



# Ontario Veterinary College

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

REPORTING on its PEOPLE, EVENTS and PROGRAMS | FALL | 2008

## Royal Canin, OVC create first endowed research chair

This spring the college made U of G history with the establishment of Guelph's first endowed research chair.

The Royal Canin Veterinary Diet Endowed Chair in Canine and Feline Clinical Nutrition will support independent research and graduate scholarships at OVC, thanks to a \$3-million commitment from Royal Canin Canada.

"The application of nutrition in both optimizing health and in the prevention of and management of specific clinical conditions is increasingly important in veterinary practice," said Xavier Unkovic, CEO of Royal Canin Canada.

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PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

Partnerships with companies such as Royal Canin and Hill's Pet Nutrition create new learning opportunities for students like Marie Ramoutar, DVM 2009, (with her cat, Marly).

## Hill's commits \$5 million to OVC

OVC'S VISION FOR A NEW MODEL in veterinary education will soon become a reality with a \$5-million, 10-year commitment from Hill's Pet Nutrition. U of G president Alastair Summerlee said this generous support will keep OVC and the University at the forefront of learning and research, benefiting pets and their owners in Ontario and beyond.

The Hill's Pet Nutrition Primary Health Care Centre will be a centre of excellence for teaching and research in companion animal primary health care and service delivery. It will offer a variety of unique learning opportunities, from practical skills development to preventive medicine, and provide students with up to 300 hours of hands-on experience during the four-year DVM program.

"This is a truly groundbreaking development," said Neil Thompson, president of Hill's The Americas. "We believe nutrition should be a foundational cornerstone of wellness and therapeutic care provided to all pets."

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the

# CREST

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THE CREST IS SPONSORED IN PART BY FUNDING FROM THE OVC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



CHANGING LIVES IMPROVING LIFE



# College News

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**"As a pet-first company, we know this investment will have a beneficial impact on the health of dogs and cats," says Unkovic.**

**Dr. Brent Matthew, B.Sc. '80 and DVM '84, veterinary division director of Royal Canin Canada Company, adds: "We are extremely proud of the contribution that Medi-Cal / Royal Canin Veterinary Diet has made to the veterinary profession in Canada. This partnership represents a dramatic new commitment to clinical nutrition in Canada."**

**Dean Elizabeth Stone says innovative nutritional research is essential to maintain and improve the health of dogs and cats. "We are excited that this innovative new faculty position will help us find answers to important questions about how we should feed our feline and canine companions. In addition, this gift enables us to start a new graduate program in this area."**



PHOTOS BY GRANT MARTIN

From left to right, Dr. Brent Matthew, B.Sc. '80 and DVM '84; U of G president Alastair Summerlee, and Xavier Unkovic, CEO of Royal Canin Canada Company.

## Fall a time for reflection, new beginnings

**A**UTUMN TO ME has always signalled both endings and beginnings. Over the summer we graduated the class of 2008, and our new veterinarians have already joined veterinary practices, started training programs, or have begun new jobs in government or industry throughout Canada and the rest of the world. And now in September, the new first-year students have started their anatomy and physiology studies. The Class of 2012 will graduate in OVC's 150<sup>th</sup> year, and the students are enthusiastically volunteering to help plan for the big anniversary celebration — a year-long event that will celebrate all of those who made us what we are today.

Autumn is also a time for reflection on the

previous year and for optimism for the year to come. We particularly appreciate our alumni whose work over the past year has set the stage for new successes in the coming year. As described in this issue of *The Crest*, Dr. Brent Matthew, B.Sc. '80 and DVM '84, is ensuring the success of the Royal Canin Diet Endowed Chair in Canine and Feline Nutrition. This new faculty position will provide critical clinical nutrition research and training for our student veterinarians and graduate students. At convocation, we honoured Dr. Blake Graham, DVM '51, for his contributions to OVC. Blake has started an endowment to train veterinarians and physicians in diseases that affect people



From left to right, Sherri Cox, DVM 2009; Gordon Dumesich and Janet Donlin of Hill's; OVC dean Elizabeth Stone; Hill's president Neil Thompson; U of G President Alastair Summerlee and Clayton MacKay, DVM '70.

and animals — a concern that is much in the news. Dr. Clayton MacKay, DVM '70, understands and supports our vision to develop the model for primary health care in companion animals and was a major player in gaining the support for the Hill's Pet Nutrition Primary Health Care Centre at OVC.

Each year we receive invaluable support from companies and individuals in the form of research and program funding, equipment and technology, awards and scholarships, gifts-in-kind, sponsorships of special events and student clubs, and much more. Many provide invaluable learning and alumni networking opportunities for students. Hundreds of alumni support OVC programs through individual gifts, class projects and donations from their practices to OVC Pet Trust. Many, many people donate their time,

energy and ideas on our boards and committees, as volunteer instructors, or serving OVC Pet Trust and Equine Guelph.

Partnerships with those who share our values — and our commitment to academic success, freedom and integrity — add value to the work we do, to the companies, organizations and people involved and to the veterinary profession in general. It would seem that many of you share the sentiments of Dr. Amreek Singh, this year's Distinguished Alumnus, who told the Alumni Weekend audience that despite the more than 20 years since he lived in Guelph, his heart "was always and remains here."

For that, and for all of you, we are sincerely grateful.

Dr. Elizabeth Stone, Dean

The primary health care centre, part of the overall redevelopment of the college and the OVC Teaching Hospital, is also supported by the Ontario government, which invested \$9.5 million in OVC redevelopment in February.

"As a veterinary college, we want to emphasize the importance of primary health care in enhancing the significant relationship between pets and their owners," says OVC dean Elizabeth Stone. "Hill's commitment will help us create a health-care model that includes nutrition, rehabilitation, behaviour, public health and other areas of practice."

OVC students will be integrally involved in the centre's management and operations, gaining valuable learning opportunities and building skills that will be valuable assets to their future employers.



# OVC Research News

## CIHR FUNDS OVC RESEARCH

OVC contributions to human medicine were recognized again this spring when researchers in the Department of Biomedical Sciences received grants announced by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

CIHR is Canada's premier health research funding agency, supporting more than 8,500 researchers in universities, teaching hospitals and research institutes nationwide.

**Prof. Jim Petrik** and **Roger Moorehead** received \$277,608 to conduct a three-year study on ovarian cancer.

"We will now be able to aggressively pursue a greater understanding of ovarian cancer and will be able to identify markers of early-stage disease," says Petrik. "We can also begin work on developing novel therapeutic approaches to cause tumour regression in women with ovarian cancer. We sincerely hope the work made possible by this grant will improve our detection and treatment of this disease."

## TAKING AIM AT LUNG DISEASE



PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

CALL IT A ONE-TWO PUNCH against lung diseases. Now back at Guelph from a prestigious American research centre, Dr. Sarah Wootton, B.Sc. '97 and PhD '03, Pathobiology, will use substantial research funding to continue studies of a virus that may tell her more about how lung cancer works and offer hope for treating pulmonary diseases such as cystic fibrosis.

The two-time Guelph graduate received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council discovery grant worth \$200,000 over five years and a University Faculty Award for the same amount.

Wootton joined the department last September after a post-doctoral position at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, where she co-authored papers published in *Nature*, *Retrovirology* and the *Journal of Virology* on the jaagsiekte sheep retrovirus

that causes lung cancer in sheep and goats. A similar form of the disease called bronchioalveolar carcinoma — not caused by smoking — accounts for about one out of four lung cancer cases in people.

Wootton hopes her lab will help find a way to treat that disease — and paradoxically use genetic engineering to turn that same cancer-causing virus into a weapon for fighting cystic fibrosis and other lung ailments.

"I'm fascinated by the notion that one can manipulate a virus to direct the infection of a particular cell type, and in doing so, cure or alleviate suffering," she says. More than that, "it's a thing that causes disease, and we're modifying it so we can cure disease."

## KIRBY TAKES RESEARCH POST

HELPING SMOKERS QUIT their habit is Dr. Gordon Kirby's research goal — or one of them. Kirby, DVM '83 and PhD '91, is now



PHOTO BY BARRY GUNN

responsible not just for his own wide-ranging toxicology studies, but also for all the diverse research projects conducted across OVC's four departments. This spring, he was named associate dean, research and innovation.

In his new role, Kirby works with members of the OVC and U of G communities to facilitate ongoing research and identify new opportunities for research expansion.

Kirby joined the University in 1994 as an assistant professor in biomedical sciences. He completed his DVM and PhD at U of G, and in between, a master's degree at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom. He has held post-doctoral positions at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France, as well as at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. Prior to his academic appointments at the University, he was a practicing veterinarian in both mixed and equine practices.

Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Kirby's research focuses on enzymes that protect against carcinogens and anti-cancer drugs and control cellular responses to stresses, and whether they can be effective targets for drug intervention. His lab is also investigating a patent for a screening test that would detect hemangiosarcoma in dogs, work based on a project funded by OVC Pet Trust.

Raising awareness about links between human and animal health is a major thrust of his new job. "Animal models are increasingly important for researchers studying human diseases from cancer to arthritis to asthma," he says. "Veterinarians are also integral to tackling zoonotic diseases such as bird flu and SARS that affect both animals and humans. Part of my job will be to help our scientists connect with each other and with granting agencies, industry and other researchers beyond campus."

## PUBLIC HEALTH ROLE EXPANDS

THE OVC IS POISED to play a major role in public health, supported by a prestigious research chair worth nearly \$1 million that was awarded to Dr. Jan Sargeant, DVM '86, M.Sc.'92 and PhD '96, by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.



Dr. Jan Sargeant

Sargeant, director of the Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses and a faculty member in the Department of Population Medicine, received one of 14 chairs in applied public health awarded nationwide.

"We were the only veterinary college awarded funding, which was quite exciting," she says. "Most emerging diseases that pose a threat to human health originate in animal populations, whether it's avian flu or new strains of antibiotic-resistant 'superbugs.' Veterinarians are, therefore, uniquely equipped to investigate and come up with solutions to some of the critical health issues of today."

## AGING STUDY GETS NOD



Dr. Dean Betts

A four-year study on aging by Dr. Dean Betts, PhD '01, Biomedical Sciences, has also been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Betts received \$446,544 to investigate p66Shc, the gene that determines when cells stop dividing. Understanding how it works could reveal ways to slow down and even reverse the aging process and lead to therapies for treating cancer and improve infertility treatments.

"We're quite excited to receive this CIHR grant," said Betts. "It acknowledges the importance of using the unique cellular models we have developed here and will enable us to tease out a novel pathway involved in cell aging."

PHOTOS BY MARTIN SCHWALBE



# College News

## CONVOCATION AWARDS



OVC dean Elizabeth Stone, left, with Melissa MacKinnon

- On June 12, OVC celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2008, the 142<sup>nd</sup> since the college was established in 1862. **Dr. Melissa MacKinnon** earned eight awards, including the prestigious Andrew Smith Memorial Medal. She was also nominated for the Winegard Medal, the U of G's top student convocation award.
- The new Alan Meek Prize for Leadership and Good Citizenship was presented to **Dr. Michelle Oblak**. Named for the former OVC dean, the award is presented by faculty to a student who demonstrated the qualities of leadership and good citizenship throughout the four-year DVM program.



Michelle Oblak and former OVC dean Alan Meek.

PHOTOS BY BARRY GUNN

PHOTOS BY SAM COATES

 Kristin Agius	 Sofia Alcantara	 Kye Andrus	 Nicole Bann	 Chelsey Bantogger	 Courtney Barnes	 John Barthelemy	 Melanie Bazzoni	 Matt Berry	
 Amy Cheung	 Brent Crutchfield	 Susan Dudley	 John Daries	 Noomi Dickel	 Justin Fantes	 Canya Fournier	 Kyan Franklin	 Kassal Fraser	
 Kou Hodge	 Helen Holmquist	 Pai-Dan Hsiao	 Anna Mary Hunter	<h1>Ontario Veterinary Class of 2008</h1>					
 Natalia Janusz	 Amy Lewis	 Mark Johnston	 Stephanie Johnston						 Danielle Jullien
 Sharon Lachance	 Elin Ali	 Melissa MacKinnon	 Dylan MacLean	 Cheryl MacPherson					
 Erin Malton	 Tom Murray	 Demetri Agmonan	 Sprey Nielsen	 Michelle Oblak					
 Claudia Pilon	 Ivo Ruo	 Sarah Ruo	 Mary Susan Reed	 Miriam Rosenstein	<h3>Honorary Class</h3>				
 Diana Sinclair	 Liz Sinclair	 Jennifer Sperry	 Matthew Spicoge	 Thomas Strasser					
 Lori Tappero	 Lizette Tschann	 Jennifer Understatter	 Liz Tughrin	 Julie Wallace	 Adam Whitehead	 Suzanne Whitcomb	 Hendler White	 Dr. Anna Soma	 Dr. Andrew



## COMMUNITY HONOURS



At the 2008 YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards, **Kate Smolina**, a fourth-year biomedical sciences student and Rhodes Scholar, received the Young Woman of Distinction Award for her academic excellence and volunteer work. **Shannon Westgarth**, DVM 2011, was nominated in the same category. **Dr. Dale Smith**, DVM '80 and D.V.Sc. '84, Pathobiology, was nominated in the education and training category.

## STUDENTS ON CALL

OVCA students **Kristin Isnor**, DVM 2011, and **Angelie Shukla**, DVM 2010, worked with **Dr. David Kelton**, DVM '84, M.Sc. '89 and PhD '95, Population Medicine, this summer to increase student awareness of the Canadian Veterinary Reserve. Launched in 2006 as a joint effort of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the reserve prepares students to assist in a disease outbreak or civil emergency.

PHOTO BY ROSS DAVIDSON-PILON



# College News

## In Memoriam

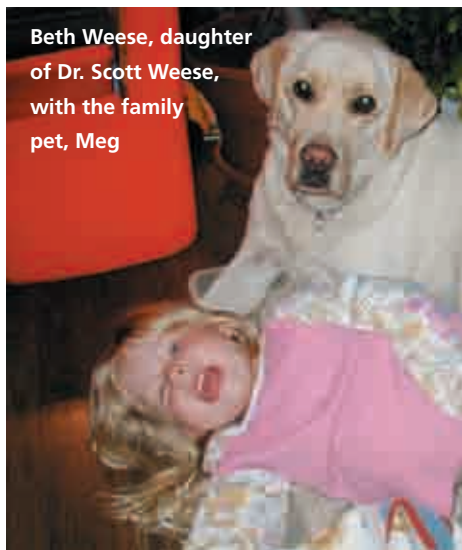
The OVC community is mourning the loss of two faculty members who died suddenly this spring.

**Dr. David Holmberg**, an outstanding surgeon and professor in the Department of Clinical Studies, died suddenly at his home in Elora, Ont., on May 13. The Dr. David Holmberg Memorial Fund has been established to support a D.V.Sc. position in small-animal surgery. For more information, visit [www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/alumni](http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/alumni).

**Dr. Katie Welch**, a long-time member of the Department of Pathobiology, died June 2. A diagnostic pathologist, she was active in teaching and worked for the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre. She was an advocate for women battling ovarian cancer. A memorial tree will be planted at the U of G Arboretum, with a dedication service Sept. 21 at 2:30 p.m.

## WORMS & GERMS ON THE WEB

Zoonotic diseases have been recognized for centuries. However, consideration of the role of pets in transmission of disease is often neglected, even though these are the animals with which most people have the



Beth Weese, daughter of Dr. Scott Weese, with the family pet, Meg

closest contact. A new web-based resource has been created to help bring more attention to this issue. The Worms & Germs Blog ([www.wormsandgermsblog.com](http://www.wormsandgermsblog.com)) is all about zoonotic diseases, particularly those involving companion animals, such as dogs, cats, horses, pocket pets and various other household critters.

The blog was created as part of a joint initiative of the Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses and the City of Hamilton Public Health Department. The site was created by and is overseen by Drs. Scott Weese, DVM '96 and D.V.Sc. '00, and Maureen Anderson, DVM '03 and D.V.Sc. '08,

both of the Department of Pathobiology.

The Worms & Germs Blog page is updated regularly with posts on current topics from the news and frequently asked questions about zoonotic diseases. The associated Worms & Germs resources page links to information sheets about safe pet ownership and zoonotic disease topics (organized by species and pathogen) that can be downloaded and printed. Some are still in development, and there will be more posted soon. Sheets are tailored for different groups — pet owners, veterinarians, physicians, public health personnel and children.

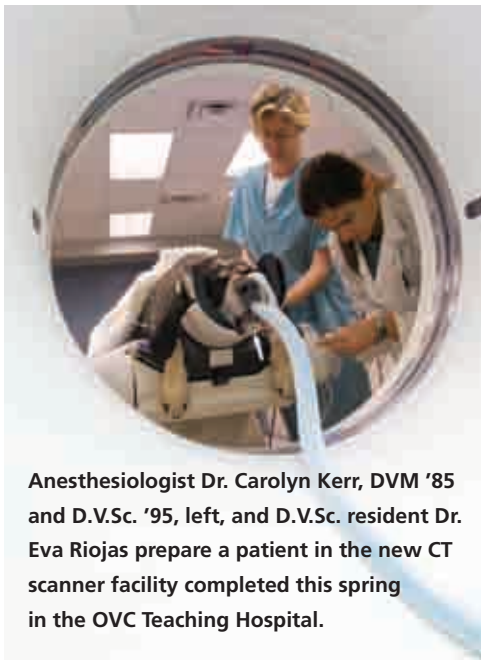
“We wanted to find a way to get the information out to as broad an audience as possible, and the idea of putting it online made sense,” says Weese. “We came up with the blog to complement the information sheets and provide comprehensive, accessible and readable educational materials and resources.”

## STAMP OF APPROVAL

THE OVC TEACHING HOSPITAL recently celebrated the renewal of its accreditation with the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). Overall, the hospital received “rave reviews” for its companion animal practice.

Preparing for the evaluation was an invaluable exercise, said Wayne Coveyduck, the hospital’s executive director. “It’s a roadmap to helping us be the best that we can be in every area, from when a patient is

PHOTO BY SCOTT WEESE



**Anesthesiologist Dr. Carolyn Kerr, DVM '85 and D.V.Sc. '95, left, and D.V.Sc. resident Dr. Eva Riojas prepare a patient in the new CT scanner facility completed this spring in the OVC Teaching Hospital.**

in the Small Animal Clinic is a very significant indicator of the standards we maintain throughout the OVC," said Dr. Peter Conlon, chair of the OVC accreditation committee.

## MEDIA FOCUS ON SURGERY

OPHTHALMOLOGIST Dr. Chantale Pinard, DVM '93, Clinical Studies, and a dog blinded by glaucoma captured the imagination of broadcast and print media throughout Ontario when Pinard performed an evisceration and intrascleral



**Dr Chantale Pinard**

admitted to when the animal is discharged, and everything in between," he says. "This is an important achievement, and it is thanks to many people throughout the organization at all levels from faculty and clinicians to technicians and staff to volunteers."

The AAHA sets rigorous standards in five areas covering everything from anesthesia to hygiene and infection control to record-keeping. Dr. John Tait, B.Sc. '82 and DVM '86, president-elect of the AAHA and a faculty member in the Department of Clinical Studies, said accreditation sends an important signal to all stakeholders that the hospital is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of care.

The entire college is also preparing for the February 2009 accreditation site visit of the American Veterinary Medical Association's council on education.

"The maintenance of such high quality

prosthesis procedure. The cosmetic procedure replaces the diseased inner contents of the eyeballs with silicon implants, relieving the pain of glaucoma, and leaves the patient with eyes that appear normal.

- OVC Pet Trust and the college's animal cancer centre initiative were in the spotlight at this year's Woolstock outdoor festival for dogs. Organizers of the event named Pet Trust the charity of choice for the two-day festival held in Toronto's St. Lawrence Marketplace neighbourhood. The college received extensive media coverage that included *CBC News Sunday* and an appearance by **Dr. Paul Woods**, DVM '85, on the CITY-TV program *Animal House Calls*.
- Clinicians and staff of the Small Animal Clinic feature prominently in the 2008 *Dogs in Canada Annual* on newsstands this fall. The feature documents two days in the life of the hospital, focusing on intensive care and surgical patients and the care they receive.

## SEAT SALE UNDER WAY AT OVC



# OVC Alumni News

There's still time to own a piece of OVC history by bidding on your favourite chair in Room 1438 (formerly 508).

The classroom is being renovated and the infamous wooden seats will soon be gone — hauled away to the rec rooms of alumni across the country.

The minimum bid is \$1,000 and includes the vintage wooden chair and permanent recognition on the back of a chair in a new classroom. Bids will be accepted until the end of December.

Funds raised from this activity will support new learning spaces and technologies at OVC. For more information, contact: [ovcdean@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ovcdean@uoguelph.ca).

PHOTO BY BARRY GUNN

## SOARing for charity



Dr. Renée Fleming

AN OVC GRADUATE and her husband were the first team to reach the finish in this year's Southern Ontario Amazing Race (SOAR).

Twenty teams took part in the fifth annual event that raised more than \$62,000 for the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington. The adventure race, based on *The Amazing Race* reality television series, tests competitors' physical and mental abilities in a series of challenges designed to unlock clues to the ultimate destination.

"There's nothing really like it around here," said Dr. Renée Fleming, DVM '04. "It's a lot of fun and for a great cause as well."

Fleming and her husband, John, raised \$3,500 and finished the race 22 minutes ahead of the field at Guelph's Church of Our Lady. After placing ninth in last year's SOAR, Fleming said experience, and the fact that they trained for this year's race, may have given them a slight advantage over the competition.

"In the end, a lot of it comes down to luck," she said.

Jocelyn Wessels, who finished her M.Sc. this summer in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and fellow Guelph grad Emma Wixey, B.A.Sc. '06, finished ninth in the race that was founded by U of G grads Glenna, B.Sc.(Env.) '01, and Paul Pengelly, BA '99, and Matt Steffler, B.Sc. '99. In its short history, SOAR has raised more than \$180,000 for underprivileged children in Guelph.

The race has grown beyond expectations, and Fleming encouraged others to help out.

"We haven't decided whether we'll race again next year, but we'll stay involved."

### PRESCOTT NAMED CAHS FELLOW

Dr. John Prescott, who steps down this fall after six years as chair of the Department of Pathobiology to return to teaching and research, has been elected a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Fellows are recognized by their peers nationally and internationally for their contributions to the promotion of health science. Election to the academy is considered one of the highest honours in the Canadian health sciences community. Fellows are chosen from across the full range of disciplines, from basic science to social sciences, and have demonstrated leadership, creativity and a commitment to advancing health science.

## Distinguished alumnus comes home

THE OVC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION presented its annual Distinguished Alumnus Award to a former professor praised for his compassion for students and outstanding record of community involvement.

Dr. Amreek Singh, M.Sc. '68 and PhD '71, was honoured by former colleagues, students and alumni during the OVC AA annual general meeting in June. The association's past-president, Dr. Ed Empringham, DVM '69, presented the award to "the man who taught me how to use a microscope."

"It has been my privilege for the last four decades to profit from the opportunity to interact with young minds," said Singh, adding that even though he left OVC in 1985 to teach at the Atlantic Veterinary College, "my heart was always, and remains, here."



**Dr. Amreek Singh, left, is congratulated by his son Dr. Amek Singh, who is a D.V.Sc. resident in small animal surgery at the OVC Teaching Hospital.**

PHOTO BY BARRY GUNN

### CSA HONOURS FARAMARZI

**Dr. Babak Faramarzi**, M.Sc. '03 and PhD '08, an instructor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, received the 2008 Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Guelph's Central Student Association (CSA).

CSA represents Guelph's 17,000 undergraduate students and presents the award each year to a U of G teacher who demonstrates profound dedication to teaching and university education and is able to motivate and inspire students in and out of the classroom.

Faramarzi taught veterinary anatomy and was recognized for fostering a discussion-based learning environment, his relationship with students and his ability to connect classroom



experiences to real life.

Faramarzi said he's pleased that students appreciate his teaching style and effort. "I strive not only to teach the students technical knowledge, but also to teach them critical thinking, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Students learn better when the clinical significance of the matter and its relevance to professional practice has also been presented to them. My goal is to teach my students to understand and to learn 'how to learn.' This is a prestigious award, and it's a great pleasure to receive it."

### NEW OVC AA BOARD ELECTED

The OVC Alumni Association elected a new slate of officers at the annual general meeting held during Alumni Weekend.

**President:**

Dr. Tracy MacKay,  
B.Sc. '99 and  
DVM '03

**Vice-president:** TBD

**Secretary:**

Dr. Maureen Anderson,  
DVM '03 and  
D.V.Sc. '08

**Treasurer:**

Dr. Roger Thomson,  
DVM '75

**Past President:**

Dr. Ed Empringham,  
DVM '69

**Directors:**

- Dr. Lynn Helwig,  
DVM '54
- Dr. Ashley Whitehead,  
DVM '05
- Dr. Michele Oblak,  
DVM '08
- Dr. Peter Conlon,  
DVM '80 and PhD '87
- Dr. Melanie Ammersbach,  
DVM '07

**Student**

**Representatives:**

- Michael Fife, Central  
Veterinary Students'  
Association
- Blanaid Donnelly, Class  
of 2009
- Jenny Spurrell, Class of  
2010
- Jennifer Hubbard, Class  
of 2011
- Class of 2012: TBD

PHOTO BY REBECCA KENDALL



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**The Crest  
Editorial Board**

Wayne Coveyduck  
Ed Empringham  
Barry Gunn  
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Kim Robinson  
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Barry Gunn  
OVC Communications  
Ontario Veterinary  
College  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON, Canada  
N1G 2W1

**Phone:**

519-824-4120,  
Ext. 54414

**E-mail:**

bagunn@ovc.  
uoguelph.ca

**Writing/Editing**

Barry Gunn  
Andrew Vowles  
Petra Kos  
Mary Dickieson

## Graham receives inaugural award



**Friends and classmates gathered at a special dinner to celebrate Blake Graham's award. From left to right, members of the Class of 1951: Jack Cote, Blake Graham, Roly Armitage and Robert Green.**

A PROMINENT ALUMNUS was honoured recently for his support of OVC and his role in promoting the study of diseases affecting both people and animals. Blake Graham, DVM '51, received the inaugural Dean's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the College during convocation.

Most recently, Graham was instrumental in launching a new endowed fellowship, which when fully funded will allow veterinarians to pursue M.Sc. and PhD studies in the realm of public health and infectious diseases that affect animals and people.

Graham has promoted comparative cancer research at OVC and McMaster University's medical school with the creation of a fund in memory of his first wife, Barbara, who died of breast cancer. He was also an early advocate of the animal cancer centre and OVC plans to build a companion-animal primary health care centre.

Graham said his goal now is to attract additional funding for the endowment to create new opportunities for research and training in public health for the benefit of all species.

The Blake Graham Fellowships established in 2007 currently support three PhD students in the OVC's Department of Population Medicine. "Blake has been a great friend of the college, both as a donor and as a sounding board for new ideas," says OVC dean Elizabeth Stone. "He is very deserving of this inaugural dean's award."

PHOTO BY GRANT MARTIN

### COMING EVENTS

- **Sept. 19 and 20**  
Homecoming Week-end. University of Guelph
- **Sept. 20**  
OVC Animal Welfare Forum. Lifetime Learning Centre, University of Guelph
- **Jan. 17 to 21, 2009**  
NAVC Conference Orlando, Fla.
- **Jan. 29 to 31, 2009**  
OVMA Conference Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto