

RAQ *news*



I hope everyone had safe and warm celebrations with family and friends, and that you greet 2010 with enthusiasm and in good health. RAQ had a number of successful events over the fall term which are reviewed else-

where in this issue. We are grateful for the dedicated efforts of the volunteers who have organized – and continue to organize – these events.

Retiree Parking

The troubled issue of parking for retirees providing unpaid service to the university was settled during the fall term.

Under the new system, retirees whose unpaid services to Queen's (teaching and thesis direction, research, administration, etc.) require their frequent and regular presence on campus (on the order of three days per week or more) over the entire year may submit a letter to their dean, associate vice-principal (AVP) or director in which they provide details of the nature and duration of their presence on campus. If the dean, AVP or director is satisfied that the request is valid, he or she will communicate with the Parking Office which will issue without charge an annual (renewable) parking permit to the retiree.

Retirees whose unpaid contributions to Queen's require less than three days per week or more frequent presence over only part of the year may similarly submit a letter to their dean, etc.,

outlining the service and the number of days per year on which they will have to be on campus. If approved, the Parking Office will be advised, and it will provide the retiree without charge the appropriate number of daily parking passes. Each pass will carry the retiree's licence plate number. This arrangement may be renewed annually.

Presidential News and Views

Retiree Eligibility for Research Grants

The Professional Support Committee of CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada) has become concerned that limitations on the ability of retirees

to supervise graduate students may act to limit retiree eligibility for research support. The committee has recently written to deans of graduate studies across Canada to obtain their policies on retiree ability to supervise graduate students, as well as their policies regarding retiree applications for research grants (internal and external). The committee has also written to the presidents of NSERC and SSHRC to determine the importance of graduate supervision in the awarding of grants, and to obtain statistics on the success rate of applications from retired scholars. If you have faced discrimination in your application for research support, please let me know.

Finally, please note the date of the RAQ Annual General Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

GEORGE BRANDIE President
George.Brandie@queensu.ca

Mark Your Calendar RAQ Annual General Meeting and Lunch
Monday, 26 April 2010. Location to be announced later.
Reception and cash bar 11.30 am. Lunch 12.30 pm, meeting to follow.

Pension and Benefits Committee Report

Since our last report, no new specific issues regarding Pensions & Benefits have arisen on which we should comment. But, as we all know, Principal Daniel

Woolf is now in office. We very much look forward to working with him and his revamped administrative team. In that connection, a meeting was held on November 23, 2009 with Vice-Principal Rod Morrison and Bob Weisnagel as part of our regular program of communicating with the university administration regarding matters of mutual interest.

The Pension Fund fiscal year ended on August 31, 2009. In summary, the overall shrinkage for the entire year was about 7.9 percent, which is significantly better than the negative 10 percent return for eleven months to July 31, 2009 and the negative position of more than 20 percent, shown in the spring. We hope that 2009/10 will produce much more positive returns as the recessionary conditions of the past year continue to abate.

However, our major efforts over the fall were directed toward expanding and strengthening our committee. Given the great importance of pension & benefit issues to re-

tirees, and in view of the general and specific economic pressures now facing the university, we concluded that we must rebuild our committee now to better equip ourselves for the longer term. This subject has been mentioned earlier and was referred to in our report to the annual meeting in the spring. As a matter of background, during the first several years of RAQ's existence we were ably led by the significant efforts of Bill Wright until his untimely death. In addition, Dave Bonham and I are both original members of the committee and both of us are still very much involved. Last year, Chris Chapler joined the committee and he has helped us significantly since then. We realized, however, that we still needed some additional members with strong and diverse backgrounds to assist us in this important work and to carry on when the original members leave.

We are therefore very happy to report to you the results of this initiative. First of all, our president, George Brandie, has become a member on a continuing basis. Over the last several months George has been heavily involved in this area. We welcome him and look forward to his contribution well into the future.

Joyce Zakos, a distinguished past president of RAQ, has also agreed to become a member. Joyce's long connection with Queen's through the principal's office, combined with her

wealth of experience in the registrar's office, puts her in a very good position to work with our group. In addition, Sue Miklas has also accepted our invitation to join the committee. Sue has had a very successful career as a professor of law and has always shown a wide interest in the university in a great variety of contexts. We are therefore delighted that both Joyce and Sue have joined our ranks.

Finally, we are very pleased to say that David Bacon, a long-serving and very successful former dean of the Faculty of Applied Science has also agreed to become a member. David has been active within Queen's University for many years, with a broad range of interests and skills. We therefore believe that the addition of these new members will put us in an excellent position to deal with the important issues that will undoubtedly arise in the next few years. We do however wish to mention that our role as a committee is to act as the eyes, ears and voice of RAQ where pension & benefits matters are concerned, but to do so mindful of our position as part of the Queen's community. We believe that the committee as it is now restructured will allow us to carry out this role in a very positive way. We hope that this restructured Pension & Benefits Committee will also have the trust and confidence of the entire membership of RAQ.

ALAN GREEN Chair

Report of Past Events Fall 2009

Prince Edward County Music Festival

Each year the Prince Edward County Music Festival, under the creative directorship of Stéphane Lemelin, features a contemporary Canadian composer. This year the eclectic Andrew MacDonald, who is also a classical guitarist, was in residence. We were also introduced, most of us for the first time, to the accordion in a classical music role. The world-renowned accordionist, Joseph Petric, with his oboist partner, Normand Forget, performed not only sonatas by Telemann and Bach, transcribed for oboe and accordion, but "Primavera" (after Botticelli), composed by MacDonald himself. The final composition by MacDonald, "Green Steps in Sunshine," originally commis-

sioned by the CBC, was performed by James Campbell, clarinetist, and the acclaimed dancer Veronica Tennant. The virtuosic playfulness of the clarinet part, in addition to Tennant's striking narration and improvisatory dance, projected a joyful and youthful celebration of life.

Finally we enjoyed the stellar performance by the Penderecki String Quartet of Beethoven's glorious Quartet no.15 in A minor, written near the end of his life.

Overall, the contrast between Baroque, Beethoven and modern music, with the inclusion of the rarely heard accordion and with the ever dramatic Veronica Tennant as narrator, resulted in a most interesting and exciting program.

MARJORIE PINKERTON



RAQeteers enjoying a pre-concert dinner.

Photograph by GEORGE BRANDIE

Past events continued on page 4

RAQonteur Forum Provides Optimistic View of Developments in Access to Health Care

On October 7, the Second RAQonteur Forum presented "Family Health Care: Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population" in Memorial Hall at Kingston City Hall. Dr. Peter Bell, Nurse Practitioner Mary Woodman and Dr. Willa Henry, all members of area family health teams, discussed recent changes in the system that are providing improved access and bet-



Dr Peter Bell speaking.

ter care for patients. All three speakers agreed that team-based family medicine, involving a broad spectrum of specialties and shared electronic patient records, were providing better care for patients and more satisfying working conditions for medical providers. As well, the



Dr Willa Henry.

teams are able to accommodate more patients than are stand-alone practitioners, leading to reduced lists of people without primary family health care. The audience came away with a better understanding of the evolving system for delivery of family health care, and a more optimistic view of the ability of the system to meet their needs in the future.

We are grateful for the support of the acting vice-principal (advancement) for this series.

GEORGE BRANDIE
Photographs by GREG BLACK

RAQeteers Meet Principal Daniel Woolf

On October 19, the annual RAQ reception provided members an opportunity to meet Queen's new principal, Daniel Woolf. For 45 minutes prior to his address, Principal Woolf mingled with attendees in the fire-side lounge and main bar of the University Club. In his remarks, Principal Woolf reviewed the many contributions of retirees to the community and to Queen's and looked forward to building on this foundation. He went on to discuss briefly his desire to add the role of provost to the existing duties of the vice-principal (academic). In his view, the provost would share the responsibility for the full range of university activities, academic and administrative, and would allow the principal more time to be personally involved within the university as well as externally. He remarked on how much he is enjoying teaching a first-year course in the Department of History.



Principal Woolf responds.

After delivering his prepared remarks, Principal Woolf engaged in an extended, spirited, and wide-ranging discussion with the audience. That discussion made clear his enthusiasm for Queen's and his role in its evolution. We look forward to working with him to advance our mutual interests.

ARLENE AISH and GEORGE BRANDIE
Photograph by JOHN GORDON

Museum of Health Care Tour

A small but very interested group of RAQ members participated in a tour of the Museum of Health Care at the Ann Baillie Building – the first nurses' residence and a National Historic Site – on November 5. Dr. James Low, executive director, explained the origins of the museum and its uniqueness, it being the only such museum in Canada. Paul Robertson, curator, and Kathy Karkut, collections manager, gave the group a tour of displays from some of the museum's 30,000 artefacts, which vividly illustrate the story of medical care from the eighteenth century to the present day.

The museum's website – <http://museumofhealthcare.ca/> – offers a full catalogue of the collection, complete with numerous high-quality images, as well as the hours of opening.

Well worth a visit.

BRUCE HUTCHINSON

Queen's Drama Department Performance of Twelfth Night

On November 21, Raqueteers enjoyed the Drama Department's student performance of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The director, Professor Judith Fisher, set the scene, with appropriate costumes, in the 1920s because she felt that the then prevailing mood and atmosphere, particularly among the upper classes, resembled that of Shakespeare's play.

This was a very well directed, spirited and highly polished performance. It was evident that Judith Fisher's palpable enthusiasm and attention to detail had "infected" the students, whose body language particularly well complemented their spoken words.

As in the past, following the performance the director elaborated on her reasons for her choices in the production and answered our members' questions.

MARION E. MEYER

Coming RAQ Events Spring 2010

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, jroddy@kingston.net or (613) 353-6959 for details and reservations.

The School of Music: Pianofest, op. 7

This year marks the seventh Queen's piano festival, and will feature international artists Jane Coop, Angela Park, Roy Howat (UK) and Diane Andersen (Belgium). Recitals, master classes and lectures will take place in February and March. The cost for retirees is only \$5.00 per concert.

For details about Pianofest's "Night in Vienna" (12 and 13 February) or any other event, see the School of Music website: <http://www.queensu.ca/music> (News and Events), or call (613) 533-2066.

Drama Department Production of Our Town

On February 13, 2010, the Queen's Drama Department, directed by Craig Walker, will perform one of the undisputed masterpieces of the American theatre: Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. This play remains as emotionally powerful today as it was when it was first produced in 1938. It is a measure of Wilder's theatrical brilliance that his narrative of ordinary small-town life proceeds so simply, with such a charming mixture of humour and tenderness, that the profound truths grasped by the play always seem to come upon us suddenly, as a deeply moving surprise. Come and experience one of the most beloved classics of the modern stage.

Athletics & Recreation Centre in the New Queen's Centre

We hope that all members received the letter from Leslie Dal Cin outlining the facilities available at the ARC for retirees. This is truly a major improvement in campus recreational opportunities. There is a wide range of flexible membership options available, including monthly, weekly and daily passes, along with access to expanded cardio areas, lifting and stretching zones, pool, squash courts and gyms.

A great opportunity was provided in December to tour the ARC and witness the benefits and advantages provided. You can be sure that RAQ will organize a special tour and briefing in the new year.

Monday Morning Forums – Spring 2010

The spring series of five Monday Morning Forums will feature diverse specialists and lively discussions.

The University Club
168 Stuart Street.
Coffee and muffins, 8.15 am
lectures, 9 am
discussions, 9.30 am.

This series is co-ordinated by Agnes Herzberg under the joint sponsorship of the university and Four Points Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Kingston.

January 11

The pros and cons of wind energy: Wind energy or health?

PROFESSOR J. HARRISON
Department of Physics
Queen's University

January 18

What happened in Copenhagen: What next?

DR. J.M.R. STONE
Formerly Environment Canada

January 25

What are the current challenges to hospitals in the present environment?

MS L. THOMPSON
President and CEO
Kingston General Hospital

March 8

Pandemic. What Pandemic?

DR G. EVANS
Department of Medicine
Queen's University

March 22

Emerging viral epidemics: A "Made in Canada" solution?

DR M. CHRÉTIEN
Ottawa Health Research Institute

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