

Year in Review 2010-2011



OLDS COLLEGE
100 years
1913-2013



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A Message from Dr. H. J. (Tom) Thompson, President

It has been an outstanding year at Olds College, one where we have truly felt an increase in momentum as we move through the final years of our first century. Our 2013 Centennial is approaching quickly, seemingly faster and faster, and I am proud to report many significant undertakings that honour the legacy of the staff, students and faculty who precede us. At the same time, we have taken great steps to ensure that we will be the premier Canadian integrated learning and applied research community specializing in agriculture, horticulture, land and environmental management in our second century as a post-secondary institution.

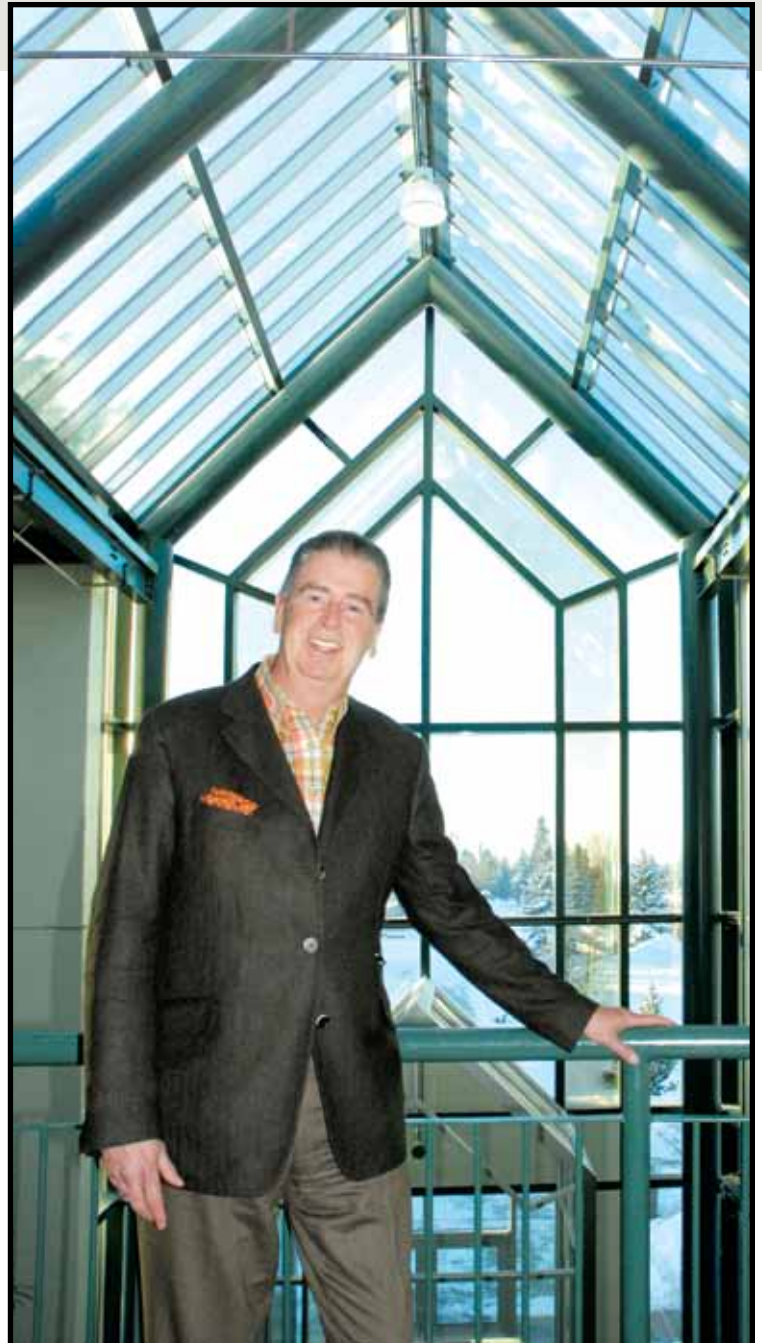
Many of those steps and their resulting accomplishments come from our dedication to the mission and values of Olds College. Values such as the empowerment of learners of rural community development are evident in numerous places. From the further development of online programs and ongoing growth of Campus Alberta Central (created with partners Red Deer College) to increased access to degrees through partnerships with institutions such as MacEwan University or England's Hartpury College, to assisting in developing Community Learning Campus sports facilities like Normie Kwong Park, the evidence is in everything we strive to do.

And the results are encouraging, inspiring us to continue to excel. Whether its capacity enrolment for this past year's Business Administration Diploma program, our students being the only Canadians invited to a key U.S agricultural summit or an equine program alumnus being named by peers as the top of his field, we view these benchmarks not so much as signs of success but, rather, a reason to stay the course and pursue an even higher level of excellence.

As you read about these and many other highlights of this, our 2010-2011 Year in Review, you will be seeing the work of a great number of talented and dedicated people. To them, I would like to extend my congratulations for a job well done and say "Thank You." With their help, we continue to balance growth and a respect for tradition, making Olds College relevant to generation after generation of learners. With their help we will continue to do so. I hope you will join me in expressing this gratitude as you read about our most recent achievements.

Sincerely,

Dr. H. J. (Tom) Thompson
President, Olds College





Expanded Class Sizes

An expanded class size for the 2010-11 academic year allowed more students to pursue a Business Administration Diploma. Previously, in 2009-2010, the program was full to capacity with many students placed on a waiting list. Graduates of the program can now also enter the University of Lethbridge's Bachelor of Management Program and complete the degree within two years.



Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Funding

The College publicly applauded an announcement by Minister Gary Goodyear and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) indicating that \$32.5 million would be made available to colleges, institutes and polytechnics for research equipment and infrastructure. As part of Polytechnics Canada, an alliance of Canadian colleges and institutes of technology emphasizing applied education and applied research. The potential benefits for the College and its partners in the Central Alberta region were numerous. Olds College was one of the first Canadian colleges to be eligible for funding from the CFI.

Tanya McDonald, Olds College School of Innovation Bioenergy Research Scientist, featured in a video shot by Science Alberta.



Olds College & MacEwan University Agreement

Rural students in Central Alberta gained greater access to a Bachelor of Science degree thanks to a new agreement between Olds College and Edmonton's MacEwan University. As of fall, 2011 students are now able to take the first year of their MacEwan B.Sc. degree on Olds College campus.

Dr. Tom Thompson and MacEwan University President Dr. Paul J. Byrne.





Normie Kwong Park Developing Rural Athletes

An age-old football rivalry was set aside on October 2, as executives from the Calgary Stampeders and the Edmonton Eskimos joined The Honourable Norman Kwong to celebrate the official naming of the Normie Kwong Park in Olds. Normie Kwong Park is located at the Community Learning Campus, specifically Olds High School, and will help foster the development of a new generation of young rural athletes.



Olds College Broncos Defeat ACAC Rivals

The Olds College Women's basketball team defeated the NAIT Oaks of the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) at the Bob Day Invitational Tournament in Edmonton by a score of 51-47. It was a significant win, indicating the potential of the College's recently-revived athletics program. At the time, the Broncos were part of the Alberta College Athletics League (ACAL) and hadn't defeated an ACAC team in basketball for over twenty years.



Campus Alberta Central (CAC) – Moving Forward

Following the May announcement of Olds College and Red Deer College's joint Campus-Alberta vision, Campus Alberta Central (CAC) hired its first two senior staff for the Executive Director and General Manager positions. Jean Madill signed on for the role of CAC Executive Director and Jann Beeston began as General Manager of Community Programming.

Pictured: Joel Ward, President, Red Deer College, Janice Wing, Chair, Red Deer College Board of Governors, Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, Bill Quinney, former Chair, Olds College Board of Governors, Dr. Tom Thompson, President, Olds College at the May announcement.



Expanded Studies for Farrier Science Program

Already at capacity enrolment, October 25 marked the first day of classes for students enrolled in Olds College's new two-year Farrier Science Diploma program. Olds College's one-year program was already considered by many as the best in the industry. The expanded studies provides students with more comprehensive learning in equine anatomy, horse handling, horse husbandry and an eight-month directed field study.





New Chair for Olds College Board of Governors

Following in the footsteps of veteran board member and outgoing chair, Bill Quinney, current board member Barry Mehr began as new Chair of the Olds College Board of Governors. As well, Gloria Beck and Shirley McClellan joined the Olds College Board of Governors as new members.



First Major Sporting Event in New Ralph Klein Centre

The Olds College Women's and Men's volleyball teams won Silver and Bronze respectively as the host school for the 2010 Alberta College Athletic League (ACAL) Championships. The event marked the first major sporting event the Olds College hosted since moving into the Community Learning Campus' new Ralph Klein Centre.



New Additions to Online Programs for Students

Olds College unveiled two of its previously classroom-only certificate programs in an online format. Beginning in February 2011, students were able to log in and earn an Olds College Fashion Marketing certificate or a Land Administration certificate. Enrolees included new students, current students and high school students from the Chinook's Edge School Division.



Canadian Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship (CIRE)

Providing significant educational and career development opportunities in a niche that is essentially untapped, Olds College announced the creation of the Canadian Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship (CIRE). Constructed through a partnership between the College and the Pomeroy Group on five acres of College land south of Highway 27, the \$12-to-\$14 Million institute will be a part of an upscale hotel, restaurant and conference centre, built in close proximity to existing research and production facilities. The new venues will contain specialized learning environments designed to support the work of the CIRE.



Dr. Tom Thompson speaks with media following the launch of the CIRE.



Olds College Students Representing Canada at Agricultural Summit

At the Legislative Agricultural Chairs Summit and State Agricultural Rural Leaders board meetings in Fort McDowell, Ariz., Olds College was represented by the only two Canadian students to be invited to the summit. Olds College President Dr. Tom Thompson joined them for a portion of the event. In their applications for the event, both students cited sustainability — both economic and environmental — as one of the primary topics they would be focused on during the summit.

Equine Science Program Providing Students New Opportunities

Olds College's Equine Science graduates now have expanded educational and career opportunities, not to mention potential for life-enriching travel, thanks to a new agreement signed with England's Hartpury College. From this year forward, students with a two-year Equine Science diploma will be able to enrol at Hartpury College and complete an internationally-recognized Bachelor's Degree in Equine Management with one additional year of study.



Dual Credit Program Wins Excellence Award

Partnering to create opportunities for students earned Olds College and Chinook's Edge School Division a Mayor's Excellence Award through the Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation. The award was presented by Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi at a gala event, in the category of School to Work Transition, and was bestowed for the dual credit program – easing the transition from high school to post secondary.



Olds College Alumni Ranked Top Apprentice Rider

One short year after he claimed the title of Outstanding Apprentice Jockey at the 35th Annual Sovereign Awards in Toronto last January, Olds College alumnus Omar Moreno won the continent's highest award for an apprentice jockey. At the 40th Annual Eclipse Awards in Miami, Fla., Moreno was named the top apprentice rider in North America. In 2010 he racked up 146 wins and approximately \$5.5 Million in purse money.





Equine Guelph's Equine Science Certificate Available to Students

A recent agreement between Olds College and Equine Guelph, part of Ontario's University of Guelph, yielded the formation of a new Olds College certificate program. As of July 2011, students are able to enrol in the College's new one-year Western Recreational Rider certificate program. By completing two additional elective courses in that timeframe, students can also acquire Equine Guelph's Equine Science certificate in addition to the College's Western Recreational Rider certificate.



New Relationships Formed while Strengthening Current Bonds in China

Olds College Board of Governors Chair Barry Mehr and Dr. Robert Wilson, Vice President Academic and Research, visited China and met with a number of current partners in Heilongjiang Province. Meetings took place with officials at Northeast Agriculture University and local government agencies in Harbin. Mehr and Wilson also consulted with senior officials to create a new relationship with the Bayi Agriculture University in Daching and met with two industry partners as well. Siwin Foods, a major meat processor in Yantai, plans to build a processing facility in Alberta. CK Life Sciences in Hong Kong is a long time client of the Olds College School of Innovation, and areas of future cooperation were investigated.

Olds College Gala A Growing Success

Sold out two weeks in advance, Olds College's March 11 Growing the Legacy Gala was a tremendous success. Elected representatives from every level of government, from municipal through to federal, joined noted Canadian academics, leaders in industry and research, alumni and a wide range of College supporters to help raise over \$100,000 for the Olds College Opportunities Fund.

Left: A fashion show featuring the designs from Olds College students.

Right: Olds College President, Dr. Tom Thompson with the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and Doug Horner, Alberta Progressive Conservative Leadership Candidate.



Applications Accepted for New Deep Utility Installer Program

Olds College began accepting student applications for the first-ever class of its Deep Utility Installer program. The program was first conceived of by Olds College and partners in the Alberta Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (ARHCA) in 2008 as a solution to both a drastic labour shortage in Alberta and a noticeable gap in continuing education.





Increased Gymnasium Space Offers Enhanced Athletic Programming

In addition to the triple gym in the new \$32 million Ralph Klein Centre and the updates in the Frank Grisdale Hall Gymnasium, Olds College purchased a portable arena hardwood floor to re-purpose the Agriculture Mechanics lab during the summer months. There are few facilities in Alberta that have five gymnasiums in one location, with accommodations also available on site, and this addition further enhances the College's ability to offer excellence in athletic programming and host a wide variety of tournaments and events including conferences.

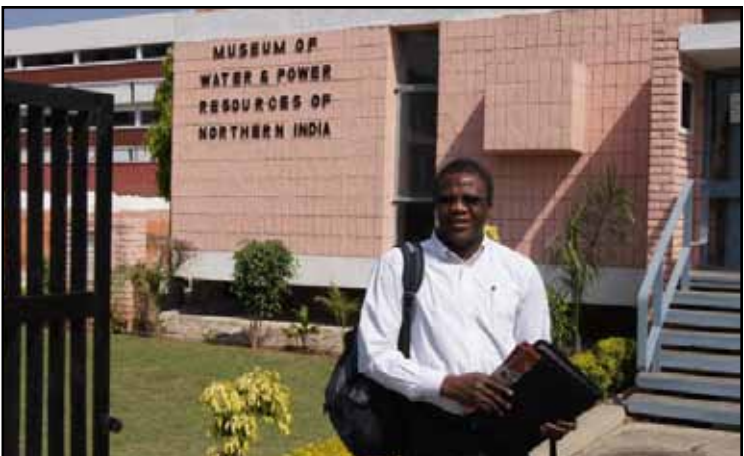


Memorandum of Understanding Signed with India's Punjab Agricultural University

Olds College signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's Punjab Agricultural University with the intent to create future programs and collaborate on research in a number of areas including field-worthy technologies for crop-waste management and bio-fuel production. Possible synergy in other areas such as online course development and water, land, horticulture, and environmental management will also be investigated.

Top Left: Dr. Tom Thompson signs a Memorandum of Understanding with PAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Manjit Singh Kang.

Below Left: Olds College School of Innovation Chair Dr. Abimbola Abiola in India.



Olds College ACAC National Application Accepted

The Olds College Men's and Women's Basketball teams became part of the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) for the 2012-2013 season. The Broncos Cross Country team, new to Broncos athletics for the 2011-2012 season, will be ACAC members as well. The decision to accept Olds College's application to join the ACAC followed a February showcase game before ACAC officials in the Ralph Klein Centre. The College will now be able to compete toward a national championship and be able to bid to host future national championships.



Olds College Hosts MATI-Uyole Educators

Olds College International Services, led by Pat Bidart, hosted eight educators from MATI-Uyole in Mbeya, Tanzania as part of an Education for Employment project funded through the Association of Canadian Community Colleges by the Canadian International Development Agency. Topics of discussion included Olds College leadership, technology, e-learning and curriculum development.





2011 Olds College Convocation

Marking just the second time Olds College has held its convocation in the Ralph Klein Centre, hundreds of students were on hand for the 2011 Graduation ceremony. An honorary degree was conferred upon Dr. Dennis Westhoff, Senior Water Resources Engineer, for his dedication to Olds College and, in particular, his groundbreaking work towards the creation of the Olds College Treatment Wetlands and Botanic Gardens. Guest speaker for the event was Dr. Stewart Rood, a highly-respected environmental scientist and Co-Director of the Centre for Water Research.



PIN Conference Arrives on Campus

Along with partners NAIT and SAIT, Olds College hosted the 2011 Postsecondary International Network (PIN) Conference on its campus. PIN is an alliance of post secondary institutions dedicated to the furtherance of international education and understanding through a sharing of experience. Currently, Olds College President Dr. Tom Thompson is the PIN President. This year's conference theme was "Innovative Ways to Enhance the Student Experience."

Pictured here: PIN Conference Opener, Two-time World Champion Hoop Dancer, Dallas Arcand.



NSERC Grants Received to Support Olds College School of Innovation Proposals

The Olds College School of Innovation received the third of three Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) grants to support research and development with industry clients new to Olds College. Proposals were approved for Growth and Optimization of Autotrophic to Heterotrophic Microalgae for Lipid Production using Low Cost Carbon Sources, Evaluation of Manure Treatment System For Livestock Operations, and Assessment of Compost Tea Potential to Enhance Growth of Cucumber. All are 6 month projects.



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