

RAQnews



President's Report

This edition of the newsletter is full of exciting announcements and updates, some of which you may already know. The New RAQ membership model is well on its way to being implemented fully, and a number of you have already registered with the new universal membership model. The Membership Committee, under the leadership of Donna Lounsbury, not only worked for many months to achieve this goal for RAQ, but also has spent long hours working on the details of moving to this model. In May of 2020, when all Queen's retirees are eligible for automatic free membership in the organization, we'll have three new members of Council and a new Executive. The new Council members are Sheilagh Dunn, Office of the Principal; John Holmes, Department of Geography and Planning; and Alistair MacLean, Department of Psychology.

Not too long after the new Council takes over, RAQ will also have a new home. We will be sharing a house on King street with the Queen's Women's Association. Here we will have our own office space and will be able to arrange for space for meetings and events. The move is planned for late summer. You will see a picture of the house in this newsletter and can expect further information about the space when the move is finalized.

By the time this newsletter is out, you will probably have received information from Human Resources about the change from Great West Life to Manulife for our benefits. The advantages to retirees will be outlined in that report and will reflect the negotiations George Brandie initiated on our behalf some time ago. I think you will be pleased at the new opportunities offered in the new package.

Diane Kelly, the incoming President of RAQ, has taken charge of our bursary portfolio and has already established a good relationship with Advancement. We should be hearing about the recipient of this year's bursary soon, and I hope that person will join us at April's AGM meeting.

Those of you who take advantage of the events RAQ sponsors will be pleased that Dr. Agnes Herzberg is busy planning a fall series of The Monday Morning Forum. Watch for announcements of

the speakers and dates. Information about the popular RAQ/University Club luncheons is given elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year's AGM is on **Wednesday**, April 29, beginning with an open bar at 11 a.m. in the University Club and lunch in the Teves dining room. Our speaker this year is Dr. **Fahim Quadir, Vice Principal and Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Professor, School of Global Development**. He will speak to us on the strategic vision of Graduate Studies at Queen's followed by an engaging question/answer period. Our new Council members will be there to meet you, and I hope that we'll hear from our current bursary student then as well. You will receive more details and a registration form by email later. I look forward to seeing there.

Eleanor Rogers, RAQ President

RAQ's Future Location in 2020:



Please join us at the RAQ Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

University Club

Our Guest Speaker will be Fahim Quadir, Vice Principal and Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Professor, School of Global Development

Watch for your formal invitation with all the details

Pension and Benefits Report

University Pension Plan (UPP)

The UPP is moving ahead and still on track for a conversion date of July 1, 2021.

The inaugural Chair of the Board of Trustees has been selected. Gail Rubenstein is a Partner at Goodmans L.L.P. Ms. Rubenstein is recognized for her expertise in corporate restructuring, pensions and regulatory matters over her 30 year career with Goodmans.

Also, the UPP Joint Sponsors have announced the members of the UPP Sponsor Committees. The Queen's representatives on the Employer Sponsor Committee are Donna Janiec (VP Finance and Administration) and Steve Millan (Associate VP Human Resources). The Queen's representative on the Employee Sponsor Committee is Leslie Jermyn (Executive Director, QUFA).

The main responsibilities of the Joint Sponsors are to set benefits and contribution rates, create funding policy and appoint the Plan Administrator (Board of Trustees).

As mentioned in previous reports, the conversion to the UPP will have no impact on pensions for existing retirees at the three universities. Pensioners at Queen's will receive the same excess interest increases after the conversion date as they would have under the provisions of the Queen's Pension Plan.

Queen's Pension Plan News

The pension plan return for the first 4 months of the Plan year (September 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019) was 4.1%. The investment return for January is not available as yet.

Benefit News

Human Resources is actively working with Manulife on a number of items, and they need to be resolved before the University can communicate more broadly on the new benefits. We are expecting further communications from HR in April. Any updated information will be found on the Human Resources website under Projects at: www.queensu.ca/humanresources

As mentioned in our last newsletter, details on the optional retiree benefits (premiums fully paid by retirees) can be found under the RAQ website News tab: [October 5, 2019](#)

Bill Forbes, Chair,

RAQ Pensions & Benefits Committee

RAQ Membership News

RAQ Membership is now FREE for Life!*

The Retirees' Association of Queen's (RAQ) is thrilled to announce our most exciting news yet...as the result of successful negotiations with the University, we are now able to offer lifetime membership in RAQ for no fee for all Queen's retirees (as of May 1, 2020).

With your new lifetime membership, you will continue to enjoy all the educational and social benefits your membership now provides. You'll profit as well from RAQ's strong advocacy on your behalf – including vigorous advocacy for new retiree benefits which you will hear about in the coming weeks in a mailing from Queen's Human Resources. That package will also include an invitation from RAQ to join our organization as a lifetime member with no annual fee by completing and mailing in the registration form provided. This will be the one and only time that we will ask you to register with RAQ, although we would like you to stay in touch if any of your contact information changes.

As our membership base grows, we plan to expand and diversify RAQ's programs and learning opportunities to appeal to a range of interests and even a changing demographic as new retirees now automatically join our ranks. Just this year, for example, RAQ Travel was launched to offer small custom-designed tours, tailored to RAQ members and exceptionally well-priced. The inaugural odyssey to Greece and its islands takes place in May, 2020. Stay tuned for other RAQ Travel experiences in 2021.

To our loyal RAQ members, many of whom have been with us for years, all we can say is a most sincere thank you for your support and belief in our organization over the past years. Your membership funds have enabled us to grow and achieve all that we have, and your continued participation will be essential to our being able to continue to innovate and advocate on behalf of Queen's retirees.

Early registration for lifetime membership is now available to RAQ members, even before the official package from HR goes out. To register you will need to complete and mail in the membership form which you can find on the [RAQ website](#).

Associate Members (including spouses of retirees) will continue to pay a modest annual fee as noted on the new membership form.

Please note that RAQ is governed by Queen's Privacy Policy and will use your contact information solely for the purpose of contacting you about RAQ events and benefits.

We hope you will continue as a member of our revitalized RAQ, which is committed to bringing value and fun to its members.

All members of RAQ Council join me in offering our sincere thanks for your past support. We look forward to continuing our work together to improve the opportunities for Queen's retirees.

***The only catch is that you have to sign up!**

Please complete the membership form available on our website

and mail or email it to:

Retirees' Association of Queen's,

Queen's University, Kingston, ON K7L 3N6

Email: raq@queensu.ca

*Donna Lounsbury
Membership Chair, RAQ*

Welcome to New Members!

Jan Allen (Agnes Etherington Art Centre)
Janice Belanger (Film and Media)
Elaine Bevins Caird (Community Housing) and Larry Caird
Merv Daub (School of Business) and Elaine Forshaw
Patricia Dwyer (Pension, Investments and Insurance)
Sam Kalb (Library)
Rhonda Lee-Sherman (School of Business)
Michael McGrath (Medicine)
Faye Muller (Theological College)
Lloyd (Engineering) and Leslie Rhymer
Murray F Taylor (Medicine)
Donald Watts (Mathematics and Statistics) and Valery Lloyd Watts (Music)

Upcoming RAQ Events



Join fellow RAQ members and others at one of our upcoming conversations. These popular events address diverse topics and are led by experts in the field. For more information how to attend the following upcoming events, consult the RAQ [website](#).

RAQ Guest Lunch Series

March 17, 2020:

Dr. Lonnie Aarssen, Department of Biology: “Why so much anxiety, despair, and suicide—and how might we manage it? An evolutionary perspective.”

April 23, 2020

Dr. Lisa Carver, School of Kinesiology and Health Studies: “Keeping Fido: The human animal bond and older adult well-being.”

May 25, 2020

Dr. Stephen Archer, Head, Department of Medicine: “The mighty mitochondrion—watch them move and learn that they are much more than the power house of the cell.”

Other Scheduled Events

Grab and Go! RAQ-Student Interaction Events:

In collaboration with the Chaplaincy, once a month volunteers from the Retirees’ Association prepare and distribute hearty snacks for students with the message, “Have a healthy snack and get your energy back.” In the next section on Past Activities, you will see that these events were held in January and February and a third one is scheduled for March 25th, 2020.

Past Activities

RAQ Grab and Go Student Event

RAQ's January 8th inaugural "Grab and Go with Queen's Retirees" was a great success. In association with the Queen's Faith and Spiritual Life office, we made 120 students very happy with a nutritious snack and gave them a little more energy for the rest of the day. At a table set up in the University Centre, four RAQ members handed out 120 healthy muffins to students walking by. They were met with surprise that there was no charge for the snack and delight for the unexpected treat.

The event, organized by Catherine Purcell and supported by five other RAQ members, was the first of three planned for the spring term, 2020. Subsequent dates are Wednesday, February 26 and Wednesday, March 25. Volunteers agree to provide two dozen healthy but nut-free muffins for each event, and some also help with the distribution between 10:30 and 11:30. Participants bring a copy of the recipe for each batch provided so that students know exactly what's in them and can even take a picture of the recipes in case they want to make the muffins again at home.



RAQ participants L-R: Juliet Milsome, Eleanor Rogers, Cherrilyn Yalin, Catherine Purcell

We hope this initial effort leads to an ongoing RAQ association with students. It's a great way to be involved in campus life and to meet students in all years and different subject areas. Anyone interested in becoming part of the RAQ Student Interaction Committee should contact Catherine Purcell (cpurcell300@gmail.com). An email to the RAQ office (raq@queensu.ca) will also be forwarded to Catherine.

Eleanor Rogers

United Way Seeing is Believing Tour

Cherrilyn Yalin and Bruce Hutchinson participated in the United Way Tour of funded agencies this year and we were both impressed by the commitment and passion of workers in the agencies we visited. The tour started with a description of the Food Sharing Project, which provides breakfast and snacks to 87 area schools representing 16,000 students.



Our first stop was Outreach St. George's Kingston where disadvantaged, alienated or marginalized people find respite, friendship, free clothing, personal items as well as food in a safe drop-in room that is open every weekday morning.

The Youth Diversion Program, housed at the former Robert Meek school, has a number of programs to help youth with early intervention programs to help them overcome challenges in their lives, make positive

changes and make amends for their actions.

Our final visit was to the Kingston Youth Shelter which provides shelter for homeless youth, making a real difference in the lives of youth aged 16 to 24. They provide emergency shelter, transitional housing and family mediation, services which all aim at preventing homelessness among youth. We were moved by the counsellor's commitment to the youth in the shelter.

Your donations to the United Way are essential for the success of these programs and many more.

Bruce Hutchinson

Hargreaves Way

The roadway that surrounds Richardson Stadium has been renamed **Hargreaves Way** in honour of former football coach (and former RAQ member) Doug Hargreaves, in recognition of his contributions to Queen's.

Doug, who passed away in 2016, is recognized as one of the winningest coaches in Canadian university sports. In the 19 seasons he led the football Gaels (1976-1994), his teams posted eight conference titles and three appearances in the Canadian University national championships, winning the Vanier Cup title twice (1978 and 1992). The 1992 Vanier Cup win still stands as the only shut-out in the Cup's 55-year history; Queen's defeated St. Mary's University 31-0 that year. A dedicated mentor to his players and a passionate builder of the sport, Doug has been recognized with inductions in Queen's Football Hall of Fame, the Kingston and District Sports Hall of Fame, and the Royal Military College Athletics Wall of Distinction where he coached both football and basketball (1965-70).