

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are now at the mid-point in the operating year of the UGRA and in my mandate as President. Fall of 2015 was a busy time for the executive and I expect this will continue through this winter and into the spring. Some of what has been accomplished is highlighted in reports in this newsletter and I will comment on them only briefly.

One major change led by Kent Percival, our Vice-President, has been the development of a new web page for the Association using relatively new and simple software which will make it easier for us to keep you informed of what we are doing and items of interest. Our membership data base was tied to the old web page and we have now moved it to a stand-alone using Microsoft Access. This will make it much easier to ensure the privacy and security of the data base as well as to add information to it – see the update by Kent elsewhere in the newsletter. I would also like to reiterate that none of the information on our data base is shared with anyone else, including the university.

We also continue to monitor the situation with regard to Pension Benefits and in particular the ongoing negotiations among a number of universities in Ontario, including Guelph, to create a Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan (JSPP). Progress on this and a link to a web site where you can get updates is given in the article by Doug Badger, our UGRA representative on the Board of Governors Pension sub-Committee. Theoretically, if it is implemented, it should not affect the

pensions of all those who retired prior to the date that the university signs on. However, there are issues that we need to continue to monitor and we will keep you updated on the negotiations as they unfold.

The Fall Forum which focused on issues related to older drivers was very well attended and produced a lot of stimulating questions and discussion – see the report elsewhere. Planning for the Spring Forum on Thursday June 14 is now underway on a theme of “Financial Literacy”. We will have a panel of three experts who will discuss topics such as preventing fraud and identity theft, tax planning and managing debt, and estates and inheritance. The discussion will start as usual at 2:00 but we will have refreshments available from 1:15 to allow lots of time for people to come early and socialise before the start.

I would like to add my thanks all those retirees who contributed so generously to the United Way campaign – see report by Janet Kaufman – and to our UGRA Scholarship campaign. Thanks also to those of you who have made a membership contribution to the UGRA this year. We are now able to keep track of these contributions and will send out reminders each Fall. If you have not made a contribution please check the last page of the newsletter to see how to do this. If you are unsure as to whether you have already done this please send an email to secretary@ugra.ca and we can check this for you.

Robin Davidson-Arnott, President, UGRA



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Editor: Jamie Snell

www.ugra.ca

UGRA

UofG Fall Forum 2015

A very successful Fall Forum was held in early November, attended by many retired faculty and partners as well as by a small number of persons from Third Age Learning Guelph. Dr. Brenda Vrkljan of McMaster presented an informative lecture on the character and potential driving habits of elderly persons, based on studies of older drivers in Canada and abroad. Emphasizing that driving was an important element in modern social life and was central for most elderly remaining healthy and active in their community, she discussed the main characteristics and techniques of the CanDrive study of elderly driving. This is a study by occupational therapists using CIHR funding.

At the moment, the CanDrive study here and in Australia employs a five-year longitudinal examination of elderly drivers' physical and mental reaction times, linking drivers' ages and traffic records and using the results of cognitive testing. The drivers involved cover a broad social spectrum of age (70+), gender, residence and education. She showed a brief film of bad driving habits and concluded with the current results for low mileage drivers and higher mileage drivers.

Sgt. David Doxey of the Guelph Police Service then discussed typical driving errors of older drivers, emphasizing that traffic accidents for such drivers rises dramatically for most drivers after age 75.



Older drivers are less likely to be involved in traffic offences involving use of alcohol, night-time driving and/or speeding. On the other hand, older drivers are more likely to be involved in traffic accidents involving intersections, turning, stop signs, misjudging time and/or distance from objects, and remaining in designated lanes.

Sgt. Doxey brought the audience's attention to Ontario Bill 31, a crucial section of which will come into force on 1 January 2016. It requires that drivers must allow any pedestrian (who had legally entered an intersection walkway) to clear the entire walkway before proceeding. When questioners pointed out the potential problems in instances of particularly wide streets or where medians existed half-way across, Sgt. Doxey answered that police are seeking clarification of this section of the Bill. Further information may well be forthcoming.

Sgt. Doxey outlined the Ontario requirements for drivers aged 80 or more, involving renewal of their licenses. He also pointed out that the Ontario government tracks the accident records of drivers aged 70 or more, and that those records can result in warnings or more from the appropriate government agency. Finally, in response to another question it was pointed out that drivers education programmes exist in various communities for older drivers (comparable to such as Young Drivers of Canada) and that such retraining might affect one's insurance rates.

Accolades

Congratulations to **Keith Solomon** (Professor Emeritus, School of Environmental Sciences) and **John B. Sprague** (retired, Zoology) who were named as Fellows of the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.



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Annual Retirees' Social

Save the Date for the Annual Retirees' Social

Wednesday, August 31, 2016
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Reconnect with friends and learn about the exciting research, new buildings and other changes at the University of Guelph. There will also be an opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have about your retirement benefits.

Further details will be available in the Spring UGRA Newsletter.



University of Guelph Alumni Travel Program – Spring 2016

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. There are many unique travel opportunities planned for 2016 and 2017 — read on for more details!

Iceland Cruise

June 19-29, 2016, features a nine-night Iceland circumnavigation expedition cruise. The trip starts and ends in Reykjavik and stops in eight different cities in Iceland along the way. Explore the entire country!

Prague to Budapest

If you have always wanted to take a European River Cruise, we have an exciting opportunity for you! October 2-11, 2016, the Danube River Cruise from Prague to Budapest, features stops in



Schonbrunn Palace

Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and several UNESCO World Heritage sites. You will enjoy the cultural centres that inspired classical music's Grand Masters, as well as musical performances and a guided tour of Lobkowitz Palace with a private concert.

China/Tibet/Yangtze River Cruise

Also in October 2016, we offer a trip to China and Tibet with a cruise on the Yangtze River. Participants will enjoy a 14-day journey of mysterious China, a land of stunning beauty steeped in legend.

Plans for 2017 include an expedition to Antarctica in February, and to Australia and New Zealand in April. In October 2017, we have an exclusive University of Guelph trip to Africa (Namibia and Botswana) guided by Chris Earley, interpretive biologist at the Arboretum and a U of G alumnus.

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.

UGRA Spring Forum 2016

Topic: Financial Literacy: Your Money Matters

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016

Place: Arboretum Centre, University of Guelph

Program:

A panel discussion focusing on specific financial literacy topics applicable to seniors.

A banker to address: preventing financial abuse, fraud, identity theft, etc.

A lawyer to address: estates and inheritances, divorce, powers of attorney, probate, etc.

An accountant to address: tax planning, converting savings into income, managing debt, etc.

There is no fee for this event, but we will have a table set up to receive membership contributions.

Refreshments will start at 1:15 pm and the panel will start at 2:00 pm. Check the UGRA website for more details closer to the date of the Forum.

UofG Retirees Give \$62,999 to United Way

Thank you to all the generous University of Guelph retirees who contributed to U of G's most successful United Way campaign ever, raising over \$630,000, exceeding the goal by



75
YEARS

United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

more than \$20,000. Rich Moccia and Patricia Tersigni, co-chairs of the University of Guelph United Way Steering Committee, called the amount donated by retirees "amazing" and "humbling". Overall, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin's 2015 campaign raised over \$3.6 million, which will support 95 programs at 57 local agencies. This will allow social and community support programs to continue making our community a better place. To see how your donations are creating a stronger community, visit www.unitedwayguelph.com.

Janet Kaufman

*Retiree representative on the U of G UW Campaign
Steering Committee*

UGRA

Winter 2016

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Passings

Vladan Djurikovic	August 7, 2015
Liliana Ranalli	August 11, 2015
Bertram Reinhart	August 13, 2015
Joseph Geraci	September 10, 2015
Janet Brett	September 28, 2015
Ronald McLean	October 6, 2015
William Howitt	October 13, 2015
John Gregory	November 13, 2015
William Devorski	November 25, 2015
Mark Waldron	December 9, 2015
Elda Cecchin	December 12, 2015
Lois Lamble	December 15, 2015
Lloyd Ramsay	December 20, 2015



Pension Update

Do you know what Ontario's teachers, municipal employees, and hospital workers take for granted with University employees are missing? It's a multi-employer jointly sponsored pension plan (JSPP). Public sector workers in the aforementioned areas are members of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP), OMERS, and HOOP respectively.

The University sector is moving in this direction via a 'University Pension Project' led by the Council of Ontario Universities and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). The goal of the Project is to create a framework for a multi-employer jointly sponsored pension plan which an existing single-employer University sector may join.

A growing number of Ontario Universities (latest count = 10) are participating in the discussions. The project is being encouraged (and funded) by the Ontario government, and both labour and employer pension expertise has been retained. Guelph's participation includes the Faculty Association (UGFA), other bargaining groups and senior administrators.

The primary motivation for pursuing a JSPP is potential "solvency relief". Guelph's pension plans (and most of our fellow institutions) have much higher solvency deficits compared to 'going concern' funding requirements. Unfortunately the province is forcing employers with single-employer plans to

aggressively address their pension deficits using the more onerous solvency (wind-up) calculation.

Addressing the solvency deficit would require Guelph to contribute an additional several tens of millions of dollars a year – a figure that would impose a very heavy burden on the university budget. The primary benefit of joining a multi-employer JSPP is that this would not be a short-term requirement.

There are additional benefits and risks associated with the potential transition from single-employer plans to a multi-employer JSPP, but a full discussion is beyond the scope of this update.

The four-phase Pension Project (i.e. research, design, build, transition) has deliverables including the following:

- A consent mechanism that meets government requirements
- A communications/engagement plan
- An implementation plan

The Pension Project web-site, being maintained by OCUFA, will have the most current information as the project progresses. Once a consensus design framework for the new pension plan is achieved, each University will determine whether they will proceed to the next phase. Stay tuned for further news.

N.B. It is important to note that pension benefits already earned and pensions currently being paid are guaranteed under law never to be reduced, thus our current pensions would not be affected.

D. Douglas Badger

Current News of Retirees

Dana Paramskis (SOLAL) has been working for some time with two colleagues on an app for the iPhone called *Francofone*. It is a multimedia program (visual, text and audio) for vocabulary and culture in French, aimed at people who might like to brush up on their rusty French skills. The levels are from advanced basic to intermediate, with a few examples at a higher level. It is now available via iTunes for \$2.99 US. It is really friendly, as in offering all sorts of help and clues to reach the right answer. So more like a game rather than a dull learning exercise.

Donna Warner (Centre for Toxicology) has a debut mystery thriller, *Targeted*, published by Black Opal Books in eBook and paperback. It is now available to order from Amazon.ca <http://tinyurl.com/o9votoo>

Summer Lectures Club

Several Third Age Learning members, with help from some University of Guelph retirees, have planned an eclectic series of lectures for the warm summer months. The lectures will be held at Trinity United Church Hall, 400 Stevenson St. N, Guelph at 9.30 am for 10 am on alternate Thursday mornings starting March 10th 2016. You are invited to register for the series at <http://www.summerlecturesclub.ca> or call 226-790-3889 (phone mail only), please leave a message with your name and phone number.

- March 10th** **How to be plugged into the digital world—and not be overwhelmed by it all**
Julian Sale, Summer Lectures Club member
- March 24th** **Pollinator insects, the challenges they face, *plus* Habitat for pollinators and what we can do to support them**
Peter Kevan and Vernon Thomas, University of Guelph
- April 7th** **Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) committed to saving the thousands of birds that fly into high-rise buildings and other man-made structures**
Paloma Plant, program coordinator
- April 21st** **A walk on the wild side: 30 days walking across the Kalahari Desert and interactions with the indigenous San people**
Alastair Summerlee, University of Guelph
- May 5th** **University of Guelph's Ornamental Plant Trial Program**
Roger Tschanz, University of Guelph
- May 19th** **The 2 kilometre deep Sudbury Neutrino Observatory and the experiments that led to the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics**
Robin Ollerhead, University of Guelph
- June 2nd** **"Mermaids, Myths, Monsters and Man" — our relationship to marine mammals and how they have contributed to our evolution**
Keith Ronald, University of Guelph
- June 16th** **The Origin of Humans: Fossil Discoveries. This includes the romantic story of a possible new species of early hominid, *Homo Naledi*, found in 2013 in a cave 75 kilometres north-west of Johannesburg, South Africa**
Sergi Lopez Torres, University of Toronto
- June 30th** **The microbial community in our gut and why we need to nurture it**
Emma Allen-Vercoe, University of Guelph
- July 14th** **Another walk on the wild side! 900 kilometres to the South Pole**
Ian Evans, Adventurer and Explorer from Elora

July 28, and August 11 topics to be announced



Recent Retirees

September 1 2015

Valerie Allen	Hospitality & Tourism
James Brett	Office of CIO
Richard Jordan	Arboretum
Douglas Joy	School of Engineering
Kristine Mooney	Office of CIO
Gary Parkin	Land Resource Science
Trevor Smith	Animal Biosciences
Roselynn Stevenson	Molecular/Cell Biology
Robert Witherspoon	Turfgrass Institute

October 1 2015

William Anderson	Physical Resources
Ken Kerr	Phys. Resources
Bruno Mancini	Student Accessibility Services
Brian McIntosh	Kemptville
Antonette Pellizzari	CBS - Dean's Office
Donna Sartori	Office of CIO
Terry Sikkes	Phys. Resources
Dave Zadro	CCS

November 1 2015

Susan Dobberthein	Physical Resources
Deborah Hilborn	Plant Agriculture
John Jordan	Ridgetown
Susan Lollis	FRAN
Alina Stryjecki	Pathobiology
Susan Wi-Afedzi	CCS

December 1 2015

Hal Brown	Kemptville
Marilyn Hahn	UC Administration
Thomas Kendall	Athletics

January 1 2016

Jnanankur Bag	Molecular/Cell Biology
Mark Baker	Chemistry
Kathryn Douglas	Counselling
Glen Filson	Envir. Design & Rural Dev.
Richard Green	Physical Resources
Mansell Griffiths	Food Science
Kathy Hanneson	COA - Dean's Office
Lynn Henry	LSD - Animal Health
Judy L. Kerr	Academic Programs
Don Kitchen	OMAFRA Research
Brian McBride	Animal Biosciences
Richard Roth	LSD - Animal Health
Victoria Tremblay	Alumni Affairs
Laurent Viel	Clinical Studies

Third Age Learning - Winter, 2016 Arboretum Centre

10 A.M. How we got Here from There...
**A whirlwind Tour of English
Canadian Literature**
Gary Draper
University of Waterloo

January 13 - Where We Are Now, Part 1

Canadian writing is thriving in the twenty-first century. In the first session we'll consider two very different but equally interesting contemporary Canadian writers.

January 20 - Literary Ancestors

Two of the most obvious aspects of early Canadian writing are the documentary mode and a taste for satire and humour. The second session will focus on a memoir of settlement from the nineteenth century and a gentle satire of small town life from the twentieth.

January 27 - Canadian Voices

In the first half of the twentieth century, Canadian novelists and short story writers began to create works of fiction that expressed the spirit of a young country in all its regional variety.

February 3 - Regional Variations

In post-war Canada, writers from one end of the country to the other were continuing to explore a variety of themes and beginning to play with aesthetic conventions.

February 10 - The Great Canadian Novel(s)

Just before and after Canada's centennial year, Canadian writing began to blossom, and to attract a much wider readership.

February 17 - Confidently Canadian

By the latter part of the twentieth century, Canadians were producing work in both prose and poetry that was internationally recognized and was also unselfconsciously rooted in its own local soil.

February 24 - First Nations Stories

In recent years a number of writers with First Nations backgrounds have gained a wide readership; but First Nations people have been telling their stories since time immemorial.

March 2 - Where We Are Now, part 2

Readers of Canadian fiction often have a hard time choosing what to read among a host of excellent young writers. We'll close by looking at two of the best.

1:30 P.M. The Lasting Impact of the Ottoman Empire

**January 13 - The Emergence of the Ottoman Empire: from
Islamic, Turkic, Mongol, Byzantine predecessors to the
1st Siege of Vienna, 16th century**
Renee Worringer, University of Guelph

**January 20 - The Later Centuries of the Ottoman Empire:
1600-1914**
Renee Worringer, University of Guelph

**January 27 - Geography, Governance, and God; the
Ottoman Difference**
Virginia Aksan, McMaster University

February 3 - Middle East, Persia, and the Arabian Peninsula
Frank Castiglione, University of Michigan

**February 10 - The Ottoman Black Sea and the Tatar Steppes,
the Ukrainian Cossacks, and the Origins of the
Ottoman-Polish-Russian Rivalries, 1450-1700 (**
Victor Ostapchuk, University of Toronto

**February 17 - The First World War... and Division of
Territory**
Curran Egan, McMaster University

February 24 - 100 Years of Turmoil
Marion Boulby, Trent University

March 2 The Politics of "Muslim democracy" in Turkey
Maja Catic, Canadian Forces College

NOTE: These are the speakers confirmed at the time the newsletter was printed. For the final list of lecture topics and information on fees, visit the Third Age Learning website at www.thirdagelearningguelph.ca.

Grand River Cruise?

UGRA is making tentative plans for a special activity, a dinner cruise on the Grand River from Caledonia to Brantford and return (total of about 40 Km and taking about 3.5 hours. The cost for the cruise and dinner would be about \$50.00 per person (cash bar available). If there is enough interest, UGRA will also arrange bus transport from Guelph to Caledonia and back at a modest extra cost. UGRA is thinking that a talk on the Six-Nations history and recent issues would be educational during the cruise and possibly some music, too. For information on Grand River Cruises please look at www.grandrivercruises.ca. The UGRA executive would like an expression of interest (no obligation, of course) so please let us know with a return message to Peter Kevan. (pkevan@uoguelph.ca)

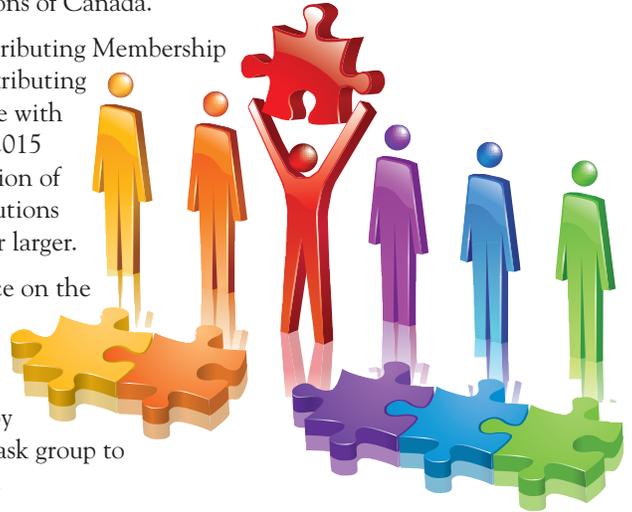


Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA (2016-2017)

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 Contributing Membership Form to send with your Contributing Membership payment. In line with the resolution passed at the 2015 AGM we suggest a contribution of \$25 but we welcome contributions of any size whether smaller or larger.

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 Contributing Membership (2016-2017) and Scholarship Contributing 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 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

Volunteer! UGRA is a voluntary organisation and we are always looking for people to help — would you like to receive more information about serving on the Executive of the UGRA or on one of its committees?:

YES NO MAYBE LATER (Please Circle One)

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: <http://www.ugra.ca>



Strategic Renewal Initiative

The University has launched a strategic renewal project, in part because so many of the senior administrators are relatively new to the Guelph campus and seek to develop ideas about the directions in which they should be taking the University. Phase 1 of the project began in the Fall of 2015 with a number of community consultations — small group discussions, facilitated conversations and various forms of online engagement. As part of this phase of the project the UGRA Executive Committee met with Dr. Kerry Daly in November.

The input from Phase 1 will be summarized into a number of overarching themes. In Phase 2 these themes will be explored by working groups with the expectation of creating a final set of recommendations by the end of March 2016. From these recommendations a Strategic Renewal Plan will be drafted to guide the evolution of the University over the next five to ten years. It is expected that the entire process will be completed by the end of June.

All members of the University community, including retirees, are invited to attend any of the open meetings and/or to join the discussion at #Charting the Path. The project is explained at <http://strategicrenewal.uoguelph.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.

By Email:

president@ugra.ca

Via the 'Contact Us' tab on the website:

www.ugra.ca

By Phone:

519-824-4120 x52197. This is phone mail only, so please leave a message with your name and phone number.

By Letter:

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

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