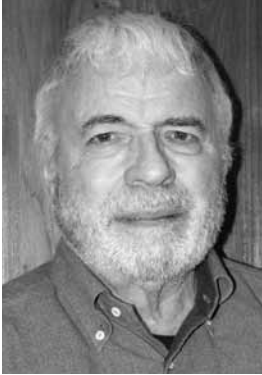


RALUT REPORTER

RETIRED ACADEMICS AND LIBRARIANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Visit our Web site at www.ralut.utoronto.ca

Vol. 8 No. 3 Fall 2008



President's Report

Last time you were promised a report of our trip to Greece; suffice it to say it was wonderful. I've always avoided organized "tours." However, this one, sponsored by AAAS and Sigma Xi, included an archeologist leader, only 16 interesting people, and a fascinating itinerary. All the expected sights and sites, (and some surprises) with in-depth information as to what we were looking at. Recommended.

Keeping up with the University: Here are three important internet web links for those wanting to keep track of things.

First is the report of the "Towards 2030" exercise. Long-range planning will flow from this one. The final reports of the various task forces, plus other material are available at www.towards2030.utoronto.ca

Then you might well check out the new overview of what new employees are supposed to know. It comprises many useful sources of information, from the telephone system to the various eating places on campus. You can find it at the Human Resources site, www.hrandequity.utoronto.ca. Look for it under "Headlines." I sincerely hope a permanent link is set up there.

Our health and dental plans are not at all easy to find in the University web site. However there is a link to it on the RALUT site. Go to www.RALUT.utoronto.ca, and from the Links section (on the left of the home page) go to "University of Toronto Benefits Plans." There is a wealth of other information on the RALUT site; look it over.

Pensions Committee Report

Helen Rosenthal

Retirees received a letter in the mail at the end of June advising that the July 1 pension cheque would include the increase from indexation of 75% of the 2.4% increase in the CPI of the previous calendar year. As you know, this increase should have been 100% of the 2.4% increase in the CPI as we had been awarded augmentation in the last SB&P settlement. We immediately pointed out the error and it was rectified, though not until the August pension

cheque which included both the full increase plus the augmentation missing from the July cheque.

Fortunately the error was detected; unfortunately the varying cheques were confusing to many. It was very encouraging to hear from so many people who discovered the error themselves.

The Working Group on Pension Governance has been meeting for over a year and the UTFA representatives and administration representatives remain very far apart. The administration argued that all discussions were in fact mediation and therefore UTFA could not inform its membership about the nature of the discussions.

UTFA disagreed and took the matter to the mediator, Martin Teplitsky, who remains seized of the issue. He ruled that non-disclosure applies only to actual discussions at the mediation table, and as a result you should be

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The RALUT general meeting will be held on April 29, 2009.

Mark it in your calendar

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Senior Scholars Committee and Senior Scholars College Converge

Merrijoy Kelner and Peter Russell

Mark April 7 in your 2009 diary as the date of the fourth annual Senior Scholars Symposium. Once again it will be at Massey College and feature presentations by our “retiree” colleagues on their research in progress. Cornelia Baines, John Dirks and Merrijoy Kelner, the sub-committee organizing the symposium, will soon be issuing a call for papers.

This year’s symposium will also serve as the first meeting of the Fellows of the Senior Scholars College. The proposal for the College was work-shopped at Massey College in September and has now been approved by RALUT’s Executive Committee and the Board of Management of the

Retiree Centre. The approved College proposal will soon be posted on RALUT’s website.

The proposal calls for “a working committee” to take the next step in creating the College. With that in mind, Suzanne Hidi and Peter Russell will join the committee organizing the April 7 Symposium to integrate into the program a process that will produce the College’s first body of Fellows who from that point on can carry forward the formation of the College.

The Senior Scholars College is an emanation of the Senior Scholars symposium. In effect it aims at providing a continuing program of meetings and interactions for those of us who in so-called retirement choose to carry on our academic, artistic and professional activities. So come to Massey College on April 7 to enjoy another feast of our colleagues’ work-in-progress and to take the next step in giving these encounters a permanent institutional expression.

REPORT OF THE CURAC SENIORS HOUSING COMMITTEE

[There is likely to be some interest in the following CURAC Report. It is re-printed from the CURAC website with permission.]

The mandate of the Committee is to collect information about seniors housing projects projected, in planning, or under way in CURAC institutions. Information about these projects could be passed on to institutions considering or involved in similar projects. In this way problems, pitfalls and best practices might be identified and passed on to interested parties.

An interesting diversity in approaches and types of projects has been found. Questionnaires have been used to assess interest, from simple Yes/No requests (B.C. Institute of Technology) to a survey calling for information on current housing and details of requirements for future housing including type, rental or purchase, location,

and preferred facilities (University of Toronto). UBC is proposing a brief questionnaire followed by information sessions and focus groups to design a planned facility. The UBC housing unit will be built on campus, on land leased from the University. In contrast, Concordia is considering converting an existing government housing complex. Questions arise about access – restricted to retired faculty and staff or open to other seniors.

Anne Piternick and Ken Rea were able to tour The O’Keefe in Vancouver, a complex considered to be state-of-the-art in the field, so we are well-informed about options, including assisted living services. We welcome information from CURAC members about seniors housing complexes projected or planned, and will attempt to pass on contacts from similar projects if requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Piternick, Chair. annebp@interchange.ubc.ca
Ken Rea, Committee Member. reak@chass.utoronto.ca

Pensions Committee Report continued from page 1

receiving newsletters from UTFA about these governance issues soon. Both sides in the Working Group are currently preparing briefs which they will then exchange for reply, following which the matter will go to the mediator.

The next round of negotiations for Salaries, Benefits and Pensions should be underway early in 2009 for the July 1 contract. In preparation, UTFA will be conducting a bargaining survey which UTFA members will receive in late November. As well, UTFA will be holding meetings

to discuss bargaining priorities and process, which retired members of UTFA can attend through their departments.

UTFA negotiates pensions and benefits for all retirees. Many RALUT members are also UTFA members. I would strongly urge those of you who are not UTFA members to join now, so that we can all participate in the bargaining survey and the meetings, and also to show our support for UTFA’s work on our behalf.

We will keep you informed about the progress of the negotiations.

KEEPING THEM STRAIGHT - RALUT/CENTRE/COLLEGE

UNIT	MEMBERSHIP	GOVERNANCE	FUNCTIONS
RALUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary – membership fee • Retired U of T faculty, librarians, sr. administrators, surviving spouses • Currently 700 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee elected by RALUT members at AGM • Sub-committees of Executive Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pension and benefits advocacy • Communicate with UTFA re retiree interests • Act as benefits ombudsman • Support senior scholars’ activities, including advising College • Organize social events and cultural outings • Fund bursaries and scholarships • Maintain website and newsletter • Represent U of T retirees on national and international bodies
CENTRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic – no membership fee • Retired U of T faculty, librarians and senior administrators • Estimated 1600 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Management appointed by U of T Provost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with membership about Centre activities • Facilitate Human Resource Dept counselling • Organize pre-retirement seminars • Serve as referral centre for inquiries about retirees • Accommodate and administer study places • Provide office for RALUT • Be a drop-in centre for members • Provide volunteers for community and university service • Serve as administrative centre for College • Develop other programs for members • Maintain website and develop online resources • Maintain listserv
COLLEGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic – all members of Centre • Voluntary – members of Centre who wish to be Fellows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Council elected by Fellows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize regular senior scholars’ seminars and discussions • Foster collaborative research projects • Sponsor public symposia and lectures • Secure research funding for senior scholars • Provide academic talent pool for University and community organizations • Maintain website and develop online resources

Report from the Toronto Round Table

Our last session was a great success. Average attendance was 43. Speakers covered a wide variety of interests including the Hon. Bill Graham speaking on “Canada’s place in the World: Our mission in Afghanistan”; Graeme Gibson on his book “The Bedside Book of Birds” and Margaret McBurney on “The Great Adventure: The Arts & Letters Club’s First Century”

Our next session started on Wednesday, October 8th when Prof. Rory Fisher Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto and former President of both the Canadian Association on Gerontology and the Canadian Society of Geriatric Medicine will make a presentation “On Aging Well”. Other speakers during

the session include presentations by Prof. Michael Gervers, Prof. Trevor Levere, Prof. Virginia MacLaren and Associate Professor Emeritus Frank Collins and others.

The Toronto Round Table (TRT) is an informal luncheon club more than 100 years old intended to give an opportunity for U of T Alumni (non-exclusive), particularly recently retired academics and librarians, to meet old friends and acquaintances and to listen to interesting speakers on a wide range of subjects. Please do not hesitate to introduce the luncheon club to your friends and people whom you think might be interested.

The TRT meets at the Hart House at Noon the second Wednesday of the month, October to May. Membership cost is \$30(single) and \$40(double) and the cost of buffet lunch is \$15. For membership enquiries contact Peter Levitt at levittsp@sympatico.ca or 416-967-5535.

Benefits Bulletin

Vision problems? There is a lot of help available in Ontario.

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provides help to persons with various physical disabilities including visual loss. Individuals with low vision or blindness that cannot be medically or surgically corrected may apply for the ADP program. Assessments for eligibility can be carried out by ophthalmologists, optometrists or vision rehabilitation specialists who are ADP authorized.

The program includes optical devices such as magnifiers and specialized glasses, reading and writing devices such as audio book playback units, closed circuit television, tape recorders and Braille and mobility devices such as canes. Persons with severe disabilities may be eligible for up to 75% of the cost of the devices.

Demonstrations of visual aids are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). The demonstrations include the use of new computer software such as Jaws and Zoom text, which improve seeing, and hearing. No registration is required to attend.

Persons who cannot use a library branch or bookmobiles due to age, illness or physical disability can apply for delivery library services from the Toronto Public Library. Large Print books, books on digital audiotape and talking books are available. Talking books are restricted to persons with a perceptual disability resulting from a visual or comprehensive impairment.

The CNIB library addresses the needs of visually impaired persons who require literature in formats such as Braille or audio. Currently the libraries are undertaking complete digital transformation. The CNIB Digital Library offers on-line access to books, newspapers and databases such as Encyclopedia Britannica. Books and audio material may be placed on hold by mail.

For more information call:
CNIB Library: 416-486-2500

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care: 1-800-268-6021;
in Toronto call 416-327-8804

Home Library: in Toronto call
416-395-5557

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Publication Notice

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Beckwith Honoured

The eightieth birthday of RALUT member John Beckwith (Music) was marked in March 2007 by a concert of his music and a one-day symposium about his compositional and scholarly achievements, organized jointly by the U of T's Institute for Canadian Music and the Canadian Music Centre in Toronto. The papers presented at the symposium have now been published in the *ICM Newsletter*, vol. 5, no. 3; the contents will be accessible on the Institute's web-page, www.utoronto.ca/icm. In March 2008 the Mississauga Choral Society presented the first performance of Beckwith's *Derailed*, a "choral documentary" based on the 1979 rail disaster and mass evacuation in Mississauga. The "found" text was compiled by the composer from official documents; reports and interviews in print and broadcast media; and recollections of some of the choir members.