

# ARFL NEWSLETTER

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University

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## 1. President's Report

*Al Stauffer*

The YU Card is now available for retirees. After much prodding and the help of the Provost, the database for the issuance of cards now includes retired York employees. The YU Card has been available to York students and employees for some time and serves a multitude of purposes. Foremost, it identifies you as a member of the York community. This is particularly important for off-campus use, such as admission to academic libraries and other institutions such as museums where faculty and librarians might want access to special collections. On campus, it can be used for admission to our athletic facilities, as a library card and for photocopying when you put credit on the card. The YU Card can be obtained from the YU Card office, 200 William Small Centre, during regular hours.

ARFL and YURA have met with the Provost to set up a framework for retirees to participate in the life of the university. There will be a Coordinating Committee composed of members of the administration and representatives from ARFL and YURA that will meet regularly. This committee will ensure retirees are aware of existing opportunities and will investigate further possibilities for volunteering within their departments or the university at large. We hope to have a final form of the agreement ready by May. By the time you read this, YUFA and the administration will have begun bargaining for a new collective agreement. We are hoping to improve health and dental benefits for retirees as well as to increase the amount of post-retirement teaching

## Important - *Double Header Meeting*

### Public Talk: Memory and Aging

*(see item 2 herein)*

### 2012 General Membership Meeting

*(see item 10 herein)*

Theme: What's been planned, What's been done, and What's still to be done.

**2012 May 25**

**Talk: 11 am Meeting: Noon to 3 pm**

**Harry Crowe Room, Atkinson College**

***Food and beverages catered.***

available. This includes both lecturing as well as supervisory activities within graduate programs. In February, we had a very successful seminar on Powers of Attorney organized jointly with YURA. We hope to continue our joint efforts to organize information meetings of special interest to retirees. ARFL is also organizing a seminar on memory to take place in advance of our May Membership Meeting. See elsewhere (*Ed. note: Article 2 just below*) in this Newsletter for details. We hope such activities will encourage you to come to our meetings to meet other retirees and discuss issues of interest.

*Al Stauffer    President, ARFL*

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## 2. Memory and Aging.

### What's Normal, What's Not and What You Can Do About It.

Talk by **Nichole Anderson**

2012 May 25    11 am  
(preceding Membership Meeting at 12 noon)

Harry Crowe Room, Atkinson College

Dr. Nicole D. Anderson is a Senior Scientist at Baycrest, an Associate Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, and an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Program in Psychology at York University, as well as an Associate Scientist with both the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation's Centre for Stroke Recovery and the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis, and her Master's and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. She is also a registered clinical psychologist specializing in neuropsychology.

Her research focuses on memory and attention interventions for healthy older adults, older adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment, and adults with acquired brain injuries. She has research funding

as a Principal Investigator from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She has had numerous research papers published in international journals and has contributed chapters to academic books on aging, cognition and neuropsychology, and has just completed a book for a lay audience, written with two colleagues, Dr. Kelly Murphy and Dr. Angela Troyer, called *Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment: A Guide to Maximizing Brain Health and Reducing Risk of Dementia*, that will be available in May, 2012.

Her talk, entitled, "Memory and Aging: What's Normal, What's Not, and What You Can Do About It", will review:

- Memory and cognition: What changes and what doesn't as we age
- Factors affecting memory (including dementia, health conditions, and lifestyle choices)
- Strategies you can use to improve your memory functioning

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## 3 Seniors' Health.                    *A. (Tony) Wallis*

First, a short follow-up to my previous article "On being a Loser" about dropping my weight by 30 plus lbs over the summer of 2011 by a disciplined regimen of managing a net calorie deficit by eating 5 or 6 very small meals a day. That proved a bit more difficult to maintain over the winter months. With the warmer weather, I will be on a program to drop my BMI (body mass index) further, from 26.5 to 24. Second, I attended an interesting set of presentations at York, in the Scott Library Atrium, on Jan 17, put on by the Faculty of Health, on the subject of Muscle Health, including one topic:

Can Exercise "Rescue" Aging Muscles ?  
( Answer: Yes !)

Just about everything on this topic of the benefits of exercise is covered in the YouTube video entitled (in full, but a simple search on, say, 23 1/2 hours will find it)

**23 and 1/2 hours: What is the single best thing we can do for our health?**

Watch it. It is excellent.

#### 4. Kim Innanen

*Bob Prince*

Professor and Dean Emeritus Kimmo (Kim) Albin Innanen died at Sunnybrook Medical Centre on Aug. 3, 2011. Survived by his wife Sandra and his three children: daughter Sally (BSC Hons. '91, MES '96) and sons Kristopher (BSC Hons. '96, MSC '98) and Andrew (BA '98), Kim was one of a handful of faculty recruited into the Department of Physics in 1966 by the late Ralph Nicholls, distinguished research professor emeritus, a founding member of the Faculty. Prior to his arrival, Kim was assistant professor of mathematics and astronomy at the University of Western Ontario from 1963 to 1966. Kim was born in Kirkland Lake on March 12, 1937, later moving to Toronto to complete a B.A.Sc. degree in Engineering Physics at the University of Toronto, M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics at Waterloo, and Ph.D. in Astronomy from U of T.

Kim's contributions to York were both administrative and scholarly. In the former role, he served as Director of the Natural Science program, Acting Chair, Acting Dean, and finally as Dean from 1986 to 1994. In this latter period, he oversaw growth in terms of student enrolment, transfer of the Department of Computer Science from the Faculty of Arts, the renaming of the Faculty to Pure and Applied Science, and the construction of the Chemistry Building. As a professional engineer, such projects were of obvious appeal and he was also intimately involved in the much earlier design of the Petrie Observatory, the two astronomical domes attached to the Petrie Science & Engineering Building. At a personal level, Kim propensity for humour of the "puny" type was well known and tolerated; groans were frequent at both home and workplace.

Prof. Innanen's main interest was in classical mechanics as applied to galactic and planetary astronomy and brought him together with Finnish astronomers at the universities of Helsinki and Turku. His contributions to the field were recognized by the awarding of an honorary degree from the University of Turku and the naming of

Asteroid 1941HJ, "3497 Innanen". In 1986, Prof. Innanen, Finnish colleague Prof. Seppo Mikkola of Tuorla Observatory, University of Turku and Paul Weigert, a post-doctoral research fellow at the time, deciphered the motion of asteroid 3753 Cruithne accompanying Earth in its orbit, not in an ellipse but in a complex horseshoe pattern. Their findings, published in *Nature* in 1997, coined the new astronomical term "companion", since it shares the Earth's orbit with a motion "choreographed" in such a way as to remain stable and avoid colliding with our planet. This relationship was later revealed in a paper published in *Nature* on June 12, 1997. Still later, Innanen, Mikkola and Wiegert, now a professor at the University of Western Ontario, showed that four such asteroids share the Earth's orbit in such a strange resonance. Kim's research also contributed greatly to the knowledge of "Trojan" asteroids, orbiting the sun along earth's path in the gravitational Lagrange point located 60 degrees ahead of earth when measured from the sun. The three colleagues also predicted the existence of Mars Trojans, the first of which was later discovered. Just prior to his death, after "74 trips around the sun" as he was known to count his age, he was informed by Dr. Weigert about the discovery of earth's first known Trojan asteroid known as 2010 TK7, announced July 27, 2011.

#### 5. Book by Israel Kleiner *Martin Muldoon*

Israel Kleiner, *Excursions in the History of Mathematics*, xxi+347 pp., Birkhäuser, 2012.

In the Preface to this book, York Emeritus Professor Israel Kleiner writes:

"Early in my teaching career I became dissatisfied with the exclusive focus on the formal theorem-proof mode of instruction. I admired the elegance of the logical structure of our subject, but over time I did not find it sufficient to sustain my enthusiasm in the classroom, perhaps because most of my students did not sustain theirs. ...

In due course I found that the history of mathematics helped boost my enthusiasm for teaching by providing me with perspective, insight, and motivation – surely important ingredients in the making of a good teacher."

This book, aimed especially at teachers, is a culmination of the author's work, that led to the award of the Pólya (1990), Allendoerfer (1987, 1992) and Ford (1995) prizes of the Mathematical Association of America.

A large part of the book is directed to the discussion of specific topic in number theory, calculus/analysis and the idea of proof. But the author makes it clear that his approach would work just as well with other topics. Then there are detailed descriptions of courses in the York curriculum, as the author designed or taught them. Finally there are biographies of five major figures (Euler, Gauss, Weierstrass, Dedekind and Hilbert) covering the period from the early 18th to the middle 20th century.

For more information search on "Excursions" at [birkhauser-science.com](http://birkhauser-science.com)

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## 6. Sabbaticants and Pension *Al Stauffer*

### **A potential error.**

Kim Maltman from the Department of Physics and Astronomy has identified a potential problem in crediting merit or anomaly awards in the years in which you were on sabbatical leave in 2006 or later. This could result in a reduced pension for retirees. Since there is a seven-year limit on changes imposed by the income tax act, it is important that you act quickly to correct any such problems. YUFA is currently investigating the problem but to date has not received a reply from the administration. Kim has also written a much longer and detailed document on this problem that you can request by sending an email to ARFL at [yuarfl@web.net](mailto:yuarfl@web.net)

Kim has described this situation (edited for the newsletter):

The problem results from an error in the computation by the Employer of Employer and Employee pension contributions in certain specific situations, and the impact on the pensions of those affected can be quite significant.

The short version is that anyone who received either a merit award or retroactive anomaly payment since 2006 will have had these amounts excluded from the total used in calculating the Employer's 80%-reduced-load pension contribution, the Employee's regular-plus-topped-up pension contribution (deduction from pay) AND total pensionable earnings for the year in question. These payments, however, ARE part of pensionable income, and supposed to have been included in all these calculations. The two main effects of this error are that

(1) the total of the contributions to the money purchase account balance from the Employer and the Employee, for any year which included time on sabbatical during which such payments were received, would have been lower than it should have been, with the result that anyone in this situation who retired on a Money Purchase Component Pension will now be receiving a pension that is lower than it should be; and

(2) the total pensionable income for such a year, used in computing the "Final Average Earnings" (average of the highest 5 years full-load total pensionable income amounts), which forms the basis for the computation of the Minimum Guaranteed Pension amount, will have been lower than it should have been by the full amount of the total of such merit and/or retroactive anomaly payments, producing a concomitant erroneous reduction in the Minimum Guaranteed Pension.

As an example of how significant the latter effect could be, someone with 30 years of service whose "Final Average Earnings" ended up being reduced by \$2000 by this error (this is possible) would end up with a Minimum Guaranteed Pension \$1140/year less than it should be!

The Employer has, for some time, been aware of this situation and its impact on faculty pensions, but so far appears to have been unwilling to rectify the consequences of its error. The error is, however, clearly on the Employer's part, and, given the information detailed in the attached document, the legal responsibility for correcting it is also clearly the Employer's.

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## 7. Catastrophic or Chronic Illness

### Optional insurance coverage ?

The ARFL executive committee has recently established a Task Force to examine the area of optional insurance coverage for members to cover catastrophic illness and/or chronic diseases. We would hope that the university to ensure favourable rates would sponsor such coverage. The Task Force consists of

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Stanley Jeffers | (stanj@yorku.ca),      |
| Joy Cohnstaedt  | (wolfecone@bellnet.ca) |
| Sandra Pyke     | (spyke@yorku.ca).      |

We are currently compiling data from other plans for comparative purposes.

If anyone has any information on employee plans that offer such coverage, please get in touch with one of the Task Force members.

## 8. ARFL Endowment Scholarship

The Executive Committee of ARFL has approved the creation of an endowment fund for the purpose of awarding a York-wide undergraduate scholarship to an aboriginal student based on excellent academic records. This scholarship will not be an entrance scholarship, however, the year of study of the award will be decided soon. The donation is \$15,000 to be matched by York University for another \$15,000. The endowment fund will be invested in order to generate an annual return in perpetuity for the support of aboriginal students as specified by ARFL. Once established, the scholarship will be administered in accordance with York University Senate Policy Guidelines. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons and residents of Ontario. It is understood that the ARFL Endowment Funds will be invested for at least one year before the scholarship is awarded in order to avoid volatility of the market. When raised the issue whether or not there are

enough aboriginal students enrolled at York, we were told that there are about 300 students registered in any one year at York. In deciding to create an endowment for a scholarship, ARFL has taken an innovative decision so as to recognize excellent aboriginal students at York. This issue will be brought to the attention of full membership meeting on May 25, 2012, for its final adoption. The members are welcome to contribute specifically toward the endowment. However, any extra funds may not be eligible for matching funds.

## 9. Treasurer's Report

*Barry Loughton*

In the past two years we have seen a discouraging decrease in the number of paid up members of the association. It is hard to decide whether this is a result of disinterest in the organization and it's activities or just the result of forgetfulness on the part of our membership. ARFL continues to represent the interests of retirees and in recent years has successfully instigated recognition for graduate teaching and persuaded the university to provide York Cards for its retirees. The YUFA negotiating committee requests our input to the improvement of benefits for retirees and has shown a willingness to incorporate our suggestions into the bargaining position. Though the initial justification and rationale for the organization to combat the erosion of retired faculty benefits has largely disappeared it is important that retirees have a voice in the university at large and (by proxy) at the bargaining table.

In recent years we have only included membership renewal forms with the newsletter if you are not paid-up for the current year (this year runs from July 1 2011 to June 30 2012). The intent is to proffer a reminder to members that their membership may lapse.

We are exploring the possibility of accepting payment of dues through direct transfer via a system such as Paypal. It would be useful to know how many members use a system like this and how many would set up such a system to pay dues if it were available. If you do use such a system and have any comments or advice on its advantages (or

disadvantages) or if you would like to set up such a scheme for yourself please email me at :  
loughton@yorku.ca



## 10. May 25 Membership Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Welcome
3. Acceptance of the Agenda and addition of items for Other Business
4. Reports
  - A. President – A. Stauffer
  - B. Vice President – B. Kitchen
  - C. Treasurer – B. Loughton
  - D. Newsletter Editor – A. Wallis
5. YUFA Benefits Trust
  - A. Report from F. Morgan
6. YURA and ARFL joint seminars and executive reps
7. ARFL Award to undergraduate
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

## 2011/12 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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Treasurer: Barry Loughton [loughton@yorku.ca](mailto:loughton@yorku.ca)  
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