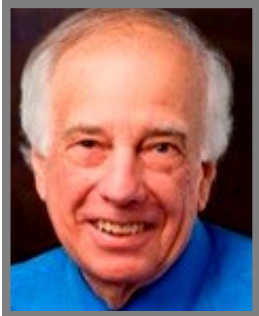


# RAQnews



It is with a feeling of insecurity and inadequacy that I have assumed the position of RAQ President. The big shoes left behind by our past President, Henry Dinsdale, are going to be very hard to fill. I have accepted the position carrying many of the same concerns as those

expressed by our past President. For example, I believe that we need to work with the university in order to establish a means that allows more interaction between members of RAQ to take place on campus on a regular and ongoing basis. There is also a need to find a way of keeping RAQ members more fully informed about developments taking place at Queen's, about problems that Queen's and the Ontario university education system are facing, and about the changes that are occurring in the ways in which our programs at Queen's are being delivered.

A way of making the Board of Trustees more aware of RAQ and its activities must be found, perhaps by presenting RAQ reports to the Board at regular intervals.

RAQ already has some interaction with the Board in that two members of its eleven-person Pension Committee are appointed on recommendation of RAQ at the request of the Principal. RAQ of course must also continue its involvement with pension and benefit advocacy and also with its interaction with the university. RAQ must also continue to develop ways in which those of its members who wish to do so can be involved on a voluntary basis with Queen's academic programs.

If all of this sounds very familiar it is, I am afraid, an indication that dealing with these problems takes time and commitment from RAQ Council members and members of RAQ and that progress is slow.

I am pleased to report that RAQ has agreed to host the 2015 national conference of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC). This conference will be held from May 20 to May 22, 2015, on the Queen's University campus. The theme of the conference will be "Looking Ahead." Further information about the conference will be posted on the RAQ website as this information becomes available.

PATRICK OOSTHUIZEN, President

## Presidential News and Views

### Introducing Don Robinson OUR NEW WEBMASTER



Don came to Kingston in 1958 after completing a PhD program in Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware, and retired in 1995 after 37 years at the DuPont Research Centre. Then he spent 12 years as an Adjunct Pro-

fessor at Queen's in Chemical Engineering where he was part of the team teaching the 4th-year plant design course. Since his second "retirement" (Queen's refers to it as "termination") he has taken up web site design and maintenance as a hobby. In addition to the RAQ site, he is working on sites for the Seniors Association, a church, and a cottage owners' association. That work has benefited from his computer-related activities at Delaware and DuPont.

# Pension and Benefits Report

Bob Weisnagel has informed us that the preliminary net investment return for the Queen's Pension Plan for the Plan year just ended (September 1, 2013, to August 31, 2014) was 17.7%. This excellent performance will bring closer

the date when Queen's retirees may expect to receive an increase in our monthly pension payments. However, we will not know how much closer we are to that happy date until the final full year's returns are applied to our individual pension calculations. While we hope that future investment returns will match recent returns, there are no guarantees of that. 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 Queen's, along with other Ontario universities in similar situations, has been exploring alternative methods of dealing with the Pension Plan's solvency deficit\*. No conclusions have yet been reached. We will be meeting admin-

istration officials in October to learn where their investigations stand and what impacts there may be on the future management of the Plan. We will continue to work with the University to keep Plan members informed of important developments.

We expect that Queen's will be mailing letters to all Plan members late in the Fall Term, giving each of us our individual pension status, and giving the time and location of the Annual Open Meeting with members of the Pension Committee of the Board of Trustees in the afternoon of December 5, 2014. RAQ members are encouraged to attend.

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

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

\*See <http://www.queensu.ca/alumnireview/articles/pension-plans-solvency-deficit-pressing-financial-issue-caroline-davis> for a review late last year of the situation. The latest investment returns will reduce – but not eliminate – the solvency deficit Vice-Principal Davis described.

## AT THE AGM





# Reports of Past Events Spring/Summer 2014

## **Tour of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts**

**Monday 9 June 2014**

Sixty members of RAQ had an opportunity to tour "The Isabel" before its official opening in September. Because there was so much demand, two tours were arranged – one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The tours started in the Green Room where participants were given some background about the building. We had been informed ahead of time that repair work was being carried out on the floors in the main and lower lobbies so our tour would be curtailed. However, we were able to visit the Screening Room, the Stu-

dio Theatre, the Rehearsal Hall (morning tour only), and the Performance Hall. The Screening Room will be used by students in the Department of Film Studies and has the capacity to show both modern and vintage films. The Studio Theatre is a "black box" and the stage and seating can be placed anywhere in the theatre according to the director's wishes for each production. As predicted, many of us reacted with a "wow" when we entered the Performance Hall.

Our guides were Michael Grey, the Project Manager, and Rosemary Ly, the Outreach Coordinator for the Centre, and we were very grateful to them for the fascinating tours they gave us, in spite of the difficulties they faced with parts of the building not being accessible.

Some of the participants had an enjoyable soup and sandwich lunch at the River Mill either before or after their tour.

CHERRILYN YALIN



## **Opinicon Pot-Luck Picnic**

**Wednesday 23 July 2014**

The annual RAQ Opinicon Pot-Luck Picnic was held on the second-last Wednesday in July.

Two dozen people attended, and as usual the attendees all brought the product of their best recipes. Also, as usual, conversations started immediately as attendees got caught up on the news of friends and acquaintances they hadn't seen since the previous picnic. After lunch we had a talk from the Director, Steve Loughheed (pictured), about the research activities of the Opinicon staff and students.

BOB CRANDALL

*Many thanks to Fran and Bob Crandall, our hosts for the past nine years at this most pleasant outing at the Lake Opinicon Biology Centre. The excellent Mr Crandall has named a successor and we look forward to greeting Henk Wevers at the picnic table next year.*



# Coming RAQ Events Fall 2014

## **Monday Morning Forums Fall 2014**

This series is arranged by Dr. A.M. Herzberg and supported by Queen's University; Ambassador Hotel, Kingston; 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.

Flyers with details are enclosed.

## **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](mailto:jroddy@kingston.net) for details and reservations.



Monday, October 6, 2014

### **Islamist Terrorism *Objective, Motivation and Dimension***

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

Monday, October 20, 2014

### **The Poet and the Prime Minister: *A Troubling Legacy for Canada's First Nations People***

Mr. B. Farber  
*Gemini Power*

Monday, November 10, 2014

### **Creating a Federal Yemen *Mission Impossible***

Mr. G. Anderson  
Advisor to the United Nations



In March Dr. Herzberg introduced Dr. David Walker, who spoke on the Student Mental Health initiative.

## **Silver Bells 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 on a Sunday to be determined. Reservations will be required.

For information and to register please contact Generations Co-chairs, Alma Mater Society, Queen's University at (613) 533-6000 ext. 75178 or by email to [generations@ams.queensu.ca](mailto:generations@ams.queensu.ca)

