

RAQ *news*

The 2015 CURAC/ARUCC Conference will be hosted by RAQ and will run from May 20 – May 22. The first event for delegates and guests will be the Opening Reception, to be held in the lobby of the new Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

The opening sessions on Thursday morning will be on Healthcare for Seniors.

Dr. Chris Simpson, President of the Canadian Medical Association, has agreed to be the first speaker, and two speakers (one of whom will be Dr. Ken LeClair, a specialist in geriatric psychiatry) will address Mental Health issues of seniors after the Nutrition Break. A light lunch will be at the Conference site.

The Conference Banquet will be held Thursday evening in the new Discovery Centre of historic Fort Henry.

Another confirmed speaker will be Dr. John Smol, our world-renowned Canada Research Chair in Climate Change. We are still awaiting confirmation of speakers on “The Future of Post-Secondary Education in Canada” and on “The Future of Pensions.”

Friday is traditionally given over to “Best Practices” presentations by Delegates.

We are planning something a little different and are still working out the details. Rather than have most of the audience passively listening to presentations, we'd like to try having everyone find a table around which a small group will be discussing a pre-announced topic (“What can CURAC/ARUCC do for you?,” “The Challenges of Recruiting New Members,” “Renewing Group Leadership,” and “CURAC/ARUCC's Role in Public Advocacy” are some potential discussion topics). Delegates would have the opportunity (and time) to participate in multiple discussions, all of whose results would be reported at the end of the Conference.

The lunch buffet on Friday will be at The University Club at Queen's.

Registration forms will be available by mid-January at the website www.queensu.ca/retirees/curac-arucc or by calling 613-533-6986 and asking to have a copy mailed to you.

The Organizing Committee is hoping that RAQ will be well-represented at the conference and at the social events.

RAQ Annual General Meeting and Lunch

Monday April 27, 2015, University Club—Reception and Cash Bar 11:30 am; Lunch 12 noon. Meeting to follow

Pension and Benefits Report

By the time this issue of *RAQnews* has been distributed, all members of the Queen's Pension Plan (QPP) should have received their individual letters from Human Resources, showing that pensioners who retired more than six years ago will not be receiving any increase in their monthly pensions in the current fiscal year.

Anyone who has not received the letter should contact the Pension & Insurance Unit of Human Resources at (613) 533-2070.

At the Annual Open Meeting of the QPP on December 5th, Bob Weisnagel (Director, Pension Services, Queen's Human Resources) said that *IF* the QPP has an investment return of 6% for the next three years, those older pensioners would receive a small increase in the fall of 2017. The QPP has earned -0.28% so far this pension year (September 1 to November 30).

The main topic of discussion at the pension meeting was the financial position of the QPP. While actuaries are still performing the triennial evaluation that must be filed with the Ontario government as of August 31, 2014, the preliminary estimate is that the plan still has a "solvency deficit" of nearly \$300 million. The high investment returns of the past year have been offset by lower long-term interest rates, asset smoothing, and more pessimistic assumptions about future investment returns. By law, this deficit must be eliminated over five years by diverting money from the University's operating budget into the QPP, but under the terms of the province's temporary solvency relief measures the university will be applying to extend this period to ten years. The University has three options for dealing with the deficit problem:

- it can start paying down the deficit once the final calculations have been filed, or
- it can delay making any payments for three years, at which time a new deficit calculation will be made. Then it would have *seven* years to pay down whatever the deficit is then, or

it can merge the QPP into a larger Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan (JSPP) that has (or may be granted if newly formed) a permanent solvency exemption, in which case the university as plan sponsor would not be required to fund its pension obligations on the more financially challenging solvency basis. The Ontario Colleges Pension Plan (already a JSPP) has invited Queen's to join their plan, and the Council of Ontario Universities, the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations and other employee groups are working together to propose a JSPP for universities alone within a year. Unfortunately, the government has yet to issue the regulations that would govern any transition to a JSPP, making any decision on this option impossible at this time. This option is also subject to collective bargaining.

The slides from the presentations made at the December meeting of the QPP have been posted at <http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/totalcomp/pensions.html>. The last slides before "Questions?" compare the performance of the QPP with other Canadian Pension Plans and other Canadian University Plans over several years. The University Administration is keeping us informed of developments on the pension front, and we will keep you informed as new developments occur. As always, we remind RAQ members that **pensions paid to Queen's retirees are guaranteed never to decrease during the retirees' lifetimes.**

Some non-pension benefits questions posed by RAQ members were referred to Human Resources but changes in personnel in this area have delayed responses. The questions have not been forgotten.

Finally, we welcome Bruce Hutchinson as a new Staff member of the Committee. As always, the Committee welcomes questions and comments from members of RAQ.

Chris Chapler, Bruce Hutchinson, Sue Miklas, Joyce Zakos and George Brandie (Chair)

Interested in Serving on Council? RAQ depends on its members to provide the leadership the organization requires to meet its commitments to its members. The Nominating Committee is seeking people interested in furthering the impact of RAQ through serving on Council or one of its committees. If you are interested in learning more or if you know of someone you think would be a good candidate, please get in touch with a member of the Nominating Committee. More information on the Council and its Committees is on the RAQ web site <http://www.queensu.ca/retirees/about-raq/>.

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Reports of Past Events

Fall 2014

IN MEMORIAM

David Bacon
Chemical Engineering
12 September 1935-13 April 2014

Martin F.J. Prachowny
Economics
9 July 1936-6 December 2014

David Peter Rutenberg
School of Business
8 June 1940-11 December 2014

Monday Morning Forums Fall 2014

This series is arranged by Dr. A.M. Herzberg and supported by Queen's University; Ambassador Hotel, Kingston; Cunningham Swan, Lawyers.

Islamist Terrorism *Objective, Motivation and Dimension*

Ambassador (Ret.) L.A. Delvoie
Centre for International and Defence Policy, Queen's University



The Poet and the Prime Minister: A Troubling Legacy for Canada's First Nations People

Mr. B. Farber
Gemini Power



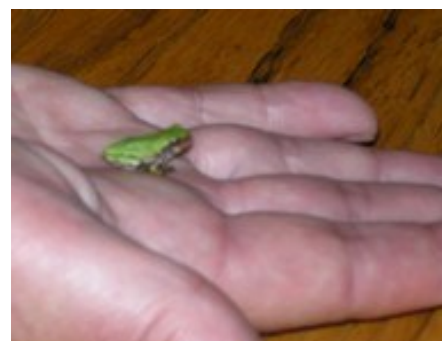
Creating a Federal Yemen *Mission Impossible*

Mr. G Anderson
Advisor to the United Nations



Monthly Luncheons

Fall luncheons were enjoyed in convivial company at The Cove in Westport, The Cavalier Room (Princess Street) and Ramekins (Bath Road). Our thanks to our thoughtful hosts, Jerry Roddy and Rosemarie McUen who make these events possible.



Picnics past.....astounding!

Welcome Henk Wevers, new host for RAQ's annual pot-luck at the Queen's Biological Station, shown here amid the workings of the steam launch Phoebe, his first post-retirement project on leaving Mechanical Engineering at Queen's in 1998. His interest in preservation appeared earlier in the restoration of a frame saltbox house in Barriefield in the 70's and in starting an historic model boat building course at the Marine Museum in 1996. He also maintains a number of web-sites including one on the history of the Aragon Road where he lives.



Coming RAQ Events

Winter/Spring 2015

Monthly Luncheons

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. Everyone is welcome—including members' spouses and friends. Contact Jessica (Jerry) Roddy at (613) 353-6959 or jroddy@kingston.net for details and reservations.



Monday Morning Forums Winter/Spring 2015

This series is arranged by Dr. A.M. Herzberg and supported by Queen's University; Ambassador Hotel, Kingston; Cunningham Swan, Lawyers.

The talks take place at the University Club, 168 Stuart Street, Kingston.

Coffee and muffins are served from 8:15 a.m.

Lectures begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by an exchange of ideas and discussion.

January 19, 2015

The politics of the new inequality: *The rich and the rest*
Professor K.G. Banting
Queen's University

January 26, 2015

Where do the numbers come from? *A look at Canada's household surveys*
Dr. J. Gambino
Statistics Canada

March 16, 2015

**Kingston General Hospital
*Present and Future***
Ms L. Thompson
Kingston General Hospital

New Directions: At the AGM in April members were alerted to challenges posed by an increase in postal rates and a decrease in our printing budget. Those of us with email will have received notice in November of the Council decision to move to email distribution of RAQnews unless individuals specifically requested regular mail. Those without email will also continue to receive a copy by mail. Thank you to all who have responded with words of encouragement. There are new opportunities. Your emailed newsletter comes with colour photos. Our May issue promises more photos. While the tightly scripted content and length of our present newsletter has been greatly appreciated by at least one editor, our contributors may not have felt the same satisfaction when their reports were abbreviated. We have been asked to include a members *In Memoriam* listing and will keep an eye on obituaries in the Whig but we would ask your assistance by letting Barbara Tait our office administrator know if there are friends or family members who should be included. An introductory listing of new members is also a possibility. A supplement for member's contributions is another. "Queen's Lives" is a tentative title for reflections and photos on lives lived in the Queen's family. Joy Hoselton's retirement provides one example, shortened for the May newsletter and expanded for the website. Travel tales offer another opportunity. Is there anyone interested in developing a members' supplement? Let us know if you have suggestions!

A note from our webmaster: Queen's has upgraded its software for creating and displaying web pages. One by one the departments are converting to the new system. You can now see the new face of queensu.ca/retirees. It even works on cellphones.

RAQnews is published three times a year by the RAQ Communications Committee, Diane Duttie (Chair)

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