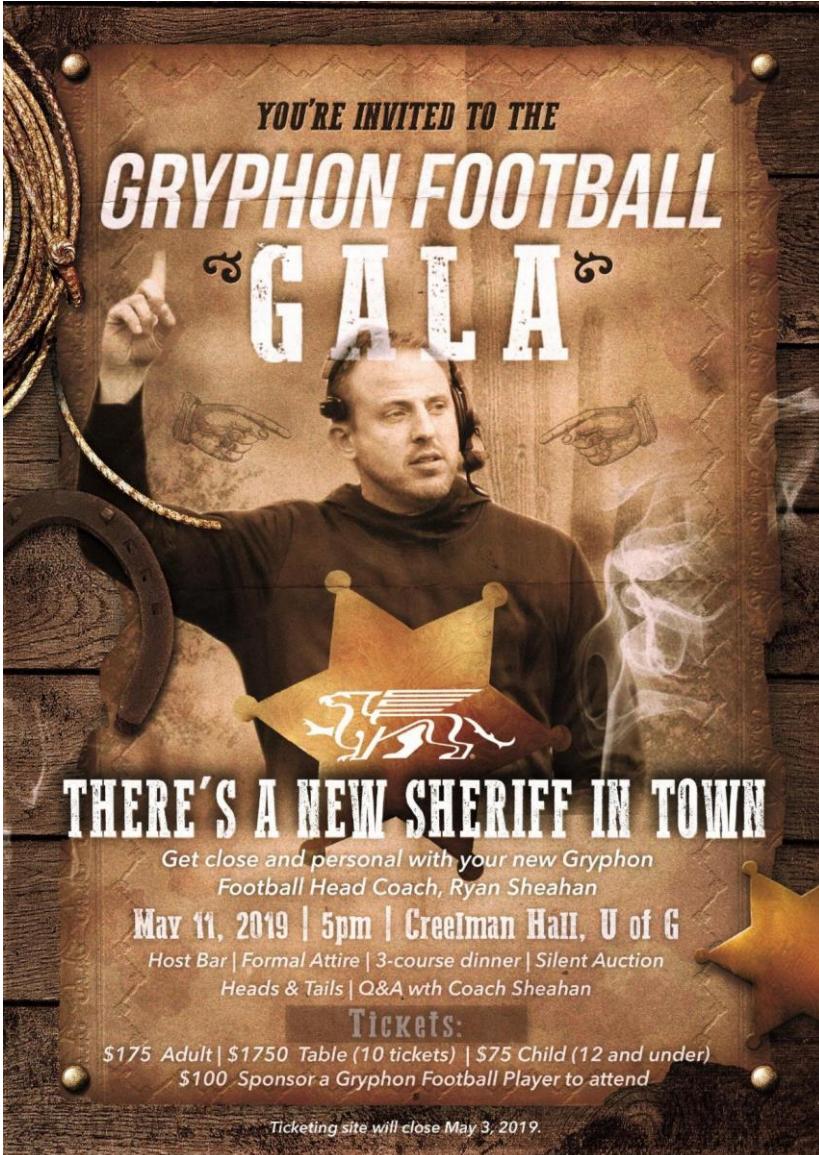




April brought a lot of excitement and changes to Alumni Stadium. Exams are over, but the hard work for our Gryphons has just begun. Spring camp has come and gone, the CFL draft is near, and then our Gryphons are headed for a summer of learning the playbook and getting faster and stronger before August. Get caught up with all things Gryphon Football in this issue of The Gryphons' Lair.

The 2019 Gryphon Football Gala is fast approaching! Get your tickets before registration closes on MAY 3rd! THIS MAY BE THE CLOSING DATE OF REGISTRATION. [Click here for tickets.](#)



The Gryphons' Lair



Issue 28 – May 2019

What Happened in April?

Coaching Staff is Complete for 2019 Season

This month Gryphon Football officially announced our coaching staff for the 2019 season. These new additions each bring something new to the table and we are excited for them to join the Gryphon family!



Mark Surya – Offensive Coordinator

At just 30-years-old, Mark Surya has already established himself as one of the top offensive minds in the conference after having previously held Offensive Coordinator positions at both Wilfrid Laurier University as well as U of T. During his final season as Offensive Coordinator with the Golden Hawks in 2016, Surya handled play-calling duties for a Laurier offence that led the country in rushing yards per game (281.4), while also ranking second in points per game (42.6) and total touchdowns (43). That season, Surya was part of a Laurier team that claimed the 109th Yates Cup with a come-from-behind 43-40 win over the Western Mustangs. "I think this place has a chance to be a national championship contender every year," says Surya.

Click [here](#) to read more.



Donnavan Carter – Special Teams Coordinator

Donnavan Carter returns to the University of Guelph for his second stint as a Gryphon after spending the 2016 season as U of G's defensive backs coach and recruiting coordinator. During his playing days, Carter achieved all-star status at both the NCAA level (Northern Illinois Huskies) as well as the CFL level, where he played eight seasons with four different teams. "It's awesome to be back in Guelph," says Carter, "The Gryphons have done an outstanding job on special teams in recent years and I'm hoping to add to that and take it to the next level."

Click [here](#) to read more.



Stevenson Bone

Stevenson Bone played quarterback for the Western Mustangs from 2012-2017 after playing with the Vanier College Cheetahs and will serve as the Gryphons' Quarterbacks Coach as well as Director of Football Operations.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

**Bryce Harper**

Bryce Harper joins the Gryphons after playing running back at University of Calgary [in](#) 2011, [and from](#) 2013-2016. Bryce joins the coaching staff as the Running Backs Coach as well as the Assistant Strength Coach.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



Stu & Kim Lang Make Generous Donation to U of G Business

We are all familiar with the generosity of Stu and Kim Lang in regard to our Gryphon Football program, but they have taken it to the next level this month with a \$21 million donation to U of G's business school. Renamed the Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics after Stu's late father, this is the largest donation the University has ever received and will be a game-changer for business at Guelph.

The gift, expected to be dispersed over a decade, includes \$8-million for four new Chairs, named for the late Mr. Lang, in finance, marketing, leadership and sports leadership, all of which will include themes of sustainability and corporate social responsibility," according to the dean.

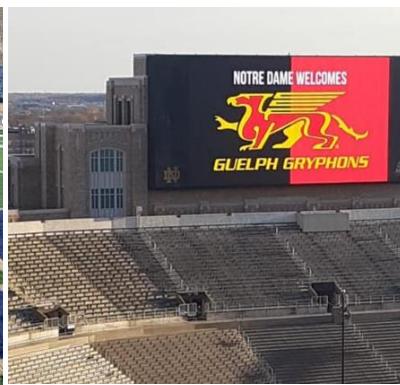
Click [here](#) to read more.



This month, members of our football coaching staff, Athletic Department, and Alumni House had the opportunity to visit the University of Notre Dame for professional development opportunities.



2019 Elite O-Line/D-Line Camp



Every year, Coach MacDonald and Coach Cluff host a training camp for some of the best OL and DL high school players. This year, our coaches were joined by former Gryphon players who have some CFL experience to help run the practices. Cam Walker (Toronto Argonauts) and Andrew Pickett (Ottawa Redblacks) are still playing while best buds Cam Thorn and Jake Piotrowski have both retired.

These former Gryphon players see volunteering at this camp as a chance to give back and to provide an opportunity to these high school players that they didn't have when they were their age. "We never really had an opportunity like this growing up. There wasn't a lot of that where we came from up in Barrie," Thorn said. "It's awesome to see. As long as they come in, obviously work hard and take something back with them that they didn't know before -- as long as they're learning, that's all that matters."

Click [here](#) to read more.

Click [here](#) to watch the highlights.



Andrew Pickett of the Ottawa Redblacks



We saw some great players this year!

Team Ontario Red vs Black Weekend

This month we were honoured to host Team Ontario's Red vs. Black Weekend 2019 and have the best players, coaches, and scouts to Alumni Stadium and the Pavilion for the 3-day event. The days of training ended with a banquet, dinner, and recruit fair before the game on the Saturday afternoon.





Coach Mike MacDonald and his Team O offensive linemen.

Spring Camp 2019

When exams had officially finished for the year, our team got right to work training before August. The 5-day spring training camp consisted of hours of daily practice followed by a scrimmage at the end of the week.

"I thought it was super positive," head coach Ryan Sheahan said following the camp-ending scrimmage. "Rome was definitely not built in a day and the fact that all the players I inherited and the new staff I recruited and the new recruits that were here watching, we're all starting to come together as a family. It's been new play books, new people, new faces and new attitude and we were able to go out there and move the football, sack the quarterback and make a few plays on both sides of the ball. I was really pleased."

Click [here](#) to read more.

Click [here](#) for story by U of G Athletics.

Click [here](#) for the video.





Click [here](#) for more photos!

Mic'd Up: Darius Samuels

4th year defensive back [Darius Samuels](#) got the mic'd up treatment on the first day of spring camp. Click [here](#) to watch!





We added a few more Future Gryphons to our recruit class this month, including Will Schmahl from Saint Paul Catholic in Niagara Falls. We are excited for this 6'3 defensive back to join our squad. Welcome, Will!



Next Future Gryphon is Ben Lancaster from Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School in Ottawa. He is a 6'3 320lb offensive linemen that will add some force to our team.

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



One more Future Gryphon was added to the team this month, Kaidan Gilbert from Garth Webb Secondary School in Oakville, a quarterback weighing in at 6'3 195lbs. Welcome to the Gryphons, Kaidan!

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



Job Reinhart Ranked #3 of Top 10 Linebackers Ahead of CFL Draft

The 2019 CFL Draft takes place on May 2, 2019, and [Job Reinhart](#) is being recognized as one of the top linebackers eligible this year.

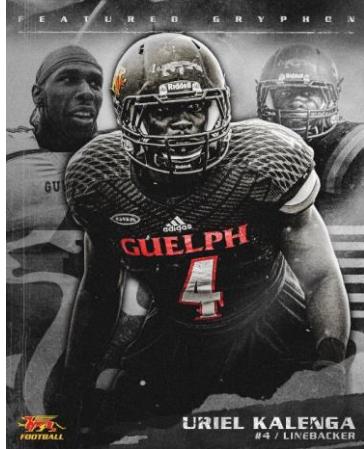
"A stoutly built linebacker, Reinhart is perfect for plugging gaps and virtually immovable in the run game. Guelph has used him at fullback in goal line packages and, given his build and impressive 27 bench reps, he may be converted at the next level. Nevertheless, linebacking experience will serve him well as a tackler on special teams."

Click [here](#) to read more.



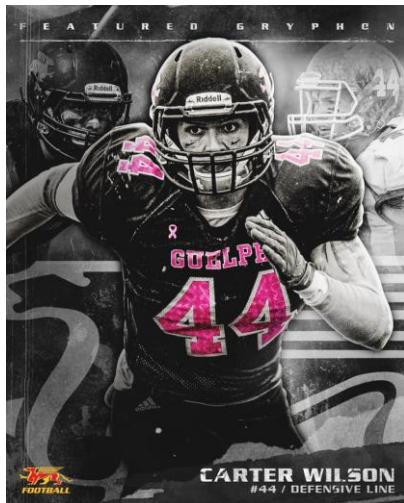
Featured Gryphon: Uriel Kalenga

[Uriel "UK" Kalenga](#) studies sociology and will be entering his second year as a linebacker with the Gryphons for the 2019 season. "My most memorable moment in the 2018 season was recording my first OUA sack vs. Waterloo." Keep an eye on UK this year as he terrorizes the league.



Featured Gryphon: Carter Wilson

[Carter Wilson](#) is studying Marketing Management and will be entering his 4th year as a defensive lineman in the 2019-20 season. "My most memorable moment last season was the last defensive series against Ottawa in the playoffs. Seeing all of our guys come together to stop them on their final push and let nothing come between each other. You could feel how badly each guy out there wanted it, then to see that pass from Theo to Thomas made it all a fairy tale come true." Keep you eye on Carter on May 11th as he participates in the USports East-West Bowl.





Featured Alumni

This month, we feature Gryphon Football alumni Doug Pflug! Doug was a running back with the Gryphons, making appearances at a few Yates Cup finals, before graduating in the late 80s with a degree in Sociology. He was a two-sport athlete also competing in wrestling.

Thinking back to his playing days, he tells a great story about his favourite memory being when he was asked to fill in for an injured teammate during the 1986 Yates Cup final against Western. The play was a fake field goal attempt deep in Western's red zone. "It was my rookie year, I was a second-string tailback, and I was absolutely scared to death to have such an important place in this game," he says. The play was successful, and Doug ran about 15-20 yards before being tackled on the 2-yard line. "I was so happy because our team scored on the next drive as I watched from the sidelines. That play taught me to always be ready and regardless of the role we have, we must always rise up to the occasion and give it our very best for the team. Knowing my efforts set my team up for the score on the next drive is exhilarating still to this day." Stories like this that are described with so much detail nearly 23 years later brings a unique sense of family and nostalgia to our Gryphon alumni.

After leaving U of G, Doug started a career with the Guelph Police, fulfilling the dream he has had since he was 9 years old of being able to make a difference in society. While working as a police officer, Doug coached with the Our Lady of Lourdes Football team to get his football fix. "This was very important to me because I was able to share my love of football, police a great community, and be a positive male role model to the young men and other students as a coach and a police officer." Doug continued to share his expertise and guidance as a police mentor with the Guelph Storm since 1995, as well as serving as the Strength and Conditioning Coach for 17 years.

Like many of our alumni, Doug's passion for the game and the Gryphons is just as strong today, and he plays a huge role in our Gryphon Football community with multiple volunteer efforts that help to make our program the best.

In 2001, Doug was contacted by former head coach Tom Arnott to join the team as the law enforcement mentor to provide guidance and ensure our players are great citizens as well as football players.

Doug then took on a formal mentor role for 2 former Gryphon players, Johnny Augustine and Orion Edwards, from 2012-2017 supporting them on and off the field to become the stars they are today.

In 2012, Doug sought to increase his involvement with the team, starting up multiple social media initiatives including a fan-based Facebook page and Twitter ([@GryphonsLair](#)) where he live tweets the games and posts some sideline shots as well as all Gryphon Football updates. In 2015, Doug and his wife, Michelle, established the Pflug Family Community Service Award to be presented at the Wildman Trophy Dinner to recognize the outstanding community service efforts of a player. The winner this season was [Nicholas Mirijello](#), who received his name on the trophy, a \$200 gift certificate, and a letter of reference.

In 2015, Doug established a partnership with Avalon Group Homes for at risk-youth and created the opportunity for Gryphon players interested in working with youth to earn a part-time job.

Players that have worked for this group include Johnny Augustine, Orion Edwards, Dean Yaromich, [Akeem Knowles](#) and [Elijah Walker](#).

Doug's involvement with the Gryphons has also consisted of creating multiple community-based endeavours including honouring [Community Heroes](#) of Guelph before every home game and the annual Gryphon Football Special Olympics Powerlifting meet hosted at Alumni Stadium.

The list of ways Doug has contributed to help make Gryphon Football and our athletes successful off the field and in the community is more extensive than can possibly be described in a short newsletter feature, but is definitely deserving of the recognition.

"Being a Gryphon is, simply put, paying it forward to make the lives of our community and younger members better. We have a very special organization," he says. "As a young man, it helped me channel my energy in a very productive way. It taught me about elite teamwork, brotherhood, honour, integrity, passion, and accountability. All these traits assisted me in transitioning into law enforcement where the same traits are held so dear."

Thank you, Doug, for all you have done and continue to do to help advance our Gryphon Football program! You are truly a great Gryphon alumnus!



L to R: Reighan (daughter), Michelle (wife), Alexis (daughter), and Doug.





Featured #FOGF Member

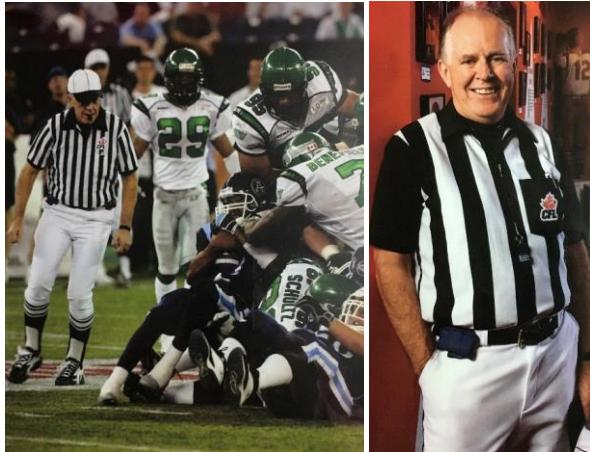
For May's Featured FOGF Member, we reached out to Gold member Dave Hutton! Before becoming an FOGF member, Dave was a Gryphon linebacker from 1971-1973 before being drafted by the Hamilton Tiger Cats in 1974 where he played one exhibition game before being let go. His efforts with the Gryphons led him to become a captain in 1972 and a member of the 1970 Team of the Decade.

Dave's favourite memories from his time with the Gryphons include ones from the team pre-game meals. Nowadays, our team enjoys a dinner at Cutten Fields before home games so that all the dressers get a good meal, watch a pump-up video, and hear a speech from the head coach, but Dave remembers it a little differently. "No one on the team wanted to sit near our head coach, Dick Brown, because he ordered his pregame steaks cooked "blue"! The steak came out of the kitchen so under-cooked that it was mooing, and no one could eat anywhere near him!" He also recalls the exceptional skill of some of his teammates, QB Brian Riddell, RB Dave Lane, and RB Bruce Morris. "Those guys could play yet remain very down to earth away from the game."

After retiring from playing, Dave stayed involved in the football scene by coaching for 5 years and then becoming an official with the Hamilton Football Officials' Association. "Football has never really left my life and my playing years at Guelph were a big part of the legacy," Dave says. Dave's officiating career continued to progress and he was able to return to the Guelph turf once again in 1983. "Dick Brown was still coaching. I'll never forget his comment to me before the opening kick-off, "Dave, I simply cannot understand how someone could sink as low as to become an official!" Coach Brown had this thing for officials." In 1986, Dave was asked to join the CFL as an official, where he spent 25 seasons, 419 games, 6 Grey Cups, 2 knee surgeries, and several concussions before retiring in 2010. Since then, Dave has been the coordinator of the CFL's officiating talent acquisition program and is currently the Referee in Chief of the officiating department of the OUA. "I have to keep any Gryphon gear buried deeply in my closets so as to show no bias!" What an outstanding career this Gryphon alumni/FOGF member has had!

Dave says he joined the Friends of Gryphon Football because he wanted to "reconnect to a part of my life that had been quite a formative experience for me in many ways." FOGF members receive special game and event perks while creating a great Gryphon family amongst former teammates, previous players, and current players and supporters. "Being a member has allowed me to reconnect with former teammates, to meet alumni from other generations, and give back a bit to the current program," he says.

Thanks for sharing your Gryphon stories and career journey with us Dave. We are lucky to have you as a great alumni and supportive Friends of Gryphon Football member!



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](#).



FOGF Memberships

This year's FOGF members were able to reap all the benefits, including the Gold members being able to redeem their FREE tickets to the annual Friends of Gryphon Football Gala on May 11, 2019. With the annual Friends of Gryphon Football Golf Tournament and the 2019-20 season fast approaching, now is the perfect time to sign up for your own FOGF Membership to get involved with and give back to the Gryphon Football community. **Contact Bill Brown at brownw@uoguelph.ca for more details!**



The landing page features a red banner at the top with the text "FOGF Memberships". Below the banner, there is a large image of a stadium filled with spectators. In the center of the image, the "FOOTBALL FRIENDS" logo is displayed. Below the logo, the text "Help build Gryphon Football." is written. A subtext below it states: "Your Friends of Gryphon Football (FOGF) Membership contributes to Canada's top university football program." The main content is a table comparing three membership levels: RED PRIMARY (\$5/mo or \$60/yr), BLACK ASSOCIATE (\$20/mo or \$240/yr), and GOLD PREMIER (\$50/mo or \$600/yr). The table lists various benefits for each level, such as a membership card, swag items, tournament participation, and special event access. At the bottom of the page, there is a note about general admission and season pass discounts, followed by a yellow call-to-action button with the text "JOIN THE FAMILY" and a black footer with registration and contact information.

	RED PRIMARY \$5/mo (or \$60/yr)	BLACK ASSOCIATE \$20/mo (or \$240/yr)	GOLD PREMIER \$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

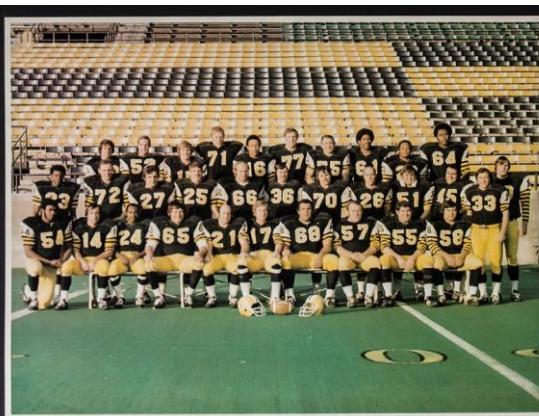
CONTACT, BILL BROWN:
brownw@uoguelph.ca

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.

Did You Know?

With the CFL draft happening this month, did you know that the very first Gryphon drafted in the CFL draft was Dave Clark (HB) in 1970? He was drafted in the 5th round 41st overall by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. He won the Grey Cup with Hamilton in 1972.



HAMILTON TIGER-CAT FOOTBALL CLUB
1972 GREY CUP CHAMPIONS

TOP ROW: B. VENBURKLEO, K. FERGUSON, D. CLARKE, B. RICHARDSON, C. EALEY,
T. GABRIEL, T.J. COFFEY, B. SMITH, D. BUCHANAN, J. GANTT.
SECOND ROW: J. WILLIAMS, C. CHRISTIAN, D. WESLOWSKI, A. BRENNER, D. MITCHELL,
L. SAWYER, C. BLOM, G. HENLEY, J. PAPAI, M. KOSLOS, G. STERNBERG,
P. KUDRYKA.
THIRD ROW: G. WELLS, B. KROUSE, L. PORTER, G. INSKEEF, D. FLEMING, R. SHAW,
A. MOSCA, J. HOHMAN, B. DANICHUK, & CHALUPKA.