



alumni

Senior Alumni News

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Editors: Doug Philp & Peter J. Hare

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



In my first President's Corner, I would like to welcome everyone to the fall series of Canadian Perspectives Lectures and share some of my early experiences at Senior Alumni with you.

Before I retired, and while I still had a demanding job and two children and a husband to look after, my friend Jane

asked me to go with her to Alumni House to help with tracing addresses of alumni. I was on holiday and this seemed a good way to spend some time with her. While we were working, Mr. Abernethy the President extolled the fact that working for the Senior Alumni was an opportunity to have something to do, and we should be very thankful about that. "Something to do" was not what I considered a need of mine but I liked the people I had met and decided Mr. Abernethy had a right to his opinion.

The fall that I retired, Jane invited me to go with her to the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series. The first lecture was on "The Old English Dictionary." I wondered why a nurse was going to a lecture on that topic, but I found it to be an excellent lecture and a lot of fun. However, my first few minutes in U.C. Room 179 were quite revealing.

Arriving early, because I was not sure of where to go, I found a large hall with seats rising from the blackboard at the front to the projection room in the back. There were about three strangers in the room that holds over 100, so I sat by myself somewhere in the middle. In a few minutes a lady came in and kept looking at me and wandering around me. She did not look familiar but she finally said politely "Excuse me, but I usually sit there." A little taken aback, I gave her my chosen seat and sat down again thinking - I understand some people become set in their ways when they become older.

In a few minutes, my friend Jane came up to see me and said "Oh Bev, we don't sit down here, we sit in the first long row at the back." I joined my friends in the first long row at the back and decided that I had reached the venerable privileged stage when I could be set in my ways if I wanted to be.

That was nine years ago this October. Since then, I have met many people whom I really enjoy, worked on many volunteer projects, and listened to over 100 Canadian Perspectives Lectures. Now I appreciate Mr. Abernethy's comments because, not only does Senior Alumni give me something more to do - which I still do not need - but it provides the opportunity to continue learning and contributing, which I really do need and enjoy. May you also enjoy your association with the Senior Alumni.

A final note, please check the requirements for volunteers on page two.

Bev Coburn

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SENIOR ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING

The many programs and projects offered by the UTSAA run smoothly and efficiently. Senior Alumni volunteers give generously of their time to make this happen.

For many years, the "Canadian Perspectives" lecture series have been actively subscribed to by hundreds of senior alumni.

These take place in the fall and in the spring. The unlimited talent pool of University of Toronto professors take as much pleasure in lecturing to the seniors as we do in listening to them. Through them we are kept abreast of the latest research as well as discussing old favourites. These programs are volunteer organized and led.

Ongoing projects such as conducting Tours of the Robarts Library, manning the Information Desk at the Koffler Centre and the others that are mentioned elsewhere in these pages, are only possible because of the many hours involved in their scheduling. These are all volunteer organized and led.

Sybil Geller

Sybil Geller

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Psychology at the University of Toronto is looking for volunteers in aging studies. These studies involve a variety of interesting paper based and computerized tasks (no previous computer experience is necessary). The results from this research will help us answer important questions about how we age. To volunteer, you must have graduated from high school, speak English as a first language, and provide your own transportation to the University of Toronto, St. George campus (downtown). Participants will be paid \$10 per hour. Please call (416) 978-0905 for details.

Toronto Rehabilitation Institute is also looking for Volunteers

If you are, or you know someone who is over the age of 65 years, and have accidentally fallen in the past year, they would like to hear your opinions on exercise. The Institute is conducting small-group interviews to identify important promoters and barriers to exercise in people that have fallen and would greatly appreciate your help! Please call 416-597-3422 ext 3863 for further details.

SENIOR ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**Robarts Library Tours.**

The Senior Alumni Association is looking for active seniors interested in becoming volunteer tour guides at Robarts Library.

- flexible hours/days
- meet with other alumni members
- training provided
- complimentary U. of T. library card

Tour guides must be comfortable spending one or two hours walking through the library and speaking to groups (maximum) 20 students. Training provided.

Koffler Information Desk Volunteers staff an information desk at the Koffler Student Centre (St. George and College) answering basic questions, about the location of services and offices. The work load can vary from steady in September to quite light later in the School year. Shifts are four hours in duration and volunteers usually commit to a regular schedule such as one day per week, but other arrangements are possible. The aim of this project is to free up full-time professional staff to provide special counseling to students. Orientation is provided.

U. of T. Art Centre This project requires volunteers to be guides and others to watch over exhibits. Shifts will be 2 ½ hour duration between Tuesdays & Fridays. Special events upon request. This project involves relating to those who visit the Art Centre, being able to sit and enjoy the exhibits and acquiring some information for discussion with visitors. Training will be provided. The Picasso show which will run from this September and end in January 2005, requires a four hour shift commitment. Orientation will be sometime first week of September.

Mailings Volunteers are required to assist with mailings at a variety of locations on campus. Usually these occur between October & April. Volunteers are called about a week to ten days in advance to check if they are available and inform them about time and location. This is a good project for someone who is willing to come in occasionally, but who doesn't want a regular shift.

Do any of these projects sound interesting?

Please call the Senior Alumni Office for information and to volunteer.

CONTACT: Kathy Parks, 416-978-0544 or
senior.alumni@utoronto.ca

ADVANCED NOTICES**FALL HOMECOMING 2004**

Friday October 15 and Saturday October 16.

All University of Toronto alumni, friends and families are invited to campus for the best gathering of the year. Homecoming 2004 is a great opportunity to relive old memories and create new ones. Come see what's changed, how we've grown and what's stayed the same. "Classes Without Quizzes" will feature some of U of T's most outstanding faculty. Here are a couple of our exciting offerings:

- ✓ The Christian Imagination of J.R.R. Tolkien in The Lord of the Rings
- ✓ Pharmacists Know: Wizardry, Potions, Brews, Mixtures and Concoctions

The day's events also include Campus Tours, a Homecoming Pub, a Varsity Blues football game and a Homecoming Barbecue.

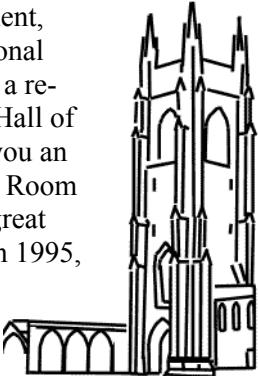
What a Price! A \$15 fee gets you into the Pub, Game and Barbecue. For those who have registered, everything else is free!

To register please call 416 978-0424, or e-mail us at homecoming@utoronto.ca

INVITATION TO NOV 11 SERVICE

The Soldiers' Tower Committee of the University of Toronto Alumni Association has asked us to pass on an invitation to attend the annual "Service of Remembrance" at Soldiers' Tower, Hart House Circle, which will be held this year on Thursday November 11 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Put this date on your calendar so that you may join with us in remembering the men and women that this university has lost in the two world wars and other conflicts.

The carillon will play a prelude then the service will begin at 10:30 a.m. It will include the singing of traditional hymns, readings, laying of wreaths, The Last Post, The Lament, Reveille, and the Royal and National Anthems. Following the service, a reception will be held in the Great Hall of Hart House. This also will give you an opportunity to visit the Memorial Room in Soldiers' Tower and view the great stained glass window dedicated in 1995, and view medals and other mementoes.

**WE REMEMBER HELEN RUTHERFORD**

A long time very active Senior Alumna passed away last May 23. Helen Rutherford was active both on our board and as a volunteer. Among her many services for many years, Helen organized The Senior Alumni's support to The School of Graduate Studies in registering students in September.

In recent years while the SGS project had been discontinued and she was not always able to get out, she continued to save employment clippings for the Koffler Student Centre working at home.

FLASH BACK

The first picture below shows Mary Carter helping out at the the School of Graduate Studies registration in 1982, one of the projects organized by Helen Rutherford.



The second picture shows Helen Rutherford engaged in a library project in 1987.



EDITORS NOTEBOOK

I can't believe another summer has come and gone. September brings with it the return of the fall Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series. The Rooms have been booked and luncheon room bookings are being negotiated.

At the AGM on May 6, we voted for some notable changes to our Executive: Bev Coburn became our new President (her first report is in this issue) and Howard Pentland takes over from Bev, as Chair of the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series. I want to take this opportunity to thank John Corkill for three outstanding years at the helm. As Past President, he will be a valued support to Bev.

At our AGM, Chancellor Vivienne Poy gave a very interesting talk, fielded a number of questions from a warm and appreciative audience and handed out service pins to volunteers.

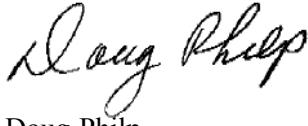
The Executive held the June 10, year-end luncheon at the Faculty Club where we enjoyed a wonderful buffet, prepared by host Leanne Pepper and staff. A great way to close out the year!

As always, we continue to need volunteers for several projects. Some require as little as once-a-week assistance while others require ongoing participation to complete projects. Our very active Senior Alumni Volunteer chair, Sybil Geller needs your support for any of these worthy causes. If you can help, please call the Senior Alumni office at 416-978-0544. Thank you.

The recent announcement that President Birgeneau was stepping down from his duties at U. of T. shocked and disappointed the entire U. of T. community. His appointment as Chancellor at University of California at Berkeley was simply an opportunity he could not refuse. His duties there begin October 1, 2004. Arbor Award recipients, past and present, will have an opportunity to say farewell at the Arbor Awards presentations and reception in September at the President's home.

Although Bob Birgeneau and Mary Catherine will be sorely missed, we wish them every success in their new undertakings.

That's all for now!



Doug Philp

CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES LECTURES

It's that time of year again!

Thanks to the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Office of Space Management, and the Department of Zoology, we have secured classroom space for the fall, and we are able to offer another Canadian Perspectives Lecture series. We would especially like to thank Elizabeth Bruno in the Arts and Science office, for her diligence in arranging our bookings; and Professors Harold Harvey and James Thomson at Zoology.

Some of you have phoned in over the summer and asked: "I submitted my cheque last spring - why haven't I heard anything yet?" Here's a reminder for those who may be unaware of the registration process: Each year, when we begin to plan for the Fall and subsequent Spring Lecture Series, we submit a request to the University for classroom space. But student classes take priority - so we wait for the University to book all the student classes first. This usually takes until the 3rd week of August. Then the University offers us space from among the classrooms that remain available. Thus, we cannot confirm the status of our lecture series until around the end of August. Once the room bookings are in place, we quickly try to place all registrants into your desired group, we print up the programs and we get them out to you as soon as possible in September! If we cannot place you in your desired group, we will phone you.

At time of writing, we are making arrangements for Spring 2005.

SENIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Senior Alumni Association
Division of University Advancement
21 King's College Circle, University of Toronto
Toronto, Ont. M5S 3J3

Phone: 416-978-0544

FAX: 416-978-3958

Mark fax "Attention: Senior Alumni Assoc."

E-mail: senior.alumni@utoronto.ca

Senior Alumni web page:

<http://www.alumni.utoronto.ca/groups/senior.htm>