



# AGM

## ***Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Day***

**Monday, May 2nd, 2016  
George Ignatieff Theatre  
15 Devonshire Place, Toronto, ON**

- 1:00pm Registration
- 1:30pm Business Meeting
- 2:00pm Guest Speaker: Professor Meric S. Gertler, President, University of Toronto
- 2:45pm Presentation of Volunteer Recognition Pins
- 3:00pm Reception: The Buttery, Trinity College

This year's AGM marks the 40th anniversary of the Senior Alumni Association. On the 10th anniversary, in 1986, the SAA published a booklet, *Senior Alumni in Action at U of T*, to outline the associations history, awards, and accomplishments up to that time. Here are a few noteworthy extracts:

*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.*

*...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.*

So, here we are, 40 years later, continuing the work of our founders. Our methods may have changed and the scope of services and offerings may be different but our mission and core values remain the same: To bring senior alumni and friends of the University of Toronto to the university community to learn about and participate in the activities of the university.

*Ihor Prociuk, vice-president, SAA*

### **U of T President is SAA AGM Guest Speaker**

On November 1, 2013, Professor Meric S. Gertler began his term as the 16th President of the University of Toronto.

He is regarded as one of the world's foremost urban theorists and policy practitioners and is widely known as an expert on innovation, creativity and culture as drivers of the economic dynamism of city-regions. His research has attracted \$8.4 million in external funding. He has published seven books and his more than 90 journal articles and book chapters have had significant impact in his field and have led him to be one of Canada's most highly cited geographers.

A graduate of McMaster University (BA), the University of California, Berkeley (MCP) and Harvard University (PhD), Professor Gertler is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Academy of Social Sciences (UK) and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. In December 2015, he was appointed to the Order of Canada.





## 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.

### University Health Network Research Volunteer Pool



More than half of us will be touched by disability, either personally or through someone in our family. You can help by joining the **Research Volunteer Pool** and participating in research at the Toronto Rehab-UHN. Our discoveries are helping speed up the return to home, work or school; allow people to live independently longer, significantly improve use of impaired limbs with new treatments and technologies, ensure that healthcare is delivered in the best way possible, and, prevent injury and illness.

If you enrol, a research staff member will contact you to get relevant information which is stored confidentially. When a specific study matches your profile, researchers will contact you. You can choose whether or not you want to participate. You will remain in the pool for other researchers to contact you again in the future.

***There is a need right now for persons who have early dementia / early Alzheimer's / stroke / osteoarthritis but are otherwise healthy.***

We are also trying out assistive technologies but there is no experimental drug administration involved.

• main website:

<http://www.torontorehabresearch.ca/>

• research progress and videos:

<http://www.torontorehabresearch.ca/index.php/innovation-impact/research-videos>

Remember, enrolment is completely voluntary. All UHN research studies have been reviewed to ensure they meet the highest scientific and ethical standards. Contact:

Maria Theresa N. Del Mundo  
TRI - Patient Research Liaison  
416-597-3422 ext 7840  
tess.delmundo@uhn.ca

### 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



## Events



U of T's annual alumni weekend will be held May 25–29. **This year, we're celebrating graduating classes with years ending in 1 or 6.** But all U of T grads are invited back to school for the weekend. From exhibits and lectures to burgers and class dinners, you'll find an eclectic mix of fun and illuminating ways to spend your Spring Reunion weekend. More details at:

<http://springreunion.utoronto.ca>



### ... More Volunteer Opportunities

#### Healthy Participants Needed for Driving Simulator Study (St. Michael's Hospital)



St. Michael's Hospital seeking **healthy control subjects** to participate in a driving simulator study **aimed to understand how disorders of the brain affect driving abilities.** You may be eligible if you meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- You are 50 or older.
- You have a valid Ontario G class driver's license.
- You have NOT had a history or past diagnosis of a neurological or psychiatric condition.
- You live in Toronto or the GTA.

The study will require you to undergo behavioural testing (including driving simulator and cognitive tests), and possibly return on a separate day to complete driving simulation in an MRI scanner for approximately one hour.

You will be compensated for participation if you are eligible. A phone screening will be required to determine eligibility. The study will be conducted at St. Michael's Hospital.

If you are interested, please contact:

**The Cognitive Neuroscience Lab**  
**Email:** [cognitive.neurolab@gmail.com](mailto:cognitive.neurolab@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** 416-864-6060, ext. 77342

### “Quotable Quotes”

*If anything is worth trying at all, it's worth trying at least 10 times.*  
– Art Linkletter, radio and TV personality

## President's Corner



It's finally Spring, in name if not in temperature, but we Canadians tend to want temperate weather now! However, we have the Spring Canadian Perspectives Lecture series to look forward to, and I hope your applications are in for either the Monday afternoon or the Wednesday morning series. Kristine and her intrepid committee have lined up two excellent series for us. Most of you have said you enjoy the venue of the Carlton Cinemas, and we continue to use it. Kristine's committee is already arranging for speakers next Fall. David Phillips, chief climatologist for Environment Canada, will be addressing us. I've heard him speak in the past, and he is informative and very entertaining.

It is no secret that the Senior Alumni Association is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. It started as a way of bringing back alumni to the campus, and has offered various opportunities to retired grads over the years. We are very pleased that Meric S. Gertler, the President of U of T has accepted our invitation to speak at our Annual General Meeting on May 2nd. The venue for the AGM has changed to the George Ignatieff Theatre on Devonshire, with a reception afterwards in the adjacent Trinity College Buttery. We are anticipating a very good turnout and space in the theatre is limited. We will be sending out invitations to all our members and volunteers. Please RSVP to this invitation as soon as possible. Email [senior.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:senior.alumni@utoronto.ca) or call (416 978-0544) for more information.

Registration for the AGM starts at 1:00 pm with the AGM starting at 1:30 sharp.

Wendy Talfourd-Jones has organized two excellent theatre trips for us. The first is to *Chorus Line* on May 4 at Stratford. It's an exciting musical, as it develops characters more fully than the usual Broadway show. The second is on September 30, to the Shaw festival to see the Oscar Wilde play *A Woman of No Importance*. Those of you who attend the Mirvish plays in Toronto will have seen *Judas Kiss*, a 1998 British play by David Hare, about Oscar Wilde's scandal and disgrace at the hands of his young lover Bosie (Lord Alfred Douglas). Wilde was a sharp-tongued critic of the Victorian narrow-mindedness which ultimately destroyed him. Other events are being planned!

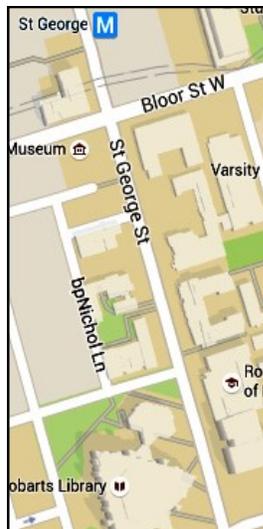
This is my last report to you before I retire as President of the SAA. I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years heading the Association. I have met many of you at the lectures and events and I intend to continue on the board, as well as now joining the Canadian Perspectives Committee, and representing SAA at the Third Age Network (TAN), a group of seniors serving seniors with educational opportunities. We were one of the first groups to be part of TAN!

Thanks to the SAA executive, the CP committee, the staff at 21 King's College Circle, and Jennifer Grange, our administrative assistant for all their hard work and support.

Looking forward to seeing you at the lectures!

*Maureen Somerville, president, SAA*

## A Walking Tour of St. George St.



I will be taking anyone who arrives on a walk down St. George Street on Monday, May 9th.

St. George is mostly modern on the west side, older on the east side. Why? I'll fill you in as we walk from Bloor to College in about an hour, with some diversions into some interesting buildings. Did you know the Robarts Library main building looks like a maple leaf from above, and like a peacock when viewed from the south? Find out more.

On Monday, May 9, meet at the St. George exit on the Bloor Subway at 10:30 am, rain or shine. You will be on your feet for about an hour.

No RSVP necessary, but if you want to know more, call Maureen at 416 423-6615.

*Maureen Somerville, president, SAA*

## SAA recognizes its volunteers!

As part of our AGM proceedings, the SAA recognizes its volunteers for their years of dedication and service. Below is a list of this year's recipients:

### ☉ One Year Pin

**Ken Ward** – Serves on the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series committee.

### ☉ Five Year Pin

**Geoff Fridd** – Led English improvement classes for foreign students and visiting professors at the Centre for International Experience. He also takes part in the Nursing exams.

**Gina Clark** – Helped with Engineering mailings, volunteered at Spring Reunion and special events as well as with the Nursing exams.

### ☉ 10 Year Recognition

**Richard Cousland** – Volunteers at the Soldiers' Tower Memorial Room Museum and at the carillon recitals.

**Wendy Talfourd-Jones** – Served on the Executive Committee in virtually every capacity including President, has served on the Canadian Perspectives Lecture committee, and has helped with Spring Reunion.

**Irene Devlin** – Volunteered at the Soldiers' Tower Memorial Room Museum and at the carillon recitals. Serves on the Executive Committee, the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Committee, and helps at Spring Reunion.

**Kate Thomas** – Helped with Engineering mailings, Spring Reunion, Doors Open, and Nursing exams.

**Margaret Ewing** – Helped with Robarts tours and Nursing exams.

**Jean Johnston** – Volunteered with Nursing exams.

**Gerry Devlin** – Served on the Executive Committee as President and in other positions. He was on the Canadian Perspectives Lecture committee and has helped with Spring Reunion.

### THE SENIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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### Senior Alumni Newsletter Staff

Editor: Ihor Prociuk  
Assistant Editor: Maureen Somerville

## Report on Senior Alumni Association Volunteer Activity January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Mary Vohryzek and Bev Coburn, Co-Chairs of Senior Alumni Volunteers (SAV)

### Summary of Volunteer Activity

During the time period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, a total of 42 volunteers collectively worked a total of 966 hours, involving 10 projects. The time spent on executive committee activities is additional to the above-reported hours.

- **Academic Retiree Centre (now Senior College Centre):** Members of the SAA helped to staff the reception desk.
- **Centre for International Experience:** Volunteers assisted international students in improving their English language skills.
- **Engineering Mailings:** Volunteers assisted with stuffing envelopes.
- **Faculty of Dentistry:** Volunteers served on the Animal Ethics Committee.
- **Nursing Exams:** Volunteers played the role of patients and were examined by the U of T nursing students as part of the health assessment skills test.
- **Robarts Library Tours:** Volunteers provided tours of Robarts Library to new students and high school students. This is a longstanding project.
- **Soldiers' Tower Memorial Room:** Volunteers staffed the Memorial Room Museum inside the Soldiers' Tower, handed out programs and provided information to audience members at the carillon recitals.
- **Special Events:** Some of the occasional assignments included security at the President's Circle Garden Party and at the Arbor Awards.
- **Spring Reunion:** Volunteers helped to meet and greet guests, provided information, and maintained the refreshment table at 21 King's College Circle.

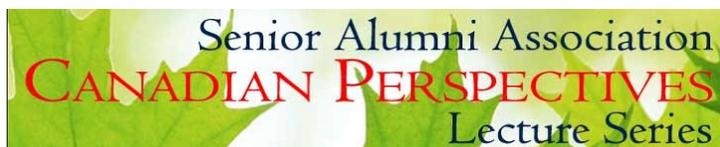
### Other Volunteer Activities Beyond the SAA

Members of the SAA have also applied their skills and experience within other volunteer associations on campus including the college book sales, the Department of Psychology research lab, the alumni associations of colleges and faculties, Council of Presidents, and the University's Governing Council.

Also, the SAA is contacted by organizations seeking volunteers for research studies. Our criteria stipulate that the sponsoring organization must be connected to University of Toronto. We have advertised their research studies in the Senior Alumni News, by including flyers at CP lectures, or by posting notices on our web site.

In 2015, we distributed notices on behalf of the following offices and organizations:

- **U of T Animal Ethics Committee** was seeking community representative.
- **Movement Disorder Unit at Toronto Western Hospital** was looking for healthy volunteers for brain imaging research, to help in understanding Parkinson's disease.
- **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)** was looking for patients with Parkinson's Disease, and healthy volunteers for a brain imaging research project.
- **University Health Network** was looking for volunteers at its hospitals.
- **University Health Network Research Volunteer Pool at Toronto Rehab** needed volunteers for their database for research studies.
- **St. Michael's Hospital and U of T** was seeking healthy participants for driving simulator studies aimed at understanding how brain disorders affect driving ability.
- **Sunnybrook Health Sciences** needed volunteers for clinical trials on memory loss drugs.



There is still time to catch some excellent lectures in our Spring Canadian Perspectives (CP) Lecture Series. There are two series; one on Monday afternoons from 1:00–3:00pm and the other on Wednesday mornings, 10:00am–noon. All lectures take place at the Carlton Cinema, 20 Carlton Street (at Yonge St.) which is easy to reach via the TTC. You can pick only the lectures you are interested in. The lectures are open to the general public so bring along your friends.

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.

#### Monday afternoon lecture series

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**March 28:** *St. John's Ward: The Headwaters of Multicultural Toronto.* John Lorinc, Journalist

**April 4:** *With Personalized Trainers and Tailored Suits, Why Not Personalized Medicine?* Molly Shoichet, Engineering Medicine

**April 11:** *Group of Seven: North of Superior.* Nancy Lang, White Pine Pictures

**April 18:** *Self-Regulation of Health Care Professions.* Tina Langlois, Professional Conduct Lead, College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario

**April 25:** *The Syrian Refugee Crisis.* Rana Khan, Legal Officer, United Nations High Commission for Refugees

#### Wednesday morning lecture series

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**March 30:** *The Troubles of Television News.* Mark Bulgutch, Lecturer, Ryerson School of Journalism

**April 6:** *Behind Closed Doors: An Artist's Quest to Record the Unknown Areas of Canada's Parliament.* Anthony Batten, Art Historian

**April 13:** *Downsizing without Tears.* Pat M. Irwin, ElderCare-Canada. Professor, Distance Learning, Centennial College

**April 20:** *Aging and Creativity: The Late Life and Last Works of Verdi and Strauss.* Linda Hutcheon. Professor Emeritus, Dept. of English and of the Centre for Comparative Literature and Michael Hutcheon, Professor of Medicine

**April 27:** *Intelligent Use of Prescription Medications.* Dr. Nav Persaud, Family Practice, St. Michael's Hospital