

The Gryphons' Lair

Issue 30 – July 2019

What Happened in June?

Ride to Conquer Cancer

Last month, our Offensive Line coach, [Mike MacDonald](#), participated in the Ride to Conquer Cancer. The ride began at Niagara Falls, ended at McMaster University, and vice versa for day two. Coach Mike rode for five hours both days and raised a total of \$3100. Mike is a two-time cancer survivor himself. He rode with his sister, who rode in honour of their dad who also had cancer and beat it. When asked about the event, Mike said that it was a “great challenge, a lot of fun and the organization of the ride was unbelievable”. Mike plans on doing the ride again next year and is already seeking donations. The Ride to Conquer Cancer had 4600 riders in total and raised a \$19.2 million this year, with \$220 million towards cancer research over the past 12 years. We are very proud of you Coach Mike!



Left is Barb Eddie, who is a graduate of OVC. Mike met her that day and she is a recent cancer survivor. In the middle is Mike's sister, with Mike on the right.

Quarterback Camp

On Sunday, June 23rd, Gryphon Football ran our Elite Quarterback Camp. With only 10 players participating, our coaching staff was able to focus intimately on each player, coaching them along the way and evaluating their talent.



Gryphon Football Cabinet

The athletic department has paired with Gryphon Football to introduce the Football Cabinet. This cabinet will help to provide guidance and leadership towards the ongoing growth and development of the Gryphon Football program.



(Top row from left), Bruna Ferraro, Bill Brown, Stu Lang, Peter Partridge, Chris Moulton, Wally Gabler, Jason Moreton, Scott McRoberts, (Bottom row, from left), Dave Easter, Randy Dimitroff, Rob Laird.

Gryphon Coaches at St. Thomas More

Last month our coaching staff headed over to St. Thomas More Secondary School in Hamilton to spend time with some of our next Gryphons, as well as scout prospective players. St. Thomas More is one of the best football programs in the Nation, and has been a large focus of our incoming recruiting class for the upcoming season. Looking forward to having these guys join our team.



Members of the Gryphon Football coaching staff pose with incoming freshman, Yusuf Al-Khaldi, Spencer Kennedy and Kristian Stewart of STM.

Gryphon Coaches Helping at High School Practice

Gryphon Football Linebacker Coach, [Joe Sardo](#), and Offensive Line Coach, [Mike MacDonald](#), took some time out last month to coach at Bishop Ryan High School in Hamilton, Ontario. The coaches ran some drills for the students while keeping an eye out for prospective talent. Thank you to the coaches of Bishop Ryan Football team for having us!



Gryphon Wallpaper

Last month we introduced our Gryphon Football Wallpaper! Download the wallpaper for your desktop, phone, iPhone X and tablet by clicking this [link](#).



Last month we landed some great recruits to add to our incoming class!

Kaine Stevenson is a 6'1 receiver from W.F. Herman in Windsor. Click [here](#) to see his highlight tape.



Matteo Kucinic will be joining our Offensive Line at 6'4, 300lbs. Kucinic is from Football North and will provide strength, power and size to our Offensive Line. Click [here](#) to see his highlight tape.



Mackenzie Ginther is a 6'5, 185lb receiver from William Aberhart high school in Calgary. Click [here](#) to see Mackenzie's highlight tape.



Abdraman Abdel-Rahim is a 6'3, 180lb receiver from Vanier College in Montreal. He's a transfer from the University of Calgary. Abdraman will be another asset to our group of Receivers. Click [here](#) to watch Abdraman's highlight tape.



Yusuf Al-Khaldi is a 6'4, 220lb Defensive End from St. Thomas More High School in Hamilton. We're excited to see what Yusuf will bring to our Defensive Line this upcoming season.



Gryphons in the Community

This month, Kicker/Punter, [Jared Fernandez-Brown](#) returned from a two week mission trip, run by MeToWe. This is an annual mission trip that is made possible by the Joan Hewitt Travel Scholarship and Gryphon Football. We sat down with Jared Fernandez-Brown to discuss his trip, day-to-day tasks, learning experiences, and some of the cultural differences that he gathered from this two-week trip. To read more about his experience, please click [here](#).



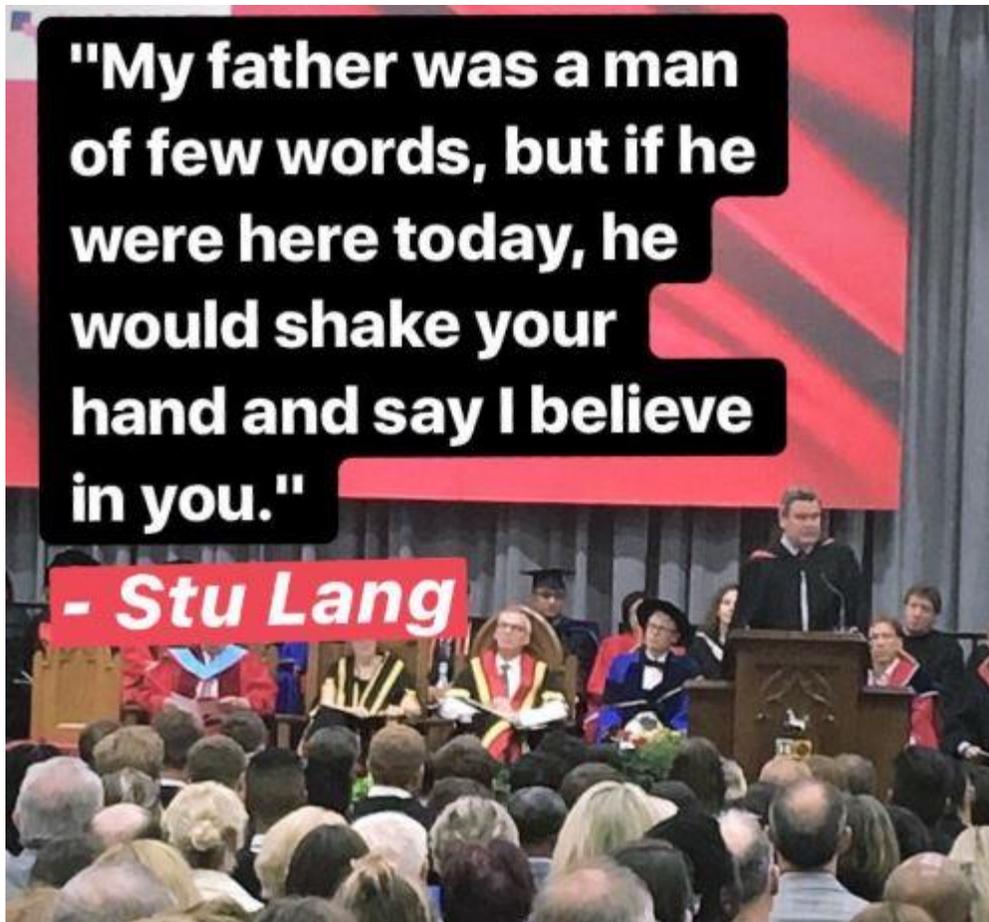
Coach Sheahan Engaged!

A huge congratulations goes out to our Head Coach, Ryan Sheahan, who got engaged last month to Jillian Farrow. Ryan popped the question at Jillian's dock in Bobcaygeon, her favourite place in the world, and she said YES! Congratulations Coach and Jillian! We wish you a lifetime of happiness.



First Graduating Class of the Lang School of Business

This past month, the Gordon S. Lang School of Business held its first convocation following their new name. In April, our very own Stuart Lang donated \$21 million to the business school, the largest donation in our University's history, and named the business school after his father. At the first convocation since the naming ceremony, Stu spoke to the graduating class, speaking about his father, his father's success and the fact that his father would want the graduates to know that he believes in them. Congratulations Stu, and his wife Kim, on this wonderful milestone for the Gordon S. Lang School of Business.



16 Gryphons in the CFL!

With the CFL season kicking off this past month, we'd like to highlight some of the Gryphon Football presence that exists in the CFL. We are so proud of our alumni representing the Gryphons both on the field and in the front office. Click [here](#) to read about all of our Gryphons in the CFL.



Jacob Scarfone: Player of the Game

Congratulations to Gryphon Football Alum, [Jacob Scarfone](#), who was voted Player of the Game by the Redblacks following their game against Montreal. Scarfone is a Wide Receiver for the Redblacks, graduating from our program in 2018. In the game against the Alouettes, Jacob got 7 receptions for 75 yards. Congratulations to Jacob!





Featured Alumni

This month's Featured FOGF member is someone who is still very close to our football program, Randy Dimitroff. Randy played quarterback for the Gryphons from 1981 to 1985, was our Team Captain in 1984 and 1985, and is now the President of Friends of Gryphon Football (FOGF).

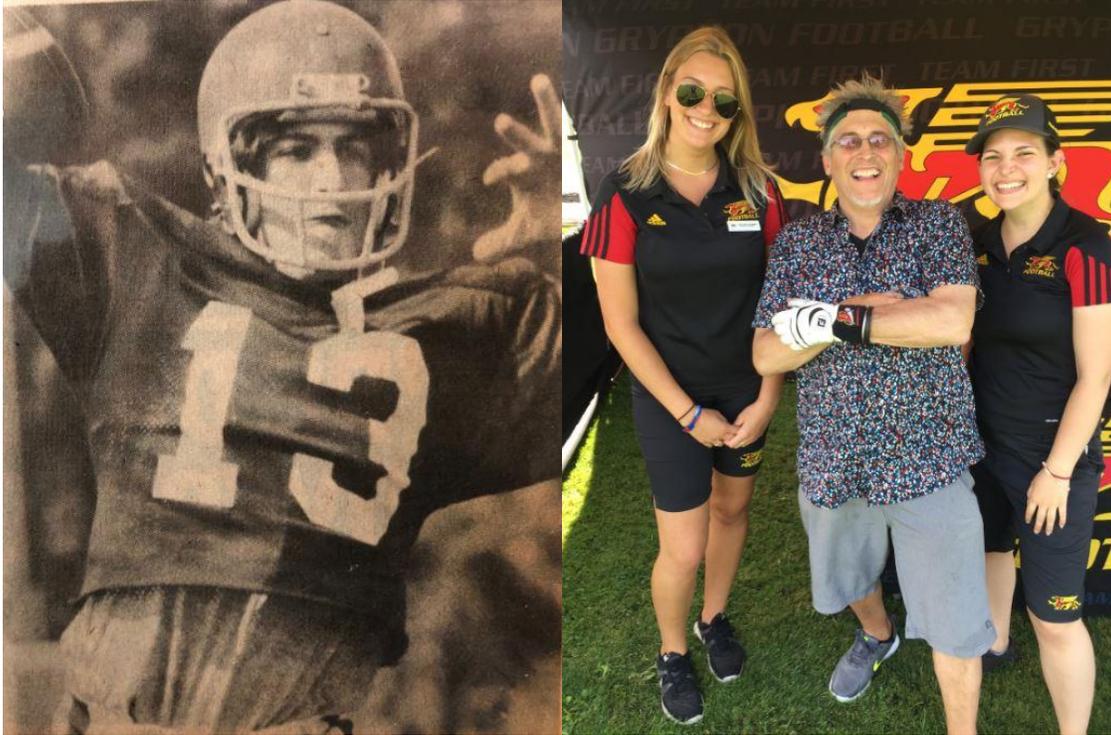
“I have been a Gryphon for life and have been lucky (or unlucky) enough to be coached by my Father Tom, to have played one year with my brother Thomas in 1985, and to have been a part of my son Dillon's Gryphon life from 2009 to 2013”.

Dimitroff said that becoming President of FOGF was a “natural transition for me to give back to the program and watch Guelph become one of the most sought after Universities in Canada”.

Randy got his degree in Management Economics and has been in sales for a distribution company called GT French for the last 20 years. When reflecting on his time as a Gryphon, Randy said that his most memorable moment with the Gryphons was being a part of the team that won the University's only Vanier Cup in 1984.

Currently, Randy is largely helping to plan and execute our FOGF Golf Tournament, taking place on Friday, July 26th.

Thank you, Randy, for all that you do for the Gryphon Football program!



Randy Dimitroff, playing for the Gryphons (left). Randy at last year's FOGF Golf Tournament.

Featured FOGF Member

This month's featured FOGF Member is our Defensive Line Coach, [Brian Cluff](#). Brian played Defensive End for the Gryphons from 1982 to 1986, and has been coaching for the Gryphons for over 30 years.

When asked why he decided to become an FOGF Member, Cluff said that "as a Gryphon Alum, it is a way we can help to support the program. The bottom line is that I had a great experience as a player and this is one way that myself as an alumni can help the players of today in a small way".

Brian has been teaching for 30 years in Guelph and retired just last week! Throughout his years, he has taught the Co-Op class, Physical Education and Outdoor Education classes. Once retired, Brian plans to enjoy family time at the cottage and prepare for our upcoming season.

Coach Cluff has been very close with the Gryphon Football program for a number of years. As previously mentioned, since graduating in 1987, Brian has coached for the Gryphons for over 30 years! He has primarily been the Defensive Line coach for Gryphon Football, but was also the Linebacker coach and Defensive Coordinator for period of time.

“As a player and as a coach, winning a championship is a very special moment”. After reflecting on all of his years playing and coaching with the program, winning the Vanier in 1984 as a player, and the 2015 Yates cup as a coach were two of his favourite moments as a Gryphon. “It’s a wonderful experience to share with teammates, fellow coaches and players that you coach”.



Save the Date

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

F.O.G.F.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

ESTABLISHED 1997

JULY 26TH, 2019 | REGISTRATION & LUNCH: 11:00AM | SHOTGUN: 1:00PM | GUELPH LAKES GOLF CLUB

Includes: BBQ Lunch, Scramble Format, Cart, Golf, Prizes, Steak Dinner

\$150 per golfer | \$600 per foursome

> CLICK HERE TO REGISTER <

Please note, participation will be limited to the first 144 registered golfers.



F.O.G.F.
GOLF TOURNAMENT
ESTABLISHED 1997

1 HOLE \$250

(1) hole on the course, *selected by organizer*
Hole signage provided by organizer
Mentioned by MC in the opening comments at dinner

LUNCH SPONSOR \$1,500

Sponsorship Signage at Check In, and at lunch location
Signage provided by organizer
Name Recognition on FOGF Tournament Banner
FOGF Customized Thank You Package
Mentioned by MC in the opening comments at Dinner

DINNER SPONSOR \$3,000

Sponsorship Signage at Check In, and in Dining Room
Hole signage provided by organizer
Name Recognition on FOGF Tournament Banner
FOGF Customized Thank You Package
Mentioned by MC in the opening comments at Dinner

For more Information, please contact: George Bortolato at:
georgebortolato27@gmail.com or 416-729-0806

Season Opener & Post-Game BBQ: Guelph Gryphons vs. McMaster Marauders - Sunday, August 25th, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. at Alumni Stadium, BBQ to follow. Click [here](#) to purchase your early bird tickets to the game!

FOGF Memberships

Ti-Cats and Friends of Gryphon Football

Join us on July 13th as the FOGF will be heading down to Tim Hortons Field to watch the Hamilton Tiger-Cats take on the Calgary Stampeders. This group package includes an on-field experience and 50% of the regular ticket price! For further details, please contact Bill Brown at brownw@uoguelph.ca



Become a Member

Interested in becoming an FOGF Member? There are three different tiers to our memberships: Red, Gold and Black. To find out more information about our memberships and what is involved in each level, please click [here](#). For questions about the membership, please contact Bill Brown at brownw@uoguelph.ca.



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 of bereavements that you would like us to share.