

*A look back at what made 2010 great!*

## Building Capacity for Leadership – OAC 2010


As Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) at the University of Guelph, I am pleased to share with you this *Year in Review* edition of *FACE >forward* which takes a look back at some of the key developments and stories that highlight OAC's accomplishments in research, education and service over the last twelve months.

Although OAC's mandate to provide leadership for food, agriculture, the environment and rural communities hasn't changed, our activities and research efforts continually evolve to meet the changing and emerging needs of the global society we serve. This requires new ways of thinking about food production and research, new approaches to teaching and sharing knowledge, and new definitions of innovation. One such example is a partnership forged with Loblaw Companies Limited which initiated the creation of a new Chair in Sustainable Food Production and marked the first in a series of alliances to build greater connections with the broader food and agriculture sector.

Further extending OAC's efforts in providing practical, real-world solutions for society's most pressing needs is the BetterPlanet Project launched in September. The campaign's four theme areas of food, the environment, human and animal health, and communities closely parallel OAC's core areas of strength and traditional commitment to research, teaching and service in food, agriculture, rural communities and the environment. As a founding college of the U of G, we are proud to take a leadership role within this important campaign which aims to raise \$200 million by 2014, when the University will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

If you are looking for a way to impact learning and innovation through the BetterPlanet Project, contact Morag Stewart, OAC Alumni Advancement Manager ([mostewar@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mostewar@uoguelph.ca)), or Paul Klosler, OAC Senior Development Manager ([pklosler@uoguelph.ca](mailto:pklosler@uoguelph.ca)), or visit: <http://thebetterplanetproject.ca/>

Together, we will continue to grow OAC, pioneer real-life solutions, and shape tomorrow's leaders.



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



> A gift of \$100,000 from **Dr. Norman** (OAC '39) and **Jessie Thompson**, **boosts OAC's bean genomics and breeding research program** to further improve disease resistance in bean varieties and to diversify the genetic base of common beans by introducing new traits such as enhanced nutraceutical content.

> Two new on-line certificate programs – Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Urban Horticulture – are developed through Plant Agriculture, the Royal Botanical Gardens and the Office of Open Learning for a fall intake.

> **OAC welcomes new advancement team** – **Paul Klosler** as Senior Development Manager and **Morag Stewart** as Alumni Advancement Manager.

> **Terry Daynard** (OAC '65), former OAC faculty member and associate dean (research and innovation) **is named an inductee into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame.**

> As Haiti grapples with the aftermath of a catastrophic earthquake, **Manish Raizada** (Plant Agriculture) **sets up a lab aimed at improving the lives of Haitians and limiting the destruction caused by natural disasters.** Raizada investigates how indigenous and innovative agricultural techniques can better the livelihoods of Haitian farmers as well as prevent devastating mudslides following natural disasters.

> At winter convocation, **Maurice Edward (Ted) Bilyea**, a world-renowned expert on international trade, food and agriculture issues and former executive vice-president of Maple Leaf Foods, receives the 2009 H.R. MacMillan Laureate in Agriculture,

**a \$10,000 award given every five years to an individual who has made the most significant contribution to agriculture in Canada during the preceding five years.**



> Two research projects, led by faculty in Plant Agriculture, **receive more than \$7.2 million in provincial support** for enhancing the university's reputation in revolutionizing agriculture. **Peter Pauls leads nine researchers in a \$3.7-million initiative to produce a draft genomic sequence of dry beans and develop genetic markers for improved varieties.** With a \$3.5 million grant, **Amar Mohanty heads a seven-member team of researchers from four Ontario universities making new industrial bioproducts from bioresources.**

> Varroa mites are found to be the main culprit behind mysterious die-offs of honeybee colonies that have alarmed beekeepers, crop growers and the general public over the past three years. A study led by **Ernesto Guzman** (School of Environmental Sciences) is published in the journal *Apidologie*, and finds that the parasitic mites were responsible for more than 85 per cent of honeybee colony mortality in Ontario.

> Food scientist, **Massimo Marcone**, **travelled the globe in search of bizarre eatables viewed as delicacies by different cultures** and investigated the science behind their unique tastes. He captures his adventures in a new book, *Acquired Tastes: On the Trail of the World's Most Sought-After Delicacies.*

> Greening Dairy's Future is the theme of the 6th annual conference on Organic Dairying and Dairy Research held March 18-19 at **Campus d'Alfred.**

> Retiring OAC faculty members – **Peter Kevan, Don Reid and Keith Solomon** – **are appointed University Professor Emeriti.**



- > Thanks to a **\$3-million gift from Loblaw Companies Limited**, a new Chair in Sustainable Food Production is created to provide leadership to U of G's research focus on the creation of robust food production systems. Based in Plant Agriculture, the position will help lead change in food production systems through education, research, practice and outreach within the context of the essential elements of sustainability: the environment, communities and the economy.
- > **Yoshinori Mine** (Food Science) **discovers a way to help children build a tolerance to food allergies**. His research finds that mice predisposed to an egg allergy became desensitized to the allergen after repeatedly ingesting only a portion of the protein known to trigger the allergic reaction.
- > Researchers in Plant Agriculture plan to repopulate American elms by developing new techniques for cloning and producing trees resistant to its biggest killer – Dutch elm disease. **Praveen Saxena** and **Alan Sullivan** aim to bring back the American elm population through micropropagation, based on selecting tissue samples from surviving disease-resistant trees.

- > **Animal and Poultry Science students win Second Place Platinum standing at the ninth annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge** held in Visalia, California. Coached by **John Walton**, team members include **Steven Larmer, Martina Pfister, Caitlin Shirreff,** and **Ryan Wynands**.
- > Food Science students **Derek Vella, Aneta Rybak** and **Brittany Huschka** **are awarded third-place honours at the 2010 Culinology Competition hosted by the Research Chefs of America** in conjunction with their conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. Their entry is Calabaza Black Bean Crepes with a Citrus Quinoa Salad.



- > At OAC's Alumni Foundation's 50th anniversary celebration held on May 6, **Gwen Paddock** (OAC '85) **is presented with OAC's Outstanding Service Award and Lois Stockton is inducted into the Order of OAC.**



- > **Ridgetown campus receives an investment of more than \$2.63 million** towards bio-economy research for the construction of an anaerobic digester and demonstration lab through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

- > In May, **landscape architecture and international development students design and build a park** to grow community spirit and hope in Barrio Grenada, one of the poorest communities in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.



- > On June 16, **degrees are conferred upon the first cohort of students in Canada's only Bachelor of Bio-Resource Management (BBRM) program**. They began their studies in the program's Environmental Management major at the Ridgetown campus in Fall 2006.
- > **Fortieth anniversary celebrations** for the Arboretum kick off on June 19.
- > The first alumni reunion for the Rural Planning and Development program (School of Environmental Design and Rural Development) is held June 25-27 to **celebrate its 30-year history of bringing a teaching and research focus to rural livelihoods and related policy**.

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## Fall 2010

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> **The BetterPlanet Project**, the largest capital campaign in U of G history, is **launched to raise investments of more than \$200 million to accelerate research to help people around the world improve the quality of their food, their environment, their health and communities.**



> **Claude Naud is appointed for a five-year term to the position of Director for Kemptville campus**, to provide vision and direction for all activities at Kemptville and its affiliated research station locations at Winchester, New Liskeard, and Emo.

> **Peter Pauls is appointed Chair of Plant Agriculture for a five-year term** to enhance the department's academic programs and administrative leadership capacity.

> After months of construction, **the OAC Program Counselling Office opens in the main foyer of Johnston Hall** to serve the students of the BSc(Agr), BSc(Env) and Bachelor of Bio-Resource Management (BBRM) programs.

> **OAC student numbers increase with enrollments up again in OAC programs this year over last year.** Notably, enrollment in the BSc(Agr) grew approximately 20% over last year and enrollments in OAC diploma programs, in particular those offered at Ridgetown campus, are significantly greater than last year.

> **Two outstanding OAC alumni – Bertram (Bert) Stewart** (OAC '54) and the Honourable **Lyle Vanclief** (OAC '66) – are inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame on November 7 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

> **Glenn Fox** (Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics) is named **a Fellow of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society.** The Society's highest honour, it recognizes Fox's years of innovative scholarship and productive service.

> Four OAC faculty members are recognized for their outstanding leadership by the OAC Alumni Association and Foundation at the college's third annual Welcome Back Barbecue held on September 21. **John Lauzon, OAC Alumni Distinguished Extension Award 2010; Elizabeth Lee, OAC Alumni Distinguished Researcher Award 2010; Gary Parkin, OAC Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award 2010; Emmanuelle Arnaud, 2010 G.P. McRostie Award.**



> U of G's commitment to animal welfare is strengthened by the appointment of three animal welfare scientists to chair positions: **Tina Widowski** (Animal & Poultry Science), **the Col. K. L. Campbell University Chair in Animal Welfare; Ian Duncan** (Animal & Poultry Science), **Emeritus Chair of Animal Welfare; Lee Niel** (Population Medicine) **the Col. K.L. Campbell Chair in Companion Animal Welfare.**



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