

RAQnews



I hope everyone had a good summer. Although summer seemed to pass too quickly, I will welcome the less humid air that autumn will bring.

At the start of a new academic year, RAQ members can look forward to a new round of familiar activities. I'm

happy to announce that Vice-Principal (Advancement) Thomas Harris has accepted our invitation to speak to, and engage in discussion with, RAQeteers at our annual reception on October 20. Tom's friends know the enthusiasm he brings to his position; we can look forward to a lively event. Other events are announced elsewhere in this issue.

Parking

We are now in the second year of the revised arrangement to grant free parking to retirees performing unpaid service to Queen's. I hope those who held permits in 2009-10 and sought renewal for 2010-11 were successful. Details about eligibility and the method of application are given on our Web at http://www.queensu.ca/retirees/news/ParkingPolicy/Parking_Policy_for_Retirees_200911.pdf. The procedure given there is for renewals as well as first applications.

Partnership Activities

The RAQ Academic Partnership Committee, chaired by Henry Dinsdale, is working on the fourth RAQonteur Forum, to be held in November. This Forum will feature Principal Woolf as the speaker. Watch for detailed announcements soon.

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. Reading these applications shows the calibre of the outstanding students Queen's continues to attract. When you receive the e-mail soliciting volunteers, please consider volunteering.

Agnes Herzberg has assembled her usual sterling list of Monday Morning Forum speakers for the Fall term. I hope to see many of you at these informative (always) and provocative (often) sessions. If you mislay the printed notice that is mailed out, you can always find

details of upcoming events in the Events section of our Web site

(<http://www.queensu.ca/retirees>).

Presidential News and Views

Elsewhere in Canada

In May I attended the 8th Annual Conference of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC), hosted by the retiree associations of York University (York has two associations!) and Seneca College. As always, pensions were discussed. Harry Arthurs, commissioner of the Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions discussed his report and its recommendation that university pension plans be amalgamated under common management. Hrvoje Lakota of Mercer (Canada) Ltd. noted the difficulty (but not impossibility) of amalgamating so many diverse plans. Amalgamation was not mentioned in the Ontario Government's recent announcements of "temporary pension solvency relief" for universities, but our Pension and Benefits Committee will continue to monitor the situation.

Other sessions at the York Conference stressed the importance of keeping active and involved (in acade-

continued on page 2

Come and meet Vice-Principal (Advancement) Tom Harris

RAQ's reception for VP Harris will be held at the University Club on Wednesday, 20 October 2010 from 3.30-5pm.

A registration form is enclosed.

continued from page 1

mic affairs and/or in the community) in a well-rounded retirement. A number of associations are working with their institutions to develop pre-retirement programs to better prepare people for all aspects of retirement. This is something that needs to be brought to Queen's.

RAQ's membership in CURAC makes all RAQ members eligible for discounts that CURAC has negotiated for home and automobile insurance, CARP membership, and subscriptions to the Literary

Review of Canada. Details may be found at <http://www.curac.ca>.

Volunteers

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 not-onerous work of any of our committees, please contact me or any member of the RAQ Council. Committees and councilor names are also listed on our Web site.

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

RAQonteur Forum Tuesday 23 November, 7:30 pm

The principal of Queen's University, Daniel Woolf, will be the speaker at the next RAQonteur Forum, subject to be announced. The Forum will take place in Memorial Hall at Kingston City Hall.

Pension and Benefits Committee Report

Members of the RAQ Pensions and Benefits Committee:

Dave Bonham
George Brandie
Chris Chapler
Alan Green
Sue Miklas
Joyce Zakos
David Bacon (Chair)

We have been meeting twice a year or more frequently if required. These meetings usually follow meetings with Rod Morrison, Vice-Principal (Human Resources) and Bob Weisnagel (Associate Director – Pension Benefits and Insurance). Through those meetings with Rod and Bob we enjoy a candid and useful relationship with senior representatives of the university administration on matters concerning pensions and benefits. The most recent meeting was held in April of this year and the next meeting is expected to occur early in the fall.

The dominant current financial issue at Queen's and other Canadian universities is unfunded liability of pension plans. Principal Woolf has stated (notes from the 30 April, 2010 meeting of the Board of Trustees) that faculty and staff should not worry about their pensions. "The plan is protected by law. Everyone will get their pension when they retire. The issue is how we fund it."

Provost and V-P (Academic) Bob Silverman, V-P (Finance and Administration) Caroline Davis and V-P (Human Resources) Rod Morrison have been

asked "to assess where the pension fund stands and what needs to be done to ensure that the pension plan remains financially sound and competitive." The picture is brightened somewhat by continuing improvement in investment performance.

A recent Ontario government development was reported by *The Globe and Mail* on Friday, 6 August 2010: "Ontario universities will have more time to pay down pension solvency deficits, as long as campuses present proposals to the government to balance or restructure pension plans." "The relief plan has two stages: the first, a three-year period to allow universities time to create a strategy for long-term pension sustainability, and the second, a period of up to 10 years to give them time to amortize pension solvency deficits."

The RAQ Pensions and Benefits Committee has been assured by Vice-Principal Morrison that pension payments to those currently receiving a Queen's pension are protected by 'contract.' Pension benefits for Queen's retirees are also protected by provisions of the Ontario Pensions Benefits Act.

RAQ is fortunate to have two of its members, Alison Morgan and John Gordon, serving as members of the Pensions Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Our committee welcomes questions and comments from members of RAQ.

DAVID BACON, *Chair*

Reports of Past Events Spring/Summer 2010

Tour of Phase I, Queen's Centre

A group of about 30 RAQ members participated in a tour of Phase I of the Queen's Centre on the morning of Monday 31 May. We gathered in the atrium of the Athletics and Recreational Centre and were met by our tour guides, Bob Polegato, project manager, Physical Plant Services, and Herb Steacy, associate director, Facilities and Business Development, Athletics and Recreation.

Herb gave us a very informative tour of the Athletics and Recreational Centre including gyms, pool, locker rooms, and fitness areas. Bob then led us on a walk-about to the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies and on to Goodes Hall where he told us about the construction of Phase II of the Business School which has just started, and then to the University Club for lunch via Tindall Field and the Union Street Parking Garage.

We were grateful to both Bob

and Herb for a most interesting morning. We hope to tour the new Health Sciences building at approximately the same time next year. CHERRILYN YALIN

Romeo and Juliet, Wilton Hall, Wilton, July 17

An e-mail informed RAQ members about the Salamander Shakespeare Company's visit to Wilton and Wilton Women's Institute members are very grateful for the help with publicity provided by Bill James and Joyce Zakos. A number of businesses in Wilton stayed open late that evening, including Wilton Pottery and John Licherson's railway models at Tree Lane House. An excellent performance (luckily, preceded by an impressive thunderstorm) played to a full house. The Salamander Shakespeare Company returned to Ottawa the next day and to the Fourth Stage at the National Arts Centre. ADELE CROWDER

RAQ Opinicon Picnic

The Annual RAQ Opinicon Picnic was held at the Queen's Biological Station on July 28 with about two dozen attending. As usual the attendees brought along offerings that were based on their best recipes and we all ate well. After lunch, Georgia Lloyd-Smith, Opinicon's Outreach Coordinator, welcomed the group. Mark Conboy of the biological station gave a talk on Cerulean Warblers - birds that are small enough that five can be held in one hand at once. These birds migrate from South America to the Opinicon area, which is one of the main areas in Canada where they are found. They are around only from May to mid July, so the time for studying them is short, which is frustrating as little is known about them. Mark is using banding, blood tests, and field observation to find out more about them.

RAQ members might like to check out the Opinicon web site at: www.queensu.ca/biology/qubs.html for information about nature walks and public seminars offered by Opinicon. BOB CRANDALL



Checking out the exercise bicycles at the Queen's Centre.



Ringling the historic bell at the Opinicon.

Coming RAQ Events Fall/ Winter 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, jjroddy@kingston.net or (613) 353-6959 for details and reservations.

Tour of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre

Monday 27 September
10:30am – 12 noon

Janet Brooke, director of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, will conduct an exclusive tour for RAQ members from 10:30 to 12 noon. Because the Agnes is normally closed on Mondays, on this rare occasion we will have the opportunity to view four recently opened exhibitions under the director's expert guidance. The Art Rental & Sales Gallery and the Shop will be available for a visit after the tour ends. Members will make their own arrangements for lunch afterwards.

While this private tour is being provided at no cost to RAQ members, a donation in the range of \$5-\$10 per person to the Art Centre would be appreciated at the time of the tour.

This tour is limited to the first twenty members who sign up, so act quickly. Contact the RAQ office 613-533-6986 (leave a message.) Email raq@queensu.ca.

Four new exhibitions will be on view:

1. New Canadiana: The Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund and Art as Social History

New Canadiana presents over ninety works acquired by the Richardson Fund over the past forty years, indicative of how Canadians see and define themselves.

2. With Rasp and File: Inuit Sculpture and Stonecut Prints

Inuit art from the Art Centre's collection, with an emphasis on the use of natural materials in the artistic process.

3. Collecting Visions: African Gallery

A new exhibition of African art from the Lang Collection explores the cultural motivations of this selection of works from West and Central Africa.

4. Discord and Harmony in the Art of the Baroque Era

The conflict between the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Reformers as reflected in European art, including the search for common values across differences.

Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementia: Help for Today; Hope for Tomorrow

Thursday 14 October, 10am – 11:30

Please join us at the Waterford Retirement Residence for a morning of conversation, education and insight regarding one of the most prevalent and heartbreaking diseases of our time. Our discussion will include an overview of pathology, current research, clinical aspects and comments about approaches to treatment and management. We will also address challenges surrounding care, the care partner and what support services are available. This is a worthy topic for those who have been touched by this disease and those who simply wish to learn more from the planning committee of Ellen Bater, Jillian Dahm-McConnell, Dr. Henry Dinsdale, Jack Henderson, and Prof Harold Still. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. The resources from the Alzheimer Society and RAQ will be available to those who wish to seek further information on Alzheimer Disease or Related Dementia.

The session on dementia will be from 10 am to 11, followed by a tour of the Waterford, 11 am to 11:30. Refreshments provided.

Where: The Waterford Retirement Residence, 471 Cataraqui Woods Drive (at Centennial Drive). Take Centennial Drive from Princess St. or Bath Rd., past Taylor Auto Mall on your right and Costco on your left. Continue to Cataraqui Woods Drive. Parking is available.

Reply: To give some idea of attendance, please call/email the RAQ office 613-533-6986 (leave a message) or raq@queensu.ca

Silver Bells and Carol Service

Sunday, 28 November

The Alma Mater Society is again sponsoring this popular campus dinner on Sunday, 28 November for Kingston seniors and RAQ members, followed by the Engineering Society's carol service in Grant Hall. Reservations are required. Please contact the AMS at 613-533-3001 for information and to register.

Monday Morning Forums

This series is coordinated by Dr. Agnes Herzberg, under the joint sponsorship of Queen's University and Four Points Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Kingston

The University Club
168 Stuart Street

Coffee and muffins are served at 8.15 am All lectures begin at 9.00 am, with a discussion at 9.30 am

September 13

Should the long-form census questionnaire be mandatory?

DR. D.A. BINDER
retired, Statistics Canada

September 20

Being Safe and Sorry. Is the expense of trying to manage risk too large?

PROFESSOR A. WOLF
King's College London

September 27

Governance, Collegial Management and Labour Relations

R.P. MACKINNON
President, University of Saskatchewan

October 4

Fifty years of Health Care in Kingston: some reflections

DR. H.B. DINSDALE
Kingston General Hospital and
Queen's University

November 15

Can one forgive the past?

DR. J.R. LION
Clinical Professor
University of Maryland

Monday Afternoon Forum

September 20, 2.30 pm,
The University Club

Does the Education System Matter as Much as the Government Thinks?

Panellists: W.B. ALLEN, P. CALAMAI,
W.C. HIGGINSON, A. WOLF

RAQnews is published three times a year by the Communications Committee, *Chair*, John Gordon.

Contributors to this issue: David Bacon, George Brandie, Bob Crandall, Joy Hoselton, Marion E. Meyer, Alison Morgan, Cherrilyn Yalin and Joyce Zakos. Photos: George Brandie, George Zakos; *Editor*: Joan Harcourt;

Design and Production: Peter Dorn; *Web site manager*: George Brandie.

Printing and mailing: Special thanks to Queen's Printing Services, Queen's Post Office and RAQ volunteer staffers.

RAQ's postal address is: Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room A412, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, K7L 3N6.

Telephone 613-533-6986. E-mail raq@queensu.ca Web site www.queensu.ca/retirees.