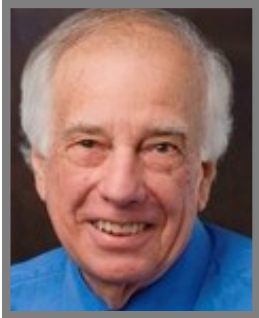


RAQnews



I was recently contacted by Dr. Pat Galasso. He is a Queen's graduate who worked for many years at the University of Windsor where he was the founding Dean and Professor in the Faculty of Human Kinetics.

The reason that he contacted me was that he has recently had discussions with Principal Woolf about the construction of a field house and pool on campus. He firmly believes that these should be on the main campus and he has strong views on the form that the field house should take.

Dr. Galasso contacted me because he feels that some RAQ members would welcome the availability of the field house and would make use of it, particularly if it was on the main campus.

He thought, for example, that some members would welcome the availability of an indoor track on the main campus on which they could run, especially in the winter months, and it is his hope that RAQ would support the views expressed in his letter to the Principal. I told him that I would take the matter to the RAQ Council at its next meeting where council could decide how it wished to proceed with this matter.

My discussion with Dr. Galasso, however, also made me wonder if there were other facilities on campus that RAQ members felt that they did not have adequate access to or if there were needed facilities that RAQ members feel are missing from campus.

Please let me know your views on these matters and I can take these views to council for discussion. Another issue that I would like to raise concerns RAQ members volunteering to chair graduate thesis examinations. RAQ is required to provide a list of members who are willing to undertake this task. Our present list is rather old and needs to be updated. Could you let me know if you would like your name added to the list or if you would like your name removed from the list.

We will send a separate email reminder about this to all RAQ members in the near future. In addition to updating the list we also need to ensure that all Department Heads are aware of the fact that RAQ members are willing to undertake this task. I will look into how best to do

this.

PATRICK OOSTHUIZEN President

oosthuiz@queensu.ca

Presidential News and Views



RAQ Council 2015-2016

Front: Cherrilyn Yalin, Eleanor Rogers, Patrick Oosthuizen, David McLay, Pradeep Kumar *Rear:* Stafford Tavares, Barbara Tait, Marie Gray, Diane Duttie, Sandra Olney, George Brandie *Absent:* Henry Dinsdale, John Meisel, Sue Miklas *Photo by:* Debra Hill

Pension and Benefits Report

Those of you who follow the gyrations of stock markets will have seen that August was a very volatile month, with more “down” days than “up” days. This had an effect on the investments of the Queen’s Pension Plan (QPP), reducing the return for the year 1

September 2014 to 31 August 2015 to approximately 2.7%. This will mean again that only recent retirees will receive any pension increases for 2015-16. Each individual’s status will be given in the pension letters we will each receive from Queen’s later this year.

A reorganization of the Queen’s Website has changed a number of internal URLs, including the one for the page giving monthly updates on Pension Plan investment performance. That page is now at <http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/total-compensation/pensions/reports/monthly-update>.

Our Committee has been briefed on the status of negotiations aimed at creating a new multi-institution University Pension Plan (UPP), as discussed in some of our previous *RAQnews* Reports. There has been extensive participation from all university plans facing additional solvency special payments, and Queen’s, Guelph and the UofT were noteworthy in expressing their commitment to the initiative, hoping to be able to work out enough details to have a draft plan ready for submission to the Ontario Government this fall.

In collective agreements with the major unions at Queen’s, the union members have ratified the UPP negotiation process and the participation of Queen’s in it. As the negotiations have

proceeded, it has become clear that amalgamating different pension plans (with varied structures) is immensely complex, even before the challenge of implementation of any new plan proceeds. Thus, nothing will change for us in the near future.

Of special interest to RAQ members, negotiators have agreed that pensioners on the inauguration date of a new UPP (if there is one) will continue to receive increases under the terms agreed when they started receiving their pensions. For us, then, future pension increases would continue to be based on investment returns, as they are now.

At the **Annual Open Meeting of the QPP at 1 p.m. on the first Friday of December (December 4, 2015)** the status of a new UPP and its implications for current (and future) retirees will be spelled out for us. Please mark this meeting on your Calendar. The location will be announced in our pension letters.

If the UPP negotiations reach a satisfactory conclusion, institutions **and Plan Members** will vote--possibly sometime in 2016--on whether they should join the plan. Details of that process are still being worked out, and more information will be provided before any vote.

The new Collective Agreements recently negotiated and ratified by Queen’s and its major unions have not made any changes to Retiree Benefits, so there is nothing to report on that front.

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

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

LUNCHEONS PAST at the Greek Isles October 2006



at the Ambassador December 2006



Reports of Past Events Summer 2015

Opinicon Pot-Luck Picnic

Wednesday 22 July 2015

The annual picnic at the Queen's University Biological Station was attended by about twenty members of RAQ who enjoyed good company, great food, and cooperative weather.

We were treated to a talk on the predatory behaviour of several species of dragonfly and the techniques involved in the project. To study the dragonfly one needs a broom stick with a wire fork at the end holding some coloured prey, one yellow, the other a different colour.

The dragonflies attack the yellow coloured prey over most other colours. Why? They eat wasps if they can, and not, as most of us tend to believe, mosquitoes. They are also cannibals, eating most of their own eggs and larvae in the water before they can emerge as expert flying predators. Depending on the water

temperature and a host of other climatic requirements, the eggs and larvae might stay in the water for up to seven years before emerging as adults.

This year's picnic was extra special because Frank Phelan, who has managed the QUBS for almost twenty years, will retire in September. We



wish Frank a great retirement at his beloved house on a secluded lake "down the road" and thank him for welcoming us at the biological

station.

It was suggested that we organise the event next year at the Hewlett-Packard retreat on Elbow lake, which is now part of the QUBS, and alternate between Opinicon and Elbow Lake. We will follow this up.

HENK and INEKE WEVERS

Campus Tour 2015 Two New University Residences

Wednesday 19 August 2015

We met with our guide, Bob Polegato (Project Manager) at Watts Hall. Bob told us that he had been to a smudging ceremony at Brant House earlier that morning and that up until that very day hard hats and construction boots had to be worn inside Smith House so our tour was well-timed.

We started out at Brant House (11 Albert Street), named for Drs. Marlene Brant Castellano and Clare Clifton Brant in recognition of lives dedi-



Another treat this year was a tour of the newly built research and teaching facility (seen above) funded by a major donation from Queen's graduate Jessie Deslauriers, Artsci'87, Artsci'91 and providing a library, four laboratory classrooms and a herbarium.



cated to the rights and well-being of native peoples. We were shown a bedroom and bathroom (each unit contains two private bedrooms and shared bathroom) and also the common areas. There were some comments about how much more comfortable the rooms are than they were when several tour members were attending university.



View from a Brant House Common Room

We then proceeded to David C. Smith House (222 Stuart Street) named in honour of former Principal Dr. David C. Smith.

In addition to seeing a bedroom and bathroom and the common rooms in this House, we also saw Location 21, a retail food outlet. Some of us plan to go back for a meal once it is open.

We are most grateful to Bob (and to his secretary Deborah Gilliland who assisted Bob) for taking the time to conduct this very interesting tour in the midst of his hectic schedule, getting the residences ready for occupancy at the beginning of the fall term.



Location 21 in Smith House

After the tour most of went on to the University Club for a tasty lunch and get-together.

CHERRILYN YALIN

Coming RAQ Events Fall 2015

Monday Morning Forums Fall 2015

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.

October 5, 2015

Treaties, Game Theory, and the Indigenous/Settler Divide
Dr. M. Dan
Gemini Power Corporation

October 19, 2015

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

November 23, 2015

Ticked Off: Living with Lyme in South-Eastern Ontario
Dr. I. Gemmill MD, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health KFLA

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 the Generations Chair, Alma Mater Society, Queen's University at (613) 533-6000 ext. 75178 or generations@ams.queensu.ca

COMING: JUNE 10-25, 2016 - The 16-day Amsterdam to Budapest "Legendary Waterways of Europe" tour
Join CURAC president Ken Craig (UBC emeritus and newly-minted Officer of the Order of Canada), his wife Sydney, other CURAC members, family, and friends as well as general travelers on this inaugural tour marking our affiliation through CURAC with Collette Travel. Check website <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/695645#.Vqn3mXpVhBc> or call 1 800 248 8991 for details. Identify yourself as a member of RAQ when making a booking. Additional details at www.curac.ca.

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