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A two-day President’s Dialogue tackled the intertwined global issues of climate change and hunger. The University of Guelph–Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs partnership gets a thumbs-up from provincial leaders, and international students rank U of G No. 1 among Ontario universities for its learning environment and student support.

Alumni Weekend was a piping good time for grads of every college, but especially those celebrating OVC 150. The HAFA HTM Alumni Association took to the links, and a Gryphon coaches’ football gala set the tone for a blow-out Homecoming celebration that will include a first look at Alumni Stadium’s new artificial turf.

Astronauts and elderly volunteers help human health and nutritional sciences professor Leah Bent study nerve receptors that affect balance and walking.

Business professor Jamie Gruman offers techniques for “onboarding” new employees.

Entrepreneur Penny Wilson believes daily brain exercises can help people maintain cognitive functions as they age.

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The first few weeks of September can be overwhelming as our full contingent of students settle into University of Guelph campuses. Equally so for our teaching faculty and staff who are expected to motivate and guide those students through a learning process that will prepare them for convocation and life after U of G.

I’m cognizant of the fact that several thousand Portico readers are also experienced teachers – on a university campus, perhaps, but at other levels of the education sphere, in public and private-sector systems, in paid and unpaid positions, in many parts of the world. We are all trying to perfect our craft while managing an ever-growing body of knowledge that presents both challenges and opportunities.

In this digital world, we cannot teach everything nor expect the learner to remember all of the information that is available to them. So the critical shift is to teach people how to learn for themselves and help them develop the skills they need to find reliable information and, more importantly, how to critically evaluate and apply new information.

Throughout its history, the University of Guelph has championed the belief that students learn more deeply when they learn by doing. This is a key learning objective for us and one that is renewed with each review of the University’s academic programs. We see dramatic results when students take charge of how they learn instead of simply taking notes from a professor.

To advance this learning objective, more and more Guelph faculty and staff are drawing on their strengths as researchers to explore and analyze various teaching strategies. As a result, enquiry-based learning – more prevalent in medical curriculums – is gaining momentum at U of G.

Our analysis demonstrates that Guelph students who take a first-year seminar course have higher GPAs. The case-study format pushes them to generate hypotheses, research issues that arise and learn the context of the problem from all perspectives. They develop analytical skills that benefit their other courses.

Guelph faculty are also leading the way in discussions among several universities on how to incorporate more “community-engaged scholarship,” such as service learning where students work with local community groups. U of G already has an edge here based on our long history of working within rural communities.

Both of these initiatives were recently cited in a report from the Council of Ontario Universities aimed at identifying and sharing innovative teaching practices. The report, Beyond the Sage on the Stage, also profiles U of G’s use of E-portfolios to help students quantify what they’ve learned and a course for graduate students that discusses teaching and learning issues in higher education. In the latter, we’re helping future teachers develop and practice skills and strategies that are pedagogically sound.

University of Guelph teachers are also having an impact beyond post-secondary education. A downloadable app created by a team of researchers in the School of English and Theatre Studies is showing others how to keep not only Shakespeare’s works but much of popular literature studies thriving in the digital age. A computer science prof and graduate student have turned a popular animation technique into a tool that could help almost anyone who writes a blog.

Other professors create interpersonal connections in large classes by using break-out groups, or use Facebook as a discussion tool to focus attention on a lecture rather than allowing students to be distracted by the social media platform.

If you’re intrigued by these experiments in teaching, The Portico online offers a link to a new research publication that describes them and provides many more examples of Guelph initiatives while reasserting our quest to improve the learning environment on campus.

Alastair Summerlee, President
The University of Guelph is the top-ranked university in Ontario for overall learning, living and student support for international students. Guelph had the highest overall average in the 2011 International Student Barometer based on a survey by the International Graduate Insight Group. It’s the largest annual survey of international university students in the world. This is the first year that Guelph has participated.

“Simply put, international students see Guelph as a good place to be,” says Lynne Mitchell, director and international liaison officer in the Centre for International Programs. “Students are asked about all aspects of their lives at Guelph, from how and what they are learning to their living experience, and they are ranking all of their experiences at U of G very highly.”

The survey included more than 209,000 international students from 238 institutions in 16 countries; about 300 were from U of G, representing all seven academic colleges and levels of study. Guelph currently has nearly 850 international students.

U of G was among 10 Ontario universities that participated. The survey was funded by Ontario’s Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities.

Brenda Whiteside, U of G’s associate vice-president (student affairs), says the survey results provide important insight and knowledge. “While the results are gratifying, it is important that we use the information to continue to improve services and offerings for international students.”

Racy Wine Labels a Must for Millennials

Understanding the preferences of the youngest wine consumers is no easy feat. Highly mobile, millennials from 19 to 35 years of age are the emerging market of consumers upon whom the success of most brands now depends.

In a study recently published in the Journal of Product & Brand Management, Profs. Joe Barth and Statia Elliot, Hospitality and Tourism Management, found the majority of millennials choose wine based on package appeal, with racy labels faring best.

For the two-part study, beverage management course students created wine label designs, and the researchers surveyed more than 400 millennial consumers to assess label design and “brand personality” preferences.

“Products have characteristics associated with them, and these new wine drinkers really want their product choices to reflect their personalities,” said Elliot. “Our study shows that this is particularly relevant for young consumers, whether it is what clothes they wear, what car they drive or what they choose to drink.”

The researchers found wine labels created by millennials are often non-traditional in image, name and colour. Among the students’ names were monikers such as “Make Me Blush” or “4 Play” that left no doubt about the connection between wine and seduction. About half the bottles presented sexually suggestive images and correspondingly racy names. Marketers take note: millennials are not shy.

About three-quarters said they drink wine at least a couple of times a month, and most spent less than $15 a bottle.
Disease monitoring and prevention, new food products and improved health and well-being for seniors—these are just some of the research results produced by the University of Guelph-Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) partnership.

“When research and innovation come together, good things happen: new products are developed and our economy gets stronger,” said Ted McMeekin, minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs. “That’s why continued partnerships such as this one, with the University of Guelph, are so important.”

In the latest round of partnership projects, the ministry will invest more than $6.3 million in research at the University of Guelph-Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) partnership.

Prof. Rich Moccia, U of G’s associate vice-president (research), said OMAFRA support is crucial for University researchers in furthering discoveries that make a difference in Canadians’ lives and help define U of G as Canada’s leader in agri-food research. He notes the importance of the agricultural sector to Ontario’s health and prosperity. It’s one of the province’s leading industry sectors, employing more than 700,000 people.

The U of G-OMAFRA partnership itself generates an economic impact of $1.15 billion a year, along with social, environmental and health benefits.

“Ontario’s agri-food needs could not be met without the expertise, physical capacity and technology development provided via the U of G-OMAFRA partnership,” he said.

Besides its social, environmental and health benefits, the partnership’s economic impact exceeds $1.15 billion a year.
New Veterinary Extension Program Co-organized by Prof. Paula Menzies, Population Medicine, is helping farmers keep sheep and goats healthy while promoting sustainable ways to combat parasitic diseases.

This past winter the outreach program offered daylong workshops for producers and veterinarians. They focused on managing infection from gastrointestinal roundworms that can cause anemia, diarrhea, weight loss and even death. The sessions presented management ideas that also mesh with organic farming practices, including managing pasture contamination, monitoring for parasites and selective use of deworming remedies to prevent worms from developing resistance to treatment.

“We need to give veterinarians and producers the tools to control gastrointestinal parasites so that they do not harm the livestock and yet minimize the need to use drugs,” says Menzies, who co-ordinates small ruminant research at U of G.

Although not a major livestock sector in Canada, sheep and goat farms are increasing in number as well as in products. “We only need to look at the changing ethnic mix immigrating to Ontario,” says Menzies. “A lot of people are coming from countries where it’s more common to eat lamb or drink goat’s milk.”

Menzies works with pathobiology professor Andrew Peregrine; PhD student Laura Falzoncine; Jocelyn Jansen and Anita O’Brien of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; commodity groups; industry partners; and the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program run by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
Once Upon a Time, Fairy Tales Began in a Land Far Away

Jennifer Schacker, left, and Christine Jones

K now any fairy tales? You probably do, because as U of G English professor Jennifer Schacker says, “It’s hard to find anyone who doesn’t know at least a few. They’ve been part of our culture for hundreds of years.”

This year, in fact, is the 200th anniversary of the German collection we now know as the Grimms’ fairy tales. Over a span of 40 years and several editions, brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm changed many of the tales, but the book they published in 1812 marks a major moment in fairy tale history.

Fairy tales are enjoying a renewed popularity today, both in children’s versions, such as Disney’s recent Tangled movie, and in darker adult-focused versions, such as the TV show Grimm. It is perhaps fitting that, during this anniversary year, Schacker has collaborated with Christine Jones of the University of Utah to teach courses at both institutions and bring new insights to the understanding of the genre.

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They’ve stimulated online discussions with students at both institutions. “It expands the learning community and gives students a chance to talk with people from different backgrounds with different perspectives,” says Schacker.

Their collaboration started with a major new anthology they co-edited. Marvelous Transformations: An Anthology of Fairy Tales and Contemporary Critical Perspectives will be released by Broadview Press this fall.

One question Schacker covers in her classes: what is a fairy tale, anyway? The name, she explains, is a translation of a phrase used by Madame d’Aulnoy, a French writer in the 1690s: “contes des fées.” In England, such stories were also called popular tales, nursery stories and fireside tales. Most contain magic, happen in an unidentified location (“a country far, far away”) and have happy endings.

“We also imagine that fairy tales are serious, oriented towards life lessons, but they have always contained lots of irony and playfulness,” adds Schacker. The dark side of fairy tales – as shown in TV’s Grimm, for example – was also part of the original stories. “We think these dimensions are new twists, but they’re not.”
Having supported the University of Guelph and its students for more than four decades, Scotiabank has given a new $500,000 gift to The BetterPlanet Project. This new gift will help develop leadership skills of undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Management and Economics (CME).

Each year, Scotiabank Scholarships in Leadership will provide five awards worth $1,000 each to top students in CME’s leadership certificate program, especially students volunteering in the non-profit sector.

The Scotiabank MA Leadership Scholarships will provide a $15,000 entrance award to a leading applicant to the MA leadership program working in a senior role in the non-profit sector.

The Scotiabank gift will also sponsor a new CME Case Study Competition Program for students in local, national and international business competitions. “At CME, we believe in providing opportunities for our students to practise what they learn in the classroom,” says Prof. Sylvain Charlebois, associate dean (research and graduate studies). “One way we support this transformative learning process is by encouraging our students to participate in case study competitions.”

In recent years, CME students have won gold and silver in competitions posing real-world business problems. Beginning this fall, the college will formalize such case-based learning – with Scotiabank support – through new courses to help students develop critical analysis skills, learn to formulate strategy and hone their presentation style.
Rector Gift Promotes U of G Food Initiative

Darcy and Cathy Rector of Etobicoke, Ont., have made a founding gift to the University of Guelph’s planned food institute. The goal is to engage Guelph experts with other bright minds worldwide in research, teaching, training and innovation related to food issues along the entire continuum of agriculture and food production.

Darcy Rector has gained Canadian and international perspectives of the food industry as a manager with a global manufacturer of food ingredients, as the owner of a spice and ingredient company and, more recently, as an adviser. He founded Rector Foods in Brampton, Ont., in 1978 and sold the company to Kerry (Canada) Inc. in 2002. He currently serves on the advisory board of BSA, a Montreal-based food ingredient company.

During Darcy’s ownership, Rector Foods signed on as a U of G co-op employer, hiring most of its students from Guelph’s food science co-op program. He and Cathy have renewed their commitment to education and training through their BetterPlanet gift, intended to support multidisciplinary teams of Guelph faculty and student involvement.

BPP Team Update
This past summer, U of G said goodbye to Joanne Shoveller, vice-president (advancement), who has joined INSEAD, an international graduate business school and research institution. She is based in France. Shoveller continues to serve U of G as a campaign volunteer, including supporting other members of the BetterPlanet team. Alumni and friends with campaign queries may contact Karen Bertrand, assistant vice-president (major gift advancement), or Jason Moreton, assistant vice-president (alumni advancement), at 1-888-266-3108 or email at alumni.uoguelph.ca.

Launched publicly in fall 2010, The BetterPlanet Project aims to raise $200 million to help U of G improve research and teaching. So far, the campaign has raised more than $137 million.
The university is 10 years old, still unique in 635...

That's how many times Melissa Melo raised and lowered her arms one day in mid-June at the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton, Ont. Up and down as she placed hoods on each of the graduands at spring convocation ceremonies for the University of Guelph-Humber. That's a lot of hoods and a lot of graduands.

Not that the university's recruitment manager was complaining about her ceremonial role as Guelph-Humber beadle. Far from it: recruit more students and you can expect to eventually be more busy come graduation day.

It's been 10 years since the University of Guelph and Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning came together to launch a brand-new institution on Humber's north campus and within view of the sky traffic of Toronto's Pearson International Airport. Since 2002, the Guelph-Humber campus has grown from 200 students in three programs to today's roughly 4,000 students taking seven programs. Including this year's crop of grads, G-H now claims more than 3,900 alumni.

They come here looking for a different kind of learning experience, says vice-provost John Walsh, adding that they also bring with them a kind of built-in diversity.

By Andrew Vowles
Photo by Luis Moreira
struts its stuff
Ontario and growing in popularity

University of Guelph-Humber students demand more and give more to the campus community, says vice-provost John Walsh. From left: Daniel Birch, Naomi Leanage, Frank Badali, Phoebe Wong, Raadiyah Naazeem, Tristan Gerrie, Bonnie Luc, Ginoy Wright, Sufya Hayat and Arshdeep Randhawa.
The University of Guelph-Humber will celebrate its 10th anniversary with an open house on Oct. 13. For information, visit www.celebrate.guelphhumber.ca/openhouse or contact Laurie de Fleuriot at 416-798-1331, Ext. 6079.

10 THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT GUELPH-HUMBER

- G-H students earn both a university degree and college diploma in four years.
- Even first-year students learn in small classes averaging 48 students.
- Every G-H program offers a work placement or internship for every student.
- Eight out of 10 G-H grads find jobs in their fields within six months of graduation.
- Study-abroad programs take students to destinations such as Italy, England, Argentina and Ireland.
- Through Guelph-Humber’s research support program, students work with Humber and Guelph faculty.
- Most G-H students live at home and hold down part-time jobs in the GTA.
- Guelph-Humber has grown from three programs to seven; from 200 students to almost 4,000.
- More than 1,000 plants grow in a unique plant wall that climbs four storeys in the Guelph-Humber atrium, cleaning indoor air, cooling the building in summer and acting as a winter humidifier.
- G-H grads number more than 3,900.

Stand in the central atrium of the four-storey Guelph-Humber building with its signature spiral staircase and floor-to-ceiling plant wall, and you can see what he means. Most of Guelph-Humber’s students hail from the Greater Toronto Area, and they echo the city’s polyglot mix. “Guelph-Humber must be one of the most culturally diverse student bodies in the GTA,” says Walsh, a professor in the Department of Business at Guelph who became vice-provost here in 2006.

Many G-H students are the first generation of their families to attend post-secondary education. Most have come directly from high school, although some bridge their studies from college programs, including kinesiology students carrying diplomas in exercise and fitness programs.

They are attracted by programs offering grounding in real-world disciplines: business, early childhood, kinesiology, media studies, justice studies, psychology, and family and community social services. They’re also drawn by the chance to get both a University of Guelph degree and a Humber College diploma in four years, all without leaving this building. Proximity is key. Most students still live at home, many hold down part-time jobs nearby, and most visit the campus every day to attend class or study.

And there’s another drawing card, says Leah Murdock, manager of student life, career and alumni services. “You have to feel like you belong to a community. With almost 4,000 students, you will know everybody in your program, your instructors. It’s hard to be anonymous here.” Referring to a 10th-anniversary video involving grads, staff and students, she says, “The common denominator was the word ‘family.’”

A U of G grad and former employee on the Guelph campus, Murdock has been here since Guelph-Humber began life in “Building B.” That temporary structure was used until the current building was completed in 2004. Although the university is now 10 years old, there’s still a sense of pioneering something here. Just ask Melo, whose recruitment office is located around the corner from Murdock’s ground-floor office.

Melo arrived in Building B from her Etobicoke high school during Guelph-Humber’s first year. Interested in media studies, she had looked at other university programs around the GTA, but none offered the wide mix of things
she wanted to learn. Attending a brand-new facility was a bit of an adventure. Yes, the institution lacked its own track record, but she knew both Guelph and Humber were well-regarded. Regarding the newness of it all, she says, “That was also the exciting part, how I’d be able to set history.”

While studying here, she served on the Guelph-Humber Student Association (GHSA) and helped run student life and leadership programs. She also helped to found a social engagement group that raised money and awareness of issues from AIDS to Southeast Asian tsunami relief and area food banks. Along the way, she changed career paths. Melo now heads her alma mater’s recruitment team, visiting high schools and attending events that include the annual Ontario Universities’ Fair in Toronto.

She graduated in 2006 as the first recipient of the Michael Nightingale Community Enrichment Award, named for the school’s inaugural vice-provost. The award also earned Melo the title of beadle for subsequent convocation ceremonies. Her words echo the founding sentiments for the institution, says Nightingale, a long-time professor and administrator at U of G.

In a G-H video made for the 10th anniversary, he says Guelph-Humber students were encouraged to meet and work together and to effectively create a brand-new culture. “From the start, because they had taken a risk to come to Guelph-Humber, students were also committed to ensuring that the place developed a reputation. We involved and told them: ‘You’re going to be part of establishing this reputation.’”

Nightingale retired in 2005 but returned the following year with the school’s inaugural graduating class. “As they got their undergraduate degrees and college diplomas, I got an honorary doctorate from Guelph. A few weeks earlier I’d received an honorary degree from Humber, so we were all able to graduate together. That was a wonderful milestone for me.”

Another 2006 grad was Andrew Kaszowski. He completed media studies and now works in business communications in his hometown of London, Ont. In 2010, he returned to Guelph-Humber to speak at the Last Lecture, an annual awards reception that features speeches by a student and a grad. Kaszowski also spoke as a student in his graduating year.

This year, he completed a two-year term as the first G-H grad to serve on the board of the

The University of Guelph-Humber was officially opened May 21, 2004, including its state-of-the-art $45-million facility. From left: Humber College student Jennifer Green with Guelph-Humber students Jacqueline Barroso, Natalie Jelenski and Angela Budway; chancellor Lincoln Alexander and Guelph-Humber student James Galloway.
University of Guelph Alumni Association. Six years after graduation, he points to the success rate of graduates in landing successful jobs and careers. “We’ve all done extremely well for a university that was brand new, without a reputation. At Guelph-Humber, we were taught how to make opportunities for ourselves. If we had ideas or wanted something, we were able to make it happen. We were senior students right out of the gate. There’s isn’t that atmosphere of history and tradition you might have at a larger campus. We turned to each other and built our own community.”

Not that G-H students are divorced from the Guelph campus. GHSA members have travelled to Guelph to paint the cannon in Branion Plaza. And every year, a men’s basketball game held at the neighbouring Humber College campus pits the Guelph Gryphons against the Humber Hawks. Which team do Guelph-Humber students cheer for? Both, says Melo, describing reversible T-shirts printed with both school logos. “You can’t lose.”

Guelph-Humber students have also won titles in courts of a different kind. This year, a G-H team of justice studies students placed first in a crime scene investigation competition held in the United States. It was the third time Guelph-Humber students have claimed the cup in the seven years of the annual contest; G-H teams also won in 2011 and 2009. The contest presents student teams with mock crime scenes, requiring them to collect forensic evidence – from fingerprints to bullet casings – and translate their classroom studies to “real life.”

Competitive case studies and simulations in business have also attracted students to Guelph-Humber’s chapter of DECA U, which holds competitions for Ontario universities. Chapter president and fourth-year business student Umair Khan won first- and second-place awards this year.

In addition, kinesiology students compete in Kin Games during the largest student-run kinesiology and physical education conference in Canada.

Those contests are more than fun and games. They’re also intended to shape students’ classroom learning for the workplace – serious business at Guelph-Humber, says Murdock. Each of the university’s seven programs offers internships or placements, ensuring that “all students get experience in their field or discipline.”

Guelph-Humber students are also eligible for jobs with Guelph or Humber professors.
under a program providing up to $10,000 in faculty research grants. Funds have gone to Guelph researchers in human health and nutritional sciences, marketing and consumer studies, literature and theatre studies, psychology, and family relations and applied nutrition.

Two years ago, G-H introduced a study-abroad program for groups of students to spend 10 to 12 days learning in another nation. Countries are chosen to reflect Guelph-Humber programs, says George Bragues, assistant vice-provost and head of the business program. He has led groups to finance destinations in Italy and London, England; media studies students have visited media centres in London and New York. Other destinations this spring were Sweden, Ireland and Argentina.

Programs that stress school-work connections have paid off for Guelph-Humber grads, says Murdock: more than 80 per cent of grads find jobs in their field within six months of graduation.

This year, the university is tapping those grads for their success stories – and for $10 each. To mark its 10th anniversary, G-H launched a “Power of 10” campaign to raise funds for student scholarships and bursaries and for campus support services.

Glancing back at the past decade also prompts a look ahead for Walsh, now midway through his second five-year term as vice-provost. He says administrators are assessing programs and facilities to address a number of questions about Guelph-Humber’s future. Should the university hold overall enrollment at current levels? About 1,000 students enter each year; this spring, Guelph-Humber received just over 4,600 applications, up 6.3 per cent over 2011.

Does the campus need another building? Walsh sees a potential growth market among mature students in mid-career who wish to add a university degree to their college credentials. How might Guelph-Humber use in-class and distance education to meet their needs?

And how to ensure sufficient instructors to meet all of those needs? Guelph-Humber employs hundreds of professors and sessional lecturers, although only about a dozen are full-time faculty members. Whatever the possible changes, Walsh says one thing needs to stay the same: the singular focus on students. “We do only one thing at Guelph-Humber and that’s focus on student success. Everybody is an educator here.”
by mid-June, Prof. Leah Bent had been handed her baby’s ultrasound. Boy or girl? She shrugged. That news would have to wait until her due date in August. Instead, what had her beaming was the tiny foot visible in the grainy image — perhaps no surprise for a former aspiring ballet dancer now studying how the foot helps in balance, posture and movement.

Bent earned a U of G degree in human kinetics in 1996, followed by a master’s in human biology and then a move to west to the University of British Columbia for her PhD. Since returning to Guelph as a faculty member in 2005, her studies have taken her from a one-of-a-kind lab in the University of Guelph’s Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences (HHNS) all the way to space shuttle landing sites to run “tickle tests” on astronaut volunteers. In a sense, though, it all comes back to her grandmother.

Helping to prevent often-debilitating falls among a growing population of elderly people, including her 98-year-old Nana, is a large part of her research interest at Guelph. That’s also true for four other HHNS researchers — Prof. Steve Brown, John Srbely, Lori Vallis and John Zettel — who have brought interests in neurophysiology and biomechanics to U of G within the past five years. Says department chair Lawrence Spriet, “We now have a positive critical mass in an area we would call neural mechanics.”

He says youngsters may take balance and movement for granted, but that’s hardly the case for a growing group of seniors who may find themselves in a health-care Catch-22. “Older people with balance problems are often told ‘move less’ or ‘don’t go outside.’” For the same people, lack of activity may contribute to other issues, including obesity and diabetes. “The more we understand about how we might maintain balance into later and later years, the better able we will be to advise people how to do that and stay more active,” adds Spriet.

For Bent and 10 grad students she supervises, it all comes down to the foot. In fact, it’s even more specific than that for these scientific foot fetishists. “People think of skin, but we see a multifaceted organ,” she says. “I study balance and how sensory information can help us to stay stable and balanced. We think about skin as one sensory source, but it’s really four receptors providing very distinct information, and what I want to know is how they work together.”

Those different receptors in the skin tell your brain when things are touching or pressing on your foot, or whether your foot is experiencing a slip or stretching along its surface. All of that information normally keeps you upright and stable, but aging causes less information to be relayed from foot to brain — as does prolonged bed rest or other things that keep people off their feet for long periods. That can mean loss of balance control and more falls.

There are plenty of questions about the process. Do things change in the skin itself or in the receptors? Do we preferentially “listen” to one type of receptor over another? And how do we “turn up the volume” for certain receptors to compensate for reduced sensitivity?

To answer those questions, Bent looks
closely at the foot, right down to individual skin receptors. Her lab is one of the few places in Canada equipped for this work. Using grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, she has outfitted a room in the Animal Science and Nutrition Building for microneurography studies funded largely by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

Inside metal shielding designed to keep out electromagnetic “noise,” she and her students use sophisticated testing and recording equipment to track signals travelling from single nerve fibres in the foot to the spine.

“We are starting to differentiate types of receptors,” says Bent. “There is unique information provided by the various receptors. As they age people may use some rather than others.”

As with researchers elsewhere, she has concentrated on the sole of the foot – the “plantar” surface – but not entirely. She’s looking at the top of the foot as well to see if the skin there is also important. One study showed connections between dorsal skin receptors and the shoulders, likely helping to explain reflex actions such as throwing out your arms during a stumble. Bent has also looked at the “GPS” role of those receptors, or how they help you figure out where your foot is in relation to your body and your surroundings. Lose some of that information and, again, you may be more susceptible to falls. To compensate, Bent imagines a “smart shoe” whose built-in electronic device might monitor or trigger receptors.

For various researchers in her lab, focusing on the foot doesn’t mean losing sight of its connection with other – sometimes far-off – body parts. “I’m looking at how the inner ear interacts with other structures in the brain that help us maintain balance,” says PhD student Chris Lam, who studied kinesiology at the University of Waterloo before starting grad studies at Guelph in 2010. He hopes to map brain activity using transcranial magnetic stimulation, a non-invasive method to look at how the motor cortex controls muscle contractions. “We can’t directly use this information for rehabilitation, but it’s useful for understanding how the body reads this information.”

For his own doctoral studies of feet and balance, Nick Strzalkowski has looked at how skin properties such as thickness, hardness and stiffness affect sensory perception. That work has also involved researchers at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto. He hopes his research will help not just aging adults but also people with various disorders. “We know skin feedback from the sole is important in keeping balance and stance and walking. That feedback reduces with diseases like diabetes.”

He is now using those microneurography tools to look at receptors. “It’s a neat and powerful technique, and Leah is one of only a few people around here who do it,” says Strzalkowski, who completed a degree in human kinetics at U of G in 2009.

Catherine Lowrey used the technique to learn how receptors in skin and muscles help the ankle joint sense its position. As with her PhD supervisor, Lowrey brought a family connection to her work. “My ‘oma’ suffered a stroke when I was in high school, and my
Leah Bent studies skin receptors that tell your brain when your foot is touching something, stretching or slipping

grandma suffered a serious fall while I was in university. These life-changing events really made me want to understand the neurophysiology behind our sensory systems — how we use them to maintain our balance when we are standing and moving about our environment. I wanted to know how changes to these systems, with age or disease, challenge these abilities.” She studied human kinetics at Guelph and did a master’s degree in biomechanics with Vallis. Having defended her PhD thesis this spring, Lowrey plans to begin post-doctoral research at Queen’s University this fall.

Supervisor and students have had a chance to try out their tickle test in a more distant and exotic-sounding application: the American space shuttle program. Bent and her lab team began working with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 2010. Three years earlier, Canadian astronaut Dave Williams had mentioned tingling in his feet during and just after a shuttle flight. Other astronauts had reported the same thing.

In their hypersole project, the Guelph team tested 11 astronauts, pre- and post-flight, for four shuttle missions in 2010 and 2011. Using a footplate with a shaker and a probe held against the foot, they tested all four kinds of receptors to see whether changes in skin sensitivity mesh with changes in balance. Their final skin sensory test occurred after NASA’s last-ever shuttle flight in July 2011. Referring to the astronauts, Bent says, “They all liked it. In other tests, they get poked, blood taken, spun around.”

She can’t yet say why astronauts’ feet tingle. Still, she has demonstrated that the phenomenon is indeed in their feet and not merely in their heads. “One type of skin receptor shows hypersensitivity,” she says. Interestingly, the same receptor is known to lose sensitivity with age.

Although she hasn’t nailed down the connections, she suspects that foot skin receptors are induced to “turn up the volume” to compensate for the loss of balance information from the inner ear in microgravity of space. Ultimately, investigating that idea might require astronauts to do in-flight testing, perhaps on the International Space Station or during private space jaunts. Her study was sponsored by CSA; Bent filed her final report with the agency this spring.

Back in Guelph, that aspect of her work invariably attracts attention. That included the inaugural Space Day this year, an open house organized by Bent and Lowrey to highlight U of G’s space-related research. About 500 visitors learned about the tickle test as well as unrelated Guelph projects, including growing plants for long-term space flight and analysis of Mars rover data.

In a separate event on campus called “Ms Infinity,” Bent discussed her research with high school girls. An organizer of that event was Meghan Yip, a Guelph human kinetics grad beginning master’s studies with the HHNS researcher this fall.

Bent’s four-year-old daughter was too young for Ms Infinity. But Jordan attended the earlier Space Day: “space is cool” was her summary. If the Guelph scientist thinks about the implications of her own research for people like her Nana, does she think purposely about applications for younger feet? Yes and no, says Bent, who watches Jordan’s footwork during ballet and gymnastics classes. Leah was the same age when she began ballet lessons, and she continued dancing through high school, training for up to four hours a day.

A mother and a researcher, Bent says she shuns booties for her newborn, encourages Jordan to run barefoot and often ventures out unshod herself. “Don’t bother putting on shoes. Your feet need stimulation.”

The Portico
Guelph alumnus Murray Stevenson, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’76, is getting to know grad students Mike Zulyniak and Maude Perreault as they serve him breakfast and later test a blood sample to determine how his body – and, more importantly, his metabolism – responds to the high-fat, high-calorie meal.

Stevenson works for Health Canada and is volunteering in a Diabetes Research Assessment (DRA) study led by Prof. David Mutch, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences. The study is looking at clinically distinct groups of obese and diabetic people, including those who are considered “metabolically healthy obese,” to understand how metabolic differences are linked to an individual’s health.

People who have a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30 are considered obese, but that doesn’t mean they have a similar risk for developing associated diseases. Recent estimates show that 30 per cent of people with a BMI greater than 30 “don’t have the metabolic risk factors that would predispose them to diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension,” says Mutch. “So while these subjects may have excess body weight, they are considered metabolically healthy.”

Is it possible to have a healthy metabolism and be obese? Mutch says the relatively new concept is becoming more widely accepted in the medical community, although little research has been done on metabolically healthy obese people. “If you encouraged them to lose weight, they might be going out of their metabolically optimal situation and this could inadvertently increase their risk for other health complications.”

Mutch says the DRA study wouldn’t be possible without the participation of Dr. Susan Stephenson and her colleagues in the Guelph Family Health Team. He’s recruiting 80 participants between the ages of 35 and 70, half with diabetes managed without medication.

The researchers are collecting several physiological measurements, including body fat composition and gene expression profiles. The latter will indicate how fat tissue behaves in different participants. Nutrigenomics, which looks at the interaction between nutrition and genes, will also be under the microscope.

Zulyniak is a PhD student who was drawn to the study because of its focus on diet and health. Perreault is a master’s student who wants to better understand how weight relates to risk factors for diabetes.

After eating the same high-fat, high-calorie breakfast, all study participants will undergo blood tests to measure their glucose and insulin response.

“I believe there’s an underlying genetic or molecular network that will actually determine why people respond to the same meal in different ways,” says Mutch. “One of the goals of the DRA study is to identify these determinants.”

The results could help researchers better predict a person’s response and provide dietary advice tailored to their genetic or molecular makeup.

The study is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

BY SUSAN BUBAK
HOW TO BE A BETTER BOSS

Employees perform better when they feel good about what they’re doing

BY TERESA PITMAN • ILLUSTRATION BY NICK CRANE

Is it possible for people to be too happy at work? Actually, yes, says business professor Jamie Gruman.

A specialist in organizational behaviour, Gruman says happy employees aren’t always better employees. Those who are over-the-top blissful may see the world through rose-coloured glasses. “You don’t want a pilot to be so overly optimistic that he decides to fly his plane into a tornado,” he says.

But hang on, Mr. Scrooge. Keeping your employees miserable isn’t the solution either. “Happy employees are usually better,” notes Gruman. They generally learn more while at work, are better at brainstorming and using their creativity, and are less likely to leave the company.

Gruman recognizes that these work issues can be more complex than they seem on the surface, but he enjoys that challenge. Trained in clinical and social psychology, he’s interested in understanding how people achieve successes and triumphs. His research has practical implications for businesses of all sizes that want to improve the effectiveness of their employees.

Start with hiring. Once you’ve hired a new employee, you have a responsibility to help them get up to speed and socialized into the organization. Gruman calls it “onboarding,” and it’s one of his primary areas of research because it’s vital to the health of a business. He suggests onboarding should build the four components of psychological capital in new employees: hope, optimism, self-efficacy and resilience.

“The focus in the past has been on simply providing new employees with a lot of information, but that’s not enough.” Not that the information doesn’t matter — every new employee needs to know where to park and where the washrooms are — but too many companies stop there. Knowing where the washroom is doesn’t build much self-efficacy or optimism, he says.

Employers can increase optimism by getting in touch with the new hire before he or she starts work. “Ask if there are any questions, or take the new person out for lunch to discuss the job,” suggests Gruman. It’s a chance to convey positive expectations for the new employee and to share your vision of the company.

Once the job starts, Gruman recommends creating opportunities for the newcomer to practise and obtain feedback, observe role models and try a variety of tasks right from the start; these are great ways to build self-efficacy and confidence. A few months down the road, it’s important to provide the employee with feedback about what’s going well and where things might be improved.

All this may seem overwhelming to managers in small companies that don’t have a full-fledged human resources department, but Gruman says that, in fact, it’s often easier because socialization can be informal and new employees may have more opportunities to see what others do and interact with them.

Successful onboarding helps to promote employee engagement, defined by Gruman as “bringing your whole self — your individuality — to work.” To be fully engaged, an employee needs to feel safe, have meaningful work and have adequate resources to accomplish the work.

For most people, feeling engaged at work is a crucial part of living a happy life, and that’s another focus of Gruman’s work. In early 2012, he co-founded the Canadian Positive Psychology Association; the group’s first conference was held in July. “We’re learning more about what makes people flourish and thrive and what promotes living a good life. We will all have our share of misery and disappointment, so I believe we should make the rest as good as possible.”

Gruman also reminds employers and entrepreneurs that if people can disengage more completely when they are away from work, they’re better able to be engaged at work. That’s an argument against the constant use of smart phones. “Just like phones, people need to recharge their batteries.” He recommends, for example, that leaders take at least one hour a week at work to close the door, turn off the phone and the computer, and just think. “Let what you’ve learned that week sink in, connect all the dots, and see the big picture.”

With the economy still struggling, many companies are downsizing or needing to make cutbacks. Can they keep their employees engaged and working in a positive way despite their difficulties? Gruman says it’s all about being open and honest.

“Employees are adults. They read the news; they hear the rumours. If management steps up and says ‘these are the challenges we are facing,’ that’s a relief to many employees. The rumours are usually worse.” But you also need to share your vision for the future, says Gruman. “Let your employees know what strategies you are using to overcome the challenges and keep everyone informed about the company’s progress. Give them purpose and goals to work for.”

Remember that psychological capital you were trying to develop in your employees? This is where the resilience part comes in, says Gruman. If you have laid the foundation and given employees the resources needed, the chances are good that they will continue to step up to the plate.
Remember the first time you were the new person on the job? Remember the feeling of utter bewilderment when you first walked in the door? The uncertainty and the fear? Prof. Jamie Gruman does. He’s been studying new employee orientation and has offered up a mode of business thinking that’s beginning to take off...

Onboarding is a process of socialization that helps new hires develop their PsyCap. PsyCap is a broad term that is characterized by hope, optimism, confidence, and resilience.

An individual’s ability to assign a greater meaning to their work ultimately leads to a more productive and self-possessed workforce. With the “onboarding” actions and “PsyCap” principles in place, one can transform a doe-in-the-headlights into the company’s brightest light.

Positive PsyCap may be broadly defined as positive states of mind that can bolster performance and bring more energy to the workplace culture. When new hires experience positive engagement with their workplace culture, they are more likely to do a better job and less likely to quit.

Prof. Jamie Gruman suggests mentoring new hires as well as onboarding events to help newcomers and gain their support.

Hey new guy!
FOR BRAIN FITNESS, IT’S IMPORTANT TO TRY NEW THINGS

Well, that was using her you-know-what. A couple of years ago, Guelph grad Penny Wilson had a name in mind for her new mid-life business venture, but there was a problem. “I wanted Noggins,” she says, speaking over the phone from her Vancouver office. But the Internet domain name was already taken, and the URL owner wanted half-a-million dollars for it.

Time for some lateral thinking. That’s how she came up with Nognz. “I spelt it this way and it was seven bucks – and it’s a bit of a brain twister.”

Begun in early 2011, the brain fitness business is the brainchild of Wilson and her husband, Andrew Jones. The company offers products and services intended to help customers improve and maintain brain function. That includes everyone from school kids looking to boost their brain power – or perhaps parents looking to boost their kids’ brain power – to a pending army of Boomers-turning-seniors intent on augmenting their grey matter.

Wilson regards the company’s games, puzzles, books and software as the mental equivalent of hitting the gym or the running trail. “We’re trying to be The Running Room of brain fitness,” says the co-founder and president, whose store shelves include books such as Norman Doidge’s The Brain That Changes Itself and The Winner’s Brain by U of G psychology professor Mark Fenske. “We want everyone to integrate brain fitness into their daily routine,” says Wilson.

“We’re all living longer. We spend billions of dollars on anti-aging products for our skin. We do yoga, running, whatever. It’s equally important for people to know they should keep their brain fit because they’re going to live longer.”

She’s also keen to do a bit of myth-busting.

Until recently, many scientists – and many of us generally – believed that the adult brain was immutable. “I had been taught that, as we age, the brain slowly declines and there’s nothing we can do about it. That’s proving not to be the case.”

The Vancouver-based company sells products in five areas corresponding to brain functions: word skills, hand-eye co-ordination, critical thinking, memory and focus. Most products come from Canadian and American suppliers. Nognz also offers “healthy brain” training programs for companies, seniors’ centres and teachers and students, and provides online resources from “brain buddies” to clubs, events and stories.

The company operates a 1,250-square-foot store location and a website. Among its six employees is co-founder Jones, who draws on a sales career and business studies for business development. The company’s product scout is its scientific director, Justin Davis, who has a PhD in neuromechanics. Comparing Nognz to other brain fitness companies in the United States that focus on schools or gamers, Wilson says, “We’re trying to be focused with a level of integrity on the neuroscience side. We’re a little more scientific and health and wellness.” The company hopes to work more closely with neuroscience programs in Canadian universities, including raising funds to support scholarships.

Wilson plans to open two more stores in British Columbia this year and hopes to expand into Alberta and Ontario in 2013. Ideally, she says, the concept might become a franchise operation. She says the company is growing, as people learn more about brain science and seek out ways to maintain their own grey matter. “The whole area of neuroscience, I think, will be one of the fastest-growing areas of science in the future. It’s exciting to bring that kind of understanding to the masses.”

Recently, researchers have investigated sex differences in the brain. Although Wilson declines to speculate about the science, she says there’s a clear gender divide in her store. Men seem to prefer games involving critical thinking and focus, while women go for memory and word games. The typical Nognz customer is a woman between 35 and 60.

The company’s employees try out new products at home. One of Wilson’s sons, Keegan, 15, likes games that test hand-eye co-ordination. Jaxon, 17, favours puzzles. “We have a shelf right by the dining room table. We play after dinner many times. I don’t really have to push them.” Jones likes playing a logic game called Quarto, although some of his favourites – chess, Scrabble – long predate Nognz. Says Wilson, “He likes chess, he says, because he can beat us all.”

Whatever the game, it’s the playing and exploring that matter. “The important thing is that you try new things. Once something has become commonplace, it’s important that you change it up.” That goes even for her parents, both 88. Her mom plays Logic Links (deductive reasoning) and Rush Hour (planning skills). Her dad plays cards. “A big part of brain fitness is not just mental stimulation, it’s about keeping physically fit; it’s about socialization. As we age, more isolation becomes a big factor in dementia.”

Running a business is itself a new challenge for Wilson.

She spent more than 30 years in IT marketing and
To enjoy better health in our senior years, Penny Wilson says we should exercise both our brain and our body.

operations with companies in networking technology, Internet and wireless software, digital media services and 3D graphics technology. Tiring of the commute between home in Vancouver and work in California, she began to explore a fascination with neuroscience.

Wilson had begun her career at Merrill Lynch International after completing studies in computer science and business administration at Guelph in 1982. “That combination of computer science and business was a very sought-after skill. It gave me a fine start to a successful career in technology. Not that many people had both sides.”

She hadn’t planned it that way. Growing up in Burlington, Ont., she says, “I wanted to be a doctor then.” She spent a year studying genetics at the University of Ottawa before rethinking her goal. She quips: “It was really a fashion decision. I decided I didn’t want to be wearing a lab coat for the rest of my life.” Changing it up indeed.

BY ANDREW VOWLES
VET SPECIALISTS RESTORE VISION FOR ANIMAL PATIENTS

When Charlotte Keller came to the Ontario Veterinary College in 1986, she’d already graduated as a veterinarian in her home country of Switzerland. “I wanted to see how things might be done in a different country,” she says. “OVC had a summer program where foreign-trained vets could spend time with some of the specialties such as ophthalmology and dermatology, which were less common in Europe at the time.”

Keller discovered an immediate love for ophthalmology (medical care of the eye). “The eye is a fascinating organ,” she says. “And there is so much that can be done to help or heal the eye.” She spent a year and a half at OVC, trained another 18 months at Texas A & M University and then returned to OVC as a faculty member teaching ophthalmology.

Here she met Marnie Ford, DVM ’00, who had studied zoology at the University of British Columbia and completed a PhD in reproductive physiology in Australia before coming to Guelph. Ford went on to complete a one-year internship at the University of Minnesota and a three-year residency in ophthalmology at the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Meanwhile, Keller had begun travelling to British Columbia on a regular basis to fill in during vacations for the province’s only veterinary ophthalmologist. When he retired, Keller agreed to come out once a month to treat animals with eye problems, but soon found that her skills were increasingly in demand.

In 2004, Ford had just completed her residency and Keller was interested in moving to B.C., so they decided to open a clinic together. “We were both confident that we could work well with each other,” says Keller. “We have a similar approach to how we prepare for surgery and deal with situations – because we both have an OVC background – and that makes it easier.”

In the beginning, they shared an office with a veterinary emergency clinic. “We saw patients during the day, the emergency clinic ran at night,” says Ford. But they soon built their own clinic in New Westminster and by July 2005 had established a schedule of travelling to other B.C. locations to see animals.

Ford adds: “Ophthalmology is a great specialty. You work with large and small animals and wildlife, and you are doing both medicine and surgery. On the same day, you might treat a horse, a bald eagle and a seal as well as dogs and cats.”

Of course, eye surgery requires excellent anaesthesia. Keller and Ford say they were fortunate to connect with another OVC grad, Nancy Brock, DVM ’82. This Montreal native went into private practice after leaving Guelph but says, “I was always interested in anaesthesia. I’d be in surgery and far more interested in the anaesthesia than in the operation I was performing.”

After three years in a rural practice in Prince Edward County and another year running an emergency clinic in London, Ont., Brock returned to school at UC Davis in California, where, where she studied anaesthesia and critical care during a three-year residency.

From left: Veterinarians Nancy Brock, Marnie Ford and Charlotte Keller all trained at U of G, but now combine their skills in anaesthesiology and ophthalmology to benefit animals and owners in British Columbia.
“I don’t limit the kinds of animals I work with,” says Brock. “I say I’ll work with anything with legs, except tables and chairs. Plus snakes.” After her training was completed, Brock realized she was homesick for Canada, so she headed north to a position at the Animal Emergency Clinic in Vancouver.

With the clinic as her home base, Brock soon found many vets requesting her services, including Keller and Ford. “I help to reduce the risk and improve the outcome,” says Brock. “I take away any worry about anaesthesia.”

But eye operations can be tricky, she adds. Normally, the anaesthetist is at the animal’s head, monitoring signs – including changes in eye position – to indicate how the animal is doing. During eye surgery, though, the entire head is draped to keep the area sterile while the ophthalmologist is busy with a microscope and scalpel. “It’s a different kind of challenge,” says Brock. “I have to look at the rest of the body for very subtle signs and watch to see if the patient is reacting to something the surgeon is doing.”

The West Coast Veterinary Eye Clinic run by Keller and Ford is the only one of its kind in B.C. “We are definitely busy,” says Keller. “We try to cover the whole province; so that people don’t always have to bring the animals to us, we’ll travel to Vancouver Island and to the Okanagan.” Still, clients come from even further away, including the Yukon. The need is there, and the three vets are delighted to be able to bring the skills and knowledge they acquired at OVC to help animals on the far west side of the country.

Obviously, says Keller, the training at OVC is very good. Ford says that the internship in Minnesota is known for being tough: “I only had two days off in the entire year, and I couldn’t have coped with it if I wasn’t trained the way I was at OVC. Other people from other schools really struggled.”

One regular visitor to the West Coast eye clinic is Ford’s dog. “He’s blind and I bring him every day. When people are struggling with concerns about their own dogs going blind, I’ll ask, ‘What do you think of my dog?’ They are shocked to find out he is blind. He still fetches. He has a good life. People see that’s possible for their dog, too.”

In many cases, of course, they are able to preserve or restore the animal’s vision. Brock adds: “We’ve had patients who are completely blind, and they are so happy when they wake up after the surgery and can see again. I swear they are smiling. Their quality of life is so much enhanced.”

Read more about Ford, Keller and Brock at westcoastanimaleyes.com and nancybrockvetservices.com.
STACEY YUEN, B.Sc. ’03, says she wants to work herself out of a job, but that’s unlikely to happen anytime soon given the scope of her work with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). Chaired by former U.S. president Bill Clinton, CHAI’s work began with HIV/AIDS projects in Africa. “Ideally, we’re going to work ourselves out of a job because countries won’t need our help anymore,” she says.

While completing an MBA at ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain, Yuen received a Clinton Foundation-ESADE Fellowship and was deployed to Haiti as a CHAI intern soon after the earthquake struck in January 2010. She spent 14 weeks in earthquake-ravaged Port-Au-Prince, confirming donations from around the world and organizing a conference for delegates from Haiti, Canada, the United States and France who revamped Haiti’s medical school curriculum. Three of Haiti’s medical schools had been destroyed, and doctors and nurses needed specialized training to deal with the country’s new medical reality. The earthquake had robbed people of their limbs, creating as many as 200,000 amputees.

“A lot of people who were trapped in buildings after the earthquake had to have emergency amputations,” says Yuen, who was impressed by the perseverance of the Haitian people. “It’s going to be a really long reconstruction process for the country, and I hope people will stay engaged there and continue to give to Haiti.” She knows it will be a challenge to keep donations flowing as other natural disasters happen and claim news headlines.

After completing her MBA in 2011, Yuen accepted a CHAI position as a public health consultant in Central and West Africa. Her work in Cameroon, Benin, Burundi and Cote D’Ivoire involves national quantification activities to determine each country’s HIV/AIDS-related medical needs over the next five years.

Yuen’s involvement in charitable causes began in high school when she volunteered to walk dogs at the humane society. “I wanted to be a veterinarian, so I wanted to get as much hands-on experience as I could.” She first studied animal biology and zoology at U of G, but then switched to biological science and took elective finance courses taught by Prof. Francis Tapon that proved to be invaluable to her future career. She landed an internship at Burgundy Asset Management, a Toronto firm headed by Guelph alumnus Tony Arrell, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’67, and was hired full-time after graduation.

Yuen says Arrell made her feel right at home. “We have that Guelph connection, which is the preliminary icebreaker.” Beyond their alma mater, Yuen and Arrell also shared a common interest in philanthropy. “At Burgundy, they supported every cause I ever put on the table,” says Yuen. “Senior management and all the employees were very interested in seeing how they could do more from a philanthropic standpoint.”

BY SUSAN BUBAK
U of G Welcomed back more than 1,000 grads during Alumni Weekend from June 15 to 17. More than 30 reunion classes from across the decades celebrated important milestones. This year's reunion classes have donated over $6.7 million to the University in lifetime giving! View photos and highlights from the weekend at www.alumni.uoguelph.ca.

Plans are already underway for Alumni Weekend 2013. If you are planning a class reunion in 2013 or 2014, please email alumni.uoguelph.ca. Alumni Affairs and Development staff can help with the planning process and will invite you to a reunion organizers' meeting this fall.

Clockwise from top: A display of OVC memorabilia, books and instruments; James Murby, BSA '35, was honoured in anticipation of his 100th birthday later this year; a cake replica of the OVC Main Building; piper Dean Percy, DVM '57; and the OVC 150 celebration dinner.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL HOLM

U of G Has Many Reasons to Celebrate

It has been a special year for celebrating milestones within the University of Guelph community. Featured in this issue of The Portico, the University of Guelph-Humber celebrates its 10-year anniversary, and its alumni base is now more than 3,900 strong. Congratulations Guelph-Humber!

In June, we welcomed more than 1,000 alumni back to campus, each of them celebrating a special milestone. More than 30 class reunions - from 25 years to 63 years since graduation - were held. It was our privilege to spend the weekend meeting alumni and learning about the experiences that shaped who they have become today.

Close to 400 alumni and friends gathered at Creelman Hall for a special dinner during Alumni Weekend to help celebrate the Ontario Veterinary College's 150th anniversary - an event to honour the rich history of Canada's oldest veterinary school.

Looking forward to 2014, the University of Guelph will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its incorporation by the Ontario legislature. Please plan to join us in June 2014 as we celebrate a half century of excellence. The year 2014 will also mark the culmination of The BetterPlanet Project - the University's $200-million fundraising campaign.

Stay tuned for more details on U of G's 50th, Alumni Weekend 2013 and other reunion events. We look forward to celebrating the University and these important milestones with alumni and friends.

JASON MORETON
ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ADVANCEMENT

Fall 2012
COMING EVENTS

Sept. 15 • SOCS 40th Anniversary
Celebrate 40 years of growth and innovation with the School of Computer Science (formerly the Department of Computing and Information Science). Contact: Annie Benko, abenko@uoguelph.ca.

Sept. 21 • Men’s Basketball Reunion
Friday golf and social to celebrate the 1966 to 1976 decade, stay Saturday for a shoot-around, lunch and the Homecoming football game. Contact: Sam Kosakowski, skosakow@uoguelph.ca.

SEPT. 22 • HOMECOMING 2012
• Gryphon Football – Gryphons vs. Toronto, kick-off 1 p.m., tickets on sale at the Gryphon box office, 519-824-7974.
• Redmen Football Reunion – Remember the OAVC Redmen 1956 to 1966 and honour the 1962 football team’s 50th anniversary. The Tom Mooney Scholarship and four Redmen football scholarships will be awarded. Contact: Sam Kosakowski, skosakow@uoguelph.ca.
• Engineering AA AGM – Alumni association meeting followed by a complimentary lunch. Contact: Annie Benko, abenko@uoguelph.ca.
• CBS AA Disc Golf – Alumni tournament at the Arboretum, followed by a complimentary lunch. Contact: Annie Benko, abenko@uoguelph.ca.

REGISTER for all Homecoming events at www.alumni.uoguelph.ca.

Sept. 22 • SOLAL Reunion
Join alumni, faculty, staff and grad students for the annual School of Languages and Literatures wine-and-cheese reception at Alumni House, 5 to 7 p.m. Contact: Amanda Taylor, ataylor@uoguelph.ca.

Sept. 26 • MA Leadership Alumni and Student Mixer
U of G’s Brass Taps, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 • Men’s Soccer Alumni Reunion
Alumni pick-up match at noon, varsity game against Windsor at 3:15 p.m., dinner at the University Club at 6 p.m. Contact: Sam Kosakowski, skosakow@uoguelph.ca.

Oct. 13 • University of Guelph-Humber Open House
Alumni, family and friends are invited to celebrate the University’s 10th anniversary from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Guelph-Humber campus in Toronto. There will be live entertainment, food and a celebration of accomplishments. Visit celebrate.guelphhuber.ca/openhouse for details.

Nov. 1 • University of Guelph-Humber Alumni Reunion
All University of Guelph-Humber alumni are invited to attend an evening reception to honour the class of 2007. Visit guelphhuber.ca/alumni for more information.

Nov. 3 • OVC 150 Finale
Reunite with the OVC community and enjoy historical exhibits, dinner and a preview of the college’s 150th commemorative video. Contact Tara O’Brien at ovc150@uoguelph.ca for tickets and information.

Nov. 7 • EAA Industry Tour
Join fellow engineering grads for a tour of Rowan Williams Davies and Irwin (RWDI) in Guelph. Details at alumni.uoguelph.ca.

Nov. 8 to 11 • Fair November
Open Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nov. 17 • Hockey Day in Gryphonville
Join fellow hockey alumni, families and friends as we honour team “C” captains from 1949 through 1979. Visit us at https://facebook.com/HockeyDayinGryphonville.

Feb. 7 • Florida Winter Excursion
J.C. Cruises to Franklin Lock. Buffet cruise boards at 10:30 a.m., returns at 3:30 p.m., tickets $32.50 plus tax. For information, email bert.mitchell@tenell.net or call 941-921-6426.

March 6 • Florida Alumni Picnic
Maple Leaf Estates, 10 a.m., cost $20 per person for lunch. Make reservations with Lyle Rea at WLREA@comcast.net or 941-505-0183.

Find more alumni events at www.alumni.uoguelph.ca and visit the U of G home page for campus events open to the public.

Football Gala

T he second annual Gryphon coaches’ football gala was held May 4 at Cutten Fields in Guelph. Jay Glazer, senior writer for FoxSports.com, and Thomas Dimitroff, general manager of the Atlanta Falcons, were the featured guest speakers. More than 175 supporters and friends of Gryphon football attended.

Dimitroff, BA ’90, played five seasons with the Gryphons and was team captain from 1987 to 1989. His father, Tom Dimitroff Sr., coached the Gryphons from 1979 to 1983, and his brother, Randy, BA ’86, played for the squad that won the 1984 Vanier Cup. Randy’s son, Dillon, is also now a Gryphon. Dimitroff currently chairs the Department of Athletics fundraising activities.

More than $25,000 was raised at the event, with proceeds supporting the Gryphon football recruitment program.

The Gryphons will play this season in a newly renovated Alumni Stadium, with artificial turf for the players and a state-of-the-art video scoreboard for fans. The scoreboard features a 17-by-28-foot full-colour LED video display that will enhance not only football but other Gryphon events in track, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. The stadium expansion also includes a rubberized eight-lane International Athletic Federation-certified track.
UGAA Salutes Guelph-Humber

It’s hard to believe that it was just 10 years ago that the University of Guelph partnered with the Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning to build a revolutionary concept for post-secondary education in Ontario. In 2002, the University of Guelph-Humber was founded with just over 220 first-year students in three programs. The underlying vision was of a focused four-year program that would equip graduates with an honours U of G degree and a Humber diploma, and render them highly competitive in their chosen careers.

Fast forward to 2012 — Guelph-Humber alumni are a testament to the success of that bold vision. Many grads become leaders within their industries or successful scholars in graduate studies.

All Guelph-Humber grads are automatically members of the University of Guelph Alumni Association (UGAA). This is a lifelong membership with no fees. Together, we are an exclusive group of more than 99,000. UGAA is the voice and spirit of U of G alumni, offering grads privileged benefits, and empowering life-long relationships with each other and our alma mater. For more information on services and benefits, and for ways to stay connected to U of G, visit www.alumni.uoguelph.ca.

UGAA congratulates Guelph-Humber grads on the tremendous achievements of the last decade and are proud to count you among our alumni family. We look forward to another 10 years of alumni success.

BRAD ROONEY, ADA ’93, B.S.C.(AGR.) ’97
PRESIDENT, UGAA

HAFA HTM AA Golf

On June 25, the HAFA HTM Alumni Association hosted more than 60 golfers, including alumni and friends of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, at the Royal Woodbine Golf Course. Proceeds will support student scholarships and alumni activities. From left: Erin O’Brien, Andrew Garrett, David Larone and Jessica Portelance.

Engineering Complex Opens

On April 11, the first phase of U of G’s Engineering Complex officially opened. Alumnus Wolf Haessler is pictured front right with School of Engineering director Hussein Abdullah and students who may benefit from 20 new scholarships provided as part of his $1-million gift to the school.
This family’s on a mission

Donna Pridham, B.A.Sc. ’79, and her sister, Cheryl, enjoy running water at the school where they teach in Nigeria – as long as they draw bucketfuls from a dug well and carry the buckets up a ladder to fill a tank that feeds the house. They cook with propane indoors or outdoors with their students over a wood fire.

They’ve lived this lifestyle as missionaries in Nigeria for 26 years, following in the footsteps of their late aunt Edna, who also committed her life to working in Africa. Both Edna and Cheryl trained at Emmanuel Bible College in Kitchener, Ont. Donna and Cheryl were first posted to Kent Academy in Miango but have now taught many years at the Samaru Widows’ Training School at Samaru-Kataf. They work through SIM Canada, part of an international missionary organization.

The sisters have written for the SIM website about the difficulties faced by a widow in Nigeria where custom dictates that her in-laws have rights to all of her possessions and sometimes even the custody of her children. The Samaru school provides a three-year, live-in program in which teachers offer basic reading and life skills as well as training in work skills that can lead to employment.

Samaru-Kataf is located in Nigeria’s troubled Kaduna State, where problems of high unemployment and marginal health services are exacerbated by ongoing terrorism. A brick wall helps to protect the seven-acre school compound; it houses about 150 adult students, a dozen teachers and many children.

Several years ago, Donna and Cheryl expanded their mandate by seeking Canada, handling business and finance matters for missionaries working in Taiwan. He says he’s looking forward to catching up with things at U of G and reconnecting with classmates from OAC ’67.

1950s
- Richard Philp, DVM ’57, recently published Environmental Issues for the Twenty-First Century and Their Impact on Human Health as an e-book through Bentham Science Publishers. It discusses pressing environmental issues that conflict with human activities. Philip is an emeritus professor at Western University in London, Ont., where he taught pharmacology and toxicology for many years.

1960s
- Jacob Leyenaar, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’67, and his wife returned to Canada from the Philippines in July 2011 and settled in London, Ont. He works half-time with SEND International of Canada, handling business and finance matters for missionaries working in Taiwan. He says he’s looking forward to catching up with things at U of G and reconnecting with classmates from OAC ’67.
donations to help pay the school fees for some of those children whose widowed mothers have little education themselves and can’t afford annual fees of $350 to $1,200 Cdn per child.

The commitment demonstrated by Donna and Cheryl has drawn support from numerous family members and friends, including their brother Ed Pridham, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’72, who farms near Stayner, Ont., and cousin Don Johnson, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’73, who is a realtor in Burlington. The two Aggies have made several trips to the Samaru, where they say a little bit of time, effort and money can make incredible improvements in living conditions at the school.

“Our experience demonstrates that there are numerous opportunities to ease the lives of those in less privileged circumstances,” says Ed, who finds his own efforts amply rewarded by friendships and connections made with the people of Samaru.

During a 10-day visit last December, he and Johnson supervised major upgrades to the drinking water and drainage systems in the compound. Johnson had arranged for two 100-foot wells to be drilled last summer in preparation for the visit. They were accompanied by another cousin, Barry McLaughlin, of Boston, who helped engineer the piping; they also installed solar power and lighting systems and began some soil stabilization work around the buildings.

They enjoyed dry weather and seasonal low temperatures of about 32C and were able to complete the work by recruiting and training a team of about 25 young men from the local village, teaching them basic carpentry and masonry skills as well as team-building and leadership skills. Johnson and Pridham take pride in knowing that the young men have continued to work together and have since built cement wash stations at the school and completed an additional water line to another portion of the compound.

The men communicated through hand signals if neither Donna nor Cheryl was available to translate their instructions into the language of the local village or the Tyap tribe; Pridham says there are over 400 different dialects in Nigeria.

Johnson plans another trip this December to continue work on a surface-water drainage system, and to replace the roofs and renovate two of the school’s dormitories. He says a third project to develop and install electrical lighting systems throughout the compound is on the drawing board for 2013/2014.

To learn more about the Samaru-Kataf Widows’ Training School, visit www.sim-nigeria.org. To hear more about their personal experiences, contact Johnson at teamjohn@idirect.com and Pridham at epridham@zing-net.ca.

1970

Julianne (Stonehill Koivisto) Barlow, B.A.Sc. ’79, is a pastor in Calgary. She celebrated the completion of her Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., on May 20.

Wayne Caston, M.Sc. ’77, has retired from Golder Associates Ltd., where he was a senior specialist in aggregate resources. Previously, he was the natural resource manager for the Canadian operations of Nestlé Waters North America. He consults in resources planning and management and is a dealer in antique maps. He is also active in the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario as chair of the discipline committee and a member of the registration committee; he served as a councillor from 2003 to 2006. Caston belongs to Waterloo Region’s ecological and environmental advisory committee.
and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. After a gap of 34 years, he has returned to flying sailplanes but has yet to resume being a pilot/instructor.

- **Deborah Frame**, B.Sc. ’75, of Newcastle, Ont., worked recently as an occasional teacher and will soon begin a two-year teaching stint in Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Donald Kindt**, B.Sc. ’77, retired last year and returned to Ontario after 33 years in the Northwest Territories. He lives in Rideau Ferry.
- **Patricia Anne McGoldrick**, BA ’75 and MA ’89, wrote a poem called “Territorial Preserve” that was included in the anthology Animal Companions, Animal Doctors, Animal People that was published by the Ontario Veterinary College this year as part of its 150th-anniversary celebration.
- **Jean Wilson**, B.Sc. ’75, is a United Church minister now retired to her home in Grafton, Ont., with her husband, John, where she continues to work in interim ministry. Their daughter Christina, B.Sc. ’02, is teaching, and daughter Rebecca is an educational assistant and single parent to their 13-year-old grandson, Andrew.
- **Christopher Wren**, B.Sc. ’77 and PhD ’83, recently published the results of an eight-year study in Sudbury, Ont., on impacts of smelter emissions on human health and the natural environment. The textbook is called Risk Assessment and Environmental Management: A Case Study in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. It was edited by Wren for Maralte Publishing while under assignment to Laurentian University, where he also developed and taught a course in risk assessment. After graduating from U of G, Wren worked as an environmental consultant for almost 25 years with Guelph-area companies and ran his own firm for several years; he still lectures occasionally at U of G. He and his wife, Lisa Guenther-Wren, B.Sc. ’98 and M.Sc. ’03, live on a 72-acre sheep farm near Markdale, where they both work as environmental consultants. Chris recently visited Ghana as an adviser for environmental studies at a West African gold mine.

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**1980s**

- **Grahame W. Booker**, MA ’80, earned a PhD in philosophy from the University of Waterloo in 2009.
- **Cheryl Taylor**, B.Sc. ’89, found the job market difficult after leaving U of G and subsequently ventured into nursing. She graduated from Sheridan College in 1994 before going to North Carolina “to watch the great big hurricanes.” She lived through three storms over four years and says Hurricane Fran was the most memorable. Now living in Cambridge-Narrows, N.B., she has devoted her life to helping others and says, “Glad I spent my time at Guelph as a youth, and miss the university scene. Come on out to New Brunswick: great scenery, less pollution than Ontario.”
- **Pat Tracey**, ADA ’83 and BA ’87, is assistant head coach and
defensive co-ordinator at Queen's University. He was a member of the CIS/CFL coaching contingent as a guest coach and conference speaker in February at the 2012 Norway Football Federation national team camp in Oslo. Last summer he was named the special teams/defensive back coach for Team Canada at the IFAF Senior World Football Championships in Vienna, Austria. This was Canada's first entry at the senior level, and the team won the silver medal. Tracey won a gold medal at the world championship in 2007 as a coach with the junior national team. This season will be Tracey's 25th as a defensive coach; his 104 career wins make an Ontario University Athletics record.

1990s

- Jacquelyn Hollywood-Brown, B.Sc. '90 and M.Sc. '93, became president of the Professional Organizers in Canada association in 2011. She lives in Trenton, Ont., with her husband, Kevin, and two children.
- Scott Butler, BA '98, manager of policy and research for the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA), organized the 2012 combined conference for OGRA and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association held in Toronto in February. The conference is one of the largest annual gatherings of municipal leaders in Canada. U of G president Alastair Summerlee was a panellist in a plenary session linking municipalities to Ontario's institutions of higher education.
- Janis Fedorowick, MLA '92, writes under the pen name J. Philip and recently self-published a historical novel called The Silent Canoe. The book describes the founding of Toronto and the two decades before the War of 1812. The battles of Queenston Heights and Amherstburg are included in the story as well as the debate on slavery at the 1792 session of parliament in Navy Hall. “My intention is to convey the history of Upper Canada to people who would not normally purchase a non-fiction book,” she says. For details, visit www.thesilentcanoe.com.
- Aleks Oniszczak, BA '97, and his wife are expecting twins in November. They live in San Francisco, where he continues his career as a user-experience researcher in human-computer interaction.
- Cheryl (Custance) Van Every, BA '96, finished a post-graduate certificate program as a career development practitioner in 2010.
- Michelle Winkel, BA '93, of Victoria, B.C., recently published a book Graphic Facilitation and Art Therapy: Imagery and Metaphor in Organizational Development, with Maxine Borowsky Junge. The book is available on Amazon.

2000s

- Janice Canning, B.Sc. '09, is a lay chaplain with the Unitarian congregation of Guelph.
- Alex Folkl, B.Sc. '06 and M.Sc. '08, graduated in May as an MD from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He is in residency at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., in the family/emergency medicine program. He and his wife, Kathryn, M.Sc. '04, had a baby, John, in December 2011.
- Michelle Le Chien, BA '05, is the new executive director of the Arts Council Windsor and Region. Besides her degree in art history, she has experience in curating and arts administration. She has served as assistant curator and registrar of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery in Owen Sound, Ont., and director of the Leamington Arts Centre. She also hosted a weekly television program, and is active in curating and arts administration.

3,300 degrees at June convocation

Ten honorary degrees were presented during June convocation. Among the recipients were three U of G alumni, environmental activist David Suzuki and comedian Rick Mercer. Graduating students totalled more than 3,300 during four days of ceremonies. This convocation also marked the installation of Canadian theatre producer David Mirvish as the University’s eighth chancellor.

Honorary degrees were presented to:

- Tony Arrell, B.Sc.(Agr.) '67, chairman and CEO of Burgundy Asset Management, a top-tier international investment management firm;
- George Cohon, founder of McDonald’s restaurants in Canada and Russia, and a philanthropist and humanitarian;
- Stanley Coren, psychology professor, neuropsychological researcher and bestselling author of books on the intelligence and history of dogs;
- Ian Dohoo, DVM '76 and PhD '83, a veterinary epidemiologist and founding member of the Atlantic Veterinary College;
- Motilal Madan, global veterinarian renown for efforts to better people, animals and the environment in India;
- Sylvia Maracle, executive director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and advocate for urban Aboriginal people;
- Rick Mercer, star of CBC TV’s The Rick Mercer Report and social advocate for issues such as youth voting and the environment;
- John McDermott, DVM '81 and PhD '90, a former professor at the Ontario Veterinary College and advocate for the use of livestock to improve the lives of farmers in developing countries;
- David Suzuki, environmental activist, geneticist and science advocate, and former host of CBC TV’s The Nature of Things; and
- Wendy Swedlove, president of the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council.
Finding birds of a feather

Kevin Kerr, B.Sc. ’04 and PhD ’10, is an expert in DNA barcoding of birds, but he got his start by throwing a childhood tantrum in a bookstore. “My parents tell me I was about four; I picked up a bird book in the store and threw a tantrum. They bought the book.”

He’s been a birder ever since. Besides using books and binoculars in the field, Kerr has become an authority in the lab in using genetics to identify avian species. He completed graduate research in U of G’s Biodiversity Institute of Ontario and a 2011 post-doc at the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of Natural History. He’s now midway through a post-doc in the natural history department of the Royal Ontario Museum. Working with Allan Baker, senior curator of ornithology, Kerr is studying genome evolution to learn more about how birds perform high-energy tasks such as long flights and dives.

Read more about Kerr’s research in The Portico online: www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.ca.

Karen Sibrian, B.A.Sc. in Justice Studies ’08, is a naval communicator based in Victoria, B.C. She writes: “After graduation I decided to enlist in the Canadian Navy. Since then, I have travelled the world and participated in exercises involving different navies. I still stay true to my area of education by volunteering for Corrections Canada during the short periods of time I get to come back home.”

Amanpreet Sidhu, B.A.A. in Media Studies, ’07, is now married and works in casting/research for Cineflix Productions Inc., one of North America’s largest television production companies.

Christine Mills, B.Sc. in Engineering ’00, writes to say how happy she is that her husband, Keith, an engineering officer in the Canadian Forces, made it home safely after being deployed to Afghanistan. Now living in Guelph, she also sends greetings to other residents of Mountain Valley, 1994-1995.

Jesse Miller, B.Comp. ’04, and Benjamin Coe, B.Comp. ’08 and M.Sc. ’10, started their online company, attachments.me, in Toronto. They moved to San Francisco after receiving venture funding from Foundry Group. They help businesses and individuals save email attachments from a browser or smartphone and find them again easily.

Michelle Sturino, B.A.A. ’06, was one of the first University of Guelph-Humber students to join a U of G varsity sports team. She played varsity rugby and has since converted her...
sports knowledge and Guelph-Humber media studies into a career in sports broadcasting. She is currently a sports anchor with Sportsnet World.

- Samuel Wahab, M.Sc.(Plan.) ’05, recently completed a PhD in planning at the University of Waterloo School of Planning.
- Andrew Walsh, MA ’03, and Monica (Ounjian) Walsh, B.Sc. ’04, were married Sept. 19, 2009, and welcomed a son, Leo Edward Andrew Walsh, in Reading, England, on March 9, 2012.
- Victoria Wojcik, B.Sc. ’04, is program manager for Pollinator Partnership, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco. She is assessing the ecological and environmental benefits of pollinator conservation programs in agricultural systems.

2010s
- David Barnwell, B.A.Comp. ’10, is network administrator for the City of Brampton. While attending the University of Guelph-Humber, he worked at a seniors’ recreation facility owned by the city. Talking with his supervisor about the Guelph-Humber IT program led to an introduction to a city hall manager, and that eventually led to a temporary job and then a contract position. “That was December 2009. I am still gainfully employed, and have already seen myself go through one promotion. Networking helps.”
- Julia Del Monte, BA ’12, is newly enrolled in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.
- Rebecca Hannam, B.Comm. ’12, recently graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) and is proud of her grain farming roots. She’s working as an account manager with RBC.

Grad gets glowing

Angela Liddon, BA ’06, says she became a vegan after years of unhealthy eating habits, but she didn’t lose her sweet tooth. Her online vegan bakery - globakery.com - features homemade energy bars made by hand with names like “chocolate brownie bomb.”

She first changed her own diet, then started a blog to document her progress and share recipes with others. Many of her blog followers eventually became her customers when she launched the bakery business.

Liddon makes all of her products in her Milton, Ont., home and packages them herself. Her recipes are the result of experimenting with different ingredients and modifying family recipes to make them vegan-friendly. She has been featured in the National Post and health magazines like Self.

She still blogs to promote a healthy lifestyle focused on natural food ingredients and exercise. As part of her own fitness routine, she began running and has participated in half-marathons.

Read more about Liddon in The Portico online: www.uoguelph.ca/theportico.ca.
Royal Bank and does freelance writing, her skills acquired while working as a student writer in U of G’s SPARK program. Rebecca’s parents are Robert Hannam and Paula Bodendistel, and she has fourth-generation OAC bragging rights that began with her great-great uncle Herbert Hannam, B.A. ’26. Other U of G grads in Rebecca’s family include her grandfather, Peter Hannam, B.A. ’62 and H.D.Sc. ’07; her aunt, Carol Hannam, B.Sc. ’88 and Ph.D. ’14; her uncle, Greg Hannam, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’93; and his wife Lisa (Storie) Hannam, B.Comm. ’93.

■ Courtney Kiss, B.Sc. ’10, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a master’s degree in genetic counseling in May.


■ Cristy Nurse, BA ’08, was a member of the women’s eight rowing team representing Canada at the London Olympics, but an untimely back injury forced her to sit out the team’s silver-medal performance. She is also a two-time world championship silver medalist in the women’s eight in 2010 and 2011. She played a year of varsity basketball at U of G and is in her final year of law studies at the University of Ottawa. Raised on a dairy farm near Georgetown, Ont., she began rowing in 2006 while interning at a Mississauga firm near the Don Rowing Club.

Craig B. Bennett, B.Sc. ’76, Date unknown
John B. Bennett, D.V.M. ’51, April 2, 2012
Eric Broughton, D.V.M. ’55, April 17, 2012
Robert Burrage, B.S.A. ’49, July 2, 2012
Larry M. Campbell, B.S.A. ’63, April 27, 2012
Doris (McCallum) Christenson, D.H.E. ’38, in 2008
Ivan Christiaens, B.Sc.(Eng.) ’78, May 5, 2012
William Costerton, H.D.Sc. ’02, May 12, 2012
John G. D. Cunningham, B.Com. ’76, April 23, 2012
Everett Doherty, B.S.A. ’54, April 12, 2012
Brian G. Donaldson, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’73, April 24, 2012
Winston Dummett, M.S.A. ’58, in 2009
Mark S. Fletcher, B.Sc.(Agr.) ’78, April 21, 2012
Erla (Holmes) Hall, D.H.E. ’48, May 16, 2012
W. David Hopper, H.D.La. ’92, Nov. 24, 2011
James R. Hysen, D.V.M. ’80, June 10, 2012
Mary (Counter) Kelly, D.H.E. ’38, May 5, 2012
R. Stewart Little, D.V.M. ’50, Nov. 13, 2010
Gretchen M. MacMillan, B.A. ’70, March 14, 2012
Susan A. Mainka, D.V.M. ’80, Feb. 12, 2012
Frederick C. Mansbridge, D.V.M. ’54, April 22, 2012
Lisa M. Montanera, M.P.H. ’10, Jan. 18, 2012
David W. Morley, D.V.M. ’68, May 5, 2012
Irene (Kennedy) Munnings, B.S.A. ’39, June 30, 2012
Patricia M. Murray, O.D.H. ’85, April 1, 2011
Bernard Perrior, B.A. ’77, April 8, 2012
Bruce G. Robertson, B.S.A. ’59, June 22, 2012
Donald A. Shields, B.S.A. ’50, April 13, 2012
Peter Schippers, B.A. ’78, April 4, 2012
Wylie M. Smith, D.V.M. ’49, July 14, 2012
W. Ronald Vance, B.S.A. ’51, June 21, 2012
Maurice W. Wood, B.S.A. ’55, June 8, 2012

FACULTY & STAFF
Douglas Waterston, former director of information, June 13, 2012

To honour alumni who have passed away, the University of Guelph Alumni Association makes an annual donation to the Alumni Legacy Scholarship.

CORRECTION
The names of Clifton Carss and Douglas McLaren, both B.S.A. ’50, were wrongly included in Passages in the summer 2012 issue. The Portico editorial team and Alumni Affairs and Development apologize for the error.
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