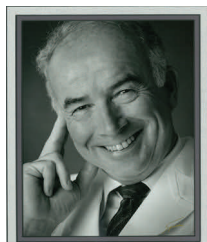


RAQnews



"I got expelled from college for cheating during my metaphysics final. I got caught looking into the soul of the guy next to me."

That Woody Allan quote, whimsical though it is, reminded me that it is a decade since the Senate Committee on

Academic Development (SCAD) established a Subcommittee on Academic Integrity in June 2003. Academic Integrity (AI) was the focus rather than academic dishonesty. AI implied a positive context and remediation rather than punishment. The mandate of the committee included a review of existing policies about academic dishonesty and integrity, reviewing practices elsewhere and identifying standards of academic integrity for Queen's University.

The magnitude of the problem in Canada was documented in a study published by the University of Guelph in 2006. Nearly 15,000 undergraduate students were surveyed at 11 Canadian university campuses. It was found that 53 per cent admitted to serious cheating on written work, with tactics ranging from improper citation to use of smartphones and cheat sheets during midterms.

The subcommittee found that Queen's operated in a decentralized way with regard to dishonesty, with each Faculty having its own regulations governing student behaviour. Rules were outdated and inadequate to address current realities, such as internet resources. Factors leading to cheating included large class sizes and a highly competitive environment.

Committee recommendations focused on five core values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Those values, applicable to students, faculty and staff, should be supported by policies and practices. Recommendations of

the committee focused on awareness, education and policies and procedures. Offences would fall under five categories: plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation (assisting another's breach of academic integrity), forgery and falsification. Allegations of academic dishonesty were to be heard by a special committee of Faculty Board. Sanctions available to the committee ranged from an informal rebuke to expulsion from university or termination of appointment in the case of a faculty member. The approach to AI should not encroach on the non-academic environment (residence life, extracurricular activities, etc.). The Alma Mater Society remained responsible for enforcing the Code of Conduct with regard to non-academic discipline of students.

Presidential News and Views

Technology and the Internet have extended the reach of cheating behaviour; a major challenge is harnessing the power of the web. Essay mills are available selling ghostwriting services. Challenges to upholding the traditional values

of academic integrity include cultural factors. The richness brought by students from diverse backgrounds may be accompanied by different cultural norms and poor English-language writing skills or lack of knowledge about proper citation practices.

The position of Academic Integrity Advisor to the Vice-Principal (Academic) was created. Jim Lee, first holder of the position, in a series of articles in the *Queen's Gazette*, emphasized the need to raise awareness about academic integrity. His office created a website as a policy and educational resource (www.queensu.ca/academicintegrity).

The previous issue of RAQnews included a report of the RAQonteur Forum "Maintaining the Queen's Spirit." Discussion centred on challenges presented by the large increase in student numbers and their ethnic composition. Maintaining integrity can be added to the list.

HENRY DINSDALE, President

RAQ will present an opportunity to meet Ann Tierney, Vice-Provost and Dean (Student Affairs), and Thomas Pritchard, Vice-President (University Affairs) of the Alma Mater Society, on Wednesday, October 23rd from 5:00 to 7:30pm in the Urquhart Lounge of the University Club (see enclosed Registration Form).

Pension and Benefits Report

The Committee continues to meet semi-annually with Caroline Davis, Vice-Principal (Finance and Administration), and Bob Weisnagel, Director (Pensions and Insurance), most recently on September 5, 2013, to discuss matters of interest to retirees concerning

pensions and benefits. As has been reported in previous newsletters, we find these meetings to be informative and pleasant and to provide very effective communication between RAQ and senior administrative officers of the University.

The net investment return from the Queen's Pension Plan for the first eleven months of the current Plan year (September 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013) was 14.0768%. Investment performance during August, 2013 is expected to create only a small change in that figure for the full year. This encouraging result will contribute to the reduction of the unfunded liability of the Plan and, hopefully, move up the date when Queen's retirees might expect to receive

an increase in their monthly pension payments. However, that point has not yet been reached and uncertainties in future long-term interest rates and the impact of market volatility on investment returns continue to cloud the picture. A full report of the performance of the Queen's Pension Plan (QPP) will be presented at the next Annual General Meeting of the QPP in December of this year. Watch for an announcement of the date and location of that meeting.

As has been stated many times, pensions paid to Queen's retirees are guaranteed never to decrease during the retirees' lifetimes.

Since our last report the Government of Ontario has released no significant additional information about its consideration of pooling pension assets for Ontario public-sector institutions, including universities.

As always, the Committee welcomes questions and comments from members of RAQ.

George Brandie, Chris Chapler, Sue Miklas, Joyce Zakos and David Bacon (Chair)

Reports of Past Events Summer 2013

Campus Tour

With no new buildings on campus to visit this year, a tour of some of the old buildings was arranged instead for June 7th. Sabrina DeSousa, who is working on her Master's degree in Art History and has a passionate interest in architecture, was our guide.

We first met for a classroom talk. Because of the rain, Sabrina spoke for longer than had been planned. She started out with an amusing introduction of herself, complete with photos, and then talked briefly about Kingston's early days. This was followed by a description of the three main styles of classic architecture: Classical, Romanesque, and Gothic. Lastly, we were introduced to the buildings on the "tour."

By the time we were ready for the tour itself, the rain had lessened though not completely stopped. The buildings we heard about and then saw were the front of the Douglas Library (which as the campus developed became the back), Theological Hall and Ontario Hall, and finally Summerhill. We saw the buildings in reverse order of the dates they were built so that we would end up



At the Douglas Library ...

at the University Club where most of the participants enjoyed lunch.

In spite of the weather the event was deemed a success and we were grateful to Sabrina for sharing her interest and expertise with us.

Next year we hope to be able to tour the new Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

CHERRILYN YALIN



...and in front of Ontario Hall

Reports of Past Events Summer 2013

Picnic at the Opinicon Biological Station

About two dozen RAQeteers attended the Annual Opinicon Picnic on July 10th. This traditionally starts with a chance to talk to old friends one hasn't seen for some time (see photo on p. 4), then a pot luck lunch (always delicious) and ends with a talk about a current research interest of some of the staff and students. The focus this year was how climate warming was changing the location of where wildlife could successfully flourish. The main lecturer was Steve Lougheed, the Director of the Queen's University Biological Station (see photos, including one of tiny frog in palm of hand). The case in point was the calling phenology (temporal sequence) of the frogs in the locality using recording devices that captured their mating calls. Some species are calling much earlier in spring and summer than they used to – a sign of warming. It

was one of the tasks of Anastasia Shavrova, an undergraduate student, to service these devices every two weeks.

BOB CRANDALL



Steve Lougheed explains



Anastasia Shavrova and equipment



Creatures great and SMALL



Up close and personal

Coming RAQ Events

Monthly Luncheons

RAQ monthly luncheons continue to be a popular choice for members to meet informally and sample the cuisine of various Kingston-area restaurants. The luncheons are usually held on the last Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome—including members' spouses and friends. Contact Jessica (Jerry) Roddy at (613) 353-6959 or jroddy@kingston.net for details and reservations.

Silver Bells Dinner and Carol Service

The Alma Mater Society will again sponsor this popular campus dinner for Kingston seniors and RAQ members, followed by the Engineering Society's carol service in Grant Hall. Reservations will be required. For information and to register please contact Generations at the A.M.S. by phone (613) 533-6000 ext. 75178 or

Fall 2013

email: generations@ams.queensu.ca.



Coming RAQ Events

Fall 2013

Assisted Living for Seniors: Two Options

Tuesday 1 October 2013

7:00pm–9:30pm

Biosciences 1103

As retirees we know that as the years catch up with us there will be a need for assisted living, hopefully with a degree of independence and support. On October 1st we will hear about two options: OASIS and Abbeyfield Houses.

OASIS will be described by Christine McMillan, a long-time advocate for seniors and a principal in establishing the foundation for assisted living at OASIS where she is now a community member.

Abbeyfield Houses aims to establish and maintain home-like houses which will provide accommodation, meals and opportunities for socialization. Elizabeth McIver, Chair of the Board of Directors, will tell us about the development of Abbeyfield Kingston.

GEORGE HUTSON



RAQeteers gather at Opinicon

Fall Reception

Wednesday 23 October 2013

5:00pm–7:30pm

Urquhart Room, University Club

RAQ will host a reception on Wednesday, October 23rd from 5:00pm–7:30pm, at the University Club, in the Urquhart Lounge. We have invited **Ann Tierney**, Vice-Provost and Dean (Student Affairs), along with **Thomas Pritchard**, Vice-President (University Affairs) for the Alma Mater Society, to be our guests.

We plan to have an informal start to the evening, where members will have a chance to meet both Ms. Tierney and Mr. Pritchard, followed by a brief presentation by each and an opportunity for questions.

Fall is a busy time of year for both our speakers and RAQ is grateful to them for taking the time to meet with us. We encourage you to come out and take advantage of this evening, which should prove to be of interest to all members.

There will be a cash bar and a \$7 charge for nibbles. Please RSVP using the form enclosed with this newsletter.

SUE MIKLAS

Monday Morning Forums, Fall 2013

Monday Morning Forums are organized by Dr. A.M. Herzberg and supported by Queen's University; Ambassador Hotel, Kingston; and Cunningham Swan, Lawyers.

The talks take place at the University Club, 168 Stuart Street, Kingston.

Coffee and muffins are served from 8:15 a.m. Lectures begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by an exchange of ideas and discussion.

Monday, September 23, 2013

The Martian's Daughter: A Memoir of the Pioneering Daughter of a Hungarian Genius

Professor M.v.N. Whitman
University of Michigan

Monday, September 30, 2013

Employment and Success: When and why do different sorts of education pay off?

Professor A. Wolf
King's College London

Monday, October 21, 2013

Evidence-based Decision Making: A Federal Perspective

Mr. I. Krupka
Public Policy and Management
Ottawa

Monday, October 28, 2013

Kashmir: An Intractable Conflict?

Ambassador (Ret.) L.A. Delvoie
Centre for International and Defence
Policy, Queen's University

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