

ARFL NEWSLETTER

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University

Website: <http://yuarfl.org>



May 8, 2015 ARFL Spring Meeting & Presentation

Harry Crowe Room

Atkinson Building

11:00 am – Membership Meeting

Noon – Lunch

1:00 pm – Guest Speaker



Meeting Agenda

11 am - President's remarks
Discussion of Website development
Call for Newsletter submissions
Noon - Lunch
1 pm - Our Guest Speaker, Dennis Pilon
'The kids are alright': Why the media and political science are getting youth politics wrong".

Contents Of This Issue

President's Remarks	1
Our Guest Speaker - Dennis Pilon	2
Treasurer's Interim Report	3
Lee Lorch Scholarship Recipient	4
Physics and the Martial Arts	5
Research Activity After Retirement	6
Bridging Cultures	8
Upcoming/Contact us	10
ARFL electronic fee payment	11

Message from the President

We have been thinking of this as the *Spring* Newsletter, but it would be easier to do so if the winter had not hung around so long. I'm composing this in March, and it remains quite cold and wintry; I can only hope by the time you read it we have lost the last of the snow and are getting used to above-freezing temperatures. As you may know, YUFA is preparing for negotiation of a new Collective Agreement, with talks probably commencing in April or May. The primary negotiating positions have been approved by the YUFA membership, including a number of items of importance to ARFL members, and we are as always hopeful of achieving some improvements. Talks may begin later than usual, because bargaining with other unions (some of whose contracts ended in August) has taken longer than in the recent past, with CUPE 3903 resorting to job action early in March. I will endeavour to keep you apprised of developments on the retiree-benefits front as talks go forward.



In this Newsletter, you will see reports of academic activity being carried on by ARFL members, demonstrating the reality of the term “Senior Scholar.” I suspect there are others similarly engaged, and we would love to be able to share their stories with you all. Executive would appreciate knowing of members we might approach with a kind of “interview” to get those stories told, so feel free to volunteer on your own account or nominate those whose energy you envy, and we’ll take it from there.

We recognize that most of you do not want to get daily e-mails from ARFL (or perhaps anyone else) and we have tried to restrict our communication to matters of genuine interest, though we may not always have succeeded. Accordingly Executive has decided to limit use of the ARFL e-mail list to matters of ARFL (and CURAC) business and to remind members that there is an ARFL discussion group list that any ARFL member may join. That list will allow for exchange of information and opinion among those who want it, without filling the mailboxes of everyone else. To join the discussion group list, You can join this un-moderated list by visiting our website: <http://yuarfl.org> and clicking on the link: “Discussion Group”.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our May 8 membership meeting.



Our Post Meeting Talk

Dennis Pilon

Introduced by Fred Fletcher



Dennis Pilon, the author of the widely-praised *Wrestling with Democracy* (2013), is Associate Professor of Political Science at York University and Director of Undergraduate Studies. After completing degrees in Sociology and History at Simon Fraser University, he received his PhD in Political Science from York and was awarded the university-wide dissertation prize. James Tully, Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Victoria, described *Wrestling with Democracy* as “a remarkable achievement that casts the historical struggles over voting systems in a new light and changes the way we study democratic participation.”

Dr. Pilon’s published work has focused primarily on issues of democratization and democratic reform but he also has a broad understanding of federal and provincial politics in Canada and the working of democratic systems in western countries. He has published extensively on these subjects in a wide range of journals and has prepared reports for the Law Commission of

Canada, the Centre for Social Justice, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. In 2007 he published *The Politics of Voting: Reforming Canada's Electoral System*, in 2009 co-edited (with Michael Howlett and Tracy Summerville) *British Columbia Politics and Government*, and in 2013 published *Wrestling with Democracy: Voting Systems as Politics in the Twentieth Century West*.

Professor Pilon is a frequent public speaker and media commentator, mostly on topics related to elections, political parties and current affairs. He is a member of the National Advisory Board of Fair Vote Canada, a citizens' group focused on gaining more proportional methods of voting for Canadian elections, and of the editorial board of *Canadian Dimension* magazine. He has also acted as a consultant on election issues for various legal firms, political parties, trade unions, community groups, and the Auditor General of Canada.

The Talk: *'The kids are alright': Why the media and political science are getting youth politics wrong*".

The media is regularly peppered with concern about young people and politics. Political scientists regularly blame young people for declining voter turnout in elections. It is claimed that today's youth are either callow self-indulgent post-adolescents, too pampered to take life seriously. Or some claim that everything is fine and youth are just expressing themselves politically in new and novel ways. Both views are wrong, and wrong in politically damaging ways. This talk will set

out different framework for understanding youth politics and the decline of youth political participation, one that makes sense of the economic and social factors influencing what is happening with them. It will also offer some concrete proposals to redress this state of affairs.



Treasurer's Interim Report

Stanley Jeffers

A detailed balance sheet as of Mar 23 has been uploaded to ARFL's website. Briefly, as of March 23 we had a total of 225 members of whom 158 are up to date with their dues and 67 who have yet to renew for 2014/15. Those members are encouraged to renew preferably by taking advantage of the opportunity to renew online by logging on to <https://eventbrite.ca/event/16213863101>. The window of opportunity to renew online will be open until the date of the Spring Membership Meeting, May 8.

The current account stands at \$6411.75 after \$3000 was transferred to the ARFL Lee Lorch Scholarship Award in accord with a decision taken by the Executive Committee. The total invested in GIC's stands at \$17,841.50. Liabilities include pre-paid membership dues (\$975), estimated expenses for the 2015 meeting of CURAC (\$800), catering for the May General Meeting (estimated at \$800)-total liabilities amount to \$2575. The accumulated surplus then is \$21,678.25. A major future expenditure will be the revamping of the ARFL website for which the executive

committee has budgeted between \$1500 and \$2000.

Although the opportunity to renew on line was made available to members at the time of the last AGM (Nov 2014), only around 50 members took advantage of this opportunity. It is very convenient both for the membership and the Treasurer if more members would renew on line. Savings continue to be made by not producing paper copies of the newsletter and by e-mailing scanned copies of receipts for dues.



LEE LORCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce and introduce to ARFL members, the recipient of this year’s Lee Lorch Memorial Scholarship award:

Marissa Verhelst

Ms Verhelst is unable to join us at the May 8 meeting, (she has been hired on as an organizer with the Public Service Alliance of Canada Sault Ste. Marie) she sends the following message:

Born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, I am a fourth year Work and Labour Studies student of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at York University. Inspired by my father, a long time unionist who had shared his wealth of knowledge of the labour movement, as well as my passion for social justice and health and safety, I was persuaded to study at York for its progressive labour studies program. Indeed,

my strong interest in the field of study has enabled me to maintain an 8.0 GPA throughout my academic studies.

Upon graduating in June 2015, I hope to find employment in the field of health and safety, and/or in the labour movement... and it appears that I am on my way, having been hired on as an organizer with the Public Service Alliance of Canada in Sault Ste. Marie

I also have an interest in attending law school in the future.

I would like to extend my gratitude for the scholarship to the Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University. The scholarship has been invaluable in helping me pay down my student debt, as well as granting me the opportunity to take on ice climbing as an extra curricular activity – something I have wanted to try for many years. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that the Lee Lorch Scholarship has provided me, and I hope to someday make contributions as worthy as Lee Lorch’s.



An unexpected note from our Treasurer!

Physics and The Martial Arts - a Talk given to the York Circle Feb 18



I am here to collect your
ARFL dues!!

For many years, the author has been training in Japanese Martial Arts with Kimeda Sensei (9 th Dan Aikido Yoshinkai, 6 th Dan Iaido, 5 th Dan Jodo). Kimeda Sensei is the highest ranked instructor in Aikido Yoshinkai in the world outside of Japan.

Martial arts can be loosely categorised as (i) hard styles involving punches and kicks such as karate, tae kwon do or (ii) soft styles that rely more on throws and pins to counter attacks. An example of the softer style is Aikido. Soft should not be interpreted as ineffective however.

Hard styles rely to a large extent on linear movements of the fists and feet whereas Aikido movements are almost all circular in form. They derive to a large extent from the movements made when using a sword. Swordsmanship is the origin of Aikido movements. Iaido is the martial art devoted to sword movements. Most martial artists

are, of course, not physicists but nevertheless the forms of their movements rely on basic principles of physics to be most effective. All the relevant physics underlying both categories of martial art were laid down a long time ago in the famous Principia¹ of Isaac Newton. His Laws of Motion clarify the relations between applied forces and their effects on motion, the meaning of linear momentum etc. The most famous of the three laws is the second one which states that a net force acting on an object will produce an acceleration in proportion to the force, the constant of proportionality being the mass.

To be most effective, the linear momentum (loosely speaking the product of the mass and speed) of a fist or foot must be transferred to a target in the shortest possible time. This will ensure a maximum force. However, maximum effect on the target is produced by maximum pressure (force/area) so the area on impact should be minimised. A palm strike is less effective than a closed fist.

Newton also clarified the nature of circular motion and showed that this type of motion involves a net force directed toward the centre of the motion. Aikido employs circular movements to deflect an attackers strikes in such a way that the attacker is destabilised and vulnerable to being thrown or pinned. Aikido is strictly self-defence. Its movements respond to an attack and do not initiate an attack. Aikido movements blend in with the movements of the attacker. There are no competitions in Aikido unlike other martial arts which is one reason why Aikido is not as well-known as karate and other

hard styles. Aikido has sometimes been referred to as Zen in motion ie a practice to overcome ego.

Linear movements conform to Newton's Laws including the conservation of linear momentum so that momentum can be transferred from one body to another without diminution. By analogy, circular motion is governed by laws similar to those which apply to linear motion. The circular analogue of force is torque (product of force and the perpendicular distance from the force to the point of rotation). Torque produces an angular acceleration is proportion to the torque, the constant of proportionality being the moment of inertia of the object. The moment of inertia depends on the manner of the rotation and the way in which the mass of the object is distributed relative to the axis of rotation. Reducing the mass distribution (think ice skater doing a pirouette and dropping their arms) produces an increase in their angular speed so they rotate faster. The same physics principle applies to Aikido movements. The practitioner will try to move the attacker in a circular movement of decreasing radius so that they speed up on their way to the ground!!!

A video of this talk was made and is available [here](#) or go to [youtube.com/watch?v=OoLjjMGKHgg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoLjjMGKHgg)

The author would like to acknowledge the help of Kabir Bansil, Ni Dan Tae Kwon Do, 1 st kyu Aikido in giving this presentation.

Stanley Jeffers,

*San Dan Aikido Yoshinaki, Yon Dan Jodo,
Ni Dan Iaido*

1. The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy, I. Newton, 1686



CONTINUING RESEARCH ACTIVITY AFTER RETIREMENT

Gordon G. Shepherd

*Department of Earth and Space Science and
Engineering, Lassonde School of
Engineering*

I have never been able to predict the post-retirement activity of my colleagues. Some make a break and change their lives completely, which is admirable. But others continue almost as though the retirement never happened, which is more like the course I followed. To me, the basic elements of such research activity are 1) office/research space and facilities, 2) external funding, 3) access to students and 4) research collaborations, both inside and outside York University. My own situation is described in what follows, hopefully expressed in a more general framework to which the reader can relate. Special circumstances make this challenging, as they are different for all of us, and have to be figured out individually. Good luck in that!

I was fortunate in accepting a part-time position as Director of the CRESS (Centre for Research in Earth and Space Science) in 1995. After retirement according to the Federal requirement of having to take out my pension, in 2000, I agreed with the Dean to continue with this position rather than use my post-retirement teaching allotment, and this continued until 2009. This allowed me to retain a whole office and access to

research labs, because I had established a Space Instrumentation Laboratory within CRESS, using CFI (Canadian Foundation for Innovation) funds, also in 2000. I was also extremely fortunate in that at the administrative level York created the position of Vice-President Research and Innovation (VPRI) at about this time, replacing the former Associate position. The first incumbent was extremely far-sighted and energetic, with resources to match. This, together with another CFI award, led by the late Jack McConnell, provided an atmospheric observatory on the fourth floor of the Petrie Science and Engineering Building, which with VPRI support became an entire fourth floor for CRESS research. While my office is still on the second floor I am as yet its only occupant.

Moving to 2) we are extremely fortunate in that NSERC does not consider age as a parameter in assessing grant applications. While for each renewal I reduced my request somewhat in recognition of my situation, and it was sometimes reduced further, in my last application I was funded through to 2018, a challenge to be met. I likely would not succeed again because I now no longer take graduate students, called HQP (Highly Qualified Personnel) by NSERC, one of the three essential hurdles one needs to get over for an award. As a space scientist I also have had access to funding from the CSA (Canadian Space Agency), with some success in spite of their tightening budget. The NSERC funding alone was not enough.

Concerning graduate students I'm not even sure of what the York rules are for retirees.

But I continued to maintain my status as a member of the Graduate Programme and took some M.Sc. students in the early years of my retirement, who continued to the Ph.D. The last of these graduated in 2010, with another student in 2012, inherited from another faculty member. Now I no longer accept graduate students as they take a lot of time and it is a major responsibility; a different phase of my retirement. It is a time to be more reflective, and choose carefully the topics which I think can lead to a unique contribution. I still need support for that and have one excellent Research Associate to provide it and to talk to about new results.

Collaborations are still essential as ever. I was fortunate to have participated in a major NASA space mission, as the Principal Investigator for an instrument developed in Canada, with input from France, called the Wind Imaging Interferometer (WINDII) that measured winds in space from 1991 to 2003. That funding stopped in 2003, but I recently got further interim funding from the CSA to re-establish the data processing capability so that new things can be done with the data and this keeps me occupied.

Overall the most important aspect could be called "investment". Like a pension, one has to prepare for it many years before retirement. That investment has been in infrastructure, scientific data, funding, and all kinds of people and contacts from which I could draw on in my happy years of retirement. Even more important are my York colleagues and a supportive partner, to whom I am much indebted.



Bridging Cultures

Virginia Rock

Among my many experiences while teaching American literature and culture to university students at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, the most memorable was the event that shocked the world on November 22, 1963: the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

I had invited my senior students for an evening of socializing at my small apartment; we were talking, eating, sipping wine, listening to American folk songs, learning about American culture in a non-traditional way. Burl Ives was singing *The Cowboy's Lament* (a record I had brought with me along with a portable player, notes and books for my year of teaching as a Fulbright professor):

"As I walked out in the streets of Laredo
As I walked out in Laredo one day
I spied a young cowboy wrapped up
in white linen
Wrapped up in white linen as cold as
the clay,

I see by your outfit that you are a
cowboy
These words he did say as I boldly
walked by
Come sit down beside and hear my
sad story
I'm shot in the breast and I know I
must die. " . . .

The phone rang. "Do you have your wireless on?" the Polish caller asked. "No," I said. "You will want to listen; I have just heard your President has been shot." Numbly I

went back to the party, stopped the music to share the news. The BBC and Voice of America – not blocked this time as usual—were broadcasting details about the shots and confusion but at first did not say if Kennedy was alive. We hunched around the radio and listened in disbelief until midnight.

Poles identified with the Kennedys. Nowhere was this more evident than in their responses to Kennedy's assassination. From colleagues, students and even the receptionist at the Franscuski Hotel where I first lived in Poland, I received cards of condolence, notes and flowers as if he had been a member of my family. To express sorrow and to pay homage, a mass was arranged in Krakow's most beautiful 14th century Gothic St. Mary's Basilica, with its magnificent 15th- century wood-carved, painted, gold leafed altar by German sculptor Veit Stoss.

Without a news release I was told, only by word of mouth, hundreds and hundreds, perhaps more than a thousand Poles came; they gathered within and outside the church, bodies pressed together, spilling into the market square,. Those within the church looking halfway down the centre aisle could see a large casket on a bier, draped with an American flag. The mass began. With a thunderous blast from the organ, all stops open, the service started with *The Star Spangled Banner*. "Oh say can you see" Tears welled in my eyes. A shocking moment in history had brought me a spontaneous bridging of cultures in a way I could never have imagined and will never forget.

About a year later, I was asked by the American Embassy's Cultural Affairs officer in Warsaw, "Can a tour be arranged for Robert Kennedy, his wife and two children?" They were coming to Kraków to see the city-- its architecture miraculously had not been destroyed in World War II. (I was an unofficial connection since there was no American Consulate in those years.) All I had to do was call for help from friends in the university and the museums (the Czartoriski, with its most famous exquisite painting, Leonardo da Vinci's "Woman with Ermine"; Collegium Maius, where Copernicus had studied, now the University museum displaying many instruments for the study of astronomy, historical documents and records. Copernicus's signature is displayed in a class enrollment notebook; the huge wall tapestries at Wawel Castle were another.).

On this occasion I was invited to join the luncheon party at the city's most expensive and elegant restaurant off Market Square. It was remarkable that I was included in the group of guests-- even though I didn't sit at the Kennedys' table; I never got the opportunity to talk with him or members of his family but I did share a memorable experience. It happened after we left the restaurant. The intention for this part of meeting each other was for us to walk around and greet Poles, shake their hands, make friendly remarks as we made our way to Embassy cars parked some distance away.

But that wasn't what they had in mind. They were eager to get close to the Kennedys, especially Robert, to touch them, speak to

them. We soon realized this would be nothing like such a gathering in the United States. There weren't a few hundred Poles surrounding us, more like a thousand (so it felt to me) shouting, reaching out; we tried to form our own mass of bodies, like a phalanx, then pushed and inched our way to the cars. This was a new experience made all too real for me, feeling caught in a mob: we shoved, looking for a break in the crowd to escape to a breathing space. It was a recipe for panic.



We reached an Embassy car before disaster erupted.. The agile men in our group clambered on to the roof, reached to help the rest of us up. There we were looking down at a sea of eager faces. Some of the party (were they trained in crowd control?) started singing "When **Polish** eyes are smiling"; most of us knew the first line, then fizzled out, but a few carried on with
 All the world seems bright and gay
 And when Polish eyes are smiling
 Sure they steal your heart away.
 The Poles joined in, if not with words, then with the melody. We had a "oneness" for that brief time.

Virginia Rock is Professor Emerita of English and first Master of Stong College



UPCOMING

November 2015 ARFL AGM
(Date and place to be announced)

Preliminary Meeting Agenda

- Call to order.
- Amendment/acceptance of the agenda
- Minutes of 2014 AGM
- Election of Officers
- Other business.
- Adjournment.

A Surprise Guest Speaker



2014/15 Executive Members

- President - Bob Drummond
(robertd@yorku.ca)
- Past President - Al Stauffer
(stauffer@yorku.ca)
- Vice-President - Saber Saleuddin
(saber@yorku.ca)
- Secretary - Fred Fletcher
(ffletch@yorku.ca)
- Treasurer - Stan Jeffers
(stanj@yorku.ca)
- Newsletter Editor - Joe Green
(joe_green@rogers.ca)
- Pre-Retiree Member - Georges Monette
(georges@yorku.ca)
- Members-at-Large -
John Crozier
(jcrozier@yorku.ca)
Vivienne Monty
(vmonty@yorku.ca)
Marianne Rogers
(MRogers@osgoode.yorku.ca)
Elizabeth Sabiston
(sabiston@yorku.ca)
- YURA representative - Margo Gewurtz
(mgewurtz@yorku.ca)
- YURA alternative – John Lennox
(jlennox@yorku.ca)

Website : yuarfl.org
E-mail : yuarfl@web.net



Note about electronic payment of dues

ARFL dues are now payable for 2014-15. A dues form is included in the newsletter for those who haven't yet paid. Payment also can be made by sending a cheque along with the dues form to the address indicated or by paying in person at the AGM.

Members are encouraged to renew preferably by taking advantage of the opportunity to renew online by logging on to <https://eventbrite.ca/event/16213863101> . The window of opportunity to renew online will be open until the date of the Spring Membership Meeting, May 8.

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians (ARFL):

Enclosed is my cheque for the current period

\$25 Regular membership \$50 Regular membership (2 year)

\$10 Associate membership (available to pre-retirees)

NAME (please print) _____

Address: Street & # _____

City/Town _____ Province/State _____

Postal Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ **E-mail _____

Please mail to: ARFL c/o YUFA, 240 York Lanes,
York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada.

To check your membership status, send an e-mail to our Treasurer, Stanley Jeffers at stanj@yorku.ca

** Requested to facilitate communications to members