

ARFL Newsletter

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: **May 22, 2008**
Time: **12 noon - 3:00 p.m.**
Place: **S167 Ross Bldg.**

Meeting to follow a light lunch.

1. ARFL Membership Meeting Agenda

Lunch: 12:00 to 12:45

Call to Order

Acceptance of the Agenda

Reports from ARFL Officers:

- President
- Treasurer
- Newsletter Editor

Updates:

- Priorities for the 2009 Collective Agreement
- YUFA Trust
- PER Accounts

ARFL's Role in York 50th Anniversary Celebrations
 Website/ Communications

Other Business

Adjournment



2. President's Remarks

The ARFL executive has been working on all the items under "Updates" in the above Agenda. In particular, we have been honing our priorities for the 2009 collective bargaining process. We will soon have a preliminary meeting with the YUFA team assembling their priorities, of which ours are a small part.

We are still waiting for the full report from FSCO on the shadow pension. When it arrives, the YUFA Executive, will decide the next step after consultation with their solicitor.



2. Bargaining Priorities - Research Support

Al Stauffer

Many retired faculty maintain an active research program but are hampered by lack of support for such activities. Currently senior scholars continue to receive a PER for six years after normal retirement age, but this is insufficient in many cases. We should therefore ask for increased support from the university in the next round of bargaining.

We propose that any increased support would not be automatic and would have to be applied for. There are three main points to our proposal based on the response of our members to an email query:

1. Continuation of the PER past the six year limit after normal retirement age. This would be on a year-by-year basis on application to the VP Research. Proof of an active research program would be required.
2. Travel insurance would be provided for senior scholars on the same basis as for full-time faculty for activities such as attendance at conferences or research collaborations. This could be coupled with the use of an AMEX card but needn't be. Application would be required as in point 1.
3. A pool of \$50,000 be provided to support senior scholars travelling to conferences where they are presenting a paper or for partial support of a particular research project. These funds would be allocated on a competitive basis with several competitions throughout the year. Successful applicants for travel support would automatically get travel insurance as per part 2.

We are aware that retired faculty are eligible to apply for departmental travel funds on the same basis as full-time faculty. However, the success rate is low to non-existent given the small amount of funds available and the competition from other applicants. Thus a fund devoted solely to active retirees is badly needed.

Since some criteria for eligibility for such funds are needed we suggest some or all of the following:.

- membership in a graduate program (or more stringently, supervision of a graduate student in

some form)

- external research support (travel insurance would be the main point in this case)
- teaching activities (for the PER)
- evidence of continued research activities based on publications (in the broadest sense) (perhaps this could be based on the criteria for membership in a graduate program)

We would also propose strengthening the language on provision of office space and computer time to active senior scholars. In the present contract, these are subject 'to availability'. We would like this strengthened so that active senior scholars have the right to these resources including the provision of a personal computer on the same basis as regular faculty.



4.0 Complaint Filed with York over Retiree Graduate Supervision Compensation

Joy Cohnstaedt

An age discrimination complaint has been filed with the York University administration over the failure of the University to provide fair and equitable compensation to retirees assigned to graduate supervision activities. The complainant alleges that the policies and inconsistencies in reimbursing practices for retired faculty - who are generally older - create a disproportionate impact on retirees. The question to be answered by the investigation: "Is this discrimination warranted?"

The request has been made through the York University Centre for Human Rights for an inquiry in order to fully explore the grounds for discrimination in compensation

for graduate supervision activities by retired faculty and whether or not it is based on age or offends the Employment Standards Act.

The Centre for Human Rights Director is empowered to conduct an independent and objective investigation at his or her discretion and seek to resolve the complaint through mediation, conciliation or another means of dispute resolution appropriate to the circumstances on grounds defined by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The current YUFA/York Collective Agreement Graduate Supervision clause (14.02) for retirees limits the scope and value of compensation in a manner that is arguably unfair when compared to the scope and value of compensation provided to eligible pre-retirees. The scope and benefits for eligible pre-retirees are outlined in Appendix O of the Collective Agreement.

As a remedy Article 14.02 must be amended to include fair and equitable compensation for eligible retirees appointed to graduate supervision assignments by expanding 14.02 to include: supervisors of Major Research Papers, or its equivalent, of a Masters student; and other formal activities, such as committee memberships, second readers and examination committee memberships.

The participation of the York University Human Rights Centre in this complaint does not preclude the future involvement of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.



5. Members' Activities.

Various Authors

An appeal went out in the Newsletter of February, 2008 for ARFL members to send in news of their

current activities. The following are submissions that we have received so far and indicate that retirees continue to make significant contributions. In other words, retirement represents not an apotheosis but rather a continuation of retirees' research, scholarship, artistic creativity, social contributions and other professional contributions originally pursued by them during their careers at York.

5.1 J. M. (Mike) MacNamee

Mike has recently published a book, "Numerical Methods for Roots of Polynomials", Elsevier, June 2007. He writes that most of the work that went into this highly specialized book was done since he retired in 1998.

5.2 Vera Frenkel

Below is a list of her current activities:

1. Completing a short commission for the Penex-Metropolis video wall at the corner of Yonge and Dundas Streets in downtown Toronto.
2. Preparing to install a major six-channel video project in Linz, Austria as part of the international art exhibition marking that city as the 2009 European Culture Capital.
3. In the process of selecting a composer to work with her on a commission for SHIFT, a Toronto/Amsterdam collaborative multi-disciplinary project.
4. Recipient of the 2007 International Digital Media Arts Award (www.idmas.org) for Pioneering Achievement.
5. Preparing a small solo exhibition for the Fall, 2008.

5.3 Marilyn Zivian

“Since retiring and moving to San Francisco 4 years ago, I’ve been volunteering for an advocacy group for women with breast cancer - Breast Cancer Action (BCA). I’ve helped them analyze and report on an on-line survey of the side effects experienced by women taking an aromatase inhibitor as adjuvant treatment for breast cancer. The early results on a sample of 600 women were reported at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium in 2006 and a printed report was published immediately after. Since then, another 600 women have completed the survey and their responses have been analyzed. A second report will be published in a few months. In addition to that I have written an article published in the Source, BCA’s newsletter that reports on a meeting of ASCO with the aim of translating the latest breast cancer research findings for clinicians and other health care providers. I have been awarded a prestigious fellowship for my work with BCA.

In addition to the above, a 2-volume series on Cancer Imaging has just been published and volume 2 contains a chapter on the accuracy of diagnostic imaging written by myself and a radiologist, Raziel Gershater.”



6. Don Summerhayes

Derek Cohen

Don Summerhayes, a member of the English Department since its inception in 1966, died on November 8, 2007. Don will be remembered by his students and colleagues as a teacher, a poet, a novelist, and a skilled artist of photography. He will be remembered by his family and friends as a loving, loyal, and gentle man. In his professional life, Don distinguished himself as an inspiring, and sympathetic teacher. Many of Don’s students, encouraged by his enthusiasm for their work, went on to become professional writers and poets themselves, and never forgot the part Don played in their choices of career. He was an inventive and

creative teacher and resisted the conventional strategies of teaching in favour of challenging pedagogical methods.

As a writer and photographer Don attempted to discover the beauty of the ordinary and everyday. With his camera, he wandered the streets of Toronto in search of subjects. And he found them in droves. His photographic collection, developed over a period of years, is a small, detailed, but exquisite history of the city he loved. He wandered off the main paths, into Toronto’s alleys and byways where he found a world of neglected people and objects that he transformed into luminous subjects of his artist’s gaze.

Don wrote several books of poetry. His poems, like his photographs, seek and discover the beauty of the ordinary. He writes with a steady, and straightforward, and deceptively simple idiom of the world he inhabits. He celebrated his world and, in his poetry, recorded the passion, the sadness and joy, with which it filled him. His love of the natural emerges again and again in his work. His poem, “*This Old Man Reclines on the Field of Heaven*” from his book, *Heavy Horse Judging*, possesses a sinewy energy and a sense of the lackadaisical motion of the horses pulling the plow guided by the relaxed but sure-footed farmer:

“he clucks and whistles, kisses the scorched air

behind the great round farting rumps

of Bess and Star, his Belgians, rolling

and lurching steadily down the green rows,

tips the plow blade right and left

to spill potatoes up out of the dark earth.”

Two topics that Don came back to again and again in his poems are love and poetry itself. In the poems about love, he reveals perplexity and exhilaration as he comes to terms with the inspiration it supplies. In his poems about poetry, Don reveals his diamond-hard intellect. These poems are intellectual in the best sense, and show him hard at work on a recalcitrant and difficult subject.

Don’s novel, “Mystory,” is a saga of his family covering several generations. Here again, his subject is relatively plain, but he brings to the story-telling a lively pen and a

probing mind. The result is a fascinating mix of history, geography, anthropology and poetry. The narrative is straight and true, and its aim is integrity of subject and narrator. Don seldom left Canada, preferring instead to explore the places to which he belonged.

Don leaves behind his beloved wife Merlin, his four children, Christopher, Siobhan, Jonathan, and Jennifer, and four grandchildren, all of whom he loved deeply. He will be missed by his family, friends, and students.



The ARFL Newsletter is published by the Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University (ARFL). ARFL is an independent organization of retired faculty and librarians of York University and of pre-retirees who pay dues. Members of ARFL are Associate Members of YUFA and YUFA has recognized ARFL as the “representative organization for retired members” of YUFA. ARFL is a member of the College and University Retirees Association of Canada. (CURAC)

At the Annual General Meeting of October, 2007 the following slate of officers was returned, including those subsequently nominated to the Executive to extend its base and representation, as the meeting agreed:

EXECUTIVE

President

Alex Murray amurray@yorku.ca

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Past-President

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Secretary

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Treasurer

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Stan Jeffers stanj@yorku.ca

The interim editors of the newsletter welcome comments, letters or items of interest, but reserve the right to edit any submissions. Please send submissions to chesters@yorku.ca, rheeler@schulich.yorku.ca or ARFL, c/o YUFA., 261 HNES, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3.

NOTES - Please bring to Membership Meeting

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY AND LIBRARIANS
OF YORK UNIVERSITY**
www.yuarfl.org

DUES FOR 2008/09 ARE NOW RECEIVABLE

— Please mail to : Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians, c/o YUFA
261 Health, Nursing and Environmental Studies
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

- I wish to join ARFL, to receive its mailings and support its activities
- I wish to renew my membership in ARFL
- I am willing to undertake occasional work in ARFL
- I am not yet a retiree, but I want to become an Associate Member of ARFL
(To verify your status, send an e-mail to yuarfl@web.net)

Enclosed is my cheque for the period 1 July, 2008 to 30 June, 2009

- \$25 Regular membership
- \$10 Associate membership (available to pre-retirees)
- I would like to contribute \$_____ to support ARFL in its continuing work on behalf of York’s retired Faculty and Librarians

NAME(please print) _____

HOME ADDRESS

Street _____

City/Town _____ **Province/State** _____

Postal Code _____ **Country** _____

Home Phone _____ ***E-mail** _____

*** This is vital to maintain communication with ARFL members.**

**ASSOCIATION DES PROFESSEURS ET BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES
RETRAITÉS DE L'UNIVERSITÉ YORK (APBR)
www.yuarfl.org**

COTISATION 2008-2009 PREMIER APPEL

Veillez envoyer votre cotisation à :

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians, a/s YUFA
261 Health, Nursing and Environmental Studies
Université York
4700, rue Keele
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

- Je désire devenir membre, recevoir ses bulletins et soutenir ses activités
 Je désire renouveler mon adhésion a l'APBR
 Je suis prêt(e) à participer à l'occasion aux travaux de l'APBR
 Je ne suis pas encore à la retraite, mais je veux devenir membre associé de l'APBR

Pour vérifier le statut de votre adhésion, veuillez envoyer un courriel à yuarfl@web.net

Veillez trouver ci-joint mon chèque pour la période du 1er juillet 2008 au 30 juin 2009, au nom de l'APBR.

25\$ membre titulaire

10\$ membre associé

Plus _____ \$ de contribution supplémentaire pour aider l'APBR à poursuivre ses travaux au nom des professeurs et bibliothécaires retraités de l'Université York.

NOM(en majuscules) _____

ADRESSE À LA MAISON: Rue _____

Ville _____ **Province** _____

Code Postal _____ **Pays** _____

Téléphone(maison) _____ ***Courriel** _____

***Très important pour maintenir les liens avec les membres de l'APBR!**

