

A look back at what made 2011 great!

Leading Change – OAC 2011

As Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) at the University of Guelph, I am pleased to share with you this edition of FACE >forward. In this Year in Review edition, we take a look back at 2011 to highlight a few examples of OAC's contributions to research, education and community outreach across our pillars of Food, Agriculture, Community and Environment.

To meet the changing and emerging needs of the global society we serve, OAC constantly embraces new ways of thinking about food production and research, new definitions of innovation for agriculture and the environment, and new approaches to teaching and sharing knowledge.

It is part of our unique tradition and confidence in the future that we engage, support and grow our students. This year's enrolment includes 1,814 undergraduates, 702 graduate students in more than 15 specialized programs of study, and 884 diploma students.

As a founding college of the University of Guelph, OAC has taken a leadership role within the University's largest capital campaign – the BetterPlanet Project – which aims to accelerate innovation for a better quality of life for everyone. Since 1874, OAC has created leaders in agriculture, food, community development and the environment. With some 22,000 living alumni around the world, our graduates have not only influenced the course of economic prosperity in Ontario, but also nationally and internationally.

Thank you for your interest and support. Together, we will continue to grow OAC, educate tomorrow's leaders and pioneer real-life solutions.

Robert Gordon
Dean, Ontario Agricultural College
Guelph • Alfred • Kemptville • Ridgetown

V Unique learning opportunities abound at OAC. An annual highlight is the MidWest tour, a field study course through the heartland of American farming and agribusiness.



2011



> **Aphid Advisor, a smart phone application developed by OAC researchers made its debut at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show.** Farmers can use the app to decide whether or not to use insecticide to control aphids on soybeans, based on numbers of aphids and their natural enemies. The app was developed by **Rebecca Hallett** (School of Environmental Sciences); **Tracey Baute** (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs); and **Christie Bahlai**, (graduate student in the School of Environmental Sciences).



> **U of G launched a multi-university research project intended to benefit the world's \$11-billion dry bean industry and headed by Peter Pauls**, chair of the department of Plant Agriculture. Involving nine researchers at three universities, the project aims to produce a draft genome sequence for dry beans and develop genetic markers for improved varieties and disease-resistance.

> As the head of the two-year-old NSERC Bioconversion Network based at U of G, **Hung Lee** (School of Environmental Sciences) **continues to research ways to make ethanol out of waste biomass from forests and farms, holding out the promise of new fuels and industrial chemicals.**

> Collaborating with the OVC Teaching Hospital to adapt their MRI scanner, **Massimo Marcone** (Food Science) **led research to chemically analyze an 1895 bottle of Vin Mariani without having to uncork it.** Created in the 1800s, Vin Mariani is a mix of Bordeaux wine and cocaine.

> **Two researchers in the School of Environmental Sciences received \$4 million in funding from the federal government's Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Program.** **Claudia Wagner-Riddle** focuses on livestock and crop production systems in the dairy sector, examining new and refined management practices and improved feeding strategies. **Andy Gordon** and **Naresh Thevathasan** focus on agroforestry, looking at tree-based intercropping, a European agricultural practice that incorporates trees into cultivated areas to both reduce emissions and increase a farm's profit potential.

> **Kemptville Campus is now at the leading edge of dairy technology**, with the opening of the Dairy Education and Innovation Centre under the leadership of **Trevor DeVries**. The facility features a Lely robotic milking system, the only one of its kind in a Canadian teaching barn. The Kemptville College Foundation and the Kemptville College Alumni Association contributed \$380,000 to the project. Additional support came from the **Dairy Farmers of Ontario** and the **Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario**.

> **Spencer Henson** (Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics) **was appointed a University of Guelph Professorship in the Economics of Food, Diet and Development, for a five-year term to 2015.**

> In October, **the U of G received \$5.2 million from the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program.** From OAC, **Alejandro Marangoni** (Food Science), a Tier 2 CRC since 2001, was appointed Tier 1 in his research of fats and oils to improve consumer health. A Tier 2 chair was renewed for **Milena Corredig** (Food Science) who is developing ways to include health-enhancing ingredients in food products.

> As the inaugural Loblaw Chair in Sustainable Food Production, **Ralph Martin will develop and implement a national program in sustainable food production that brings together producers, processors, retailers and consumers.** The Chair is the first of its kind in North America.



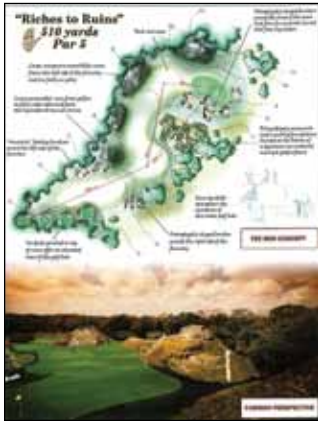
> **OAC gained a new partnership to establish the Egg Farmers of Canada Research Chair in Poultry Welfare – Tina Widowski**, professor in Animal and Poultry Science and director of the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare, will collaborate with researchers on laying hen welfare and egg production.



Students

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- > At June convocation, the first cohort of students in **the Equine Management major of Canada's only Bachelor of Bio-Resource Management** program received their degrees.
- > Ridgetown Campus had its largest graduating class of 303 diploma and certificate recipients.
- > From insect surveys through biodiversity research to the care and feeding of an organic dairy herd, almost 300 undergraduate, diploma and high school students were working across OAC units and Campuses this summer.



- > Fore! – **Riley Johns**, a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) student, **submits the winning entry in the 2011 Mission Hills Fantasy Golf Hole Contest**; **Brendan McKee**, BLA student, **is a recipient of the 2011 Walter J. Travis Society Scholarship for students pursuing careers in golf course and turfgrass professions**; **Christine Fraser**, Masters of Landscape Architecture student, **led the U of G women's golf team to bronze at the Ontario University Athletic Championships**.

- > **The title "Best Student Weed Scientists" in North America was claimed by a team of OAC undergraduates** at the 2011 Weed Olympics at the University of Tennessee, having advanced to overall top standing against teams from 17 top American agricultural universities.



- > **Elizabeth MacInerney is the first graduate of the new on-line certificate in Sustainable Urban Horticulture**. Since a fall 2010 launch, the programs in Sustainable Urban Horticulture and Sustainable Urban Agriculture have attracted enrolment from across Canada, as well as California, Virginia, Colorado, Bahamas and the West Indies.



- > **Animal Science students earned gold standing at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge held in Hickory, North Carolina**. Each team developed recommendations for nutrition reproduction, milking procedures, animal health, housing and financial management based on business analysis and a walk-through of an operating dairy. Organized by North Carolina State University and Virginia Tech, the 10th annual contest attracted 127 students from 30 universities across the United States and Canada.

- > **The University of Guelph swept the 2011 Animal Welfare Judging Competition, besting teams from across North America to win first place in all three divisions: undergraduate, DVM and graduate**. Held at Michigan State University, the event attracted 20 teams from across the continent. Uniquely, the U of G team is made up of students from both OAC and OVC.



- > **Students from the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development have been helping Goderich, Ont. with the development of design concepts and plans for public spaces following widespread damage sustained when a powerful tornado struck "Canada's Prettiest Town" on August 21.**



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Community

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> **Celebrations of the 30th anniversary of Campus d'Alfred kicked off September 22 at the International Plowing March.**

> **National honours for Ridgetown researchers were presented** at the Plant Canada annual meeting in Halifax. **Art Schaafsma** was named a **Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy** in recognition of his research on fighting mycotoxins in grain crops. **Katelyn Congreves**, a PhD student working with **Laura Van Eerd**, received the Best Oral Presentation Award from the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science.

> **Food scientists Rickey Yada and Shai Barbut were named Fellows of the Institute of Food Technologists**, a non-profit scientific society working to advance the science of food, food safety and food sustainability.



> In August, the **Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare** hosted the **5th international conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at the Farm and Group Level** to discuss existing and emerging animal welfare assessment methods, including those used in zoos and laboratories.

> **An official opening was held in October for the newly renovated and named Alexander Hall.** The former Axelrod building has been revamped to bring together faculty and students from a variety of departments, including the School of Environmental Sciences and the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. Construction started in 2009 with federal and provincial funding provided under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

> **George Thurtell (OAC '57) is the newest inductee to the Order of OAC.**

> At the 2011 Southwest Agricultural Conference at Ridgetown Campus, **Maizex Seeds announced a gift of \$150,000 towards the construction of a new east wing for Ridgetown's Reek Building** – a \$3.5 million capital project to improve student services and classroom space.



> **The Kenneth W. Knox Fund under the OAC Learning Trust has been established to enrich the student experience and provide opportunities beyond the classroom.** **Kenneth Knox** (OAC '72), president and CEO of the Innovation Institute of Ontario, received an honorary doctorate from the U of G at winter convocation.

> **Some 1500 high school students in Specialist High Skills Majors got a preview of life at OAC during six specially designed Reach Ahead Days.** The students came from 25 different schools and ten school boards. Meanwhile, 117 educators from 25 school boards shared research and teaching initiatives with OAC faculty and representatives from the Ministry of Education in support of the high skills majors during professional development days. OAC's student liaison efforts are funded by Knowledge Translation & Transfer (KTT) under the OMAFRA/UofG Partnership.



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For your free subscription, email us at oacinfo@uoguelph.ca

OAC Communications & Public Affairs Coordinator

Mary Thring > mthring@uoguelph.ca

Communications Assistant

Nancy Orso > norso@uoguelph.ca

Associate Dean, External Relations

Rene Van Acker > vanacker@uoguelph.ca

Design > Deuce Design

FACE >forward is published three times per year by the OAC Dean's Office, Johnston Hall, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1

Inquiries: 519-824-4120 ext 58782

Fax: 519-766-1423

Website: www.oac.uoguelph.ca

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Submit news, photos, upcoming events to Nancy Orso, OAC Communications Assistant, norso@uoguelph.ca