



# Senior Alumni News

## November 2004

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Editors: Doug Philp & Peter J. Hare

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Good things are happening. For the last few years the university has provided us with rooms for our Canadian Perspectives Lectures that hold up to 250 people. Because of this we have enlarged the size of our classes and now we have over 500

people attending our Canadian Perspectives Lectures. As stated in our constitution, the Senior Alumni is not a fundraising organization, but with the enlarged enrolment we have gone from a group that just pays its bills to people with a surplus.

This year the executive decided to put that surplus into scholarships and bursaries and looked for the most advantageous way to do this. Our past president John Corkill found that Woodsworth College had an unique donation strategy. We donated \$10,000 to each of Woodsworth College Scholarship fund and the Transitional Year Program. This \$20,000 was matched by the Ontario Government and again by the William Waters Foundation. The foundation grand was also matched by the Province of Ontario and because William Waters is a retired faculty member his donation is matched by the University. This means our donation of \$20,000 seeded donations of \$200,000. We also gave \$5,000 to University College and \$5,000 to the Department of Zoology for their Scholarship and bursary funds. These donations are also matched by the province. In total, our donation of \$50,000 has set in motion the University receiving \$220,000 for scholarships and bursaries.

This increase in enrolment has also meant that more people have offered to help with our volunteer projects. The University Art Centre is presently co-operating with the Gardiner Ceramic Museum to sponsor a show of pottery decorated by Picasso. Our volunteers have been very helpful at this show and I was asked to encourage any members interested in continuing this work at the Art Centre to contact Kathy Parks at our Alumni Office 416-978-0544.

As the festive season nears I wish you all a happy holiday, a blessed New Year and look forward to seeing you in the spring.

*Bevelly Coburn*

Bev Coburn

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## 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. Advantages include: flexible hours and days; meet with other alumni members; and a 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 is provided.

We are especially looking for a coordinator for this project.

**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 provided.

**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

## OTHER NOTICES

**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.

**Proposed Spring Visit to Stratford:** The Ramsay Wright Canadian Perspectives Lecture Group is in the process of organizing a visit to Stratford in the spring of 2005, to see Shakespeare's play "The Tempest." The tentative arrangements are as follows:

- Transportation: Commercial Tour coach seating 35-56 people
- Lunch: At a local restaurant, menu to be determined
- Theatre Tickets: For "The Tempest" (senior matinee)
- Suggested date: Wednesday, June 1, 2005, @ 2.00 p.m.
- Approximate cost: \$114.00 (includes coach, lunch, theatre tickets)

If interested, please send an email to:

senior.alumni@utoronto.ca Att. Ramsay Wright Stratford Tour. or write Ramsay Wright Stratford Tour  
c/o Senior Alumni Office: 21 King's College Circle,  
Toronto, On. M5S 3J3

**Estate planning, financial management and investing.** A two session program geared to our senior membership will be held on Wednesday, December 1 and 8, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. At the Ramsay Wright Building, 110 St. George Street (SW corner of St. George and Harbord). For more information, call Barry Laibovitz 416 449 9716.

## AN INTERESTING PROJECT

Calla Janes, a long time Senior Alumni volunteer, told us about a project on which she is now working. Prof. Anne Urbancic of Victoria College, Dept. of Italian Studies, came into possession of a large historical collection of letters found recently in Toronto. They proved to be the papers of a noted Italian author, Mario Pratesi (1842 to 1921), who lived in Tuscany. They include letters from many notables of that day including Verdi and the Italian Prime Minister during the Great War.

She and her students are transcribing them, but needed some help scanning the letters on computer and entering them into a data base, so that both the text and pictures of this valuable correspondence would be accessible on a data base on the World Wide Web. Prof. Urbancic told me that Calla's help is much appreciated.

## SENIOR ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS

Many times we have written about the need for volunteers throughout the university. We think it's high time we thanked the many dedicated people who are giving their time to numerous volunteer projects. Here are a few that come to mind: ..

- The Picasso exhibition at the U. of T. Art centre where our volunteers work four hour shifts assisting visitors.
- Twelve volunteers act as patients for first year nursing students at the Faculty of Nursing (this year Dec. 14th), so students can examine real people!
- Tour guides at the Robarts library for prospective students.
- A recent Memorial Room inventory was conducted at the Soldiers' Tower by four of our volunteers. This was very well received.
- Archival work is ongoing on a regular basis at University College and Victoria College.
- Calla Janes is helping to organize a collection of old letters. See "an interesting project" on page 2.
- 10 people plus, assist the Faculty of Engineering with their Iron Ring ceremony and other envelope stuffing.
- Volunteers help registering attendees at the St. George lecture series for the School of Continuing Studies.

Whew! And this is only a few of the many activities our volunteers undertake. Thanks to all of you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

## FLASH BACK

From time to time we use one of the two Ben Wicks cartoons he gave us. A long time member of Senior Alumni and Co-Chair of the Publicity and History Committee for years, Florence Blackwell, can be thanked for this. It was she that approached Ben and asked if we could have an illustration for our brochure. He dashed off these two and gave them to us.



Thanks Ben!! Thanks Florence!!

## ARBOR AWARD

Congratulations to Howard Pentland, who received an Arbor Award on September 13 at The President's home.



Both the outgoing U of T President, Dr. Robert J. Birge-neau, and his pro tem replacement, The Honourable Frank Iacobucci, were present. Howard has been making a significant contribution to Senior Alumni, as the coordinator for the Ramsay Wright Canadian Perspectives lecture series and since June as Chair of the Canadian Perspectives Committee.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Once again the Soldiers' Tower Committee has held a splendid Remembrance Day service. Close to 1,400 people attended. Twelve hundred programs were printed, but were not enough for all. The service went smoothly and timed so well that the Provincial Guns at Queen's Park started just as the Two Minutes Silence began. Special commendations to Roy Oglesby, Director of Ceremonial, who recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday.



## EDITORS NOTEBOOK

A few years ago - 1998 to be exact, I was asked to sit as the UTAA representative on the Senior Alumni Association. To be honest, I had never heard of this group! However, I attended their meetings and was impressed with the people on the executive and their enthusiasm to work on behalf of the University.

They not only served as volunteers but it was their willingness to give something back to this great university that impressed me the most. When my term with the UTAA ended - I was asked if I would consider becoming a member of the SAA Executive - I was most pleased to accept. I was very interested in learning about the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series and quickly took advantage of this wonderful program. Did you know that as lecture series attendees you automatically become members of the Senior Alumni Association!

The late Wilson Abernethy (Eng. 23, one of the founding members of SAA would be very proud of the success of our group. Perhaps you could benefit our volunteer programs by asking your constituencies if they need volunteer assistance. They may have a project that they would like to complete but funding just isn't available - we could be the answer! Please contact Sybil Geller at (416) 483-9904 or e-mail [sybil.geller@sympatico.ca](mailto:sybil.geller@sympatico.ca) if you require volunteer assistance.

A tip of the hat to Howard Pentland, Chair of the Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series, who received an Arbor Award for his volunteer services at the home of the University President on September 13th. Also, a special welcome to the Honourable Frank Iacobucci, recently appointed as the Interim President of the University of Toronto. He has already established himself as a great choice to take on this responsibility.

That's all for now!



Doug Philp

## CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES

The Canadian Perspectives Lectures for the spring of 2005 have now been arranged and the lectures times and locations are as follows:

The Monday Morning Lecture Group (10.00 a.m.-12 noon)  
Emmanuel College, in the electronic theatre  
75 Queen's Park Cres. .

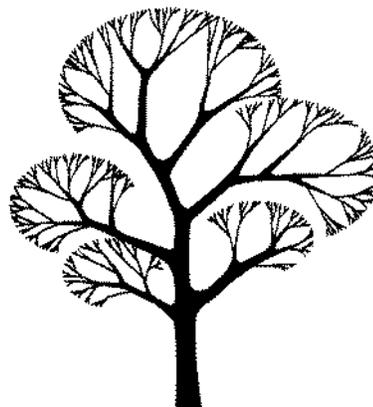
The Tuesday Morning Lecture Group (10.00 a.m. -12 noon)  
Emmanuel College, in the electronic theatre  
75 Queen's Park Cres. .

The Tuesday Afternoon Lecture Group (1.30 p.m. -3.30 p.m.)  
Ramsay Wright Building;  
(s.w. corner of St. George and Hoskin)

The Wednesday Morning Lecture Group (10.00 a.m. -12 noon)  
Banting Institute, 100 College St.

**Please Note:** The exact dates for each lecture will be on the application forms. The locations of lectures have been assigned by the University of Toronto Office of Space Management and the Ramsay Wright Zoological Department. For further information please call the Senior Alumni Association Administrative Assistant, Kathy Parks at (416) 978-0544

or e-mail [senior\\_alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:senior_alumni@utoronto.ca)



## SENIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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