

The BetterPlanet Project: Largest capital campaign in U of G history officially launched

In 2014, the University of Guelph will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Among the festivities that will be planned to honour that important milestone is the celebration of the successful conclusion of a new fundraising campaign announced by president Alastair Summerlee in September 2010.

Described as ‘a plan for change and a call for action,’ the BetterPlanet Project is designed to accelerate research that will help people around the world improve the quality of their food, their environment, their health and their communities. These are areas in which U of G has a long history of substantial contributions, and the capital raised through the campaign will further increase the university’s capacity to deliver real solutions for real-life issues.

The BetterPlanet Project will raise investments of more than \$200 million for projects across the U of G that will bring together the innovators of today and the future. Primary objectives for the campaign include the establishment of 50 chairs for faculty leaders, the development of centres for innovative collaboration, investments in teaching and research, in student scholarships and financial aid.

Funds raised through the campaign will:

- increase understanding of food-related issues and help ensure an abundance of healthful food choices for Canadians and for the world
- find better ways to protect renewable resources and preserve the Earth’s biodiversity
- improve the health of animals in our care and the prospects for human health, here and around the world
- enhance the lives of Guelph students and motivate them to help the University improve the quality of life for people everywhere

For more information on OAC’s role in the BetterPlanet Project, see the Dean’s Message on page 2. ■



CHANGING LIVES
 IMPROVING LIFE

**THIS
 ISSUE**

Dean’s Message	2	Congratulations	8
Research News	3	Summer Convocation	9
Appointments	5	OAC Photo Contest	11
Calendar of Events	7	Welcome Back Event	12

>forward

Dean's Message

2



It's my pleasure to welcome you back for the beginning of what promises to be another exciting year here in OAC. Although the Fall is always a time for new beginnings as we welcome a new group of students into the OAC family, this year is particularly special as the university launches the BetterPlanet Project, an ambitious and timely capital campaign that aims to raise \$200 million by 2014 to extend our capacity to provide effective solutions for real-life issues.

For OAC, the objectives of the BetterPlanet Project are a perfect fit with our core areas of strength. Its four theme areas of food, the environment, human and animal health and communities closely parallel our traditional commitment to research, teaching and service in the areas of food, agriculture, communities and the environment.

Since the establishment of the college in 1874, our efforts have always been concentrated on providing practical, real-world solutions for society's most pressing needs. In those early days, OAC faculty, staff and students were pioneers in agricultural science.

Today, we are still pioneering but for a growing set of more complex needs and sustainability issues. Whether it's a safer, more secure food supply, protection and remediation of the environment, or more sustainable rural communities, OAC has a significant role to play. It's a natural evolution for our college as we are called upon to engage in an expanding range of challenges and opportunities, locally, nationally and globally.

Building the capacity to extend our knowledge to help create a better world is at the heart of the BetterPlanet Project. As a founding college of the U of G, we are proud to take a leadership role within this important campaign.

I hope that all of you – faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the college – will join in on this important journey. With your support we will continue to grow OAC, to pioneer solutions, to train tomorrow's leaders, and to build a better planet. ■

Robert Gordon

Dean, Ontario Agricultural College
Guelph | Alfred | Kemptville | Ridgetown

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

Research News

3

Province invests in innovation and discovery

The provincial government announced on August 19 more than \$1.8 million in funding for 14 leading-edge research projects at the U of G. Among the recipients is Christian Blodau, a professor in the School of Environmental Sciences and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Environmental Geology and Biogeochemistry.

Blodau, who joined the University of Guelph in September 2009, received a provincial Early Researcher Award for his work that will contribute to the understanding of element cycling – in particular carbon, nutrients and toxic trace elements – in Canada's northern wetlands, lakes and freshwater reservoirs under conditions of climate and land use change. The highly competitive program is open to Ontario researchers in the first five years of their career. Professors receive \$140,000 to further their research and help build teams of graduate students, post-docs and research associates.

Blodau also received \$179,656 through the research infrastructure program of the Ontario Research Fund (ORF) for lab space, equipment and software. ■



^ A soil gas sampler is one of the field instruments used by Christian Blodau.



^ In her Agro-Eco research lab in the School of Environmental Sciences, Cynthia Scott-Dupree (standing) works with technician Angela Gradish.

NSERC funding connects universities and industry

Cynthia Scott-Dupree (School of Environmental Sciences) is among five U of G professors who received grants this summer from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), to help pioneering companies invent technologies and find solutions to issues affecting Canadians.

The NSERC Engage Grants Program has been designed to foster collaborations between universities and industry. Qualified professors receive up to \$25,000 to cover project costs, and then pair with a company they've not worked with before to address a specific problem or create a new product or technology.

Scott-Dupree is helping Vive Nano Inc. improve environmental sustainability. The Toronto-based company has developed technology that encloses the active ingredients of insecticides in polymer-nano-capsules. She will study the bioactivity and bioavailability of those ingredients to test the effect on targeted pests. She will also investigate whether the amount of active ingredients can be reduced and remain effective in this new delivery format. ■

OMAFRA invests in future leaders

4

Twenty-three graduate students across OAC have been named as recipients of new scholarships through the High Quality Personnel (HQP) program funded through the U of G-OMAFRA agreement.

The program, designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of graduate students to improve their competitiveness and readiness for public and private sector employment, will provide close to \$5 million over five years for scholarships in priority areas, including environmental sustainability, agricultural and rural policy, emergency management and food and health.

Scholarships for masters students are valued at \$17,300 per year; doctoral students receive \$21,000 per year. Thirty-two awards were announced in the first round of funding.

Scholarship recipients also receive additional training in business practices, commercialization, public sector issues and the impact of the agrifood industry, as well as participating in a one-semester job shadow/work experience.

OAC recipients:

Animal & Poultry Science

MSc

James Skipper-Horton

Steve Oh

Tara Walsh

Mychal-Ann Hayhoe

Natalia Litvak

Teresa Casey

PhD

Afshin Gholami

Anne Laarman

Scott Cieslar

Environmental Sciences

MSc

Ian McCormick

PhD

Amal Roy

Gudmundur Johannesson

Pegah Valizade

Food Science

PhD

Mark Gannon

Ying Li

Shane Walker

Varatharajan Vamadevan

Plant Agriculture

MSc

Ashley Muckle

Patrick Hendricks

Binu Kalita

Jerlene Nessia

PhD

Tyler Fuhrman

Walter Garrison

For more information on the HQP program, visit: <http://www.aps.uoguelph.ca/omafhqp> ■

OAC Dean's Office welcomes new Liaison Officer

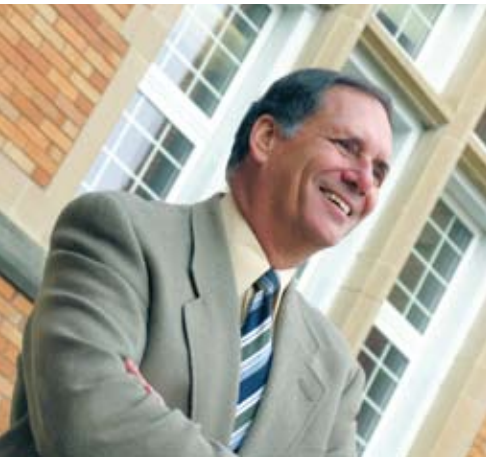
Jason Tran joined the OAC Dean's Office effective August 9 in a 10-month contract position as OAC Liaison Officer. As part of the OAC academic team, he will work closely and in coordination with Admission Services and be accountable for a variety of OAC liaison and recruitment activities and events for prospective students, their parents and teachers.

Tran has served as a student volunteer in environmental liaison, a graduate teaching assistant, and secretary of the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium Steering Committee. An OAC graduate, he holds a BSc in Environmental Sciences and MSc in Capacity Development and Extension through the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. ■



▲ Jason Tran

New Director for Kemptville Campus



Claude Naud 

Dr. Claude Naud has been appointed to the position of Director for the University of Guelph's Kemptville Campus. In this role, he will provide vision and direction for all activities at the main campus of Kemptville and its affiliated research station locations at Winchester, New Liskeard and Emo. His five-year term began August 23.

A consultant in the areas of strategic planning, leadership, organization renewal and program development, Dr. Naud served as Senior Vice-President Academic at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology from 1998 to 2006. In that role, he was responsible for the province-wide leadership and management of 160 academic programs and student services delivered by 1,200 faculty and staff to 39,000 full- and part-time students.

Prior to his retirement from the Canadian Forces in 1998, he held several command appointments, including Station Commander, Squadron Commander, Commandant and Vice Chancellor at Royal Roads Military College, and Director of Space Development.

Dr. Naud has a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Royal Military College, a Master of Education degree from the University of Toronto (OISE), and Doctor of Education degree from the University of Calgary. ■

New Chair appointed for Plant Agriculture

Prof. Peter Pauls has been appointed to the position of Chair of the department of Plant Agriculture. In this role, he will work to enhance the department's academic programs and administrative leadership capacity as well as focus on external relations and excellence in research and service.

The appointment is for a five-year term, effective immediately. The announcement was made by OAC dean Rob Gordon, who chaired the search committee. Gordon also extended his thanks to Prof. Dave Wolyn, who has served as acting department chair through the search process.

Pauls has been a faculty member in Plant Agriculture since 1983, and is widely known for his research in the development and application of molecular biology and tissue culture techniques to crop improvement. He has published 122 refereed papers and 15 book chapters, selected 10 bean lines supported for variety registration from 2006 to 2010, and submitted more than 200 gene sequences to Genbank. His research programs are supported through NSERC, OMAFRA and a variety of other industry and government groups. Pauls is an associate editor of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science, past president of the Canadian Association of Plant Physiologists, and served as acting associate dean (academic) of OAC from 2006 to 2009. ■



 Peter Pauls

New Co-ordinator for Agriculture and Horticulture Programs at Ridgetown

6



John Zandstra ^

Prof. John Zandstra has been appointed to a new administrative position at the Ridgetown campus as Co-ordinator for Agriculture and Horticulture Diploma Education, effective August 1. In this role, Zandstra will provide leadership in growing the Agriculture and Horticulture programs and enhancing experiential learning opportunities for diploma students at Ridgetown.

As a researcher at the University of Guelph for almost 16 years, his work has focused on fruit and vegetable cropping systems with reduced environmental impact and the season extension of Ontario fruit crops. In addition to his teaching in the Agriculture Diploma program, Zandstra also served as the academic coordinator in this program for the past three years. He holds an MSc and BSc in Environmental Biology from the U of G. ■

OAC Program Counselling Office opens in Johnston Hall

The main foyer of one of the University's most recognized and historical buildings has been transformed into a hub for OAC students. Since the beginning of September, the new OAC Program Counselling Office in Johnston Hall has been open to serve the students of the BSc(Agr), BSc(Env) and Bachelor of Bio-Resource Management (BBRM) programs.

Construction began in May to build the suite that includes computer work space, a meeting area, and administrative and program counsellor offices. The move to Johnston Hall centralizes the staff and resources to assist these OAC students in the development of their educational plans and connects them more closely with the Office of the Dean and the OAC academic programs team. ■



The entrance to the new OAC Program Counselling Office is located in Johnston Hall, Room 133A.



Calendar of EVENTS: Fall 2010

7

October

- 11** Thanksgiving
- 13** Fred W. Presant Memorial Lecture, OVC Lifetime Learning Centre, Room 1714, 7:00 pm
Dr. Victoria Sandilands presents: *You've come a long way, baby: the success of the chicken and some subsequent dilemmas*
- 14** OAC Job Fair, Peter Clark Hall
- 16** Fall Convocation, War Memorial Hall
- 19** Guelph Food Safety Annual Symposium:
The Future of Certification and Emerging Consumer Demands – Holiday Inn, Guelph

November

- 5** Fall Open House – Kemptville Campus
- 7** Fall Preview Day – Guelph
- 5-14** Royal Agricultural Winter Fair – Toronto
- 11-13** Science Teachers Association of Ontario Annual Conference – Toronto
- 14** Science & Engineering Sunday – Guelph
- 25** Soirée portes ouvertes – Campus d'Alfred
- 25-26** Red Carpet Days – Ridgeway Campus

December

- 2** Classes conclude
 - 6-17** Examinations
- University closes for Winter Holidays until January 3, 2011



Farm market open to public

A farm market has opened at the Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming (GCUOF), established two years ago to provide experiential learning in organic food production, urban agriculture and resource conservation. The market runs Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. The Centre, located at the northwest corner of the Arboretum, is accessible via Dundas Lane (off College Avenue). For more information about the Centre, see: <http://www.organicag.uoguelph.ca/index.html> ■

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Congratulations

- > **Prof. Madhur Anand** (Environmental Sciences) was recently named among the city of Guelph's Top 40 under 40. Holder of the Canada Research Chair in Global Ecological Change, Anand studies the effects of climate change on ecosystems. She has mentored ecologists and has worked diligently to educate and inspire the public through outreach activities.
- > **Prof. Lise Burcher** has been appointed as a regular full-time faculty member at the rank of Associate Professor in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development as of August 1. Burcher formerly held a contractually-limited appointment in the same department.
- > **Prof. Wayne Caldwell** (Environmental Design & Rural Development) has been named president of the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs. The group consists of 18 universities offering programs in urban and regional planning toward accreditation by the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP). Caldwell's term will begin in October at the CIP national conference.
- > **Mihiri De Silva**, a graduate of the BSc(Env) program, was recently recognized among the city of Guelph's Top 40 under 40 for her work as a peer helper with the university's co-op program. She is also a recipient of the Collin Cureatz Memorial Award for Co-op Student Involvement for excellence in assisting students search and prepare for job opportunities.
- > **Prof. Glenn Fox** (Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics) has been named a Fellow of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES). The Society's highest honour, it recognizes Fox's years of innovative scholarship and productive service. He is also the recipient of the 2010 CAES publication of enduring quality award.
- > The **Guelph Food Safety Seminar Series** received the Award of Excellence presented by the Ontario branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors at its 71st annual educational conference held in June.
- > **Linda Jewell**, graduate student in the School of Environmental Sciences, was awarded best student oral presentation at the 2010 Joint Annual Meeting and Conference of the Canadian and American (Pacific Division) Phytopathological Society held at the University of British Columbia, June 20-23. Jewell's talk, based on her thesis work was chosen from more than 20 presentations.
- > **Brian Little** (OAC '72), a Director and Fundraising Chair of the OAC Alumni Foundation, was recently presented with the Wilson Loree Award by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council. He was honoured for his extraordinary contribution to promoting positive change in agricultural business management practices and expertise in Canada.
- > **Wendy Romero**, an MSc student in the School of Environmental Sciences, has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding MSc Student by the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) North American Region. She will receive her award at the Entomological Society of America meeting in San Diego in December.
- > **Prof. Jack Trevors** (Environmental Sciences) has been appointed as a member of the Natural Sciences Class of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA), a trans-national interdisciplinary body which focuses on European issues.
- > **Rodger Tszanz** (Plant Agriculture) was honoured for community and volunteer service at the University Community Breakfast on September 7. His involvements include United Way, Big Brothers, Guelph Museum, Canada Blooms and the Guelph Interaction conference. Tszanz also received the Susanne Sprowl Community Service Award presented by United Steelworkers Local 4120.
- > The Exemplary Team Recognition Award was presented at the University Community Breakfast on September 7 to six staff members in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development: **Joan Cascio, Cheryl Fitzgibbon, Diana Foolen, Anna Gallina, Joanne Gillis** and **Sue Hall**. The group of colleagues was honoured for going "beyond the call" to improve the entire school. ■

Students build a park to grow community spirit and hope

9



A new park in Barrio Grenada, one of the poorest communities in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, has been designed and built to nurture community ownership, pride and involvement.

For three weeks in May, eleven U of G students in landscape architecture and international development worked with Nicaraguan architecture and design students, partner organizations and local professionals in this project, initiated by Prof. Larry Harder (School of Environmental Design and Rural Development) and facilitated by Gonzalo Duarte, the Canadian president of Compañeros, a Nicaragua-based company specializing in ethical service-learning projects. ■

^ The project, the first of its kind in Managua, received front-page coverage in the country's national newspaper and was inaugurated by hundreds of revelers in the first-ever community fiesta celebrated in the 27-year history of Barrio Grenada.

Summer Convocation 2010

Academic excellence and milestones were celebrated as degrees, diplomas and certificates were conferred upon OAC students at convocation ceremonies held at Guelph, Ridgetown, Alfred and Kemptville during May and June.

The Governor General's Gold Medal, which honours academic achievement at the graduate level, was bestowed to Paul Dyce, PhD graduate from the department of Animal and Poultry Science.

Stephen Courey, a diploma student in the agriculture diploma program at Ridgetown, received this year's Governor General's Bronze Medal, awarded annually to the OAC diploma student with the highest academic standing.

On June 16, degrees were 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. The four-year honours program, which prepares students for leadership roles in biological resource-based industry, features two years of study at one of U of G's regional campuses, followed by two years of study at the Guelph campus. In 2011, graduating students in the Equine Management major of the BBRM, who began their studies at the Kemptville campus in Fall 2007, will join their peers. ■



^ Prior to convocation, a reception was held at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre to honour the first graduating class of the BBRM program.

2010 OAC Weeds Team adds to winning record

10



2010 OAC Weeds Team ^

Two graduate and five undergraduate teams from OAC represented the University of Guelph as the only Canadian group at the Northeast Weed Science Collegiate Contest hosted by Cornell University on July 27. Almost 100 students representing nine universities competed in the event which tested their applied agronomic skills in the disciplines of crop protection and agronomy.

The 2010 OAC Weeds Team was coached by Eric Page and Prof. Clarence Swanton of the department of Plant Agriculture. The undergraduate team of Thomas Judd, Blair Freeman and Eric Schroeders placed first – the 16th win since 1983 when U of G undergraduate teams began participating in this contest. The remaining undergraduate and graduate teams placed competitively within their categories. ■

RPD celebrates 30-year reunion

The first alumni reunion for the Rural Planning and Development (RPD) program at the University of Guelph was held June 25-27 to celebrate its 30-year history of bringing a teaching and research focus to rural livelihoods and related policy.

More than 100 alumni from across Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Mexico and other countries attended the event. Weekend activities included a dinner on the Saturday evening with founding director, Dr. Mark Lapping, as master of ceremonies. Other speakers included OAC dean Rob Gordon, as well as former directors of the RPD program, which is now part of the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development.

As the only accredited rural planning and development program in North America, it offers both a Canadian and international stream of study officially recognized by the Canadian Institute of Planners. A new one-year masters program known as the Masters of Planning (MPLAN), was launched in 2008.

RPD students have consistently been leaders at the annual case competition of the Canadian Evaluation Society, and the student body hosted the CAPS (Canadian Association of Planning Students) conference this past year. More than 600 alumni from the program are engaged in rural planning and development initiatives across Canada and around the world. ■



^ RPD Graduate Coordinator, Harry Cummings, addresses attendees at the reunion dinner held at the Bullring.



Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame honours two OAC alumni

11

Two outstanding OAC alumni have been named as 2010 inductees into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Bertram (Bert) Stewart (OAC '54) has volunteered as a 4-H leader for 45 years, while developing new initiatives to encourage future leaders, including the Canadian Junior Dairy 4-H Classic, Ontario Dairy Youth Trust Fund and the International Judging and Fitting Schools. His vision, initiative and commitment to leadership and the national 4-H organization have inspired generations of youth across Canada.

The Honourable **Lyle Vanclief (OAC '66)** was first elected as Member of Parliament in 1988, and served as Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food from 1997 to 2003. He is widely recognized for guiding Canadian agriculture through some of its toughest challenges. Vanclief is a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and received the inaugural Canadian Independent Spirit Award from the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers.

The induction ceremony will take place at the Hall of Fame awards banquet to be held November 7 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. ■

What does your better planet look like?



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of GUELPH

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Entries will be evaluated on content, image quality, creativity and relevance to one of our four categories:

[Food](#) • [Agriculture](#) • [Communities](#) • [Environment](#)

The top photo in each category will be featured in OAC promotional materials and win a \$75 gift certificate at Future Shop.

Digital entries can be submitted on CD and sent to:

Nancy Orso, OAC Communications Assistant,
OAC Dean's Office, Johnston Hall, Room 138.

Or enter by email at: oacphotocontest@gmail.com

With your submission, include your photo category, name, contact address, email and phone.

The deadline for entries is: October 29, 2010

Photo requirements: 72 dpi rgb
1600 x 1200 pixels (Minimum)

Winners will be notified in writing.

There is no limit to the number of submissions per person. All entries will become the exclusive property of OAC and are non-returnable. OAC has the right to publish any or all of the entries in any media without attribution or compensation to the entrant.

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Outstanding faculty recognized at OAC community event

12

Four OAC faculty members in OAC were 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.

Prof. John Lauzon, a faculty member in the School of Environmental Sciences, received the OAC Alumni Distinguished Extension Award for 2010. This annual award recognizes effective extension efforts used outside the classroom by OAC faculty members. In his 10 years as a faculty member at OAC, Lauzon has given more than 50 extension talks, led numerous field tours and held many one-on-one consultations with growers, industry personnel, OMAFRA, the media, and the general public. He is a former chair of the Ontario Soil Management Research and Services Committee, and has organized numerous extension conferences and field days.

Prof. Elizabeth Lee, a faculty member in the department of Plant Agriculture since 1998, was named as the 2010 recipient of the OAC Alumni Distinguished Research Award. Lee has published more than 45 refereed publications in high impact journals as well as 9 book chapters, has released 90 inbred lines, and frequently presents at international scientific meetings. She served a 3-year term on NSERC's Plant Biology and Food Science grant committee, is an associate editor for the journal *Crop Science*, and serves on the Ontario Corn Committee as well as international committees related to corn breeding and plant breeding.

Prof. Gary Parkin, a faculty member in the School of Environmental Sciences, received the 2010 OAC Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award. He is described as an enthusiastic, caring and organized teacher who creates a positive learning environment and challenges his students to become critical thinkers and lifelong learners. In his 16 years as an OAC faculty member, Parkin has developed and taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses, and served as Graduate Coordinator in the former department of Land Resource Science, where he has been a member on many graduate student committees, chaired numerous graduate thesis defenses, and facilitated many PhD qualifying examinations. He has personally supervised or co-supervised 22 graduate students.

All three awards were presented by Ian Rumbles on behalf of the OAC Alumni Association.

Prof. Emmanuelle Arnaud from the School of Environmental Sciences was presented with the 2010 G.P. McRostie award. This award, presented by Bruce Christie on behalf of the OAC Alumni Foundation, recognizes outstanding advising and mentoring by faculty who play a significant role in the education of OAC students. Arnaud, a well-respected authority in glacial geology and more generally in geosciences, is actively involved with her students from the time they indicate an interest in the subject matter until well after they graduate. Past graduates continue to recognize the contributions she has made to their lives and careers through her advice, encouragement and outstanding mentorship.

For more information on the OAC Alumni Association and Foundation awards, visit:

<http://www.oac.uoguelph.ca/alumni/> ■

< **Pictured are faculty award winners (at centre) Emmanuelle Arnaud, John Lauzon and Gary Parkin, along with Rob Gordon, Bruce Christie and Ian Rumbles. Absent: Elizabeth Lee.**

