



## Two Theatre Trips in 2012! SHAW FESTIVAL

After reading the early results of the questionnaire, it seemed like an idea to try two trips to see theatre this year, and since it was getting late to book with Mary Morton, I made a decision before I received all the answers.

Many were very interested in the Christopher Plummer presentation *A Word or Two*, but upon speaking with Marilyn at Mary Morton, decided not to go in that direction, as the tickets before meal and bus would be over \$200 and the performances available were all Saturday matinees in July and August. I also believe that presentations in the main festival spaces at both Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake are more enjoyable. So I chose *Much Ado About Nothing* on Monday, May 14 at Stratford, and *Present Laughter* on Thursday, October 4 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Because it is the first time we are trying two plays and also our first time at Shaw, I have committed to a minimum of 35 persons for the Shakespeare, but only 25 seats (we will be sharing a bus) for the Shaw.

### Much Ado About Nothing

Stratford. Festival Theatre, Monday, May 14



This play was written about 1600, in the middle of Shakespeare's career. It is a comedy, but as usual, with serious notes. There are two pairs of lovers: Claudio and Hero, and Benedick and Beatrice. Claudio and Hero are the younger, and are in love from the beginning of the play. Their love is complicated by the machinations of one Don John to the point of Claudio rejecting Hero at the altar, but with the assistance

of a Friar and Dogberry, a master of malapropisms, and the Constable, they are reunited. I find Benedick and Beatrice much more interesting, as they begin as sworn enemies, insulting one another, but by means of 'noting' which means in this case 'nothing,' the use of gossip, rumour and overhearing, they end the play very much in love.

The setting is Messina, a port on the Island of Sicily. The Prince of Aragon is Don Pedro in the play, and Don John, the villain of the plot, is his bastard brother. Benedick is a companion of Don Pedro.

Leonato, governor of Messina, is Hero's father and uncle of Beatrice, who is an orphan. The actors this year include Ben Carlson as Benedick, Deborah Hay as Beatrice, Bethany Jillard as Hero, Tyrone Savage as Claudio, James Blendick as Leonato, Richard Binsley as Dogberry, Juan Chioran as Don Pedro and Gareth Potter as Don John. Christopher Newton is directing. The costumes in the brochure picture look more Victorian than Elizabethan.

A unique feature of *Much Ado About Nothing* is that it is mainly written in prose, rather than in the iambic pentameter that Shakespeare mostly used in his plays. This lends a more casual feel to the conversations between characters. There is much time dedicated to the act of sex and the expectation of cuckoldry in the imagery of the play. Much fun comes in the dialogue between Beatrice and Benedick, and in the malapropisms of Dogberry. The play comes as close to reality as any of Shakespeare's plays in its portrayal of relationships.

### Present Laughter

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Festival Theatre, Thursday, October 4



Noel Coward (1899-1973) wrote this play as a celebration and exposé of what it's like to be a famous person. He was, in his heyday, a major celebrity, known for his playwriting, acting, composing, and singing as well as being witty and flamboyant. There is a lot of autobiography in *Present Laughter*, although as Peter Hall commented: "What a wonderful play it would be if—as Coward must have wanted—all those love affairs were about homosexuals." What we do have is a comic play written in 1939 and first performed in 1942. The title,

*Present Laughter*, comes from a song in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night: "present mirth hath present laughter." The plot has Garry Essendine, a celebrated and self-centred light comedy actor, preparing for a tour to Africa. He has to deal with a series of events which become quite farcical—dealing with women who want to seduce him, placating both his long-suffering secretary and his estranged wife, coping with a crazed young playwright, and his fear of middle-age (he has just turned 40).

The setting is Garry Essendine's London flat in a two-week period of time. The main characters are Garry Essendine, played by Steven Sutcliffe, Liz Essendine by Claire Julien, Monica Reed, Garry's secretary by Mary Haney, and Joanna Lyppiatt by Moya O'Connell.

Coward published over 50 plays, composed hundreds of songs, wrote several musical theatre works, volumes of short stories, a novel, and wrote and acted in the WWII naval film *In Which We Serve* for which he won an Academy Award in 1943. He was knighted in 1969.

Details on the trips are on the insert to this newsletter.

....Maureen Somerville, Events Chair

### Inside...

Two Theatre Trips in 2012! .....	p. 1
Volunteer Opportunities / Events .....	p. 2
President's Corner .....	p. 3
Farewell to Kathy Parks .....	p. 3
Linda Fischer, Our New Assistant Treasurer .....	p. 4
Meet Our New Administrative Assistant, Emma Duncan .....	p. 4
Wanted: Assistant Secretary .....	p. 4



## 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 Emma Duncan at the Senior Alumni Office: (416) 978-0544, or email [senior.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:senior.alumni@utoronto.ca).

### Centre for International Experience

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 January, 2012. For further information, contact Mary Vohryzek at (416) 966-8751 or [mwvohryzek@gmail.com](mailto:mwvohryzek@gmail.com).

### 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 which now has borrowing privileges! Interested? Contact Ihor Prociuk at: [ihor.prociuk@utoronto.ca](mailto:ihor.prociuk@utoronto.ca) or (416) 535-1478.

### Academic Resource Centre

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 Emma Duncan at the Senior Alumni Office at the above phone number or email address.

### 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 55 and 80 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. For more information, call (416) 535-8501 (ext.7395) or email [leigh.christopher2@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.christopher2@gmail.com).



## Events



The **Canadian Perspectives Committee** has—once again—put together an exciting and diverse spring lecture series throughout March and April. Here are some of the speakers and their topics:

- **James Bartleman, former Lt. Governor of Ontario**
- **Charles Foran:** his recent book on Mortechnai Richler
- **Prof. Goldie Nejat:** socially assistive robots for seniors
- **Nancy Lang:** a screening of a documentary on Canadian painter Tom Thomson
- **Prof. Nancy Reid:** lies, damned lies and statistics
- **Gail Bebee:** personal finances after retirement
- **Deirdre Baker:** children's literature
- **James Graham:** imaging planets outside our solar system
- **Brenda Cossman:** challenges to the Charter of Rights
- **Dr. Alex Jadad:** improving health through information and communication technologies

Full details and registration forms will be mailed out to SAA members shortly.

### ***U of T Spring Reunion: May 30 – June 2, 2012***

If you graduated in a year ending in 7 or 2, this is your go-to website for all events hosted by your college, faculty or department, as well as U of T-wide events organized by the University:

<http://springreunion.utoronto.ca/>

Spring Reunion events will be confirmed soon. Subscribe to updates and get notified when new events open for registration.

<http://springreunion.utoronto.ca/subscribe>

### ***Who Will Be The First U of T Idol?***

**Join the fun!** Hart House is sponsoring the first U of T 'Idol' competition, modelled after the popular reality television show. See videos from previous elimination rounds at:

<http://www.harthouse.ca/student-engagement/uoft-idol>

The next round is on February 9, 8:00 p.m. with the St. George finale and tri-campus showdown on March 22, 8:00 p.m. in the Arbor Room. The event is free and there are no advance tickets.

## Save This Date!

**Wednesday, May 2, 2012**

**SAA AGM**

(Details will be announced in the next newsletter)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The sparkling lights of the holiday season have been put away and winter has settled in for the next few months. I would like to wish each one of you a Happy New Year. May you be blessed with peace, contentment and good health.

We begin this New Year on an optimistic note. Although we learned that Kathy Parks would be leaving us to pursue other opportunities within the University community, we have been grateful for her great assistance in the selection process and training of Emma Duncan, our

new administrative assistant. Emma is a graduate student at Knox College, right next door to the Alumni offices. See page 4 for a short biography on Emma. We wish Kathy all the best in her future endeavors as we welcome Emma. See *Farewell to Kathy Parks* at right. We will do all we can to help Emma adjust to the ebb and flow of our administrative needs. I hope that everyone will be patient as she is becoming familiar with our systems.

Barbara Dick, assistant vice-president, Alumni Relations, sponsored a social hour for our members following the December Executive meeting. Unfortunately, Barbara was unable to be present due to a travel commitment to Israel with the Chancellor of the University. Alumni Relations was represented by some staff members who brought greetings on Barbara's behalf and in turn, carried our best wishes back to Barbara.

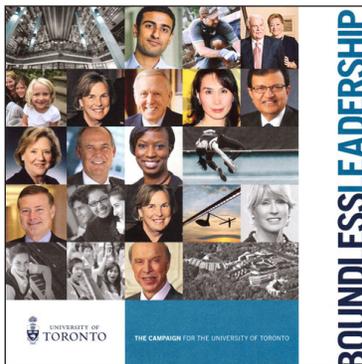
Looking ahead, our Canadian Perspectives lecture series team has put together a fine program of lectures for the Winter Series. Topics range from the seventeenth century architecture of Bernini to Brian Stewart on Journalism Today. As well, speakers are already being lined up for the Spring Series.

It is our hope that you will take part in some of these activities as well as considering some of the volunteer opportunities that are available. I look forward to seeing you around the campus.

*Gerry Devlin, President*

## THE CAMPAIGN

*Editor's Note:* As many of you are aware, the University recently launched its new fund-raising Campaign. One of the promotional brochures (see right) highlights "the committed volunteers [who] have played a substantial role in the growing success of the University of Toronto". The SAA executive and the Senior Alumni Association were cited in the section on Alumni Volunteer Leadership.



## Farewell to Kathy Parks



For the last twelve years, the SAA has been very fortunate to have had Kathy Parks as our administrative assistant. However, last fall Kathy decided to focus on her other interests and duties at Alumni Relations and leave her part-time duties with the SAA. We have been spoiled by Kathy's extraordinary support, and the Executive is going to miss her greatly.

Early in SAA's history, Alumni Relations staff (including Lorraine Gillis and Louise China) provided administrative support on an as-needed basis. However, as the SAA

grew, it became clear we would need much more administrative support. In the fall of 1998, our then president, Ilmar Talvila, spearheaded the idea to hire a part-time administrative assistant dedicated to our needs.

Kathy, a University College alumna with a BA degree in Anthropology, had decided to return to campus as a student to take classes in biology, and saw the SAA job posting at the Student Career Centre. Ilmar, whose own interests were in biology and zoology, bonded with Kathy and hired her. Kathy later became a permanent staff member with Alumni Relations, adding the administrative responsibilities of the Soldiers' Tower Committee and the Carillon.

Kathy remembers her first assignment. SAA secretary, Gloria Buckley brought in her notes for the minutes of the last executive meeting and asked Kathy to wordprocess them in 14 point type! It was then that Kathy fully realized how 'special' a group she would be working with!

The main reason she stayed with the SAA for so long is that she appreciated how well the SAA is organized. Guiding documents such as a constitution and bylaws, established policies and procedures, executive member job descriptions, audited financial statements, regular executive meetings and an annual membership meeting provide a solid framework within which she could execute her work. She valued that the organization is run in a professional and responsible manner and that everyone on the executive has a job to do. Kathy has also enjoyed the contact with our SAA members (through our Canadian Perspective Lecture Series and Senior Alumni Volunteer program) whom she finds polite, interesting and well educated.

Although Kathy is leaving the SAA, we will not completely lose contact with her. She will remain with Alumni Relations looking after the Soldiers' Tower Committee and the Carillon. Outside U of T, Kathy has an interest in antiquarian books and manages internet sales for several Toronto area booksellers. She is also a member of the Linnean Society and the Centre for Inquiry.

We are also indebted to Alumni Relations and appreciate the constructive relationship we have with them. Without their support, our lecture series could not be offered at such reasonable rates.

The SAA is grateful to Kathy for her unselfish service. She has been indispensable, thoughtful and considerate of the executive and our membership. Her detailed, excellent work, her diligence and her own high standards have served us well over the past twelve years. We have been truly spoiled!

**THANK YOU KATHY!** We will miss you.

## Linda Fischer, Our New Assistant Treasurer



The SAA executive is pleased to announce the appointment of Linda Fischer as our assistant treasurer. Linda responded to an ad in the Senior Alumni News. Having attended lectures for many years, she looks forward to meeting new people and contributing to the administration of the Association.

Linda received her Bachelor of Psychology in 1968 from Wilfred Laurier University (then known as Waterloo Lutheran University) and Master of Social Work in 1970.

Her career in human services began as a vocational rehabilitation counselor with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, where she helped persons with disabilities plan appropriate career paths. She later served as a supervisor in London and Toronto and as regional consultant supervising northern Ontario offices.

Linda then moved to the non-profit sector in 1974 to become the first executive director of Community Resources Consultants (CRC). There she worked with a small number of mental health professionals to develop a new and much needed service designed to help support persons with serious mental illness who wished to live in the community. Linda was co-principal investigator (working with leaders in the Clarke Institute) in a year-long research study, funded by the Ministry of Health, that examined the needs of 900 discharged psychiatric patients. The findings of this study led to a significant expansion of CRC and the implementation of a new case manager support program.

Linda returned to the Ministry of Community and Social Services in 1980. She worked as a regional child abuse consultant for one year, a program supervisor in Toronto for seven years supervising such agencies as the Catholic Children's Aid Society, Jewish Family and Child Services and Surrey Place Centre and as an employment equity consultant at the Ontario Women's Directorate.

For the last thirteen years of her career she worked as a program analyst focusing on employment programs for persons with disabilities and as a policy analyst concerned with policies for persons receiving social assistance.

Linda had volunteered for a variety of not-for-profit organizations such as Zonta International when she was employed, so looking for volunteer activities seemed natural upon her retirement in 2001. She joined the As-

sociates of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and served for two years on the executive as co-chair and house manager of the annual concert series held at Trinity St. Paul's United Church. Indulging her interest in gardening, she joined the Master Gardeners in Grey County and qualified as a Master Gardener in 2003 and earned her Diploma in Horticulture from the Agriculture College at the University of Guelph in 2004. For the past eight years she has also been an active volunteer and tour guide at the Toronto Botanical Garden.

Retirement has also meant that Linda and husband Geoff can enjoy living near Geoff's daughter and family, spending time with their two little grandchildren. She also enjoys the performing arts, time with friends and gardening with her husband at their home in Toronto and their country property near Owen Sound.

Retirement has also meant that Linda and husband Geoff can enjoy living near Geoff's daughter and family and spend time with their two little grandchildren. Linda enjoys the performing arts, spending time with friends and gardening with her husband at their home in Toronto and their country property near Owen Sound.

## Meet Our New Administrative Assistant, Emma Duncan



The SAA executive is pleased to announce the appointment of Emma Duncan as our new administrative assistant.

Emma is currently doing a Masters of Divinity at Knox College at the University of Toronto. This is her third degree at the University of Toronto. She worked as a librarian both at the University of Toronto and more recently at the Brampton Public Library where she was a branch manager

for over 5 years. She left this position in December 2011 to pursue her studies full-time with the aim of completing her degree in 2013.

Emma was born in Brampton, Ontario where she still lives with her family. She is married to Richard, who is a fire fighter with the City of Toronto and they have 2 daughters, aged 9 and 12. In her very limited spare time, she enjoys travelling, reading and spending time with family and friends.

Emma is looking forward to working with the Senior Alumni Association and can be reached at [senior.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:senior.alumni@utoronto.ca) or (416) 978-0544.

## Wanted: Assistant Secretary

The Senior Alumni Association is seeking a retired or semi-retired senior to join the SAA Executive as Assistant Secretary. We have ten executive meetings during the year from September to early June, and a general membership meeting near the beginning of May. Duties are light and are mostly as a back-up to our Secretary, Bev Coburn. If you are interested in this position and wish more information, please call Emma Duncan at our office (416) 978-0544 or email [senior.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:senior.alumni@utoronto.ca). Emma or Bev will contact you.

### THE SENIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

University Advancement  
21 King's College Circle  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, ON M5S 3J3

Phone: (416) 978-0544  
Email: [senior.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:senior.alumni@utoronto.ca)  
Senior Alumni webpage:  
<http://www.alumni.utoronto.ca/senior>

This newsletter is published quarterly [ 500 copies ]

### Senior Alumni Newsletter Staff

Co-Editor: Ihor Prociuk  
Editor: Wendy Talfourd-Jones  
Assistant Editor: Maureen Somerville  
Administrative Support: Emma Duncan



# Theatre Trip Information/Registration



## Much Ado About Nothing — Stratford

### Cost: \$145.00 per person

The cost includes taxes and gratuities. You will receive a receipt. Make your cheque payable to **Mary Morton Tours**. Complete the form below and mail *directly* to:

Mary Morton Tours  
11316 Petty Street  
Ailsa Craig, Ontario N0M 1A0

### Deadline: Friday, April 13, 2012

The completed order form must be received at Mary Morton Tours by the deadline date.

### Date of Trip: Monday, May 14, 2012

Please be at the Coffee Zone, 30 Carlton St. (at the Holiday Inn, north side of Carlton St., east of Yonge St.) by **9:10 a.m. for a 9:30 a.m. departure**.

If you wish to be picked up at the Islington Subway Station, please be there by **9:45 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. departure**. The bus pick up is on the east side of Islington Ave., by the phone booth.

### Trip Details:

Lunch will be at the Waterlot in New Hamburg. Please check off your choice of entrée on the form below. Salad, dessert, and coffee or tea are included. Also include any dietary restrictions. Wine, etc., is available, but is not included in the cost. We will arrive at the Festival Theatre in Stratford in time for the 2:00 p.m. matinee of the play.

### Return:

We will arrive back in Toronto at the Holiday Inn on Carlton at approximately 7:00 pm.

## Present Laughter — Niagara-on-the-Lake

### Cost: \$142.00 per person

The cost includes taxes and gratuities. You will receive a receipt. Make your cheque payable to **Mary Morton Tours**. Complete the form below and mail *directly* to:

Mary Morton Tours  
11316 Petty Street  
Ailsa Craig, Ontario N0M 1A0

### Deadline: Tuesday, September 4, 2012

The completed order form must be received at Mary Morton Tours by the deadline date.

### Date of Trip: Thursday, October 4, 2012

Please be at the Coffee Zone, 30 Carlton St. (at the Holiday Inn, north side of Carlton St., east of Yonge St.) by **9:00 a.m. for a 9:15 a.m. departure**.

If you wish to be picked up at the Islington Subway Station, please be there by **9:30 a.m. for a 9:45 a.m. departure**. The bus pick up is on the east side of Islington Ave., by the phone booth.

### Trip Details:

Lunch will be at the Prince of Wales. Please check off your choice of entrée on the form below. Also include any dietary restrictions. Wine, etc., is available, but is not included in the cost. We will arrive at the Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake in time for the 2 p.m. matinee of the play.

### Return:

We will arrive back in Toronto at the Holiday Inn on Carlton at approximately 7:15 pm.

### University of Toronto Senior Alumni Association Much Ado About Nothing – Monday, May 14, 2012

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**COST: \$145.00 per person**

**PAYMENT:** Make cheque payable to Mary Morton Tours.

**BUS PICKUP:**  Carlton St.  Islington Ave.

**LUNCH:** Please select ONE entrée. Indicate dietary restrictions below.

Baked Atlantic salmon with chive and dill sauce

Oven-roasted chicken breast with wild mushroom sauce

**REMEMBER:** This completed form must be received at Mary Morton Tours by Friday, April 13, 2012.

### University of Toronto Senior Alumni Association Present Laughter – Thursday, October 4, 2012

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**COST: \$142.00 per person**

**PAYMENT:** Make cheque payable to Mary Morton Tours.

**BUS PICKUP:**  Carlton St.  Islington Ave.

**LUNCH:** Please select ONE entrée. Indicate dietary restrictions below.

Mustard-crust pork chop with baked potato and seasonal vegetables

Lemon-roasted chicken with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables

**REMEMBER:** This completed form must be received at Mary Morton Tours by Tuesday, September 4, 2012.