

Senior Alumni News

Published by:
The Senior Alumni Association
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(600 copies distributed)

September/October 2008

Vol. XV No. 1

'Madame Zoom' crashes the 2008 Annual Meeting!

Our Annual Meeting, as in the past, was held in University College. The business side of the meeting went smoothly thanks to the efforts of the Chair, Doug Philp, and the rest of the Executive. Bylaws were tidied up and improved, reports were presented and the Executive elected for 2009-2009. One new member is Kristine Thompson, who has become even more involved in the Canadian Perspectives Series by taking over as Chair of the Series in addition to her duties as Chair of the Wednesday morning group. She replaces Bev Coburn who has been Chair for the past six years.

The Executive lineup includes Gloria Buckley as our new President, and, as of October 2008, Gerry Devlin and Wendy Talfourd-Jones as our Vice-Presidents. The rest of the lineup remains as before.

Doug Philp, as the outgoing President was presented with a gift as a small measure of thanks for two years at the helm of the Senior Alumni Association.

Pins were presented to volunteers for their service by Kay Karrys, assisted by June Pemberton and our guest speaker, Wendy Cecil. Five new volunteers were recognized: Gloria Kilpatrick, Helen Pataky, Jim Riddick, Allan Solomon and Jossy Visscher. One volunteer received a five-year pin: Maureen Somerville, and one very dedicated



volunteer received a ten-year pin: Doug Philp!

As usual, the highlight of the afternoon was the Guest Speaker. This year it was Wendy Cecil. Wendy, Chairman of President's Circle, and past Chairman of the U of T Governing Council spoke about her travels to the extremes of the earth, with special emphasis on the Yukon which she visits regularly to canoe and camp in the wilderness. Wendy proved she is capable of roughing it when she travels, camping out despite the lack of any modern conveniences and myriads of insects. She also briefly touched on a trip she made with other alumni to the Antarctic. Wendy is an engrossing speaker, drawing us into her adventures, allowing us to share in her experiences. She used no slides or visual presentation, but she

enthralled us with her words. This was no travelogue! An alter ego that Wendy introduced us to at the end of her talk was Madame Zoom, in costume that could have been worn by a flashy woman of the late 19th century in a Yukon saloon. What fun!

Refreshments were enjoyed in the Croft Chapter House after the meeting. It was most enjoyable to meet and chat with one another. Hope to see you next year!

Maureen Somerville

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SA VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES LECTURE SERIES

Our office is trying to update our records and we ask our volunteers and members who have email addresses if you would email us your email address (indicating whether you are a SA volunteer or a member attending the lecture series) to: senior.alumni@utoronto.ca If you have questions, please call Kathy Parks at (416) 978-0544.

SENIOR ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

One of our objectives is “to provide opportunities for senior alumni to serve the University.” We hope you will try one of these opportunities. If you require further information, please contact Kathy Parks at the Senior Alumni Office: phone (416) 978-0544, or email us at senior.alumni@utoronto.ca

ROBARTS LIBRARY TOURS

Robarts Library is looking for senior volunteers interested in becoming tour guides at Robarts Library. Volunteers must be comfortable spending one or two hours walking through the library and speaking to groups of up to 20 students. A bonus is a complimentary U of T library card. Training is provided.

LOAN BAYCREST YOUR BRAIN!

The Research Centre for Aging and the Brain of the Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest is looking for volunteers between the ages of 18 - 90 to participate in **studies on aging, memory and cognition**. Interested participants should be free of disorders that affect thinking ability and major medical illnesses. Studies involve interesting paper/pencil or computer tasks; other studies even make use of the latest brain imaging technologies! Some financial remuneration may be offered.

For more information, either phone Kathy Parks at (416) 978-0544 or email senior.alumni@utoronto.ca; or visit their website at: <http://www.rotman-baycrest.on.ca>
To participate, either contact Kathy as above, or contact Baycrest at (416) 785-2500 x2901 or email volunteers@rotman-baycrest.on.ca

ROBERTS LIBRARY BOOK STORE

Did you know that there is a volunteer-run second-hand book store at Robarts Library? It is run by super volunteer Wiebke Smythe who arranges for donations of lightly-used books to the bookstore throughout the year. The topics run the gamut of Robarts itself and the prices are set at bargain rates with all proceeds going back into acquiring books for students' use in the Robarts collection. There is even a 'freebies' book bin you can rifle through! The bookroom is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00am to 3:00pm. You are encouraged to visit the bookroom on the main level of Robarts (near the food court). It's quite a popular spot!

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

The Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Prosthetic Dentistry and The Faculty of Dentistry, New Continuing Education Centre is still looking for volunteers. Full details are in the February/March issue of the Senior Alumni News or:

To volunteer or for further information, please contact:
Bernard Blackstien, D.D.S. at (905) 763-8711 or
e-mail at bernie.blackstien@rogers.com
or contact Kathy Parks by phone at (416) 978-0544 or by email at senior.alumni@utoronto.ca

CAMPUS EVENTS

A Very Successful 2008 Spring Reunion And 9th Doors Open

Many thanks to those of you who volunteered at either or both of the Spring Reunion and Doors Open events held on campus this past spring.

A total of nineteen Senior Alumni turned out to volunteer at the **9th Doors Open** on campus to welcome visitors and guests and help them wend their way through the sacred spaces on the university campus. And the 9th Doors Open saw a record number in attendance!

The University's **2008 Spring Reunion** was also extremely successful this year.

Again, Senior Alumni volunteers helped at both at the Robert Prichard Alumni House and at the Reunion Garden Party at the President's house in Rosedale. There was a huge turnout at the Garden Party and the thunderstorm that rolled through near the end of the event did not dampen alumni spirits!

Did You Know That...?

One of the Carillon bells that were installed in Soldiers' Tower in 1927 is made from a portion of the original bell that hung in the Old Tower of University College which was destroyed by the fire of 1890. It was taken to Croydon, England by a graduate to be cast into one of the bells of the Carillon.

President's Corner

A new two year cycle is beginning. We say goodbye to Doug Philp as President for the last two years and I say hello as the incoming "newbie" for the next two years. Doug presided over a great period with a top enrollment in the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series, exciting trips to Stratford, many volunteer days including Doors Open and wonderful speakers at our annual meetings. Thank you Doug.

As summer ends, we do look forward to a new series of lectures this fall with their many interesting choices. Some of our venues may be new but the University does their best for us after the students are settled into their classrooms.

We hope to make earlier plans for our trip to Stratford so more people can take advantage of it and make plans. An early registration will be included in the next Newsletter.

Our annual meeting, held in May this year, featured Ms. Wendy Cecil, an extraordinarily gifted speaker - more about her in this Newsletter.

Senior Alumni (U of T) joined with some other senior learning groups in an introductory meeting to better understand what services seniors need and how they may be offered. A second meeting is planned for October.

Members of our Executive met with Jackie Vanterpool, Senior Donor Relations Officer, and Nadine Blumer, the student who has received support from the Margaret Higgins scholarship over the last two years for her PhD work on a sociology project. We wish her well. A report on the scholarships and the students who have received them will be featured in a later newsletter.

The University portion of the civic project Doors Open was one of our biggest volunteer offerings. We had seventeen volunteers in six buildings on campus and two more working the phones. Many of us learned interesting new facts about U of T buildings.

Many members attended the UTAA Annual General Meeting in June at Hart House and enjoyed hearing Steve Paikin and meeting friends over an excellent barbeque.

We look forward to a great year in 2008-2009.

Gloria Buckley

Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series

Fall Season is approaching!

The Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series continues into its 32nd year this fall. The Series provides senior alumni with the opportunity to hear about current developments in the fields of study of University faculty and also about other topics of general interest.

This fall there are three separate sections of the Series: Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and Wednesday mornings from 10:00am to noon. The two concurrent Tuesday afternoon sessions from last fall and the separate Tuesday morning and afternoon sessions from this past spring have now been combined into the one lecture series in order to make better use of available resources at the university.

The lectures take place on the downtown campus, but our room assignments will not be made until late August when all the regular student classes have been placed.

The Registration fee for each nine-lecture section is \$70.00 - still a genuine bargain! If you would like to register for any (or all) of the sections, please contact Kathy Parks by email at senior.alumni@utoronto.ca or by phone at (416) 978-0544.

Kristine Thompson, Chair

A New Chair for the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series

After six years as Chair of the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series, Bev Coburn has stepped down and passed on the reins to our newest member of the Executive, Kristine Thompson. Kristine, however, though new to the Executive, is not new to the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series and is very familiar with the series since she has chaired the Wednesday morning section for the past several years.

Bev is not deserting the lecture series completely, however. She will still lead the Tuesday afternoon group as she has done for the past twelve years. Our thanks go to Bev for her many years of guidance to the lecture series.

The Executive is delighted (as is Bev!) that Kristine has agreed to take over and manage the series as well as continue to lead the Wednesday morning section.

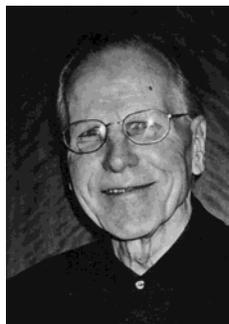
For those registered in a Series, included with this issue of the Newsletter is the Program for the fall lecture series with the *confirmed locations* as well as the *confirmed times* for the individual lecture series. Please note the time and location of your preferred section!

The Senior Alumni Executive



Katharyn Karrys has been a member of the SAA Executive for the past fifteen years and the Chair of the SAV Committee for the last three years. She is another Executive who answered a SAA brochure for volunteers. Kay graduated from Western in 1951 with her B.A. and then continued with post-graduate work at U of T receiving her Masters in Social Work in 1957. As well, she

later obtained a teaching certificate at Western. Kay's varied work history makes her a citizen of the world. Upon graduation from U of T, she immediately was based overseas in Korea with the Canadian Red Cross during the Korean war. She worked with wounded troops waiting for transfer home. She then settled in Tokyo, Japan, teaching in American schools, and also teaching Japanese war brides about Canada. During the '60s, Kay was again overseas with CUSO in Nigeria at a teachers' training college. Of Greek descent and able to speak Greek, she also lived in Greece teaching at American schools. And in between (and after) Kay's years of living and working abroad, she has also traveled extensively - Australia, South Africa, Turkey, Egypt, the Mediterranean, most European countries, England, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico and the U.S. And she has just returned from Colombia. Born in London, Ontario, Kay is now settled in Toronto. She shares her life with two black cats she calls 'the twins'. Other interests are musical theatre (she used to tap dance), bridge, gardening on her balcony, dancing, swimming, loves football (watching only) and is an avid jazz enthusiast. An Arbor Award recipient, Kay also has volunteered in many other areas: 18-19 years at East General Hospital; is on the Alumni Board of the Faculty of Social Work; on her Condo Board; on the Social Planning Council of East York (before amalgamation) among others. Kay's plans for the future? Well, to travel, of course!



Gerry Devlin joined the SAA Executive two years ago and has been a Member at Large. He was recruited on to the Executive by an invitation from then-President, Doug Philp. As of this October he will be one of the SAA's two vice-presidents. Gerry has co-chaired the Tuesday afternoon Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series with Bev Coburn for the past year and will continue with that duty this year.

Gerry graduated from St. Michael's College with a B.A. in 1955 and then attended law school at Osgood Hall. He was called to the Bar in 1959. Gerry's legal career has been spent mainly as corporate counsel in the life insurance industry and in insurance associations. He counseled at North American Life Association, the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, Lang-Michener law firm in Toronto, and Ontario Blue Cross. He recently retired as Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Blue Cross Plans. Gerry is now semi-retired, doing part-time consulting for a government agency RIBO (Registered Insurance Broke of Ontario) on their discipline committee. Gerry has been married to Irene for fifty years (last year) and they have five children (Joseph, Mary Theresa, John, Anne and Michael) and ten grandchildren. Aside from Gerry's obvious busy lifestyle, he still finds time to read - on legal subjects, believe it or not! - to play a round or two of golf and to garden. Originally born in Detroit Michigan of Canadian parents, Gerry returned with his parents to Canada when he was a child. A recipient of the Arbor Award a few years ago, Gerry also volunteers on the St. Michael's Alumni Board and is involved with his church volunteer work. Gerry also loves to travel and he and Irene have toured with the University of Toronto Alumni tour groups to Italy, France and Spain. They are looking forward to traveling to Ireland this year as both Gerry and Irene have Irish ancestry and they are anxious to explore their genealogy.

Another Successful Stratford Caper!

On the Bard's birthday, Wednesday, April 23rd, 2008, the Mary Morton Tours bus whisked thirty Senior Alumni members up to Stratford for the first performance of the season: "Hamlet". The group stopped in Kitchener at the Verses Restaurant for a delicious lunch with excellent service. The Verses is a lovely, restored church - intimate and charming, and perfect for lunch. The presentation of "Hamlet" was magnificent and Ben Carlson was excellent as the Dane. The reviews from those who attended were truly high. The weather was excellent, the traffic good, the bus on time and everyone enjoyed an excellent day.

This year for our 2009 'caper' to Stratford, we are planning to arrange registration for this fall so that everyone has plenty of advance notice about the trip. We will also get a better choice of dates. Therefore, in the next edition of our SAA Newsletter, you will find a registration form and information about the Spring trip to Stratford. Hopefully the earlier registration will allow our members to pre-plan more easily and will allow our 'snowbird' members to sign up before they fly south.

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