



SENIOR ALUMNI NEWS

STRATFORD 2011 : “TWELFTH NIGHT”

Twelfth Night In September!

This year, our trip to Stratford will take place in September, instead of the spring. The main reason for this change is that the play which I believe will be the best for the group, *Twelfth Night*, does not open until July 15th, and the only preview available was in very late June. In addition, we will have the opportunity to see one of North America’s foremost actors, **Brian Dennehy**, in the role of Sir Toby Belch, one of Shakespeare’s most outrageous and entertaining characters. So put Wednesday, September 14th into your calendars and agenda books and sign up for an entertaining day! As in past years, we will lunch at the Waterlot in Kitchener, and Mary Morton always has choice tickets in the Festival Theatre for us. The cost of the package this year will be \$145.00 per person. There is an application form elsewhere in this newsletter for your use. Please send your cheque directly to Mary Morton Tours before June 30, as it will be difficult to remind you over the summer months.



Twelfth Night is a romantic comedy with a happy ending, but Shakespeare also reminds us that love can cause pain as well by giving us characters whose love is unrequited by the objects they desire. One of these characters is Malvolio, a servant who loves his mistress, Lady Olivia, who is desired by Orsino, Duke of Illyria, who doesn’t capture her either! Confused yet? As in *The Tempest*, a storm and a shipwreck are central to the story, as Viola and her twin, Sebastian, each think the other has drowned. Viola learns that Lady Olivia has also lost a brother, and so disguises herself as a boy who becomes a favourite of Orsino. Still not confused? Meanwhile, Sir Toby Belch

is introduced. He’s a drinker and a rowdy who is living on the fortune of Sir Andrew Aguecheek, a tall, dim, rich man who has been conned into courting Olivia to keep him in town so that Sir Toby can continue benefiting from his wealth. These two characters, along with Maria, Olivia’s servant, manipulate Malvolio, Olivia’s steward, into believing that Olivia loves him. Malvolio is arrogant enough to believe that Olivia loves him, and the others egg him on.

When I asked through our fall issue of this newsletter for reactions to a September trip, I received no negative responses, although one person replied that they didn’t want to see the Bard in modern dress. I cannot tell at this point what period *Twelfth Night* will be set in, but the illustration in the Festival brochure shows seven characters in an interesting mixture of costumes ranging from Elizabethan to Victorian - six of them riding on a bicycle built for five! The comedies do lend themselves more to period changes. The main players are **Brian Dennehy** as Belch, **Stephen Ouimette** as Aguecheek, **Tom Rooney** as Malvolio, **Andrea Runge** as Viola, **Sara Topham** as Olivia and **Ben Carlson** as Feste, the “Fool”, who speaks the truth as only a clown can.

The title of the play probably refers to an ancient festival during which social hierarchies were reversed; however, one of the main themes of the play is the folly of ambition.

Please join us once again, or for the first time, for an entertaining day. Remember, September 14th.

- Maureen Somerville, Events Chair

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Familiar quotes from *Twelfth Night*!

“If music be the food of love, play on.”
“But be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.”
“Many a good hanging prevents a bad marriage.”

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

Robarts Library Tours

Robarts Library is looking for senior volunteers interested in becoming tour guides at Robarts Library. The tours, which begin in September, are primarily to acquaint first-year and international students with U of T's system. Volunteers must be comfortable spending one or two hours walking through the library and speaking to groups of up to 20 students. Training is provided and a bonus is a complimentary U of T library card. Interested? Contact Ihor Prociuk at ihor.prociuk@utoronto.ca or by phone at (416) 535-1478.

International Students Centre

The Centre for International Experience is looking for volunteers with good English conversation skills to help international students who are registered in their English Conversation Program. If you would enjoy helping the students practice and further develop their communication skills in English, gain insight into Canadian culture and life at the University of Toronto, and share their cross-cultural experiences, the next session is scheduled for May to July, 2011. For further information, contact Kathy Parks at the Senior Alumni Office as noted above.

Brain Imaging Research

The Movement Disorder Unit at the Toronto Western Hospital is looking for healthy volunteers for brain imaging research. This study involves magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET). This research will help to advance understanding of cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease. Eligible volunteers must be between 45 and 75 years old, have no history or indication of neurological or psychiatric illness, have no metal implants or a cardiac pacemaker and meet the results of a screening process. There is some remuneration for participation. For more information, call 416-535-8501 (Ext.7395) or email to leigh.christopher2@gmail.com.

EVENTS

PATH (Underground City) Walk!

On Wednesday, March 16th, 2011, Maureen Somerville, our Events Chair, will lead a walk through a small section of the Underground City. 'The Path' is 27 kilometres in length, and not all of it is underground. It is called the largest underground shopping mall in the world!

The plan is to walk from Brookfield Place, near the Union Station subway stop, north parallel to Yonge Street to Scotiabank, then west to the St. Andrews subway stop. We will be using escalators occasionally to look at what's above ground as well. Some stairs are involved, in this case always going up, but not a lot. Maureen (a registered tour guide) uses a cane often herself, but can manage these well, and she will set a pace that matches the slowest in the party. Plan for about an hour, probably a bit longer. If this walk works well, she'll plan another one in the fall.

We will meet at 10:30am on the street level in Brookfield Place, formerly BCE Place, at the fountain in the atrium closest to Yonge Street. Comfortable footwear an asset!

Please phone Kathy Parks at 416-978-0544 or email her at senior.alumni@utoronto.ca for more information and to confirm your intention of attending. We will limit the number to 20 - first come, first served.

2011 Annual Meeting

Guest Speaker: Bonnie Stern

The 2011 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Day of the Senior Alumni Association is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4th, 2011, in room 179 of University College and we are delighted to confirm that our guest speaker will be **Bonnie Stern** of culinary fame.

The business portion of our meeting will start at 1:30pm and our Guest Speaker will address our meeting at 2:00pm. Then, after the presentation of volunteer recognition pins, we will move to the Croft Chapter House (next to room 179) at 3:00pm for a reception with refreshments and social conversation. Please plan to join us for what we refer to as the sixth and free lecture of our Canadian Perspectives Spring Lecture Series. Look for more information in our next newsletter.

Another Heads Up!

The University of Toronto's **Spring Reunion** will be held the 26th, 27th and 28th of May, 2011. UTAA's AGM and barbeque will be held the afternoon of Saturday, the 28th. Note this weekend in your day-timers and plan to attend!

President's Corner



This is my first opportunity to wish each one of you a Happy New Year. I hope that the year 2011 will bring you peace, good health and many opportunities for intellectual stimulation.

For a moment, I would like to take a look back to the final months of 2010. In November, a joint meeting of the Governing Council and the Council of Presi-

dents was held. We learned about the important role of Governing Council and the need for qualified people to serve on it. Our own Maureen Somerville is a member of Governing Council. During the meeting, we had the opportunity to bid farewell to Rivi Frankle who is retiring after 39 years of dedicated service to the University in the alumni relations department. If you have never met Rivi, you have seen her signature on many of the letters that you receive from the University.

The Senior Alumni executive met in December for its final meeting of the year. Although we had to make some difficult decisions regarding our lecture series, we are on good footing as we go forward. The meeting ended with a social hour in which we were able to wish each other a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

By the time you read this newsletter, the Winter series of lectures held on Tuesdays at the OISE Auditorium will be well underway. I am happy to see that many of you are planning to attend. We are now working on the final arrangements for the Spring Series to be held on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning late in March. Sadly, low numbers of attendees and high rental fees for space forced us to cancel the series for the Tuesday group. I am truly sorry that this group has been forced to disband, but I hope that you will find a home with either the Monday or Wednesday groups.

The date of our Annual Meeting has been set for Wednesday, May 4th, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. More information will be in the spring newsletter.

As always, we are in need of volunteers for various projects around the university. A list of opportunities can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. We had a great response to the request for the nursing project which took place in December. We thank all of you who helped on that day.

Finally, I hope to see many of you around campus on your way to one of our lectures.

Gerry Devlin, President

Canadian Perspectives 2011 Spring Lecture Series

Yes - it's that time of year again...our **2011 Spring Lecture Series** is almost upon us. Planning for the two Spring Lecture Series being held on Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings from the end of March to the end of April is almost complete.

Topics to be covered on Mondays include:

Factors Affecting Blood Pressure
Tracking Toxins in the City
The G20 and the Role of Ascending Powers
Multiculturalism
Issues in Self-Control

The Wednesday program features:

Perspectives on U.S. Politics
The Blackburns, The Underground Railroad and Early Toronto
Virtue as a Necessity
Technology in Support of Graceful Aging
Vitamin D and Osteoporosis

The cost of each Series remains the same at \$45.00 for the five lectures.

The second **Winter Lecture Series** has again proved to be popular with our non-snowbirds. Over 120 members are registered for the program which takes place in the mornings from Tuesday, February 1st to Tuesday, March 1st, 2011. Topics include:

The CanLit Boom of the 1960s
Molière and the Misanthrope
Development of the Suburbs
Bachelor For Rent: Things you never suspected about Canadian English
Serial Monogamy or Constructive Bigamy: Canada, the British Empire and the United States

Registration forms for the Spring Series will be available at the current Winter Lecture series, so we encourage you to sign up for the Monday and/or Wednesday programs. Speak to the Winter Series chair if you have any questions or comments. You may also register for the Spring series by contacting Kathy Parks, our Administrative Assistant, at 416-978-0544 or by email: senior.alumni@utoronto.ca.

Kristine Thompson, Chair
Canadian Perspectives Lectures

***"It's not the years you put into your life...
but the life you put into your years!"***

Abraham Lincoln

“Dinner With Twelve Strangers!”

Did you know that there is a wonderful and quite innovative program on campus that connects U of T alumni with students studying at the university?

The novel concept involves alumni inviting a number of U of T students to their homes for dinner. Often the students do not have family connections in the Toronto area or are far from home, and this occasion serves not only in a mentorship capacity, but also as a welcoming gesture to the students. As well, the students usually do not know each other, having not met on campus during their studies, so the function introduces the students to each other, thus expanding their peer connections on campus.

It’s a marvelous initiative which Barbara Dick, executive director of Alumni Affairs brought to the U of T campus four years ago. In its inaugural year, five dinners were successfully held and the feedback was enthusiastic - both from the students and the alumni hosts. Last year, the number grew to twenty-five functions! This year, Barbara hopes to double that number, and Alumni Affairs are well on their way to doing so. Apparently, over 750 students have registered to take part in this experience! The program runs from September to April, although there was one held in June last year.

The secret of the success of the program, other than it being such a wonderful, warm, entertaining and enlightening experience, is its flexibility. Although it is officially called “Dinner With Twelve Strangers”, the event does not necessarily have to be a dinner, nor does it have to be exactly twelve students. Events have ranged from fancy catered affairs, to home-cooked Canadian food to a hot dog barbeque. It can be a lunch or a dinner or something completely different! One “Dinner” host took the group on a hike and provided a picnic. The groups have been as small as four and as large as thirty.



Students enjoying a “Dinner With 12 Strangers” event

Last March, the SAA’s then-president, Gloria Buckley, hosted a dinner for eight students in her home. Five of our executive were also fortunate enough to attend, of which your editor was one. The ratio of six senior alumni to eight students was perfect. There often were one-on-one conversations throughout the whole evening as everyone naturally circulated.

Some of the students hailed from as far away as Turkey, Indonesia and China, and some were first generation Canadians who were the first in their family to attend university.

The so-called “generation gap” did not exist and certainly didn’t hinder any of the conversation. We enjoyed the students’ company as much as they seemed to enjoy ours. They were particularly interested in what it was like at U of T when we seniors attended and graduated years ago. We found many differences, but also many similarities. The students seemed to particularly appreciate the home-cooked, typical Ontario farm repast! The politeness, intelligence and grace of each student shone through. They even insisted on helping with the cleanup! And a number of them wrote thank you notes - snailmail!

It truly was a memorable and heart-warming experience. In fact, your editor enjoyed the evening so immensely that I completely forgot to take pictures, so engaged was I with the students!

We encourage our senior alumni members to get involved with this program. You might even perhaps co-host with a friend. You will definitely enjoy a memorable experience. If you do have interest in hosting such an event, please contact Jonathan Cheevers at Alumni Affairs (Tel: 416-978-2221, e-mail: jonathan.cheevers@utoronto.ca). He will be happy to answer any questions you may have and advise you with your arrangements.

.....Wendy Talfourd-Jones, Editor

ERRATUM: In the last issue of the newsletter, “Did You Know..?” should have listed the original site of Victoria College as **Cobourg**, not Belleville. Thanks to those of you who noticed the error and phoned in. (Editor)

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