

RAQ *news*



Another AGM is just past, this time the sixth. The attendance was most gratifying, and feedback during the luncheon indicated that the two issues that kept RAQ particularly occupied in 2007-2008 were important to members.

The first was concern about changes proposed in the operation of the Pension Committee – a committee that has so well served the interests of active and retired faculty and staff. RAQ's Pension and Benefits Committee believed these changes would reduce the influence and initiative of the Pension Committee and transfer more decision-making to the Board of Trustees, which is responsible for university finances as a whole. A great deal of work went into this issue. Many meetings, phone calls, drafts of letters, etc. were involved, especially on the part of Bill Wright. Largely due to his diplomatic yet firm efforts, we still have a Pension Committee able to act on our behalf. *(Please see Bill's report on page 2.)*

The other issue relates to the Academic Partnership between Queen's and RAQ. The working group, headed by Henry Dinsdale, met several times with representatives from Administration. As presented at the AGM, a still-developing description of the partnership lists its purpose, objectives, administration and resources. It will be interesting to see how this partnership evolves. Although initially only a few faculty

to it that we enjoyed both financial and administrative support for RAQ operations, the Monday Morning Forums and the Human History of Queen's project. We are very grateful. I hope we can maintain such a positive relationship with interim Principal Tom Williams.

Presidential News and Views

Some Views Now, a few thoughts on voluntarism, defined as "the principle of relying on volunteer action rather than compulsion." Where would RAQ be without the volunteer efforts of its Executive and Council, Committees, and general members? Many thanks to all who were involved in RAQ activities over the past year – many people and many hours.

RAQ members, including those on Council, are highly active as well in community volunteering – for example, in charitable organizations such as the Seniors Centre or those related to health, nature, culture, or civic matters. Most of us who volunteer find it satisfying and enjoyable. It provides structure to retirement, a sense of purpose, and an opportunity to meet new people.

Volunteering can also provide challenge and adventure. We recently received interesting information from a new NGO about volunteer opportunities in the developing world for retired university staff and faculty. Check out Academics for Higher Education and Development (www.ahed-upesed.org) for more information and a description of projects underway. AHED assists with capacity-building in higher education in

Retiree appointed Principal

See AGM coverage – page 3

and staff may be directly involved, I believe it is to the benefit of us all to have this kind of formal relationship with and support from the University. *(For more news and photos from the AGM, see pages 2, 3 and 4.)*

Speaking of support, former Principal Karen Hitchcock certainly will be missed by the Retirees' Association. She was a pleasure to work with and saw

developing countries and supports projects related to both academic and non-academic aspects of tertiary education. It strikes me as a good fit for the expertise vested in retirees such as ourselves who've had careers in this field.

ARLENE AISH *President*

Pension and Benefits Committee Report

Score one for retirees – and cautious optimism

In late January we provided you with a copy of a letter regarding the Queen's Pension Plan that RAQ had sent to William Young, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

In this letter, we expressed our strong opposition to some proposed changes in the operation of the existing Pension Committee. Reaction to this letter from a significant number of RAQ members was universally favourable.

Mr. Young acknowledged receipt, and in a second letter he again thanked us for our input, clearly stated that the intent of any change was not to usurp any Pension Committee responsibilities, and praised the Pension Committee for its excellent history in investment returns as well as in balancing the best interests of plan members and the University. He also expressed a hope that ongoing discussions would result in a mutually satisfactory solution.

Since that time, further meetings of both the

Pension Committee and the Board of Trustees have been held. I can now report that although documents are still being drafted, the original plan to create a new Board Advisory Committee on Pensions has been abandoned. The proposed constitution for the existing Pension Committee would seem to be a positive development for all plan members. At its meeting in early March, the Board of Trustees discussed these governance issues, and it would seem that the problems are being addressed in a positive manner.

We are very pleased to report that Bill Cannon has agreed to carry on in his role of chairing the Pension Committee. He is highly respected by all parties, and no doubt will continue to work effectively for all plan members.

As retirees, you will have received a letter from the University that outlines the current situation in somewhat greater detail. As final drafts are prepared, RAQ's Pension and Benefits Committee is to be fully involved. When matters are finalized, we will keep you informed. It is your committee's hope that our current cautious optimism will continue to prove to have been justified.

BILL WRIGHT *Chair*



At the AGM (l-to-r) President Arlene Aish reports; Communications Chair John Gordon (2nd right) listens; Past President Joyce Zakos nominates.

Registrar offers special help to retiree 'students'

Thanks to the advocacy of RAQ and a special committee headed by Past-President Joyce Zakos, any retired faculty or staff member who feels an urge to go back on campus as a student will find a warmer welcome in the Registrar's Office from now on. With the support and endorsement of the Faculty of Arts and Science and Vice-Principal (Academic) Patrick Deane, Registrar Jo-Anne Brady has announced a new and simplified admission process for retirees who want to study for an undergraduate B.A. or B.Sc. credit.

Previously, retiree applicants, even those with

one or two university degrees, had to provide their high school records – a near impossibility after 45 years or more. Negotiations for a simplified procedure were initiated while Joyce was still president and have involved Dan Soberman and Christiane Fleig-Hamm for RAQ and Brenda Ravenscroft, Associate Dean (Studies), for the Faculty of Arts and Science.

If you wish to be admitted to a course for credit, please contact Stuart Pinchin, Associate Registrar (Undergraduate Admission), in Gordon Hall. He will facilitate what Ms Brady calls "a streamlined individual-based admission process."

Taking care of Business: RAQ's 6th AGM

New Principal confesses failure

The applause was warm and the moment was historic when RAQ President Arlene Aish launched the 6th Annual General Meeting on April 28 by calling upon Queen's new Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Tom Williams. The welcome came from the many friends and admirers he has earned among the 90 members present during his 30 years and multiple careers with



Queen's. In fact, he saluted many of them by name when citing the wealth of human resources available to him in RAQ. And historically, he's the first Professor Emeritus named to the post in 166 years. He opened with a disarming confession. "I should never have been accepted at Queen's," he quipped, "because I've already flunked three retirements." [He has been Dean of Education, Vice-Principal (both Operations & Finance and Institutional Relations), Professor and Acting Director, School of Policy Studies.] Details of his appointment, with past and current involvements with Queen's and Kingston, are on the University's Web site. Follow the links to Administration.

He made it clear that any reference to him as a "caretaker principal" would be "dead wrong," since he intends to move Queen's forward in every possible way during his term of office. RAQ was gratified that his attendance at the AGM was one of his first public appearances in the new role, just three days before taking office. His promise to keep the Principal's Office supportive of RAQ was clearly heard, as was his intention to draw on retirees' expertise and good will at such a crucial time for the University's future.



Keep it going, please

Joy Hoselton (Membership) reported that membership is holding steady at just above 500 and that many recent membership renewals arrived with notes of appreciation for the work done by Bill Wright and others on the Pension and Benefits Committee to preserve members' best interests. (See page 2.) Since there is such strength in numbers, the President appealed to current members to talk up RAQ to their friends and try to recruit new members from among their former colleagues.



Time to pay up! Membership Chair Joy Haselton (right) accepted lunch money and membership fees from 90 AGM attendees at the University Club.

That evolving 'Partnership'

At its meeting preceding the AGM, Council put its stamp of approval on a document entitled *An Academic Partnership of Retirees and Queen's University*. It was distributed at the AGM and posted on the Web site (<http://www.queensu.ca/retirees/Projects/AcademicPartnership.html>). This document reflects Council's thoughts about the *Statement of Intent* signed with the University last November and published in the newsletter at that time. Both parties are proceeding with discussions, and your Council invites comments and suggestions. Those without Web access can write to Joy Hoselton at the RAQ office or call her at 613-533-6986 for a printed copy of the new document.

Patrick Deane, V-P Academic, and Alistair MacLean, Dean of Arts and Science, have been the University spokesmen in these deliberations, while RAQ is represented by Henry Dinsdale, John Meisel, Arlene Aish, Alison Morgan and George Brandie.

(Were you wondering about the naming contest announced in the last issue? It is postponed until the partnership is better defined.)

2008-9 Executive and Council



These are the members of RAQ's Executive and Council present for the 6th AGM. FRONT ROW, l-to-r: Councillor Pat Bogstad, Past-President Joyce Zakos, President Arlene Aish, Founding President John Meisel (Partnership group) and Secretary Bruce Hutchinson. STANDING: Councillors David Bonham (Finance), Barbara Aitken (Treasurer), Joy Hoselton (Membership & Admin. Assistant), Bob Smithies (new electee), Henry Dinsdale (Partnership), Jim Kelly (Events), Vice-President George Brandie (CURAC and Web site) and John Gordon (Communications). ABSENT: Mary Balanchuk, Alan Green (Finance), Bill Wright (Pensions & Benefits), and new electees Barrie Frost, Susan Miklas and Cherrilyn Yalin. (Photo by George Zakos)

Council comings and going

Warm thanks were expressed to three people wrapping up their terms as RAQ Councillors. Chuck Campling has served loyally since April 2004, and he intends to keep on attending the monthly lunches, with his wife Laura, and mingling there with old RAQ friends. Juliet Milsome has served for three years, at the same time putting her love of music and art to work for the Events Committee – as she'll continue to do. Jerry Roddy, a Councillor since December '06, will go on organizing the monthly lunches, appreciated and attended by about 20 people each outing.

Because of a vacancy last year, there are now four new Councillors, not three, nominated by Joyce Zakos' committee in accordance with RAQ's policy of equal representation from faculty and staff. Bob

Smithies (ex-Physiology) and Cherrilyn Yalin (ex-History of Medicine) are the new staff Councillors. New faculty members are Barrie Frost (Psychology) and Susan Miklas (Law). Six members were re-elected to two-year terms: Mary Balanchuk, George Brandie (Vice-President and Web manager), Henry Dinsdale (Partnership group), John Gordon (Communications), Alan Green (Finance) and Bruce Hutchinson (Secretary).

President Aish also had kind words for a not-yet-member, Gerry Pynenberg, who'll retire soon from Printing Services. She cited not only his courteous and efficient facilitating of RAQ's newsletter, but also his above-and-beyond collaboration with virtually all members, whatever their departments, since starting in 1968.

Reports of Past Events – Winter 2008

The show must go on – but not always the audience

The Drama Department production was *UNITY 1918* by Kevin Kerr. The date for RAQ to see it was March 8. Unfortunately, the worst blizzard of the season occurred on that day, and of the 20 RAQ members who had hoped to attend this student performance, only eight were able to make their way to the campus for the matinee. Indeed many, myself included, didn't even make it out of our driveways. This was a pity, because *UNITY 1918* was a great production, according to those who did manage to attend. A friend whose judgement I respect told me the subject was fascinating and the students' performances (under director Tim Fort) very laudable.

Fortunately, the weather is seldom so wicked. I am looking forward to bluer skies for our next theatre outing in the Fall. Watch for the date and title of the production in the September issue of *RAQnews*.

For the many who had reserved but were unable to attend *UNITY 1918*, the Drama Department has generously offered a cash refund or, if members prefer, to double their tickets for the next major production.

MARION MEYER

Consuming Canada at LIVE8: Where music meets sociology

On Wednesday afternoon, March 19, Dr. Kip Pegley spoke to a disappointingly small but fascinated audi-

ence of RAQeteers in the Graham George Seminar Room, Douglas Library. Dr. Pegley joined the School of Music faculty as a Queen's National Scholar in 2002. She has an unusual cross-appointment to the Department of Women's Studies, since her research interests lie in the fields of popular music and gender studies.

She examined the recent popularity of benefit concerts held to raise funds for such worthy world-wide causes as the Asian Tsunami and food for children in Africa. She showed video clips of the CTV coverage of Canada's part of *LIVE8*, staged in Barrie in summer 2005, as well as scenes from benefit concerts in London (UK) and Paris. These concerts are not merely benign fundraisers, she noted; they also help to influence the international audience's ideas about race, gender and nationhood. She examined the lineup of bands performing: predominantly white males who play their own instruments and write much of their own material. "Girl groups" and female singers have been sidelined in the face of the overwhelming popularity of rock music. The final act and the highlight of the Barrie concert was the Kingston-based Tragically Hip, who have become for both Canadian and overseas audiences the quintessential Canadian rock band. After her talk, there was a lengthy discussion about various aspects of rock music, including the effect of its loud volume on hearing.

JULIET MILSOME

Events of interest this Spring

MiniU Specials

As this newsletter reaches Kingston area mailboxes, the Alumni Association is counting down to **Queen's MiniU** (May 23-25), with its apt slogan, "What Queen's gives best is education." Previous issues described this continuing education and recreation initiative and promised a warm welcome for retirees – although the program was also designed for younger people and even children. Queen's world-class faculty, some notable grads and talented students will be showcased, with the campus at its blooming best. Even without full registration you can enjoy some MiniU events, including these two.

Queen's Great Debate on Healthcare in Canada

*What is the right healthcare model
for Canada:
public or private?*

**Saturday, May 24
Room 1101, Biosciences Complex
(Arch St.)
3:30 to 5:00 pm**

Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP (St. Paul's), Dr. Tom Courchene, School of Policy Studies, and moderator Hugh Winsor, Queen's alumnus and *Globe and Mail* columnist emeritus. Free admission

Beethoven Concert by Queen's School of Music

**Saturday, May 24
Grant Hall
8 to 10 pm**

Featuring Gisele Dalbec-Szczesniak (violin), Wolfe Tormann (cello) and pianists Michael Szczesniak and Cynthia Szabo.

Tickets \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance from the Performing Arts office (JDUC) or by calling MiniU at 613-533-2060.

www.alumni.queensu.ca/miniU has details.

Coming RAQ Events Spring / Summer 2008

Go Greek: Monthly Luncheon Reminder

RAQ monthly luncheons continue to be a popular choice for members to meet informally and sample the cuisine of various Kingston-area restaurants. The luncheons are usually held on the last Monday of each month. On May 26 we're at *The Greek Islands*, 331 Bath Road. Everyone is welcome – including members' spouses and friends. Contact Jessica (Jerry) Roddy, jroddy@kingston.net or 613-353-6959 for details and reservations.

Lake Opinicon Pot-Luck Picnic

**Wednesday, July 23
11 am (Rain or Shine)**

This will be the fourth RAQ Summer Picnic at Lake Opinicon. If the day is bright and sunny, we'll enjoy eating outside in the park-like setting. If it rains, we will eat in the Research Station's comfortable pavilion. Please join us again or for the first time for a visit to this delightful spot on the shores of Lake Opinicon to see the Biology Department's renowned research facility and grad students' current projects with the area's flora and fauna. The enclosed Registration Form has details and directions. Cost is \$6 per person plus a picnic lunch dish to share. **Please register by July 15.**

Summer Campus Tour

The 'new' University Avenue

A preliminary discussion has been held with University officials regarding a RAQ tour of the University Avenue project. The exact timing will depend on completion of the remaining construction, but at the moment it looks like late August would be a good time to have the tour. Watch the RAQ Web site – www.queensu.ca/retirees – for updates and registration details for this event.

Prince Edward County Music Festival trip

**Thursday, September 18
Bus trip, dinner and concert
in Picton**

The music-lovers' program for this date bridges old and new: Mozart's clarinet quintet, Schubert's cello quintet, and *Bringing Down the Tiger from the Mountain* (cello and piano) by the Festival's first female composer-in-residence, Alexina Louie. She has won many honours, not only for concert works, but theatre, opera and ballet music (notably 2007's *Wolf's Court*, for the National Ballet). Stephane Lemelin, artistic director and pianist, will be joined by the celebrated Penderecki String Quartet, clarinetist Andre Moison, and returning cellist Tanya Prochazha. For more festival details, see www.pecmusicfestival.com.

RAQ has booked a larger, more comfortable bus than last year's rickety one. Please be at Toys R Us

parking lot (outer Princess St.) by 3:45. The bus will arrive back in Kingston by 10.30 pm. Portabello Bistro has again promised a delicious pre-concert dinner for \$30, including taxes and tips. You'll *pay for your own meal at the restaurant*. A choice of entrée will be requested on the registration form.

This now-annual musical outing to The County is enjoyable and popular, so please mark your calendar, watch for a registration form in mid-summer, or download one from www.queensu.ca/retirees. Last year's bus filled early, so it's wise to complete and return the form promptly, with your cheque for \$50 per person (\$25 for bus + \$25 for the concert).

Apple-Picking Outing in The County

**Lunch and tour of
Ostrander Orchards,
Prince Edward County
Wednesday, October 1**

For the first time, we plan an Apple-Picking Outing to Lake on the Mountain in Prince Edward County. Ostrander Orchards tell us the following types of apples should be available: Spartans, Macs, Sweets, Empires and Crabapples, as well as some autumn vegetables. Current plans call for a noon lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a trip to the orchard.

Mark the date in your calendar now and look for all other needed details both in the September newsletter and on the RAQ Web site www.queensu.ca/retirees.

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