



Are You Wilde for Oscar?

If so, then join the Senior Alumni Association on our spring trip to Stratford with Mary Morton Tours to see Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. And if you aren't already, then you are sure to be (Wilde about Oscar, that is)!

Wilde was born into a prominent Dublin family on October 16, 1854, and died in self imposed exile, ill and destitute, in Paris on November 30, 1900 at the very young age of 46. An Irish poet and playwright, he was one of London's most popular writers and society figures of the early 1890s. He espoused the philosophy of aestheticism with his biting wit, flamboyant dress and glittering conversation skills. Wilde wrote four societal comedies: "Lady Windermere's Fan" (1892), "A Woman of No Importance" (1893), "An Ideal Husband" (1893-4) and "The Importance of Being Earnest" (1895). At the height of his fame and success, he was put on trial for gross indecency, sentenced in 1895 to the maximum of two years hard labour and incarcerated from 1895-97.



Brad Hodder as Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband*

An Ideal Husband is a comedic stage play revolving around blackmail and political corruption (sound familiar?) and issues of public and private honour. Wilde highlights the position of women in English late Victorian society (quoting Lord Goring "A man's life is more valuable than a woman's"). The play also expresses anti-upper class sentiments. The overall portrayal of the upper class in England displays an attitude of hypocrisy and strict observance of

silly rules. Another theme – forgiveness of past sins – is also prevalent (and perhaps reflected Wilde's own situation at the time): the irrationality of ruining lives of great value to society because of people's hypocritical reactions to those sins.

Written the summer and fall of 1893, *An Ideal Husband* opened at the Haymarket Theatre in London on January 3, 1895 and had a successful run of 124 performances

Do join us on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, as we lunch at The Puddicombe House in New Hamburg and see the matinee performance of *An Ideal Husband* at Stratford's Avon Theatre. There will be more about plot and cast in our next newsletter. **The registration form is on the last page of this newsletter. Please note that the deadline to register is April 27, 2018.**



...And speaking of *The Tempest*, we've booked a trip for Tuesday, October 23, 2018. This performance features Martha Henry and Brent Carver. More details in the March/April issue of the SAA News.

Wendy Talford-Jones
events chair



Monday May 7, 2018
Notice of Annual General Meeting
Volunteer Recognition Day
and
Reception

Details will follow in the April / May, 2018 newsletter.

It's All Past History

History and the past are important. They give substance and perspective to the present and the future. They can be a benchmark for current and potential decisions and actions.



An early logo of the SAA.

Originally, as archivist and historian for the SAA, my idea was to create a brief historical summary of the Senior Alumni Association's first forty years to be printed in booklet form to commemorate the 40th anniversary celebration at our 2016 Annual General Meeting and recognition of our volunteers.

Well, I discovered that forty years of Executive meetings, Canadian Perspective Lectures, volunteer projects (first under ATU—Alumni Talent Unlimited, and now SAV—Senior Alumni Volunteers) is a massive amount of history. There are also photo albums, Scholarship histories and awards. It is almost overwhelming, but it is also fascinating and interesting research delving into the past. Now, two years later (with a 12 month hiatus due to renovations at Alumni House) I'm still working on this project, but I hope it will also result in digitized and scanned records for permanent and easy electronic access for future SAA executives and volunteers. Once the project is completely done, most of the paper files can be moved out of the basement of Alumni House to off-campus storage.

The journey is in progress—and the destination in sight!

Wendy Talford-Jones
SAA archivist and historian



The SAA published the booklet *Senior Alumni In Action* at U of T in 1986. It contained a brief history of the SAA to that point including the Association's formation and some of its major projects. Beyond the ones mentioned in the above article, the SAA was very involved in the creation of the University's academic program in gerontology as well as establishing a scholarship in the program.

Ihor Prociuk, editor



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 Volunteer Opportunities



Are you retired and/or looking to get involved in something meaningful? Come and volunteer with us at University Health Network, where you can meet new friends and gain a different experience while making a positive difference in someone's life. We have a lot of opportunities in the areas of patient support, clinic or unit support, waiting room support or administrative support across our hospital sites. The programs we would like to highlight are:

- **Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP)** – Volunteers' involvement allows elderly patients to stay physically and mentally active during their time at the hospital through activities, mobility exercises and communication with the healthcare team. This ensures patients receive the best care possible.
- **Engage Program/Creative Arts Program** – Volunteers engage patients through music, art, or crafts primarily in inpatient units. Typically, we are looking for volunteers who play the guitar, flute, violin, erhu, banjo, bandura, clarinet, keyboards and piano, and volunteers who enjoy drawing and sketching or doing crafts such as origami with patients.
- **Waiting Room Program** – Volunteers liaise between families and friends of patients, and the clinical staff. They provide friendly and compassionate support and general assistance to family and friends of patients in waiting rooms, keep staff informed of any questions or concerns of visitors and assist them administratively.
- **Navigator Program** – In their role as Navigators, volunteers are situated at information desks, at entry points of the hospital or near elevators. From there, they greet, direct and escort patients, families, and visitors to different areas of the hospital; ambulatory clinics, inpatient units, waiting rooms or to administrative areas.
- **Healing Beyond the Body (HBB)** – Volunteers contribute to patient care by offering enhanced emotional support and system guidance at every stage of the cancer journey.
- **Inpatient Visiting Program** – Volunteers provide emotional support to patients and their family members in inpatient units, listening to them, engaging them in conversation, games or other activities, reading to them or providing them with reading material.

Contact Ivetka Vasil, 416-603-5800 ext. 2362

For more information or visit:

http://www.uhn.ca/corporate/ways-help/Volunteering_UHN



Events

SPRING REUNION

Go back to school for the weekend

May 30 – June 3, 2018

U of T's 2018 Spring Reunion annual alumni weekend will be held May 30 – June 3. This year the University is celebrating graduating classes with years ending in 3 or 8 but all U of T grads are welcome. 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. As of the printing of this newsletter, not too many events have been posted but bookmark the Reunion site and check it regularly. Register early as many events fill up quickly. *And don't forget to visit the SAA Info Desk!*

More details at:

<http://springreunion.utoronto.ca>



... More Volunteer 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, be comfortable with the use of technology and have access to a computer and internet, 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 occur monthly for 2-3 hours and an additional 5-10 hours a month are required to review and comment on protocols.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Jennifer Lapierre

Animal Ethics and Compliance Manager

416-946-3608 or jenn.lapierre@utoronto.ca



Participants needed for Real-World Multitasking Challenges Study

Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network is looking for **healthy adults (60+ years old)** as well as individuals who feel that their **memory or thinking is becoming worse**, or who have been diagnosed with **mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia**. Participation will involve measures of hearing, vision, balance, and cognition, and the experiment will take place in a state-of-the-art virtual reality laboratory. Participation is completely voluntary and is scheduled at your convenience. *Participants will be compensated at a rate of \$10/hour for their time.*

WHERE: Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, 550 University Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5G 2A2

WHAT: Two sessions lasting 2 hours each.

CONTACT: Sophie at mivelab@outlook.com or call 416-597-3422 x 7879 for more information.



President's Corner



In this issue we complete the introduction of new committee members. See *Who's New at the SAA* below.

The Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series Committee has put together a great list of speakers for our Winter series. There's not enough room in this issue to list all the lectures but you can find them at uoft.me/saacp. Use our secure online credit card system to register for the courses. We've also secured a spot on campus where you can sit and rest a while. See *A bench just for you!* on the back page.

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

The Pajamas Volunteers

Volunteer positions usually don't have a rigorous dress code. Most times they want you to dress neatly but casually. Sometimes you may be asked to dress in "business casual" if the occasion is a bit more formal—like when SAA volunteers assist during U of T's Arbor Awards which are held annually on the grounds of the President's home. Having to dress in pajamas is probably at the far end of the "casual" dress code spectrum!

Each year in December, the Faculty of Nursing holds its Health Assessment Skills Test for first year nursing students. The test is designed to give them the opportunity to demonstrate their textbook knowledge in a live situation. The "live" part is supplied by SAA volunteers dressed in pajamas. The test is carried out in a hospital setting at the Bloomberg Nursing Simulation Lab facility located on College Street just west of University Avenue.



Some of the SAA volunteers dressed in their finest pajamas for the Faculty of Nursing Health Assessment Skills Test

This is a long-standing SAA project (we've been doing it for over 15 years) and it's a lot of fun. There is a morning and an afternoon shift. Most volunteers do one shift but some do both. There are some volunteers who have done this project many years in a row. The Faculty provided a morning snack and a delicious lunch.

...If you're interested in participating in this project, contact Bev Coburn, one of the co-chairs of the Senior Alumni Volunteers Committee. Leave your contact information with our administrative assistant, Olga Klenova, at senior.alumni@utoronto.ca or by phone (416) 978-0544 and Bev will get in touch with you.

Ihor Prociuk, editor

"Quotable Quotes"

What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight— it's the size of the fight in the dog.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th US president

Peace is not unity in similarity but unity in diversity, in the comparison and conciliation of differences.

Mikhail Gorbachev, political leader

Who's New at the SAA

Jennifer Grange Member-at-Large, Executive Committee



Jennifer Grange recently joined the Senior Alumni executive as a member-at-large. From 2014 to 2016, she was the Association's administrative assistant where most of her time was devoted to the Canadian Perspectives lecture series. After leaving this position she maintained her association with the series by sitting on the CP lecture series committee.

In addition to volunteering with the SAA and St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Jennifer sits on the Larkin-Stuart Lectures committee at Trinity College as a representative of St. Thomas's which co-sponsors the lectures.

Besides her volunteer work, Jennifer is a voracious reader—particularly of British and Scandinavian murder mysteries, political and literary biographies. She is interested in theatre, visual arts, and music ranging from Baroque chamber music to 1960s Motown. She knits and solves crosswords but is flummoxed by Sudoku.

Despite her attachment to the University of Toronto, Jennifer graduated from Western.

Volunteers Needed for Robarts Library Book Room

The Robarts Library regularly gets donations of all sorts of books. Some are added to the Library's holdings but those that aren't are sold—at really great prices—in the Robarts Library Book Room.

Volunteers are needed to sell these books. Sale hours are every Tuesday, 11:00am–4:00pm, and the *last* Thursday of each month, from 11:00am–4:00pm. The Book Room is closed for June, July, and August and over the Christmas period. Proceeds go to the Robarts Library. Please call Sylvia or Ross Petras 416 944-8334.

THE SENIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

University Advancement
 21 King's College Circle
 University of Toronto
 Toronto, ON M5S 3J3

Phone: (416) 978-0544
 Email: senior.alumni@utoronto.ca
 Webpage: alumni.utoronto.ca/senior

This newsletter is published quarterly [400 copies]

Senior Alumni Newsletter Staff

Editor: Ihor Prociuk
 Assistant Editor: Maureen Somerville

Volunteering: a personal story

[Joann Rossitter joined the SAA Executive this year. She is the Co-Chair of the Senior Alumni Volunteers Committee. This is her volunteer story.

Ihor Prociuk, editor



After teaching over 6,000 pupils for more than thirty years, I decided to retire. I thought I was ready but I wasn't. That first September away from school, I felt so alone as I was missing the school, the students and the people there. I felt out of place. So I made myself very busy. Having no parents or grandchildren, I offered my time and energy as a volunteer. I started with the Big Sisters organization, the United Way, and the Romero House, a home for refugees. I also became more involved with the Wheels of Hope project of the Canadian Cancer Society.

But I couldn't stay away from teaching completely. I taught ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at the food bank and continue to teach teenagers English, French and students with special needs.

I've enjoyed travelling to many countries like Japan, Peru, Israel and several European cities. I like singing, dancing and painting (which help me to recreate myself), long walks in the park on Monday morning, and Tuesday morning yoga class. I continue to do other volunteer work and have even received "volunteer of the year" awards in some cases. I even took some courses at the University of Toronto. In short, I'd say retirement is a huge change in one's life and the best part is that you make your own schedule. Remember to take good care of your self and smell the roses along the way and be grateful for everything. Laugh, love and learn.

[Do you have a volunteer story to tell? Let me know. You can contact me at ihor.prociuk@utoronto.ca]

A bench on campus just for you!

In the Sep./Oct., 2017 issue of the *SAA News* we ran a story on the Landmark Project. Just to recap: back in June 2017, the University launched the campaign for this Project which aims to integrate the core of the St. George campus, uniting four areas—King's College Circle, Hart House Circle, Sir Daniel Wilson Quadrangle and the Back Campus. Once the project is complete, among other things, parking on King's College Circle will be moved underground. See www.landmark.utoronto.ca for details.

Fundraising is well under way and there are several opportunities for making a gift that would be recognized on an engraved granite paver, bench, tree or garden in this historic heart of the University of Toronto.

At a recent meeting, the SAA Executive Committee felt that it would be fitting to have a *permanent* gift that would recognize the outstanding contributions of our volunteers and alumni and friends who have supported our projects and activities over these last 41 years. A bench seemed like the right choice. We felt that *now* would be a good time to secure the bench. Even though project completion is still a few years away, there will only be a limited number of benches near King's College Circle, where Alumni House is located.

...So, when the project is complete, come down to the St. George Campus and rest for a while on "your" bench.

*Ihor Prociuk
president, SAA*

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Application form for An Ideal Husband

An Ideal Husband

Cost: \$162.00 per person (taxes included)

The cost includes taxes and gratuities. You will receive a receipt. Make your cheque payable to **Mary Morton Tours**. Complete the form below and mail *directly* to:

Mary Morton Tours
11316 Petty Street
Ailsa Craig, Ontario N0M 1A0

Deadline: Friday, April 27, 2018

The completed order form must be received at Mary Morton Tours by the deadline date.

Date of Trip: Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Be at 50 Carlton St. (Loblaws entrance of the old Maple Leaf Gardens), east of Yonge St.) **by 9:15 a.m. for a 9:30 a.m. departure.**

If you wish to be picked up at the Islington Subway Station, please be there by 9:45 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. departure. The bus pick up is on the east side of Islington Ave., by the phone booth.

Trip Details:

Lunch will be at Puddicombe House, New Hamburg. Salad, dessert, and coffee or tea are included. Please include any dietary restrictions. Wine is available, but is not included in the cost. We will arrive in Stratford in time for the 2:00 p.m. matinee of the play.

Return:

We will arrive back in Toronto on Carlton at approximately 7:30 p.m.

University of Toronto Senior Alumni Association An Ideal Husband — Thursday, June 12, 2018

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

COST: \$162.00 per person (taxes included)

PAYMENT: Make cheque payable to Mary Morton Tours

BUS PICKUP: Carlton St. Islington Ave.

LUNCH: Chicken Supreme Atlantic Salmon

Indicate any dietary restrictions below.

REMEMBER: This completed form must be received at Mary Morton Tours by Friday, April 27, 2017.