

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You're probably tired of hearing about it, but being a practicing virologist, I can't help myself. On January 23, 2020, Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto documented the first Canadian case of Patient Zero presenting with mild pneumonia but an unusual x-ray, infected with what was then known as Wuhan novel coronavirus. He survived, as did his wife. Now two years, several challenges, and multiple Greek letters later, we are in the midst of the 15th letter, Omicron and the fifth wave. But is pandexit (thanks Larry Shuh) around the corner? Stay tuned to the Spring Forum to see where this story goes.

Since the last newsletter, restrictions relaxed, and I was able to get a haircut. Many of us, over the summer and early fall, were able to take in some theatre, dine out inside, and mingle with close friends with reduced fear of COVID-19. Regrettably, we thought it was premature to hold our Fall Forum on campus, so we again resorted to gathering by Zoom. As more fully described by Pat Shewen in this newsletter, the Fall Forum featured Dr. Samantha Brennan, Dean of the College of Arts who spoke about the newly established Arts Research Centre and the Guelph Arts Apprenticeship Program, followed by a lively conversation.

Speaking of the Spring Forum, reserve April 21, 2 to 4 p.m. at, if COVID-19 allows, the Arboretum (otherwise by Zoom). Maya Goldenberg, who researches vaccine hesitancy, and Peter Krell, virologist and vaccine advocate, will talk about Reflections on COVID-19, the Virus, the Disease, and the Challenges. Then, Elaine Fenner, Director of Experiential Learning, will talk about experiential learning.

With the beginning of 2022, we urge our members to become contributing members to help cover the costs of running UGRA (e.g., the two fora, the AGM, newsletter, and advocacy). At a recommended minimum of \$25, you can now also pay by e-transfer



(UGRA e-transfer email is ugraetransfers@gmail.com). Check out our link at <https://ugra.ca/join-us> for instructions on the various payment methods.

This year will be the first year that our UGRA scholarship has doubled to \$3,000 in recognition of our 30th anniversary. However, to sustain that in perpetuity, our goal is to raise another \$30,000 for the endowment. Some of you have already been generous in your support (thank you), but we encourage others to also contribute to this worthy cause of supporting the educational aspirations of future students through <https://ugra.ca/scholarship>. Applications for the scholarship are due May 15 for students who are children, grandchildren or great grandchildren of retirees. For more information, please see <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/studentfinance/apps/awards?id=I0569>

It was heartening to hear from Julie Hutchins, the UGRA liaison with the United Way, that our members again rose to the challenge, and then some, by surpassing the goal by almost \$15,000. Thanks for your support of members of our community in need.

To escape the Canadian cold, your Activities Committee has finalized the organization of a 14-day trip to Costa Rica for February 19 to

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UGRA

Editors: Vikki Tremblay
and Cathy Ralston

www.ugra.ca

UGRA Spring Forum

Save the Date . . .

The upcoming Spring Forum is **April 21, 2:00 to 4:00, at the Arboretum** (COVID-19 dependent). It will feature speakers Maya Goldenberg (Philosophy and author of a book on vaccine hesitancy) and virologist Peter Krell who will give a joint talk on "Reflections on COVID-19: the Virus, the Disease and the Challenges" and a second presentation on Experiential Learning by Elaine Fenner, Director of Experiential Learning.



Also note that our AGM is tentatively set for **June 16, 10 a.m. to noon**, venue TBA.

United Way Update



Back in the summer of 2021 when the Steering Committee for the United Way met, I was asked what I thought the goal should be for this year's United Way Retiree's Campaign. UGRA had done well for the 2020 campaign raising a whopping \$85,000+. I felt it was attainable to make the goal \$85,000 for the coming year since most UofG retirees were not affected financially as much as other Guelph community members have been during the pandemic.

You, University of Guelph retirees, proved me right and raised an incredible \$99,872. This is truly epic, and I am so proud of each and every one of you for stepping up and helping our community. United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin does such a phenomenal job helping those in need. There are more and more individuals needing their services, but financially the contributions are not enough to help with every situation.

I am truly humbled and proud of the work that United Way does. It is donors like you that make the work a little easier. Thank

Julie Hutchins

Continued from page 1

March 3, 2023. A copy of the brochure is available on our website at <https://ugra.ca/news/2022/01/ugra-goes-costa-rica-2023>

In advocating for our members, the UGRA is now discussing with the relevant administrative units in the university two issues that were raised by our members, namely loss of reduced parking fees and lack of access for some of its members to the library's e-resources.

And finally, we welcome your comments, suggestions, etc. so please contact us at ugra@uoguelph.ca.

*Peter Krell
President*

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A Different Way to Connect with Locals When Travelling

by Marion Joppe

After two years of more or less severe travel restrictions, it is predicted that once people feel able to explore the world again, they will be looking for slower and more mindful travel, embracing regeneration, nature and connecting with local populations. VaughanTown in Spain provides a unique opportunity to do so.

Founded by Texan Richard Vaughan, his method's unique teaching style is disseminated through a radio station, a TV channel, and a large quantity of published books. A variant of audio-lingualism, the method also stresses immersion in English but without leaving the country. Through VaughanTown, it brings together English-speaking volunteers and Spanish professionals for a six-day holiday program in various settings throughout Spain. During their time together, the Spaniards verbally practice English, mentored by the volunteers. Anglos from all over the world exchange conversation with the Spaniards and in return for their time and their input, have their full board and lodging covered by the program. Conversational topics are freely chosen based on interest and lead to an excellent exchange of culture and knowledge with some wonderful friendships formed because of the intense time spent together. A fuller description of the activities can be found at <https://volunteers.grupovaughan.com/programs/vaughtown/>.

Indeed, the experience is so much fun that many volunteers will return numerous times. For one Irish couple that was part of my program, it was their 22nd time!!



An advertisement for a 2K Giveaway by Curac Arucc. The background features a smiling couple. The text includes the word 'economical' with three red dots above it, the large text '2K GIVEAWAY', the 'CAR & HOME GROUP INSURANCE' logo, and a promotional message about winning cash prizes for getting a quote or renewing a policy. It also includes a call to action with a phone number and website, and the Curac Arucc logo with a maple leaf.

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A Short History of the UGRA Scholarship:

Our 30th Anniversary Project

Prior to 2008, the UGRA offered a \$500 UGRA Diploma Bursary to Semester 2 diploma program students at the University of Guelph or affiliated regional campuses and a \$1,000 UGRA Degree Bursary for students in a University of Guelph undergraduate degree program. Eligible students who are the child, grandchild, or great grandchild of a University of Guelph retiree needed a minimum cumulative average of 75%. Selection was based on greatest financial need. The last \$1,000 bursary was awarded in 2007 to Melissa Norrish, a Guelph-Humber student who was the great grandchild of a retired OAC faculty member.

In 2007, the UGRA established a \$1,500 scholarship to support an in-course student who is the child, grandchild, or great grandchild of a UofG retiree and with a minimum cumulative average of 75% with consideration given to financial need. The first \$1,500 scholarship was awarded in 2009 to Rebecca Egan, the granddaughter of Isobelle Ralston, a retiree from the Housekeeping Department. Since then, ten additional students benefited from this award (see table below). Originally, the scholarship was funded through yearly contributions to the UGRA but in 2012, it came under the purview of Alumni Affairs and Development (AA&D), with an initial goal of raising \$45,000 through the UofG “Better Planet Project”. In 2016, the UGRA mounted a “vigorous campaign” to raise at least \$30,000, the threshold needed for the scholarship to become endowed. Through the inspiration in 2017 of Dr. Frances Sharom, who pledged to match donations up to \$5,000, the UGRA scholarship fund rose to more than \$35,000. This was sufficient to endow the

scholarship but was still short of the \$45,000 needed to fund the \$1,500 scholarship in perpetuity. By January 2018 through the continuing and significant donations of UGRA members, the fund reached that minimum of \$45,000. With the ongoing generosity of our retirees, as of April 30, 2021, the endowment balance was \$71,444. Reflecting on the financial health of the endowment, the increasing costs of university education and this year's UGRA 30th anniversary, the UGRA executive moved to double the value of the scholarship to \$3,000 and to initiate a funding drive for \$30,000 to allow us to offer this award in perpetuity. This 30th anniversary goal and encouragements to donate were reiterated in our newsletters, website, e-blasts and with the help of AA&D through their appeals. Not that any incentive is needed, but the UGRA is also offering draw prizes to donors, including a Hungarian dinner for 6 guests hosted by UGRA member Chef Eva Nagy, and Sous Chef/Butler, Peter Krell.

Caveat: the material above was taken from reports in the UGRA newsletters.

We value your continuing support of university education through your donations to the UGRA Scholarship endowment that can be done through <https://ugra.ca/scholarship>.

Please encourage any eligible child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a UofG retiree to apply by May 15. For more information, please see <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/studentfinance/apps/awards?id=I0569>.

Peter Krell

Recipients of the UGRA \$1,500 Scholarship

Year Awarded	Newsletter Reference	Student	Retiree Relative
2021	Winter 2022	Aine Pucchio	Antonio Salvadori
2019	Spring 2020	William Wareham	Robert McCrindle
2018	Fall 2019	Isaac Wismer	Danny Butler
2017	Spring 2018	Mariel Burnside	Not published
2016	Winter 2017	Aidan Pucchio	Antonio Salvadori
2015	Spring 2016	Sarah Wismer	Danny Butler
2014	Spring 2015	Holly Curle	Ron McLean
2013	Spring 2014	Mathew Robertshaw	Gord King
2012	Fall 2013	Kylie Evers	Floyd Roadhouse
2011	Winter 2012	Kylie Evers	Floyd Roadhouse
2009	Winter 2010	Rebecca Egan	Isobelle Ralston

UGRA ADVENTURES

by Vikki Tremblay

We are proud to announce that we are now accepting reservations to join our next exciting **UGRA Adventure to Costa Rica: A World of Nature** trip featuring Tortuguero National Park, Arenal Volcano and Manuel Antonio National Park. This is a small group tour with Collette Vacations with a maximum of 24 people. The trip will be 13 days from February 19 to March 3, 2023, and includes 24 meals. Please click on the link below to review this exciting tour. For more information and booking visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1086206>.



We are also working on planning a return trip up to Churchill, Manitoba. We hope to have plans for this adventure available soon.

Stay healthy and safe travels.

PANDEMIC PASTIMES

CLICK HERE

Connected Canadian Programs

Recommended by Pat Shewen

Connected Canadians (<https://www.connectedcanadians.ca/>) offers free one-on-one technical training and support for older adults. If you need help with Zoom or other tools, or want to learn more about how to use technology to connect to virtual programs like online support groups, learning events, and social programs, call 613-699-7896 or sign up for help at <https://www.connectedcanadians.ca/programs>. Outside of the Ottawa area, call 1-877-304-5813 (toll free).



CURAC Website

Recommended by Pat Shewen

Remember to check the "Later-Life-Learning" postings under "Committees" on the CURAC website for courses and webinars that are widely accessible by Zoom. They can be found by clicking on the "Committee" page for Later-Life-Learning. <https://curac.ca/committees/lll-committee/>.

PENSION

Pension Adjustment for 2021

UofG Pension Plan inflation adjustments, if any, are made on the September payment each year. There was no adjustment in 2021 as the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was below 2.0% calculated on the CPI increase for the 12-month period May 1st to April 30th. The next review will be this April with any inflation amount in excess of 2.0% added to the September 2022 payment. For those (around 40 people so far) who had both UofG and UPP plan service, you would have already been notified of any UPP increase with your January 2022 payment. The UPP inflation formula is different than the UofG plan.



Larry Shuh

Recent Retirees

October 31, 2021

Cheryl Campbell	Animal Biosciences
Gwen Jarrett	LSD-Animal Hlth Lab
Ruth Lesins	Lang Dean's Office
Edwin Martin	Phys Res-Custodial
Stephen Mezey	MacKinnon Bldg Mgmt
Barbara O'Neill	RC-Academic
Laura Riches	Plant Agriculture
John Smit	PR/SHS Environmental
Thomas Smith	Plant Agriculture
Marilyn Vaughan	LSD-Chemistry

November 30, 2021

Jane Alexander	Student Housing Serv
Chiu Hua (Judy) Huang	Hospitality Services
Gail Kendall	Ann & Planned Giving
Mark Lenover	KC-Northern Stations

December 31, 2021

Michelle Anderson	Student Health Serv
Christine Bold	Engl & Theatre Study
Nan (Helen) Erison	OVC HSC Administrative
Mike Favrin	LSD-Diagnostics
Moir Ferguson	Integrative Biology
Janice Folk-Dawson	Phys Res-Stock Room
Debbie Glazier	Phys Res-Custodial
Linda Grocock	Campus Animal Facil.
Doris Hasson	Hospitality Services
Karl Hennig	Psychology
Melanie Howarth	Phys Res-Admin
Marion Joppe	Hosp & Tourism Mgmt
Victoria King	RC-Administration
Albert Koekkoek	KC-Northern Stations
Lis Kuindersma	Purchasing Services
Judy Lynch	Athletics
John Mah	LSD-BDO&Finance
Elizabeth (Betty-Anne) McBey	Pathobiology
Patricia Patterson	Phys Res-Custodial
Elke Radeboldt	Arts & Social Science
Barbara Reid	Chemistry
Diana Roth	Math & Statistics
Kathryn Selves	Food,Agr&Resrce Econ
John Smithers	Geography
Janet Solobay	LSD-Chemistry
Lawrence Spriet	Human Hlth&Nutri Sci
Ann Stride	Human Hlth&Nutri Sci
Clive Thomson	Sch of Langs & Literature
Rohan VanTwet	Molecular & Cellular Biol
Julie West	Student Housing Serv
Andra Williams	Human Hlth&Nutri Sci
Darlene Wiltsie	Office Uni Librarian



UGRA

Winter 2022



2021 UGRA Fall Forum Speaker

Presentation Summary

Alan Filewod introduced feminist philosopher and ethicist Dr. Samantha Brennan, Dean of the College of Arts (COA), who provided an update on happenings in the COA. Dr. Brennan also kindly incorporated the information prepared by Music Professor Kimberly Francis, who had been unavoidably called away at the last moment.

Guelph's COA is undergoing the most ambitious renewal since its founding in the 1960's. This includes an extensive \$23 million renovation of the north wing of the MacKinnon Building, intended to create a hub for performance arts and a cultural destination for the entire campus and surrounding community. Fronting onto Winegard Walk, the project pays homage to the original (1967) brutalist architecture of Josep Lluís Sert, while incorporating cutting edge technology, updated mechanics, and versatile, accessible design. The facility includes a 140-seat black-box theatre, with flexible performance space and moveable seats; a 152-seat music recital hall; and a new 160-seat laboratory for research in improvisation (<https://improvisationinstitute.ca>).

This Arts Research Centre, "the ARC" (<https://uoguelph.ph/arcpitchbook>), also includes courtyard space, an inviting entryway and main lobby and ample student study space. Its location makes it the natural "Heart of the University," as well as home to the College's 2,000 Arts students and 85 faculty and staff. Numerous arts and entertainment groups and festivals, nearby and globally, are enthusiastic and supportive partners. Despite, and because of, the challenges posed by COVID-19, the role of the arts in providing social and emotional inspiration is crucially relevant.

Arts programs within the COA foster compassion, creativity, and critical engagement with the world through transformative engagement. Always evolving in response to societal needs, programs new to the COA this fall include Culture and Technology Studies, exploring what it means to live in a digital world; Sexuality, Gender and Social Change, examining

human identity, embodiment and self-expression; and Black Canadian Studies, studying the historical, cultural, social and political concerns of Black people in Canada. These interdisciplinary programs cross department and college boundaries, affirming the role of the Arts in all aspects of life.

The philanthropist-funded Guelph Arts Apprenticeship Program (GAAP), launched in January 2020, is modelled on the Rottenberg program at Queens. A collaboration among the City of Guelph, local businesses and the donor, the program offers one year paid professional experience to 10 graduating COA students who are ready to enter the workforce, bridging the gap between study and employer relevant experience. The perception that Arts grads cannot find meaningful employment is not borne out over time, though, for some, the first few years can be daunting. Eventually, the diverse range of skills and knowledge Arts grads bring to their work leads to a wide range of careers and good salaries.

Clearly, the COA has not been stagnant during the pandemic. New buildings, programs and initiatives notwithstanding, the greatest change Dean Brennan has observed with the return of students this fall is their high level of engagement, and the appreciation of students and faculty alike for the privilege of one-on-one contact.

Added Notes from the Dean: The ARC will open, we anticipate, in the fall of 2022. Legacy opportunities are available now to name rooms. Contact Mary Walsh, Senior Development Manager at the College of Arts, to discuss these opportunities in more depth by cellphone at 519-827-7856 or email at mary.walsh@uoguelph.ca. To make a gift or financial contribution of any amount, go to https://bbis.alumni.uoguelph.ca/BBIS_Cannon/give/uofg and receive a charitable tax receipt. In the textbox labelled "Search for your cause" type "Arts Research Centre (ARC) Transformation Project," or "Improv Lab Capital Campaign."

by Pat Shewen

Did you have questions?

If you have questions about your benefits, please contact Sun Life by checking your claim at <https://www.sunnet.sunlife.com/signin/mysunlife/home.wca> or calling 1-800-361-6212. If you have questions about your pension or to change your address or status, please check out this website: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/hr/retire>. If you other questions or concerns, please contact UGRA at ugra@uoguelph.ca and we will see if we can help.



Did you know?

The main objectives of the University of Guelph Retirees Association are to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between retirees and the University of Guelph and to advocate for our members in matters such as access to university facilities and resources on retiree benefits. The UGRA works hard to keep our members up to date on the University community through emails, newsletters, and meetings and from time to time, also shares information that is of more general interest to retirees.

The UGRA is run by a group of fellow retirees who freely volunteer their time and talents. The funds needed to run the UGRA come mostly from our members' contributions. With your support we are able to maintain an electronic presence, produce the newsletters, as well as hold the AGM, Spring and Fall Forums and other events and activities to keep you connected to the university and fellow retirees. We receive email and you can mail in contributions.

Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA (2022)

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, our informative website (<https://ugra.ca/>), and our various on-campus functions throughout the year. An annual contribution of \$25 from you goes a long way in sustaining the UGRA so we can continue to work on your behalf.

University of Guelph Retirees Association Contributing Membership (2022) Form

☐ YES! I want to help promote the welfare of retirees and to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between retirees and the University by contributing to the UGRA's administrative costs.

My contribution is \$.....

Name..... Date.....

Address.....

City/Province..... Postal Code.....

Email..... Phone.....

(Note that the email address will be used for UGRA communications only.)

Please make your cheque payable to the University of Guelph Retirees Association. Mail this form with your cheque to: University of Guelph Retirees Association • PO Box 48-4916 • University of Guelph • Guelph Ontario, N1G 2W1

Electronic Payment

Instead of mailing in a cheque, you can now make a secure donation to UGRA electronically using PayPal and your credit card on our web page at: <https://ugra.ca/join-us>. You can also use e-transfer to pay using the email address ugraEtransfers@gmail.com. If you are new to e-transfers, we have provided a short primer <https://ugra.ca/join-us>



UGRA

Winter 2022

How to Contact Us

Don't hesitate to contact us with your questions, comments, and concerns. To advocate on your behalf, we truly want, and need, to hear from you. Here are the ways to contact us – don't forget to provide your name and contact information in your message so we can follow up promptly.

By Email:

ugra@uoguelph.ca

By using the 'Contact Us' tab on the UGRA website:

<https://ugra.ca>

By Phone:

519-824-4120, Ext. 52197

By Letter:

University of Guelph
Retirees Association
P.O. Box 48-4916
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

Advertising in the Newsletter

Do you have something to sell, rent, buy or announce for the next edition of the Newsletter? You may purchase space for a coloured box ad of various sizes, or a simple classified ad by contacting the Editor for prices. The next deadline is Friday, April 1, 2022.

COVID-19 and Access to the UofG Campus

Retirees are under the same restrictions as anyone else planning to come onto the UofG campus, Ridgetown campus and research facilities. The relevant UofG instructions are available at the COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs website at <https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/covid-19-vaccination-faqs>.

You need to complete the following steps:

1. Enter your proof of vaccination (or to request an approved vaccine exemption) through the University of Guelph Vaccination Proof and Exemption System portal at https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9KzCiVT51Qvm1eK. Please note: If you get an approved exemption, you will still have to submit to regular COVID-19 testing to come onto campus.
2. Review the Return to Campuses website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/>).
3. Complete the daily screening form every time you want to visit campus through https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Ntfm8k1oXAPssm.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40064673

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

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P.O. BOX 4916
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
GUELPH, ONTARIO
CANADA N1G 2W1