



Celebrating **40** Years of Volunteer Service

SAA Celebrates 40 Years with Well-Attended AGM



The Senior Alumni Association of the University of Toronto celebrated its 40th anniversary at its Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Day on May 2, 2016. With the wonderful assistance of UofT’s Alumni Relations, the AGM and presentations were held in the George Ignatieff Theatre and the reception was in the Buttery, Trinity College.

As part of the business proceeding, 2016-2017 executive slate was ratified by the membership present. Ihor Prociuk, our new president, replaces outgoing president Maureen Somerville. We also welcome some new members to the Executive.

2016-2017 SAA Executive

President	Ihor Prociuk
Past President	Maureen Somerville
Treasurer	Anna Kennedy
Secretary	Danuta Smith
Assistant Secretary	Beverley Coburn
Communications Chair and Newsletter Editor	Ihor Prociuk
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Maureen Somerville
Senior Alumni Volunteers Chair	Mary Vohryzek
Senior Alumni Volunteers Co-Chair	Beverley Coburn
Events Chair	Wendy Talfourd-Jones
Assistant Events Chair	Irene Devlin
Planning Chair	Gloria Buckley
Member-at-Large	Dianna Craig
Archivist:	Wendy Talfourd-Jones

The Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series

Chair/Co-ordinator	Kristine Thompson
Members	Laura Cooper, Dianna Craig, Ken Ward, Dagmar Falkenberg, Brian Yawney, Maureen Somerville, Kathleen Willing

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We were honoured to have Professor Meric Gertler, UofT’s President, as our AGM speaker. His topic, “*Spikey and Sticky: The Toronto Innovation Ecosystem*”, spoke to the emergence of research and commercial innovation in major urban centres (such as Toronto) as key forces in the development of the global economy. His remarks were well received and resulted in an enthusiastic Q & A afterwards.

Service awards were presented to SAA volunteers for one-, five-, and ten-year service to the university. After door prizes were awarded, an excellent reception took place in The Buttery, complete with a large, 40th anniversary cake.



l to r: Ihor Prociuk, newly-elected president of the SAA, Barbara Dick, assistant vice-president, Alumni Relations, and Maureen Somerville, past-president of the SAA, cut the 40th anniversary cake.

We’d like to thank Anne Cobban for making arrangements with the President’s Office to have Meric Gertler speak at our AGM; Satpal McCaughey and Lindsay White for the logistics around the AGM itself (venue, catering, name badges, registration desk, and the “branded” M&Ms), and; Barbara Dick, assistant vice-president, Alumni Relations, for helping present our volunteer recognition pins and awards. Alumni Relations’ financial support of our AGM and reception was very much appreciated.

The SAA also greatly appreciates the certificates, given to our board members and signed by Professor Gerlter and Barbara Dick, in recognition of our 40 years of service. We are deeply honoured.

*Wendy Talfourd-Jones
events chair*



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.

Volunteers needed for clinical trials on memory-loss drug



Are you concerned about the possibility of memory loss as you grow older? This A4 study is a landmark clinical trial to test whether a new investigational drug can slow memory loss associated with Alzheimer's disease. A4 is a clinical study for people ages 65-85 with normal thinking and memory abilities.

For more information, visit <http://a4study.org/>

To find out if you are eligible, contact:

Joanne Lawrence:

(416) 480-6108 or joanne.lawrence@sunnybrook.ca

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



Events

Senior Alumni Association CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES Lecture Series

There's still time to attend some excellent lectures in our spring **Canadian Perspectives (CP) Lecture Series**. There are two series: Monday afternoons, starting October 12, from 1:00–3:00pm and Wednesday mornings, starting October 17, from 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. The best value is to select all the lectures in a series but you can also pick only the lectures that interest you. The lectures are open to the general public of all ages so bring along your friends.

For your convenience we offer secure, online registration at:

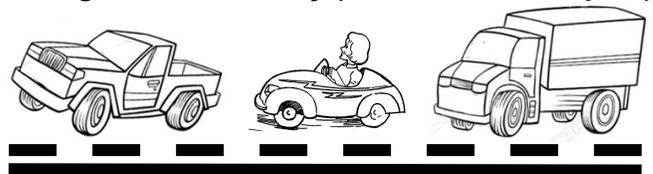
<http://alumni.utoronto.ca/alumni-groups/senior-alumni/canadian-perspectives-lecture-series/>

or call the Senior Alumni Office at 416 978-0544.



... 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

Phone: 416-864-6060, ext. 77342

“Quotable Quotes”

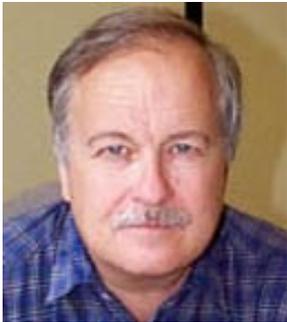
The greatest mistake you can make in life is to continually be afraid you will make one.

– Elbert Hubbard, writer and artist

The most difficult thing is the decision to act. The rest is merely tenacity.

– Amelia Earhart, aviator

President's Corner



The Senior Alumni Association is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and, as the Millennials (or maybe it's the Generation Zers — whatever), would say: *Whoo-hoo!*

Keeping an organization going for forty years is no small feat—especially one run by volunteers. Over the years, the alumni “landscape” has changed significantly, both on and off the campus. And yet, despite these changes, the mission of the SAA—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—still serves us well.

You know you're doing something right if you can keep the same thing going for 40 years! This year, our flagship program, the *Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series* continues to offer a range of diverse and engaging topics. The lectures are open to everyone, young and old, so bring a friend—or several friends. You'll find a link on page 2 that will take you to our website where you can view the lecture topics and register online using our secure credit card system. I'll be at the lectures, so stop by and introduce yourself. I'm always happy to meet our members.

The SAA does not fundraise. After covering operating expenses, income from our lecture series and other programs goes to a scholarship fund for UofT students. At our AGM this year, in recognition of our 40th anniversary, we announced a \$4,000 addition to that fund. Along with University, government, and several private donations made in our name, this fund has grown substantially over the years. See the article on page 4.

We still have a few vacancies on our executive committee. We are looking for a vice-president, assistant treasurer, and an editor for the *SAA News*. If you would like to get involved, see the contact information below my name.

The SAA is proud of our accomplishments so far. We will continue to provide programs we hope you will find engaging. Join us as we continue with our mission.

Ihor Prociuk, president, SAA
ihor.prociuk@utoronto.ca
 416 535-1478

A Walking Tour of St. George St.

On May 9th, a group of nine met at the St. George Subway station for a walk south to College Street. St. George has mostly older buildings on the east side, newer on the west, although that's changing, judging by the construction on the east side behind Simcoe Hall for the new facilities for the School of Engineering. The reason for the “divide” is that the University needed to expand as the baby-boomers started to attend in the mid 1960's.

One or two highlights are not part of the University. The York Club, on the north-east corner of St. George and Bloor, was built by the Gooderham family as its residence in 1892. The architect, David Roberts, also designed the Gooderham (Flatiron) building where Front Street and Wellington split at Church Street. The

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SAA members gathered at the St. George TTC station before starting on a walking tour of UofT portion of St. George St.

Bata Shoe Museum, built to house Sonia Bata's vast collection of shoes, is on the south-west corner. Raymond Moriyama, one of Canada's most internationally recognized architects, designed the building to resemble a partially-opened shoe box.

St. George 100 years ago was lined on both sides by mansions occupied by the prominent citizens of Toronto. It was away from the dirt and disease of the city's downtown. Several of these buildings still remain. One houses the Transitional Year Program at Woodsworth, two are fraternity houses. McDonald Mowat House, at the north end of Knox College, was once owned by Canada's first prime minister, John A. McDonald for two years (1872-4), and later by Oliver Mowat who occupied it from 1888-1902. Mowat was the premier of Ontario who opened the new legislature building in Queen's Park in 1893. Cumberland House, home of Frederick Cumberland is now the International Student's Centre. Cumberland designed St. James Cathedral and University College.

There are many hidden points of interest along St. George. The Drill Hall is now part of Woodsworth College, set up to be used for study and meeting friends with a coffee shop steps away indoors. The Robarts Library is a massive complex for research and study, built in the early 1970's. Part of it, the Fisher Rare Books Library, is awesome when you step into the gallery of floors of shelves housing books, documents, and objects that attract researchers from around the world. There is a peaceful courtyard that lies between Knox College and McDonald Mowat House. We learned they are quite protective at Knox, as we were scolded when we paused for a picture on a bench there.

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40 Years of Giving Back: SAA Scholarship Fund

Since the early 1970s spanning four decades, the Senior Alumni Association (SAA) has generously supported various initiatives at the University of Toronto. What started out as a \$15 donation, the SAA's support now exceeds \$1 million, funding dozens of projects and programs across UofT's campuses. Perhaps none of these gifts are as important as the awards the SAA has established to ensure that talented UofT students have the means to focus on their studies and pursue opportunities that provide them with an excellent academic foundation for their future. Supporting both graduate and undergraduate students across numerous fields and backgrounds, the SAA has shown a strong commitment to UofT students and their success.

Currently nine SAA funded awards are distributed to students annually. These awards have disbursed over \$125,000 to more than 120 students, and are an important part of the University's effort to keep our programs accessible. As a public university, it is imperative that any deserving student has the means to obtain a University of Toronto education without any financial barriers. The SAA and its membership have played a consistent and important role in ensuring that the hard work of UofT's students is recognized, and they have the means to focus on their studies during this critical juncture in their lives.



Victoria Partola

The impact this has on the individual student experience is significant. Victoria Partosa, who received the *Peter John Hare Memorial Scholarship in Environment*, explains her gratitude for the SAA's support, "a scholarship is more than a financial gift; it tells me that I'm doing something right and that anything is possible."

Samantha Mahabir, who received the 2013-14 Senior Alumni Prize, highlighted the lasting impact financial support had on her, saying that the SAA "has inspired me to give back to my community and help others along the way. I hope to help students one day just as you have helped me." These are just two examples of the positive influence our organization has on many deserving students. Supporting scholarships not only relieves students of financial restraints, but demonstrates the power of community and the importance of giving back.

Forty years of service is an admirable record for any organization. We would like to congratulate our members on their tremendous contributions to the University and our students. Your commitments helps develops the talent necessary to advance knowledge and find solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges.

Thank you!

[I'd like to thank Farida Adam, Student Awards Officer, University Advancement, University of Toronto, and Xarissa Thompson, Senior Writer, Stewardship, University of Toronto, for providing information in this article -- editor]



Samantha Mahabir

continued... A Walking Tour of St. George St.

There are occasional interesting objects as well: Charlie Pachter's iron moose at the south-west corner of St. George and Hoskin, and the Rock of Ajax in front of the Galbraith Building, in memory of the use of large huts in Ajax to house the students who wanted to go to Engineering after the end of World War II.

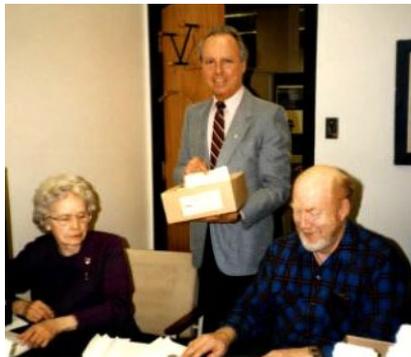
At the end, we adjourned to the Faculty Club to enjoy lunch and discuss the walk. I think a good time was had by all.

Next May, I'll lead another walk. Two ideas: The monuments of Queen's Park, or the eastern side of the campus. If you see me, let me know which you would prefer, or if you have other ideas.

Maureen Somerville
past president, SAA

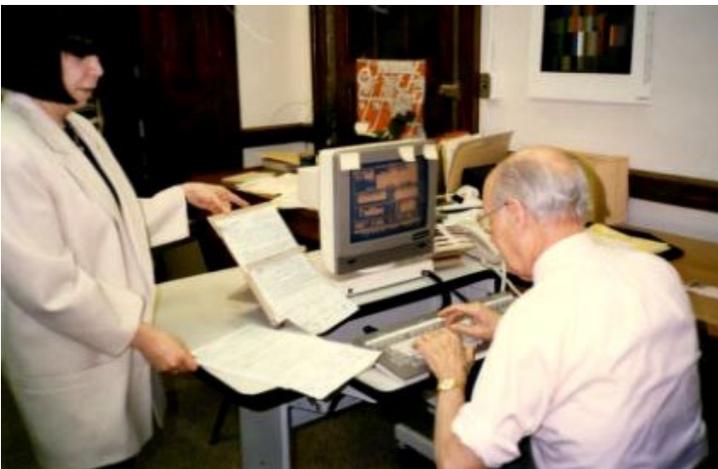
Flashback: 40 Years of SAA

1987: Faculty of Engineering "Iron Ring" Ceremony



One of the oldest Senior Alumni volunteer projects has been helping the Faculty of Engineering with their mailings and assisting with sorting of the rings for the "Iron Ring Ceremony", so that each graduating student is handed the correct size. Here we see volunteers Connie Grey and Murray Higgins at work in 1987, with assistant dean Malcolm McGrath bringing more envelopes to be filled.

1987: Medical Research Data Bank



For many years, the late Gordon Romans, one of the Senior Alumni's founding members, spent one or two days each week updating the Medical Research Data Bank. He took research reports and coded the information in a way that would help doctors and researchers quickly find appropriate reports. His background at Connaught Laboratories gave him the understanding of the key words to make a valuable contribution.

Wendy Talfourd-Jones
SAA archivist