In our last issue of the Newsletter, we announced that this year’s SAA spring outing to Stratford would be to see the renowned Christopher Plummer in “The Tempest”. The date has now been confirmed as Wednesday, June 16th, 2010. This is, of course, a matinee that begins at 2:00pm. We have booked The Waterlot Restaurant in Kitchener once again. The lunch will begin with a salad, followed by your choice of baked Atlantic Salmon with Chive and Dill Cream or Roast Pork Loin with Apple Butter and Maple Glaze - please indicate your choice on the registration form on page 2 of this Newsletter. There will be dessert and coffee/tea to follow.

Complications arise when Miranda falls in love with Ferdinand, a member of the court of the King of Naples, also cast ashore. Other characters include a pair of drunken servants who supply comic relief and assorted mythical characters.

“The Tempest” is probably Shakespeare’s last play, and the only one which observes all of the traditional Greek unities: Time - All the events of the play take place within a three-hour period. Place - All the action occurs in the same place - Prospero’s island. Action - Every event is connected to the motive of the play and moves forward to the final scene. There are no extraneous episodes.

Now, in our last issue of the Newsletter, I gave you a thumbnail sketch of the play, full of magic and mystery, but now we also know most of the cast. I am interested in the fact that no name is yet available for one key character - Ariel. However some very familiar names, other than Christopher Plummer as Prospero, are listed. James Blendick will play Gonzago, Bruce Dow Trinculo, Peter Hutt Alonso and Geraint Wyn Davies will be Stephano. Trish Linstrom will portray Miranda, and Caliban will be played by Dion Johnstone. Just to refresh your minds on the story. Prospero and Miranda, many years before, have been set adrift at sea and come to shore on a distant island, where Prospero has perfected his ability as a magician. His servants also have magical abilities. One, Ariel, is “good”, the other, Caliban, is “evil”. When Antonio, the brother who usurped Prospero’s dukedom in Milan, is brought to shore by a tempest raised by the magician, the opportunity for revenge presents itself.

The only bad news in all this is the cost of the excursion - which is basically due to the cost of the ticket. Since there are fewer performances of “The Tempest” than is usual, and since there is an actor of world fame in the lead, there are no senior discounts for this play. The price of the ticket alone is $95.00. As those of you who have joined us in the past know, Mary Morton provides superb seats in the Festival Theatre. The all-inclusive price is $158.50 per person, which includes an excellent meal, comfortable Coach service Toronto-Stratford return, and the services of a Mary Morton escort. It really is a deal to see Plummer - perhaps in his last performance at Stratford!

Please note that we are asking you to send your application form and cheque directly to Mary Morton Tours this year. The registration form must be received by the Mary Morton Tour Office by Friday, May 14, 2010. Please join us for an exciting experience!

- Maureen Somerville, Events Chair
SENIOR ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For further information, please contact Kathy Parks at the Senior Alumni Office: phone (416) 978-0544, or email us at senior.alumni@utoronto.ca

Academic Resource Centre (ARC)

The Academic Resource Centre is looking for volunteers who value continuing connections with the University of Toronto to help in the reception area at the Centre so that it can be open for use from 9:00am to 5:00pm, five days a week (Monday to Friday). Volunteer responsibilities may include greeting visitors, answering questions, making coffee or tea and other related duties in support of the Centre. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Parks at the Senior Alumni Office at the above phone number and/or email address.

Candrive/Toronto Rehab Study of Senior Drivers

Candrive is a Canadian Research Program aimed at improving the safety and quality of life of older drivers and is looking for senior volunteers. You may be eligible to participate if you are: at least 70 years of age; drive at least 4 times a week; have access to a vehicle 1996-2010; and live in the Greater Toronto Area. For more information, visit their website (www.candrive.ca) or call Research Coordinator Novlette Fraser at (416) 597-3422, ext. 7851.

CAMH: Research for Parkinson’s Disease

CAMH is looking for volunteers to participate in brain imaging research for understanding Parkinson’s disease. The study involves magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET). They are recruiting both patients with Parkinson’s disease and age-matched healthy volunteers. These tests, under the supervision of CAMH medical personnel, will consist of four visits on different days: the first day (pre-screening) appx. 40-60 mins., the second day (MRI scan) appx. 60 min., and the third and fourth days (PET scan) appx. 3 hours each day. Email jihyun.ko@camhpet.ca or phone Dr. Ji Hyun Ko at (416) 535-8501, ext. 7396.

CAMH: Brain Imaging Study

CAMH is looking for healthy volunteers to take part in a research study to learn more about the peripheral benzodiazepine receptor (PBR). Interested individuals need to pass a medical examination and screening interview. For this study, financial compensation is provided. For more information, please contact CAMH at feppa_imaging_study@camhpet.ca

EVENTS

FACULTY OF MUSIC

“He Wrote The Words” - Selections from 3 Mozart Operas: “Le Nozze di Figaro” / “Cosi Fan Tutte” / “Don Giovanni” [Amadeus Mozart & Lorenzo da Ponte] Sunday, March 21, 2010 @ 2:30 p.m. Seniors: $8.00 Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building (416) 978-3744

HART HOUSE THEATRE

Please note that due to lack of interest, our group arrangements for the Hart House Theatre presentation of “Robertson Davies: The Peeled I” have been cancelled. The 4 performances run from March 3-6, 2010. If you wish to attend, please contact UofT Tix at Hart House.

SENIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2010 STRATFORD TRIP

The SAA has organized an excursion to Stratford with Mary Morton Tours to see “The Tempest” starring the legendary Christopher Plummer as Prospero on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 2:00pm. Lunch will be at the Waterlot Restaurant in Kitchener with two choices for the main: Atlantic Salmon or Roast Pork (note on Registration Form). Departures are at 9:30am from the Coffee Zone at the Days Hotel, 30 Carlton Street or at 9:50am from Islington subway Station (n/e corner of Bloor Street/Islington Avenue). Return is estimated at 7:30pm. To register for this event, complete the registration form to the right and mail directly to MARY MORTON TOURS, at 11316 Petty Street, Ailsa Craig, Ontario, Canada N0M 1A0. [Phone: (416) 488-2674]. Your registration form and cheque must be received at Mary Morton Tours by Friday, May 14, 2010.

STRATFORD THEATRE TRIP

“The Tempest” on Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Name: __________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________

Main Meal Choice: Atlantic Salmon □ Roast Pork □
Indicate any special dietary needs: _______________________

Telephone (_______)

No. of Tickets: _____________ A cheque for $158.50 per person made out to MARY MORTON TOURS attached and mailed directly to the Tour Office by Friday, May 14, 2010.
President’s Corner

It is never too late for good wishes to friends, so the Senior Alumni Association Executive takes this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year with health, wealth and a large measure of good fortune. 2010 sounds more like a “marker” year than 2009. We hope it ends on a better note than its beginning with the recent terrible earthquake in Haiti. Our hearts and prayers go to all the unfortunate people in that country. We hope that the rescues and rehabilitation will occur as soon as humanly possible.

The end of 2009 was the time we suffered the loss of our longest-serving President, Ilmar Talvila. There is much more about Ilmar in this Newsletter. Our sympathy and condolences go out to his family and his many friends.

January, 2010, saw the start of a new venture - a Winter series of our Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series - in a new venue, the O.I.S.E. main lecture auditorium, which has direct access from the St. George subway station. Kristine Thompson, the series’ Chairperson, arranged the usual lineup of excellent speakers and the enrolment numbers are very encouraging. This new series seems to have potential and it seems the subway rumble do not interfere.

The three streams of the Fall Canadian Perspectives Series all concluded in December and (from my vantage point in the Wednesday group) were most successful. One of our “different” days in the Wednesday series was a “noshow” lecturer, who was replaced by a volunteer from the audience who gave an impromptu lecture with excellent results! Where else would this happen?

Some members of our Executive attended the joint meeting of Canadian participants hosted by U.T.A.A. in October, and also took part in the February meeting. These are useful opportunities for U of T alumni associations to forge new relationships. We expect a member of U.T.A.A. will attend some of our meetings in 2010.

We are looking forward to some new and some returning events in the spring of 2010. There is more about our planned trip to Stratford in this issue. Our Events coordinators, Maureen Somerville and Doug Philp have suggested a tour through the Varsity Stadium athletic complex and a Faculty of Music operatic concert, among other ideas. This Newsletter will keep you informed of these upcoming events as they are confirmed.

Gloria Buckley

Canadian Perspectives Series

New Winter Canadian Perspectives Series Fills A Need!

The new Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series appeals to those who winter in Toronto. This year, the SAA Executive decided to pilot a Winter Canadian Perspectives Series which ran on Tuesday mornings for five weeks in January/February. Drawing from our members participating in the three Spring and Fall series, registration for the Winter series numbered over 140!

To address the possibility of foul weather, the Winter program took place in the O.I.S.E. auditorium which is accessible directly from the St. George subway station.

Topics included Senator Nancy Ruth on Life In The Red Chamber, Alan Borovoy on Threats to Civil Liberties, Len Brooks on Business Ethics, Mathew Wells on the Health Of The Great Lakes and Dr. Marvin Tile on Shiny New Joints.

2010 Spring Lecture Series

Our Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series will begin the first week of April and will run five weeks until the first week of May. Three weekly series are offered. 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

Some of confirmed speakers and topics are:

- Prof. Doug Bradley: Relationship between Sleep Apnea and Cardiovascular Diseases
- Bruce Bell, Toronto Historian: Theatres of Toronto
- Dr. Bob Buckman: Laughter Is The Second Best Medicine
- Steve Paikin, TVO: Current Political Events
- Prof. Mohini Sain: Research into polymers and composite Materials
- Prof. Alan Young: Investigation of the Wrongly Convicted
- Rick Winterbottom: Threats To Coral Reefs

Registration forms for the three Spring Series which begin the first week of April, are in the mail. If you require further information or a registration form, please contact Kathy Parks at our S.A.A. office at 416-978-0544 or email her at senior.alumni@utoronto.ca

Kristine Thompson, Chair

P.S.
We are looking for Chairs and co-Chairs for the Series. Volunteering as (co)chair is not onerous and can be interesting, fun and rewarding. Think about getting involved! Please contact me through Kathy, or speak to me at one of the Spring lectures. K.T.
Jaakko Ilmari Talvila

(1928 - 2009)

On December 28, 2009, the Senior Alumni Association, the University of Toronto, his family and friends lost a very special person in Ilmar Talvila. We at the SAA knew only a small part of the unique individual that Ilmar was.

We knew that he was a 1951 University College graduate with a B.Sc. in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, and that he was hugely passionate about the University of Toronto as well as being a huge supporter of the SAA. We were well aware of his many contributions to our organization during the 14 years he served on the Executive - during which he served 6 years as our president and, especially, hired our irreplaceable Administrative Assistant Kathy Parks.

Ilmar obviously believed that a healthy body made a healthy mind, and vice versa. He was on the U of T swim team and many years later would take his son to the Hart House pool to do 72 lengths. He had calculated that 70.4 lengths of the pool equaled a mile, so he rounded it out to 72! When he was in his 50s, he took up running and, as those of you who took his tours can attest, was a very fast, energetic walker. Many of Ilmar’s interests took him outdoors. He was an avid amateur birdwatcher, naturalist and botanist and he conducted natural history hikes within Toronto.

Ilmar also had a love of words and the English language. He prized scholarship and taught his children to read as they reached the age of five. The Encyclopedia Britannica and a huge dictionary were not far from the dinner table. He had an affection for old films (Chaplin’s City Lights and Alastair Sims’ Christmas Carol) and particularly enjoyed classical literature.

With his family, he had a wonderfully silly sense of humour and relished puns and witty word-play. He loved playing games - card games and backgammon. (We guess that for Ilmar chess was not a game!) Another Ilmar credo was the strong belief that everything begins with a list - no matter what the project - of which he made many! He also kept meticulous records of over 40 years of bird watching. Ilmar was a devoted family man and his wife Anja and his four children, Anneli, Erik, Kaarina and Tuula, were the centre of his universe. As the old adage goes: A Life Well Lived...

Ilmar retired from the SAA Executive last spring and we have missed him at our table - but now that he is truly gone, we feel his loss even more.

The SAA’s sincere thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends.