

## **MEDIA RELEASE**



### **Surgeoner to Address Ridgetown Campus Graduates**

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Convocation at Ridgetown Campus will be held on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Over 700 guests are expected to help celebrate the achievements of 165 graduates from the diploma and certificate programs in Agriculture, Horticulture, Environmental Management, Veterinary Technology and Veterinary Medical Office Administration.

“We are very proud of the achievements of the Class of 2008; many of them have already demonstrated their leadership abilities on campus and I know they will be great leaders in their chosen careers,” says Campus Director, Dr. Art Schaafsma.

In addition to receiving a diploma or certificate, deserving students will also receive special awards for academic proficiency and outstanding leadership. “We are fortunate to have financial support from our local community and businesses towards our awards program,” says Schaafsma. This year, over \$23,000 in cash and gifts will be awarded.

The guest speaker for graduation will be Dr. Gord Surgeoner, President of Ontario Agri-Food Technologies (OAFT). OAFT is involved in developing, promoting and adopting biotechnology, including bioproducts, in an ethical and environmentally conscious manner for the agri-food sector of the province. In 2005, Surgeoner was invested with the Order of Ontario in recognition of his contribution to Ontario’s agri-food industry.

The ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre. The Class of 2008 has selected Nicole Ruest, Agriculture Diploma student from Palmerston, ON, to deliver the valedictory address.

Ridgetown is a campus of the University of Guelph. The OAC academic programs offered at Ridgetown Campus provide students with the opportunity to learn from knowledgeable professors and lecturers, while developing skills needed to begin their careers.

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#### **Contacts: Media Contacts:**

Art Schaafsma  
Director  
University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus  
519-674-1505  
email:aschaafs@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca

Liz Meidlinger  
Manager, Communications  
University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus  
519-674-1587  
e-mail:lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca