

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was one score and ten years ago that your UGRA came into existence.

What happened 30 years ago?

Following earlier discussions in 1990, an interim executive consisting of President Elmer Menzie, Vice President Archie McIntyre, Secretary Don Jose and Directors Rick Richards, George Barker and Earl MacNaughton met in January 1991 to discuss establishing the University of Guelph Retirees Association (UGRA), open to all retired University of Guelph employees. The first official meeting that established the UGRA was June 21, 1991 with 40 people attending. At that meeting, members of the interim executive along with Neil Sullivan as treasurer and Bob Logan as a director were elected as the association's first officers. The first "official" portrait of the executive (and members Bill Ewen and Harvey Caldwell) was published in the July 10, 1991 edition of *At Guelph* (Volume 35, Number 26, page 7, entitled "Retirees Association Kicks Off").

Fast forward 30 years:

What better way to celebrate this 30th anniversary than to double our UGRA scholarship from \$1,500 to \$3,000? This will require us to increase the endowment for the scholarship by at least \$30,000 by the next AGM in June 2022, a worthy goal for a worthy 30th anniversary cause. For those not familiar with this scholarship, it was initially established in 2007, to help support an in-course student with a minimum cumulative average of 75% who is the child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a University of Guelph retiree. The scholarship is now endowed and is under the purview of Alumni Affairs and Development (AA&D). This change allows you to make your donation directly to the scholarship fund through the AA&D website (<https://ugra.ca/scholarship>) and to claim a tax credit.

We are open to suggestions on how to encourage our membership to contribute to



the scholarship fund so we can achieve our \$30,000 goal. As former University of Guelph employees, we appreciate that education is an investment and probably need no further incentive than that to pitch in. However, we are considering other inducements to encourage our members to give, and to give generously - a home cooked dinner with the UGRA president as a prize in a random draw. We will keep you posted on other ideas and your suggestions are always welcome.

If you have any other suggestions to celebrate our 30 years of existence, please contact me at [ugra@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ugra@uoguelph.ca).

Since the last newsletter in Spring 2021, we held our AGM on June 17, 2021. The draft minutes are on the website (<https://uoguelph/b1jwu>). Our keynote speaker was Dr. Lysa Porth, Dean of the Lang School of Business and Economics. She discussed the development of a five-year strategic plan in the post-Covid world, and the future, worldwide, for agricultural business security. As with the previous AGM, this one was held by Zoom with good attendance. The membership approved a change to the constitution to alter the fiscal year from April 1 to March 31, to the calendar year January 1 to December 31. This aligns the yearly budget more with the timing of membership renewal. The membership was told that we have increased the limitation on individual scholarships that could be held

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# UGRA

Editors: Vikki Tremblay  
and Cathy Ralston

[www.ugra.ca](http://www.ugra.ca)

# UGRA Fall Forum

**Save the Date . . . Thursday, November 18, 2021 • by Zoom, Meeting Opens at 1:30**

Save Thursday, November 18 for the UGRA's Fall Forum from 2-4 p.m. Once again, for your safety, this will be a Zoom meeting. An invitation will be sent to you in November with a link to access this event.

We are pleased to focus on the College of Arts (COA) since there are so many things happening in the college post-pandemic.

Our first speaker is Kimberly Francis, Professor of Music, who will speak about the massive new development of the Arts Research Centre on campus. Spearheaded by a multimillion-dollar grant to the COA based International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation.

We will have a small break and then continue our COA focus with the COA Dean **Dr. Samantha Brennan**. We are honoured that Dr. Brennan will be joining us.

Dr. Brennan is a feminist philosopher and ethicist. Her research spans a wide range of areas in contemporary, theoretical, and applied ethics, including rights; moral issues within families such as children's rights, parental obligations, and family justice; feminist ethics; and the moral and political value of equality. Her ongoing research interests also include gender identity and sexuality, workplace ethics, and the moral significance of human mortality.

Dr. Brennan will be speaking on the new things happening in the arts post-pandemic.



Another fall season is upon us. This means a ramp up for United Way! Last year, retirees really stepped up to help a community in need. Guelph and district were hit hard with this pandemic. Every one of us has been affected in some way. Whether it was a

loss of a friend or family member (from COVID or not), job loss, home and food insecurity and the silent one-mental health issues.

Retirees helped the University of Guelph campaign by exceeding our goal! We raised more than \$85,000 and as a result received the President's award. Well done!

We hope to be on the cusp of extinguishing this virus but Guelph and community still needs our help for a Rad!cal Recovery, the 2021 campaign theme (not a typo!).

This year's retiree goal is \$90,000. I know we can achieve it!

Stay tuned to receive your pledge card in the mail. Until then, please take some time to watch these videos produced for United Way Guelph. They are truly inspiring!  
[www.unitedwayguelph.com/stories-videos/](http://www.unitedwayguelph.com/stories-videos/)

*Julie Hutchins*  
UGRA Representative, United Way



**Retirees association kicks off**

The U of G Retirees Association held its inaugural meeting June 21 at the Cutten Club. The association is open to all retired U of G employees. Seated from left to right are director Rick Richards, president Elmer

Menzie and members Bill Ewen and Harvey Caldwell. Standing are secretary Don Jose, directors Earl MacNaughton and George Barker, vice-president Arch McIntyre and treasurer Neil Sullivan.

Photo by David Thomas, at Guelph, 1997



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concurrently with the UGRA scholarship from \$1,500 to \$2,500. It was also recognized that with the rising costs of education, we should consider increasing the value of the \$1,500 scholarship, although this would require increasing the endowment, one of the goals of this year's executive. Cathy Ralston, treasurer, reported that the association had an operating excess of \$531, though part of this was due to savings by holding our meetings by Zoom.

We continue to urge our members to become contributing members or to renew their contribution. The suggested contribution is only \$25 and covers the costs of the association including website maintenance, newsletter production, Zoom software, office supplies, Fall Forum and, hopefully, an in person Spring Forum. You can contribute directly from our website at <https://ugra.ca/join-us> or by using the form at the end of this newsletter.

As reported by Doug Badger, our long serving UGRA representative to the University's Pension Committee, as of July 1, 2021, the University of Guelph Pension Plan was converted to the UPP (University Pension Plan), a defined benefit plan jointly sponsored by Guelph, Queens, and Toronto (with an open invitation to other Ontario universities to join). Updates are available on the UPP website at <https://myupp.ca/>. We owe Doug a big vote of thanks for ably representing our UGRA interests during the negotiations over the past few years. Indexation is still based on CPI, so unless there is a big jump in CPI, don't expect any adjustments. Update information should be available on the Human Resources website, as they will continue to manage member services for Guelph retirees. I was very pleased to hear that, as in the past, UGRA members, as a campus group, contributed the highest dollar amount and proportion of contributors supporting the Guelph Wellington Dufferin United Way. It is heartening to see our retired colleagues continuing to support our neighbours in need and I am convinced this will continue this year.

Though, for obvious reasons, there were no travel activities organized for 2021 by our UGRA activities group under the able leadership of Vikki Tremblay, planning for 2022, pending the Covid situation, is ongoing. To have your voice heard and to help us plan, please complete our online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26VM8T2>.

As a final act of the AGM, the new 2021 executive, was approved. Regrettably, instead of a formal portrait of this executive a Zoom meeting screen grab taken during our first meeting, July 27, 2021 will have to suffice. The new executive consists of returning directors, Jan MacInnes (from Pathobiology) as past president, Cathy Ralston (from the School of Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management) as treasurer and co-editor of the newsletter, Pat Shewen (from Pathobiology) as vice president, Vikki Tremblay (from Alumni Affairs and Development) another past president, as activities coordinator

and newsletter editor, Sue Wi-Afedzi (from Computing and Communications Services) as director of membership, web master and Zoom coordinator and Peter Krell (from Molecular and Cellular Biology) as president. We are joined by new directors Valerie Allen (from the School of Hospitality, Food and Tourism Management) who steps in as secretary, Gerrit Bos (from Computing and Communications Services), Larry Shuh (from Financial Services), Grant Maxie (from Animal Health Laboratory) and Alan Filewod (from English and Theatre Studies).

I would like to thank all executive members for agreeing to stand for election and sharing their complementary expertise to this year's executive. I am sure they will serve the UGRA membership well over the next year. We regret losing the wise counsel of the former directors who have stepped down after their terms came to an end. These include Julie Hutchins as secretary, Antonette Pellizzari and Frances Sharom. They have all done yeoman service for our members over their tenure as directors and their unstinting service will be greatly missed.

As I begin my term as president, I realize I am stepping into some pretty big shoes. I have learned a lot from previous presidents, Vikki Tremblay and more recently Jan MacInnes and I owe them a vote of thanks for helping mentor me and at providing hints on how to run meetings smoothly. "Maybe we can discuss this further offline" was one expression that comes to mind.

This year, we are again looking forward to the fall forum (Thursday, November 18, 2 to 4 p.m. by Zoom), the spring forum (tentatively April 14, 2022) and the AGM (tentatively June 16, 2022). With the rise of the Delta variant and other variants of concern, returning "back to normal" will require more engagement with vaccinations. Leading by example (and as a practicing virologist), I have been doubly vaccinated (no problems, not even minor ones). We are in the demographic that survived polio, smallpox and, needless to say, other vaccine preventable diseases such as measles, largely through comprehensive and international vaccination programs, so we appreciate better than our younger colleagues the value of vaccinations. I urge those of you not yet fully vaccinated but are able to be, to do so soon so we can get back to some semblance of normalcy and so we can meet en face, instead of en Zoom.

And don't forget our goal of a \$3,000 UGRA scholarship and an infusion of at least \$30,000 to the endowment fund by the next AGM to make it happen.

You'll find the 2021 Board of Directors on page 8.

*Peter Krell  
President*



## Parking, Online Resource Library and COVID Campus Access

by Peter Krell



**Parking:** Some retirees have already noticed that as of September 2021, retirees no longer receive a 50% reduction in parking fees that was offered to recognize their non-paid contribution to the University while on campus. Part of this was due to a reorganization from differential fees for certain groups to a colour-coded system based on proximity to central campus. The executive is in discussions with the administration to try to reinstate the 50% reduction in fees.

**Retiree Library and Online Resource Access:** Some retirees have expressed concerns about a lack of access to online library resources. The executive will be discussing our concerns with the administration to clarify what access retirees normally can expect and what options are available to increase that access, e.g., for those continuing academic activities such as for research and editorial duties.

**Covid-19 and Access to the UofG Campus:** Retirees are under the same restrictions as anyone else planning to come on the UofG campus. The relevant UofG instructions are available at the COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs Website at <https://uoguel.ph/nfb6t>

Essentially, you will have to 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://uoguel.ph/eqt1v>

**Please note:** If you get an approved exemption, you will still have to submit to regular Covid-19 testing to come onto campus. Once you have uploaded the relevant information you will still need to complete the daily screening form every time you want to visit campus through <https://uoguel.ph/qgs4u>

## Passings

Ettore D'Antonio	May 18, 2021
Phyllis Crampton	May 25, 2021
Blair MacNeill	May 28, 2021
Derek Jamieson	June 1, 2021
Helen Woodhouse	June 1, 2021
Judy Scheffer	June 2, 2021
James Stevens	June 11, 2021
Gertrude Wyllie	June 16, 2021
Ruth MacDonald	June 29, 2021
Vera P Cunliffe	July 2, 2021
Robert Bowers	July 11, 2021
Shanti Batra	July 16, 2021
Jean McDonald	July 18, 2021
Richard Phidd	July 29, 2021
Judith Wansbrough	August 8, 2021
Elizabeth Lewis	August 10, 2021
Gertrude Stewart	August 26, 2021
Walter Bilanski	September 3, 2021
Alfonso Guardiero	September 5, 2021
Isabel Alvarez	September 6, 2021
Ab Westerveld	September 16, 2021



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**Fall 2021**

**UGRA**



# PANDEMIC PASTIMES

## Vaccine Volunteering

After months of bird-watching courses, baking bread (and other assorted goodies) and Netflix, my binoculars broke, I noticed the weight I was gaining, and I had watched everything I wanted to see on Netflix.

Then I got the notice for my first vaccine shot. Light at the end of the tunnel!

The Linamar clinic was impressively efficient – staffed by several volunteers my own age pointing the way, arrows on the floors, and signs all along the path to keep us moving smoothly. I emerged with my first vaccine certificate wondering if I should be contributing to this process in some way.

When I excitedly bragged to Jan MacInnes, UGRA president at the time, it turned out she had already had her first shot and was volunteering at the vaccine clinic at the university. Huh! How do I get in on this? Before I knew it, she had me lined up with one of the clinic managers who did a quick phone interview and added me to the schedule for the next week.

It turns out that “Interior Wayfinding” means telling people where to go next inside the clinic. “Exterior Wayfinding” – you got it – telling people where to go outside the clinic. Each shift was about 4.5 hours. Lots of standing. Managers were always checking the volunteers – making themselves available for all those unforeseeables.

Most days, the process ran like a well-oiled machine. The clinic took over the University Centre's main floor with people coming in through the main seating area. Check-in desks were set up along the north windows. From there, people wound their way through to the centre courtyard where the “vaccinators” held sway. Down the steps and off into the southwest area (at one time Room 103) where they “recovered” for 15 minutes and then emerged to exit the south doors with their vaccination certificates.

Along the way, the volunteers guided the mostly eager and the few not-so-eager. The volunteers ranged from high school age all the way to retirees and other assorted “old fogies”. The majority of these volunteers, however, were university students selflessly contributing their time and energy.

A special accessibility route was available for those with mobility issues. They had their own check-in and vaccinator – all on the lowest level via the south entrance doors of the UC.

It was fascinating watching the demographic changes as the eligibility rules changed. And when the second doses became available, suddenly the normally quiet accessibility route became overwhelmed. Adjustments were quickly instituted by the managers and the accessibility traffic soon became manageable. The details of running the clinic were a tiny bit different every day, reflecting the changes in everything from vaccine availability to our understanding of the virus.

What I loved most about the experience was the generally positive mood. People were so glad to get their shots. Selfies were being sent to family and friends as they waited out their “recovery period”.

And then there was the fellow decked out in a full-on Canadian flag suit on July 1st.

The official number of shots given out at the university clinic is 81,000 (though it seemed closer to 100,000) before it closed on August 6th. We should be proud of our university's contribution in mitigating this global pandemic.

by Sue Wi-Afedzi and Jan MacInnes

## Recommended Viewing/Listening

### FILMS

#### The Social Dilemma

2020, 1 hr. 34 min. | Directed by Jeff Orlowski  
<https://www.thesocialdilemma.com>  
Recommended by Kryss Mooney

*This film explores the effect of smartphones and social networks on human behavior. It is an eye-opening look into the way social media is designed to create addiction and manipulate our behavior. This is an engaging documentary and one that you must watch. Available on Netflix.*

### TELEVISION SERIES

#### Mrs. America

Created by Dahvi Waller  
Original network FX on Hulu, April 2020  
Recommended by Sue Wi-Afedzi

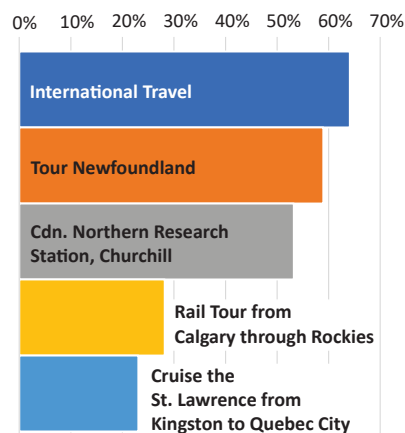
*Mrs. America is a historical series dramatizing the fight to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in the United States in the 1970s viewed from the perspective of activists on both sides of the fight. Cate Blanchett plays Phyllis Schlafly – a staunchly conservative political lobbyist. Opposing her is an illustrious cast portraying some of the more well-known feminists of the time – Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug, Betty Friedan, and Shirley Chisholm. It is a fascinating re-enactment of a time that sets the stage for the current political crisis facing the United States.*

Continued on page 6

# UGRA ADVENTURES

By Vikki Tremblay

As we are slowly making our way out of the pandemic, we are all anxious to travel again. I did a survey in Survey Monkey to find out where you, our members, want to travel to in 2022. The results are in and are quite interesting.



Of our respondents who want to travel internationally, the following are the many destinations suggested by you – Spain, Portugal, sail the Rhine from Mainz, Germany to Amsterdam on a luxury small boat, Australia, Argentina, Chili, Costa Rica, Italy, France, and Greece.

Finally, I got one response that I loved, "Anywhere, just get us out of here already!" I think we all feel that way.

We have such a variety of places to travel to. One of the safer destinations right now is Costa Rica with its abundance of nature, the Arenal Volcano, and luscious jungles. It would be a great destination for our next trip..... Or perhaps tour Newfoundland or go back to Churchill??

I want to hear from you if you would like to travel to any of these destinations for our next UGRA Adventure.

## Recent Retirees

### June 1, 2021

Glen Alm	Plant Agriculture
Dona Brandigampola	AA&D-Fin'l Services
Frebis Hoffmeyer	Lang Dean's Office
Kenneth Kron	Phys Res-Grounds
Jeffrey Thomason	Biomedical Sciences

### July 1, 2021

Pamela Armitage	Philosophy
Julia Christensen Hughes	Lang Dean's Office
Patricia Dean	Off-Investment Mgmt
Mary Anne Denomme	LSD-Chemistry
Frances Determann	Academic Programs
Janice Grinberg	OVC HSC Clinical Sup
Murray Hazlett	LSD-Animal Hlth Lab
Joanne Mervin	Ridgetown-Cont Ed
Bertilla Moroni	Molecular & Cellular
John Paschakis	Guelph-Humber Init
Vincenzo Pellegrino	Human Resources
Sandra Shore	Office Uni Librarian
Linda Zehr	Fam Relns & App Nutr

### August 1, 2021

Larry Banks	Math & Statistics
Brian McDougall	Animal Biosciences
Donald O'Leary	VP-Fin & Operations
Sharon Young	Co-Op Educ Services

### September 1, 2021

Charles Cadsby	Economics & Finance
Cathy Gartley	Population Medicine
Denise Lacroix	Hospitality Services
Richard Legault	Phys Res-Proj Mgmt
Laura Maclure	PR/SHS Environmental
Panos Mavronicolas	Campus Animal Facility
Annette Nassuth	Molecular & Cellular
Bill Van Heyst	CEPS-Dean's Office

### October 1, 2021

Jane Duck	Human Resources
Jeff Greuel	CCS-IT Application
Diana Hewitt	Office Uni Librarian
Cheryl Limebeer	Psychology
Rod Merrill	Molecular & Cellular
Carol Perry	Office Uni Librarian
Brian Robinson	PR/SHS Environmental
Robin Sorbara	Psychology



## UPDATE by Larry Shuh

As of July 1, 2021, the University of Guelph pension plans were amalgamated in the University Pension Plan Ontario (UPP). It appears that from the retirees' perspective, this conversion has gone smoothly. The most visible difference at this point was the change in timing of pension payments. This resulted in your last payment from the UofG plans being received on June 30th and the first payment from UPP received on July 1st. This was not an error, and you will only receive 12 payments during the 2021 calendar year.

If you have issues or concerns with your pension payments, the UofG pension staff remain your point of contact by email at [upp@uoguelph.ca](mailto:upp@uoguelph.ca) or by phone at: 519-824-4120, ext. 52142. For general UPP information, view the UPP website: <https://myupp.ca/>.

Please watch for further contact from the UPP this fall as they will be announcing town hall meetings and an all-member survey to gather input from plan members.

*Pandemic Pastimes continued from page 5*

### 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/>

Fall 2021

UGRA

## 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](mailto: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 (2021)

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 (2021) 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>



# UGRA

Fall 2021



## 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](mailto: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, Friday, January 14, 2022.

### 2021 UGRA Board of Directors



PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40064673

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