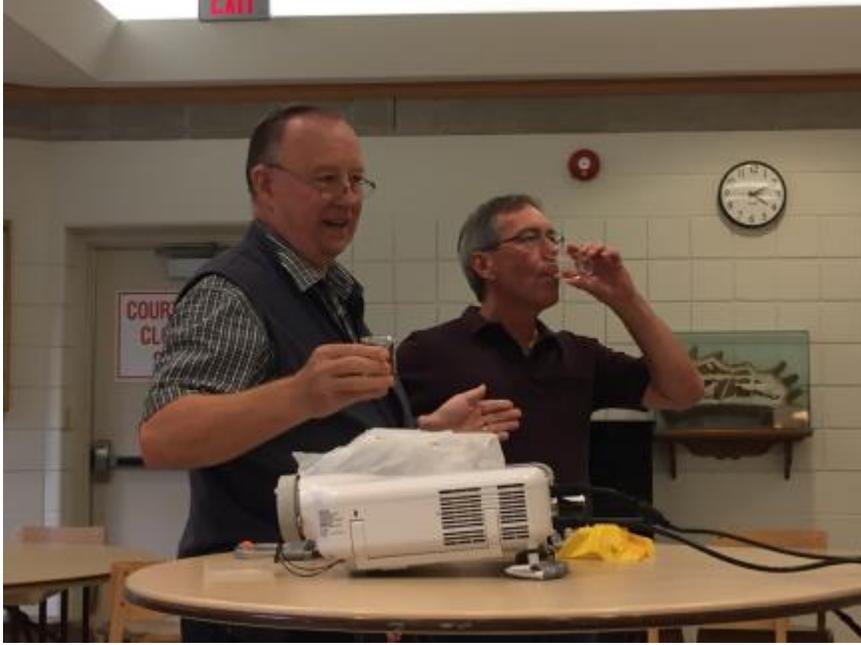


This semester, we welcomed **19 MBS, 8 MSc and 2 PhD NEW graduate students** into our graduate program in Biomed, for a current total of 56 (compared to 61 this time last year). Over the summer, we congratulated and bid a fond farewell to 12 MBS, 6 MSc and 1 PhD student. Overall, our graduate program continues to be strong, not just in terms of numbers, but in the quality of our graduates. Quality in research is primarily based on the impact of the results. Our graduate students and faculty's research contributions continue to be "highlighted" in various forums including media, non-governmental and governmental websites, etc. Another indicator is in the impact factor of the journals our students publish in, as well as getting the cover illustrations in these journals. A very recent example of this would be the work of **Rebecca MacDonald** (MSc graduate from the Vickaryous lab; *Aug issue of JEB*) and the impressive IHC images she generated during her training. I am sure there are other examples within the department, but I just wanted to emphasize (and congratulate) our graduate students for the impressive work they are doing, and most importantly, disseminating to the wider research community. ***Keep up the great work Biomed!***

Speaking of turnover, on a sad note (*to us anyway*), we also bid a fond farewell and congratulated **Warren Bignell** on his retirement. Warren has been employed at the OVC for almost 40 years...an incredible accomplishment! I have always said that staff are the backbone of any academic department, and any small loss or disruption in staff compliment is certainly felt by all. We are so happy for Warren as he enters this next milestone in his life, and wish him all the best. We hope he keeps a small part of Biomed in his heart, as he will be in ours. Cheers Warren, please visit often! [See pictures below...](#)





Warren returned a record number of 27 keys!!! Now, we need to find the doors they go with!??



Updates/happenings from around the Department:

1. A meeting with **Lloyd Longfield (MP, Guelph)** was held on Sept 13th. This meeting was organized by Dr. Jeremy Simpson, who presented an overview of the Naylor report (which was commissioned by The Honorable Kristy

Duncan, (Federal Science Minister), and discussed the importance of investigator-initiated tri-council funding. This was followed by 3 short presentations by **Tami Martino, Glen Pyle** and Jeremy Simpson on why research matters. The overall goal, was to inform our MP with the hopes that he will bring forward to the Science Minister the importance of investigator-initiated research. This is part of a cross-Canada initiative that began with the federal government commissioning the report by David Naylor, and with the end goal being an increase in tri-council funding in the next federal budget (implement the Naylor report recommendations).



Jeremy Simpson, Lloyd Longfield, Nina Jones, Philip Miller, Glen Pyle, Tammy Martino, Emma Allen-Vercoe and John Dawson meeting to discuss #supportthereport!

2. I wish to thank the department for an amazing 1st year as Chair. We have accomplished much together over the past year, but still have more to do to continue to enhance our research and teaching strengths. I cannot

thank you enough for the support and encouragement you have all shown me this past year. Your excellence and productivity in research and teaching has made it easy for me to argue for, obtain and allocate resources to the department. A huge thank you to Kim, who I am sure had something to do with organizing the “little” get-together on our first anniversary together! I can’t wait to see what the next year brings!



Allan King making me listen to his instructions for what **NOT** to do as Chair going forward! **I assure you I wasn't listening!!**

3. Members of the **Koch lab** participated in volunteer training at the Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre in Puslinch on Sunday, September 24th. The volunteer training session taught them how to act around horses, how to groom, how to tack them up before a riding lesson, how to lead them at a walk and trot, and how to assist riders staying in the saddle.

Beginning in October, some of them will volunteer as horse walkers and sidewalkers once a week to help a group of young riders. If anyone else are interested in volunteering at this facility, Thomas is happy to help facilitate the contact, or you can contact Sunrise directly at

<https://sunrise-therapeutic.ca>



Christobal, Evan, Thomas, Amir and Olivia at the Sunrise Centre in Puslinch.

4. Our resident photographer (**Dr. Glen Pyle**) won third place in the Office of Research Field Research photo contest. Please check it out!

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/research/field-research-photo-contest>

(P.S - I hope that data has been published!)

5. Graduate students in the department were invited to a night at the Brass taps to get to know one another. The evening was a great success and all kudos go to **Kathy Jacyniak and Anita Luu** (BMS grad student reps) for conceiving and expertly hosting the event. Way to go Biomed!



Biomed grad students enjoying the evening at the Brass Taps.

Remember that my door is always open, so pop in anytime for a chat.

Cheers!

Tarek,

Chair, BMS