Thank you for considering this valuable leadership role.

Last year more than 45 active classes and groups engaged in special fundraising initiatives, raising close to $170,000. Many classes often take advantage of a reunion year and launch appeals for alumni weekend. If a class project is of interest to you, your college’s alumni advancement manager is your best resource, and will help you to determine a meaningful area of giving. They will also assist you in organizing an appeal and crafting a compelling message to send to your classmates.

Alumni Affairs and Development
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Class Projects at the University of Guelph

Many alumni share an affinity to their college and to their class year. By capitalizing on strength in numbers and a common goal, classes launch successful fundraising initiatives every year.

Class projects at the University of Guelph reconnect old friends, they celebrate milestones, and commemorate lost classmates, while supporting generations of students. These projects have a significant impact for the university’s goals, and more importantly, for the students, programs, faculty and capital projects they support.

Take the class of OAC 1953. They recognized that fewer and fewer students were enrolling in the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC), but the demand for students educated in food and agricultural was increasing across the sector. In fact, there are four jobs for every OAC graduate in Ontario. As a class, they decided to invest in two initiatives designed to increase enrollment. First, a series of awards called the “Dean’s scholarships” are helping with recruitment by providing financial assistance to well deserving graduate students every year. Second, OAC 1953 also gives generously to the privately funded OAC Alumni Foundation Student Liaison project that has helped create a steady increase of enrollment over the past five years by 50%.

The class of OVC 2007 faced the unthinkable when a classmate, Erin Leis, lost her 5-year battle to brain cancer. To ensure her name would never be forgotten they raised over $30,000 to create an endowed award, the OVC 2007 Erin Leis (Stewart) Memorial Scholarship. Establishing this award was one way the class could honour and remember a great life and support students who were pursuing Erin’s passion for veterinary medicine.

Capital projects can also serve as a legacy. FACS 1976 worked hard to celebrate their 40th anniversary and to commemorate their relationship to each other and to the University. They raised close to $35,000 in one year to name a Team Learning Room in newly renovated Macdonald Hall. They wanted to support a building that allows students, faculty, staff and community partners to gather under one roof, creating an environment conducive to collaboration and innovative teaching.

Alumni Affairs and Development supports two designated times of year for classes to send appeals (May-June and October-November).