

several times. In the past few years, I have been instructing courses for the Steelworkers, including a course in Collective Bargaining.

Kathleen Hyland, Student Housing Services, Ext. 56884, khyland@uoguelph.ca

I have been working at the U. of G. since 1982. I graduated from U. of G. with a general B.A. in 1986 which was completed as a part-time student while working full-time. I've worked primarily in publication production for Independent Study, a distance education unit of the Ontario Agricultural College. Between 1997 and 2004, I was seconded into an academic advisor position for the OAC associate diploma programs which were terminated in June 2004. I was part of the redeployment of the Independent Study group when it was dissolved in December 2003. I currently work as part of Student Housing Services as maintenance coordinator for Family Housing.

I've been an active union volunteer which included pension committee and child care concerns. Most recently, I've been actively involved with the Guelph NDP Riding Association. I'm also a part-time M.Sc. Student with the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. My goal in negotiations is to work to advance pension and benefit coverage for Steel members.

Bill Teesdale, Physics Department, Ext. 53521, wjt@uoguelph.ca

I work in the department of Physics doing a variety of computer administration duties on our UNIX and Windows servers, departmental web page management and workstation support. Other duties include GSPM (Guelph Scanning Proton Microprobe) manager, departmental JHSC member and general handy person for other equipment in the department if I can be of assistance. My extracurricular activities on campus include participating on several joint Committees and structures within the University.

I came to the University of Guelph in the summer of 1981 as a summer research assistant before starting my B.Sc. majoring in Physics that fall. I graduated in 1986 with a major in Physics and a minor in Mathematical-Science. I then worked as a grant/trust employee until 1992 when I was granted a staff position here in the Department. I have been a proud member of UGSA then USW Local 4120 since that time.

Mark Evans, Land Resource Science, Ext. 52493, mark@uswa4120.ca

I was hired by the Department of Soil Science, University of Guelph in July of 1971 as a contract Weather Observer. In 1972 I became a full-time technician in the department responsible for analyzing field research data and writing programs to manipulate weather data generated by weather stations at Guelph and Elora.

My job became more and more involved with computers and support of secretarial and administrative functions and the purchase and maintenance of computer systems. Currently I am involved with departmental computer Networks and with computer support for staff, faculty and students.

In the late 1980's I became involved with UGSA as a Member-at-large and subsequently took on positions as Grievance Officer, vice-President and ultimately President of the local in UGSA.

I have been on the executive of the UGSA and subsequently the USW Local 4120 since then and have served on several negotiating teams and I am pleased to have been elected to the negotiating team for our upcoming contract negotiations.

Francie Niekamp, Food Science, Ext. 56589, fniekamp@uoguelph.ca

I am a research technician and am 1 of 25 members whose jobs were declared redundant in March, 2005. My strength lies in microbiology.

I have been on a few standing committees; EH&S, Safety & Security and Worker's Comp. & Insurance.

I have made a deep commitment to matters of environment, health and safety. I am a certified member and am in the process of gathering a list of all of our members who are certified. I have represented our union on the central JH&S committee when we were UGSA. I gave a presentation to our union, following a conference on 'modified work', stating how it was imperative to set up a 'modified work' committee before the U of G Guelph did, to ensure involvement.

I have always been a member of the local H&S committees and most often have acted as a co-chair in the 23 years at U of G. It is interesting that when I came to the Food Science dept., they valued my expertise on matters of EH&S, enough to make it 20% of my duties. I thank the union for allowing me to attend the courses and conferences so that I can help keep our workers safe. It's the workers that are on the front line and it's our workers that will have the most to lose if we become less involved in this most critical issue - Health, Safety & Environment.

Liz Cherry, Hospitality Services, Ext. 56692, lcherry@uoguelph.ca

I have been a staff member of the University of Guelph for seven years as Textbook Buyer within the department of Hospitality Services. I obtained a B.Sc.(Hons) in Applied Social Science from the Open University (UK) and I am currently studying through Distance Education towards an MA (Equity Studies) with Athabasca University. Prior to arriving as a landed immigrant in Canada seven years ago, I had worked in the fields of community development and social work. In these roles I trained Women's Assertiveness classes and lead workshops on equal opportunities, policy development and employment equity. I was an active member of the Scottish Labour party and in the voluntary sector branch of UNISON

(Scotland's largest trade union representing over one million workers in public service) including the unionizing of two small organizations. I was a volunteer advice worker with Citizen's Advice Scotland and an advocate for women and youth. Since coming to Canada I have continued to volunteer, as a Crisis-line counselor and as a board member and Vice-Chair of the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County. My goal in bargaining for the new contract between USW Local 4120 and the University of Guelph are to achieve improved pension and salary provisions. A long term aim of my involvement in Local 4120 is for the membership to be extended to include part-time workers.

John Whiteside, School of Engineering, Ext. 54424, jwhites@uoguelph.ca

Originally from Thunder Bay, I began my working life at a Pulp and Paper Mill. After moving to Hamilton, I worked in manufacturing, including 13 years at Firestone Canada. When free trade devastated our industries, I went back to school. I became an honours graduate in electronics and computer systems. I then went to work for Coulter Electronics as a haematology engineer. I have been an employee at the University of Guelph, in the School of Engineering, for nine years.

I have edited a newsletter for a computer group in Hamilton. I have also served on the Wentworth Montessori Schools' board of Directors for a two year term, during which time I chaired Social Events and Fund Raising Committees. I have also been the president of the Hamilton Woodland Metis Tribe.