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in and around the university

U of G held winter convocation and hosted both a President’s Dialogue and an international conference on world hunger. Several faculty and students received prestigious awards, including a 3M Teaching Fellowship, and researchers published results on fatty foods and caffeine and on potato farming in Peru.

alumni matters

The winter months were filled with alumni gatherings for former hockey players, veterinary grads and Florida snowbirds. This summer, you can visit the campus and meet friends during Alumni Weekend, June 17 and 18.

on the cover

Environmental engineer
Ed McBean
PHOTO BY DEAN PALMER

Portico online

More U of G news at uoguelph.ca/theportico

— 10 —
cover story

OUR WORLD NEEDS CLEAN WATER

Prof. Ed McBean’s engineering team is developing practical solutions to water problems that threaten human health and the environment.

WHY CANADIANS WAVE THE FLAG

Are fireworks and flag-waving on July 1 signs of spontaneous patriotism or a politician’s plan to define the Canadian identity?

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INTRAMURAL SPORTS CAN’T BE BEAT

Every year, more and more Guelph students sign up for intramurals — not for fitness alone but for friendship, too.

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ALUMNI PROFILES

Landscape architect Patrick Morello and lawyer Cynthia Sarthou are both designing strategies for a greener world: he where the desert meets the Atlantic in North Africa, she where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

building a better planet

Recent gifts to The BetterPlanet Project will build a water research lab and help U of G produce top mechanical engineers.
Alumni Weekend
June 17 and 18

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend Alumni Weekend 2011. As graduates of the University of Guelph, we share so many wonderful memories of our time spent together. Alumni Weekend is a great time to reconnect and celebrate our alma mater and everything it means to us. Please join us at the University of Guelph in June. I look forward to seeing you there.

Dave Hume,
BSA ’61, Honorary Chair

Friday Evening
■ OAC AA annual general meeting and reception
■ Star Party in the physics observatory

Saturday Morning
■ OVC AA welcome breakfast and annual general meeting
■ Campus walking tours
■ CBS AA breakfast and annual general meeting
■ Mac-FACS-FRAN AA annual general meeting
■ Macdonald Institute tour
■ Human anatomy open house
■ President’s House tours

Saturday Afternoon
■ Trial garden tour at the Turfgrass Institute
■ President’s Lunch celebrating the class of 1961
■ Drop into The Brass Taps
■ UGAA annual general meeting
■ Tours of Macdonald Institute and Johnston Hall
■ Bioproducts Development and Discovery Centre tour
■ Macdonald Stewart Art Centre walking tours
■ Campus bus tours

Saturday Evening
■ Alumni Reception and Dinner
■ Lost in the ’80s pub night

Register at www.alumni.uoguelph.ca
This past winter semester, the University of Guelph saw many events and campus milestones connected under the broad theme of “sustainability.”

At the end of January, we published the report of our Sustainability Task Force. A week later, we released our annual report on U of G’s Community Energy Plan, a report card of sorts on our ongoing efforts to reduce the institution’s environmental footprint. In the last fiscal year, our conservation efforts saved $734,000, mostly through lighting retrofits, and reduced our greenhouse-gas emissions by more than 1,300 tonnes.

Many energy-saving projects receive funding from the University’s Energy Conservation Fund, supported each semester by a $10 contribution from all students and by additional donations from staff, faculty, retirees and alumni. The University matches all funds, and a campus working group representing contributors determines how the money will be used.

We hope the Sustainability Task Force report will spark ideas for duplicating our energy-saving success throughout the University’s teaching, research and physical operations. As important as these actions are, the report isn’t just about protecting the environment. The task force also considered how we might achieve economic and social sustainability.

Its report offers many recommendations, including creating a “sustainability action network” to help increase involvement across campus and create awareness among incoming students. We aim to motivate the entire University community to consider how to live and work more sustainably.

Days after publishing these two documents, the University held winter convocation ceremonies, the sixth annual President’s Dialogue and an international student conference — all connected by the common theme of alleviating world hunger. Again and again, we heard that, although food aid is essential for people facing an immediate crisis, what’s needed long-term in affected countries is sustained food production.

Conference participants from government, industry, social organizations and universities — most from Canada and the United States — pledged to ensure that their organizations commit to helping almost a billion hungry people worldwide. The event nourished the enthusiasm of young leaders and sustained a movement to make the world a more equitable place.

Food production and supply are among the greatest challenges for our society and in our time. In yet another initiative to address those challenges, the University announced in early April a new faculty appointment to the Loblaw Chair in Sustainable Food Production. This new chair, to be funded by a gift from Loblaw Companies Ltd. to U of G’s BetterPlanet Project campaign, will be held by Prof. Ralph Martin, a Canadian expert in organic research and education.

At Guelph, Prof. Martin will help address issues of global food sustainability. We plan to develop a national program in sustainable food production, one that will almost certainly produce a model for use in many other countries.

Through this chair, we will engage public- and private-sector stakeholders in Canada’s agri-food industry in developing new research collaborations and a teaching curriculum in sustainable practices and food policies for greater food production and profitability and a cleaner environment.

Sustainability is all about the future — improving life today while preserving resources for tomorrow. It’s a keystone of The BetterPlanet Project, a University of Guelph invitation for all concerned citizens to support our researchers, teachers and learners working together toward solutions for a healthy, equitable and — yes — sustainable world.

Alastair Summerlee, President
Convocation, Dialogue, Summit: It Was a Big Week

During five days in February, the University of Guelph responded to president Alastair Summerlee’s assertion that “universities should be the moral and social conscience of society and must play a leadership role in resolving problems that oppress the world’s most vulnerable citizens.” Hunger was the topic addressed by honorary degree recipients at U of G’s winter convocation, by participants in a special President’s Dialogue and by attendees of a three-day hunger summit that drew 400 people — aid workers, politicians, social activists, faculty and university students from several countries.

Former Canadian governor general Michaëlle Jean was among five recipients of honorary degrees. U of G also honoured ecologist Daniel Janzen, anti-poverty advocate June Henton, health advocate Quentin Johnson and Ken Knox, former Ontario deputy minister of energy, science and technology.

Alan Meek, former dean of the Ontario Veterinary College, was named an Honorary Fellow of the University, and more than 900 degrees and diplomas were presented to graduating students on Feb. 23.

Jean received her degree at a special ceremony held during the Feb. 25 President’s Dialogue, which opened the sixth annual Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH) summit. Summerlee moderated a discussion of complex issues that see close to a billion people going hungry in the world today.

The panellists were U of G graduate Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere, director of the International Food Policy Research Institute in Africa; Ramiro Lopes da Silva, deputy executive director of the World Food Program in Rome; Canadian senator and U of G chancellor Pamela Wallin; Johnson, an international consultant on food supplementation; and Henton, UFWH founder and dean of human sciences at Auburn University.

Jean, who is now UNESCO Special Envoy to Haiti, spoke forcefully about conditions in her country of birth. “If I agreed to campaign tirelessly in support of Haiti, it is because I can no longer bear to hear about the resilience of the Haitian people. It sounds as if they were put on this Earth only to recover from one crisis, one tragedy, one ordeal after the other. Resilience is but the last resort before dying.”

She told the audience that combating hunger must not focus on short-term, piecemeal initiatives for immediate relief. Instead, she urged adoption of a new ethical standard of sharing that includes “everyone, everywhere.”

During the hunger summit, a new international award was named in Jean’s honour. The Michaëlle Jean Emergency Hunger Relief Award will be presented annually to a student, from any country, who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in fighting hunger during emergency relief. The award is sponsored by U of G and UFWH, an alliance of more than 150 higher-education institutions.

Guelph was the first Canadian university to join the organization and hosted its first conference outside the United States, co-chaired by Summerlee and U of G undergraduate student Gavin Armstrong. The fourth-year commerce student received the annual President William Jefferson Clinton Hunger Leadership Award during the event to recognize his efforts to increase UFWH membership and influence.

Armstrong is the first Canadian to receive the international award, which honours the former U.S. president’s commitment to humanitarian causes. The Clinton award is presented by the organization Stop Hunger Now and the Centre for Student Leadership at North Carolina State University.

At U of G, Armstrong serves on the Board of Governors and The BetterPlanet Project steering group. He has been a member of Senate and is co-president of the undergraduate chapter of Net Impact, an organization that promotes leadership in business; he also serves on the board of directors of the Guelph-based Masai Project.

Michaëlle Jean responds to a standing ovation after receiving an honorary degree from the University of Guelph at the Feb. 25 President’s Dialogue.
Maureen Mancuso with students in her fourth-year political science course.

U of G Provost Receives 3M Fellowship — Canada’s Top Teaching Award

M aureen Mancuso, vice-president (academic), has been awarded a 3M National Teaching Fellowship from 3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

She is one of 10 Canadian professors — and the only senior administrator — recognized this year for exceptional contributions to teaching and learning.

Mancuso is U of G’s fourteenth 3M fellow. Her award makes Guelph the only Canadian university whose current president and provost hold the prestigious teaching awards; president Alastair Summerlee received a 3M fellowship in 2003.

“Teaching is one of the core missions of our university,” said Mancuso, a political science professor. “I consider teaching a responsibility and a privilege. The teaching process is always a learning process for me as well as for my students, I engage them as active participants in their learning, and their fresh ideas and inquisitive minds inspire me to explore new perspectives in my field of study.”

Mancuso won a U of G teaching award in 1996 and has twice been named among Guelph’s most popular professors by Maclean’s magazine.

As an administrator, she has led several key institutional initiatives to enhance teaching and learning. She launched a review of undergraduate learning, introduced the first-year seminar program and chaired the Presidental Task Force on Accessibility to Post-Secondary Education. She has served on local and provincial committees, including task forces to improve educational quality, productivity and equity. She has published papers on student engagement and the learning experience and on accessibility issues.

Mancuso was appointed provost in 2004. She served as chair of the Department of Political Science from 1996 to 2000, when she was appointed associate vice-president (academic).

ORDERING FAST FOOD?
SKIP THE COFFEE

E ating a fatty fast-food meal is never good for you, but washing that meal down with a coffee is even worse, according to a new study by PhD student Marie-Soleil Beaudoin, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences. She discovered not only that a healthy person’s blood-sugar levels spike after eating a high-fat meal but also that the spike doubles after having both a fatty meal and caffeinated coffee, jumping to levels similar to those of people at risk for diabetes.

“The results tell us that saturated fat interferes with the body’s ability to clear sugars from the blood, and when combined with caffeinated coffee, the impact can be even worse,” says Beaudoin, who conducted the research with Profs. Lindsay Robinson and Terry Graham.

“Having sugar remain in our blood for long periods is unhealthy because it can take a toll on our body’s organs.”

Published in the Journal of Nutrition, the study also found that the effects of a high-fat meal can last for hours. “What you eat for lunch can impact how your body responds to food later in the day,” says Beaudoin.
Rubber From Dandelions?

It might be a stretch, but Guelph plant breeder Dave Wolyn hopes to coax natural rubber from Russian dandelion to feed a growing global rubber market and to offer a potentially lucrative new crop for farmers in southern Ontario. This summer, he’ll conduct plant trials using dandelion seeds from Kazakhstan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The research is supported by the Sand Plains Community Development Fund in Tillsonburg, Ont., and KoK Technologies Inc. in Penticton, B.C. KoK owner Anvar Buranov has developed a patented process for recovering natural rubber. Wolyn joined the project after Buranov contacted U of G to find a plant breeder. The Guelph professor has bred asparagus since 1988 and developed an award-winning hybrid that now has almost three-quarters of the Ontario asparagus market. “I thought it was exciting,” says Wolyn. “You’re taking a wild plant and trying to turn it into a crop.”

Most rubber is used for making tires. Natural rubber is better for airplane and heavy-equipment tires than the synthetic oil-derived rubber used in car tires.

The only commercial source of natural rubber, the Brazilian rubber tree, grows mostly in Southeast Asia. After rubber trees were transplanted to Asia, a fungus wiped out most of the South American trees.

Rubber forms naturally in dandelion roots and in parts of other plants. Russian dandelion rubber is chemically suited for use in tires and as latex for gloves, making it an ideal replacement for rubber tree products, says Wolyn. Unlike other rubber-bearing plants, this dandelion species also contains inulin, a food additive and feedstock for biofuels that might also benefit growers.

Exotic Pets Are Common at OVC

“Every day in my clinic is like a visit to the zoo,” says David Eshar, a new veterinarian at the Ontario Veterinary College’s primary-care facility. While cats, dogs and livestock make up the majority of patients at the clinic, Eshar keeps busy caring for birds, reptiles and other exotic pets.

His recent patients include a guinea pig with overgrown molars, an injured hawk, a gecko, a serval cat, a baby lion, lizards, snakes, tortoises and many birds. “Parrots are a significant percentage of our clients,” he says.

Eshar worked with these less-than-common animals in a zoo and in private practice in his native Israel before training as a specialist in exotic pets at Tufts University in Massachusetts and the University of Pennsylvania. He moved to Guelph to work in the OVC Health Sciences Centre, a facility he says “offers the best specialized medical care for owners and pets.”

Eshar enjoys teaching and feels it is important to pass on his expertise to new vets; he plans to promote a standard approach to diagnosing medical conditions in exotic species. “I want to take what is known to us in well-studied animals, such as cats and dogs, and see what can be applied to these less-studied species, with attention to the differences in anatomy and physiology.”
Potatoes Are Key to Prosperity for Farmers in Peruvian Andes

Silvia Sarapura is here in Guelph, completing her PhD in U of G’s rural studies program. But part of her is still back in Peru, high up in the Andes where she grew up and where she hopes her studies will help numerous families, especially women, to improve their own lives.

Her main tool is the potato, native to the South American highlands, where thousands of native varieties are grown today. Compare that to the handful of different kinds of spuds you might find at your grocery store or farmer’s market.

Potatoes have been cultivated in Peru for 8,000 years. In cool, dry conditions about 4,000 metres above sea level, numerous mountain farmers tend small potato plots. Many wield the same implements used there for generations, including a wooden foot plow called a chaquitaclla that was developed by the Incas.

Sarapura makes yearly field trips to the Andes to document the farmers’ way of life and to help growers find new markets.

Most of those growers are women. As in other rural parts of the world, it’s women who cultivate the crop. Some men tend farms as well, Sarapura says, but many look for work elsewhere. “Women have preserved the species,” she says, referring to potato genetic diversity.

Some grow their crop only for subsistence or for exchange for other crops and commodities. Others sell their produce at farmers’ markets. Still others are more ambitious, hoping to sell potato products nationally and even to international markets like North America.

During her visits, Sarapura provides information and advice to help those growers learn about export opportunities - perhaps through companies looking for new processed products. But she also offers training and development by talking to women and girls about business, education, communication and public speaking, leadership, and skills training.

After studying agronomy in Peru, Sarapura worked on plant breeding at the International Potato Centre (CIP) in Lima. She started her PhD at U of G in 2008 with Prof. Jim Mahone, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. Her co-adviser is Graham Thiele at CIP.

NOTEWINHERY
• Pamela Wallin has resigned as U of G chancellor, citing increased responsibilities in the Canadian Senate. One of Canada’s most prominent media figures, a diplomat and an entrepreneur, she was named chancellor in 2007 and joined the Senate in 2008.
• The Board of Governors has extended president Alastair Sumnurlee’s second term in office by a year to June 30, 2014. He will now end his presidential term after the completion of The BetterPlanet Project and the University’s 50th anniversary in 2014.
• Professor emerita Elizabeth Waterston has been named to the Order of Ontario for her distinguished career in writing, research and teaching. An expert on Canadian authors, she taught literature at U of G for more than two decades and is a leading expert on the life and writings of Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of the Anne of Green Gables series.
• Toronto-based musician Jane Bunnett is U of G’s first improviser-in-residence. During her year on campus, she’ll make announced and impromptu public appearances in Guelph and work with students and local musicians, including children with disabilities who will appear at the Guelph Jazz Festival in September.
• International development student Yvonne Su was named a 2011 “Global Changemaker” by the Ontario Council for International Co-operation. She has raised awareness and funds for everything from environmental issues to hunger and was a finalist in the 2010 Earth Day Canada film competition for her documentary, Dancing With the Wind. View a video about Su and her international experiences at www.ocic.on.ca/.
AN ANONYMOUS $1-million gift will allow the University of Guelph to establish a water teaching laboratory in the School of Engineering to be named for Prof. Ed McBean.

McBean came to U of G in 2003 as the holder of the Canada Research Chair in Water Supply Security. He had been vice-president of Conestoga-Rovers & Associates in Waterloo, Ont., whose Guelph alumni have provided additional funding. Along with a gift from McBean, almost $1.25 million will support this new environmental teaching lab.

McBean built a reputation as a risk-management specialist in the private sector (see story on page 10); at U of G he teaches environmental and water resources engineering, and has seen about 100 grad students fan out to work with companies, government and universities in Canada and abroad.

Many more graduate and undergrad students will learn to solve water problems in the new U of G lab. As part of the second phase of renovations to the Thornbrough Building, the facility is scheduled to open in 2012.

Ralph Martin, a professor at Nova Scotia Agricultural College, has been named to the Loblaw Companies Limited Chair in Sustainable Food Production at U of G. Martin is director of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada; in 2010 he launched Canada’s Organic Science Cluster with support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and industry partners.

U of G’s Loblaw chair was announced in April 2010; it is funded by a $3-million gift from Loblaw and will enhance Guelph efforts to strengthen food production systems. Ontario Agricultural College dean Rob Gordon says: “We are pleased to partner with Loblaw in this new initiative. It will provide benefits to consumers, to Canada’s food industry and to the environment we all share.”

As chairholder, Martin will lead a national program in sustainable local food production, organize roundtables on the topic and create an industry advisory group to guide novel curriculum development. He will also co-ordinate researchers in agriculture and food production, and lead public- and private-sector collaborations.
Maizex Seeds Supports Ridgetown Campus

Marking its 25th anniversary, Maizex Seeds Inc. of Tilbury, Ont., has donated $150,000 to U of G’s Ridgetown Campus. The gift will support construction of a $2.5-million addition to the Reek Building for new classrooms and a student services and recruitment centre.

Maizex president Dave Baute announced the gift at the Southwest Agricultural Conference in Ridgetown in January. “On behalf of the entire team at Maizex, I’m pleased to support this important project at the Ridgetown Campus. This gift is made possible thanks to the support of Canadian growers from coast to coast,” said Baute, a 1977 graduate and current chair of the Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation.

OVC Welcomes New Scholarship

The OVC Class of 1960 celebrated its 50th anniversary by establishing a scholarship for graduate students pursuing specialty certification recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Students in all OVC departments are eligible for the $5,000 annual award, which has been funded for 10 years.

Members of the organizing committee of the OVC 1960 Graduate Award were Tim Lumsden, Don Moore, John Sankey, Don Stimpson and the late Peter Wybenga.
The Portico... water... Emily Nickerson
“Why don’t we go back to the days of the horse and buggy?” That’s what one young teen asked during a Guelph high school talk given this year by U of G student Emily Nickerson about the world’s water woes.

Reversing the clock sounds like a drastic and unrealistic solution to stemming pollution and other problems on our increasingly populated planet, says Nickerson, who in fall 2010 carried her own high school activist credentials into her first year of water resources engineering as a U of G President’s Scholar. But she applauds the idea of seeking different, even seemingly radical, solutions. After all, we’re talking about the century-defining issue, she says.

And it doesn’t matter if we’re Canadians in a land brimming with fresh water or inhabitants of many nations around our crowded globe who have less and less clean water to spare.

It’s that humanitarian sentiment that drove Nickerson’s own volunteer activities at Fredericton High School in New Brunswick. It’s what has pushed her this year to work with the Guelph chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). And it’s what brought her to U of G to begin with, to pursue water resources engineering in one of the few such university programs in Canada — or at least one within a comfortable distance for mom and dad back home in the Maritimes. Now she’s drilling down further by working this summer with one of the country’s top water resources engineers.

That’s Prof. Ed McBean, a respected environmental engineer and risk-management specialist at Guelph who holds the Canada Research Chair in Water Supply Security. Before coming to U of G in 2003, he had been a vice-president of Conestoga-Rovers & Associates in Waterloo, working on water supply projects in dozens of countries across six continents. Eight years later, he’s still in demand here and abroad, helping to find solutions for surface and groundwater contamination, infrastructure failure, flood and drought control, and solid waste management. Those solutions can involve sophisticated tools and ideas: contaminant warning systems, risk assessment algorithms, Bayesian belief networks. Or “flowerpots.”

It’s not quite horse and buggy. But if there’s one thing the professor has learned from his work in developing countries with the World Bank, the United Nations and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), it’s the need to find simple, workable ideas to protect human health and the environment. Hence the flowerpots pictured here with Nickerson and McBean.

More correctly, these are ceramic water filters for household use — the developing world’s answer to your snazzy countertop device.
Clay pots without a hole but porous enough to filter two litres of water an hour and permeated with a bacteria-killing bio-cide. McBean didn’t invent them, but he and his colleagues bring their engineering smarts to bear in testing and improving the pot design and related bio-sand filters for use in Africa and Southeast Asia.

“A world fit for children is a world fit for everyone.” That’s what they say in far-off Madagascar, where Guelph grad Heather Murphy took her water sanitation interests last year after completing her PhD with McBean. But it’s still an unfit world, judging by what she saw during her one-year post as a water, sanitation and hygiene officer with UNICEF in that East African island nation, three out of four people live on less than $1 a day.

The country will not meet the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation. Only 11 per cent of the population has access to improved sanitation, and less than half has access to improved water supplies.

Still, she says there’s hope, in the form of low-tech ceramic filters developed by a local non-governmental organization (NGO). Murphy had worked on a similar project with another NGO in Cambodia, where she received CIDA funding for her doctoral project supervised by McBean and engineering professor Khosrow Farahbakhsh.

“Household water treatment is a low-cost method that can provide safe drinking water at the point of use,” she says. “Ceramic and bio-sand filters have both been shown to reduce diarrheal disease by up to 40 per cent in children under five. They can potentially provide a long-term health benefit if used and maintained properly.”

Health — human and environmental — took McBean to India earlier this year. He’s been there about 35 times since the mid-‘80s. He remembers his first visit in the days before bottled water. “I was sick as a dog. I lost 25 pounds in six weeks.” This year he returned to Calcutta to speak at a conference about how farmers can adapt to climate change.

Two out of three Indians still work the land, placing enormous stresses on shrinking groundwater resources. Under climate change, those stresses will only increase with less rainfall — although more potential flash flooding during monsoon seasons — and more water lost to evaporation. “Their groundwater withdrawals are not sustainable,” he says. “It’s as frightening as can be.”

From Calcutta, head west across India and you arrive at the Gulf of Kambhat, a notch cut by the Arabian Sea into India’s western coastline. McBean started consulting there a decade ago on what may be the largest public works project in the world. They’re building a 40-kilometre-long dam across the gulf, which extends inland about twice that distance. By flushing out the salt and holding back the tides that regularly swamp the 10-metre-deep gulf, the state of Gujarat hopes to create a giant reservoir to hold rainwater and freshwater runoff. It’s a huge challenge, says McBean, who expects to return late this year to help authorities figure out how to remove all of that salt.

Huge challenges also face Chinese communities, including northern parts of the country where desert expansion — exacerbated by climate change — threatens to gobble up farmland. Describing his role in a project to grow caragana plants to help prevent erosion and provide livestock feed, McBean says, “We’re trying to stabilize the desert.” He’s also proposing a broader project to help China develop sustainable crops and farming practices intended to improve environmental health and human health and nutrition.

Hailiang Shen knows firsthand about those issues in his home country. Says Shen, who returned to China’s Henan province after defending his PhD at Guelph earlier this year, “A severe problem China is facing is extreme weather, such as more frequent flooding and drought, which are dramatically impacting both urban and rural areas.”

He worked with McBean on designing optimum numbers and placement of water quality sensors in drinking water distribution systems to help pinpoint contaminant sources. “My goal is to apply my computing skills to solve water resources engineering problems under uncertainty,” says Shen.

Mention drought problems abroad, and McBean relates his research back to Canada’s western provinces. Southern Saskatchewan is already desert-like in places, he says, and the amount of water carried eastward by the South Saskatchewan River is lessening. Predicted glacial melt in the Rockies may deepen the problem, in both Saskatchewan and Alberta.
In this century, an increasing global need for water could threaten the world’s social stability

A number of municipalities have called on the Guelph engineer to help assess resources for water supply indices used in determining whether land uses jeopardize water systems. On the other end of the spectrum, he and his students have helped assess flood risk and developed flood vulnerability indices used by municipalities and agencies such as Credit Valley Conservation in Mississauga, Ont.

Risk assessment also involves developing contaminant warning systems that help detect pollutants in drinking water. Arsenic is a big problem in groundwater, both abroad and in developing nations like Bangladesh, where McBean says much of the population is now threatened by arsenic poisoning, as well as parts of Canada.

Looking at drinking water systems includes examining infrastructure problems. Similar work here in Guelph, where up to 20 per cent of sanitary sewer flows fail to reach the treatment plant, posing a potential threat to the area’s groundwater.

McBean says he brings a big-picture perspective to these issues, including an ability to predict where problems may occur. Colloquially, he frames the questions as: “Where are people getting water from, and where are they going to the bathroom?” That kind of work was his bread and butter as a consultant. Hoping to make a broader impact through students, he came to Guelph in 2003.

Guelph makes sense, McBean says, given its own “infrastructure connections” that link him with researchers in the agricultural, veterinary and science colleges. Since spring 2010, he has also served as assistant dean (external partnerships) for the College of Physical and Engineering Science, where he’s drawing on his connections to help raise money for such projects as a proposed water research institute (see page 8). Last year, funding for his Canada Research Chair was renewed for another seven years.

He traces his environmental interests to growing up in Vancouver in the 1960s, where he could smell the pulp mills even from 30 kilometres away. After his undergraduate at the University of British Columbia, he completed his graduate degrees at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A prolific researcher, McBean has written two books, edited 15 volumes, written about 250 refereed journal articles and given hundreds of presentations.

On campus, he teaches students in environmental and water resources engineering. He’s seen about 100 grad students fan out to work with governments, companies and universities in Canada and abroad, including a vice-president of the largest construction company in Southeast Asia. “They’re all over the place. It’s the best part of the job.”

For her master’s program, Kimberley Thomas studied diarrheal disease risk in drinking water supplies in Cambodia, including field work in the capital, Phnom Penh. She now works in the wastewater group at AECOM, a global engineering, design and program management company. She came to Guelph after an EWB project in Malawi.

“I decided to work with Ed because of his research interests and experience, the interesting sorts of projects he is involved with and the level of freedom he gives his students,” she says. “I was able to combine my interests in water resources, risk assessment and management, and my love of travel and interest in working in developing countries.”

Those are drawing cards for about 15 grad students, post-docs and undergrad students now working with McBean. Derek Edwardson is completing master’s research co-supervised by Prof. Steven Liss, Animal and Poultry Science, on the DNA of bacteria used in wastewater treatment. Second-year undergraduate Emma Thompson is working this summer on lab work and a literature review of treatment of fluoride-contaminated groundwater, particularly in China.

Says Thompson: “I think it is crucial for engineers to explore low-tech and low-cost solutions to environmental problems, because the majority of the world population is living in conditions that can’t accommodate high-end technology to solve everyday problems.” She also discusses clean-water challenges in developing nations through workshops at local schools through the EWB outreach team.

So does Emily Nickerson, who will spend this summer in McBean’s lab studying those ceramic filters and reviewing literature on ponds in coastal Bangladesh. She’s co-director of that EWB outreach group and also helps run a campus advocacy group pushing for more transparency in Canadian international aid policies. Quoting a line from an EWB presentation by Anna Tibaijuka, head of the United Nations HABITAT agency, the Guelph student says, “Water will become the dominant global issue this century, and the availability of its supply could threaten the world’s social stability.”

Thinking back to her experience in Senegal, Nickerson says meeting that challenge calls not for a return to the horse and buggy, but for a wider world view among students, or “getting kids thinking outside of Guelph or Canada to see other parts of the world that we need to consider.”
Patriotism

We wave the flag and watch fireworks on Canada Day, but Ottawa’s celebration has often been designed to influence our national identity

Story by Teresa Pitman
Photo by Dean Palmer

For most of us, Canada Day means a day off work, a picnic in the park, maybe some fireworks or an evening watching the broadcast from Ottawa on TV. It’s a day we celebrate being Canadian. For more than 50 years, though, Canada’s politicians have been using this holiday celebration to send their own messages to citizens.

That’s the finding of U of G history professor Matthew Hayday, who reminds us that July 1st was originally called Dominion Day and says it was that name Prime Minister John Diefenbaker was trying to honour back in 1958, shortly after he was elected. Diefenbaker was critical of the previous Liberal party’s attempts to distance Canada from British connections and symbols, and thought an enthusiastic celebration of Dominion Day might strengthen the ties.

It had been a holiday before that, of course, says Hayday, who researched the history of...
Ottawa’s Canada Day celebrations and has published several articles on the topic. His “Fireworks, Folk-dancing and Fostering a National Identity: The Politics of Canada Day,” appeared last June in the Canadian Historical Review.

Hayday’s scholarship deals primarily with issues of public policy, English-French relations, federalism and identity politics in Canada. He has also authored Bilingual Today, United Tomorrow: Official Languages in Education and Canadian Federalism, as well as a number of articles on language policy, commemoration and Canadian political history.

The anniversary of Confederation has been observed since 1868, and it has been a national holiday since 1879, but it wasn’t a day off for everyone. Hayday says, “Parliament was actually in session on July 1st for many years.” Local communities often held picnics or sporting events to mark the day, but that was all.

Diefenbaker made it a big deal. His first event to celebrate Dominion Day was very formal, with a speech from the governor general, a carillon concert and military bands on Parliament Hill. The day ended with fireworks.

Over the years, the form of the event changed, says Hayday, “On the advice of Diefenbaker’s minister of citizenship and immigration, Ellen Fairclough, they began bringing in folk singers, dancers and other performers and turning the day into an event with more appeal for families and children.” The performers represented various ethnic communities but were generally people living close enough to Ottawa that they could be bussed in.

Prime Minister Lester Pearson, who was working towards a lavish centennial celebration for Canada’s 100th birthday, sponsored a broader and more costly show, with acts from each province, as well as a mix of English and French performers. CBC-TV stations broadcast the show across the country.

Some of the acts would be a bit shocking to audiences today, Hayday says, such as the Cariboo Indian Girls Pipe Band brought in from British Columbia. These were First Nations girls from residential schools who dressed in plaid kilts and played bagpipes. They had been recommended by the school’s principal for the Dominion Day celebration as an example of “good” Indians who had become integrated into Canadian society.

After Centennial Year (1967), the productions became less lavish. The CBC broadcasted in its willingness to broadcast the events, and provincial anniversaries sometimes overshadowed the national holiday. By 1976, all funding had been cancelled, and the only celebration of Dominion Day in Ottawa that year was the presentation of citizenship certificates.

“That fall, the Parti Québécois was elected, separatism was the topic of the day, and panic set in in Ottawa,” says Hayday. “The next year, the government threw millions of dollars at celebrations not only in Ottawa but in communities across Canada, and these were aired on every single TV channel in the country except for two in Quebec. It was a mega-spectacular show with stars like Buffy Ste. Marie, Anne Murray and Bruce Cockburn.” Despite efforts made to include Quebec artists and attract the French-speaking audience, Quebec newspapers described this as a desperate attempt by Ottawa to hold the country together.

By the early 1980s, after the referendum about whether Quebec should separate had failed, the funding was again scaled back.

The July 1st holiday was renamed Canada Day in a somewhat suspicious Friday-afternoon vote by Parliament in 1982. Hayday says: “While no one asked or checked, it is suggested that they didn’t have enough people present for quorum.” Since no one asked, the law stands, and we all celebrate Canada Day now. He adds that when he does talks on this topic, there’s usually someone in the audience who still clings to Dominion Day.

As the economy improved towards the end of the 1980s, so did the show. Hayday says there had always been some friction between the politicians who wanted to have their say and the performances. This was resolved by having the politicians do their bit at noon, and the evening was turned over to become a huge show and party.

But just as before, the choice of performers says something about the message the government is trying to get across. “The Canada Day events are always bilingual,” says Hayday, “and they try to have French-speaking performers from places other than Quebec, such as New Brunswick or Saskatchewan, to counter the idea that Quebec is the only bastion of French-Canadian culture.” Early celebrations focused on showcasing diversity and multiculturalism. By the late 1980s the focus was more on what Canadians have accomplished, especially if those accomplishments had been recognized internationally, although Hayday notes that the selection of these “achievers” always includes individuals from a variety of ethnic groups and First Nations.

“I think that’s part of our national insecurity complex,” he says. “We need to be patted on the back and told that we’re good.”

Hayday, who lived in Ottawa as a graduate student, says he still goes often to the capitol on July 1st to be part of the celebration. The recent showcasing of Canadian artists has helped make the massive Ottawa celebration more popular than ever.

“It’s taken on a life of its own now. It’s become less political and more patriotic. You even see more U.S.-style patriotism, with people painting maple leaves on their cheeks, wearing flags as capes and spontaneously singing the national anthem. You seldom see that anywhere except Canada Day in Ottawa.”
Decked out in three layers of clothing and her first-ever pair of snow boots, Tanya Lee runs through fresh snow, looking over her shoulder to see if there’s a Bolgasaur in pursuit or if she’s in the clear for the catch. It’s an important game: a victory this Sunday afternoon means an undefeated season for the Snowplow Blitz and bragging rights for team captain Lee, who admits she had to coerce 10 other grad students to sign up for the brutish intramural sport of snow flag football. “As a West Coaster, I was intrigued by the notion of snow that grew high enough to provide cushioning for Superman dives and incomplete somersaults.”

Who knew she’d find someone who has a deadly aim with a football and several others who could not only catch cold leather in thick mitts but run fast in deep snow. No one has any regrets, says Lee, who bought her snow boots after moving from Coquitlam, B.C., to join Guelph’s School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. “Snow flag football is the most exhilarating intramural I have ever played at the University of Guelph, surpassing soccer, volleyball and basketball, to be number one in my heart, just as we are number one in the league.”

“Number one in my heart.” That’s the feeling they’re going for in the Department of Athletics, and it’s one of the reasons Guelph’s intramural sports program is considered one of the best in the country.

The department and, in particular, intramural supervisor Dave Trudelle take pride in having received an achievement award from the Canadian Intramural Recreation Association (CIRA) for the last seven years. (By the time The Portico is published, it will probably be eight years running.) Larger schools may have more students playing intramurals, but they can’t touch Guelph’s 25-per-cent participation rate. “One-quarter of our student body signs up every semester; that’s huge in comparison to other Canadian universities,” he says.

Those larger schools may offer more sports, but they envy the school spirit created by our free-agent program. Guelph students need not form their own teams; they can sign up for as many sports as they want, and Trudelle will assign them to a team. “It’s a great way to meet people and make friends. A student who doesn’t know anyone else suddenly has a whole group of people to talk to,” he says.

And Canadian universities with more athletics staff may be able to mount large, spectacular special events – Trudelle is the only full-time employee in Guelph’s intramural program – but U of G’s student-staff model is a winner when it comes to keeping students involved. “We hire more than 130 students every semester. They do an excellent job of running their programs. They bring ideas and enthusiasm to the job, and I rely on them to help me stay on top of what all students are interested in and which sports they would like to try.”

Trudelle himself was an intramural employee and a player when he enrolled at U of G in 2001. He sometimes played as many as 10 different sports in a semester, often with the same teammates.

Trudelle earned his degree in marketing management, taught English in Korea and eventually landed a job running the intramural program at the University of Western Ontario. But as soon as there was an opening at Guelph, he applied for it and returned, as he says, “to the program that got me started on this track.”

What attracted him to Guelph as an employee is the same feeling that made him choose U of G as a student. “We’re a close-knit university; not physically spread out, and students feel they are part of a community. When you feel that way, it matters more to you what you’re involved in.” So if you’re organizing an intramural program, you really care about its success.
Marta and Asher Kirk-Elleker often played on an intramural team with Trudelle, and they, too, see lasting benefits. “I’m probably a bit more understanding of other people’s needs and abilities,” says Marta, adding that team-building skills became important for both of them as they started teaching careers. She earned a B.Sc. in 2009 and now teaches adult education courses in Kitchener; Asher, BA ’05 and MA ’08, teaches high school in Guelph.

They played several intramural sports, but volleyball was their favourite. Asher recalls living in a 12-person suite in Lanark residence where everyone played together on an intramural volleyball team. He says his Sunday afternoons were often filled with intramural sports, with three or four different games only 45 minutes apart. “It literally took all afternoon, but we were happy with that. It was fun to hang out at the athletics centre all day, playing and watching other games in between.”

Veterinary student Daniel Caudle, B.Sc. ’08, seems to be following in their gym shoes. Ultimate Frisbee is the only intramural sport he hasn’t played at U of G. But there’s still time. He’s completed a degree in animal biology and has one year to go in the DVM program. “It is a really good way to get exercise, and I find it a more entertaining way to do it than going to the gym. I have played on the same team in many sports for three or four years.” This year he played hockey with the 2012 Silver Foxes, on both the gym floor and the arena ice.

Sarah Cahill is a new master’s student who says working with Trudelle as an intramural co-ordinator has helped her make the transition to a new school. “I recently travelled to a conference in the States hosted by the National Intramural-Recreation Sports Association (NIRSA). It gave me a chance to discuss with other schools — like Ohio State and the University of Indiana — what their intramural programs offer and their problems,” she says. “I was extremely proud when I realized how far ahead of the game U of G’s intramural program is compared to some larger U.S. schools.”

Caudle has worked for the Department of Athletics for six years, first as an intramural referee and last semester as assistant co-ordinator of the basketball league. With more than a dozen intramural sports, gym, fitness classes, sports clubs, drop-in recreation and varsity sports, he says the department offers something for everyone. Still, he says, “We’d like to build our program, but it’s hard due to the limited gym and arena time, and now missing the Gryphon Dome.”

He’s referring to the University’s fabric-covered athletic field that was closed in September due to safety concerns. A building erected by the same manufacturer collapsed during a windstorm in Texas in 2009, prompting two structural inspections of the Gryphon Dome. The review suggested the building could be unsafe in high wind or ice; the University decided to close it rather than take chances, says Brenda Whiteside, associate vice-president (student affairs).
The closure left both varsity and intramural programs scrambling to accommodate their athletes. The Department of Athletics website documents how Guelph-area residents helped the Gryphon cross-country and track and field teams find alternative training facilities, but the intramural program couldn’t move off campus.

Trudelle says the field sports normally played indoors during the winter semester were severely impacted: Ultimate Frisbee wasn’t offered and the usual 130 soccer teams were cut back to 56. A special indoor soccer tournament was held in March using smaller soccer nets on a gym floor to enable more students to participate and to provide employment for the students whose part-time jobs were affected.

As we already know, some of the flag football teams opted to play outdoors in the snow rather than miss out. “I thought the new outdoor experience would add a little flair and challenge to the game,” says Nguyen Bui, captain of the Get Money Get Paid team.

The dome had already been scheduled for replacement in a few years by a bigger field house; more gym space is also on the drawing board. Athletics director Tom Kendall led the design of a master plan to redevelop athletics facilities; it was approved by U of G’s Board of Governors in 2008. The 25-year plan lists projects with immediate benefit for students, such as outfitting outdoor playing fields with artificial turf, expanding from two to six indoor gyms, and enlarging weight training and fitness areas. Eventually, the University will also upgrade Alumni Stadium.

The dome closure meant modifying the Department of Athletic’s master plan, and preparations are underway to build a new field house on the soccer pitch beside Alumni Stadium. “Our hope is to have it open for the winter 2012 semester; fall 2012 at the latest,” says Kendall.

That means another winter of snow flag football and waiting lists for other sports, yet Trudelle says few students have complained. “I think students see this as an event beyond our control,” adds Whiteside. “They see our planning to address facility needs, including the new field house, and everyone understands the difficulties in budgeting for new facilities.”

Kendall applauds Guelph students for supporting athletics facilities. A student referendum in 1998 generated $2 million over 10 years to build the dome and convert one grass field to artificial turf. In 2009, students voted again to contribute $38 a semester to an athletics building fund. Faculty and staff who buy fitness memberships also pay the $38 fee. Those contributions will add up to $75 million over the 30-year agreement.

The University is seeking additional funding from private donations, grants and other sources. “In the University’s current fundraising campaign, the revitalization of athletics facilities is the No. 1 priority for Student Affairs,” adds Whiteside. “Our facilities were designed for a student body half the size we’ve grown to. It’s not something we simply ‘want’ to do. We have to develop our athletics facilities. They’re too important to the student experience.”

Numerous studies cited by CIRA and NIRSA show that participation in intramurals provides balance in a student’s life and increases self-esteem and their ability to cope with stress and mental-health issues. William Hope, captain of the XXX-Stars, agrees that intramurals can help people make friends and reduce stress, but says the team aspect is equally important. “In a setting where a group organizes to achieve a common purpose, intramural sports help students hone skills that they will eventually use later in life.”

Kendall says he often hears that refrain from former varsity athletes who laud their sports experience for helping them develop leadership abilities. “It’s important to remember that those positive outcomes are also available to intramural participants. We have one of the biggest intramural, recreational and varsity athletics programs in the country, and we need to keep building on those successes,” says Kendall.

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

- Current U of G students = 20,000
- 8,000 intramural registrations per semester
- 5,000 fitness memberships per semester
- 688 varsity athletes
- Summer activity campus for 8,000 children
- Varsity team summer camps draw 500 kids per week
- 50% of sports club applications turned down for lack of space.

Learn more about Department of Athletics programs and the facilities redevelopment plan at www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.
In the *Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy follows the yellow brick road to the Emerald City, where she hopes to meet the Wizard who can help her find her way back home to Kansas. Plans are underway to build Morocco’s own Emerald City, a diamond in a rough part of the country that will provide homes for the homeless. And a group of Guelph grads are the wizards who can make it happen.

With an expected population of 300,000 people, the Nouvelle Ville de Zenata will be Morocco’s first “green city,” but unlike most large-scale urban development projects, protecting the environment will be a top priority. LANDinc, a Canadian consulting firm specializing in sustainable community design, has been commissioned for the project.

“It’s not every day that you get to design a city of 300,000 people using your knowledge of sustainable development,” says project leader Walter Kehm. The retired U of G landscape architecture professor and former director of the School of Landscape Architecture established LANDinc in 2006 with alumni Patrick Morello, BLA ’94, Rob LeBlanc, MLA ’94, and Jeff Cutler, BLA ’94.

Building a big city in a foreign country doesn’t happen overnight. In 2006, Morocco’s King Mohammed VI signed an agreement to build Zenata. More than four...
years later, LANDinc won an international competition in September 2010 to plan and design the city on 3,000 hectares of land along 5.6 kilometres of Morocco’s Atlantic coast near Casablanca.

“We went up against some pretty big names,” says Morello. The Canadian company was a David among Goliaths, competing against larger, more established landscape architecture firms from the United States. The Zenata project is currently in the planning stages. LANDinc will prepare five concept plans and a final plan. Construction could begin as early as fall 2011.

Morello had been travelling back and forth between LANDinc’s offices in Toronto and Abu Dhabi for several years before moving to the latter city with his wife and two children in October 2010. His children, ages six and four, have adjusted well to the Middle-Eastern lifestyle, taking full advantage of year-round outdoor swimming. Although the tropical climate is ideal for aquatic activities, the summers can be “unbearable,” with temperatures reaching a sweltering 50°C, says Morello. Like many people, he seeks refuge from the summer heat in cooler climes. “The place shuts down over the summer,” he says, adding that he spends the hottest summer months in Toronto.

Morello is one of several Guelph grads working on the Zenata project, along with LeBlanc, Cutler, Jeff Bray, BLA ’88, Jill Robertson, B.Sc. (Env.) ’01 and MLA ’05, and Karen Arnold, BLA ’05. Morello is the only team member living in Abu Dhabi.

Some of them were students in Kehm’s thesis class. “They’ve been working together from their student days to their professional days,” says their former professor, now employer. Knowing your colleagues since your university days ensures a professional relationship built on honesty and trust, adds Kehm.

Although Morello didn’t take any classes with Kehm, the professor left an impression on him as an undergraduate student. “I often found myself in his studio,” says Morello. “I remember even as a first-year student, I would go into his fifth-year seminar. He was just a very captivating person. He really changed my view of what landscape architecture was.”

Morello and his fellow classmates are now colleagues who are putting their education into practice. Whether they’re designing a small park in Guelph or a major city on the other side of the world, the design principles are the same, says Kehm, adding that the education they received at Guelph provided them with a strong foundation for projects like Zenata. “The School of Landscape Architecture has always been known for integrating ecological and natural science with built form,” he says. “There is always an environmental ethic behind the students’ work.”

That ethic will come into play as they design a city that balances the need for human settlements with environmental sensitivity. Priorities include restoring sand dunes on the beach, cleaning up plastic debris and collecting rainwater for agricultural use. Solar energy, which is abundant in Morocco, will reduce the city’s dependence on a nearby oil refinery. Public transportation and pedestrian-friendly streets will be vital since most of the city’s future inhabitants don’t own cars. Plans for a university, medical facility and research parks are also in the works.

One of the keys to LANDinc’s success is its process-oriented approach to design and planning, says Morello. Planning a city like Zenata requires a multi-faceted approach that incorporates all aspects of design and construction.

“You can’t look at things independently,” Kehm adds. There’s more to building a city than bricks and mortar. Environmental factors such as the climate, soil, vegetation and wildlife are the building blocks of sustainable development. “How do you put everything together to create a new environment with the smallest footprint?” The project must balance urban development with protection of the environment. “We’re all living on spaceship Earth, looking for a manual,” says Kehm, quoting
EXPERTISE, SENSITIVITY TO LOCAL ISSUES, BOLD IDEAS AND PERSEVERANCE


Before a single shovel breaks the soil, LANDinc must survey the site to collect physical data regarding geology, hydrology, topography and solar aspect as well as the area’s cultural, historical and social background. A recipe that lacks even one of these ingredients is a recipe for failure.

When it comes to sustainable community design, Morello doesn’t use the term “sustainability” lightly. “It’s a set of values that comes from Guelph,” he says. “We call it sensible design. Sustainability is a word that’s overused. We’ve pushed the limits on that.”

But not everyone shares LANDinc’s approach to sensible design. While assessing another project in Morocco, the client wanted to present an impressive proposal to the King without looking at the impact on surrounding villages.

“We said, ‘You’ve got 30 villages downstream from our site and each one of those villages depends on the water that runs through our site,’” says Morello. “We have to be very careful about the quality and the quantity of the water as we try to populate this area.”

Since a city’s future is deeply rooted in its past, cultural authenticity also factors into the design. A plan to build a city for 25,000 people on a plateau in Morocco’s High Atlas Mountains needed to take the local history into consideration. For the past 3,000 years, the Berber Nomads have travelled from the Sahara to the plateau, bringing their sheep and goats to graze.

The Zenata project also requires a multidisciplinary approach. “One of the areas of our strength is pulling other teams together,” says Morello. “This comes directly from the University of Guelph: the ability to look at the big picture. We’re always looking at the systems and how to integrate other disciplines and expertise.”

Morello is part of a multinational team in Abu Dhabi, a cosmopolitan city with residents from all over the world, many of whom speak English. That blend of nationalities is reflected in the group of experts working on the Zenata project. It’s not unusual for Morello to attend meetings with team members from the United States, Europe and Australia.

“They have hired the world around them to build their country,” he says. “We’ve got the top consultants from around the world.” They include a local architect and planner, social and physical scientists, an economist to create marketing strategies and a consultant to develop alternative transportation methods.

In addition to sustainable development, Zenata will also promote social integration. One of the King’s main priorities is to provide housing for low-income residents who currently live in a slum, also known as a bidonville, where crime is rampant, children don’t attend school and most of the residents are squatters who earn less than $7,000 per year. During a visit to the shantytown, Kehm and Morello were shocked by the living conditions they saw. Ironically, their client had been involved in some of the developments, so they risked biting the hand that feeds them.

“Walter openly criticised the way these things were being developed,” says Morello. “There was no site integration, no recreation, the buildings looked like prisons. There was no articulation in form, no urban design, and not even a hint of respect for integration of these communities with surrounding areas. It was totally segregated. It hadn’t been successful from a social point of view.”

Their criticism didn’t fall on deaf ears. When the governor found out, he insisted that the client allow LANDinc to redesign a low-income housing development that was already under construction. The end result could have been much different had the governor not been as receptive to a Westerner’s constructive criticism.

“A lot of times, it’s an uphill battle,” says Morello. “You get this kind of response from the governor in Casablanca, and you just think, ‘Wow, this is great. You’re really going to have a chance to make a difference here.’”

BY SUSAN BUBAK
PROTECTING THE WATERS AND WETLANDS OF THE GULF

“Twenty-five square miles of coastal wetlands are lost every year in Louisiana,” says Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of the Gulf Restoration Network based in New Orleans. “That’s a football field of wetlands gone every 45 minutes.”

Those coastal wetlands not only support a huge variety of wildlife but also feed into the Gulf of Mexico, which Sarthou calls “a very important — and very beautiful — body of water.” Besides providing much of the seafood eaten in North America, it’s visited by millions of tourists annually. Yet only one-third as much money is spent on protecting the Gulf as on preserving the Great Lakes.

For many years, the Gulf Restoration Network’s efforts garnered little attention and sometimes came behind the need for jobs in the area. But since the BP Horizon oil-drilling disaster, that has changed.

BP’s offshore drilling rig exploded and collapsed April 20, 2010; oil spewed into the Gulf waters for three months before the well was finally capped. That disaster, says Sarthou, is far from resolved, even as media attention has been diverted to other world crises and disasters.

Then and now, the Gulf Restoration Network is recognized by other advocacy groups as one of the main frontline environmental groups addressing the BP oil spill. “We are currently documenting that the oil is still there and working to define what a real recovery would involve,” she says. “Our rallying cry is ‘the oil is still here and so are we.’”

Sarthou didn’t set out to be an environmental attorney. “I thought I’d like to do different things, tried them, discovered I didn’t like them, so went on and tried something else,” she explains. After graduating from U of G with a BA in sociology, Sarthou went to the University of Mississippi and earned a master’s in criminal justice, thinking she’d work in probation and parole. “I was offered a caseload of about 100 hard-core criminals — murderers and rapists — and soon realized that wasn’t for me.” After completing law school, she found work with a federal district court. Then she went into civil law and represented insurance companies, work she found unsatisfying.

“I went back to working for a federal judge on cases of people exposed to asbestos, and then was hired to do asbestos litigation on the defence side,” she says. But Sarthou was not interested in just winning cases and making money, so she returned to school and earned a master’s in law and marine affairs.

Her first job focused on the cleanup of nuclear waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. “This has been called the most polluted place in the U.S.,” Sarthou says. “In the 1940s, when this site was started, nobody understood radiation, so they just dumped the nuclear waste into the soil or in tanks. I spent four years trying to get the Department of Energy to clean this up in a responsible way.”

A 1989 agreement among Washington state, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal Department of Energy laid the legal framework for the cleanup, which was originally scheduled to take 30 years. But in a 2008 story, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer estimated the cleanup was less than half finished.

Sarthou’s interest in the marine environment led her to the Gulf Restoration Network in 1995. She says: “I have lots of job security. The problems in the Gulf are not going away anytime soon. And while the work is sometimes frustrating, it’s also very rewarding.”

The network covers coastal regions as well as the Gulf waters. “Our approach is generally to work in coalition, gathering groups of other like-minded people, because there is more power in numbers,” she says. “They could be taxpayer groups, religious groups, really anyone who agrees with us on this even if they don’t agree on anything else.” She’s also willing to use her law degree and initiate litigation if there’s no other way to get what is needed.

Last year, the environmental group River Network and the California Academy of Sciences recognized Sarthou for her efforts to grow the Gulf Restoration Network from a staff of one to “a robust organization of 12 full-time employees and three offices.” In particular, she was commended for her efforts to prevent construction of a large hydraulic pumping system on the Yazoo River in the Delta area of Mississippi. She fought the flood-control project for more than a decade with national and local partners who had predicted it would destroy 200,000 acres of wetlands in the Mississippi Delta. The EPA vetoed the Yazoo project in 2008 because of its environmental impact; it was only the 12th time the agency has used its authority to scrap a project under the U.S. Clean Water Act.

The Gulf Restoration Network is entirely supported by private foundations and individual donations, so fundraising has become a necessary part of Sarthou’s work. “Pretty good for a girl who never made it through accounting,” she jokes. “Our budget is now over $1 million, and none of it comes from the government.”

She adds that her education at U of G “set the stage for me not being willing to just walk in lockstep with everyone else, and not to accept being less than satisfied...
Cynthia Sarthou stands among trees growing in the batture land between the Mississippi River and the New Orleans levee.

with my work. There was a lot of discussion at U of G about exploring who you are and what you believe in, and finding work that mattered. I don’t think I could have gotten that anywhere else.”

In her free time, Sarthou works in animal rescue and adoptions and foster care for the SPCA. She helps find homes for animals, including raising money for heartworm treatments to ensure animals are healthy enough for adoption. Sarthou has personally fostered 10 dogs and five cats, and currently shares her home with two dogs and three cats, all rescued. “I tend to take special-needs dogs and get a lot of satisfaction out of caring for them,” she says. She recently rode 150 miles over two days in an event to raise money for multiple sclerosis.

Sarthou’s motivation and her commitment come from a simple philosophy: “My goal is to leave this place better than it was.”

STORY BY TERESA PITMAN
The Portico

As an economics student at U of G, Paul Redman never imagined that he would return to campus as a guest lecturer, but he found himself standing in front of several hundred economics students on March 9, lecturing on the role that regulators play in keeping the financial system on track.

“IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK HERE IN GUELPH,” said Redman as he addressed Prof. Evie Adomait’s class in Rozanski Hall. “Evie was just asking me if I ever thought that I would come back and be on this side of the lecture hall, and I can safely say, no, that never crossed my mind.”

Yet Redman is no stranger to economics classes at U of G, having completed both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economics.

As principal economist at the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC), he keeps a close watch on developments in the financial markets. He and the economics group at the OSC monitor market developments and trends and work with other policy staff to analyze the economic impact of new regulatory policies.

“The OSC administers and enforces securities law in Ontario,” he explained, adding that such regulations are designed to protect investors from fraudulent activities and foster fair and efficient capital markets and confidence in capital markets.

Using examples from the recent financial crisis, Redman explained that confidence plays a vital role in maintaining the stability of financial markets. Many countries experienced rapid increases in housing prices from 2000 to mid-2006, but it was the problems in the U.S. market that seemed to have the largest impact on the global economy.

Redman said: “People look at the United States as the financial centre of the world. When it became apparent that the U.S. banking system was experiencing problems, fear spread, and people started to think, ‘If it can happen to U.S. banks, it could happen to anybody’s banks.’”

Another focus of Redman’s remarks was how interconnections between capital markets and their participants can mean that if one market fails, the entire system can suffer disruptions. There is a greater appreciation amongst regulators of the risks posed by interconnected financial markets. Regulators in the banking, insurance and securities industries all play a role in maintaining transparency and overseeing business conduct to prevent financial meltdowns.

“All of these organizations work together to promote financial stability,” said Redman.

BY SUSAN BUBAK

Economist Talks Dollars and Sense

Regional Alumni Events Planned

Alumni Affairs and Development will be visiting a city near you: Vancouver in May, Halifax in June, Calgary in November. Make sure your name is on the invitation list; contact Mary-Anne Moroz at mamoroz@uoguelph.ca or call 519-824-4120, Ext. 53170. For event details, visit www.alumni.uoguelph.ca.
Awards Night Honours
Donors and Students

Despite the threat of a winter storm, almost 200 students and donors turned out to celebrate 40 undergraduate and graduate awards during the annual University-wide awards evening Feb. 1. Several new athletic scholarships were announced, including one named for Tom Mooney, a popular Guelph football coach.

Another new award is the Nora Cebotarev Memorial Graduate Scholarship. Established by a beloved professor’s estate, this $25,000 annual award will help a female student from a developing country to begin a master’s or doctoral program.

Presented for the first time was the Anne and Ross Bronson Scholarship in Environmental Science. This award commemorates the couple’s 50th anniversary and the campus where they met as students. On hand on Awards Night was their granddaughter, Amy Bronson, currently a student in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

BetterPlanet
Gifts Turn Ideas into Action

By now you have heard or read about The BetterPlanet Project, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in U of G’s history. The $200-million campaign focuses on the University’s key strengths — food, environment, health and communities. By concentrating on areas in which U of G can make a difference, The BetterPlanet Project will accelerate change through teaching, learning and research.

Recent gifts are turning ideas into action. Among them, U of G’s new chair in food sustainability will address some of the world’s most pressing challenges in agriculture. A new chair in environmental governance will focus on responsible natural resource management. Support for first-year seminars will re-establish a program that engages students in learning and citizenship and that nurtures future leaders. A recent gift supporting 10 new scholarships will cultivate bright minds for new developments in engineering. As momentum builds, we are beginning to see the impact.

The benefits will be felt by our neighbours near and far. Please support The BetterPlanet Project as we work towards an ambitious and unprecedented goal (www.thebetterplanetproject.ca).

Joanne Shoveller
Vice-President
Alumni Affairs and Development
**Collaboration Thrives at U of G**

At first glance, the premise behind The BetterPlanet Project is as simple as the name suggests. A closer look reveals the interdisciplinary nature of this exciting initiative.

The campaign’s five key areas of interest — food, health, environment, people and education — involve all of the University’s colleges. Faculty and students contribute insightful crossover research to each area. Bringing together expertise and ideas has always been a hallmark of our alma mater.

From social scientists working with women in science and engineering to scholars collaborating on human-animal relationships, the colleges share research and development to meet the goals of The BetterPlanet Project. It’s exciting for us as alumni to witness the outstanding innovation that occurs every day across campus.

Alumni contributions to The BetterPlanet Project will also leave a lasting legacy. Our efforts will be honoured through a new donor wall in Rozanski Hall that will display donors’ names, photographs and testimonials about this visionary initiative.

We can contribute in many ways to create a better planet. The UGAA’s contribution of $1 million to the first-year seminar series will introduce the class of 2016 to the vision of Guelph’s BetterPlanet Project. From there, anything is possible!

C. Bradley Rooney, ADA ’93 and B.Sc.(Agr.) ’97
UGAA President

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**HOCKEY DAY RECEIVES ACCOLADES**


U of G recently received a gold award for its annual Hockey Day in Gryphonville honouring former varsity hockey players. The event took top honours in the “Alumni Relations Programming” category at the annual CASE District II Accolades Awards in Baltimore, Maryland, in February. This year’s Hockey Day will be Nov. 19.

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**GRADS GATHER IN FLORIDA**

Almost 100 U of G alumni enjoyed the sun during a reunion March 2 at the Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club in Port Charlotte, Florida. The annual Prof. Baker Award for the largest alumni class at the reunion went to the OAC ‘51 class.

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**OVC WATERING HOLE**

Roger Thomson, left, treasurer of the OVC Alumni Association; Lisa Kostandoff, centre; and Rosalie Rowland attended the Jan 27 OVC Watering Hole, a networking event for alumni and the OVC class of 2011.
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Lichenologists are few and far between

They’re like the coral reefs of the forest. "So says Troy McMullin, one of a rare breed of ecologists studying an often-overlooked but complex mini-ecosystem that serves as an early warning system for mounting pollution and habitat destruction threatening the Earth’s biodiversity.

To visit these “reefs,” you don’t need flippers or a snorkel. Maybe rubber boots — like the pair he pulled on each morning two springs ago for a week-long collection blitz among the royal palms, giant ferns and lurking alligators of the Florida Everglades.

McMullin is the sole Canadian co-author of an international paper describing hundreds of lichen species found in that corner of Florida, including 18 kinds new to science and 89 notched in North America for the first time.

Lichens? Those mossy or scaly growths that can make rocks and tree branches look like they’ve contracted some weird skin disease? Look closer, says McMullin, a lichenologist and forest ecologist who will collect his Guelph PhD this fall.

Lichens marry fungi and algae in a partnership benefiting both sides. Fungi provide water and minerals, while algae use photosynthesis to make food. About 17,500 species are found all over the world, including about 1,000 species in Ontario. Highly sensitive to habitat disturbance and air pollution, lichens serve as a barometer of air quality and ecological change.

Their inconspicuous nature belies their benefits, says McMullin. Lichens are an important food source for numerous animals, insects and birds, particularly in the boreal forest and the tundra where they sustain such iconic creatures as caribou through winter. Certain kinds of blue-green algae in lichens grab nitrogen and improve soil fertility. Some lichens may contain rare 1960s

- Florine (Valliant) Rutledge, B.Sc. ’60, is retired and lives in Dieppe, N.B. She continues to improve her water-colour painting skills.
- Peter Salonius, BSA ’64 and M.Sc. ’66, retired from the Canadian Forest Service in New Brunswick at the end of 2010.
- Rudy Stocek, M.Sc. ’64, has retired after 35 years of working as a wildlife biologist, fisheries scientist, provincial consultant and professor at the University of New Brunswick’s Maritime Forest Ranger School. He has written more than 50 publications about his research. His 2006 book, Through the Eye of an Eagle, capped his 30 years spent studying the bald eagle in New Brunswick. He was honoured in 1995 by the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists and in 2010 by the University of Maine Wildlife Program.

1970s

- Peter Adrian, ADA ’70, is
In 2009 McMullin picked his way through Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in southwest Florida as part of an international team of lichenologists headed by Robert Lücking from the Field Museum in Chicago. Their research paper documents the collection of more than 400 species.

That's a surprisingly rich assortment of lichen flora for a marshy corner of the tropics, says McMullin. A narrow strip roughly 300 square kilometres in size, the park is tucked near Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park.

Says McMullin, one of a handful of Canadian lichen experts and just about the only one in southwestern Ontario: “It’s one of the richest locations for lichen diversity in North America.”

Not the richest location on the continent. That’s the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Alaska, home to more than 700 species.

One of Ontario’s hot spots is Bruce Peninsula National Park, with about 330 species. That number was rung up during another week-long collection blitz by many of the same lichenologists on the Florida trip. McMullin was also part of that Bruce team; this spring, he joined the group again on a trip to New Brunswick’s Bay of Fundy.

Lichen biomass is greater in temperate and cooler regions such as northern Canada, where some can spread in vast ankle-deep mats. There they face less competition from fast-growing vascular plants with their light-hogging leaves and large root systems.

Wherever they grow, lichens are coming under increasing threat. Like coral reefs endangered by pollution, ocean warming and other factors, lichens are sensitive to human disturbances. “They speak to issues of our time,” says McMullin. “They’re like the canary in the coal mine for the environment. You don’t find them where there’s air pollution.”

Or at least you find fewer of them, as in Guelph.

McMullin’s survey of the U of G Arboretum has turned up only about 40 lichen species, compared to the hundreds carpeting the Bruce Peninsula. All of Guelph’s varieties are included in a chapter he co-wrote for Woodlot Biodiversity, a book published last year by Guelph professor Steve Newmaster in the Department of Integrative Biology.

For his doctorate, McMullin compared lichen diversity in natural and disturbed locations in Northern Ontario, helping to determine which species are available for animals around Iroquois Falls and English River and how to manage for them.

After graduating this fall, he plans to spend a year as a post-doc at Guelph turning part of his thesis into another Ontario lichen guidebook. Many of his samples end up in the U of G Herbarium and the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario.

With so few lichenologists in Canada, McMullin is often called upon to help conduct surveys and status assessments for ecologists and governments. He has surveyed a national park in Nova Scotia and developed a list of all lichens growing in Prince Edward Island. He’s co-authoring a field guide to lichens of the Maritimes.

A former canoeing and hiking guide, McMullin grew up in Oakville, Ont., and completed his first degrees at Trent and Dalhousie universities.

BY ANDREW VOWLES
Can You Name That Lyric?

You can hum that song you heard on the radio, but you can’t quite remember the lyrics. The easiest way to find the words is to do an Internet search, yet many sites that post song lyrics lack accuracy and may violate the songwriter’s copyright.

There’s a legal source of lyrics, though, and it has a U of G connection. Guelph grad Roy Hennig is sales director for LyricFind, a Toronto-based firm that provides content and licensing for companies displaying song lyrics online or in mobile devices and applications.

LyricFind pays song publishers and artists to license the words they’ve written, so the songs are both accurate and legally used by companies who purchase these services from Hennig. The company has amassed licensing from more than 2,000 music publishers. He says LyricFind can also provide licensed lyrics free to website owners; paid advertising on the website covers the cost.

Hennig grew up in Kitchener-Waterloo and Mississauga. He attended Carleton and Ryerson universities before coming to the University of Guelph to study English. “There was a great community within the English department at U of G,” he says. “In second year, I joined with a few other students to form the U of G English and Literature Society (UGLES). It brought a lot of people together, and we had trivia nights, outings and talks from professors about writing and related topics.” He graduated with distinction and an honours BA in 2007. Also a Guelph grad is his long-term partner, Emily Taylor, B.Sc.(Env.) ’02. Hennig worked in telecommunications before taking the job with LyricFind. It’s been a good fit. “I love music,” he says, adding that he also manages a musician after-hours.

Read more about Hennig’s career at www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.

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Read more about Hennig’s career at www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.

30 The Portico
Douglass McDonald

Commander McDonald joined the Canadian Forces in 1983 after completing his M.Sc. in atmospheric physics at the University of Toronto. After training as a marine systems engineer, he held several related posts and completed a tour of duty in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he oversaw civilian assistance projects. Among his shore appointments, he has served as staff officer for the director general of nuclear safety, project manager for installation of “black water” collection systems in the Iroquois-class destroyers and division commander at the Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School in Halifax. He also worked in a submarine project and attended Canadian Forces staff college in Toronto. From 2006 until 2007, he was a defence analyst. He then spent three years at NATO’s allied command headquarters in Virginia. He and his wife, Millan, are empty nesters: their daughter, Leanne, works in Houston, Texas; and their son, David, attends college in Ottawa.

Mark Finnimore, ADA ’84, is vice-president of operations and logistics for Maple Lodge Farms Ltd. in Brampton, Ont., where he manages manufacturing and logistics. He lives in Cambridge and has two children: Nathan, 9, and Gwendolyn, 6.

Renee Gregor, MA ’08, graduated from Bond University Law School (Australia) in October with first-class honours and was recognized by the school for high academic achievement. She is a judge’s associate for the district court of Queensland.

Lou Maierson, B.Sc. ’83, has represented the Town of Erin on Wellington County Council for seven years and was elected mayor of Erin in 2010. He and his partner, Karen Jeffery, B.Sc. ’83, own and run Silver Creek Aquaculture.

Paul Quinton, ADA ’80, lives in Vancouver, but is planning a volunteer trip to Ratanakiri, Cambodia, with CUSO-VSO as a program management adviser. He will coach staff at a Cambodian NGO and develop management modules and manuals to help small, local enterprises. Follow his experience at http://paulquinton.blog.ca.

Peter Schenk, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’84, has been a financial adviser with Edward Jones since 1998. This year he was named a principal with the firm’s holding company, The Jones Financial Cos. LLLP. Of the firm’s more than 40,000 associates, he is one of 26 to be chosen for this honour. He and his wife, Catherine, and their children — Ryan, Dylan and Kathryn — live in Kingston, Ont.

Ron Vanderstarren, ODH ’89, was recently promoted to grounds team leader for the Toronto District School Board. Along with 13 employees, he looks after 165 schools. Previously, he was assistant grounds team leader.

Shona Anderson, BA ’95, recently published her first book called No More Bystanders = No More Bullies. She wrote the book to help school administrators and teachers address school bullying. An educator since 1996, Anderson has focused on French and computers in the classroom. She became an administrator in 2003 with the Bluewater District School Board and is a part-time online lecturer for the University of Western Ontario. She has stud-
ied at Guelph, the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, and Charles Sturt University in Australia, where she earned a master’s degree in educational research on bullying. She has two-year-old twins: Zoe and Ewan.

- **Valerie Blackmore, B.Sc. ’94**, co-owns Wyndham Forensic Group, a private forensic biology and DNA lab in Guelph. She and her partner, **Jack Laird, B.Sc. ’92**, serve as interested parties in the justice system. Blackmore has worked for provincial and private-sector forensic laboratories, has reported hundreds of cases for prosecution and defence clients, and has testified as an expert witness in Ontario courts. www.wyndhamforensic.ca.

- **Thomas Dimitrioff Jr., BA ’90**, is general manager of the Atlanta Falcons in the National Football League. Last fall *Sporting News* named him NFL executive of the year for the second time in three seasons. He was a defensive back with the Gryphons from 1985 to 1990 and served as team captain in his last two years. His brother, **Randy Dimitrioff, BA ’86**, also played for the Gryphons, and their father, **Thomas Dimitrioff Sr.,** coached the team from 1979 to 1983. Randy’s son, Dillon, currently plays on the Gryphon squad.

- **Darryl Dobbs, BA ’97**, studied mathematics and statistics. He is founding editor of DobberHockey.com, which he believes is the world’s biggest independent fantasy hockey website. The site attracts more than six million page views (and growing) each month.

- **David Elliott, BA ’90**, is general manager of KitchenAid Small Appliances in St. Joseph, Mich., and was recently elected to the board of directors of the International Housewares Association. In 2009 he joined Whirlpool Corp., the parent company of KitchenAid and the largest manufacturer of major and small appliances in the world. Previously, he was vice-president of global marketing for Jarden Corp., where he also served as vice-president of global marketing for Sunbeam Appliances and as president of Sunbeam Canada. He began his career in 1990 with General Electric in Ontario, where he held various sales and marketing positions. Elliott lives in Stevensville with his wife, Andrea, and their three children.

- **Deborah Everest-Hill, BA ’93**, works in communications and has launched a line of organic tees, totes, hoodies and stainless steel bottles bearing altered photographs of trees. She started the business T-Art in 2008: “I thought trees and branches would look good on tees, so I started playing around with the art and now have a few different tree styles.” Her website is www.tee-art.ca.

- **Michael Gordon, BA ’96**, is a health and safety professional with Cargill Ltd. He has just published his second book, a novel called *Tamarindo: Crooked Times in Costa Rica*. His first book described his adventures in Ontario caves.
Joel Grineau, BA ’93, is a logistics officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. He spent much of last year in Afghanistan with the operational mentor and liaison team, helping his counterparts in the Afghan National Army to improve their operations logistical support.

Katherine Martha Jones, M.Sc. ’96, is associate professor and chair of the Department of Biology at Cape Breton University. In 2010 she received both the Award for Science Promotion from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Nova Scotia Discovery Centre Award for Science Champion. She created Project UFO (“Unidentified Foreign Organisms”) in 2008, including classroom visits and invited lectures about invasive alien species in Cape Breton. Her studies in 2003 at the Sydney tar ponds helped to teach people about aquatic life. “I’ve found the best way to communicate science is to get out there and do science in highly visible places, and interact with the public while you are doing it,” she says. She is president of the Atlantic Coastal and Estuarine Science Society, and maintains its website to share research in estuarine and coastal science in the Atlantic provinces.

Jane Lewis, BA ’95, released her debut recording of original music at the end of 2010. Her four-song EP will be followed by a full-length CD to be recorded in 2011-12. She lives in Guelph, where she leads workshops on finding your voice, singing harmony and more. Read about her career at www.janlewis.ca and www.alltogether-now.ca.

Becky (Miller) Madill, B.A.Sc. ’94, is on maternity leave from her position as a Grade 1 teacher with the Bluewater District School Board. She gave birth to twins Elizabeth Jean and Jacklin Ruby on Oct. 20, 2010, and has two older daughters, Alexandria and Gabrielle. Aunt Colleen (Posthumus) Madill, B.A.Sc. ’95, is also enjoying her new nieces.

Alison Pick, BA ’99, has published her second novel, Far to Go, with House of Anansi Press. It’s about a Czech-Jewish family before the Second World War. Pick says she began writing after taking an English elective at Guelph. She has won several national awards, including the Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers. She lives in Toronto with her family and teaches at the Banff Centre for the Arts Wired Writing Studio.

Theo Selles, BA ’90 and M.Sc. ’93, is an organizational psychologist and consultant who recently published a self-help par-
Take the Alumni Challenge

From your first day as a Guelph student, you took on the challenges of university life and left your mark at U of G. Now your alma mater challenges you to stay involved no matter where you are in the world — and win great prizes — through the U of G Alumni Challenge. A new challenge will appear in U of G’s alumni e-newsletter each month. They’re fun and easy — posting a photo on Facebook or tweeting about U of G.

To make sure you receive the e-news, send your email address to alumnirecords@uoguelph.ca. Look for the names of challenge winners on the Alumni Affairs and Development website: www.alumni.uoguelph.ca.

 Odyssey book called Selfishness Matters. A trained family therapist and self-help skeptic, Selles believes self-help harms people and their relationships. He has been interviewed on television and in newspapers about his humorous take on how to write “a self-help book even a man would read.” For details and blog, visit www.selfishnessmatters.com.

■ Oswald E. Zachariah, PhD ’99, has worked in the Ontario public service for 13 years, following studies and doctoral research in the predecessor department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics. He belongs to the provincial team that manages research planning, priorities, funding and operations. He says: “My job keeps me well connected with the University’s Office of Research and faculty researchers. I feel that I keep doing research at U of G; the only difference is someone else writes the papers.”

2000s

■ Johnatan Basden, BBA ’09, is a Toronto realtor and welcomes queries from other University of Guelph-Humber and U of G grads: johnatanbasden@hotmail.com.

■ Hannah Reid Bennett, B.Com. ’00; her husband, Paul; and their children Mackenzie, 12, and William, 4, welcomed Matthew John Thomas Bennett on Oct. 1, 2010.

■ Kiah Berkeley, BA ’08, has worked at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., since graduation, beginning at the National Museum of American History and now at the National Postal Museum.

■ Benjamin Coe, B.Com. ’08 and M.Sc. ’10, and Jesse Miller, B.Com. ’04, are co-founders of Attachments.me, a service that helps users find information hidden in email files. They say: “Attachments.me indexes your email account and presents an attachment-centric view of it.”

■ Tyler Denham, B.Com. ’09, works for ADM Agri-Industries Ltd., a subsidiary of international agricultural company Archer Daniel Midland, in Windsor, Ont. As a merchandiser, he trades soybeans, canola seed, corn, wheat, and soybean and canola meal.

■ Jenna Healey, BAS ’09, followed her mother to U of G. Donna (Deir) Healey, B.A.Sc. ’75, became a teacher. In 2010 Jenna completed a University of Toronto master’s degree in history and the philosophy of science and technology. She is working on a PhD in the history of science and medicine at Yale University in Connecticut.

■ Joanne Trozzolo Hyde, BA ’04, is program co-ordinator for oncology research at Cancer Care Ontario in Toronto’s Princess Margaret Hospital. Her unit develops pain management tools for oncology patients.


■ Ellen “Nelle” McCann Labbe, B.Sc.(Env.) ’06, worked for several years as an environmental educator, but is now pursuing graduate studies in biological sciences through the University of Southern Maine. She studies landscape genetics of anadromous river herring in the Gulf of Maine. She married her long-time partner, Adam Labbe, in October 2008 and lives in Portland.

■ Kimberly McCaw, B.Sc. ’03, has returned to U of G to complete her M.Sc. in animal sciences. She received a $1,500 community scholarship from the Metro Scholarship Program for her exemplary involvement with the Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario.

■ Heather (McCready), B.Com. ’05, and Jeremy Hertel, B.Sc. ’03 and M.Sc. ’05, met at U of G, were married in 2008 and had their first child, Jake William Hertel, on July 25, 2010.

■ Laura Mousseau, B.Sc. ’05, has joined Team Diabetes Canada in honour of her father, who was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes early last year. Among her fundraising efforts for diabetes research, she has dyed her hair blue and organized a silent auction. Learn more at http://howtoclimbavolcano.blogspot.com/.

■ Cristina Ribeiro, M.Sc. ’08, studied computer science at Guelph and is now a doctoral candidate at the University of Waterloo. She is engaged to Pri-
moz Cresnik, an aerospace engineer at Ryerson University. They are planning a June 2012 wedding and invite friends to check out their engagement video on YouTube: “Toronto Centre Island Engagement.”

- Rebecca Schalm, PhD ’00, has been appointed senior vice-president, human resources, with Finning International Inc., based in Vancouver.

- Daniel Vautour, ADA ’04, shared his expertise in photography with U of G agricultural students during a workshop held last fall as part of the fourth-year project course in environmental sciences. He talked about the use of photography and design to convey a message more effectively; a skill Vautour says will benefit students during their course work and when they work with community organizations after graduation. Vautour has 25 years of work experience in public relations and is a former communications instructor at Conestoga College and the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph and Ridgetown.

2010s

- Jan Jones, MA ’10, is volunteering in Senegal. Check out his blog: http://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Jan-Jones/.

Dawn (Gerrard) Adams, B.Sc. ’71, Nov. 27, 2010
Murray Allen, BSA ’54, Dec. 20, 2010
Stanley Bah, BSA ’53, Nov. 4, 2010
Vystas Beniusis, B.Sc. ’70, Nov. 30, 2010
George Best, BSA ’48, Feb. 7, 2011
Donaldson Black, BSA ’49, Aug. 4, 2010
Judith Blasco, B.Sc. ’72, Sept. 27, 2010
Jiri Bohac, B.Sc. ’70, Sept. 27, 2010
Lloyd Buckley, DVM ’49, Jan. 17, 2011
Alison Chard, B.A.Sc. ’79, Dec. 29, 2010
Barbara (Marshall) Cline, B.Sc. ’56, Jan. 15, 2011
Gerald Crunican, ADA ’49, Feb. 16, 2011
Shane Daniell, B.Sc. ’09, Sept. 28, 2010
Dalton Docksteader, DVM ’40, Jan. 25, 2011
Jeffrey Draper, B.Sc.(Eng.) ’06, July 26, 2010
James Elliot, BSA ’62, Aug. 28, 2010
Redmond Elliot, DVM ’50, Jan. 18, 2011
Arnold Falconer, BSA ’49, Feb. 7, 2011
Bob Ferguson, BSA ’53, March 30, 2010

Howard Filsinger, BSA ’53, Nov. 26, 2010
Maxwell Graham, BSA ’51, April 18, 2009
William Hagarty, BA ’76, Nov. 16, 2010
Vincent Horrigan, ADA ’49, Dec. 28, 2010
Lewis Howe, BSA ’49, Dec. 7, 2010
David Hughes, ADA ’68, Dec. 21, 2010
Donna (Mackey) Hunter, B.A.Sc. ’95, Jan. 9, 2011
Eric Irving, BA ’86, Sept. 22, 2010
Marion (Shaw) Jamieson, DHE ’39, July 25, 2010
Donald Jose, BSA ’49, Jan. 17, 2011
Bruce Knox, BSA ’48, Dec. 4, 2010
Clare Kravchenko, BA ’98, Jan. 8, 2011
Deborah (Bertrand) Lloyd, BA ’69, Jan. 27, 2010
John Loos, DVM ’43, Jan. 16, 2011
Michael Mason, BA ’74, March 2, 2010
Donald Morcorquodale, BSA ’49, Dec. 17, 2010
Donald McLachlin, BSA ’52, March 12, 2010
Douglas McLaurin, DVM ’52, Jan. 11, 2011
Richard McLean, DVM ’67, March 5, 2010
John McNicol, BSA ’51, Jan. 18, 2011
Donald Menzies, B.Sc.(Eng.) ’65, Jan. 1, 2011
Bruce Milne, B.Sc. ’76, Feb. 13, 2011
Scott Muir, B.Sc. ‘85, Dec. 3, 2010
Norman Nash, DVM ’50, Aug. 15, 2010

Frances (Wright) Needler, DHE ’33, Jan. 12, 2011
Shirley Osmaston, BSA ’56, Jan. 24, 2011
Walter Pamentier, BSA ’42, Aug. 4, 2009
Elizabeth (Drury) Partridge, DHE ’31, Aug. 8, 2010
Jeanette (Russell) Peck, DHE ’49, in 2010
John Price, DVM ’52, Dec. 19, 2010
Geoffrey Rourke, DVM ’50, Aug. 4, 2009
Audrey (McLachlan) Slater, DHE ’41, Dec. 11, 2010
Grant Smith, BSA ’41, Sept. 27, 2010
Howard Stensson, BSA ’36, Jan. 16, 2011
Frances Tanner, B.A.Sc. ’83, Dec. 19, 2010
Jack Thomson, DVM ’42, Jan. 3, 2011
Peter Tron, BA ’69, Feb. 14, 2011
James Vice, BSA ’51, June 19, 2009
Elizabeth (Daub) Viola, B.H.Sc. ’52, Feb. 18, 2011
Richard Wagner, BSA ’63, Oct. 15, 2009
Robert Walsh, BSA ’52, Feb. 7, 2011
Bob Winch, BSA ’53, April 4, 2010
John Windrem, DVM ’51, March 28, 2010
Wendy Wood, BLA ’85, Jan. 13, 2011
Peter Wybenga, DVM ’60, Feb. 21, 2011

To honour alumni who have passed away, the University of Guelph Alumni Association makes an annual donation to the Alumni Memorial Scholarship.
Jeremiah not afraid of the dark

I enjoyed the article by Susan Bubak on the restoration work by Dawn Johnston on the famous campus cannon. But her assumption that, according to campus lore, painting must be done after sunset is incorrect. I took this photo on Oct. 15, 1975, at about 4 p.m. On that day, 21 of us from La Maison Française, including two teachers from the French department, descended upon the cannon and transformed it into a work of art. We were VERY proud of the super paint job we did.

While in my frosh year, I lived for one semester with a veterinary student who told me that it was he and a few friends who moved the cannon from its original spot near the President’s House to its current location. They used a tow truck from a garage in Guelph. He also told me that the official name of the cannon is Jeremiah.

Keep up the great work with The Portico.

Rod Hodgson, BA ’78
Hudson, Que.

Another cannon story

I read your article on the cannon with great interest in the Winter 2011 issue of The Portico. It’s unfortunate that your ‘history’ of the cannon started in the 1960s, as it no doubt has a fascinating past. My friend and fellow alumnus, Robert Reid, B.Sc. (Agr.) ’87, told me his father’s stories (Julian Reed, ADA ’56) about that cannon.

I understand that, from the late 19th century, it was a fully functional cannon. Large groups of students would haul it around and set it off — a perfect addition to football games and ringing in the New Year. Sometime in the 1960s, the wheels broke while the cannon was being hauled down some steps, and it came to rest where it is today.

In a sense, that cannon represents what it means to be a U of G student, past and present. Right up until its wheels broke, it was an object of celebration that united students and fostered school spirit. Once it became stationary, the cannon morphed into a focal point for nocturnal individual expression, “an object of joke” as Dawn Johnston succinctly puts it. That’s progress, I guess.

Inan Cutcher, BA ’90
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Perfect is perfect

We received your Winter 2011 issue because my husband is an alumnus of Guelph.

I wish to register a criticism of the title on the cover: “Nature’s Perfect Food Gets Better.” If something is perfect, it cannot be made “better.” As an academic institution putting out first-rate periodicals such as The Portico, I was stunned that this title got by the editor.

Patti Maurice Guelph, Ont.

Encouraged by Guelph research on Crohn’s

I read Andrew Vowles’ article “There’s a Complete Ecosystem Inside your Gut” with much interest. Our 13-year-old son was diagnosed with Crohn’s and colitis at the age of nine. We were encouraged by this group of Guelph researchers who are dedicating so much time and energy to this disease.

Imagine our surprise when we read the line about how there might be a correlation between early childhood antibiotics and Crohn’s; our son was on antibiotics for 11 months before the age of two for continuous ear infections.

We hope The Portico will publish results from this research when their work is completed. We remain optimistic that, with dedicated scientists like Dr. Emma Allen-Vercoe and her team of researchers, a cure will be found.

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Correction: In the last issue of The Portico, we printed the wrong photo in a story about the opening of U of G’s new pathobiology building. It was actually a photo of the Primary Healthcare Centre for companion animals.
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