



REMEMBRANCE DAY: WOMEN AND WAR

As on every November 11, we will gather at Soldiers' Tower to commemorate the loss of lives and the sacrifice of those who have lived while involved in conflict between nations. I began thinking about women and their contribution during wartime. My mother and her two sisters all served the effort in Great Britain during WWII, in the NAAFI, a service to the armed forces, polishing the pivots that machine guns were mounted upon, and riveting sheet metal. Mother met my father on an air force base in the very north-east corner of Scotland, where he was posted as a member of the RAF.

Women have always had roles during wars. Nursing is the first job that comes to mind, with Florence Nightingale an example from the Crimean War. Women could also sometimes deliver messages more easily, as did Laura Secord during the War of 1812. I gather she did not actually use a cow as an excuse for being where she was! Nursing was the female job during WWI, and they were called nursing "sisters" due to the fact that in the beginning, many were or had been nuns.



Remembrance Day ceremony on front campus in 1941 showing University of Toronto Canadian Officers Training Corp and women cadets. Photo courtesy the Image Bank, Archives and Records Management, University of Toronto

WWII was a different story. About 4,500 nurses were involved, with about two-thirds serving outside Canada. They were commissioned officers. Later in the war, all branches of the military began to enlist women. They were initially trained for clerical, administrative and support roles, but were eventually used as parachute-riggers, laboratory assistants, cooks, cleaners, tailors, and even in male-dominated areas such as electrical and mechanical trades. Princess Elizabeth, now our queen,

trained as a mechanic and lorry driver. They became radar operators and coding technicians. Those of us who saw "The Imitation Game" about the code-breakers who broke the Enigma code, saw that women were used in that work.

All that has changed of course. Women now serve in all roles, including combat. This was brought cruelly to our attention with the death of Captain Nicola Goddard in Afghanistan during a firefight in 2006. She was not the first direct casualty of war. Nurses died when field hospitals were attacked, ships were torpedoed or when the diseases that go with harsh conditions raged on and near battlefields.

In Canada, women filled the roles left when men enlisted or were called up. The phrase "Rosie the Riveter" comes to mind, and the number of women with full-time jobs doubled from 600,000 to 120,000 during WWII. They worked in the service sector, and in manufacturing, construction, electronics, optics, and instrument assembly. Farm women took on extra work, driving the tractor, ploughing the fields, canning fruits and vegetables. Women even became lumberjacks, and one, Elsie Gregory McGill, became the first woman in the world to graduate as an aeronautical engineer!

One other contribution I will mention is the number of European women who became war brides, marrying Canadian servicemen and returning with them to Canada, sometimes to new homes that they never imagined. Women who had grown up in the industrial cities of Britain found themselves on the prairies or the north, isolated from the life they had known. Most survived well and were great additions to their new home.

Let us remember the women and the men this year on November 11 at 10:20 in front of Soldiers' Tower on Hart House Circle.

Maureen Somerville
president, SAA

Annual Service of Remembrance

The annual Remembrance Day service at U of T will take place at the foot of Soldiers' Tower on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 from 10:20 am to 11 am.

The service includes the recitation of the poem *In Flanders Fields*, written by UC alumnus John McCrae, traditional hymns, readings, laying of wreaths, *The Last Post*, *The Lament*, *Reveille*, and the Royal and National Anthems. A reception will follow the service in the Great Hall of Hart House. The Memorial Room museum in Soldiers' Tower will be open for visitors.

If you have questions, contact Kathy Parks at 416-978-3485 or soldiers.tower@utoronto.ca



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.

Community representative on U of T animal care committees

The University of Toronto upholds the highest ethical standards for animal research. All research must undergo rigorous review by animal care committees, which are made up of members of both the University community and the community at large.

The University is currently seeking volunteers for the position of community representative on several animal care committees across the three campuses. Interested candidates should have no current formal affiliation with the University, good communication skills, compassion for living beings and a commitment to contribute to the advancement of research at U of T.

We encourage interested alumni to consider serving as volunteer community representatives. Meetings are usually 2-3 hours long and are held monthly during regular business hours. For more information, please contact:

Mr. Rhain Louis
Animal Care and Use Program Manager,
416-946-0836 or rhain.louis@utoronto.ca

Mobile Collaborative Learning for Female Baby Boomer Students in Canadian Higher Education

Background Information

The purpose of this study is to explore the experience of using mobile technologies for collaborative learning. Literature reviews suggest mobile collaborative learning can improve student's learning experience and is suitable for female baby boomers. However, females and older learners underutilize the technology. Your input can contribute insight in this matter.

You are invited to take part in a research study of the utilization of mobile apps for learning with peers. It doesn't matter if you have any experience in this area or not.

This study is being conducted by researcher Holly Chun, a doctoral student at Walden University, Minnesota, USA.

You are the ideal participant if you are:

- female, baby boomer (born 1946 -1964)
- are a current student in the University of Toronto or have studied in UT within the past seven years (it doesn't matter if you have graduated or not)
- willing to sign a written consent to the study
- willing to participate in a one hour long interview (July - December, 2015) and potential follow-up sessions
- willing to have the interview audiotaped
- willing to reply to a short follow-up questionnaire
- willing to allow the contents to be used in my dissertation.

\$25 Coffee Gift Card

On the day of the interview, you will receive a \$25 gift card of your choice (from Tim Hortons, Starbucks, or Second Cup) as an appreciation of your time and effort.

Participation is voluntary and confidentiality will be ensured.

If you are interested, please contact:

Holly Chun
holly.chun@waldenu.edu
with "Research" in the subject line.



Events

A University of Toronto Senior Alumni Association

Town Hall

*"What Does the Future Hold
For Seniors Under The
New Liberal Government?"*



Susan Eng LLB

Executive Vice-President, CARP

Susan Eng is a Toronto lawyer, former chair of the Metro Toronto Police Services Board (1991-1995) and former alumni representative on the University of Toronto Governing Council (2000-2009).

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 1:00–3:00pm

University of Toronto Alumni House

21 King's College Circle

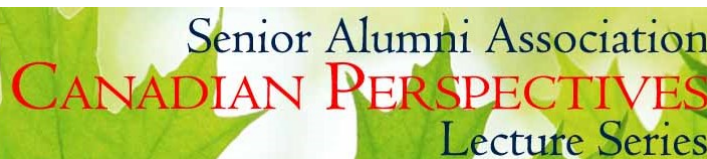
St. George Campus

Join us to hear Susan Eng's experience lobbying on behalf of seniors during the recent election campaign. There will be a Q & A following her talk.

This is a FREE event but space is limited!

Please RSVP with your name, phone number, and if you are bringing a guest. Please call (416) 978-0544 or send email to senior.alumni@utoronto.ca

Light refreshments will be served



There is still time to catch some excellent lectures in our Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series. For your convenience we offer secure, online registration at:

<http://alumni.utoronto.ca/alumni-groups/senior-alumni/canadian-perspectives-lecture-series/>
or call the Senior Alumni Office at 416 978-0544.

President's Corner



As we head for winter, let's enjoy the incredible show that nature puts on for us at this time of year. I never cease to marvel at the contrasts in colour as I drive down or up the Don Valley and through the Rosedale Valley Road.

The fall Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series has been underway since Thanksgiving. My hearty thanks goes out to all those who responded to our appeals to help us fill the Carlton auditorium where we meet. I attended one yesterday, and it was almost full! The

SAA executive, the lecture committee and the staff at 21 King's College Circle have worked hard to increase the attendance, and it has worked. Kristine Thompson and her committee work very hard to ensure that we have a varied, interesting and challenging slate of speakers, and it is rewarding to see so many people attending. One new attendee was marvelling at how consistently good the presentations are. I hope we can continue this growth. We are a non-profit organization. Any excess money we have goes to support a number of scholarships we have begun at the university. Several members of the CP committee were honoured at the Arbor Awards in September (see the article on page 4). These awards are given for exemplary service to alumni volunteers or friends of the University.

I recently attended the first meeting of the school year of the Council of Presidents. This group is made up of the presidents of the alumni associations across the whole University. The group used to represent college and division groups, but now smaller associations are attending, sometimes from subject groups like sociology, mathematics, or geography. The SAA is unique in the group as its membership draws from all divisions and subjects, from myself from Scarborough, to other members from St. Michael's, Woodsworth, Victoria and so on. This meeting was an inaugural one, during which the members of the University of Toronto Alumni Association executive and alumni staff introduced themselves and what they do to the group. The College of Electors, outreach, finance, etc., were all outlined for the group after a time of refreshments and socializing. The venue was the council chamber at Simcoe Hall, where the Governing Council of U of T meets.

Next year – 2016 – the SAA will celebrate 40 years of service to the retired seniors of the University and their friends. It all started with lectures and exercise classes. We still do the former, and other initiatives have appeared and gone, like computer classes. We now offer other events, like the upcoming town hall with Susan Eng on November 17, to discuss what we might expect from our new federal government (see the article on page 2). We'd like to celebrate the 40th anniversary with some special events in 2016: stay tuned. The SAA still maintains its volunteer bank, which contributes many hours of work across the University. Don't forget that the winter and spring CP Lectures will be there for your enjoyment! See you at the lectures.

*Maureen Somerville
president, SAA*

A Splendid Day at SHAW!



It was a beautiful, sunny, mild day on September 30 as the Mary Morton coach drove down the scenic route to Niagara-on-the-Lake carrying a group of Senior Alumni members to *Pygmalion* at the Shaw Festival. It was interesting to note the 'colours' of the political signs on the manicured lawns of some of the stately homes as we drove by! An excellent lunch at

the historical Prince of Wales Hotel preceded time to browse and shop before the performance. Shaw had done a modern adaptation of the George Bernard Shaw play of class values and gender biases which somehow still rings true today. The modern conception of computer terminals and television sets rather than books in the library, Professor Higgins' mother's salon a busy fashion salon rather than an elegant receiving salon, and Covent Garden filled with cars and motorcycles rather than horse and carriage all seemed to work successfully—although some of us still agreed that we prefer the 'old' setting version. Direction, sets, lighting and costumes were all of the high calibre expected of Shaw productions. Harveen Sandhu who played Eliza Doolittle was excellent. Look for her in future years! The rest of the cast was good although some of us felt the Higgins was not up to par and a bit weak. All in all, however, a great outing and lunch and a terrific show.

Next year, 2016, we hope to have one outing to Stratford and one to Shaw. We will let you know when we know which shows and the dates. Please join us next year for one or both of the trips. If you have any suggestions, send them to senior.alumni@utoronto.ca or call (416) 978-0544.

Woodsworth Student Awards

Back in 2014, the SAA established an endowment fund at UofT's Woodsworth College, which has over 6,000 students, to provide support to deserving students. The fund is administered by Woodsworth College which selects the students to receive financial aid. The SAA makes regular contributions to the fund from proceeds of our Canadian Perspectives lecture series. This year's recipients are:

- Ms Dabbie Lau, a graduate of the Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program, has completed her third year as a Specialist—East Asian Studies.
- Ms Audrey Meihado, a graduate of the Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program, is in her second year in a Major in Anthropology, a Minor in History and a Minor in Religion.
- Ms Anne Steeves, a graduate of the Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program, is in her fourth year in a Specialist—English and Philosophy.

The Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program admits approximately 600 students annually. It enables mature students who are at least 20 years of age and who have been away from formal education to pursue degree studies at the University of Toronto upon successful completion of the program.

THE SENIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Canadian Perspectives Volunteers Receive Arbor Awards

There is a lot of work that goes into preparing our Canadian Perspectives (CP) lectures. The CP lecture coordinators — Kristine Thompson, Laura Cooper, Dianna Craig, Irene Devlin, Dagmar Falkenberg, Jean Orpwood, Ken Ward, and Kathlene Willing — spend countless volunteer hours finding speakers and bringing them together in engaging lecture series. Most of our coordinators have been with us for years so they must love what they're doing!

UofT Arbor Awards are a recognition of the tremendous generosity and contribution of alumni volunteers to the experience of UofT students, faculty, staff and alumni. The minimum for eligibility is 2 years of volunteer service or breadth and depth of service if less than 2 years. The award ceremony is held annually in September at the UofT President's official residence at 93 Highland Ave.



This year, several CP coordinators were presented with an Arbor Award. In the above photo are (left to right) Kathlene Willing, Dagmar Falkenberg, Dianna Craig, and Laura F. Cooper. In the back row are Meric Gertler, UofT President, and the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, UofT Chancellor, who presented the Award to each individual.

Other CP coordinators have received an Arbor Award in the past. Since 1989, more than 2,120 alumni and friends have received these awards.

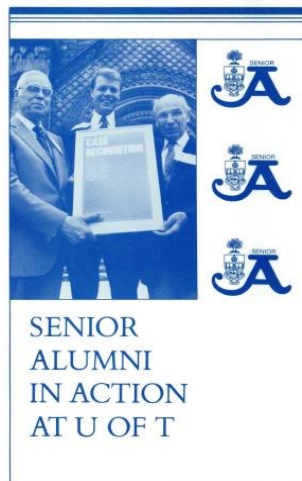
Our 40th

2016 will be the Senior Alumni Association's 40th anniversary! We are planning a celebration at our 2016 Annual General Meeting in May and at our Fall Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series next year. A lot has happened in these past forty years and we are hoping to publish a history of the SAA to commemorate our accomplishments. I'm in the process of searching through our extensive old files going back even to 1975 – before our inception. It's interesting reading. If you have any special or notable memories of the SAA during past years, please contact me through the Senior Alumni Association office at (416) 978-0544 or via email: senior.alumni@utoronto.ca.

Wendy Talfourd Jones
past president and archivist, SAA

Still Going Strong After 40 Years!

After 40 years, the Senior Alumni Association of the University of Toronto is still active and vibrant. We are the first over-65 group to bring a volunteer movement to *any* university in Canada. On the occasion of our 10th anniversary (1986), the SAA published a booklet, *Senior Alumni in Action at U of T*, giving a brief history of our association and listing some of our awards and accomplishments. Below are some excerpts from that booklet.



Cover

International recognition came in 1981 to the Senior Alumni Association for its unique volunteer programs. Shown with the Grand Award of the Washington-based Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) are L-R: the late Wilson Abernethy, Chairman; CASE President Dr. James Fisher, and Co-Chairman Dr. Gordon Romans.

"...Thousands of hours in service but never a nickel in payment — that is the story of the University of Toronto's Senior Alumni Association. In a dramatic ten year development, the Association has opened the university gates to more than 600 old boys and girls who again feel at home in the campus crowd. In doing so, the seniors set several records. They were the first over-65 group to bring a volunteer movement to any university in Canada, the first to demonstrate to the U of T the vigour and dependability of retirees and the first to win international recognition."

IN THE BEGINNING

"Like Rome, the Senior Alumni Association was not built in a day. It started with ten people and a dynamic leader, Wilson Abernethy, who gathered at Alumni House in 1975-6. What they wanted to learn was whether retirees with vast experience in different professional careers could offer volunteer services to their alma mater. Instead of a welcome, they met indifference. Their difficulties were more intense because of the youth oriented program of a university. In spite of the struggle and countless rebuffs, the seniors stayed to prove their worth. They now supply more than 7000 hours of volunteer work annually. When expressed in terms of professional fees for service, the figures would mount into an impressive sum."

"Quotable Quotes"

Nothing truly innovative, nothing that has advanced art, business, design, or humanity, was ever created in the face of genuine certainty or perfect information. Because the only way to be certain before you begin is if the thing you seek to do has already been done.

— Jonathan Fields, author