughout Ontario and for specialized groups such as the Canadian Band Directors Association. He taught in the City of Burlington’s music program, offers private instruction and is a member of the faculty at the National Music Camp of Canada. He also instructs concert saxophone at McMaster University in Hamilton, the Beckett School in Waterloo and universities of Waterloo and Guelph.

Rick Rosatte prepares to board an A-Star helicopter to capture and radio-collar elk south of Bancroft in January.

Willem Moolenbeek with U of G choir conductor Marta McCarthy at a master class for Guelph students.

■ **Vickie and Steve Lawson**, both B.Sc. ’79, live in Warkworth, New Zealand, and welcome email from Guelph friends at vickiem lawson@slingshot.co.nz.
Christine Zink, DVM ’78 and PhD ’86, was named Outstanding Woman Veterinarian of the Year in 2009 by the Association for Women Veterinarians Foundation in the United States. She is a professor and director of the Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore.

1980s

Ian Candfield, B.Comm. ’85, lives in Montreal with his wife, Claire Crozier, and their almost five-year-old son, Jude. Candfield is an accredited financial security adviser and financial management adviser with CIBC Wood Gundy. After graduation, he spent 13 years with a Montreal hotel consulting firm before turning to financial advising. Candfield says he has fond memories of the Hafa program, varsity soccer, the Keg and old friends, who can contact him at ian.candfield@cibc.ca.

George Charbonneau, DVM ’81, and his wife, Ann Coyle, operate a veterinary practice in Stratford, Ont., and will be honoured in June when the Ontario Pork Industry Council (OPIC) holds its annual Hog Jog. Proceeds from the charity run/walk will go to Stratford General Hospital, where Charbonneau received emergency treatment after suffering a heart attack. He is a founding director of OPIC. For more information, go to www.hogjog.ca.

Mark Finnimore, ADA ’84, has worked in the poultry industry for 25 years and is currently vice-president, operations and logistics, for Maple Lodge Farms in Norval, Ont. He and his wife, Lena, and their children, Nathan, 8, and Gwendolyn, 5, live near Kitchener. Finnimore says Maple Lodge was one of the companies his Guelph diploma class toured as part of their field studies. “That particular tour was one of the original events that created my interest in the poultry industry, and I haven’t been able to shake the bug since.” Friends are invited to contact him at mark_finnimore@yahoo.ca.

Michelle Gietz, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’83, recently published a book titled It Was Our Town about childhood memories growing up in the hamlet of Scandia, Alta. The Scandia Eastern Irrigation District Museum will receive $2 from the sale of each book.

Brett Kelly, B.Sc. ’84, was appointed justice of the peace in the Ontario Court of Justice in October and is assigned to the court in St. Catharines.

Leon Leclair, ADA ’84, is chair of the Bushels of Hope campaign for the United Way of Chatham–Kent and is credited with increasing awareness of the agricultural community and its generosity over the last three years. The photo above represents $10,000 donated by the farming community and matched by Laprise Farms.
James Pang, B.Sc.(Eng.) ’83, returned to Malaysia after graduating from U of G. For the last 10 years, he has been self-employed as a quality management consultant providing ISO 9001 consultancy and training. He recently obtained permanent resident status for Canada and is exploring job opportunities in Ontario. He invites other U of G alumni to check out his website at www.jpassociates.webstar.my.

1990s

Steven Arkle, BA ’97, of Guelph has a new gig announcing for the Tri-City Roller Girls under the name of Lightning Slim. He landed the job after marrying a member of the local roller-derby league.

Jody Boehnert, BA ’92, lives in London, England, where she is founding director of EcoLabs, a company that develops projects to visually communicate complex environmental information (see www.eco-labs.org). In 2007, she co-founded Transition Town Brixton, the first urban space based on the collaborative design of a local energy descent plan. She has worked for a decade as a graphic designer, writes and speaks on design and the environment, and is a PhD candidate at the University of Brighton.

Tim Cooey, B.Sc. ’90, is in his 15th year as a biologist at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto. “Throughout the years, I have contributed to the development of many new live exhibits and hopefully improved many of the existing ones,” he says. “I’m looking forward to many more productive years, inspiring minds young and old to learn more about science.”

Jim Hamilton, M.Sc. ’90, recently returned to Canada after working for four years as a field project manager on a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency in Bangladesh. Now in Ottawa, he is program manager for Asia with CHF (Canadian Hunger Foundation) and currently has additional responsibilities as acting regional director for Asia.

Darryl Huard, B.Sc. ’91, is the second secretary (immigration) at the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya. “My spouse and I have been enjoying travelling around sub-Saharan Africa for the past couple of years,” he says. “We spent our third wedding anniversary Dec. 31 on a beach in beautiful Cape Town, South Africa.”

Steven Rowland, B.Sc. ’90, worked for 13 years at Merck in Montreal, but he says restructuring there opened the door for him to join the pharmaceutical research team at Novartis in Boston, Mass.

Kyle Walters, B.Sc. ’97, has stepped down as coach of the football Gryphons to pursue coaching at the professional level. He spent a total of seven years with the Gryphon football program as a player and coach. He helped guide the Gryphons to three straight playoff appearances from 2007 to 2009 and led them to the 2007 Ontario University Athletics (OUA) final. Original-
ly from St. Thomas, Ont., Walters played professional football for the Hamilton Tiger Cats and spent a season as the assistant special team’s coach in Hamilton.

■ Maxine Westhead, B.Sc. ’96, wrote in response to an article in the last issue of the CBS Zygote about the marine biology field trip to St. Andrews, N.B. She took that course in 1995 and says it inspired her to “go east.” She’s been living in Halifax since 1997 and working for the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans since 1998. She currently heads the department’s protected areas and conservation planning section. “We find, make and manage marine protected areas. I never thought my science degree would lead to ocean management and policy work, but it’s an effective place to be to make real change.”

■ Richard Wyma, MLA ’95, began a new job as general manager of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Feb. 1. He and his wife, Fe, moved more than 2,500 kilometres south to take up the new post near Windsor, Ont. For the past 12 years, Wyma has been managing parks and conservation areas for the government of Nunavut, where he was founding director of the Nunavut Association of Landscape Architects. Originally from Ridgetown, Ont., he worked for Essex Region as land management supervisor from 1995 to 1998.

2000s

■ John Arthur, BA ’03, is a naval lieutenant working as a staff officer for the Navy. He has completed tours in Victoria, B.C., at the interdepartmental federal maritime security operation centre and at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. In November 2009, he returned from a one-year post with U.S. Forces Afghanistan (South) in Kandahar, where he served consecutive “difficult but rewarding” tours as lead analyst for Kandahar. Arthur studied French at the Sorbonne in Paris and is applying to graduate schools for fall 2010.

■ Krista Buecking, BA ’07, held her first solo art exhibition Dec. 17 to Jan. 30 at the Susan Hobbs Gallery in Toronto. Originally from Brampton, Ont., she had previously shown her work in group exhibitions at the gallery. Her project “Love Song for a New Generation” was the featured artist project in the winter 2008 issue of C Magazine.

■ Michael Burton, BA ’01, works for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation in Milton, and his wife, Lesley (McLaughlin), B.Sc.(H.K.) ’02, is a physiotherapist. They have a one-year-old son, Alexander.

■ Andrea Chepack, ADA ’03, married Mike Ross in 2007 and gave birth to their first child, Callum, in July 2009. She graduated from the veterinary technician program at Seneca College in 2009 and would love to hear from friends at andrealeeross@gmail.com.

■ Jon Corbin, BA ’07, runs Corbin Visual, a video production company that employs several freelance artists and camera operators. “Besides my aspirations of becoming the next Jerry Bruckheimer, my commitment to succeed keeps me pushing forward in the face of adversity and a dwindling economy. I live and breathe my company and love connecting with other entrepreneurs to chat as we all move forward together.”

■ Andrew Exel, B.Comm. ’03, is general manager of a culi-
nary retreat in Flesherton, Ont. He has worked in the hospitality industry but recently made the move to managing Silver Springs Retreat.

- **Michael Guy**, BA ’04, is a Bahamian diplomat serving in London, England. He assumed his duties as second secretary/vice-consul at the Bahamas High Commission in August 2009. Prior to that, he worked on the multilateral relations political desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nassau. Friends can contact him at mguy@bahamashclondon.net.

- **Carla Mascioli**, DVM ’07, is a veterinarian at Caranne Veterinary Services near Timmins, Ont. She also volunteers at the Timmins and District Humane Society, where she set up and is now expanding a surgical and medical clinic for shelter animals and cruelty investigation animals. She’s at the clinic every Thursday to spay/neuter shelter animals and attend to other medical cases.

- **Evelyn Marsch**, B.Sc.(Env.) ’07, began her career with an environmental consulting firm doing industry research for Environment Canada. That experience led to a job as a corporate environmental auditor for the Continuum Network in downtown Toronto. The company audits the level of sustainability at large multinational corporations. “Two years out of school and I’ve already landed my dream job,” she says.

- **Chris Martin**, BA ’00, is an insurance broker in Moncton, N.B.

- **Christina Rzazewski**, BA ’03 and MA ’04, and John Rodney, BA ’04, plan to marry Aug. 6. They met at the U of G Athletics Centre. Rzazewski is an English teacher in Hamilton, Ont., and recently saw her students perform a play at the Sears Drama Festival that she wrote while studying with Guelph theatre studies professor Judith Thompson.

- **Mark Webb**, ADTM ’05, carried the Olympic torch Nov. 24 during the run from Moncton to Saint John, N.B. “As the flame was passed to me, I had to stop for a moment when I realized the magnitude of what the flame really means,” he says. The next day, he shared his experience at an elementary school in Saint John. Webb watched the relay again in January when it moved through Edmonton, where he works as an assistant golf course superintendent. “The whole experience has shown me that it was not about me. The Olympic spirit is meant to be shared and spread around. With all of the things that are wrong in this world, the Olympic flame represents what is right.”

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**PASSAGES**

- **Jonathan Anderson**, PhD ’71, Oct. 18, 2009
- **Helen (Grantham) Aylsworth**, DHE ’38, Nov. 12, 2009
- **Barry Benness**, BA ’76, Oct. 7, 2009
- **Margaret (Blair) Bird**, DHE ’60, Dec. 9, 2009
- **Karen Black**, BA ’79, Nov. 8, 2009
- **Ranjit Chakravarty**, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’81, Jan. 23, 2010
- **Donald Christie**, DVM ’43, July 31, 2008
- **Richard Coleman**, DVM ’54, March 6, 2010
- **Matthew Corman**, BA ’91, Dec. 27, 2009
- **Elvira (Penner) Dueck**, BA ’73, ODH ’90 and ’93, May 15, 2008
- **Donald Fiddler**, ODH ’66, March 2, 2008
- **Rin Ghosh**, B.Sc. ’95, Feb. 1, 2010
- **Harry Hamilton**, ADA ’38, Sept. 29, 2009
- **Victoria Harris**, B.Comm. ’82 and BA ’84, Dec. 8, 2009
- **Larry Hill**, BSA ’62, June 12, 2009
- **Lloyd Hooper**, BSA ’38, Oct. 14, 2009
- **David House**, DVM ’49, March 16, 2010
- **James H. Hunt**, BA ’68, in 2009
- **Cathryn Ireland**, B.H.Sc. ’52, Dec. 18, 2009
- **Lauren Jackson**, B.A.Sc. ’77, Nov. 21, 2009
- **John Kudelka**, BSA ’47, Dec. 11, 2009
- **Donald Lavender**, BSA ’36, Jan. 12, 2010
- **Ethelbert Martin**, BSA ’33, Jan. 2, 2010
- **Wayne McCausland**, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’77, Jan. 19, 2010
- **Marian (Collinson) Moffat**, BSA ’48, March 3, 2010
- **John Moore**, ADA ’48, Aug. 4, 2009
- **Harry Palmer**, DVM ’40, Dec. 10, 2009
- **William Palmer**, BSA ’50, Feb. 15, 2010
- **Allan Patterson**, BSA ’43, July 23, 2009
- **Glenn Peirson**, BA ’79, Nov. 10, 2009
- **Kylie Peltier**, B.Sc. ’05, March 30, 2009
- **Wayne Perry**, BSA ’50, Dec. 29, 2009
- **Walker Riley**, BSA ’62, Feb. 21, 2010
- **Harold Snyder**, BSA ’50, Dec. 2, 2009
- **David Stager**, BSA ’59, July 23, 2009
- **Elizabeth (de Reeder) Sturges**, DHE ’34, Aug. 28, 2008
- **Paul Tamblyn**, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’66, M.Sc. ’68 and PhD ’71
- **Victor Thygesen**, ODH ’91, Dec. 6, 2009
- **Bryan Tyrer**, BA ’76, July 31, 2009
- **Carles Wilford**, BSA ’49, Jan. 7, 2010
- **George Williams**, BSA ’52, Nov. 31, 2009
- **Evelyn Wright**, DHE ’39, Jan. 26, 2009

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