

New Members inducted into Order of OAC

At the 2009 OAC Recognition Banquet held April 22 at Creelman Hall, OAC dean Rob Gordon described the event as a tribute to the significant commitment and generous support of the many volunteers and leaders who work to ensure a bright future for the College, the agriculture and agri-food industries, as well as the environment and rural communities.

Tom and Joanne Cowan of Mount Brydges and Clay Switzer of Guelph were inducted into the Order of OAC, which acknowledges significant financial contributions by individual donors to enrich the teaching and study of agriculture, food production, the environment, the community and rural development.

Outstanding Service Awards, which celebrate the dedication, vision and continuous outstanding contribution of a volunteer to OAC and the rural community, were presented to Paul Montoux of Hagersville and T.K. (Sandy) Warley of Guelph.

Charles Simon of Eden Mills received a Volunteer Service Award for his leadership as an advocate for livable communities, sustainable building design and imaginative approaches to sharing community resources.



▲ ▼ **Bruce Christie, chair of the OAC Alumni Foundation, presents Tom and Joanne Cowan (top photo) and Clay Switzer (bottom photo) with the Order of OAC medal and certificate.**



The College also awarded certificates of appreciation to the many individuals who have made significant volunteer contributions to OAC's research, teaching and service programs over the past year. ■

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Dean's message



Over the past few months, OAC has entered into a dynamic period of change that will culminate in a new vision for the college. I am extremely grateful for the continued patience and support we've received from our faculty, staff, students, alumni and the many friends of OAC as we work through this sometimes challenging process. Although the new OAC will be quite different from the OAC of the past, I am confident that we will emerge strong and well-positioned to address the needs of the agri-food industry, the environment, and rural communities here in Canada and throughout the world.

This past March, the University of Guelph Senate approved the merger of the departments of Land Resource Science and Environmental Biology to form a new School of Environmental Sciences within

OAC. I'm extremely confident that the new School will provide many opportunities for OAC to show enhanced leadership in teaching, research and service for the environment. An internal search for the School's first Director is presently underway.

In the coming weeks, we will also be conducting searches for three Associate Dean positions within OAC. You can find more information about these positions in this issue of *FACE >forward*, or by visiting University of Guelph's faculty recruitment website. In particular we are creating

a new Associate Dean position with an emphasis on External Relationships. This is of particular importance over the next few years as we attempt to more closely connect with our alumni but also create greater partnerships both with government and industry. This position will also provide leadership in enhancing the profile of OAC activities externally.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome some new faces (or familiar faces in new roles) to OAC: Dr. Alan Ker as the chair of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Dr. Art Hill as chair of Food Science, and Dr. Andy Robinson as chair of Animal & Poultry Science.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the OAC Recognition Banquet for the first time. My thanks to all of you who worked to make this event a success. It was a genuine pleasure to meet some of the many individuals whose volunteer efforts make such a difference to the quality of our programs, and to Ontario's agri-food industry as a whole. Expanding and strengthening such partnerships is a key component in our continued success.

Have a great summer and growing season!

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

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Students donate funds for undergraduate scholarships

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OAC spirit was evident on Friday, April 16, when BSc (Agr) students Blair Freeman and Thomas Judd, on behalf of the Aggie Week committee, presented a cheque for \$5188.06 to the College as a donation towards undergraduate scholarships.

Their committee's discussions began after the April announcement that U of G was suspending most of its endowed scholarships and bursaries for the time being as a result of diminishing investment returns in the current economic climate.

Both Freeman and Judd, who held positions on the 2008-2009 executive for the Student Federation of the Ontario Agricultural College (SFOAC), said OAC students wanted to take some responsibility for continued access to particular scholarships, such as travel awards and bursaries, that have traditionally enriched their academic pursuits. ■



▲ Thomas Judd (far left) and Blair Freeman (second from the right) present a cheque to Peter Pauls, acting associate dean (academic) OAC, and Kate Gillespie, OAC alumni manager.

OAC projects benefit from CFI investment

On April 7, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) visited the University of Guelph to announce its investment of more than \$1.1 million in six projects – including two within OAC – that blend innovation with practical application.

The Leaders Opportunities Fund (LOF), designed to attract and retain leading faculty and researchers at Canadian universities, is providing \$463,796 to Professor Amar Mohanty (Plant Agriculture) and Professor Manjusri Misra (Engineering) towards the Bioproducts Discovery and Development Centre, and \$125,242 to Professor Gale Bozzo (Plant Agriculture) who studies the ripening, and over-ripening, of fruits and vegetables.

At the bioproducts centre, the funding will be used for new equipment that will help establish the U of G as a global leader in green materials research and development. Headed by Mohanty, who holds the Premier's Research Chair in Biomaterials and Transportation, the centre

produces greener bioproducts to substitute non-renewable materials in many manufacturing sectors, consumer goods and services. The funding will also create a new research direction in nano-biocomposites and nano-enhanced biomaterials, allowing researchers to fabricate a broad range of fibres, including crop-based nanostructured fibres.

Bozzo, who joined OAC's department of Plant Agriculture in February 2008, will use the funds to explore novel plant biochemistry processes involved in the preservation of horticultural produce quality. The goal is to extend the marketability of Canadian fruits, vegetables and floriculture and their derived products.

Other LOF recipients at the U of G include Profs. Barbara Morrongiello, Mark Fenske, Paul McNicholas and Terry Van Raay. In this round of allocations, CFI committed \$26 million through its various funds to 29 universities across Canada. ■

Funding supports research against bioterrorism

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Two food scientists have been granted almost \$340,000 in federal funding over the next four years to improve food and water testing in the threat of bioterrorism and deadly outbreaks. Profs. Keith Warriner and Mansel Griffiths (Food Science) will develop techniques and tools for early and accurate detection of contaminants and toxic substances, such as anthrax and botulin, in food and water samples.

They are joining scientists across Canada and the U.S. under a project headed by the Canadian Food Inspection agency (CFIA) with funding from the Department of National Defence (DND).

Warriner will focus on extracting and concentrating biohazards from samples of feed, food and water, so they can be readily detected using current diagnostic platforms, such as real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). PCR is a laboratory technique that can amplify the amount of DNA from a tiny sample to a large amount within a few hours.

As the director of the Canadian Research Institute for Food Safety, Griffiths will apply techniques and technology already being developed in identifying more common food-borne pathogens to further research how viruses might be used to detect bioterrorism agents, such as anthrax.

Other partners in this project include Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University and the University of Minnesota. ■

Research Program Directors Announced

Four OAC faculty members are among the newly appointed research program directors for the theme areas supported through the OMAFRA-U of G agreement. These individuals will work with the U of G faculty community, the Office of Research, and OMAFRA personnel to build a four- to five-year strategic research framework for their respective areas of investigation, and lead the process of soliciting and selecting specific research proposals to fulfill these plans.

Gary Ablett (Plant Agriculture) – Bioeconomy, Industrial Uses

Glenn Fox (Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics) – Agricultural and Rural Policy

Dave Kelton (Population Medicine) – Emergency Management

Alejandro Marangoni (Food Science) – Product Development & Enhancement through Value Chains

Gopi Paliyath (Plant Agriculture) – Food for Health

Bill Van Heyst (Engineering) – Environmental Sustainability

The selection of the research program co-directors for the Production Systems theme – one individual for animal research and another for plant research – is currently in progress. For further details, visit the Agri-Food and Partnerships website at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/omafra/index.shtml> ■

OAC seeks candidates for three Associate Dean roles

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OAC is currently seeking three Associate Deans to lead the academic, research and innovation, and external relations teams. Serving for a five-year term, each will have office and administrative responsibilities and be members of OAC Deans' Council, as follows:

Associate Dean (Academic)

Responsible for aspects related to all diploma and undergraduate programs within OAC, including student advising, program development and budget oversight in supporting diploma and undergraduate education, on all four campuses.

Associate Dean (Research and Innovation)

Responsible for research and innovation, and supporting issues related to all graduate programs within OAC, including oversight of various OAC research and graduate program budgets.

Associate Dean (External)

Responsible for issues related to all alumni and development activities, communication, outreach, endowments and student awards, on all four campuses.

The Selection Committee for the three searches has recently been announced. More details on the positions will be available on the faculty recruitment website at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/facultyjobs/> ■

Student receives Winegard Volunteer Award

Arthur Churchyard, a biology and environmental studies student entering the MSc (Planning) program in Environmental Design and Rural Development this fall, was one of three recipients of this year's Winegard Volunteer Awards presented April 3 at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre.

Named after former U of G president Bill Winegard, the awards recognize members of the University community who have shown commitment to volunteering and given outstanding service to organizations in the Guelph area. Churchyard was chosen for his involvements with the Canadian Association of Community Service, the Speed River Cleanup, Toronto's Ecojustice law firm, Wellington County's Green Legacy, and the new Transition Guelph initiative, to name a few. He is also known for his work in radio and television communications to promote U of G's agricultural research and for the creation of U of G's Sustainability Day, which recently earned him a Gordon Nixon Leadership Award.

Other honourees were Irene Thompson, student housing director, and Janet Kaufman, acting associate chief librarian. ■



▲ **Prof. Jim Mahone (Environmental Design and Rural Development) nominated Arthur Churchyard for the Winegard Volunteer Award.**

Appointments

Interim director appointed at Kemptville Campus



Renée Bergeron has been appointed interim director at Kemptville Campus for a period of one year until May 2010. Throughout this time, she will also continue as director at the Alfred Campus, where she assumed leadership responsibilities in May 2007. A

researcher in animal behaviour and welfare, Bergeron achieved a BSc and MSc from Laval University, and completed a PhD at Illinois.

She replaces Michael Goss, who retired from the University of Guelph, effective May 1. Goss, who has a research background in soil-plant relations and physical processes that affect root growth, joined the University in August 1990 as professor and Land Stewardship chair in the department of Land Resource Science. He served as director of Kemptville Campus from September 2005. ■

Hill appointed chair of Food Science



Art Hill, associate professor, commenced a five-year term as chair of Food Science, effective April 1.

Hill, who achieved a BSc, MSc, and PhD at Guelph, joined the U of G in 1980 as a research assistant and was appointed

assistant professor in Food Science in 1985.

His primary research interests are milk composition and analysis, cheese technology, and nutritionally functional milk products. A past recipient of the OAC Extension Award and past president of UGFA, Hill's teaching includes technical communication to both graduate and undergraduate classes. He is also involved in curriculum development and assessment. ■

APS announces Robinson as chair



Andy Robinson, associate professor and graduate coordinator in Animal & Poultry Science (APS), began a five-year term as chair of APS as of March 1.

Robinson's research focus is the genetic improvement of livestock,

with a specialization in swine and, more recently, fish.

An OAC alumnus, Robinson holds a BSc and MSc from the U of G, along with a PhD from Cornell University. He joined the U of G as assistant professor in Animal & Poultry Science in 2000. ■

Food Science welcomes new faculty member



Lisa Duizer joined the faculty of the department of Food Science on January 1. Duizer earned a BASc in Applied Human Nutrition and an MSc in Food Science from the U of G.

She spent 10 years in New Zealand, teaching at Massey

University and completing a PhD in food technology, then joined Acadia University in Nova Scotia to teach and do research focused on nutrition. Her research projects at U of G involve taste, food texture, nutrition and health. ■

Project SOY harnesses students' creativity

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From delectable treats to green, renewable products, the most innovative uses for soybeans were introduced at the 13th annual Project SOY open house and competition held March 25 at the OMAFRA building, 1 Stone Road, Guelph.

Thirty-nine U of G students, including participants from the regional campuses at Alfred, Kemptville and Ridgetown, developed 16 new products and marketing strategies for soybeans.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top three projects in two categories: diploma and degree (undergraduate/graduate).

In the diploma category, first place went to Carolynn Seaton (Ridgetown Campus) for developing SoyLutions, a biodegradable container made from soy fibre. Second prize was won by Campus d'Alfred student, Lugi Stephano Bikoroti for Sunsoya Cake, and third place was a tie between two Ridgetown students: Mitch Sykes for a soy-based dye and Luke Chamberlain for Soy-Sweet BBQ Sauce.

OAC students were also well-represented in the undergraduate/graduate category. Solla, a chocolate soy spread, developed by Elise Ringgenberg, Hayley Rutherford, Paige Schell and Silvia Garcia tied in second place. Third prize went to Juan Du and Pauline Yin Pong for a soybean dumpling called Sompling. Other winners included Evelyn Yeh and Anita Chung, taking first place with Soyrup, and Nicole Beechey, Stephanie Holodinsky and Jeffrey Sattin, who tied for second with SoyCare, a moisturizing cloth. ■



▲ Carolynn Seaton (left), who earned first place in the diploma category, talks about her product with a member of the Solla team which placed second in the undergraduate/graduate category.



▲ Food Science students, Allison Harper (left) and Valerie Massel (right), developed a frozen soy pie crust which they labelled CruStOY.

Congratulations!

> **Stefanie Nagelschmitz**, 2009 graduate of the BSc(Agr) program and former president of the Student Federation of OAC, was named this year's winner of the R.P. Gilmore Student Life Award for contributions that enhance the quality of student life on campus. Student leaders and community members were celebrated for their commitment to improving campus life at U of G at a banquet held March 30.

> **Pradeep Nampoothiry**, a master's student in Environmental Biology, has been selected to receive the Organic Crop Improvement Association Research and Education 2009 Scholarship Award. He will use the \$1,000 award for a project that will develop strategies and test natural products to repel or control houseflies in organic dairy production.

> **Katie Temple**, an MSc (Planning) student in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, was awarded the 2009 Gerald Carrothers Graduate Scholarship by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Temple will be recognized at the annual OPPI conference to be held September 30 to October 2 in Niagara Falls. This marks the sixth win in nine years for a student in the Rural Planning and Development program.

A team of MSc (Planning) students in the **School of Environmental Design and Rural Development** was selected among 18 university and college groups as one of three finalists at the 2009 Canadian Evaluation Society student case competition held February 7. The team members, who include Eva Otanke, Sandra Moreau, Karen Nelson and Allison Gratz, will travel to Ottawa for the competition finals at the National Conference of the Canadian Evaluation Society in early June.

> **Donald Ziraldo**, a 1971 OAC graduate who chairs the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, received the Trillium Award from Landscape Ontario. Presented only in exceptional circumstances, the award honours an individual who through innovation has introduced a product, service, program or activity that has greatly impacted and benefited the horticulture industry and society as a whole. ■

Hall of Fame honours Ginty Jocius

The late Ginty Jocius is one of five people to be honoured this year by the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association for visionary leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship in the advancement of agriculture in Ontario. A past president of the OAC Alumni Association and former chair of the OAC Alumni Foundation, he will be inducted into the Hall of Fame Gallery at Country Heritage Park in Milton on June 14.

Jocius' most visible creation is Canada's annual Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock. In 2008, the OAC Outstanding Service Award was presented to his wife, Lorie, to honour his legacy and to celebrate their tremendous contributions to OAC and the rural Ontario community. ■

Partnership expands learning opportunities in agriculture

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A new partnership to promote studies and careers in agriculture was forged April 2, when representatives of the Bluewater District School Board and the Ontario government signed an articulation agreement with the University of Guelph.

The agreement exempts high school graduates of the Specialist High Skills Major in Agriculture from introductory agriculture courses during subsequent studies toward an agriculture diploma or degree at U of G. It also enables students enrolled in the secondary school major to explore university experiences at Guelph or its regional campuses during Grade 11 or 12.

Last year, Peter Pauls, acting associate dean (academic) OAC, was invited to consult with the Ministry of Education on the agriculture major curriculum.

"The goal is to expose students to the range of issues and opportunities. An agriculture degree doesn't close doors, it opens new doors. As Ontario's second largest industry, the agri-food sector offers wide-ranging job options, including banking, food processing, sales, marketing and communications," says Pauls.

The Bluewater board runs 11 secondary schools from Tobermory southward to Kincardine and east to Dundalk and has about 7,000 students.

Through the High Skills major programs, students can focus on knowledge and skills for a variety of economic sectors, including agriculture, arts and culture, hospitality and tourism, manufacturing, health, environment, and business. ■



On April 2 in the OAC Boardroom, Serge Desmarais, associate vice-president (academic), adds his signature to the agreement, along with (back row, from left) Mary Anne Alton, director of education, Bluewater District School Board; Aldo Cianfrini, education officer, Ontario Ministry of Education; Richard Franz, director, Ontario Ministry of Education; George Zegarac, deputy minister, OMAFRA; Peter Pauls, acting associate dean (academic) OAC; and Rob Gordon, dean OAC.

Counselling Offices move to Axelrod

The BSc(Agr), BBRM and BSc(Env) Program Counselling offices have moved from Blackwood Hall to the **Axelrod Building, Suite 266**, effective May 4.

Email addresses and phone numbers for the counsellors and staff remain the same.



Alumni
Weekend
2009
June 19-20

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



New projects receive support from OAC Teaching Trust

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The OAC Teaching Trust, created by the OAC Alumni Foundation, enriches student experiences both inside and beyond the classroom in the study of agriculture, food production, the environment and rural community development.

Donor contributions through the Trust have supported teaching labs and materials, technology and software, course development, integrated field programs and trips, and international travel for course activities, and will now benefit three new projects.

Animal & Poultry Science (APS) will upgrade 40 workstations in its Forshaw computing lab which was established in 2004 and funded in part by OAC '55A in memory of Professor Bob Forshaw. The lab is used to deliver multimedia content in undergraduate

teaching, and provides consistent access to software applications related to APS disciplines.

The department of Land Resource Science will purchase new computers for undergraduate teaching and training in GIS and landscape mapping techniques, and to support learning in the field trip courses, especially those involving mapping and other landscape investigations.

At the Ridgetown campus, classroom learning will be enhanced through an array of technology, including GPS Units for Environmental Management and Agriculture Diploma students; Diagnostic Imaging Atlas Software for the Veterinary Technology and Veterinary Medical Office Administration programs; and SMART Airliner. ■

Students explore tropical agriculture in Costa Rica



▲ Students travel by van to the Aquiares coffee farm and processing plant.

Costa Rica's fertile soils, warm climate, abundant rainfall, forests and rich biodiversity are among its most important natural resources. From February 13 to 22, it was the destination for 20 undergraduate students to explore tropical agriculture on a field study led by Professors Gary Parkin (Land Resource Science) and John Fitzsimons (Environmental Design and Rural Development).

Offered under AGR*2500, the field trip in international agriculture is designed for students in the BSc(Agr) and the BA (International Development) programs, and has been taught by faculty across OAC. For the past several years, itineraries for the course have been developed in co-operation with CATIE, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre dedicated to research and graduate education in agriculture and the management, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

This year's 10-day agenda began at CATIE, located in Turrialba, with a lecture on tropical agroecology and a guided tour of the centre's botanical gardens, collections and dairy farm. Then travelling through Turrialtaico, Gaupiles, Jaco, and Quepos, students were introduced to agricultural production systems for coffee, bananas, livestock, medicinal gardens, African oil palm and tropical spices. Other stops included Irazu Volcano National Park and EARTH College, a world-class international institution specializing in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. ■



◀ Students gather at a lookout point at Irazu Volcano National Park, one of three national parks visited during their trip to Costa Rica.

Young leaders of the dairy industry compete

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OAC students formed one of the four teams to receive the Second Place Platinum Award in the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC) held March 27 and 28 in Syracuse, New York.

A total of 29 teams from the United States and two from Canada competed in the eighth annual event, hosted by the Northeast Region NAIDC committee.

Coached by Professor John Walton (Animal & Poultry Science), the team consisted of Lori Pynenburg, Michael Schouten, Martin Snyder and Matthew Walpole.

Dairy Challenge was designed by professionals from the allied dairy industry and university educators to bring classroom training to life in the real world for students preparing for dairy careers. ■



▲ Conducting their dairy farm evaluation are Matthew Walpole, Lori Pynenburg, Martin Snyder and Michael Schouten.

Continuing the Royal Legacy: College Royal 2009

Thousands of student volunteers, more than 100 campus organizations and 30,000 visitors participated in "Continuing the Royal Legacy" at the 85th annual College Royal.



The 12-day student-run event, which culminated with Open House Weekend on March 21-22, showcased the U of G through campus tours, a lecture series, activities for children, and a variety of shows

and competitions from livestock, chemistry, seeds and forages to flower-arranging and photography.

Student clubs across the University's seven colleges were recognized for their exhibits and displays. Within OAC, top honours in the exhibit category went to the Food and Dairy Science Club, Horticulture Club, and Equestrian Club. In the display category, OAC winners were the Apiculture Club, Animal Science Society, and Guelph Junior Farmers. OAC students also demonstrated skill and spirit in competitions including Gryphon jeopardy, logging, pancake flipping, scavenger hunts, square dancing and tug of war. ■

◀ Visitors to Food Science sampled milkshakes in a variety of new colours and flavours, such as purple chocolate. The Food and Dairy Science Club exhibit was also recognized as one of the best overall at College Royal 2009.

Nominations invited for 2009 H.R. MacMillan Laureate in Agriculture

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OAC is pleased to announce that nominations for the prestigious H.R. MacMillan Laureate in Agriculture are now open. This award of \$10,000 is presented by the University of Guelph to honour



The award was established by H.R. MacMillan, a 1906 graduate of OAC. Previous award recipients

the individual or group judged to have made the most significant contribution to agriculture in Canada over the past five years.

include J.M. Bell, G.R. McLaughlin, B.R. Stefansson and F.W. Hougren, C.H. Bigland, Hon. H.O. Sparrow, Ernest A. Kerr, Robert Chicione and Peter Hannam.

"The MacMillan Laureate is among Canada's top awards for service to agriculture, and we look forward to selecting a most deserving candidate for 2009," said Rob Gordon, dean of OAC and chair of the selection committee.

Nominations will be accepted until June 30, 2009 and assessed by a national panel of judges. More information on the nomination process and eligibility requirements is available on the OAC website: www.oac.uoguelph.ca ■

SFOAC names new Executive

The 2009-2010 executive committee of the Student Federation of OAC was recently announced following elections this spring:

President:

Tammy Fischer

Vice-President, Internal:

Elliott Miller

Vice-President, External:

Steven Larmer

BSc(Agr) Representative:

Blair Freeman

BComm Representative:

Arlen Hasenpflug

Animal Biology

Representative:

Laura Somerville

ESSE Representative:

Danny Jefferies

LASS Representative:

Alison Caldwell

Turfgrass Representative:

Stephen Hicks

CSA Representative:

Eric Oosterhof

Communications

Representative:

Lisa Mooney

Chairperson:

Stewart Skinner

Several positions are still to be named for the upcoming year.

In Memoriam

- > **James Craig Alexander**, in his 84th year, passed away March 23 in Fergus. Alexander, who achieved a BSA from the Ontario Agricultural College, MSA from the University of Toronto, and PhD from Wisconsin University, was a professor at the University of Guelph for 25 years from 1966. Into retirement, he continued his interest in promoting good nutrition by serving as a Volunteer Community Food Advisor. He is survived by wife Margaret, children Catherine, Tom and Jane, and six grandchildren. A funeral service was held March 27 in Guelph.
- > Retiree **Dave Beattie** passed away January 24, after a short battle with cancer. Beattie joined the University of Guelph (OAC) in 1966 in the Livestock Division, and in 1983 was appointed Manager of the Economics & Business Division. He went on to Centralia College in 1987, and became the Director of New Liskeard College. He retired from Guelph in 2001, and is survived by wife, Lynda, and daughters, Carolyn and Jane, and their families. A funeral service was held January 29 in Windsor.
- > Retiree **Leon Martin**, a technician from 1959 to 1989 in the former department of Crop Science, passed away January 23. He is survived by seven children and three grandchildren. A funeral service was held January 31 in Cambridge. ■