

# RAQnews

## A message from the President

The best sign that RAQ has completed its first seven months of existence with flying colours is that the only disaster

to report is that we neglected to apply for a liquor (wine) licence in time for the October reception with the Principal. But, as often happens in life, the mishap had positive results: it revealed that the spirit among our members is so high and warm that the dry ambience of the event was hardly noticed. As Mary Balanchuk's report below notes, everyone had a lovely time. The Principal's talk was warm – and brief – and many old friends and acquaintances loved seeing one another again. Social get-togethers are clearly one of the activities we have to arrange regularly.

Bill Wright tells us below that the health care coverage information session also drew a large crowd and revealed that this sort of exchange of information and opinion is needed.

Both of these events were well attended. But I was struck by the high proportion of people I knew, and the relatively low number of RAQ's 475 members I have never met, of whom there are legion. I wonder whether we need to plan more diverse activities attracting heretofore invisible members? What sort of activities? Let us know by sending us your ideas.

The Suggestion Box in the last issue was not used extensively. That statement is a bit of an exaggeration. *Nobody* sent any comments either using the box or e-mail. So here's another try. RAQ will serve its members best if as many as possible indicate what activities they would like to see (and possibly, arrange).

On behalf of the Executive, the Council, and the RAQnews crew, I herewith extend our very best wishes for a fine 2003 marked, we hope, by good health.

JOHN MEISEL  
*President, RAQ*

## Tour of the new Chemistry building

On January 17 at 3pm a tour of Chernoff Hall, new home of the Department of Chemistry, will be led by Department Manager Rick Boswell who was part of the planning and construction process from beginning to end. Visits to working labs will be included. Meet in room 202 of Chernoff Hall, just inside the main entrance, which is across Queen's Crescent from Victoria Hall Residence.

Please email [Morgana@post.queensu.ca](mailto:Morgana@post.queensu.ca) or call Alison Morgan 544-9854 to leave a message that you plan to attend. There will be no other notice.

THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE FOR THE TOUR OF THE NEW CHEMISTRY BUILDING.

## Queen's Medical Plan

The University's Human Resources Department enthusiastically agreed with RAQ's request to stage an information session on the provisions of the Queen's Medical Plan. This was held on November 12 in the Policy Studies Building, and was attended by about 140 RAQ members.

Some of the highlights of the plan's provisions for retirees were identified as follows:

**out of country medical coverage** is for emergency care only, which is defined as any sudden critical, unforeseen or unexpected occurrence requiring immediate medical attention. The determination in each case is based on the individual circumstances. When any emergency arises in the U.S., retirees are urged to immediately contact

MEDEX (Great West Life) at 1-800-527-0218

**the provision that only 80%** of the charges for emergency treatment will be paid, was a significant concern expressed by a number of those present. When traveling, in order to insure the remaining 20%, one must currently purchase full duplicate 100% coverage. Richard Weatherdon, Associate Vice-Principal, Human Resources, said that previous attempts to obtain such insurance from Great West Life had been unsuccessful. However, he promised that this concern would be taken very seriously, and solutions would be sought in consultation with Vice Principal Anderson.

**retirees are not currently entitled** to dental coverage, and this matter appeared to be of importance to many of those present.

RAQ will continue to keep in touch with the University on these and other insurance matters, and will keep the members posted.

## Queen's Pension Plan

The Pension Committee, a committee of the Board of Trustees, has ten members, two of which are representatives of the retired staff. The current incumbents, appointed by the Principal, are Jessie Deslauriers, and Hugh Fullerton. Quite clearly it is understood that these people do not have to report to, or take direction from RAQ. However, it was felt important that with the creation of our group, an opportunity now exists for open dialogue on pension matters, so that we can be made aware in advance of possible plan or related changes. Similarly, we will be able to make the Pension Committee aware of concerns to retirees.

RAQ's Pension and Benefits Committee is composed of Bill Wright (Chair), Alan Green and David Bonham. On November 15, the committee met with the Chair of the Pension Committee, Bill Cannon and the two retiree representatives. This was a useful meeting which brought us up to date on a number of current pension issues. We agreed to hold future joint meetings on a regular basis.

*Notes compiled by Bill Wright*

## Information Session on Estate and Financial Planning

Dave Bonham and Bill Wright will be presenting an information session on estate and financial planning. Probable date late April. Together, these people comprise some of the most expert knowledge in this area. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer/discussion period. Detailed information will be included with the mailing for the Annual Meeting.

## Annual General Meeting

The RAQ Annual General Meeting and lunch will be held on Monday, 28 April 2003. Details will be mailed later so please put the date in your diary now.

## **Past | Outing at Opinicon**

**Events** Wednesday, August 7, was a perfect sunny day for our expedition to the Queen's University Biological Station on the shores of Lake Opinicon. 66 RAQ members and mates began arriving about 11:00 a.m. After we visited with old friends and new and enjoyed a delightful lunch under the trees – much more of a feast than the normal pot-luck occasion - Raleigh Robertson (Biology Department and Director of QUBS) and Frank Phelan (QUBS Site Manager) told us about the Station's history, the facilities available, and the scope of the activities undertaken there. Several graduate students described their research projects and talked with us informally. The more ambitious among us took the chance to explore the many picturesque paths and byways leading to the lake and out-buildings of the station. By 3:00 p.m. we were heading home with happy memories of the first and highly successful off-campus RAQ event. For a wealth of information about QUBS see <http://biology.queensu.ca/~qubs/>.

### **Tour of Queen's Arboretum**

Howard Pearce guided about 15 RAQ members on a tour of the Queen's Arboretum on Thursday, September 26. The arboretum, on the lawns in front of Summerhill and Theological Hall, was established in 1999 to formally recognize the many rare trees on university grounds. It includes trees native to this area and other rarer specimens which survive thanks to a unique microclimate created by Lake Ontario and the surrounding campus. Participants were delighted by Howard's detailed knowledge of, love for and anecdotes about the trees. He agreed to guide another tour in the Spring if there is sufficient interest. Please let us know. See below for details about communication.

### **Tour of the New School of Business Building**

On Friday, October 18, Merv Daub and Susie Smith led tours of Goodes Hall and told the assembled 50 RAQ members many interesting stories about raising the money as well as the

planning and construction of this splendid new home for the School of Business. All were impressed by the care taken in preserving features of the old Victoria School, and the beautiful atrium which joins the old and the new to create a wonderfully functional and elegant building with state-of-the-art facilities for students and staff .

### **Art Centre reception**

Some 90 members turned out to meet and greet the Principal at a reception held in the Atrium of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, on Monday October 28. Dr Meisel introduced Principal Leggett who brought greetings and best wishes for the success of RAQ and indicated that he was looking forward to becoming a member in June, 2004. After the social hour, members were invited to tour the galleries and view the exhibitions, thanks to the efforts of Annabel Hanson. A vote of thanks is extended to the following for making the event a great success – Mary Balanchuk, Pat Bogstad, Joy Hoselton, Alison Morgan, Anna Northcott and Joyce Zakos.

### **Silver Bells dinner and carol service**

On Sunday November 24, some 120 seniors of whom 75 were RAQ members attended the Silver Bells Gala, hosted by the Alma Mater Society in Ban Righ Hall. A host of cheerful student volunteers served a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings! Some folks were lucky enough to win a door prize. After the dinner most people walked over to Grant Hall and enjoyed a fantastic carol service sponsored by the Queen's Engineering Society. Mary Balanchuk and Joy Hoselton were responsible for the sale and delivery of tickets!

*Reporters on events:*

*Dee Padfield, Mary Balanchuk, and Alison Morgan*

*As the preceding reports show, RAQ events in the summer and fall were completed with great success. Notices about further RAQ activities will be posted on our website as soon as details are available. If you would like to organize an event, please contact Alison Morgan at [Morgana@post.queensu.ca](mailto:Morgana@post.queensu.ca).*

## A message from the Communications Committee

While the expense of printing and mailing (as well as our editorial capacity!) limit us to three Newsletters a year, we can provide updated information via e-mail when the need arises. About half our membership (now 500 plus) have provided e-mail addresses. We would like to have others. For those who are not so "connected" but are thinking about it, the Campus Computer Store is offering attractive deals on both hardware and software which are available to RAQ members. For instance, their ITS Silver System (hardware not including monitor) is \$1085 and should meet the needs of a 'normal' user. This attractive price could be halved in April when returns become available. For information on this and other offers go to their website [www.ccstore.queensu.ca](http://www.ccstore.queensu.ca) or telephone Stephanie at 533-2058.

Other information of special interest to members will be posted as it becomes available on the RAQ website [www.queensu.ca/retirees](http://www.queensu.ca/retirees).

To communicate with the RAQ office send e-mail to [raq@post.queensu.ca](mailto:raq@post.queensu.ca) or telephone 533-6996. Our postal address is: Rideau Building, Room 323 Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6.

JOHN GORDON, *Chairman*

## Questions

Responses to John Meisel's request for comments and suggestions can be sent to the RAQ e-mail address or by post directly to him at the Department of Political Studies, Queen's University, Kingston Ontario, K7L 3N6.

Marion Meyer has volunteered to collate members' ideas about **RAQ organized travel**. Several have expressed general interest, but she needs more precise suggestions about destinations and the type of organization expected. Would people want "full service" with everything organized from bookings to luggage, "bare bones" travel reservations, or would they think of a RAQ group using an existing travel organization? Please write to her at 29 Picard Place, Kingston K7M 2W5 or e-mail [meyer@kingston.net](mailto:meyer@kingston.net).

term ahead. For example, the departments of German and Film Studies offer numerous showings of works not otherwise available in Kingston. The history department offers a series of noon hour seminars on a wide variety of topics with speakers from other universities as well as Queen's professors and graduate students. Some, if not all, departments in every faculty offer similar opportunities to the public to learn about and discuss their work. All of these web sites can be found through the Queen's site [www.queensu.ca](http://www.queensu.ca). And, of course, telephone numbers for all academic departments are listed in the Kingston telephone book.

## A sample list of Sports, Performance and Exhibition events

**Women's volleyball** Queen's vs. McMaster 6pm, January 11.

**Men's hockey** Queen's vs. RMC 7:30pm, January 24.

A full schedule of Queen's home games for men's and women's inter-collegiate teams is available at [www.goldengaels.com](http://www.goldengaels.com) or telephone: 533-6000 (36990).

**Queen's Student Opera** *Hansel & Gretel* and *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat*, January 17/18, 7pm Grant Hall and January 19, 2pm Tickets: Performing Arts Office.

**Performing Arts Office** *From The Italian Concerto*, 8pm, February 8,

Grant Hall. For information about this Faculty Recital and others in the PAO series call 533-2558

**School of Music** for more concert and recital information see [www.queensu.ca/music](http://www.queensu.ca/music).

**Department of Drama** presents *Les belles soeurs* (in English). *A block of 24 tickets at \$8.00 has been reserved for RAQ members for the matinee, Saturday, February 8, 2003.*

Professor Craig Walker, director of the play, has agreed to discuss *Les Belles Soeurs* with us after the performance. Please phone Joy Hoselton at 352-5048 or e-mail

[hoselton@post.queensu.ca](mailto:hoselton@post.queensu.ca), as soon as possible if you plan to attend. Tickets and details will be available during the last week of January. "This poignant comedy" by Michel Tremblay "has gone on to become a Canadian classic."

**Agnes Etherington Art Centre**

Recently renovated and greatly expanded, the "Agnes" now offers free admission on Thursdays with a tour of the galleries at 12:15. For information about exhibitions and activities see their web site [www.queensu.ca/ageth](http://www.queensu.ca/ageth) or telephone 533-2060. To learn about other art events at Queen's consult the Department of Art website [www.qsilver.queensu.ca/arth](http://www.qsilver.queensu.ca/arth) and [www.uniongallery.queensu.ca](http://www.uniongallery.queensu.ca), the site of the student-run Union Gallery (in the Stauffer Library). Or telephone the department at 533-6166.

## Forthcoming Events

*The Gazette* provides an excellent calendar of

events immediately following the publication of each issue. A mail subscription to the *Gazette* costs \$25 a year. Phone 533-2035 or simply send your cheque to the *Gazette* office, Room 107, Fleming Hall. The calendar is also available on the web site [www.queensu.ca/newscentre](http://www.queensu.ca/newscentre). For those with particular areas of interest the web sites of academic departments in many cases list lectures, films, colloquia for the whole

