The University of Guelph claimed the No. 1 spot in the annual Maclean’s ranking of universities. “This remarkable achievement is due entirely to the extraordinary people and programs we have at Guelph,” says president Alastair Summerlee. Our faculty, students, staff and alumni show tremendous caring and commitment, which sets Guelph apart from others.”

In the Maclean’s overall survey, Guelph was named the top comprehensive university in Canada. U of G was also named the top comprehensive university by Maclean’s in 2003, 2002 and 1999.

Guelph was ranked first in five of the key areas that determine the placements — quality of students, graduation rates, classes taught by tenured faculty, quality of faculty and student services. The University also maintained or improved its performance in 19 other categories.

In an accompanying reputational survey in the magazine, Guelph was ranked second overall and second in each of three categories used to determine reputation: highest quality, most innovative and leaders of tomorrow.

Maclean’s also published the results of its graduate survey, where participants were asked to rate their alma mater. In that survey, Guelph was No. 1 among comprehensive universities in seven of the eight categories for educational excellence.

The magazine defines comprehensive universities as those with a significant amount of research activity and a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. To determine the rankings, Maclean’s uses 23 indicators to measure overall quality within six general themes: student body, classes, faculty, finances, library and reputation.
Students give A’s to U of G

Once again, the University of Guelph is at the top of its class for overall educational quality, reputation and atmosphere in the 2006 University Report Card published by the Globe and Mail.

The fifth-annual survey represents the opinions of some 32,700 undergraduate students across Canada. Universities are divided into four divisions based on enrolment — large, medium-large, medium-small and small. Guelph is in the medium-large division.

Guelph was ranked No. 1 or tied for the top ranking in several key areas, including sense of personal safety and security, library services, overall satisfaction with the university experience, and reputation for undergraduate and graduate studies, professional schools and among employers.

Faculty received top marks for subject knowledge, availability outside of the classroom and for conducting leading-edge research.

Among the student services that received high marks are food services (Guelph was once again the top-rated school in the country), athletic programs and recreational opportunities and technology, including computers and online services.

Guelph is Research Leader

For the fifth year in a row, the University of Guelph has been recognized as Canada’s top comprehensive research institution in a Research Infosource report published in the National Post.

The report, which ranks Canada’s “Top 50 Research Universities” based on sponsored research income, listed U of G as first among comprehensive universities (those without a medical school). Guelph placed 13th overall with research income of nearly $126 million in 2005. In terms of research intensity (the percentage of research funding per faculty member), U of G is among the top ten universities in the country.

In addition, a second survey by Research Infosource listed Guelph as a close second among comprehensive universities in the “Research University of the Year” ranking. That survey is based on research income, research intensity of faculty and graduate students, and the number of publications in leading Canadian and international journals.

Research Infosource Inc. is a division of The Impact Group, a Toronto-based organization that provides information about the research activities of Canadian companies, universities and governments.