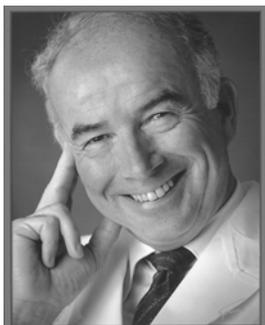


# RAQnews



"They spend their time looking forward to the past." Ever mindful of John Osborne's admonition in his play *Look Back in Anger*, a brief glance at RAQ's history and activities seems in order as I finish three years as your President. RAQ was created due to the initiative of John Meisel and a small group including Alison Morgan and Joyce Zakos. Maintaining a sense of "the univer-

sity family" and sponsoring a variety of activities were RAQ's early objectives. Volume 1, Number 1 of *RAQnews* appeared in September 2002 and its triannual issues provide a chronological record of RAQ's activities and topics of interest to members. From the outset, social activities have been popular and varied, including tours of new buildings and other campus developments as well as visits to numerous regional locations such as the Marine Museum, wineries in Prince Edward County and visits to the Opinicon Station. Individual initiatives provide added spice and value. A notable example is Agnes Herzberg's Monday Morning Forum featuring eminent speakers on a wide variety of topics.

In addition to social and educational activities, RAQ keeps a close watch on fiscal matters important to its members, foremost among which are pensions. The Pension Committee of the Board of Trustees has 11 voting members, two of whom are retired faculty and staff appointed on recommendation by RAQ at the request of the Principal. Reports from our Pension and Benefits Committee are important items at our Board meetings. Financial planning seminars, updates on the Medical Plan and Travel Insurance are other fiscal matters monitored by RAQ.

Consideration of the role RAQ could play in providing a platform for discussion of topics of mutual concern to the university, city and Queen's students led to establishing the *RAQonteur* Forums. They have been held once or twice a year since 2009 covering a wide variety of topics

ranging from Queen's and the National Economy to student housing.

The RAQ-Queen's Partnership was created in November 2007 "to enhance the continued scholarly and creative lives of retirees, complement the existing academic infrastructure and programs of Queen's University and build on the strengths of RAQ." The university signed a statement of intent to establish a centre "to facilitate the continuing partnership of retirees in the academic life of the university." RAQ has a small office in Mackintosh-Corry Hall; it may be time to revisit the notion of a centre.

"We'll Work for Free, Say Retired Professors, but Colleges Struggle with How to Use Them." This heading in the December 13, 2009 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* describes a generic problem equally applicable to Queen's. It is a recurring agenda item at semi-annual meetings of the RAQ-Queen's Partnership group.

Priorities for the immediate future identified in the report following the RAQ Council Retreat in June, 2011 were (1) maintaining involvement in pension and benefit advocacy, (2) continued interaction with the University and (3) promoting benefits of RAQ membership to include more than 50% of retirees. I believe those priorities remain unchanged.

HENRY DINSDALE, President

## Presidential News and Views



**RAQ Council, 2014-15**

Front: J. Meisel, S. Olney, H. Dinsdale, P. Oosthuizen, E. Rogers, D. McLay  
Rear: B. Aitken, P. Kumar, W. James, S. Miklas, M. Gray, B. Tait, C. Yalin,  
D. Duttie      Absent: B. Fletcher, S. Tavares

**Reminder: Memberships for 2014-15 are now due. Check the date on your membership card. Our new payment options make renewal easier than ever! Forms are available on our web site: <http://www.queensu.ca/retirees/contact.html> or phone 613-533-6986.**

# Pension and Benefits Report

We have all been greatly saddened by the final illness and sudden death of Committee Chair David Bacon on April 13, 2014. David joined the Committee early in 2010 and became its Chair later that year when health problems forced Alan Green to step down. You will all be familiar with David's reports in

each issue of *RAQnews* since September 2010. We will miss his friendship and wise counsel.

David's final report to the RAQ Council was prepared in February, before illness forced him to step down:

On January 16, 2014 members of the RAQ Pensions and Benefits Committee met with Caroline Davis, Vice-Principal (Finance and Administration), Al Orth, Associate Vice-Principal (Human Resources) and Bob Weisnagel, Director (Pensions and Insurance), at their invitation, to receive a briefing on initial discussions between Queen's University and representatives of the Pension Plan of the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT). This exploration by Queen's is one option that could lead to easing of the potential severe impact of the solvency deficit of the Queen's University Pension Plan on the annual Queen's operating budget. Two points deserve emphasis:

1. **As has been stated regularly by the University and by our committee, pensions paid to Queen's retirees are guaranteed never to decrease during the retirees' lifetimes, and**
2. **Discussions with representatives of the CAAT Pension Plan are very preliminary. Possible discussions with representatives of other pension plans are possible.**

The excellent ongoing relationship and communication between the RAQ Pensions and Benefits Com-

mittee and the members of Queen's administration named above provide confidence that RAQ will continue to be informed in timely fashion of developments in this area.

The Queen's budget for 2014-15 (approved by the Board of Trustees on May 2) said, "If the University were to begin making solvency payments in the 2015-16 fiscal year, the August 2013 calculations imply solvency payments of \$16M annually... The University is looking at all options to reduce the on-going operating budget effect of pension solvency special payments, including options that might lead to permanent solvency relief. Government policy encourages the conversion of single-employer plans to Jointly Sponsored Pension Plans [JSPPs], which are not required to make solvency payments, but the legislative framework is not yet in place. In the meantime, the university has begun exploring the idea of merging the QPP with CAAT, the JSPP for colleges in Ontario." [Section 4.2.4]

The dissolution of the Ontario Legislature for the June election means that a "legislative framework" will be further delayed, if not made irrelevant by a new government.

Finally and more happily, the net investment return from the Queen's Pension Plan over the first seven months of the current Plan year (September 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014) was 12.1728%. Although obviously encouraging, no immediate increases in monthly payments to most Queen's retirees are expected because the Fund's recent annual returns have not yet been sufficient to offset the losses that followed the global market melt-down of 2009.

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

David Bacon (until March, 2014), George Brandie (Chair), Chris Chapler, Sue Miklas, Joyce Zakos

## Reports of Past Events Winter 2013

### **RAQonteur Forum**

#### ***Queen's Student Housing: Issues and Influences***

RAQ hosted its eighth *RAQonteur* Forum on March 19, a panel discussion of the current and possible fu-

ture of housing for Queen's students. Panelists included Thomas Pritchard, AMS VP (University Affairs); Brent Bellamy, General Manager, Science '44 Co-op; Arig Girgrah, Assistant Dean (Student Affairs); as well as two city representatives: Terry Willing,

Director, Building and Licensing Department, and Sheldon Laidman, Acting Director, Planning and Development. Each panelist addressed a topic or issue important to their constituency and offered what they saw as appropriate responses to these

# Reports of Past Events Winter 2013

issues. A period of audience participation followed the presentations.

Common issues identified were the relationship between expanding enrolment and limited housing; different types of housing for a growing student population; property standards off campus, specifically absentee landlords; changes in density and neighbourhood personality; and student behaviour both on and off campus.

All panelists agreed that the need for more, consolidated and better housing was urgent and gave suggestions about how housing could be improved. All would like to see the University District become a more cohesive neighbourhood and gave examples of ways the AMS, Co-op members, the university and the city are encouraging students to be responsible members of the community. For example, the AMS maintains a Student Maintenance and Response Team (SMART), which assists in clean-up operations after big events and liaises with the city, and the university's Town/Gown Office works with students to help them understand their community responsibilities. The city's aggressive program to deal with absentee landlords includes having a private contractor clean up properties if landlords don't respond to citations

within a reasonable time. Use of email offers the possibility of a quick response, and reduces the use of slower legal processes.

The presentations were so comprehensively informative that the question and answer period consisted mostly of discussion among audience members and the panel. All of the panelists indicated a willingness to be contacted about specific issues. Both the AMS and Queen's representatives may be located through the Queen's web site: [www.queensu.ca](http://www.queensu.ca) or [www.myams.org](http://www.myams.org). Brent Bellamy is listed in contacts on the Science '44 web site: [www.studenthousingkingston.ca](http://www.studenthousingkingston.ca), and the city representatives may be reached at [www.cityofkingston.ca](http://www.cityofkingston.ca). The audience was disappointingly small (30 people) but responsive and appreciative.

ELEANOR ROGERS/CHERRILYN YALIN

## **WELCOME Barbara Tait**



Barbara Tait joins RAQ as Membership Secretary and Office Administrator. She is a fourth generation Queen's graduate with a degree in Economics and a career in banking.



In the audience at the RAQonteur Forum

## **Monday Morning Forums**

This series is arranged by Dr. A.M. Herzberg and supported by Queen's University; Ambassador Hotel, Kingston; Cunningham Swan, Lawyers. Four speakers in winter 2014 brought us interesting and wide-ranging topics as well as engaging discussion:

### ***Folie à deux, my Irish twins, and Rob Ford***

Dr. H.B. Dinsdale  
Queen's University

### ***Is there more to Elrond College than an ugly building on Princess Street?***

Dr. D. McDowall  
Queen's University

### ***Why "eat your peas" does not work for communicating science***

Mr. P. Calamai  
University of Ottawa

### ***The Principal's commission on mental health***

Dr. D.M.C. Walker  
Queen's University



RAQonteur Forum Speakers



Dr. A.M. Herzberg

## Thank You, Joy

The AGM on April 28, 2014 marked the retirement of Joy Hoselton, our Membership Secretary. Joy has been a dedicated, effective and amiable worker and ambassador for RAQ. Back in 2000, when RAQ was a gleam in the eye of John Meisel, Joyce Zakos and Alison Morgan, Joy was asked if she would become a member of the original RAQ Council. She agreed and volunteered to do a two-year stint as Membership Secretary, a position which grew to include overall administration of the RAQ office. Two years grew to 14!



Joy was born in Capreol, ON, took a commercial course at Kingston Business School and began her association with Queen's in 1966 as secretary to Jean Royce and Margaret Hooey, initially in the Registrar's office and later the Senate. She was appointed administrative assistant when the Senate, Board of Trustees and Council came under the Office of the Secretariat. She recalls with affection her colleagues of those days including Alison Morgan and Georgina Moore. Early retirement in 1996 was followed by a variety of casual positions including at Summerhill and in the Principal's office. Such a long and varied service to Queen's provides Joy with many memories and anecdotes: Jean Royce the workaholic,

faculty personalities such as Ralfe Clench, the occasion when John Deutsch adjourned a Senate meeting in the face of student protesters are some of her recollections. However, they apparently pale beside her memory of Donald Sutherland taking her arm as he entered to receive an honorary degree at a graduation where she was an usher.

Joy looks forward to relaxing with her hobbies of gardening, euchre, crocheting and crafts and for exercise enjoying long walks, round and square dancing with the Limestone Dancers and line dancing. Joy, we are greatly in your debt and send you our best wishes for the future.

HENRY DINSDALE

## Coming RAQ Events Spring/Summer 2014

### **Campus Tour**

**The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts**

**Monday 9 June 2014**

**Starting times 11 am and 2:30 pm**

Sixty members of RAQ will have an opportunity to tour the Isabel Bader Centre before its official opening in September. The Centre will provide urgently needed recital, theatre, screening and rehearsal space. In designing the new centre, the architects have taken the best features of the world's greatest centres and combined them with exhilarating advances in modern technology to create a world-class building.

After or before the tour a soup and sandwich lunch has been arranged at The River Mill for a cost of \$15 per person (plus gratuity and tax). If you have not already reserved a place for the RAQ tour and would like to be

added to the waiting list, please notify Cherrilyn Yalin by e-mail (yalinc@queensu.ca) or phone (613-542-4201).

CHERRILYN YALIN

### **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 for details and reservations.

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*The online version of this issue will contain more pictures from the past year — in colour.*

### **Opinicon Pot-Luck Picnic**

**Wednesday 23 July 2014**

**11 am (Rain or Shine)**

The annual RAQ pot-luck picnic at the Queen's Lake Opinicon Biological Station will be the tenth RAQ picnic at Opinicon. If it's bright and sunny we'll enjoy eating outside in the park-like setting. If it rains, we will eat in the Research Station's comfortable pavilion.

Please join us for a visit to this delightful spot on the shores of Lake Opinicon to see the Biology department's renowned research facility and hear about the graduate students' current projects.

The enclosed Registration Form has details and directions. The cost is \$7 per person plus a picnic lunch to share. **Please register by July 14.**

BOB CRANDALL

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RAQnews is published three times a year by the RAQ Communications Committee, Diane Duttler (Chair)  
Editors: Diane Duttler, George Brandie; Photos: George Brandie, Diane Duttler, Joyce Zakos  
Proofreading: Barbara Aitken; Web site: George Brandie, Don Robinson, Diane Duttler  
RAQ's postal address: RAQ, Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room A412, Queen's University, Kingston, ON K7L 3N6  
Telephone: 613-533-6986. E-mail: raq@queensu.ca Web site: http://www.queensu.ca/retirees