Sure, as retirees, when the summer draws to an end, we aren’t forced to go back to classes, but have you noticed how we still seem to gear up for new activities as the leaves begin to turn? That’s just my way of saying that UGRA has a lot going on and many things coming up that we hope you will find interesting.

Looking back just a little, many of you had a chance in late August to attend President Franco Vaccarino’s Retirees Social, held in the McLaughlin Library. We had a chance to tour the building and admire new renovations that accommodate not only shelves of books and study spaces, but also provide places where students can use the latest technology to access information for their studies. Several Special Collections have new housing and display areas, and overall the Library looks a bit different than I recall – the coffee shop right inside the entrance for one thing! The Retirees Social gave a chance to meet and catch up with old friends, as well as see how our campus continues to grow and develop.

UGRA much appreciates the willingness of members of the Administration to keep retirees up-to-date with what’s going on at the University. In June, between Convocation ceremonies, Provost Charlotte Yates took time to attend the UGRA Annual General Meeting in the Arboretum Centre to fill us in on the University’s strategic priorities and innovation activities. Vice-President External Daniel Arlin and the staff in Alumni Affairs and Development have provided great help and advice in the past year as we work to strengthen the close ties that retirees have with the University of Guelph. We are frequently reminded that all retirees are considered to be Alumni! UGRA is grateful for this support.

We are also pleased that the generosity of retirees clearly demonstrates the close ties we have with the University. The UGRA Scholarship fund is now fully endowed and continues to grow. This not only means there is financial aid to a deserving student who is a child or grandchild of a retiree, but because the awards are no longer paid out of UGRA’s annual operating budget, members’ contributions can now be applied to other projects and programs. But please do keep contributing to both the Scholarship and to UGRA as both student fees and our own expenses keep increasing. The 2018 Campus United Way Campaign has also begun, another place where the impact of retirees is significant in supporting the wider Guelph community… Please and Thanks!

A bit more on the subject of money, we also very much appreciate those of you who are “Contributing Members” of UGRA – giving us $25 a year (and sometimes more!) to support the activities we plan and carry out. Those donations support things like the rental, organization and refreshments for our Fall and Spring Forums and Annual General Meeting, as well as communication and website expenses. We encourage and thank you for your contributions!

UGRA represents all retirees of the University of Guelph, and we can do a better job if YOU participate with us. One thing we have been looking at is how to keep in touch with retirees, and we can only do that with your help. Let us know if your address or email changes and encourage other retirees (new and old) to keep in touch with UGRA. Our website www.ugra.ca provides information between newsletters, and we are experimenting with occasional email “blasts” for things we hope you won’t want to miss. The coming year will be busy! Our Fall Forum is scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday,
UGRA Fall Forum

Campanion Animals and You

At the Arboretum Centre
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Doors Open: 1:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing
Program: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Please note that a service dog may be present

Themes and Speakers

The Bello Project: Strengthening the Human/Animal Bond and How You Can Help with Tracey Robertson, Co-Founder and CEO of Home Hospice Association
www.HomeHospiceAssociation.com

The Guelph Humane Society; Overview and Opportunities with Debora Lobbezoo, Director of Development, the Guelph Humane Society

The St John Ambulance Therapy Dogs Program; History, Mandate and Function with Sid Gratton, Assistant Coordinator
Facilities, St John Ambulance Therapy Dogs, Hamilton

Roz Stevenson, President, UGRA

UGRA Fall Forum

Recent Retirees

June 1, 2018
Joyce Buck  Int. Biology
Eric Giesel  Phys. Res. Custodial
Kenneth Hough  AVP Agrifood
Marlene Oliveri  Office of the CIO
Helen Remigis  BA Counselling Office
Karen Richardson  Population Medicine
Tannis Slimmon  SC Greenhouse

July 1, 2018
Sharon Beach  Student Finance
Alan Filewood  Engl & Theatre Studies
Stephane Hayes  RC Cont. Education
John McLeod  Student Housing Serv.
Donna Reimer  Admissions
Angela Schmidt  Library TUG

August 1, 2018
Ingrid Alexy-Ferrede  OVC HSC COO Office
Joachim Barth  Hosp. & Tourism Mgmt.
Lisa Borghese  PR/SHS Environmental
Susan Mannhardt  Biodiversity Inst.
Dennis Watson  Campus Comm. Police
Yvonne Yates  Engl. & Theatre Studies

September 1, 2018
Lorne Bennet  Geography
Michael Boterman  History
Stephen Bowley  Plant Agriculture
Doug Campbell  Pathobiology
Chris Duiker  Phy. Res. Structural
Patricia Flood  Engl. & Theatre Studies
Hung Lee  Env. Science
Ruth MacDonald  Hosp. Services
Beverly McEwen  LSD – Animal Health Lab.
Rick McNabb  OVC HSC Clinical Sup.
Eva Nagy  Pathobiology
Michael Ridley  Office of the CIO
David Robinson  Biomedical Sciences
Alan Sullivan  Plant Agriculture
Gloria Weirmier  Phys. Res. Custodial

October 1, 2018
Fernanda Clark  OVC Dean’s Office
Linda Damaren  Office of the CIO
David Glenn  Phys. Res. CUP
Janet Mersey  Geography
2018 Annual General Meeting

On June 14 UGRA members met at the Arboretum Centre for our Annual General Meeting. The University Provost and Vice President (Academic) Charlotte Yates addressed the meeting, giving a wide-ranging talk on The Bright Future of the University of Guelph – Academic, Administrative and Fiscal Visions. The AGM agenda, draft minutes and a summary of Dr. Yates’ address are available on the UGRA website www.ugra.ca under the “About Us” and then the “UGRA Annual General Meetings” tabs. At the business meeting, reports were given, the year’s accomplishments and new plans presented and the Executive Committee members were elected/acclaimed:

Officers:
President - Roz Stevenson
Vice President - Vikki Tremblay
Secretary - Janis Randall Simpson
Treasurer - Glenn White
Past President - Peter Kevan

Members-at-Large:
Doug Badger
Charlotte McCallum
Dana Paramskas
Kent Percival
Frances Sharom
Sue Wi-Afedzi
One other member to be selected by the Executive

With thanks to all.

Charlotte McCallum

UofG President’s Social

On August 29 a good number of UGRA members met at McLaughlin Library to enjoy some time with each other, indulge in some delightful refreshments, and to hear a presentation by Franco Vaccarino, the university’s recently reappointed President and host of the occasion. He spoke on the university’s current Strategic Framework and its “Path Forward.” Of special importance to him are themes of Internationalization and Sustainability. Practical emphasis is also given to Diversity and Inclusion. Readers may be familiar with the university’s slogan “To Improve Life” and know that it is often referred to as “Canada’s Food University.” The contributions of retirees to the United Way Campaign, the UGRA Scholarship and CURAC were acknowledged. Roz Stevenson, UGRA’s new President, then spoke on our accomplishments, plans and social activities.

We then toured some of the newly renovated spaces of the library, which turns 50 years old this year and now holds 1.3 million volumes. Many improvements have been made to increase seating capacity and to access online and other resources. The new carpeting and coffee shop are attractive amenities.

Charlotte McCallum

Another Year - No Pension Indexation Increase

As all UofG pension recipients (should) know, our pension plan has some “cost-of-living” indexation provisions. The common description of this provision is “CPI-2%”. What may be confusing to some retirees is the current “headline” CPI percentage (3% as of July) which computes the difference between the most recent month and the index reading for that same month last year.

The actual calculation for UofG’s plan is quite complex, and is based on the 12 month period from May 1 to April 30. The complexity arises from comparing the average CPI for each month in the current fiscal year compared to the average index for the prior year. For the fiscal year ending April/18 the calculation equals 1.68% (verified with Human Resources), and therefore there is no indexation increase in our pensions this year.

Doug Badger

UGRA
CURAC Conference in Guelph - May 22-24, 2019

CURAC is the College and University Retirees Association of Canada, and their annual meeting of retiree group delegates from across the country is being hosted by UGRA at the University, May 22-24, 2018. While the conference will have its board meetings and sessions on best practices for retiree associations, the real highlights will be much more exciting! We hope many UGRA members might want to attend as registered attendees to the whole conference, to an open reception, or to a session. Why come? Well, our overall theme is “Healthy Aging” and several sessions will have speakers on many aspects of that topic, highlighting research at Guelph on food, gut health, pets, sexual health, and age-friendly cities. Special events will include a reception at the Art Gallery of Guelph, the CURAC Banquet at the Arboretum – with a famous guest speaker and guitar (NOT Elvis)! - and a visit to the Library Archives to see the L.M. Montgomery, Culinary History, Canadian Theatre, and Scottish Studies Collections.

Passings

Charlotte Allan May 19, 2018
Wilda Blacklock July 7, 2018
Donald Cunningham September 3, 2018
Richard Goy August 5, 2018
Jaromir Hurnik June 10, 2018
Harry Hurwitz August 4, 2018
E. May James July 1, 2018
Patricia Keeler June 26, 2018
Douglas Mast August 11, 2018
Gisela Molyneux June 4, 2018
Marie Rossit July 8, 2018
Alice Sim June 14, 2018
Colette Mary Tracy June 9, 2018
Thorald (Sandy) Warley September 10, 2018
Betty C. Weiler September 10, 2018
Nonita Yap May 19, 2018

Information about the conference schedule and registration will be posted shortly on the UGRA website and the CURAC webpage. A great thing to know is that your registration fee of $185 covers continental breakfasts, coffee breaks, lunches, and the Arboretum banquet – all by the University of Guelph’s renowned and excellent Food Services. You’ll want to be here!

CURAC Award Recipient Jan Kaufman

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For members of the University of Guelph Retirees Association

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Fall 2018
Hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to our 17-day China trip, departing October 6, 2019. I am now accepting bookings. Only 40 spots are available, so don’t delay! Please use the following email for your booking: victoria.tremblay@transat.com

To see the video again, here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrZooJbIFKU

Here are the full cost details, in Canadian dollars:

- $5,779 per couple, or $2,889.50 per person, based on double occupancy
- If traveling single, add $1,050 for the single supplement
- $180 per person for China Visa processing, to be arranged by Nexus
- $210 per person for prepaid gratuities
- $56.50 per person for booking administration fee

The above costs include:

- Return international airfares from Toronto/Vancouver, airport taxes, and transfers
- All transportation (internal flights, cruise, coach)
- All deluxe hotel accommodation (based on double occupancy)

- Meals, featuring regional delicacies mentioned in the itinerary
- All visits and admission fees, including entertainment shows mentioned in the itinerary
- English speaking guide
- Chinese Visa Application fees for multiple entries: $180 per person
- Prepaid tips and gratuities: $210 per person for entire trip

Not included are:

- Travel insurance (I will provide quotes for Manulife Travel Insurance upon request for full travel and medical coverage to protect your investment)
- Personal expenditures
- Additional optional excursions, such as to the Panda House ($40 per person)

Payment Terms:

Our tour company is Nexus Holidays, which will allow us to make monthly payments. A down payment of $300 per person is to be paid at booking. A further $1,200 is due by April 1, 2019. The balance is due three months prior to departure (that is, by July 6, 2019). Happy Fall!

Vikki Tremblay
Did You Know?

UGRA members include all retirees of the university, whether those drawing a monthly pension or those who retired and took their pension as commuted value. However, especially for the latter, we may not have your contact information through the usual channels. Don’t hesitate to get in touch to provide this!

The U of G Gryphon Statue on Gordon Street has achieved icon status! Commissioned to help celebrate the university’s 50th anniversary, it was created by a team of art professors and students in honour of the school’s various sports teams. It bears a close resemblance to Lewis Carroll’s gryphon in Alice in Wonderland, illustrated by John Tenniel. Indeed, a toast is in order!

Third Age Learning Guelph

On Wednesdays the Arboretum Centre is the venue for what promises to be a very interesting set of lectures until November 7. The Morning Series is themed “Write Now: English-Canadian Fiction in the Twenty-First Century; the Afternoon Series is “ON and OFF the BEATEN PATH.” Go to www.thirdagelearningguelph.ca or call 226-790-1339 for more information.

Also at the Arboretum Centre

Apart from UGRA’s own events, the Arboretum hosts many interesting activities for the university and beyond and for all ages. In all seasons, it is a true treasure of nature and culture. To find out what’s on, explore the website at https://uoguelph.ca/arboretum/
Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA (2019)

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, our informative website, and our various functions throughout the year. While membership in UGRA is free, we depend almost entirely on voluntary financial contributions from you, our members, to finance the Newsletter, room rentals, refreshments and other operating expenses. Our board members offer their time and talents freely, on top of their financial contributions. A contribution of even $25 from you would go so far towards sustaining UGRA so we can supporting continue to work on your behalf. Please use the form below or make a contribution at the next event.

University of Guelph Retirees Association Contributing Membership (2019) 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....................................... 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

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

Mark Your Calendars!

• Fall Forum: Thursday, November 15, 2018, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Arboretum Centre
(Please note there will be no Spring Forum in 2019)
• CURAC Conference: (at UoG) May 22-24, 2019, location TBA

Classified Ads
Do you have something to sell, rent, buy, or announce for the Winter edition of the Newsletter? For a modest price, you may purchase space for a classified advertisement by contacting the editor (see the contact info on p. 8). You may also purchase a larger box or banner for commercial purchases. The deadline for the Winter edition is early February, 2019.
The United Way Campaign

Hi there UGRA friends! We welcome you to join us for another exciting University of Guelph United Way campaign! In 2017, we met and exceeded our goal, and we have high hopes for another successful year that will raise $620,000… and Beyond in 2018! Our 2018 Campaign Kick-Off was a resounding success, filled with music, food, entertainment and, more importantly, a collection of people who wish to make a positive difference in their community. From cook-offs to raffles mixed with laughter and care, there’s so much going on around campus – we’d love to see you here!

It would be frightening if you missed College Idol on October 31st, the University of Guelph’s Got Talent event! A hot lunch and a cauldron of homegrown entertainment, come dressed in your Halloween best for this spook-tacular time! Email Stephanie at scraig02@uoguelph.ca for tickets! Our United Way Closing Lunch on December 3rd will celebrate the shared commitment toward our common goals of improving lives in our own community, highlighting the outstanding generosity and contributions generated by this campaign each year. Email Julie at jhutchin@uoguelph.ca for tickets! But wait… there’s more. A Time to be Grapeful on March 21, 2019 is an exclusive Ontario wine tasting and food pairing fundraising gala. Come cultivate your own wine tasting expertise at this can’t miss event of the year! Email Garrett at mayg@uoguelph.ca for tickets!

YOU are the reason we can make such a positive contribution year over year. We cannot wait to see you there!

Your United Way Steering Committee

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: president@uga.ca

By using the ‘Contact Us’ tab on the UGRA website: www.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

The United Way
Guelph Wellington Dufferin

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