Newsletter of the Retirees' Association of Queen's September 2017 Vol 16 No 1

# RAQnews

## President's Report

The new RAQ Council has been busy in the months since the AGM, and new council members have been especially active. You'll read about developments in Pensions and Benefits, Membership, Communications and Events in the reports given elsewhere in this newsletter. A very important development you will all welcome is the return of the Monday Morning Forum. Dr. Agnes Herzberg has so far arranged speakers for September 25th and October 23rd (see page 7 for more information).

Many of you will remember last year's fall reception and Queen's Provost Dr. Benoit Bacon's inspiring vision for the future of Queen's. You will be happy to hear that he will again be our speaker on October 11th at 3:00 p.m. in the University Club, when we will also welcome new members. Dr. Bacon will bring us up to date on his activities during his first year as Provost. Save the date.

I am very pleased to announce that RAQ has joined the advisory board for a pilot project at Queen's, whose aim is to establish a program of non-credit course offerings for seniors. QTAL (Queen's Third Age Learning) is a product of the Foundational Leadership program. Its board, chaired by the manager of the Enrichment Studies Unit, includes representatives from RAQ, QUILL, Later Life Learning, The Seniors Association of Kingston and Alumni Affairs, as well as members-at-large. This is an excellent opportunity for RAQ to connect with other adult learning programs in the community. The courses should be fully established in 2018 with three topics of study: Health/Medicine, Art, and Indigenous Studies. Watch for news of specific titles, instructors and times.

The May Academic Partnership Meeting with the University administration considered several issues important to RAQ members. A major one is IT Services' decision to decommission email service for retired staff. The Deputy Provost and the VP Finance have both agreed that RAQ's argument for retention of Queen's email access for staff who want it is compelling, and the matter has been referred to IT Services. We've also negotiated an arrangement for free parking on Queen's surface parking lots for official RAQ events, including the fall reception and the Monday Morning Forums. Parking space is not guaranteed but is without cost if available. See page 6 for more details.

Queen's Advancement reports that our bursary is now ready for applicants. The awards process will begin in October and we should have the name of our first recipient in February. We continue to encourage contributions to our fund to keep it alive for as long as RAQ operates.

As always, thank you for your continuing interest in RAQ. It promises to be an active fall/winter term for us, and I hope I'll see you at many of our upcoming events.

*Eleanor Rogers, President*

### RAQ Tour with Collette Travel

RAQ is actively exploring the opportunity to partner with Collette Travel to organize a tour for RAQ members in 2018. Iceland anyone?

Skógafoss, Iceland

More information on this tour will be in the December edition of RAQ*news*, along with George Brandie's review of his recent trip with Collette to the American west, including viewing the solar eclipse in Wyoming.

# Pension and Benefits Report

This report will be brief, as there is not much new to report as this issue of *RAQnews* goes to press. Unfortunately, we cannot tell our members what they would most like to know – the investment performance of the Queen's Pension Plan (QPP) for the plan year ended August 31, 2017. June and July were both down months in the markets, reducing the gains made in the first nine months of this pension year. August was largely unchanged so it is anticipated that the returns to the end of August will be around 6.3%, maybe slightly better. (See http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/news/pension)

The multi-university employee/administration negotiations for a multi-university jointly-sponsored pension plan have continued over the summer. It is hoped that they will reach a conclusion before the end of the year.

All pensioners who began receiving their pension prior to September 1, 2016, should have received a letter on behalf of the Queen's Pension Office from the Plan's administrative consultant, Aon Hewitt, following the recent implementation of new reporting requirements under the Pension Benefits Act (Mercer continues in its long-standing role as Plan actuary, and CIBC Mellon as the Plan's trustee and custodian). The single-sheet "Data Verification Form" asking for your witnessed signature (or a copy of the legal form for Power of Attorney) should be completed and mailed back to Aon in Toronto by September 15, 2017.

**BOB WEISNAGEL INFORMS US THAT THE QPP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017, FROM 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M., IN ELLIS AUDITORIUM. THANKS FOR THE HEADS-UP, BOB!**

On the benefits front, the internal employee/administration review of benefits is ongoing and must be completed before Queen's requests proposals from insurance companies. RAQ has asked that the request for proposals, when issued, should also ask for proposals for supplementary insurance (health and travel) for retirees to be included. Retirees would have to pay the full premiums for such coverage, but it would be good to have our own options to compare with those now available through RAQ's membership in CURAC/ARUCC (and outlined in http://www.curac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/2/TripInsurance.pdf).

As always, the Pension & Benefits Committee welcomes questions, comments, and information about problems from members of RAQ, which we will bring to our regular meetings with senior administrators of Queen's.

*George Brandie, Pension & Benefits Chair*

### RAQ Volunteers Needed – Mentoring PhD-Community Initiative Teams

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) is looking for mentors to advise teams of PhD students who will be working with a community partner as part of the SGS PhD-Community Initiative. Organizations in the Kingston community present a challenge or issues that they are facing and an interdisciplinary team of 3-5 PhD students, under the advice of a mentor, apply their creativity, talent and scholarly know-how to developing and presenting possible solutions, strategies or approaches to address the problem. The students gain a valuable team experience where they can translate their learning and skills beyond the academic environment and the organization benefits from the deliverables supplied by the team of students working with them.

The role of mentor is to provide guidance and advice to the team as they learn to work together and manage a project with a partner – essentially, to help your team unlock their full potential.

Last year's mentors committed an average of about an hour a week throughout the project period (October through to mid-March). Mentors and teams will develop their own meeting schedule. Teams will present monthly progress reports, and mentors are not required (or expected) to attend all those meetings. However, mentors do need to be available to attend an initial meeting with the community partners and students (Oct. 4, 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.) and also participate with your team in a workshop on project management and team building (Oct 14, 9 a.m.—noon). The capstone event, where all teams present their work to their partners and the community at large will be held on March 14 beginning at 5:00 p.m. and is followed by a reception.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Vicky Arnold (sgscomms@queensu.ca ) by September 20.

# New Directions for RAQ

## RAQ Needs Your Advice

We are trying to grow our numbers. This will increase our influence with Queen's and help us improve services to our members. As part of that, we are seeking your advice (even if you're not yet a RAQ member) on how to best focus our services and resources.

Currently, either on its own, with Queen's, or as part of CURAC (College & University Retiree Associations of Canada), RAQ offers services like the following:

- pension and benefit information to members and advocacy on behalf of Queen's pensioners
- CURAC travel insurance and other discounts
- advocacy regarding benefits like access to email and facilities like parking
- representation on various Queen's bodies and with the Administration
- academic and other contributions (volunteering, bursary donations, etc.)
- educational events (like the Monday Morning Forum series, or tour of the new Providence Care facility)
- social events (like the picnic at the Biology Station)

We want to make sure though that we're doing our best to meet YOUR needs. To help us with that, please tell us:

- ONE OR TWO things we should KEEP ON DOING or INCREASE
- ONE OR TWO things we should STOP DOING, or give less attention to
- ONE OR TWO things we don't do now that we should START TO DO

This is not a survey, so we won't be publishing the results as a numeric table, but we will be reading your responses carefully to guide us.

You can send your responses by email to me directly (greg.lessard@queensu.ca) or by mail to RAQ, Mackintosh-Corry Room A412, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L3N6.

Your help will be crucial as we move forward, so please take a moment to give us your advice.

*Greg Lessard, Membership Chair*

## Welcome to new RAQ Members

Kathryn Bowes (School of Medicine) and Jack Bowes; Jo-Anne Brady (University Registrar);
John Bullock (Environmental Health & Safety) and Slava Bullock; Gary Contant (Engineering Physics & Astronomy);
Genevieve Dumas (Mechanical & Materials Engineering) and David Fiske; Jane Emrich (Faculty of Law);
Bill Forbes (Pensions & Investments); Brent Gallupe (Smith School of Business);
Margaret Giles (Family Medicine) and John Giles; Mary Knuff (Human Resources);
Zdenka Ko (School of Medicine); Sarah Pugh (School of Graduate Studies);
Catherine Purcell (Smith School of Business) and Michael Purcell; Laurie Scott (Health Sciences Library).

# RAQ Members Volunteer: CEC

## Being a Volunteer Patient

Since I retired from Queen's a few years ago, I have filled my time in some of the traditional ways – travelling, looking after grandchildren, playing bridge, playing golf and trying to stay in reasonable physical condition. I had considered volunteering in some capacity, but hadn't found anything that seemed like a good fit for me.

Earlier this year, I became aware of the **Volunteer Patient Program at Queen's Glaxo Wellcome Clinical Education Centre (CEC)**. The centre is part of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Students from medicine, nursing, occupational therapy and physiotherapy come to the CEC to practice their clinical and communication skills with volunteers from the Kingston community.

I was attracted by the idea of interacting with students and helping with the education of future health professionals. So, I began to volunteer in the spring of this year. Volunteer Patients allow the students to interview them about their health, family and lifestyle or to conduct non-invasive physical examinations. I have found the experience of being a Volunteer Patient to be quite enjoyable. The students certainly appreciate being able to learn how to conduct interviews or physical examinations without fear of making a mistake. For my part, it has been a very positive experience to meet with so many different health sciences students and to assist in their education.

**CEC is currently recruiting more Volunteer Patients. If you are interested, contact Angie Mendieta-Sweet, the Coordinator of the Volunteer Patient Program, by email (angie.ms@queensu.ca ) or phone (613-533-6000 ext 78087)**. You will be asked to fill out an application which asks for information on your availability and which areas you are interested in volunteering. Many of the people I met have been Volunteer Patients for more than a few years. I will certainly continue to participate .

*Bill Forbes*

## Pathways to Education Changes Lives

Education is a subject near and dear to the hearts of Queen's retirees. Sometimes students need a helping hand to realize their full potential and derive the benefits that education can provide. An innovative community-based program, **Pathways to Education (P2E)**, is designed to increase high school graduation rates for youth living in Kingston's predominately low-income north end, and help students successfully continue on to post-secondary education or training and break the cycle of inter-generational poverty. Pathways to Education in Kingston is one of a suite of programs and services, provided through the Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC), that promote and support individual and community health.

**Pathways to Education works. In June 2017, the fourth cohort of Kingston students completed the program and graduated from high school.**

There are approximately 295 Kingston grade 9 – 12 students enrolled each year in the P2E program. Of the 182 alumni, 57% are enrolled in, or have graduated from, post-secondary education. The majority of students moving forward to post-secondary choose college as their destination. Efforts are being made to increase the number of students going to university, including opportunities for students in grades 7, 8 and high school to visit Queen's campus and engage with faculty and staff to understand the options and opportunities available to them.

P2E supports students through:

- academic tutoring in all subjects
- mentoring activities including field trips, campus tours, YMCA memberships, training and skills-building opportunities
- financial incentives such as school lunch vouchers and grocery cards
- assistance with career exploration and planning post-secondary options
- post-secondary scholarships

...continued on page 5

# and Pathways to Education

I began volunteering with the Kingston Pathways to Education fundraising cabinet in 2011. I have a passion for education, and for reducing barriers to access, and this organization is a perfect fit for me. Effective January of this year, I assumed cabinet co-chair responsibilities with my colleague Terri McDade, former Dean of Arts at St. Lawrence College. Together we bring a strong foundation of student support and a commitment to ensuring our local Pathways program thrives and students have access to all the support they need to complete high school and successfully transition to post-secondary education, training or meaningful employment.

Kingston is an affluent and well-educated community, with Queen's, RMC and St. Lawrence College sometimes creating a bubble in which people do not realize that there is a large population within our community that needs our help. Barriers to a post-secondary education are more than financial, and the Pathways program helps students access the education that can improve their futures.

Pathways to Education is a national program with eighteen sites operating across Canada. The funding for all the sites is provided by a combination of government grants, large national corporate donors and philanthropic sponsors, and local fundraising. The Kingston annual budget is over $1,000,000, of which approximately $250,000 must be raised locally, including a substantial contribution from the KFL&A United Way. Our small local fund-raising cabinet of volunteers spearhead activities in Kingston and work to engage the community and various community partners to support Pathways to Education.

Queen's is a leader in helping students attend and complete university studies, regardless of their personal financial circumstances. The RAQ Bursary is an example of resources available to financially assist students. Also, the Queen's Pathways to Education Award provides renewable funding for students from any Pathways to Education site across Canada.

Supporting Pathways to Education provides a very real and tangible way to change the world. There are many ways that Queen's retirees can help:

- volunteer your time as a tutor or mentor (http://www.kchc.ca/pathways-to-education/volunteering-with-pathways-to-education/)
- participate in local fundraising events. Events will be promoted in RAQ*news*, timing permitting
- explore the potential of joining the fundraising cabinet
- donate directly to Pathways to Education (https://www.pathwaystoeducation.ca - Direct your gift to Kingston)

Pathways to Education is changing the lives of Kingston youth.

Education is a critical social determinant of health. The vision to improve the health and prosperity for the future of our local youth is a driving force behind the Pathways program. To quote Nelson Mandela, "*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*"

*Jo-Anne Brady*

# Save These Dates!

## RAQ FALL RECEPTION AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., University Club, Stuart Street

**Guest Speaker: Benoit-Antoine Bacon, Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)**

Join us for light refreshments, an opportunity to welcome new members and a time to catch up with old friends.

Our guest will again be Benoit-Antoine Bacon, who will speak on how he views the future of Queen's after his first year in office. Those of you who heard Dr. Bacon last year will remember what an engaging speaker he is and be eager to hear how his positive plans for development at Queen's are progressing . This is an excellent opportunity to speak directly with the Provost; he will welcome your views about the "new" university.

*A registration form with further explanation will come in your RAQ mail.*

This event is free for new RAQ members. The charge for refreshments and use of the Club for all others is $15. Guests are welcome, so please bring your friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

## RAQ TOUR of the new PROVIDENCE CARE HOSPITAL (752 King Street West)

Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 11:00 a.m.

A tour of the new Providence Care Hospital has been arranged for RAQ members. The tour will include public spaces (cafeteria, gymnasium, therapy pool, worship centre, etc.), but no inpatient units. Our tour guides will meet us just inside the main entrance.

There is ample parking ($1 per hour Pay & Display). The parking lots are clearly marked. For those with mobility issues, a golf cart picks people up every few minutes if they are unable to get parking in the nearest lot.

For those who wish, lunch is available either at the Canoe Café or the Cafeteria. The Canoe Café does take debit, but the Cafeteria is cash only. There are very few seats in the Café but you are welcome to buy your lunch there and take it to the Cafeteria where there are plenty of seats.

Space on the tour is limited and reservations are required. If you are interested in the tour, please contact Cherrilyn Yalin by Monday, October 2, by email (yalinc@queensu.ca) or telephone (613-542-4201). *Cherrilyn Yalin*

**PARKING FOR RAQ EVENTS** held on campus (such as the RAQ Fall Reception, the Lunchtime Guest Series and the Monday Morning Forum) will be free of charge on any available non-reserved parking space on a Queen's surface parking lot, with the placement of your valid RAQ card on your car dashboard. Parking that is marked "Pay & Display" (such as on Stuart Street or in the underground parking garages) is not free and a valid paid receipt is required. All parking is on a first-come, first-served basis and is not guaranteed. Parking for University events such as the Pension AGM in December is not complementary, and vehicles parked in unauthorized spaces will be ticketed or towed.

# Upcoming Events for RAQ Members

**The Seeing is Believing Bus Tour of Kingston's United Way Agencies**

Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 9:45 a.m.—2:00 p.m., leaving from the Memorial Centre

Why not make this year the one where you experience a behind the scenes tour of some United Way KFLA funded agencies? You will have the chance to meet the people who work every day to make a difference in our community, hear the stories of those whose lives have been changed, and see the impact of your gift to United Way KFLA.

RAQ is inviting its members and friends to join The Seeing Is Believing Bus on Tuesday, October 17th. You will find the tour very interesting and truly inspiring! **There is no charge for this unique experience.** Get your seat today by contacting the United Way by email (campaign@unitedwaykfla.ca) or telephone (613-542-0142). Transportation sponsored by Kingston Transit. RAQ members with questions about the tour are encouraged to contact Bruce Hutchinson by email (hutchinb@queensu.ca) or telephone (613-328-3093). *Bruce Hutchinson*

## Lunchtime Guest Series

Urquhart Lounge, University Club

Join us for a sandwich lunch and discussion on **Tuesday, October 17 at noon** for the second talk in this new series offered by RAQ in partnership with The University Club. The discussion leader will be Dr. John S. Andrew, Director, Queen's Real Estate Roundtable & Continuing Adjunct Assistant Professor, Schools of Urban & Regional Planning, Business & Environmental Studies, on the topic **Real Estate Markets in Ontario: Trends, Transitions and the Implications of Government Policies.** The cost is $12 (pay on the day). Reservations are required as space is limited. To make a reservation, please call Valerie Winn Paul at 613-533-2846 or e-mail to her attention at admuclub@queensu.ca.

## Monday Morning Forum Returns

Dr. Agnes Herzberg has again organized an autumn program for the popular RAQ-sponsored Monday Morning Forum series.

**September, 25, 2017 – "How Does Information Technology Affect Human Cognition?", Professor Merlin Donald, Queen's Emeritus Professor of Psychology.**

**October 23, 2017 – "Why Should Museums be Supported?", David Pantalony, Curator of Physical Sciences and Medicine at Canada's Science and Technology Museum, and Adjunct Professor, Department of History, University of Ottawa.**

These talks always produce lively discussion, so come prepared to participate. **The forum is at the University Club and begins with light refreshments at 8:15 a.m. and the talk starts at 9:00 a.m.** There is no charge, but a freewill contribution to the cost of these refreshments is always appreciated. Details about the Forum will come in your RAQ mail.

# After Words

## Lunchtime Guest Series

The first of the new Lunchtime Guest Series offered by RAQ in partnership with The University Club was held on September 6th. The discussion leader was Dr. Brenda Brouwer, Vice Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies, on the topic "**21st century PhD training: Caving to the marketplace or driving it?"** Dr. Brouwer provided excellent insight into the trends in employment of PhD graduates, the evolution of their needs as students, and examples of innovative programs that are being introduced which provoked lively discussion.

Sandra Olney (l) & Brenda Brouwer

Join us at a Lunchtime Guest Series talk for a sandwich lunch and lively discussions led by members of the Queen's community . You need not be a member of the Club to register…bring a friend! The next talk is on October 17th; more details are on page 7.

We hope to take advantage of the extensive knowledge and expertise to be found among us. Please contact me directly (sandra.olney@queensu.ca) with your ideas and suggestions for future topics or speakers.

*Sandra Olney, Events Coordinator*

## Summer Picnic at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre

On a sunny day in June, RAQ members gathered to enjoy the out of doors, visit with friends, and sample the delicacies provided by others on the second RAQ picnic held at the Queen's Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (ELEEC). Following lunch, graduate students Amanda Ciochino and Danielle Beaulne reported on their research: Amanda's work centres on the acoustic signals of spring peepers, and Danielle's research is in the field of landscape genetics. Dr. Stephen Lougheed, Director of the Queen's University Biology Station (QUBS) of which ELEEC is a part, told the group about other work being undertaken at QUBS then shared his long-term vision for the facility. Attendees all agreed that these addresses were the highlight of the day and look forward to the next RAQ picnic for an update on research at QUBS.

Visit to ELEEC

*Dee Padfield*

## A Note from the Editor

The Communications Committee hopes you enjoy this edition of the RAQ Newsletter. A whole debt of gratitude is owed to Diane Duttle and Barbara Aitken, who served for many editions as editor and proofreader respectively, and who both stepped down from these positions with last May's RAQ*news*. Please join me in welcoming and thanking our new proofreaders: George Brandie (a long-time RAQ*news* contributor) and Jane Emrich (a new RAQ member).

In this edition, we have focused on two RAQ members' volunteer and charitable activities in our community. The aim is twofold: to highlight good works, and to inform RAQ members about interesting and worthwhile local causes and activities. If you, or someone you know, has a story to tell us, please be in touch! We'd also appreciate your suggestions for changes and improvements in either RAQ*news* or the RAQ Website (http://www.queensu.ca/retirees/). Please write to me directly at mcdougal@queensu.ca with your thoughts and ideas.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy fall season.

*Elaine McDougall, Editor*

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