



# SENIOR ALUMNI NEWS

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DAY

The Senior Alumni Association's **Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Day** will be held:  
On: **Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009** at **1:30** in the afternoon      In: **Room #179** (Main Floor, West Wing)  
**University College, University of Toronto**

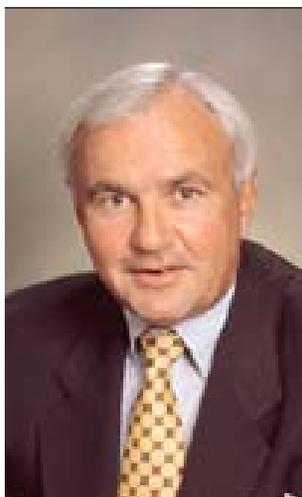
- 1:30      Business Meeting \*
- 2:00      Guest Speaker: The Hon. David B. Peterson (Chancellor of the University of Toronto  
and presentation of Volunteer Recognition Pins
- 3:00      Reception (Croft Chapter House)      Please note that this is on a Tuesday, rather than our regular Thursday date.

## THE HON. DAVID R. PETERSON

### CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The SAA is pleased to announce that the Chancellor of U of T will be the speaker at our Annual Meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chancellor Peterson, for almost three years now, has been an untiring advocate for our University. He has traveled across Canada and overseas to meet with alumni, and has been an inspiration to students and alumni on all three campuses. He has inaugurated an annual art show to showcase U of T student art, which takes place in his office at Simcoe Hall and in the hallways close to the office. His speeches and presentations are always entertaining, but also instructive and thought-provoking.



Mr. Peterson is the Chairman and a senior partner of the Toronto law firm of Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, where he practices corporate/commercial law. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Western Ontario and a Bachelor of Law Degree from the University of Toronto and studied at the University of Caen, France. He was called to the Bar in Ontario in 1969, appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1980, and was summoned by Her Majesty to the Privy Council in 1992.

He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Ottawa, the University of Tel Aviv, the American University of the Caribbean and U of T. The government of France appointed him a Knight of the Order of the Legion of Honour of France. In 1995, the International Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians presented him with the Ordre de la Pleiade, and he was awarded the Order of Ontario in 2009.

Mr. Peterson was Founding Chairman of Chapters Inc. and the Toronto Raptors Basketball Club. He is a director of numerous corporations, including Rogers Communications Inc., Shoppers Drug Mart,

St. Michael's Hospital and The Shaw Festival, and many other organizations have benefited from Mr. Peterson's expertise and contributions. He is perhaps best known for his political life. Elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1975, he assumed leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party in 1982. He served as Premier of Ontario between 1985 and 1990, overseeing a very active period of reform in our province and playing a major role in the country's constitutional discussions.

Maureen Somerville

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For information about the SAA Annual Meeting: Please call the Senior Alumni Association office at: 416-978-0544, or email: senior.alumni@utoronto.ca, or check the Senior Alumni website at: <http://www.alumni.utoronto.ca/senior>

**"OLD AGE IS GOLDEN", I've heard it said, but sometimes I wonder as I get into bed, with my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup, my eyes on the table until I wake up. Ere sleep comes o'er me, I say to myself, "is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"**

## SAA SPRING TRIP TO STRATFORD

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](mailto:senior.alumni@utoronto.ca)

### “DOORS OPEN TORONTO 2009”

This year, Toronto and the university will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the very popular and successful “Doors Open” event during the weekend of Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The events and activities on the St. George Campus will be plentiful and exciting to the many expected visitors. As in past years, the university will have a need for volunteers.

The theme of this year’s “Doors Open” is **“LIT CITY: Where Toronto Stories Meet Toronto Settings”**.

In addition to highlights emphasizing the theme, there will be “Open House” tours of campus buildings, college and faculty events and fun happenings for you, your families and other visitors to our campus.

A special brochure from Doors Open Toronto will be available closer to the event to guide visitors to the various tours and events.

To volunteer: contact the Senior Alumni Association at 416-978-0544 or email [senior.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:senior.alumni@utoronto.ca)

### U OF T 2009 SPRING REUNION

U of T’s 2009 Spring Reunion this year is being held on all three campuses from Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Colleges, Faculties and Departments will be hosting numerous events and activities to celebrate their graduates. The honoured alumni this year are those who graduated in a year ending with ‘4’ or ‘9’ and special events are planned to celebrate those particular alumni graduands.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event takes place on May 28<sup>th</sup> (7-9pm). On May 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am there is the Chancellor’s Circle Medal Ceremony in the Great Hall, Hart House. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon is also on May 29<sup>th</sup> (12:30-2:30pm). Come back to classes! - on May 30<sup>th</sup> (10am -1pm) Stress-Free Degree Lectures will be given by well-known U of T professors and alumni.

To find out more about and/or register for the 60-plus Spring Reunion events on our three campuses visit: [www.Alumni.utoronto.ca/springreunion](http://www.Alumni.utoronto.ca/springreunion) or call 1-888-738-8876.

And again, senior volunteers are needed and welcome! Phone or email the Senior Alumni Association. [see left]

## CAMPUS EVENTS

ERIC ARTHUR GALLERY John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape & Design

**“Wes Jones: Works From El Segundo”**

- to April 19, 2009 Monday-Friday: 11am-7pm  
Saturday: 12noon-5pm

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FELIX GALIMIR CHAMBER MUSIC AWARD CONCERT Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building

April 28, 2009 7:30pm (pay-what-you-can)

THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

**“Book Objects and Artist Books”**

- to May 01, 2009 Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm

SOUTH-SOUTH: INTERRUPTIONS & ENCOUNTERS

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House

April 2 - May 19, 2009 (free)

## President's Corner



In March, some days look like spring and some do not. One sure sign of spring, though, is the start of the Canadian Perspectives Series. All three lecture series were off to a good start this week. Again, we have a real variety of topics and professors/speakers. This is a short series of five lectures, but if you have to miss one, arrange with your Chair to attend a lecture on a different day.

Another sign of spring, which I remember with chagrin, was the appearance of the fencing around the main campus green. That meant exams were not far off and studying would continue in earnest. Is it still the same? or do 2009 students work hard all the year around?

In spring, the Senior Alumni Association also has a special meeting, billed as #6 on your lecture timetables. This year we will have a treat with U of T's Chancellor, the Hon. David Peterson. Chancellor Peterson has done some exceptional traveling on behalf of the university both within and outside Canada, and he is very dedicated to the University of Toronto. Don't forget this meeting on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> is followed by tea, coffee and goodies.

As a high point in the year, don't forget to register for the trip to Stratford to participate in Macbeth. I use the word *participate* deliberately because our seats are usually so close to the action! Last year we had a very comfortable bus and a lovely luncheon near our destination. This year's trip promises to be just as memorable.

From time to time, one way in which some of our members who have passed away have been remembered is by the setting up of a scholarship in their name. Members of the deceased member's family have made an initial gift followed by a donation from Senior Alumni funds. A forthcoming issue of the newsletter will detail the scholarships and their recipients. The Senior Alumni Association does not fund raise, but this is what has happened to any excess from lecture fees. So keep watching the newsletter for word on *your* scholarships and those students who have benefited from them.

Spring also brings reunion time. If you have never enjoyed a U of T reunion, perhaps this is the year to begin and form a very pleasant habit. This year's reunion begins early - May 29<sup>th</sup> - so we hope to see you there. It is great fun to stroll around campus, listen to the carillon, bump into old class-mates and participate in the many festivities hosted by UofT.

Gloria Buckley

## Thank you, Ilmar!

It is with mixed emotions that the SAA Executive accepted the recent resignation of Ilmar Talvila from our Board. A long-time, very involved and highly respected member of the SAA Executive, Ilmar has been instrumental to the growth of the Senior Alumni Association over the past decade and a half. During his 13-14 years on the SAA Executive, Ilmar served as President for an unbelievable six years, with a year as Vice-President and three years as Past-President. He has also served for a number of years as the Chair of the Events Committee. Many senior alumni members will be well-acquainted with Ilmar from the numerous campus walks he led - the "Flora and Fauna" treks and the "Historical Buildings" tours he set up. Many of our senior alumni members also benefited from Ilmar's computer expertise as he gave introductory computer seminars over a number of years to our seniors who were awed (or just plain bamboozled) by the new-fangled technology. Under Ilmar's capable tutelage, new skills were acquired and fears were allayed. He also facilitated outreach to some of our university fellows out west, advising them about setting up their own senior alumni associations. And, finally, but not leastly, one of Ilmar's most important contributions to the SAA was being instrumental in getting us our invaluable Administrative Assistant, Kathy Parks, without whom it would be difficult for us to function.

A University College grad with a BA in Maths and Physics, Ilmar joined the computer field working as a systems analyst and programmer, most of the time as an Independent Consultant.

An Arbor Award recipient, Ilmar's contribution to the SAA and to the university community has been immeasurable. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. He is a cherished friend to the SAA executive and we say adieu with mixed emotions: happy for Ilmar as he pursues new and exciting ventures, but sorry for our loss of his company and his contributions.

Again, we thank you Ilmar! We wish you well.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

**Salina Abji** is the winner of the **Margaret Higgins Memorial OGS in Humanities & Social Sciences**, one of the scholarships sponsored by the SAA. Salina is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology, and has Graduate and Undergraduate degrees from Oxford and York University. Again, congratulations and best wishes.

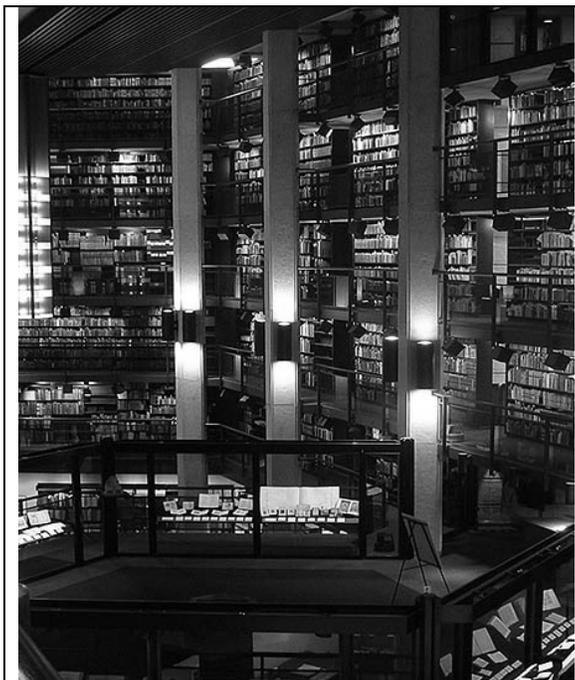
## Senior Alumni Volunteers

The Senior Alumni Association's purpose is to bring Senior Alumni back to campus to learn about and participate in the affairs of the University. By taking part in our many programs, they benefit both themselves and the University. A key element is the provision of volunteer time to the University to work on projects of a wide variety and scope. Profiled below is one of the many projects our volunteers support and enjoy.

### Robarts Library Tours

Robarts Library is the Social Sciences and Humanities Library on the U of T's St. George campus. In September, advertised daily tours are provided to students new to campus to introduce them to the library's services and during October, November, January and February, group tours of 45-60 minutes are given to students accompanied by an instructor from their College or Faculty. Woodworth College students seem to take advantage of this orientation service the most.

These group tours are split into two groups of 15 to 20 students. One group, with their instructor, go up to the lab for hands-on experience with the university's computers and learn to access the U of T catalogue system. The students are also taught the Library of



The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
- one of the areas covered on the tour.

Congress catalogue system which is universal to all universities. The other group is given a tour around the library by one of our Senior Alumni volunteer tour guides, who not only give basic information such as how to log out a book from the stacks, but also introduce the students to the research facilities of the library. The two groups then switch and attend the alternate tours.

**John Corkill**, SAA's Assistant Treasurer and a long-time member of the Executive has been in charge of the Senior Alumni Tour guides for a number of years and thoroughly enjoys his experiences with the students. One student in particular he recalls is one who asked him if he had gone to U of T. John answered: yes, but before you were born!...that he had graduated in 1952. Whereas the student replied: hey, that's before my *father* was born! (Don't you love a student who can do his math!)

One Senior Alumni volunteer guide is **Carol Farkas**, an Arts & Science graduate who has been volunteering at Robarts for the past 5-6 years. She became involved when she saw the notice in this newsletter for volunteers. Training was easy, with an overview and outline provided with experienced tour guides. As to why she volunteers, Carol finds that it is a good way to stay involved with U of T and it gets her down on campus. As well, she finds the volunteer work as a guide enjoyable, educational and very interesting. The interaction with the Woodsworth International students is particularly rewarding for her since she finds they tend to be slightly more mature and extremely keen and eager. Also, she says, it doesn't hurt to receive a free Robarts library card!

**Melanie Milanich** is another enthusiastic volunteer. Melanie has her PhD in Educational Planning from OISE. She began as a volunteer Robarts tour guide in 2005 and, like Carol, responded to this newsletter's call for volunteers at Robarts. As a student, Melanie loved using Robarts and has a great affinity for the library. She also has a lifelong love of and interest in books. Thus she receives great satisfaction and joy from introducing new students to Robarts and its various collections. Melanie finds she receives a great energy from seeing the students and engaging them with talk of their dreams and plans for their lives. Thanks to volunteers such as Melanie, Carol and John and the other tour guides, both students and Robarts receive benefit from our efforts and, obviously, our volunteers receive a great deal back from their volunteered time. Tours will be starting again in September. To volunteer, call the Senior Alumni Association office.

**Senior Alumni Volunteers (SAV)** is one of our Senior Alumni Association's oldest programs. We undertake tasks and projects which the University departments cannot otherwise complete because of a shortage of resources or because seniors are specifically required. Our volunteers work as individuals or in teams, and come from all walks of life and varied professions. Many long term and close friendships have resulted from within our volunteer programs. Do join us!

**THE SENIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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