



Spring 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we go again! In my last president's message, I evoked the possibility of a pandexit for this year. But that was not yet to be. The sixth wave occurred and, as a consequence, we cancelled our planned in-person Spring Forum and held it by Zoom. During the forum, I presented information on what the SARS-CoV-2 virus is all about, how variants arise and why some are worse than others. Maya Goldenberg, Professor of Philosophy, explained why some people, a small minority at least in Canada, are vaccine hesitant, despite a scientific consensus and long history on the value of vaccination and, perhaps more importantly, how policy makers can improve their outreach to counter mistrust. We also learned more about experiential learning on campus from, Elaine Fenner, the new Director of Experiential Learning at Guelph.

Being the eternal optimists, we had hoped to have our annual general meeting on June 16 at the Arboretum. This assumed that our overall level of vaccination is sufficient and ward off visits to hospitals, especially the ICUs, and that lurking in the background there is not a 3.14159 variant ready to do another number on us. However, we have decided to go with Zoom yet again. We urge you to attend the AGM as this is your chance to engage with your UGRA executive, learn what is being planned for next year, approve the budget and, most importantly, elect directors for your next executive.

By now, you will have also received my spring eBlast where I tried to update UGRA members for whom we have current email addresses on what is happening that may be of interest. Unfortunately, we cannot reach members for whom we do not have a current email address by email. If you are reading this in hardcopy and have not received an email blast from your executive, but would like to, please provide your current email address to ugra@uoguelph.ca and we will be sure to update our contact information for you. Anytime you change your contact information, please let us know.



We are pleased to report that through the generosity of our members, we have surpassed the half way mark in our UGRA Scholarship drive to raise \$30,000 by the time of the Annual General Meeting to allow the \$3,000 award to be offered in perpetuity. We are appealing to those members who have not yet contributed to the UGRA Scholarship drive to help fill the coffers. Those who have donated to the scholarship between the last AGM and the AGM, June 16, 2022, will have your name included in draws for gifts. If you would like to contribute, please go to our website at <https://ugra.ca/scholarship>.

A short history of the current UGRA Scholarship was in our winter newsletter. Since its inception in 2007, 461 donors helped raise about \$74,000 for the scholarship, including 92 donors over the past year raising about \$15,000. This scholarship has been awarded 11 times and this year will be the first time it is valued at \$3,000, a fitting way to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our association. Elsewhere in this newsletter, four former recipients provided information and reflected on how the UGRA Scholarship helped them achieve success.

Was it something I said? Over the last year, many of our "privileges" have been eroded. It started in the fall when some members noticed that we no longer had preferential parking rates on campus. That was followed by some retirees finding they no longer had off-campus

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UGRA

Editor: Cathy Ralston

WWW.ugra.ca

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Annual General Meeting 2022 | Thursday, June 16, 2022, 10:00 am - noon

By Zoom (will open at 9:30 am)

10:00 **Keynote Speaker:** Paul Kelly, Director of the Honey Bee Research Centre will speak on "The Honey Bee Research Centre – Pollinator Problems and Solutions."

Annual General Meeting Agenda (will start following the keynote speaker)

Welcome and Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the June 17, 2021 AGM

(<https://ugra.ca/sites/uoguelph.ca.ugra/files/uploads/2021/DRAFT%20UGRA%20AGM%20Minutes–June%202021.pdf>)

Business Arising from the Minutes of the 20201 AGM

Reports from the Executive Committee

! President's report

! Treasurer's report, report of the reviewer and nomination of the reviewer for 2022

! Activities/newsletter report

! Membership report and communications

Other Reports

! Report on UGRA Scholarship endowment drive

! Report on loss of privileges

! United Way

Election of the 2022–2023 Directors

Questions and Comments from Members

New President's Remarks

Other Business

Draw for prizes for Scholarship Donors

Adjournment

Call for Nominations

The UGRA Executive Committee is the leadership team that acts on behalf of the interests of University of Guelph retirees:

" Advocating for retirees on university matters such as pensions, benefits, and privileges

" Communicating university news relevant to UofG retirees

" Organizing educational and social events for UofG retirees

At the annual general meeting in June, UGRA members elect persons to the Executive for a 2–year term (2022/2024). All UofG retirees are members of the UGRA, eligible to vote at the AGM, and are eligible to hold an executive position.

The UGRA executive has five officers – president, vice president, past president, secretary, and treasurer – and seven additional directors. Each director is elected for a two–year term. With re–election at the subsequent AGM, each director may serve up to two additional, two–year terms (six years total). The vice president serves for one year and transitions to the president in the following year and then serves as past president for the third year. The positions of secretary and treasurer are normally for a two–year period.

The value and strength of the UGRA depends on a strong executive committee. That strength comes through the nomination of persons willing to commit to building and sustaining the UGRA program. This involves participating in 10 executive meetings each year and volunteering to support and participate in UGRA member activities.

If you would like to be part of the UGRA leadership team (executive committee), or if you know someone who would be a good candidate, please forward your nomination by email and copy the nominee indicating their willingness to stand for election, to the Chair of the UGRA Nomination Committee at ugra@uoguelph.ca.

UGRA 2021 Operating Statement and 2022 Budget

	2021	2022	
Receipts			
Member Contributions	\$4,900	\$5,386	\$6,000
Interest	100	196	100
Ad Revenue	750	1,100	2,650
Total Receipts	\$5,750	\$6,682	\$8,750
Expenditures			
Newsletters	\$3,500	\$2,768	\$4,800
Website	1,000	1,000	1,000
Board Meetings	120	226	226
UGRA Scholarship			500
CURAC Membership	0	0	300
CURAC Conference Attendance	0	0	0
Office Supplies and Operating	550	298	373
AGM	0	0	500
Fall Forum	500	0	500
Spring Forum	0	0	500
Total Expenses	\$5,670	\$4,292	\$8,699
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$80	\$2,390	\$51

ATTENTION!
Life Long Learners!

All members who are inquisitive, keen to learn new things, or just plain bored, check out UPCOMING EVENTS, on the front page of our website <https://ugra.ca/>. There, you will find a chronological list of presentations and short courses offered by CURAC member universities. All are accessible by Zoom, most are free or available for a modest fee. You just might find the thing you didn't know you were looking for.

Continued from page 1

access to the university library's eResources, though they could still access them on campus through library computers. They could not access literature without hitting a paywall, for journals that the university subscribes to. In addition, last February we received little notice of changes to our email and access to Microsoft 365 and the suite of Office programs. Access to downloaded versions of the Office suite of programs like Word, PowerPoint, and Excel were no longer accessible, although the web-based ones through Outlook were. These issues are being raised with the administration and so far, we have had good conversations with the library about lack of off-campus access to eResources.

When we approach the university administration, we would like to remind the university of the value retirees provide. For example, many retirees still serve on student committees, do research, publish articles, review grant applications for national and international institutes, and perform journal editorial work, assist at convocation and, this year at COVID-19 vaccination clinics, all of which raise the profile of the university. We also seem to punch above our weight when it comes to philanthropy through our support of the UofG United Way and scholarship fundraising. However, we need your input for examples of how we still engage with the university to its benefit and to evaluate how the loss of these "privileges" has a direct impact on this engagement. To address that, we will be hosting surveys over the next few months to gather this information. Even if you feel you are not impacted by the loss of these privileges, we need to know that too.

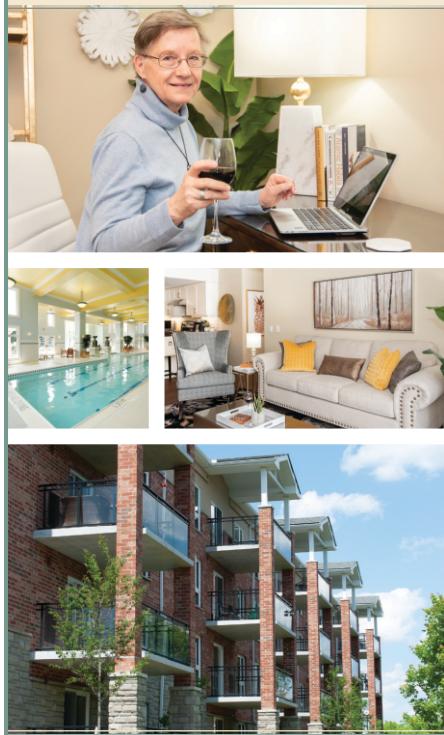
Finally, your Activities Committee has organized an exciting trip

to Costa Rica for February 19 to March 3, 2023 (<https://ugra.ca/news/2022/01/ugra-goes-costa-rica-2023>). The price is fixed until July 19, 2022, but will rise after this date. For those concerned about the potential need to cancel, you can choose an extra cancellation waiver and insurance policy through Collette Travel.

And now, to leave on a bright note, spring is finally with us, the daffodils on the side of the Hanlon are in bloom, the tulips are starting to brighten our flowerbeds, and I am seeing the leaves of at least some of the trees starting to flush.

Since this is my last newsletter as president, I would like to thank our executive for their unwavering support and helping as needed. I would like to particularly thank our secretary, Valerie Allen, for keeping me organized. I would also like to thank those who will remain with the executive but will move to other roles. They include Jan MacInnes who will vacate her position as past president and keep the current one on his toes, Cathy Ralston who will be leaving her treasurer's position after a Herculean eight years beginning in 2012, but has thankfully agreed to continue as newsletter editor, and Pat Shewen who will move from vice president to president. Working behind the scenes, I appreciate the work of Sue Wi-Afedzi for keeping the website and member lists up to date and communicating with the membership and to Vikki Tremblay for her work on activities and the newsletter. Other directors, Gerrit Bos, Alan Filewod, Grant Maxie and Larry Shuh contributed fully to an effective executive. And, of course, I would like to thank our members for their support over the past year and communicating with us on how we can improve UGRA and represent you better.

Peter Krell, President



Ailsa Craig AT THE VILLAGE OF ARBOUR TRAILS



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our retirement community

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UNITED WAY UPDATE

by Julie Hutchins



The campaign for United Way ended on a very positive note, all thanks to you! One retiree received a little bonus for his contribution. Carl Cryderman won a combo prize of a \$25 gift certificate to Sweet Distractions, Elora's Candy Boutique, and a \$20 gift card to Elora Brewing Company plus a t-shirt. Congratulations Carl!

The City of Guelph is already gearing up for the 2022 campaign. The City is taking on the task of eliminating homelessness in this great city. Below is a link to find out more.

The Home for Good Campaign

The Home for Good Campaign is a bold call to action to solve homelessness in our community. Through the generosity of our community, we will raise \$5 million to build Homes for Good for people experiencing homelessness in Guelph and Wellington County. To learn more about the campaign, to donate and to get involved, visit the website: <https://homeforgoodgw.ca/>.

January 31, 2022

Judith Campbell	Hospitality Services
Rick Henderson	Phys Res-Mat Handling
Kerry Lissemore	Population Medicine
Scott McEwen	Population Medicine
Kay Norwell	Food Science
Danielle Pigeau	Phys Res-Custodial
Patricia Shaver	CE-Open Learn Pgm
Evelyn Shields	Phys Res-Custodial
Marianne Staempfli	Fac Env Des&Rurl Dev
Betty Stoumbos	Office UNI Librarian
David Urbshas	Physics

February 28, 2022

Mark Baker	Mol & Cell Bio
Laurie Finlay	Psychology
Karen Ingram	Chemistry
Pek Lee	Human Resources
Eve Sommerfeld Mazereeuw	CE-Open Learn Pgm
Arlene Young	Psychology

Recent Retirees

March 31, 2022

Jacqueline Cassell	PR/SHS Environmental
Carol Hart	Geography
Leon Loo	CCS Central Office
Stephen Lord	Mol & Cell Bio
Catherine MacDonald	Hospitality Services
Jacqueline Powers	Mol & Cell Bio
Marielle Wallace	Hospitality Services
Joan Zador	AVP Research

April 30, 2022

Debbie Adair	PR/SHS Environmental
Margaret Barth	CCS EA Personnel
Laura Bowman	CCS CP Personnel
Hila Charnoe	CCS CP Personnel
Lynda French	Phys Res-Custodial
Victor Gulewitsch	Sociology & Anthropol
Arthur (Art) Hill	Food Science
Linda Lissemore	LSD-Diagnostics
Mary Payne	Student Housing Serv
Naresh Thevathasan	Environmental Science

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/covid-19/safety-practices/>. Masks are mandatory on campus until further notice.

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2022 UGRA Spring Forum Speaker Presentation Summary

The Spring Forum speakers addressed current information about COVID-19. First, current UGRA President, University Professor Emeritus Peter Krell, a virologist, reflected on what we know about the virus itself, vaccines, antivirals, challenges and counter measures, after two plus years. Then, Professor Maya Goldenberg of the Department of Philosophy, discussed her research on vaccine hesitancy, which for many years focused on hesitancy to pediatric vaccines and more recently examined resistance to COVID vaccination.

What have we learned? Like many respiratory diseases, COVID-19 is spread mainly by aerosol droplets. Masks, improved ventilation and air filtration (HEPA filters) reduce aerosol transmission. Dr. Krell suggested that restrictions/mandates are most effective when imposed early, when a rise is first detected, and that restrictions should not be relaxed until cases plateau and then should be lifted only gradually. Education in civics, public health, and critical thinking are needed for people to understand why and when restrictions should be imposed. In addition, funding for Canadian vaccine development and manufacturing will help ensure vaccine availability in the future.

Note: Please visit the website for full text.

by
Pat Shewen

Passings

John W Skinner	August 16, 2021
Peter Reynard	September 27, 2021
Stanley Barrett	October 19, 2021
Edward Bailey	October 26, 2021
Shirley Dennis	October 28, 2021
Evelyn J Harrington	November 5, 2021
Gary Predon	November 21, 2021
Barry Cole	November 23, 2021
Elizabeth Campbell	November 27, 2021
Emilio Raco	December 1, 2021
Peter Slotboom	December 10, 2021
Daniel Chouinard	December 12, 2021
John McMurtry	December 30, 2021
Peter Leppmann	January 1, 2022
Dorothy Billings	January 4, 2022
Judy Huston	January 9, 2022
Nyle Iutzi	January 11, 2022
Philip Keddie	January 12, 2022
W. Gordon Graham	January 14, 2022
Ross Wilson	January 15, 2022
Harold Struthers	January 25, 2022
Brian Dowling	February 4, 2022
Ernie Boyle	February 6, 2022
Charles Cadsby	February 12, 2022
Winfred Densmore	February 16, 2022
Glen Wigood	February 16, 2022
Ronnalee Horton	February 19, 2022
Virginia Campbell	March 3, 2022
Sandra Cook	March 11, 2022
Blanche M Sutherland	March 14, 2022
Jim Van Roon	March 17, 2022
Margaretha Weiss	March 23, 2022
Dianne Kirkham	April 5, 2022
Albert Woon-Fat	April 18, 2022
Margaret Lindsay	April 27, 2022

UGRA ADVENTURES

Costa Rica: A World of Nature Tour

February 19 to March 3, 2023



I have visited Costa Rica and loved every single minute of it despite being there in the rainy season and getting soaked. It is absolutely amazing and beautiful.



Some of the best places to visit while in Costa Rica are:

- ! Monteverde – its cloud forests and lush mountains make it feel magical
- ! Tortuguero – black sand beaches and nesting turtles
- ! Cahuita - where the jungle meets the beach about 45 km away from Limon where wildlife is abundant with sloths, monkeys, snakes, lizards and exotic birds.
- ! Manuel Antonio National Park – located on the Pacific, this area offers a wide range of activities for every adventurous

soul and amazing beaches.

! La Fortuna and the Arenal Volcano - breathtaking scenery, hot springs, waterfalls and tropical rainforests invite all types of adventurers to enjoy what it has to offer.

There are still spots open for this exciting small group tour featuring Tortuguero National Park, Arenal Volcano and Manuel Antonio National Park. This 13-day trip from February 19 to March 3, 2023 includes 24 meals. For more information and booking visit https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/10862_96

Due to the pandemic, it is very important to make sure you protect your travel investment and your well-being while traveling. Collette is offering Worry Free Cancellation Insurance for \$449 CAD. Travel worry-free knowing if anything changes, you're protected. It also includes covering you on the tour. If you have to stop your trip or return home early, need medical assistance or evacuation, suffer a baggage loss or delay; or are delayed on tour for 12 hours or more, you're covered. Stay healthy and safe travels!

by
Vikki Tremblay

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Where Are They Now?

UGRA Scholarship Recipients

Since the beginning of the UGRA Scholarship Program, the scholarship has been awarded 11 times, as summarized in our Winter 2022 Newsletter. Below, we highlight a few of these students to see how they advanced in their academic career and how the scholarship helped them in alleviating the financial challenges of a university education.



Sarah Wismer (UGRA Scholarship 2016/2017, nominated by Danny Butler)

Since receiving the UGRA scholarship, Sarah graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry in 2018. In her fourth year, she had the opportunity to do a research project course with Dr. Nina Jones and started her MSc with Nina in the fall of 2018. Her project focused on the molecular mechanisms that promote breast cancer metastasis, and she defended her thesis in December 2020. In 2021, she worked at Integrated Exploration in Guelph doing qPCR COVID-19 testing. In January 2022, she moved to Kingston to work at Octane, as a cell culture research associate. Octane develops regenerative medicine solutions, and she is involved in a couple of projects focusing on bone healing. She stated that she is very grateful to have received the UGRA Scholarship as it allowed her to graduate with less student debt that is especially nice when you finish school in the middle of a pandemic!



Aidan Pucchio (UGRA Scholarship 2017/2018, nominated by Antonio Salvadori)



Aidan Pucchio is currently a third-year medical student at Queen's University. During his studies at Queen's, he has become involved in both research and medical education. He published a number of papers on the education of artificial intelligence in medicine and on low vision rehabilitation, a branch of medicine that seeks to support patients who are blind or partially sighted. He has also been involved in curriculum development efforts at Queen's as the President of Queen's Medicine Global Health Education committee.

He felt that winning the UGRA award in 2017 both helped alleviate some of the stress of financing his undergraduate degree and also supported his subsequent application to medical school, where having a named award can significantly strengthen one's application. He is very grateful for the opportunity that the UGRA Scholarship gave him in 2017, and "hopes the scholarship can continue well into the future."

Isaac Wismer (UGRA Scholarship 2019/2020, nominated by Danny Butler)

Isaac received the scholarship in the fourth year of his five-year

computer science co-op degree and graduated in 2021. When he graduated, he was inducted into the CEPS Society of Excellence for academic achievement and contributions to university and community life. After graduation, he was lucky enough to be able to take the summer off (in part because scholarships like the UGRA Scholarship helped fund his degree) and to go on some adventures like end-to-end hiking of the Bruce Trail and going on several multi-week canoe trips in Northern Ontario. Since then, he started working remotely full time as a software engineer at CashApp.



William Wareham (UGRA Scholarship 2020/2021, nominated by Robert McCrindle)



William received the UGRA scholarship in his second year and (at the time of writing) is in his final semester of his undergraduate Physics degree. Since receiving the award, he has learned a lot and had some great summer jobs doing research in his field at the university. In the near future, he is planning to attend graduate school to continue doing Physics research - something that he is become very passionate about since joining the program. He stated that the UGRA Scholarship helped take away the financial burden of school so he could focus on his studies - and he thinks that he benefitted significantly from that! He would like to say thank you to all the donors who have made this award possible.

by
Peter Krell



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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 have 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. You can send feedback by email or physical mail.

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

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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, September 9, 2022.



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