

Issue 63: October 2019

# ARFL NEWSLETTER

Association of Retired Faculty  
and Librarians of York University

Website: <https://yuarfl.wordpress.com>

ARFL IS A MEMBER OF



Website: [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca)

## 2019 ARFL AGM & Presentation Friday November 1, 2019

Harry Crowe Room                      Atkinson College 109

Coffee & Conversation: 10:30 am

*General Membership Meeting: 11:00 am to Noon*

*Lunch: Noon to 1 pm (catered)*

*Presentation: 1 to 3 pm (open to all)*

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**Our Speaker: Gordon G. Shepherd**  
**Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus**  
**York University**



Gordon Shepherd's career began at the time of the first Sputnik launch so has paralleled the whole of the space age, becoming a member of the Physics Department at York University in 1969. He began his research, originally at the University of Saskatchewan, by applying optical interferometry to space measurements of the aurora and airglow, first ground-based, then in instrumenting Black Brant rockets launched from the Churchill Research Range, and later as Principal Investigator for the Red Line Photometer on the ISIS-II satellite, which mapped the red aurora. Subsequently he developed the Michelson interferometer for the measurement of winds from space, with an instrument called WINDII (Wind Imaging Interferometer) flown on NASA's Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite from 1991 to 2003, from which forefront scientific results are still being produced.

He was Director of CRESS (Centre for Research in Earth and Space Science) from 1995 to 2009. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the American Geophysical Union, and has received the CSA's John H. Chapman Award of Excellence in 2003, the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute Alouette Award in 2004, the SCOSTEP Distinguished Scientist Award in 2014, and the COSPAR William Nordberg Medal in 2016. He is the author of "Spectral Imaging of the Atmosphere" and co-author of "Canada's Fifty Years in Space". He retired in 2000, but continues his research at York University, now in the Department of Earth and Space Science and Engineering within the Lassonde School of Engineering.

## **The Talk**

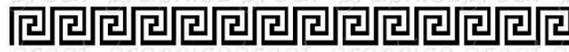
### **Earth's Aurora and Airglow as Seen From Below and Above**

The Sun totally controls the environment in which we live, through the light it emits (ultraviolet, visible and infrared), through ionized particles (electrons and ions) and its magnetic field which creates the Earth's magnetosphere. Of the incredible influence of all this, only the visible light reaches the Earth's surface; most of the rest is absorbed in the high atmosphere, 80 to 300 km

above the Earth's surface. The intent of this presentation is to allow viewers to see the consequences of that energy deposition.

The most obvious visual manifestation of the energy deposition in the upper atmosphere, accessible to viewers on the ground, is the Aurora Borealis (or Australis), and this easily seen if you are in the right place at the right time. But equally interesting is the unseen airglow, a high-altitude layer of sub-visual light covering the whole surface of the globe, for which instruments employed on the ground, or from space, make it possible to see anywhere at any time.

The presentation demonstrates how instruments can be used to make the airglow visible from rocket and satellite platforms flown in space, by York University scientists, among others. The largely visual presentation consists mainly of images; of the sun, the aurora, and the airglow acquired with space instrumentation; it also summarizes the current understanding and significance of these phenomena.



## **AGM Agenda November 1 2019**

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Call to order                  | d. YURL Trust Report             |
| 2. Approval of the Agenda         | e. ARFL and YURA                 |
| 3. Election of ARFL Executive     | f. Newsletter Editor             |
| a. Nomination of at-large members | g. CURAC                         |
| b. Nomination of Executive        | 5. Other Business                |
| 4. Reports                        | 6. Adjourn for Lunch (noon)      |
| a. President                      | 7. Our Featured Speaker (1:00pm) |
| b. Vice-President                 |                                  |
| c. Treasurer                      |                                  |

*NOTE: The agenda may be updated at the AGM.*



## **President's Comments**

At the last GMM meeting in May, 2019, I spoke about the changes in the provisions for faculty who are continuing as full-time faculty members after the age of 71, This is the age at which faculty must (by Federal law) begin taking their pensions. As I wrote at the time, the Province was contemplating limiting or constraining the amount of compensation these faculty members may receive. As I also wrote, the actual figures would not be known until the regulations that implemented the law were put in place. It is those regulations that will spell out what the limits and constraints will be. I also wrote that we would not know this until the law was proclaimed and the associated regulations put into effect which was scheduled to happen. However, the regulations have not yet been released, and there is widespread speculation that the Province may have been waiting until the after the Federal Election on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

If so, they may be released prior to the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> AGM. I will update you as to where things stand at the meeting.



*Fred Weizmann* [Photo by Fred Fletcher]

I should also note that the Province has frozen compensation gains for Ontario university (and I believe college) employees to 1% per year for the next three years. This figure not only freezes the level of annual compensation, but includes benefit increases as well. Since this provision also restricts pensionable earnings, it could serve as an incentive for full-time faculty to delay retirement. This is occurring at the same time the Province's stated position of constraining compensation to full-time faculty aged 71 and older is intended to encourage earlier retirement.

OCUFA is opposing the pension changes, which (apart from anything else) may discriminate against various equity groups whose pensions are lower than their white male counterparts for systemic reasons. I do not know specifically how OCUFA will respond to the intervention in collective agreements represented by the province-wide salary cap, but I assume they will respond in some way.

Last May, the Pensions and Benefits Newsletter pointedly omitted mentioning ARFL and left the impression that the only retiree organization at York was YURA. This omission upset a number of ARFL members, and I want to say some things about this issue.

I may also have a few remarks to make about the ARFL elections and nominations, as well as the relationship between retirees and the Administration. I may say something about what I took away from the CURAC meeting of retirees last May.

*Fred Weizmann*

## Treasurer's Preliminary AGM Report

Although membership is down, we hope temporarily, ARFL is in quite good financial shape. The ARFL Lee Lorch Memorial Scholarship fund is doing well and no significant budgetary problems have arisen. A full report will be available at the AGM.

**Donations to the ARFL Lee Lorch Memorial Scholarship may be made by cheque payable to York University (mail to Abbey Black, Division of Advancement, West Office Building, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto ON M3J 1P3) or online at <http://giving.yorku.ca/memoryof/leelorch>.**



## ARFL EXECUTIVE: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The ARFL Constitution requires that members of the Executive Committee be elected annual at the AGM. Several current members are not seeking re-election. The committee is seeking nominations for Treasurer and several at-large positions (or any other position). Nominations can be made by email to the Secretary ([mrogers@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:mrogers@osgoode.yorku.ca)) or at the AGM. Please consider putting yourself forward or recommending a colleague (preferably with the candidate's permission).

### ARFL Executive Committee, 2018-2019

- President – Fred Weizmann
- Past President – Robert Drummond
- Vice-President – Saber Saleuddin
- Secretary – Marianne Rogers
- Treasurer – Gene Denzel
- Newsletter Editor – Fred Fletcher
- Pre-Retiree Member- Georges Monnette
- Alternate Pre-Retiree Member-
- Members-at-Large
- John Crozier
- Vivienne Monty
- Elizabeth Sabiston
- Glen Norcliffe
- Brayton Polka
- Stan Jeffers
- Fred Weizmann
- YURA Representative – Ed Lee-Ruff
- YURA Alternate Representative Ian Greene



## Reminder: Membership Renewal -- ARFL Dues

As you know, ARFL grants free membership for retired faculty and librarians in their first year of retirement. Thereafter dues are \$25 per annum, payable on July 1. Dues can be paid by credit card.



The easiest way is to use Pay Pal on the ARFL website ([www.yuarfl.org](http://www.yuarfl.org)). Select the Dues tab in the top bar and click on the Pay Dues Online icon. No PayPal account is required-you may pay at any time using your credit card. PayPal will issue a receipt. You may encounter problems with the PayPal interface. We are working on the issues. If you require a receipt issued by ARFL, please email the Treasurer ([lezned@yorku.ca](mailto:lezned@yorku.ca)) who will be pleased to issue one.

Alternatively you may pay by cheque payable to ARFL and mailed to ARFL, c/o YUFA, 240 York Lanes, York Campus, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3 or by cash. **Note that ARFL and YURA are separate organizations with different mandates, though they work together on many matters. YUFA retirees are urged to join both.**

## **Be an Advocate for ARFL**

As the advocate for YUFA retirees within YUFA and with the university, ARFL's influence depends in part on the size of its membership. ARFL advises on the needs of retirees not only during the collective bargaining process but also through a variety of joint committees and other channels. It seems clear that numbers matter. ARFL's current membership is 148 (paid for 2018-19).

**ARFL's influence can be maintained and strengthened if each of us not only renews our membership annually but also recruits other retirees and those nearing retirement to join the association.** On average, over the past five years, 50 YUFA-eligible members retire. Before retirement, YUFA faculty and librarians can become Associate Members of ARFL for a yearly fee of \$10. Associate Members are added to the mailing list and receive the ARFL Newsletter and other communications.

As noted above, many retired faculty and librarians also choose to join the York University Retirees Association – a body whose members include York retirees from all employee groups. YURA is very valuable for maintaining a York connection and keeping in touch with former colleagues, but ARFL uniquely serves the interests of retired faculty and librarians in regard to post-retirement benefits and supports. Both YURA and ARFL are members of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada, which (among other things) lobbies government on behalf of post-secondary retirees.

ARFL also encourages support for emeriti who wish to maintain active scholarship and creativity in retirement. To this end, ARFL seeks to gather and publish information on the continuing contributions of retirees to their disciplines and the university. The Newsletter is an ideal channel for publicizing these contributions. Everyone is invited to inform the Newsletter Editor ([ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca)) of their activities in this regard.

## **Upcoming Events**

October 16 to 18: **Fall Convocations**

October 16, 10:30 a.m. Health

October 16, 3:30 p.m. Glendon, Osgoode, Schulich

October 17, 10:30 a.m. Liberal Arts and Professional Studies I

October 17, 3:30 p.m. Arts, Media, Performance and Design, LAPS II  
October 18, 10:30 a.m. Education, Environmental Studies, Lassonde, Science  
October 18, 2:30 p.m. Kellogg-Schulich, Executive MBA

**October 20: Scotia Bank Charity Challenge.** All are invited to walk (register with YURA Co-President Ian Greene ([igreene@yorku.ca](mailto:igreene@yorku.ca)) or to sponsor a walker. All donations will go to an endowment for the YURA York Graduate Student Awards.

**October 21: Final Voting Day, Canadian General Election.** In this respect, see the article in this Newsletter on the Vibrant Voices initiative.

**October 22: The Annual Dr. David V.J. Bell Lecture** – Founders Assembly Hall, Room 152, Founders College, 7 p.m.



David Bell

The second annual lecture in memory of David Bell will be delivered this year by Bruce Lourie, president of the Ivey Foundation, an adjunct professor at Queen’s University’s School of Policy Studies and senior Fellow at the Smith School of Business at Queen’s. The topic is “Sustainable Development: Where We’re At, What’s Working (and What’s Not), and What We Need to Succeed” and explore what has been done in the 30 years since the modern era of “sustainable development” was ushered in. Dr. Bell was an influential advocate for sustainable development. To register, visit [bit.ly/dvjbellelecture](http://bit.ly/dvjbellelecture). For more information, call Elaine Rubinoff at 416-627-2032. Refreshments will be served.

**October 25: YURA Annual General Meeting** – Conference Room (A2&B2) in the new student centre. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The speaker is Anna Porter, renowned publisher (Key Porter Books) and author. At the YURA AGM, Ms. Porter will discuss her most recent memoir, *In Other Words: How I fell in Love with Canada one Book at a Time* (2018) at 11 a.m. The talk will be followed by lunch (free to YURA members) and the AGM.

**October 30: McLaughlin College Annual Public Policy Lecture** – 5:30 p.m. in the Junior Common Room (room 014) of the College. The speaker is Beverley McLachlin, former Chief Justice of Canada, and the newest Fellow of the College. She will speak on “The Role of the Constitutional Court in a Modern

Democracy.” Further information is available on the McLaughlin College website, at <http://mclaughlin.laps.yorku.ca/>

November 1: **ARFL AGM and Presentation.** Please see pp. 1-3 of this Newsletter.

November 12: **YURA Showcase** – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Vari Hall Rotunda. Note the new location.

**Honours and Awards**

A popular work by York **Professor Emerita Carol Anderson**, a renowned dancer and choreographer, was presented on Oct. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at the Canadian Language Museum (CLM), Glendon Campus. The work titled *gravity/grace/fall* combines her poetry and choreography, and is performed along with two other dancers: Terrill Maguire and Claudia Moore



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Co-inventor of the UV Index, **Lassonde Professor Emeritus Tom McElroy** was featured on Ireland's Radio Kerry. He discussed the impact of climate change on the Ozone Layer.



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**Shirley Ann Brown, Professor Emerita of Art History and Humanities**, was participated in a ceremony in Bayeux, France, last April to mark the donation of a treasure trove of original documents dating from

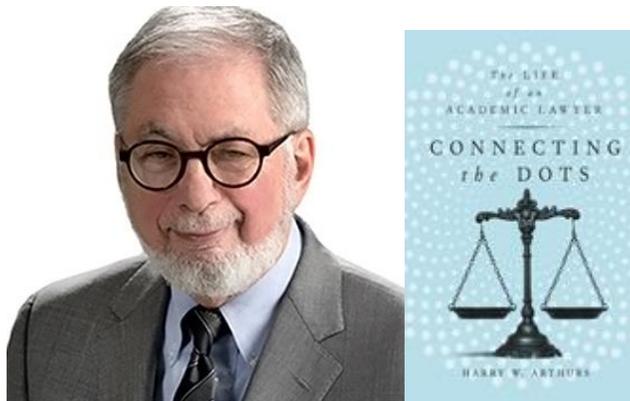
the Second World War that was officially presented to the City of Bayeux and the Bayeux Tapestry Museum.



The documents consisted of a number of sketchbooks, colour studies and detailed sketches of the famous 11<sup>th</sup> century Bayeux Embroidery, which depicts events leading up the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and the Norman Conquest of England. The items were created by Herbert Jecshke, a Berlin artist, for Nazi propaganda purposes, and were thought to have been lost. Prof. Brown played a key role in their recovery.

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**Professor Emeritus Harry Arthurs'** memoir *Connecting the Dots: The Life of an Academic Lawyer* [were](#) published [recently](#) by McGill-Queen's University Press.



***The ARFL Newsletter, published twice yearly has, among its goals, recognition of the ongoing contributions of York University retirees to the academy and society. Further details may be found in Y-File (dates in parentheses) or in previous editions of the ARFL Newsletter. We would be grateful to have academic and civic honours and awards, appointments, and publications drawn to our attention ([ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca)).***

## In Memoriam

*For many of our colleagues noted here, obituaries were published in Y-File on the dates listed. Information has been taken from those obituaries and, in some cases, personal notes have been added.*

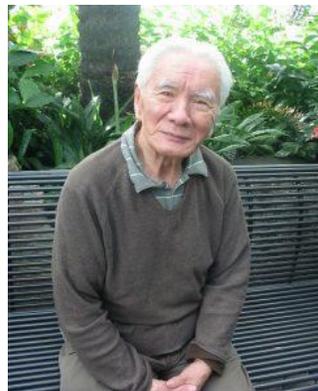
Remembered for her many contributions to Osgoode Hall Law School, the York University community is mourning the passing of Professor **Margaret Beare**, as are her colleagues in Sociology.



Prof. Beare's career in transnational police policy and the study of organized crime began with her role as senior research officer in the Office of the Solicitor General, 1982-93. She joined the faculty of York University in the Sociology Department with a cross appointment to the Osgoode faculty in 1995. She was the founding director of the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime & Corruption and remained a faculty member at York until her death in August. *Yfile, August 14 2019*

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**Jerome Ch'en**, Professor Emeritus in History, joined the History Department in 1971 where he worked until his retirement in 1987.



Prof. Ch'en also served as the director of the University of Toronto-York University Joint Centre on Modern East Asia, 1983 to 1985. His work earned him numerous honours, including becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1981, before being named a Distinguished Research Professor at York in 1984. *Yfile, June 26 2019*

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**John (“Jack”) George Craig**, Sociology and Environmental Studies, had a long, successful career in those two units from his arrival at York in 1971 to his retirement in 1996. From 1986 to 1989, he was Chair of the Sociology Department.



Through his research and scholarship, Dr. Craig became an internationally recognized expert in the field of co-operatives. He earned many honours for his work and was widely published. Jack was a fine colleague who did his share of administrative work but often joked that the advantage of a cross-appointment was that one could always claim to be too busy in the other program to take on whatever task one was asked to do, thus avoiding unwanted obligations. *For more, see Yfile, July 31 2019*

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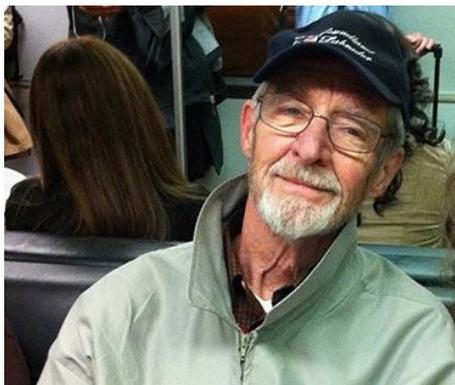
**Sylvie d’Augerot-Arend**, Associate Professor Emerita, Political Science, earned all of her degrees at York, including her PhD in 1976. She joined the Glendon Department of Political Science and was one of two fully bilingual faculty members. She taught -- in French and English – courses on Canadian, Ontario and Quebec politics and on women in politics. A tribute, written by her long-time colleague Stanislav Kirschbaum, appeared in the June 2 edition of Yfile.



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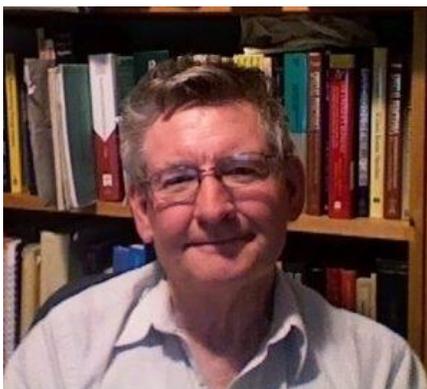
**Charles Hammand Dugan**, Professor Emeritus, Physics. Prof. Dugan’s research interests were in atomic, molecular and optical physics, as well as spectroscopy and astro-chemistry. In 1967, the family moved to Toronto, Ontario, where Hammand took up a teaching position at York University until his legal

retirement age. He had an informed interest in current events, politics, art, history, music, birds and nature. His commitment to debate was softened by a sense of humour and fun. His kindness to those around him and his civility were remarkable and enduring. For more, see *Yfile*, July 14, 2019.



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**Martin Muldoon**, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics and Statistics, passed away in August. He received his PhD in 1966 under the supervision of Prof. Lee Lorch, and subsequently joined the faculty at York. He was a distinguished mathematician, a sought-after speaker. In 2004, he received the 25-year Research Achievement Award from NSERC. He was very active in his department, the Faculty of Arts, served for many years as a member of the Senate and on many important Senate and university committees. For more, see *Yfile*, August 14, 2019.



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**Huw Owen Pritchard**, Distinguished Research Professor, Chemistry, Faculty of Science, A long-serving member of the Department of Chemistry, he began his career at York in 1965 and retired in 1998.



Prof. Pritchard was an original member and former Chair of the department, and supervised the first PhD in chemistry, although it was in the physics graduate program. His main research interest was in **Experimental and Theoretical Reaction Kinetics**. His colleagues remember him as “one of a kind, a renaissance scientist” and a “highly productive and well-respected researcher.” He was also one of the first four Distinguished Research Professors (1983) at York. *For more, see Yfile, September 19 2019*

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Professor Emerita **Marilyn Silverman**, joined the Department of Anthropology in 1971 as a young lecturer and from 1996 until her retirement she was a full professor. Prof. Silverman’s early field research was conducted in Guyana and Ecuador and her later field research was conducted in Ireland with her partner and departmental colleague at York, Philip Gulliver, who predeceased her last year. She won national and international recognition for the quality of her extensive publications. Prof. Silverman will also be remembered for her long-standing University-wide service, in particular for her active and effective service as a member of the York University Faculty Association and as a founding member and early coordinator of the Latin American & Caribbean Studies program. *Yfile, June 25 2019*



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**Douglas Verney**, Political Science, was the first chair of that department, from 1961, when he joined the new York University, until 1967. He passed away in Philadelphia in August, where he had moved with his second wife, Prof. Francine Frankel, at the age of 95. Under his leadership, the Department of Political Science rapidly earned a strong place in the discipline in Canada. Prof. Verney was widely

recognized not only as a scholar but also as a builder, not only at York but also as Director of the Social Science Research Council of Canada, President of the Canadian Political Science Association, and editor of the journal *Canadian Public Administration*. A fuller remembrance will appear in the next edition of the ARFL Newsletter.



Douglas Verney

### **REMEMBRANCE : Joanna, Blake, Department of Psychology**



Some years ago, the Society for Research in Childhood Development (SRCD) began compiling an oral history of major figures in the field, and Joanna was interviewed in 2008 as part of that project. In response to a question about her background Joanna answered: “I was born in Salem, Massachusetts, the City of Witches, during a depressed period of its history.” Fortunately, I think things got better from there. However, the modesty and lack of drama that characterized her answer was also something that characterized Joanna, although I have to say I also detected a sense of subversive humor in her answer.

Although Joanna began her academic life studying French Literature at Wellesley College and actually taught French for several years, she also had an interest in psychology and child development (stimulated by her reading of Erik Erikson, although he does not figure in any of her later work.) She did her graduate work in Developmental Psychology at CUNY in the late 1960s, and as a newly minted PhD, began her academic career at York in 1971.

Joanna's early work through the early 1970s was experimental, and involved studying information processing in children, [including topics related to the development of memory in preschool children, or developmental changes in the recognition of objects.] Joanna later wrote that with the birth of her son Nicholas in 1974, her research focus shifted to pre-linguistic development and how babbling evolves into language. Her research methods also shifted from experimentation to naturalistic observation.

Naturalistic observational approaches differ from experimental ones; it's more descriptive, involves longer time perspectives, demands patient observation, doggedness, persistence, and it adds to knowledge in gradual and incremental ways. It is also generally less well funded than experimental programs of research, something Joanna had to contend with. Joanna later opined that although she liked doing naturalistic observation, it reduced the impact of her work. Nonetheless, she gradually built up a body of work studying gestures and babbling in infants from different language groups as well as children with disabilities. As a graduate student Joanna was influenced by the behavioral biologist Peter Marler, who did pioneering work on the communicative behavior in birds as well in primates, and Joanna's later observational work with infants reignited her interest in primate behavior and in the evolution of communication.

All this culminated in her 2000 book *Routes to Child Language: Evolutionary and Developmental Precursors*. Joanna was characteristically modest about her work. She writes that her emphasis on babbling in language development "seems to me the most significant. However, others probably think that my attempts to find semantic patterns in babbling are wrong-headed." (Although she did say that her studies of gestures were received more favorably.)

In fact, her book has turned out to be more important than she may have realized at least at the time. A long-standing controversy about language, one which was actually much discussed by Darwin, was whether language was unique to human beings or whether it built on utterances and communicative mechanisms which humans shared with other animals, notably primates. You find the idea of continuity represented by scientists who emphasize the role of gestural communication in the development of language. On the other hand, there are also those, the most prominent of whom is Noam Chomsky, who stress both the uniqueness and the recent appearance of human language and downplay its possible evolutionary roots.

What Joanna did was to examine the sequence of communicative behaviors, like gestures, as they emerge in individual development and then to compare these sequences across species. Joanna's work does not decisively resolve the larger issue about the evolution of human language, but as William Wade wrote in the *American Anthropologist*, whether or not language evolved gradually, the important question becomes whether "one or more of the behaviors precursive to language arise in our non-

human ancestors” ...“this is the question addressed by Blake’s book.” Wade goes on to say that “the book is certain to become an essential reference.”

Joanna’s York colleagues, Juan Pascual-Leone and Anne Russon, both well-known figures in their own right, Juan for his neo-Piagetian approach to cognitive development and Anne for her work with great apes, agree that Joanna’s work was dealing with issues—namely the importance of early gesture and its possible contribution to the evolution of language—and the Mind--15 or 20 years before they became recognized in the field.

In talking about the development of language and cognition in children, Joanna and her son Nicholas wrote on an article 10 years ago on the importance of parents reading to their children. It was published in *The Psychologist*, a widely read publication of the British Psychological Society aimed at a public as well as a scientific or professional audience. Nowadays of course, there are many articles recommending that parents read to their children. What is interesting is that they recommended reading to children when they are 8 to 10 months old, before they can speak. They also emphasized that parents should not just focus on reading the story but use it to engage with the child and to set the stage for what is described as rich interaction. This is really congruent with Joanna’s belief that language-and cognition have their roots in early prelinguistic behavior and also emerge in the context of interpersonal and communicative interaction.

*Fred Weizmann*

*Remembrances for departed colleagues are welcome. We invite members to submit reminiscences for publication in the Newsletter ([ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca)).*



# Academic Matters

OCUFA’S JOURNAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

From time to time, the ARFL Newsletter plans to reprint articles from Academic Matters that may be of interest to ARFL members. The print editions and the web articles cover a wide range of topics, from the challenge of reconciliation on campus to the challenges to university pensions and academic freedom on campus. The website is open source and can be accessed at [www.ocufa.on.ca](http://www.ocufa.on.ca).

## OCUFA estimates Ford’s “performance” funding could cut university budgets by over \$500 million dollars

Toronto, Sep. 4, 2019 – Ontario faculty are warning that the Ford government’s so called “performance” funding model for postsecondary education is reckless, ineffective, and dangerous. The new funding model will link 60 per cent of government funding for universities (\$2.2 billion dollars) to an arbitrary set of metrics chosen with no consultation. These metrics will not actually measure “performance” but are likely to be used as an excuse to cut university budgets. Across Ontario, OCUFA estimates that this new funding model could mean cuts of over \$500 million dollars that will substantially undermine our postsecondary institutions’ academic missions and mandates.

“What will happen to the hundreds of millions of dollars this government is threatening to cut from university budgets? Will it be reinvested in public postsecondary education or cut from the system? The academic year is about to start and we have no clarity about funding for Ontario’s universities.” said Rahul Sapra, President of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. “This government must stop operating in secrecy and be honest with the Ontario public, who are deeply concerned about the damage this new funding formula will do to our public postsecondary education system. It’s time for Doug Ford and Ross Romano to come clean and tell Ontarians how much they intend to cut from postsecondary education.”

The Ford government’s performance funding fantasy prioritizes politics over sound public policy. By design, performance funding rewards institutions that meet arbitrary targets while penalizing those that do not, denying vital funding to those institutions that need it most to improve their educational outcomes. This rash and drastic funding shift will create a system of winners and losers by exacerbating inequities between institutions, destabilize Ontario’s postsecondary education system, work against quality improvement, pose a serious threat to equity and diversity at Ontario’s universities, and punish students studying at institutions that have already seen their budgets reduced by the Ford government. The cuts resulting from performance funding will be especially devastating for smaller universities and will undermine access for Indigenous students and other equity seeking groups.

Performance metrics cannot credibly reflect the breadth and depth of a student’s education, the long-term benefits of basic research projects, or the contributions of faculty members and academic librarians. In fact, evidence shows that performance funding cannot even produce the outcomes it promises. Instead, it has been shown to have numerous negative consequences, including an increased hiring of precariously employed contract faculty, a reduction in the admission of traditionally marginalized students, shorter programs with less quality control, lower graduation requirements, increased campus bureaucracy, and less institutional autonomy as government exercises more influence over which programs are offered.

“We don’t trust Doug Ford to measure quality at Ontario universities. Instead of putting the province’s postsecondary institutions at risk with this reckless and unstable funding model, the government should put students first and invest in Ontario’s universities,” said Sapra. “As it turns out, additional resources actually

increase graduation rates. Unfortunately, Ontario is dead last in per-student funding in Canada. The last thing we need is Doug Ford meddling with Ontario's universities."

Additional, stable public funding for Ontario's universities will help students by ensuring better academic support services, lower faculty-to-student ratios, and reduced tuition fees. This additional funding will also support good jobs on campus by providing universities with the resources to invest in faculty renewal and hire precariously employed contract faculty into secure full-time positions. It is time for Doug Ford to halt this reckless and destructive ideological attack on the foundations of Ontario's postsecondary education system and start working with faculty, students, and staff to invest in the future of our universities.

*Founded in 1964, OCUFA represents 17,000 faculty and academic librarians in 30 faculty associations across Ontario. For more information, please visit [www.ocufa.on.ca](http://www.ocufa.on.ca).*

## **The CURAC Connection**

The College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) represents the interests of academic retirees at the national level. ARFL and YURA are both members and have played an important role in its development. The retiree associations of some 40 universities and colleges are members. CURAC provides a variety of services to its member associations and their members as well:

- Assistance to colleges and universities seeking to establish retirees associations;
- Periodic surveys of benefits available to retirees in its member institutions (valuable for negotiations, lobbying, etc.)
- Lobbying government in support of college and university retirees (through news releases, letters to officials, etc.)
- Publishing occasional papers on important social issues relevant to its members (pharmacare, palliative care, mental health of seniors) and three newsletters annually
- Affinity agreements with suppliers of relevant services
  - Escorted tours with Collette Tours
  - Vehicle and property insurance from Economical Select
  - Travel and extended medical insurance (Johnson and RTO-ERO)
  - Travel discounts and customized tours at TripMerchant
- CURAC is working on agreements for other products and services, such as hearing assistance
- Annual conferences with an impressive array of speakers. The 2019 annual conference at the University of Guelph is the subject of lively reports in the CURAC/ARUCC Newsletter (Summer 2019) that can be accessed at [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca).

## **Notes from AROHE**

CURAC/ARUCC is a member of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education, a U.S.-based federation with some international members (including three Canadian university retirement organizations).

The next biennial conference will be held at Arizona State University, in the fall of 2020, organized by their Emeritus College. ASU is located in Tempe AZ. Reports from the 2018 conference may be found in the Winter 2018 *CURAC/ARUCC Newsletter/Infolettre*.

The July 2019 *AROHE Newsletter* summarizes an important retiree survey conducted at Oklahoma State University in January 2019 to assess the extent to which retirees remain active. The survey echoed the findings of surveys elsewhere, reporting that more than half of retirees remain active in their professions into retirement, serving on professional boards and committees, conducting and reporting on research at conferences, editing and writing books and editing and writing for journals, adding to the university's professional reputation. Direct contributions to universities include funding for scholarships and other activities, mentoring students and faculty, and volunteering. The July 2019 *AROHE Newsletter* may be accessed at <https://www.arohe.org/resources/Documents/EditPreviewTemplate.pdf>

*Ken Craig, UBC, and Fred Fletcher, York University (reprinted from the CURAC/ARUCC Newsletter, Summer 2019).*

## **CURAC UPDATE: Vibrant Voices: advocating for seniors**

*Fred Fletcher ([ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca))*

For those who might have missed it in the last CURAC/ARUCC Newsletter (Summer 2019), with the federal election less than two weeks away, I thought an update would be useful. CURAC/ARUCC has joined with seven other national retiree organizations to engage in some non-partisan advocacy during the campaign. The list is on the CURAC/ARUCC website ([www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca)).

The goal is to ensure that the following issues are on the public agenda: a national pharmacare program, post-retirement income security, and the general issue of a national strategy for seniors. This update aims to assist RAs and their individual members to participate in the campaign **if they wish to do so**. You can find full details on the Vibrant Voices campaign on the website.

**Please note that while some participating organizations have registered with Elections Canada as third party advertisers, this is not required of organizations that are not employing paid advertising (or are spending less than \$500).**

Vibrant Voices has developed a few questions for each of the three priority issues that may be useful in all-candidates meetings, in letters to candidates, or when engaging with candidates or volunteer canvassers at the door. (For a fuller briefing on each issue, see information sheets published with the article in the CURAC/ARUCC Newsletter (Summer 2019). These can also be accessed directly at [https://www.rto-ero.org/sites/default/files/vibrant-voices-lp/fact-sheet/Vibrant\\_Voices-info-sheets.pdf](https://www.rto-ero.org/sites/default/files/vibrant-voices-lp/fact-sheet/Vibrant_Voices-info-sheets.pdf) .

Another version of this information with slightly different questions can be accessed Association Canadienne des enseignants et des enseignants retraites/ Canadian Association of Retired Teachers, available at the ACER-CART website under Elections or at <https://acer-cart.org//wp-content/uploads/2018/03/AGM19-T8-003a-Election-Brochure-en-1.pdf>.

For those who wish to connect with other advocates working at the local level, please follow these links:

The Provincial Contact List of the National Federal Association of Retirees (NAFR) [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WtGJsgtc42KTOcvMLAUN9Mu\\_d4.JMDiuO6YhkgZGfaU4/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WtGJsgtc42KTOcvMLAUN9Mu_d4.JMDiuO6YhkgZGfaU4/edit#gid=0).

The District Contact List of the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO): [www.rto-ero.org/district-contact-list](http://www.rto-ero.org/district-contact-list)

The key messages and questions posed by the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers are very helpful:

### **Making Retirement Income More Secure**

**Key message** - Canadians deserve a secure and dignified retirement, with a guaranteed and sufficient source of income.

#### **Questions**

- What is your party's retirement income security plan for current and future seniors?
- Will you ensure employees and retirees with defined benefit pensions are protected if their employer goes bankrupt?
- In 2016 the federal government introduced Bill C-27, legislation that would allow employers to press for the surrender of defined benefit pensions. Do you support this approach?

### **National Pharmacare**

**Key message** - All Canadians should have access to the medications they need. A universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable national Pharmacare program would cut costs and lead to a healthier population.

#### **Questions**

- Will your party implement a universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable Pharmacare program?
- Will your party ensure that federal and provincial governments work together effectively to implement universal, public Pharmacare?
- Will your party ensure a comprehensive, evidence-based formulary, so that Canadian's can access the medications they need to maintain and improve their health?

### **National Seniors Strategy**

**Key message** - Canada needs a National Seniors Strategy that optimizes health, financial security, affordable housing and social inclusion so all Canadians can age with dignity.

#### **Questions**

- Will your party implement a National Seniors Strategy that addresses health care infrastructure, caregiver support, home care, long-term care and age-friendly communities?
- Will your party establish national standards of care for home and long-term care?

- Will your party recognize and support unpaid caregivers who play a vital role in our health care systems?
- How will your party support health care and personal support professionals to better meet the growing need for geriatric expertise in Canada?

## **YURA Fall Newsletter**

If you have not seen it, I urge you to have a look at the YURA Newsletter. If you are a member of YURA, you should have received it in your email. The Fall 2019 Edition will soon be available on the YURA website ([www.YURA.info.yorku.ca](http://www.YURA.info.yorku.ca)). Here is the Table of Contents:

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## **The CURAC 2019 Conference and AGM: ideas that matter**

The 2019 CURAC/ARUCC AGM and conference featured an appealing mix of organizational work, intellectual stimulation, entertainment and opportunities to socialize. Organized by the University of Guelph Retirees Association (UGRA), the three-day event went very smoothly. More than 60 delegates, representing every province but PEI, were welcomed on May 22 with a reception at the Art Gallery of Guelph, with refreshments and interesting exhibits. York was represented by Ian Greene and Charmaine Courtis, co-presidents of YURA, and ARFL president Fred Weizmann and Fred Fletcher, who represents YURA and ARFL on the Board of CURAC/ARUCC.

### **What's up with CURAC?**

The real work began after a continental breakfast with presentations on the goals and activities of CURAC/ARUCC by three board members. The president, Bryan Harvey (University of Saskatchewan), provided an overview of the organization and activities of the association. He was followed by Bev Stefureak (Lakehead University), chair of the Benefits Committee, who outlined the benefits made

available to members by CURAC's affinity partners, most of whom were represented at the conference. Fred Fletcher (York University), communications chair, presented an overview of communication challenges faced by CURAC/ARUCC, which is in essence a federation of some 40 retiree associations.

### **Round table discussions**

The presentations, which generated some very good comments and questions, were followed by round table discussions on CURAC/ARUCC activities, with eight to ten delegates and a Board Member at each table. The goal was to consider not only what other services the Board might consider but also how to do things better to serve the membership. With assistance of volunteers who made a valiant attempt to summarize the discussions at their tables, we have tried to provide an overview of the main themes and ideas that emerged in the discussions.

### **Expert presentations**

As is usually the case at CURAC/ARUCC conferences, the presentations focused on issues of direct relevance to the concerns of retirees. They covered nutrition, the benefits of having a dog (or two) in one's life, the potential of bacteria to fight disease, the challenges of food production in an era of climate crisis and population growth, an age-appropriate discussion of sexuality, and a panel discussion on the importance of age-friendly communities for aging well. The program concluded with a discussion of why archives are important and an inspirational talk by an award-winning coach on the value of continuing to strive to be the best you can be.

The discussions, presentations and actions at the AGM are summarized in the Summer 2019 edition of the CURAC/ARUCC Newsletter/Infolettre (under Newsletters at [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca)).

*Fred Fletcher*



### **Editor's Note:**

With respect to this Newsletter, errors, omissions, suggestions, contributions, vagrant opinions, etc., should be sent to me ([ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca)). We are particularly interested in learning about honours, awards, publications, adventures and ruminations about life in retirement. We are also hoping to receive reminiscences about previous eras at York and reports on our lives as retirees. (For example, the first time that I heard of York University was at a reception and dinner at a high-end restaurant near Duke University, where I was a PhD student, hosted by Jack Saywell, then Dean of Arts. Faculty and students from Canada or with an interest in it were invited. Those were the days ....)

*Fred Fletcher*