

RAQnews



Parking Retirees holding gold parking permits (given to those who continue, without salary, to provide academic service to the university) received a letter informing them that, as of January 1, 2010, those permits would have to

be paid for at the full surface rate. After receiving objections from retirees and from RAQ, Principal Williams withdrew the letter. Current gold permits will be valid until June 30, 2010. There will be no charge for them. We are engaged in discussions with the administration about what the follow-on plan will be. We continue to make the case that many retirees are providing valuable service to Queen's without compensation, and that these permits are a small "thank you" for that service.

Partnership Activities The RAQ Academic Partnership Committee, chaired by Henry Dinsdale, is working actively on the second RAQonteur Forum, to be held in October. This Forum will discuss important issues in health care. Watch for detailed announcements soon.

The Faculty of Applied Science is seeking retirees to volunteer as occasional advisors/mentors for groups of first-year engineers working to design solutions to problems submitted by organizations in the Kingston area. If this is something that interests you and you did not receive the earlier email soliciting volunteers (for fall, winter, or both terms), please email me and I'll send you the information.

The Faculty of Applied Science also welcomes suggestions for projects from community organizations. If you are a member of an organization that has a problem that might be solved by a group of engineer-

ing students over the course of 12 weeks, please contact Dr. Brian Frank (brian.frank@queensu.ca), who coordinates this course.

Before the next RAQnews issue, the Registrar's Office will be seeking people willing to review applications for major entrance scholarships in January. Each volunteer gets a package of 20 to 25 applications and is asked to rank the top five, and name the next five. Each application is ranked by at least two readers. When you receive the email soliciting volunteers, please consider doing so.

Agnes Herzberg has assembled her usual sterling list of Monday Morning Forum speakers for the fall term. Please see page 4 for details.

Elsewhere in Canada In May I attended the 7th Annual Conference of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC), hosted by the retiree association of the Université de Moncton. As always, pensions were discussed. CURAC's Pension Committee actively monitors provincial pension developments and presents briefs recommending strengthened pensions and more participatory pension administration to provincial bodies as the opportunity arises. We already have retiree representation on the Pension Committee of the Board of Trustees, something that other associations are still seeking.

Other delegates to the conference were most interested in the cooperation and backing that we receive from Queen's to support our activities. At some other institutions, retiree associations are barely recognized (in a few, the relationship is adversarial), so RAQ's situation evoked some envy.

On the other hand, we might look with envy at the

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Presidential News and Views

Come and meet Principal Woolf!

RAQ's reception for Principal Daniel Woolf will be held at the University Club on Monday, 19 October 2009, from 3:30 to 5 pm.

A registration form is enclosed.

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University of Toronto, which has just opened its Academic Retiree Centre (see <http://www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc.htm>). A program of the ARC is Senior College, to support ongoing scholarly activities of UofT retirees. These are developments that RAQ would like to see replicated at Queen's.

Volunteers Bob Crandall's experience in acting as a short-term host to incoming foreign exchange stu-

dents, and details on how you can volunteer, can be found on our Web site under "Volunteers Sought."

RAQ relies on the volunteer efforts of our members to be successful. This is especially true of RAQ's committees, which are always in need of new members. If you would like to assist in the work of any of our committees, please contact me or any member of the RAQ Council. Committees and councilor names are listed on our Web site.

GEORGE BRANDIE, *President*
george.brandie@queensu.ca

Pension and Benefits Committee Report

Our major concern at present continues to be the ongoing effects of the recession and its direct impact on the pension fund. As we reported in the

spring, for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2008, the fund was down approximately 20 percent up to March 2009. We are therefore pleased to be able to say now that our latest information to July 31 2009 is that the decrease for the year to date (11 months) is slightly more than 10 percent on the fund overall. Given the situation as it was and the general economic climate as we understand it to be, we feel that we could not reasonably expect much better at this stage. As

you know, the fund year end is August 31, which is just around the corner, so probably we will end the 2008/09 fiscal year roughly in our present position.

We are hopeful that the future will continue to see significant improvement in the market value of the fund. However, the pension fund will undoubtedly finish this fiscal year with a significant negative return which, as we know, will have to be recouped in future years before pensions can rise under our earnings formula. Nevertheless, given the overall situation, the committee feels that our current position is quite good. There are many reports of pension funds that have lost significantly more than the Queen's fund.

During the summer months there has been little activity on other

fronts. As far as we are aware, there is no change in the actuarial deficit situation from our previous report. With respect to the governance issue referred to in our last newsletter, we have been advised that Principal Williams plans to give a response to all employee groups around the end of August. We will carefully follow developments in this area.

It is our intention to expand the committee very soon to include at least one new member. In these difficult days it is important to make sure that we have a capable and active Pensions & Benefits Committee in place on an ongoing basis.

ALAN GREEN, *Chair*
CHRIS CHAPLER,
DAVE BONHAM

Human History Project Report

The transcripts of interviews from the Human History Project in 2008 are now available for consultation in the Queen's University Archives. Just ask at the reference desk in the main reading room in Kathleen Ryan Hall.

By the end of the summer, the students hired for the project will have completed and transcribed an additional 42 interviews, a 75 percent increase from last year. The 2009 transcripts will be available after interviewees have made any revisions and signed a final release.

Reading the transcripts is a treat. Depending on the job, people employed at Queen's experienced quite different worlds, but all were living through great changes in the university. These stories will add a live-

ly, more human and engaging dimension to a future institutional history of Queen's.

This is a joint project of RAQ (under the academic partnership) and Queen's University Archives. We owe a debt of gratitude for exemplary assistance to Deirdre Bryden and Paul Banfield of the Archives and to our interviewers, Laurel Dault, Hope Hutchins, and Maryanne Wainman, as well as to members of the volunteer board, Lynn Kirkwood, Brian Osborne and Alison Morgan. Our most sincere thanks to Principal Williams, Vice Principal Deane, the Summer Work Experience Program and the Queen's Alumni Association. Without their funding, there would be no project.

ALISON MORGAN

Reports of Past Events Spring/Summer 2009

RAQ Opinicon Picnic

On July 22, about thirty RAQ members attended the annual pot luck picnic at the Queen's Biological Research Station on Lake Opinicon. For many it was a chance to meet colleagues they hadn't seen for months. The event was held outdoors in sunny weather, although the spacious dining hall at the station could easily have accommodated our group had the weather not cooperated.

After lunch the station manager, Frank Phelan, introduced two graduate students doing research at the station. Matt De Mille (Queen's) was tracking the twenty-four hour activities of twenty-three large-mouth bass via electronic tracking devices, with a view to judging the effectiveness of fish sanctuaries. Hanna Moir (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow) and her supervisor were doing microscopic studies of moths and moth ears as a means of understanding primitive hearing systems. Apparently moths can hear the high pitched (ultra-sonic) screeches of bats and some have evolved appropriate defences to bat predators. BOB CRANDALL



Ken Keyes explains



Lunch at the General Wolfe Hotel

Tour of Wolfe Island EcoPower Complex

On a beautiful August 31st, two busloads of RAQeteers took the 9:30 ferry to Wolfe Island to learn more about the 86 wind turbines that we see so prominently on the skyline of the island. Our guide on Wolfe Island was Ken Keyes, a Wolfe Island resident and former

mayor of Kingston. The hub on each tower is 80m above the base, and each of the three blades is 45m long. Many of us were surprised to learn that the blades are made of a wood composite, rather than metal, to give the blades more flexibility. The maximum speed of the turbines is 20 revolutions per minute. It takes a wind of 15 km/hour to start a turbine generating power, and the ideal wind speed is from 15 to 30 km/hr. At wind speeds above 90 km/hr the turbines are locked in place for safety. If they were all turning at maximum speed, the 86 turbines would produce 198 MW. On the morning of the tour there was not much wind, so many of the turbines (including the one we were closest to) were not turning at all. Naturally, we heard no noise from it.

After the tour, many of us enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the General Wolfe Hotel before taking the 2:30 ferry back to Kingston.

GEORGE BRANDIE



RAQeteers pot luck picnic

Coming RAQ Events Fall 2009

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.

Bedpans to Breakthroughs - Adventures in Artifacts

RAQ invites you to tour The Museum of Health on November 5, 2009 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm to see its work firsthand. Currently in the Ann Baillie Building at 32 George Street, the museum is featuring the following exhibitions:

- * When Medicine Met Science:
The Health Care Revolution of the 1800s
- * Potions, Pills, and Prescriptions:
Remedies of 1900
- * Joint Ventures: Learning to
Replace Human Joints
- * Electricity and the Invisible Ray
- * For Service to Humanity:
Nursing Education at Kingston
General Hospital

During your visit, you will receive an exhibition tour from curator Paul Robertson, and a behind-the-scenes tour of our storage facilities in the basement level of the Ann Baillie Building by collection manager, Kathy Karkut.

Please contact Bruce Hutchinson at 613-542-7645 or hutchinb@queensu.ca to register for this event. We will meet at the museum.

Fall Drama Department Matinee *Twelfth Night*

by William Shakespeare,
Saturday, November 7, at 2 pm

Directed by Professor Judith Fisher, *Twelfth Night* will be presented by the Drama Department for the matinee performance on November 7.

Interestingly, Professor Fisher will set her production in the 1920s. Here are her thoughts as to why she was drawn to this particular period:

"The 1920s, a decade often represented by its superficial party atmosphere, particularly among the upper and wealthy classes, amid the relief...that the end of the first World War brought with it- not only offers a suitable context for the light and dark mixture of mood and tone of the play, but could also highlight the inner conflicts of Shakespeare's characters, particularly the lords and ladies as they spend their days seemingly without practical purpose, wallowing in their emotions,..."

Chuck and Laura Campling celebrated their 63rd anniversary at the RAQ luncheon Monday, June 9, 2009.



Monday Morning Forums – Fall 2009

The fall series of four 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 by Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Kingston.

September 21

*Did a mathematical formula
really blow up Wall Street?*

PROFESSOR P.A.L. EMBRECHTS
ETH – Zurich

October 19

*What will happen to the world's
longest undefended border?*

MS. D. ROBINSON
Department of Justice, Canada

October 26

*What is causing the shake-up in
the world of post-secondary
education in Canada?*

MR. R.P. MACKINNON
President, University of
Saskatchewan

November 16

*Why should we aim towards the
Bologna agreement?*

PROFESSOR P. DEANE
Vice-Principal (Academic)
Queen's University

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