



Spring has sprung and our Gryphons are hard at work. The semester is winding down, but spring training is just getting started. We have big things coming in the next few months, but first take a look back on what we've been up to lately with this issue of The Gryphons' Lair.

The Gryphons' Lair

Issue 27 – April 2019

The annual Gryphon Football Gala is fast approaching!
Come out and support our team at a great event!

[Click here for tickets.](#)

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
GRYPHON FOOTBALL
GALA

THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN

*Get close and personal with your new Gryphon
Football Head Coach, Ryan Sheahan*

May 11, 2019 | 5pm | Creelman Hall, U of G
*Host Bar | Formal Attire | 3-course dinner | Silent Auction
Heads & Tails | Q&A wth Coach Sheahan*

Tickets:
*\$175 Adult | \$1750 Table (10 tickets) | \$75 Child (12 and under)
\$100 Sponsor a Gryphon Football Player to attend*

Ticketing site will close May 3, 2019.

What Happened in March?

HeForShe With Lisa Lisson

This month, Gryphon Football partnered with U of G's College of Business and Economics and College of Engineering and Physical Sciences to hold the 2nd annual HeForShe Symposium dedicated to the fight for gender equality. We were excited to welcome Gryphon alumni Lisa Lisson, the first female President of FedEx Canada, to campus for a day of classroom visits followed by a dinner and public talk in the evening. At the talk Lisa spoke about overcoming adversity to achieve the successes she's had and how important the HeForShe movement is. Gryphon Football was proud to sponsor this event as we understand the example we must set for others on campus and in the community. It was truly a great event and we are looking forward to applying the lessons we learned every day.

Click [here](#) to read more.



Gryphons [Nicholas Mirijello](#), [Lukas Brennan](#), [Job Reinhart](#), and [Theo Landers](#) presented Lisa with her own Gryphon jersey



Gryphon tight end, [Lukas Brennan](#), spoke to the room during the talk about what gender equality means to him and the importance of our team supporting the movement.



The number of players showing support at the event filled half the room!

Gryphons Represent at CFL Regional Combine

This month was the month of the highly anticipated CFL Regional Combine in Toronto. Gryphon Football was proudly represented by 7 Gryphons who attended the combine. The guys had outstanding performances and many of our Gryphons had impressive podium finishes. Gryphon OL [Eric Starczala](#) attended the CFL National Combine and did a great job showing off his skills. Congratulations to all our Gryphons!

Bench Press

- 1st – [Jaylan Guthrie](#) (29 reps)
- 2nd – [Job Reinhart](#) (27 reps)
- 3rd – [Colin Jerome](#) (26 reps)

3 Cone Drill

- 5th – [Zeph Fraser](#) (7.09)

Broad Jump

- 3rd – [Theo Landers](#) (10'6.13")
- 4th – [Zeph Fraser](#) (10'5.25")

40-Yard Dash

- 2nd – [Zeph Fraser](#) (4.60)
- 5th – [Kade Belyk](#) (4.67)

Vertical Jump

- 4th – [Theo Landers](#) (36)

Shuttle

- 3rd – [Zeph Fraser](#) (4.38)
- 5th – [Kade Belyk](#) (4.41)



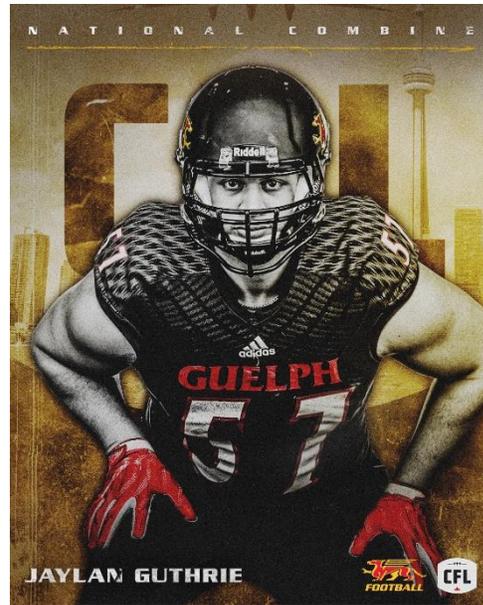
[Kade Belyk](#), REC



[Greg Corfield](#), DL



[Zeph Fraser](#), REC



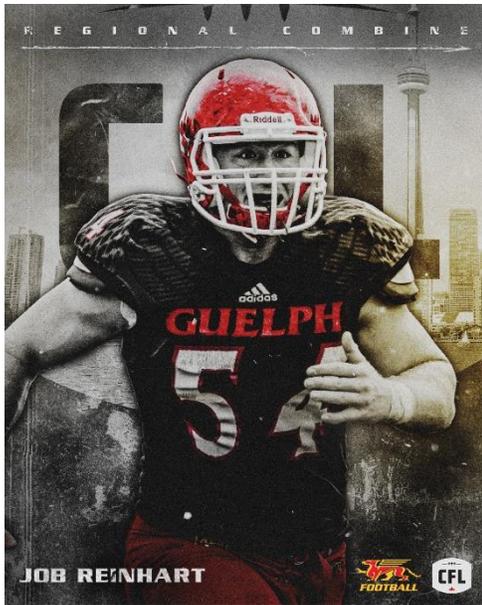
[Jaylan Guthrie](#), OL



[Colin Jerome](#), OL



[Theo Landers](#), QB



[Job Reinhart](#), LB



[Eric Starczala](#), OL

Second Annual Special Olympics Powerlifting Event

We were honoured to host the second annual Special Olympics powerlifting meet at the Pavilion this month with Doug Pflug, Community Liaison. Our Gryphons did a great job spotting and cheering on the athletes!



Gryphons Mean Business

Every year the Athletic Department hosts Gryphons Mean Business, an evening for our student-athletes studying business to get together and network with U of G athletics alumni. We were happy to host this event at the Pavilion and give our players an opportunity to start thinking about their careers and learn from former Gryphon athletes, including football alumni Bill Vastis and Nick Fitzgibbon, who are now successful in their respective fields.



Scott McRoberts (U of G Director of Athletics), [Aiden Mielczarek](#), [Harry Robinson](#), Alumni Bill Vastis, [Dotun Aketepe](#), and [AJ Chase](#).

Guelph Womens' PowderPuff Football

Guelph's PowderPuff Football is a group of athletic females who enjoy football that form a team and compete against other Canadian universities in multiple tournaments. The goal is to stay active and learn more about the great game of football which is a male dominated sport. This winter, Gryphon Football players [Daniel Fascione](#), [Lukas Brennan](#), and [Jared Beeksma](#) joined the team as coaches, running practices and travelling to tournaments with the team. These ladies learned from the best this season!



A Great Gryphon Graduates

James Roberts, Gryphon QB 2014-2018, took a moment on his graduation day to return to Alumni Stadium and pose for a photo with his dad underneath the 2-story tribute to his 2015 Yates Cup Championship performance as quarterback.



Corfield Chasing His Football Dreams

Leading up to the CFL Regional Combine, defensive lineman [Greg Corfield](#) was featured in an article by BP Sports Niagara. The article covers the feeling of working hard to be invited to the combine and his overall growth as a player.

“In his first two years playing football at the University of Guelph, Greg Corfield vividly recalls his older teammates getting invited to the Canadian Football League Draft Combine.

“I always thought that was something I wanted to do and I looked up to those guys,” the 21-year-old Niagara Falls native said. “I think that made me work hard enough to get the invite.”

Click [here](#) to read more.



Coach Cluff Represents at Ontario Football Women’s Combine

Our Gryphon Football coaches are always hard at work sharing their wealth of knowledge and skill with players all over Ontario. This month Defensive Line Coach [Brian Cluff](#) helped to coach at Ontario’s first ever “Women’s Football Combine and Skills Session” hosted here at U of G. Our coaches always make our program proud with their contributions in the off season!

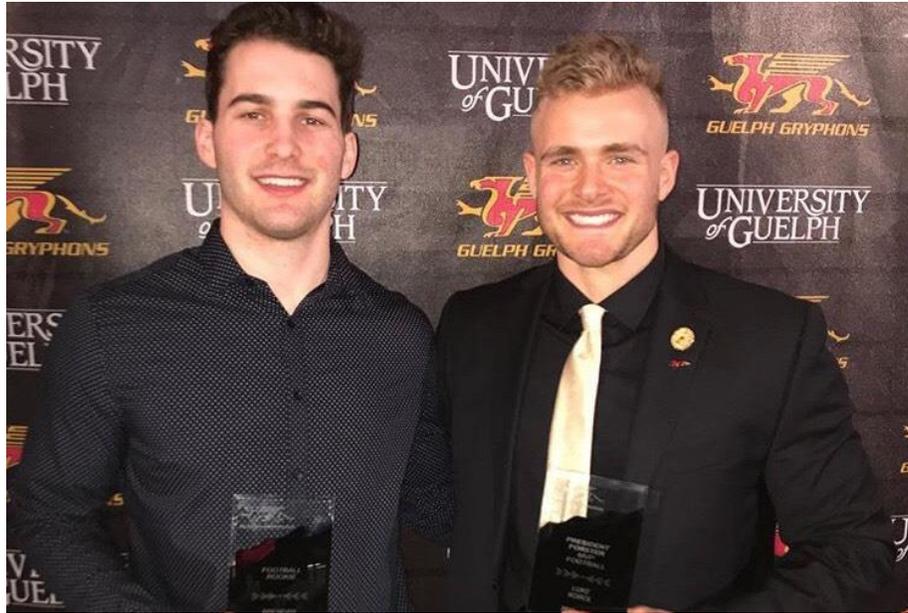


2018-19 Gryphon Athletic Banquet

This month the Athletic Department hosted the annual Athletic Banquet to recognize all U of G varsity athletes. Gryphon Football had another chance to honour Rookie of the Year [Brendan Murphy](#) and MVP (Donald Forster Trophy) [Luke Korol](#). Our team was also nominated for “Gryphie” Moment of the Year for [Thomas Bresciani’s legendary touchdown](#) in the final seconds of the semi-final game against Ottawa that sent the team to the Yates Cup. It was a great night to once again reminisce on a great season and our players looked sharp!

Click [here](#) to read more.

Click [here](#) to re-live that awesome catch!



Award winners DB [Brendan Murphy](#) and LB [Luke Korol](#).



If only there were an award for best dressed team!

The next commit is Noah Holder from Garth Webb Secondary School in Oakville. This receiver towers at 6'5 and is the first football players from his high school to sign with USports. We're happy to have you!

Click [here](#) for his highlight video.



Curtis Woodmansey is another new commit and is a 6'3 285lb defensive lineman from Northern Secondary School in Toronto. Curtis is the brother of current Gryphon, Coulter Woodmansey, and his size and strength will add some force to the line. Welcome Curtis!



Steven Arcila is our final NextGryphon this month! Steven is a 5'11 190lb linebacker/DB from Assumption C.S.S. in Burlington. We are excited to have him join our Gryphon family!



This month we made it official for previous commits Lucas Pyz (left) and Charlie Doering at St. Joan of Arc Barrie surrounded by friends. Welcome guys!



This month we were featured in a post by Canada Football Chat about adding 3 CFC ranked commits, Kristian Stewart, Josh Campbell, and Scott Murray to our recruiting class.

"I hope to be an impact player once I step foot on the Gryphons' field," Campbell says in the article.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Gryphons in the Community

Bowl For Kids Sake Fundraiser

This month, our Gryphons joined up with other U of G athletes for a bowling fundraiser. All together, Gryphon athletes were able to raise over \$5000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph!



Gryphons at St. Joseph Catholic School

This month our Gryphons stepped out into the community to workout with the FitSpirit girls at St. Joseph Catholic School. It's important to give kids opportunities to get active and also for our guys to keep at the top of their game!



[Daniel Fascione](#), [Carter Wilson](#), [Greg Corfield](#), [Lukas Brennan](#), Coulter Woodmansey, and [Dotun Aketepe](#) teaching the girls some football.



Congratulations this month to 2-sport athlete [Matt MacGillivray](#) on his fantastic hurdle finish at a track and field meet! He earned the 60m hurdle bronze medal with a personal best of 8.19. Keep it up!



Congratulations to the Gryphons Women's Hockey team on their National Championship win! We had a lot of fun this month following along with their amazing playoff run and were happy to be at their Championship parade on campus. Gryphons supporting Gryphons.



Featured Alumni

For this month's featured alumni we have Peter Langford, class of 1985 and Gryphon Hall of Famer. Peter was a defensive lineman with the Gryphons from 1979-1982 before he was drafted in the 1982 CFL Draft in the 2nd round to the Hamilton Ticats. After his time with the Ticats, Peter returned to the Gryphons in 1985 to finish up his degree and play one more season. His outstanding career with the Gryphons led to him earning multiple titles including OUA all star in '82, CIAU All-Canadian '82, OUA Lineman of the Year '82, and CIAU Lineman of the Year '82. These achievements earned him a spot on the 1980 Team of the Decade, and he was inducted into the Guelph Gryphon Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

With his professional playing days behind him, Peter is going on 8 years as a teacher in the York Region after spending 19 years teaching in Ottawa. "After a series of trials and errors, I determined that teaching was my forte. I guess it is in my blood as two of my sisters work at Canadian universities and both of my brothers teach at the high school level. I have concentrated in the intermediate grades and have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of getting students ready for high school." Along with his in-class teaching, Peter uses his athletics background to coach young athletes in a variety of different sports.

Peter says that his favourite memory from the Gryphon days is the atmosphere in the locker room. He notes that these are his favourite memories that he "can publish", which is sure to be relatable for many of our Gryphon alumni. "When the playing days ended, I missed the

excitement of the games, but I think I missed the camaraderie of the 50 or so guys who had become like a new family. Different backgrounds, different viewpoints, a vast variety of different behaviours, but the common thread that led to a bonding kinship that has lasted still today.”

When asked what being a Gryphon taught him, Peter says his biggest takeaway was a lesson on perseverance. “I learned to push myself beyond what I thought I could do and to stick with it until I got the desired results. There were several days when it difficult to be enthusiastic about workouts or practice, but the encouragement of good teammates and the common goal of winning helped to motivate me to get the job done. I still think back to some of the tough times in our early training camps when I am facing difficulties now.”

Peter, thank you for being part of our Gryphon family and our legacy. We love to share stories like yours with past, present, and future Gryphons!



Featured #FOGF Member

For this month's [Friends of Gryphon Football](#) member feature, we highlight gold member Brett McCallum, the very first [FOGF](#) member to sign up back in May 2017. Before becoming an [FOGF](#) member, Brett was a Gryphon himself playing on the offensive line from 1988-1992. He is an OUA 2nd team all-star, 1990 Lineman of the Year, a captain in 1991, and has the coveted title of Yates Cup Champ in 1992. Brett says the older he gets, the more he appreciates the truth that "once a Gryphon, always a Gryphon" so we are so happy to have him as part of the [FOGF](#) family now. Brett is a [Friends of Gryphon Football](#) advisor, attending regular committee meetings to help oversee all [FOGF](#) business.

Brett is an [FOGF](#) member because being involved in this way gives him the opportunity to give back to a team that has had such a positive influence on his life. "I can directly trace almost every great event in my life since my time as Gryphon to my time as a Gryphon," he said. "When I walked into Alumni Stadium on my first day, I was a shy, introverted, reserved kid with little confidence in myself and abilities. Through the example and mentorship of senior teammates and the close friendships with teammates my own year and junior, I learned resiliency, character, work ethic and self confidence that has led to very good fortune throughout my life."

When asked what he enjoys most about being an [FOGF member](#), Brett said that benefits such as the golf tournament and the clothing items are great, but it's the continued connection with not only his former teammates, but also Gryphons who came before and after his time. "Every time I attend any Gryphon Football event, and especially Gryphon Football games, I feel like I'm returning to spend time with some of my favourite family members." We love to see members of our great Gryphon family sticking around and supporting the program!

Being a Yates Cup champion, you would think it would be safe to say that Yates Cup final is Brett's favourite memory with the team, and while that memory is definitely near the top of the list, he has another game in mind. "My most memorable moment was actually the opening game of the 1992 season. In the previous 4 years, we had not been able to defeat Western, with our closest attempt a 53-53- tie game in my rookie year. To defeat Western in our home opener, on beautiful fall afternoon, in front of a record Alumni stadium home crowd (estimated over 10,000) was an incredible experience." Brett said the team could feel it before the season started that they had what it took to compete for the national championship, and the win against Western proved that belief to be true. 26 years later, this is the same feeling we have with our current team for the 2019-20 season!

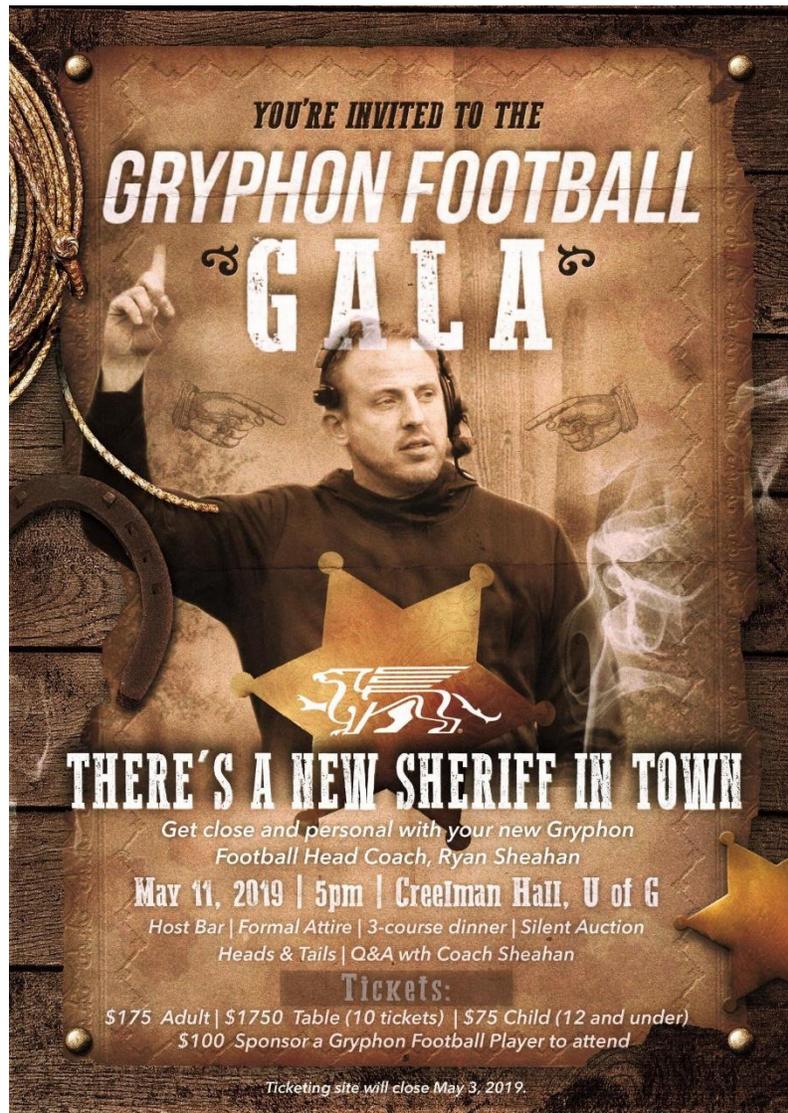
This month, Brett is celebrating 25 years as a professional firefighter with the City of Hamilton. You can only imagine that the skills he learned with the Gryphon team were able to transfer over into this field. In fact, the Gryphons are well represented over at the Hamilton Fire Department as 5 of Brett's colleagues are also former Gryphons!

Thanks for sharing your story and memories with us this month Brett, the [FOGF](#) and Gryphon family are lucky to have you!



Save the Date

Friends of Gryphon Football Gala Dinner – Saturday, May 11th, 2019 at Creelman Hall
Click [here](#) for tickets.



Friends of Gryphon Football Golf Tournament – Friday, July 26th, 2019 at Guelph Lakes Golf and Country Club

Guelph Gryphons vs. McMaster – Sunday, August 25th, 2019 at 1:00 PM at Alumni Stadium

To keep up to date on all of our upcoming events, click [here](#).

HOME GAMES

AWAY GAMES

M AUG 25

SEP 7

SEP 1

SEP 14

M SEP 21

SEP 28
HOMECOMING

OCT 10

OCT 19



2019
GRYPHON FOOTBALL

FOGF Memberships

Attention FOGF Gold members! Don't forget to check your emails for your 2019 Gryphon Football Gala ticket redemption code!

Help build Gryphon Football.
Your Friends of Gryphon Football (FOGF) Membership contributes to Canada's top university football program.

	RED PRIMARY	BLACK ASSOCIATE	GOLD PREMIER
	\$5 /mo (or \$60/yr)	\$20 /mo (or \$240/yr)	\$50 /mo (or \$600/yr)
Membership Card	Yes	Yes	Yes
Primary Swag Item (T-Shirt)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Glory Bowl Alumni Game Invite & T-Shirt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Associate Swag Item (Hat)	-	Yes	Yes
Gryphon Football Challenge Coin	-	Yes	Yes
18 Holes & Meals at Annual Gryphon Football Golf Tournament	-	1 Ticket	2 Tickets
Premier Swag Item (Hoodie)	-	-	Yes
Season Pass to all Gryphon Football home games*	-	-	Yes
Discount privileges at partnering restaurants and stores	-	-	Yes
Gryphon Football Gala Ticket	-	-	Yes
Priority Invitation to FOGF Special Events	-	-	Yes

* General Admission; 2nd Season Pass available @ discounted rate of \$30 // Prices shown subject to HST // All proceeds go to Gryphon Football and are managed by FOGF

JOIN THE FAMILY

TO REGISTER, VISIT:
gryphons.ca/FOGF

CONTACT, BILL BROWN:
brownw@uoguelph.ca



Share Your News!

If you have any news or updates, we would be more than happy to share them in our upcoming newsletter. Please reach out to brownw@uoguelph.ca for any celebrations, announcements or bereavements that you would like us to share.