

SENIOR ALUMNI NEWS

STRATFORD TRIP 2009

“Macbeth shall sleep no more!”

Macbeth has just murdered Duncan, the king of Scotland, in order to take his throne. He hears a voice speak these words, and realizes that he has set upon a path he cannot retrace and that the act he has just performed will rob him of peace until his death. A major theme in the play Macbeth is that destruction follows when unbridled ambition is unchecked by morals. Both Macbeth and his wife set out to seize high office by violent means and both descend

into madness and desperation as a result. Both suffer from hallucinations that seem to be manifestations of their guilt - bloody knives, blood that cannot be washed away and apparitions of those they have killed. Even children are murdered in an attempt to prevent discovery or overthrow. The play has been produced on stage countless times and on film several times. Orson Welles played Macbeth with a somewhat Glasgow accent in 1950, but built up a good atmosphere in his black-and-white version. The most famous is probably the Roman Polanski film of 1971. It is bloody and visually shocking. Jon Finch and Francesca Annis starred as a very young Macbeth and his Lady. One of the witches' appearances takes place in a cave full of repulsive, naked crones. Polanski changed the plot to suit his ideas, creating a cycle. His wife, Sharon Tate, had been murdered in 1969, and the film may have reflected his horror at what had happened. A 2006 version



turned it into a gangster movie. Trevor Nunn filmed a stage version starring Ian McKellen and Judi Dench. The Japanese version from 1957, Throne Of Blood, follows the plot closely.

Almost all dramatic stage actors, classical or not, have attempted the lead role. One of my first experiences with Shakespeare on stage was Macbeth in the 60s at Stratford, with Christopher Plummer in the lead role, Kate Reid as Lady Macbeth and Bruno Gerussi as MacDuff. I was thrilled and entranced by the

whole experience. I later saw another Plummer version in the late 80s at the St. Lawrence Centre. I have seen at least 6 or 8 versions of the play on stage, and each one has added to my enjoyment and fascination with the play. **Colm Feore** plays Macbeth this year at Stratford. He is one of Canada's foremost actors, not only on stage but also in film and on television. I feel, however, that stage shows Feore at his best. His Henry Higgins in My Fair Lady was one of the most energetic I have seen, and his Oberon in A Midsummer Night's Dream one of the sexiest. The director is **Des McAnuff**, Artistic Director of the Festival, a Canadian who has made it on Broadway with hits such as The Who's Tommy, The Big River and a number of popular revivals.

Join us to see the 2009 Macbeth on Wednesday, June 17th!

Maureen Somerville

INDEX TO THIS ISSUE:

Stratford Trip 2009	pg.1
Volunteer Opportunities	pg.2
Campus Events	pg.2
President's Corner	pg.3
Canadian Perspectives Spring Series	pg.3
Senior Alumni Scholarship Winner	pg.3
Senior Alumni Volunteerism	pg.4

THE CHANCELLOR IS COMING!!

The Chancellor of the University of Toronto, the **Hon. David Peterson**, will be the Senior Alumni Association's Guest Speaker at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 5th, 2009 at 1:30pm, in Room #179 (Main Floor, West End) of University College on University of Toronto's St. George Campus. A reception will follow in the Croft Chapter House adjacent to the west end of U. C.

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. If you require further information, please contact Kathy Parks at the Senior Alumni Office: phone (416) 978-0544, or email us at senior.alumni@utoronto.ca [Please note the Volunteering Article on our back page]

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

The Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Prosthetic Dentistry and The Faculty of Dentistry, New Continuing Education Centre, is still looking for volunteers.

The Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Prosthetic Dentistry needs volunteers to:

- (1) scan and organize a digital library of the clinical photos used to document the prosthetic cases of the graduate students; (2) update and quality assure a database on dental implant brands and manufacturers.

When completed this will be the most detailed database of its kind in the world; (3) update and quality assure the department of Prosthetic Dentistry's database on clinical dental implant trials.

Volunteers must have some familiarity with Microsoft and Photoshop software.

The Faculty of Dentistry, New Continuing Education Centre needs volunteers:

- (1) to help with the operation of the center with such duties as helping with course registration especially when hands-on courses are scheduled; (2) for basic trouble-shooting if technical glitches occur.

To volunteer or for further information, please contact:

Bernard Blackstien, D.D.S. at (905) 763-8711

e-mail at bernie.blackstien@rogers.com

or: contact Kathy Parks, Senior Alumni Association at (416) 978-0544

CAMPUS EVENTS

U OF T FACULTY OF MUSIC Edward Johnson Building
“Spotlight On Opera” Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*
 and *L'heure espagnole* excerpts
 February 26, 2009 12:10pm Walter Hall (free)
 (Performances: March 5 - 8, 2009)

U OF T DRAMA FESTIVAL Hart House
 February 26 - 28, 2009 Hart House Theatre

U OF T FACULTY OF MUSIC Edward Johnson Building
“Jamie Parker And Friends” Brahms & Clara Schumann
 February 27, 2009 7:30pm Walter Hall [Seniors: \$15.00]

U OF T FACULTY OF MUSIC Edward Johnson Building
Choirs In Concert: Fauré Requiem - Master Chorale
 February 28, 2009 7:30pm Victoria College Chapel
 [Seniors: \$8.00]

HART HOUSE SUNDAY CONCERT
“The Hollywood Spectacular” Louise DiTullo, flutist
 March 01, 2009 7:30pm-9:30pm The Great Hall

DORIS McCARTHY GALLERY U of T Scarborough
“Imagination: New Cultural Topographies”
 - to March 01, 2009 Gallery open: Tuesday to Friday

BLACKWOOD GALLERY U of T Mississauga
“The Way I Are”
 - to March 01, 2009 Monday-Friday: 11am-5pm
 Sunday: 1pm-5pm

E.J. PRATT LIBRARY Victoria University
“Paintings and Drawings by Watermarks”
 - to March 01, 2009 Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday-Sunday: 1pm-5pm

HART HOUSE DRAMA SERIES
“Arcadia” by Tom Stoppard
 March 6 - 14, 2009 8pm Hart House Theatre

U of T ART CENTRE Laidlaw Wing, University College
“Dry As Dust? 18th & 19th Century Art”
“The Malcove Vision”
“Figure, Form and Ground”
 - to March 14, 2009 Tuesday-Friday: 12noon-5pm
 Saturday: 12noon-4pm

HART HOUSE SUNDAY CONCERT
Andrew Mah, guitarist
 March 15, 2009 3pm The Great Hall

ERIC ARTHUR GALLERY John H. Daniels Faculty of
 Architecture, Landscape & Design
“Wes Jones: Works From El Segundo”
 - to April 19, 2009 Monday-Friday: 11am-7pm
 Saturday: 12noon-5pm

THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY
“Book Objects and Artist Books”
 - to May 01, 2009 Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm

President's Corner



Not long ago, we welcomed alumni back from summer vacation and summer gardens. Now we welcome the New Year buried in several feet of snow. This is Canada, so U of T's three campuses also struggle under mountains of snow. It is interesting to watch the tightly wrapped students from warmer climes maneuvering to and from classes.

We had a wonderful group of fall lectures in the Canadian Perspectives Series. Speakers' subjects ranged from bees to demography, from Toronto history to music to travel. The question periods were always lively and fun-filled. A professor's happy comment "No one reads the Varsity" was revealing. There are still spots available in the spring series, so if you haven't enrolled yet, do so now and perhaps introduce a friend to these lectures. Stimulating information awaits you upon your return to the campus. A rewarding experience also beckons those who join our Stratford outing on June 17th to the Macbeth production. See the registration form included with this newsletter.

The learning arm of the Senior Alumni has been active with some of the other senior learning organizations. Initial meetings have been held (mainly at Ryerson campus) with these groups, such as The Academy For Lifelong Learning. We are making a list of such groups, noting their special orientations, times and locations. All is focused on our purpose of providing exciting opportunities for U of T alumni of the senior persuasion. More in the future.

One of our Executive events in January was a meeting with Mr. Carl Mitchell, the President-elect of the UTAA (of AGM barbeque fame at Hart House in June). UTAA is the umbrella organization for all U of T alumni bodies. There are many separate colleges, faculty and constituency organizations which have their own alumni associations, but UTAA and the Senior Alumni share the important characteristic of embracing all alumni of U of T. It is one of the most compelling facets of our university - how we combine our allegiance to the smaller units that make up the whole and so increase our allegiance to the parent body. We are also looking forward to increasing our already diversified volunteer opportunities in this broad framework. So come out and join other senior alumni as we volunteer all across the campus from Victoria College to Robarts Library and points between.

As this is being written on the Chinese New Year, we wish everyone *Kung Hei Fat Choy* and hope the Year of the Ox is good to you.

Gloria Buckley

Canadian Perspectives Spring Lecture Series

March 23rd - April 20th, 2009

Older adults have many opportunities to continue their education, often with the added advantage of courses with modest enrolment fees.

One such opportunity is the Canadian Perspectives lecture series sponsored by the Senior Alumni Association. This series offers adults 55 years and over an opportunity to keep up to date on research and developments in various academic fields. It is not necessary to be an alumnus of the University of Toronto to register in the series.

Three weekly series are offered in the spring, beginning the week of March 23rd and running for five consecutive weeks. You may choose to attend the series on Monday or Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday morning for a registration fee of \$45 per five-week session. Several of our enthusiastic alumni are registered in more than one series.

Prof. Ken Bartlett (*Renaissance In Mantua*), Prof. Sergei Plekhanov (on *Russia Today*), Jay Ingram, Discovery Channel (on *Global Warming-Can We Reverse It?*), biologist Laurence Packer (the *Buzz About The Bees*), Prof. Emeritus Peter Russell (on *Canada's trial court system*) and Prof. Lynn Haber, Psychology (on *how our brains change as we age*) are examples of some of the speakers and topics covered over the three spring lecture series.

Do sign up and join us! Contact Kathy Parks at the Senior Alumni Association at 416-978-0544 or email senior.alumni@utoronto.ca

Kristine Thompson, Chair

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Cindy Chao is the inaugural recipient of the Senior Alumni Association's **Peter John Hare Memorial Scholarship in Environment**. Cindy is in her final year of studies, completing an Environment and Health Specialist Degree, and she intends to apply for her Masters Degree. We wish her the best for a successful future!

Did You Know?

....that the three U of T campuses comprise a total area of 280 hectares. There are 127 buildings on the St. George Campus, 26 buildings at University of Toronto Scarborough and 46 buildings at University of Toronto Mississauga for a total of 199! ...and still growing!!

Senior Alumni Volunteers

The Senior Alumni Association's purpose is to bring Senior Alumni back to campus to learn about and participate in the affairs of the University. By taking part in our many programs, they benefit both themselves and the University. A key element is the provision of volunteer time to the University to work on projects of a wide variety and scope. Profiled below is one of the many projects our volunteers support and enjoy.

The Faculty of Nursing Assessment Exams

Over the past number of years, some of our senior members have volunteered to assist the Faculty of Nursing with the First-year Student Nursing Assessment Exams in December.

When the professional requirements for nursing programs were enhanced at the end of the 1990s, new methods of evaluating first-year nursing student patient assessment exams were put in place. Held in December, these are the first major exams nursing students face, culminating the first term of study. Previously, students themselves had been used as "patients" for the assessments. However, the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing felt that working with non-students would be a better system of evaluating the students and contacted the Senior Alumni Association asking for senior volunteers to act as the "patients".



Jackie & Doug Philp in their 'jammies' as "patients" for first year Nursing students performing their Christmas exams.

Once the "patient" is settled, the student nurse and a supervising teacher/examiner then come in and the student introduces her/himself and begins questioning and examining the "patient". The examiner quietly observes and marks the student's efforts during each 15 minute assessment. Other than questions about the fictional medical history and symptoms, etc., the "patient" has procedures such as pulse taking, heart monitoring, etc. done. The volunteer is not undressed or made to feel uncomfortable and the 'exam' is never personally invasive.

After the evaluations, the volunteers get dressed in their street clothes and are served a light lunch. The volunteer "patients" for the afternoon session are welcome to arrive early and join the morning volunteers for the lunch.

The Assessment Exams are completed in a single day, covering two sessions - one session in the morning and the second in the afternoon. Each session requires seven to eight "patient" volunteers. Arriving early in the morning at the Faculty of Nursing building on College Street at McCaul Street, the morning session volunteers change into their pyjamas and robes. After a welcoming continental breakfast, tea and coffee, the "patients" head to curtained cubicles (similar to an emergency ward in a hospital) and get up on the hospital bed ready for their first student nurse. Each volunteer "patient" has been given a particular 'condition' (such as a cardiac or a neurological problem) and briefed on the symptoms for that condition. Usually, each volunteer has a different "illness", so mostly no two are alike.

One volunteer who has been a "patient" for the last five or six years is **Jackie Philp**, a Victoria College Alumna, who thoroughly enjoys the whole experience. Jackie says that it is important to help the nursing students in this way and that live human patients are better to relate to than the computerized dummies. She gets enjoyment from helping the Faculty and the university and encourages other senior alumni to volunteer and get involved. She and her husband, Doug, believe that their participation in the evaluation process is appreciated by the Faculty, examiners and students. Jackie feels she supports the students, especially the nervous ones, by putting them at ease with her welcoming and encouraging manner and believes she is of value to both the Faculty and the nursing students by being a 'human' guinea pig!

Senior Alumni Volunteers (SAV) is one of our Senior Alumni Association's oldest programs. We undertake tasks and projects which the University departments cannot otherwise complete because of a shortage of resources or because seniors are specifically required. Our volunteers work as individuals or in teams, and come from all walks of life and varied professions. Many long term and close friendships have resulted from within our volunteer programs. Future editions of the S.A. Newsletter will profile some of SAV's other volunteer projects.

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