UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

UGRA newsletter

Spring 2015

Agenda for Annual General Meeting 2015

The UGRA Annual General Meeting is June 18 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Arboretum Centre. Refreshments will be served

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 2014 AGM
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. 2014-2015 President's Remarks
6. Reports
   a. Scholarship
   b. Treasurer's Report and Appointment of the Auditor
   c. Membership
      1. Motion to increase the amount of the membership contribution
   d. Newsletter
   e. Benefits
   f. Questions regarding other UGRA issues
7. Nominations Committee Report and Election of 2015-16 Executive
8. 2015-2016 President's Remarks
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment
11. The Future of Pensions: a Panel Discussion

Notice is hereby given that the members will be presented with a motion to increase the amount of the membership contribution at the annual meeting on June 18, 2015.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the most rewarding aspects of serving on the UGRA Executive comes from the opportunity to meet the recipient of our scholarship. The Executive had an opportunity to meet and congratulate Holly Curle, this year's scholarship recipient, and you can read about the importance of the scholarship to her elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. Over the past two years, we have made significant progress in raising funds to endow the UGRA Scholarship, with the total in the fund now sitting at almost $13000.

We are looking for four members to fill positions on the UGRA Executive. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday afternoon each month from September to June. If you have some time to commit and are interested in joining us, please send an email to secretary@ugra.ca.

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Editor: Susan Evers

www.ugra.ca

Best wishes and thanks to Gauri Mittal who is leaving the Executive. Susan Evers, who has served four years as editor of this newsletter, and Dana Paramskas who has reached the nine-year term limit, serving for several years as our web master and membership secretary are also leaving. These roles are among the most important and demanding on our executive. On behalf of all UGRA members I extend thanks to Susan and Dana for their time and dedication to their respective responsibilities.

Dana Paramskas was honoured for forty-plus years of service to the University, including her contribution to UGRA, at February convocation when she received the University of Guelph Medal of Merit. Congratulations Dana, on this well-deserved recognition!

President Franco Vaccarino will host a reception for retirees on Thursday September 3rd so please save the date and plan to attend. Details regarding the location and program are on p.4.

Our AGM on June 18 will feature a panel on the future of pensions with representatives of several of the University's employee groups. At the time of writing, USW and UGFA have confirmed their participation and we are waiting to hear from CUPE 1334 and PSA.

UGRA operates with in-kind support from the University of Guelph, which we appreciate. The Office of the Vice-President Finance, Administration and Risk, supports the cost of our monthly executive meeting room at the Arboretum and Human Resources pays the mailing costs of our newsletter three times a year. We also appreciate the support from retirees who attend our forums and annual meeting, and make membership contributions. Contributions can be made by PayPal by going to the UGRA website and clicking on the Contribute Now button.

Finally, my personal thanks to members of the UGRA Executive for their assistance and support over the past two years. I look forward to handing over leadership of UGRA to Robin Davidson-Arnott in June and wish him success during his term as president.

Janet Kaufman, President, UGRA

Biomedical Sciences Student Receives UGRA Scholarship

UGRA V-P Robin Davidson-Arnott, Holly Curle, and UGRA President Janet Kaufman

In 2007, the UGRA established a $1,500 scholarship to provide support for an in-course student who is the child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a University of Guelph retiree. This year's recipient is Holly Curle of Campbellford, ON, a second year student in Biomedical Sciences. Holly is the granddaughter of Ron McLean who worked in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science.

Holly is a member of the University of Guelph Animal Interest Network. She is enrolled in a NAUI scuba diving course and volunteers with Foal Watch. In a letter thanking the UGRA, Holly says "I am the eldest of four children, three of whom are currently pursuing post-secondary education. The funds I received from you allowed me to continue to study without the added burden of worrying about my financial situation". She also adds, "I will continue my education at the University of Guelph. After I complete my degree I plan to apply to the Ontario Veterinary College. Your support is what will make this possible."

As a retired staff or faculty member of
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Announcements

McMaster University Study on Driving and Technology.

Are you an adult who drives a vehicle that contains NEW technology?

You are needed for an important study at about driving and technology!

People living within Hamilton and the greater Hamilton area, who are 60 years of age or older and drive a vehicle that contains more than one driving aid in it are needed for this study. Driving aids can include technologies such as: back-up camera, blind spot monitoring, lane departure warning and more!

We hope to learn how older drivers use driving aids to help with driving and how these technologies transform how older people interact with their environment. This study will help us to understand what older people like and/or dislike about driving aids, so that we can inform design practice.

Dr. Jessica Gish, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health, Aging & Society, conducts research that explores how technological developments in society shape the everyday lives of older people. Through collaboration with Dr. Amanda Grenier (Department of Health, Aging & Society), Dr. Brenda Vrkljan (School of Rehabilitation Sciences), and Dr. Antonio Páez (School of Geography & Earth Sciences) we are working on a project that studies older people's perspectives on using driving aids or in-vehicle technologies to help with driving.

For more information about participating in this study, please call or email Dr. Jessica Gish in the Department of Health, Aging & Society at McMaster University. Phone number: 905-525-9140 ext. 27414. Email: gishje@mcmaster.ca

The University of Guelph Alumni Travel Program offers incredible destinations and once-in-a-lifetime experiences for alumni, faculty, staff, retirees and friends of the University. The line-up of trips for 2016 is now confirmed and it promises to take travellers to many exciting parts of the world. January will kick off with a 10-day cruise around the Tahitian Islands on Oceania Cruises and the price includes airfare from major cities.

If you are a landlubber, you might consider a 21-day trip to Bali, Indonesia in January. This trip is perfect for retirees who want to escape winter for

Photo courtesy of AAD

an extended period of time. For the adventurers, we are offering an Amazon River Expedition including a five-night cruise on a deluxe 20-suite riverboat and two nights in Lima, Peru. In April we offer a multi-country trip to South Africa that includes stops in Johannesburg and Cape Town, a three-day cruise in Namibia and two nights in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. May features a unique Trans-Atlantic Crossing on Oceania Cruises starting in New York City and finishing in Lisbon, Portugal. Airfare from major cities is included on this trip as well.

Italy has always been popular, and in 2016 we will travel to Italy's Lake District, beginning in Milan. A nice feature of this trip is that there is no single supplement for single travellers. For the historians, we offer a cruise from Glasgow, Scotland, to Honfleur, France, with some special guests – Dwight David Eisenhower II, grandson of General and President Dwight Eisenhower and Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, and cousin of Sir Winston Churchill, will be joining sections of the cruise and giving lectures. There will be a stop in the Western Scottish Highlands to take a trip on the Jacobite Steam Train (also known as the Hogwarts Express in Harry Potter films) from Fort William to Mallaig.

Iceland is a popular new travel destination – with that in mind, we offer a 10-day trip on a 224-passenger yacht around the whole island, starting in Reykjavik with stops in eight different cities. For music lovers, there is the 10-day Symphony on the Blue Danube trip. It begins in Budapest and finishes in Prague, and includes a five-day river cruise. It includes musical performances and a visit to Mozart's home in Vienna.

Finally, we are featuring a 16-day trip to China and Tibet with a four-day cruise on the Yangtze River. This trip starts in Beijing and finishes in Shanghai, and provides a great opportunity to see many sights, including the Great Wall of China!

Please visit our website for more details and information on how to take part in the program. Visit www.alumni.uoguelph.ca/travel or e-mail travel@uoguelph.ca if you have questions.

Accolades

U of G named two University Professors Emeriti at February convocation. This designation is bestowed on retired faculty who continue their scholarly association with the University. The prime criterion for nomination is sustained outstanding scholarship of such a level that it is recognized internationally. Congratulations to:

John Prescott, Ontario Veterinary College

William Smith, College of Physical and Engineering Science

The Medal of Merit is awarded "to a professor who has retired from the University of Guelph, and who has made outstanding contributions to teaching, the functioning of the university, or other areas which have resulted in substantial improvement to the academic life and character of the university". We congratulate **Dana Paramskas**, College of Arts, who received the award at convocation.

ADULTS AT PLAY

Terry Gillespie

It is never too late to go out and play - music, that is, and in a concert band setting. That is what a number of U of G retirees are doing with New Horizons Band Guelph.

The New Horizons Band Guelph program provides a fun and informative engagement in music for adults who have little or no musical experience, who have been musically inactive for a long time, or who just love to play!

Terry Gillespie, (School of Environmental Sciences) has been with the New Horizons Band for 7 years. A clarinet player with the Cambridge Community Band, Terry saw New Horizons as an opportunity to play the saxophone. "It's great to have the challenge of learning a new musical instrument in a fun-filled atmosphere with fine instructors.".

Another retiree, Fred Evers (Sociology and Anthropology) played trumpet in his high school band, but had not picked up a brass instrument for 47 years. On learning about New Horizons Band and their need for a tuba player, he borrowed his daughter's tuba and joined right in. "Learning to play a new instrument is an excellent activity for retirement. It helps keep the mind busy!"

A recent Guelph Mercury article commented "Maybe you think you missed the boat on playing a musical instrument, or let your former musical gifts lay dormant for too long, never to be rejuvenated. Think again!"

Brent Rowan is the musical director of the program which started 9 years ago. "It's mainly for retired people because we run it on Thursday morning at the Guelph Youth Music Centre," Rowan said. "What it gives them is a social experience and a learning experience with music. There are all of these studies that show music is good for our overall health and wellness - good for mind and body."

There are 3 levels of experience, and instruction is available in brass, woodwind and percussion. Inquire at music@nhbguelph.com or call 519-823-6532. Visit the group's website at www.nhbguelph.com.

Terry Peach

Recent Retirees

February 1, 2015

Shelia Attwell-Zinken	Hospitality Services
Wayne Brittenden	Hospitality Services
Mary Ann Camilleri	Hospitality Services
Deborah Susan Norton	Plant Agriculture
Jackie Rombeek	Campus Animal Facility
Lillian Wilson	Human Resources

March 1, 2015

Linda McKenzie-Cordick	CPES-Dean's Office
Rina Ranalli	Hospitality Services
Robert Yanchus	Physicsl Resources

April 1, 2015

Alan Gale	Office of the CIO
Pat Matz	Envir Health & Safety
Patrick Payne	CE-Open Learn Pgm
Jennifer Storey	Office of the CIO

Third Age Learning Lecture Series - Fall 2015
Arboretum Centre

The lecture series start on Wednesday, Sept 16 and run for 8 consecutive weeks, each Wednesday.

10:00 AM SERIES: UNDERSTANDING INDIA

The series gives an historical perspective, including partition, and then has separate lectures on Foreign Policy, The Economy, The Role of Women in India, Urbanization and Education, and The Political Structure . The concluding speaker will be Peter Sutherland, former High Commissioner to India.

1:30 pm Series:
THE HUMAN BRAIN AND ALL ITS DIMENSIONS

Starting with a lecture that will give basic information on how the brain functions, the series will look at the following topics: the effects of aging and drugs on the brain, differences in male and female brains, the effect of brain size, and music and the brain. We are also fortunate to have Barbara Arrowsmith Young, the author of "The Woman who Changed her Brain " for the Sept. 23 lecture.

NOTE: For the final list of lecture topics and information on fees, visit the Third Age Learning website at www.thirdagelearningguelph.ca.

Passings

Thomas F. Powers	Jan. 11, 2015
Guiliano Rossit	Jan. 12, 2015
Shirley Smith	Jan. 12, 2015
Peter Egelstaff	Jan. 18, 2015
William Russ Nellis	Jan. 19, 2015
William Steel	Feb. 5, 2015
Joan Budd	Feb. 14, 2015
John F. Cote	Feb. 16, 2015
John A. Eccles	Feb. 17, 2015
Margaret Hedley	Feb. 23, 2015
Ronald Thomas	March 3, 2015
Evelyn Asselstine	March 30, 2015
John Grant	April 4, 2015
Leslie Hosszu	April 4, 2015

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Retiree Donna Warner www.donnawarnerauthor.com and Gloria Ferris www.gloriaferris.com, had an informative visit with Rodger Tschanz, Technician and Sessional Lecturer with Plant Agriculture, on January 25, 2015 at the Bovey Greenhouse to view the two *Titan arum* (a.k.a. Corpse Flower plants) and a couple of tubers (baby plants) at the Bovey greenhouse. Gloria's second mystery, "Corpse Flower" includes a storyline that involves the *Titan arum* plant. Although not presently in the blooming stage, when it does bloom, this 8 – 21 foot high plant's odour has been described as that of a rotting corpse. Donna's debut suspense novella will be published later this year by Black Opal Books.

Rodger Tschanz, Gloria Ferris, and Donna Warner

Titan arum Photo: sarahzielinski.com

CURAC REPORT

CURAC has released a position paper on the costs and benefits of homecare in Canada. National and Provincial levels of government have been sent the paper for review, and responses are incoming.

CURAC is considering a coordinated response with CARP on pharmacare. There is also an ongoing discussion regarding conducting another benefits survey. Many of these have been conducted by CURAC; in light of universities' impending contraction, particularly in Ontario, perceived unfairness of public sector pensions, and ongoing shortfalls in public research support, further update of the benefits situation appears likely. Pensions and benefits will feature strongly in CURAC's May 2015 conference at Queen's University . All of these communications are (or will be) available on the GCURAC website: http://www.curac.ca

David Swayne

The UGRA Budget 2014-2015 Approved and Actual

	Approved	Actual
Total Receipts	**$10,250**	**$8,093**
Expenses		
Newsletter and Web	5,500	5,588
CURAC Membership	300	220
CURAC Conference	1,500	338
Scholarship	1,500	1,500
Bank Charges and PayPal Fees	20	22
Audit	60	100
Photocopy	50	0
Office Supplies and Miscellaneous	100	14
AGM	300	321
Fall Forum	500	427
Spring Forum	0	0
Total Expenses	**$9,830**	**8,530**
Surplus (Deficit)	**$420**	**($437)**

Proposed UGRA Budget for 2015/2016

Receipts	**$8,750**
Expenses	
Newsletter and Website	5,600
CURAC Membership	180
CURAC Conference	1,500
Scholarship	1,500
Bank Charges and PayPal Fees	35
Audit	60
Photocopy	50
Office Supplies and Miscellaneous	100
AGM	300
Fall Forum	500
Spring Forum	500
Total Expenses	**$10,325**
Surplus (Deficit)	**($1,575)**

The cost of sending a representative to the CURAC varies depending on the location. In 2014, the conference was in Hamilton at McMaster so the cost was low. However, in 2015, the conference is at Queens in Kingston so the cost will be higher.

UGRA is now accepting electronic contributions using PayPal. Therefore, we are incurring additional fees.

CURAC has changed how it is calculating our membership fee. It is now $0.75 per contributing member instead of the flat fee of $300.

For the past several years, the contributions from members has decreased. As well, the suggested contribution has not changed for at least 10 years. Therefore, a motion will be presented at the AGM to raise the suggested fee to overcome the deficit in the budget.

Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA

All retirees are automatically members of the University of Guelph Retirees Association, but our capacity to operate effectively on behalf of retirees depends on members volunteering to become contributing members. This money covers the cost of the newsletter and meeting room rentals for the AGM and the spring and fall forums. It also enables the UGRA to send a representative to the annual meeting of College and University Retiree Associations of Canada

Please use the attached form to send with your contributing membership payment. We have asked for a contribution of $20 but always appreciate those members who add some extra funds to help us carry on the work. The form has been revised to allow for donations to the UGRA Scholarship fund.

We have also provided a place on the form for those who might wish to contribute more actively to the UGRA by serving on the executive or by working on a committee or task group to carry out short-term projects.

University of Guelph Retirees Association (UGRA) Contributing Membership Form (2015-2016) and Scholarship Contribution Form

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

My contribution is $_____ Please make cheque payable to the University of Guelph Retirees Association (not eligible for a tax receipt).

☐ **YES!** I want to donate to the UGRA Scholarship fund to support an in-course student who is the child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a University of Guelph retiree.

My gift is $_____ Please make cheque payable to the University of Guelph or donate online at www.thebetterplanetproject.ca/donate (eligible for a tax receipt, charitable registration number 10816 1829 RR001).

Name .....

Address .....

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

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

(Please note that the email address is for UGRA communications only, unless a gift is made to the UGRA Scholarship.)

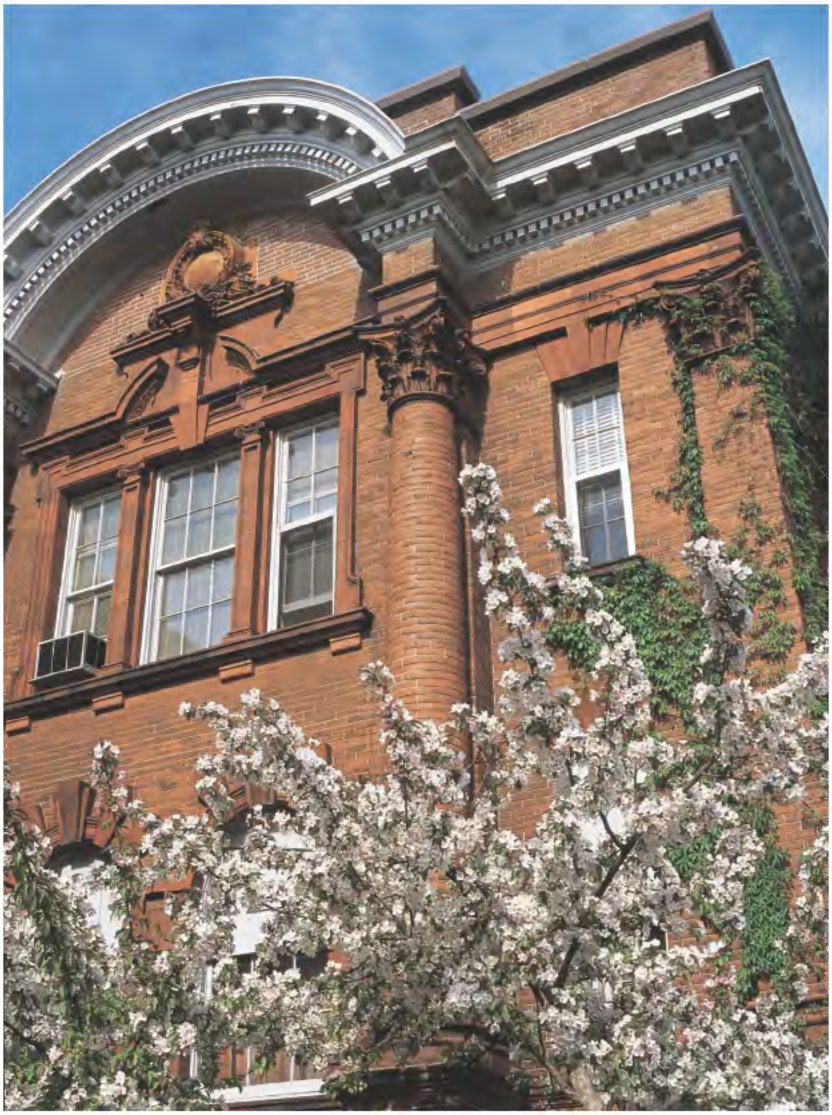
In that case, contact information will be shared with the University of Guelph to issue a charitable tax receipt.)

I would like to receive more information about:

☐ Serving on the executive of the UGRA or one of its committees
☐ UGRA Scholarship

University of Guelph Retirees Association
PO Box 48-4916
University of Guelph
Guelph Ontario, N1G 2W1

www.ugra.ca



The UGRA Executive Committee Needs Feedback

The UGRA Executive Committee acts on behalf of the interests of University of Guelph retirees. Without input from our members, we operate partly in a vacuum where we try to imagine what retirees see as important issues and concerns. To do our job well, we could use more information, so please take the opportunity to let us know what's on your mind.

Here are the ways you can contact us. Please provide your name, address and phone number. This will enable us to follow up on requests promptly.

By Email:
president@ugra.ca

Via the 'Contact Us' tab on the website:
www.ugra.ca

By Phone:
519-824-4120, Ext. 52197.
This is phone mail only, so please leave a message with your name and phone number.

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

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40064673

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO: ITEMS TO
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 4916
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CANADA N1G 2W1

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