

# RALUT REPORTER

RETIRED ACADEMICS AND LIBRARIANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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## President's Report: Beate Lowenberg

Embarking on the path so expertly laid out by RALUT's five previous Presidents (Peter Russell, our founding President, now Honorary President; Ralph Garber; Doug Creelman; Jack Stevenson; and Tom Alloway) is an inspiring yet also humbling experience presenting countless learning opportunities for those following in their footsteps. The precedents set by my predecessors are impressive and RALUT's growing profile within our university and even beyond has been facilitated by their visionary input. I truly appreciate the trust you have expressed by inviting me to take on this responsible role and I intend to be guided by the experiences of those who have preceded me, in addition to consulting with current members of RALUT's Board of Directors.

The achievements of associations such as ours are generally the product of hard-working committees. We are very fortunate in having four new Chairs each heading one of our committees, joining other committees whose Chairs have thankfully agreed to carry on with their existing mandate (details are available elsewhere in this issue of the RALUT Reporter).

Naturally, committees also require members in order to function effectively. Please facilitate the work of those committees by expressing willingness to participate in these worthwhile endeavours. Their collegiality, in addition to the satisfaction earned by participating in their achievements, may well provide an unexpected bonus.

Our past achievements are indeed impressive, but we cannot afford to rest on those laurels. Challenges may change, or remain the same: the need to address them remains imperative.

In order to maximize its potential impact respecting issues of concern RALUT itself needs not only to maintain, but also to increase its membership base. Personal contact being an effective as well as efficient recruiting mechanism, I am taking this opportunity to appeal to each of our members to act as a soliciting agent on RALUT's behalf.



## Final Report: Past President Tom Alloway

I would like to thank all of you for your support during the past two years. I look forward to working with our new president and officers in the role of Past President.

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## 2013 AGM: Overture

They're ageless now, free to come and go, do what they like. And what they like is to hang around the Hart House Debates Room. Literally. High up in the vaulted ceiling bouncing around like kids on a trampoline, over by the mullioned windows watching the seasons—and the students—come and go, lounging in the Speaker's Chair, tugging on the ears of the Lion Rampant holding the shield of the George V version of the Canadian Coat of Arms up there on the west wall, gossiping in the corners. They are ghosts of debaters past.

*"So, Louis, who do we have here, today?"*

*"Well, Mr. King, a spritely [his word!] group of retired academics, librarians, senior administrators or their surviving spouses/partners of this esteemed university."*

*"Explains all the grey hair."*

*"Or, no hair!" St. Laurent laughs.*

*W.L.M.K, "...Tsk, many of these women are wearing trousers. I don't think Mother would approve at all! Tho' Pat might. He's a pretty modern dog."*

*"Nice to see Hart House is finally letting women in at all!" growled Ambassador Ignatieff from his place in the Speaker's Chair. "I well remember the Gate Crash Debate in 1967—five female students barging in to stage a sit-in highlighting gender discrimination. I was honorary speaker that evening."*

RALUT members, folders in hand and names draped round their necks, are drifting into the Committee's Room, to doff their coats and help themselves to coffee, tea, fruit juices, water and cookies. They greet members they haven't seen since last year. or maybe last week at some other campus meeting. "How's that new book coming?" "When did you get back from the Antarctic? See any tap-dancing penguins?" "I s'pose if we're lucky, spring will make an appearance this year!"

"Good to see you up and around again!"

*"'Mike', I suppose these folks are too young [they'll love that!] to have been here when you were coaching the Varsity Blues."*

*"Gosh! Louis, that was back in '25, just after I returned from Oxford. Well- seasoned tho' these folks look, they're not that old! They might remember the flag debate, tho'."*

The delicious sandwiches, crudités, cut fruit and dessert squares and tarts disappear quickly as people settle at tables and cruisers or into chairs with friends and colleagues. A testament to Hart House's catering service.

*"Bissell, good to see you again."*

*"Umm. I just heard a couple of them exchanging notes on useful pill boxes. I'll just drop that into Marty Friedman's ear to use as he gets his talk underway."*

*"on...?"*

*"U of T history, of course. The last ten years. Hard to keep up with it all, you know—there's so much going on!"*

*"There's Mordecai Richler over there, Macallan single malt at hand trying to get a word in edgewise in Peter Russell's conversation."*

*"Gee, good luck with that!"*

*"I see Pierre is doing his favourite party piece—pirouetting in and around guests as they sit in groups or lean on cruisers, coffee in hand, catching up on the latest scoop," observed 'Mike' Pearson. "I wonder if they feel a draught as he breezes by."*

Someone remarked warmly to me of the obvious effort people had made to come. "You know, canes and walkers, painful hips and knees, and perhaps limited energies notwithstanding, they come—glad

to see old friends and colleagues.” Spirit manifests itself in a variety of ways: getting together with long-time colleagues to share warmth and remembrance is certainly not the least of those ways. I might make particular mention of President Tom “True Grit” Alloway, for whom that appointment with the knee surgeon can’t come soon enough. He exceeded guest speaker Prof. Martin Friedman’s very entertaining talk and questions from the floor and presided over the Annual General Meeting. And smiled!

*“There’s Jack up there, perched on the Lion Rampant with a grin on his face. I wonder what he’s thinking?”*

*JFK, slyly: “Ask not what RALUT can do for you—ask what you can do for RALUT.”*

—as overheard by Roselyn Stone

### **2013 AGM: Business Done**

Having just been stimulated, entertained and informed by Professor Martin Friedland’s interesting talk following a delectably inviting buffet lunch, members then listened attentively to presentations related to the pre-circulated reports presented at this meeting (and included in this copy of the *RALUT Reporter*).

President Tom Alloway referred to the concern expressed in his report regarding U of T’s Pension Plan respecting retirees: although the funding is stable, there is unlikely to be any improvement in the plan nor increase in benefits.

Treasurer Elinor Fillion reported that membership renewals plus very welcome additional donations were maintaining RALUT’s fiscal health during 2012, while also preserving adequate appropriations for possible special contingencies. The Treasurer expressed her thanks to Connie Reed for checking the cash transactions in the annual financial report: everything was found to be in order.

Commemorative Initiatives committee chair Beate Lowenberg referred to the three awards of \$1000

each which RALUT’s Endowed Memorial fund had made during the current 2012-2013 academic year. Personal photographs of the recipients with individual accounts of the significant and positive impact these awards were making on their lives are included with the committee’s 2013 AGM report. Appreciative responses such as these from those three award recipients are potent incentives for further efforts to provide even more assistance in the future to additional students facing similar challenges.

Commenting that it is reasonable to anticipate that this RALUT Endowed Memorial fund to commemorate our deceased members will continue in the future to generate sufficient investment income to support further awards, B. Lowenberg regretted that the previously available government matching program had recently been discontinued.

RALUT therefore inaugurated the new RALUT Boundless Memorial Endowed (BPP) fund in November 2012, which also commemorates our deceased members, for current and future donations so that available University of Toronto matching options can be utilized once the required minimum threshold of \$25,000 has been reached (within five years).

Chair of the Membership and Events committee John Valleau discussed possible services and/or activities it might be appropriate to offer RALUT members. One ongoing successful initiative is the availability of one-on-one personal consultations respecting issues concerning medical benefits and/or pensions. In the detailed report presented past events such as the health care Forum last February were discussed in addition to plans for possible future activities based on members’ interests and desires: relevant input from the RALUT membership would be much appreciated.

Doug Creelman, acting chair of the Benefits committee, referred to participation in the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) and Association of Retirement

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(Cont'd 2013 AGM: Business Done, p. 3)

Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) meetings, which revealed that U of T benefits compare favourably with those available at other institutions.

Attempts to meet with the University Affairs Board of Governing Council to discuss official recognition of retirees as members of the university community have so far been unsuccessful; pursuit of this initiative will be maintained.

Chair of the Pensions committee John Munro, who took over this position last fall following resignation of the previous chair, has kept the committee informed on recent significant developments such as the Morneau Report whose recommendations he felt are unlikely to be adopted.

Regarding the Supplemental Retirement Allowance (SRA), concerns respecting its security can be allayed since it is now an insignificant portion of U of T's total pension budget due to the decreasing number of those eligible.

With respect to the U of T Pension Plan, its serious difficulties make it very unlikely that any increase in indexation augmentation from the currently guaranteed 75% of CPI will be restored in the foreseeable future. Current contributors may be required to increase their payments, or there could be a move towards a defined contribution plan.

Since Jack Stevenson was about to retire from the Board of Directors, Beate Lowenberg now proposed a vote of thanks in appreciation for his notable contributions to RALUT over many years (a full account of this is available on p. 15), following which there was an enthusiastic ovation from the members. J. Stevenson expressed his appreciation adding that he had very much enjoyed the companionship of the interesting people he had worked with.

Reporting the conclusions of the Nominations committee, chair Jack Stevenson referred to the pre-circulated report supplied with the agenda,

commenting that the goals of an improved balance of new and returning members as well as an improved gender balance of the Board has been achieved.

There were no nominations from the floor following the reading of the slate, which provides for two ex officio as well as 15 regular members; consequently Jack Stevenson announced that this proposed slate be acclaimed. Thus at the first meeting of the new Board the following will be proposed as Officers of RALUT by the Nominations Committee:

President: ..... Beate Lowenberg  
Vice-President (Operations): ..... Roselyn Stone  
Vice-President (Policy): ..... John Valleau  
Treasurer: ..... Elinor Fillion  
Corporate Secretary: ..... David Olson

Finally *RALUT Reporter* editor Fred Wilson, reminding members that the next issue was in production, announced that any contributions would be appreciated. The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Beate Lowenberg

### 2013 AGM: Martin Friedland Address

Martin Friedland's history of the University of Toronto was published in 2002 on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the founding of King's College. This year the University of Toronto Press brought out a second edition with a new section that takes account of the changes in the last 11 years. It was about those changes that Professor Friedland spoke at the RALUT AGM on April 25.

Friedland's talk emphasized the enormous growth in the University: in the number of students (especially graduate students), in the programs offered (particularly the Master's degrees in the professional faculties), in the Scarborough and Mississauga campuses, in the technical resources (the U of T houses the two most powerful computers in Canada), in the number of research grants awarded.

It is no longer true that most students come from

Toronto, or at least from Ontario: close to 25% of Engineering students, 20% of students in Arts and Science and a third of students in Commerce are international students. Friedland also noted that the University has steadily climbed in published rankings of universities.

Friedland's talk was well received. One questioner wondered, politely, whether the growth in the University was reflected in the quality of the student experience. Friedland conceded that there was some dissatisfaction, particularly among undergraduates in Arts and Science, but he also felt that the University had done a great deal to balance large classes with programs that have small enrolments. He mentioned particularly the Vic One Program founded in 2003 and widely imitated since.

Professor Friedland is an enthusiast where the University of Toronto is concerned. There is only one thing that he is unhappy about and that is the fact that, when you look north from the College Street entrance, the view of University College is spoiled by the intrusive condos on Bloor Street.

Hans de Groot

### **2013 AGM: Outgoing President's Report**

I believe that there are two major issues that affect the security of retired academics and librarians at the U of T: the financial status of the University's pension fund and the level of support which the provincial government is able and willing to provide to the province's health care system.

As most of you know, the University's pension fund is in serious financial straits. Depending on how the deficit is figured, the fund is somewhere between \$1 Billion and \$2 Billion short of the money that would be required to meet all its financial obligations if the fund had to be wound up and closed out, i.e. if the University went out of business. Fortunately, the University isn't going out of business in the foreseeable future; and it appears that there are sufficient funds available to continue paying our pensions. However, it is unlikely that we will see any improvement to the pension plan or any increase in our benefits. In

order to reduce the shortfall, the University administration will have to increase its contributions to the plan substantially, perhaps to a degree that will interfere with its ability to support some of its academic programmes; and faculty members and librarians who have not retired will also likely have to increase contributions to the plan. In addition, the provincial government is considering the possibility of creating a combined pension plan for all Ontario universities; and we do not know how that might affect the viability of the U of T's plan, whose funding shortfall is very much greater than that of any of the other Ontario universities' pension plans.

The Ontario government and the financial institutions that lend it money are becoming increasingly concerned about the size of the provincial government's deficit. Reducing the deficit is going to require either substantial reductions in expenditures or tax increases. A reasonable argument could certainly be made for increasing taxes, but all of our political parties apparently think that tax increases are political suicide. So that approach appears to be out of the question.

The viability of the health care system is vitally important to us as seniors because we can expect to need increasing amounts of care as we get older. That would not really be a problem if the proportion of seniors in the population were stable. When we were younger, our taxes paid for the care of people who were older than we were; and we could reasonably expect that people younger than we are would pay for our health care now that we are seniors. However, the proportion of seniors is increasing; and that increase accounts in part for the fact that the cost of health care is increasing faster than any other category of government spending.

This past February, RALUT sponsored a Forum of the Viability and Sustainability of Ontario's Health Care System. The two principal speakers at the Forum were *Globe and Mail* columnist Jeffrey Simpson and the well-known health care consultant

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and lecturer in the U of T Faculty of Medicine Michael Rachlis. Mr. Simpson is the author of a recent book entitled *Chronic Condition* in which he argues that our health care system is not viable in its present form; and Dr. Rachlis argued that the present system is basically viable if certain reforms are made. The Forum was a great success in the sense that an overflow crowd of over 125 people attended, and members of the audience asked many good questions and made interesting comments. However, of course, our forum didn't solve any of the problems, and I believe that the future viability of our publicly funded health care system is in fact quite uncertain.

Tom Alloway



### **2013 AGM: Report of the Commemorative Initiatives Committee**

The RALUT Endowed Memorial Fund was established in 2007 to provide financial aid to financially needy and academically excellent students, while also commemorating deceased members of RALUT. Due to the generosity of our donors and the then available government Trust for Student Support (OTSS) donation-matching program, this fund grew rapidly: the April 30th 2012 fiscal year-end book value was \$77,935.

Consequently, RALUT has been able to make three awards (each of \$1000) for the 2012-2013 academic year, a gratifying 50 per cent increase from the two \$1000 awards reported for 2011-2012 at the 2012 AGM. This Endowed Memorial Fund can now be considered self-sustaining.

However, this OTSS donation-matching grant was

terminated last year so in November 2012 the decision was made to inaugurate the new RALUT Boundless Memorial (BPP) Fund, due to its eligibility for the matching of awards by the University of Toronto once the \$25,000 threshold has been reached--which must be achieved within five years. This new fund likewise commemorates RALUT's deceased members, and financial need is also a primary consideration in the selection of awardees.

Financial assistance at a potentially critical period in a student's life could have very significant effects; the accompanying accounts supplied by RALUT's three 2012-2013 awardees illustrate benefits obtained by this year's RALUT awards.

These three reports demonstrate that such awards can be the key to accessing significantly enhanced life choices, leading to even more important long-term gains.

There is urgent need to reach out to other deserving students struggling to cope in daunting circumstances by facilitating the growth of the new RALUT BPP fund. Awards will be made (providing the required threshold value of \$25,000 is reached within five years) using fund-derived income matched 1:1 by the University of Toronto.

Donations of any size to this fund are gratefully received:

1. Online using the University of Toronto link on the University or RALUT websites: <https://donate.utoronto.ca/>. Enter RALUT in the search box.
2. For those who prefer the more traditional alternative, a Gift Commitment Form—found in this newsletter on page 14—can also be obtained from the RALUT office as well as the RALUT website.

A university-issued tax-deductible receipt will be sent for each donation.

Timely help making a significant difference.

With grateful thanks to committee member Diane Henderson for all her support,

Beate Lowenberg, Chair

## 2012-2013 RALUT Memorial Award Recipients

### Amir Torabi

Amir is an active student leader, currently completing his fifth year of study in Political Science and History. He is hoping to begin law school in the fall of 2013. He



describes his time at the University of Toronto as “a period of personal growth which has allowed me to grow as a person and as a community builder.” For four years, he was a student representative on the St. Michael’s College Student Union, and for the past year and a half, he has been involved with the University of Toronto Sports & Business Association, a student group dedicated to providing students interested in a career in the sports industry with the networking opportunities and workshops that will facilitate their success.

The RALUT Memorial Award has been very helpful to Amir during a difficult time in his life. His parents have both been unable to find work which has resulted in significant financial uncertainty within his family. The generous support that he has received as a result of the RALUT Memorial Award will go directly to funding his law school applications. Amir would not have been able to apply if not for this support. He is grateful for your support and thanks the members of RALUT for helping him pursue his career aspirations.



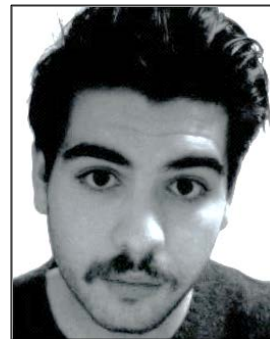
### Laura Clough-Martin

Laura is a native Torontonionian. Like so many others, her life has been marked by adversity, specifically with depression. As a direct result of this challenge, she did not finish her high school education. Instead, she took an office job and by chance got into the field of mortgage financing. After attaining her Mortgage Broker

license and opening her own brokerage, she still felt that something was lacking. Despite her relative success she was not feeling challenged or fulfilled. After being encouraged to pursue a university education, she enrolled in the Academic Bridging Program at U of T.

Through the bridging program Laura discovered that she belonged in university. She fell in love with the atmosphere, the lectures and the act of learning. A first-year introductory psychology course made a great impact on her and she is now pursuing a double major in Cognitive Science and Psychology, with a minor in Buddhist Psychology. Her goal is to go to graduate school or medical school to become a Psychologist or Psychiatrist and to specialize in cognitive behavioural therapy.

The RALUT Memorial Award has helped Laura substantially as she has had to scale back her career, thereby reducing her income. The money paid down the balance of her tuition, helping her to support herself while she pursues her education.



### Daniel Guy Tremblay

Daniel is an Arts student at Victoria College, specializing in English Literature. He is currently finishing his final year in the program after taking time off after his first year to write and perform music across North America.

After completing his BA, Daniel plans on enrolling in a graduate studies program at U of T, hoping to specialize in Modern Irish Literature.

Daniel has self-financed most of his studies with the help of OSAP, and this award has allowed him to cut back on the hours he works so that he can focus on his studies. His grades are higher than they’ve ever been, making it possible for him to plan for a graduate education. He would like to thank RALUT for their enthusiastic support. He has benefitted enormously from the organization’s generosity and hopes that others will have such luck and fortune in the future.

## **2013 AGM: Report of the Membership Committee**

No doubt the central focus of RALUT must remain that of advocacy on the part of retirees with respect to their pensions and their medical benefits. If we are to remain effective in this activity we must continue to represent a large proportion of those retirees. At the same time, the advocacy takes place for the most part quietly and behind the scenes. It would therefore be good to offer members also various more-immediate services or activities (along with those already in place, such as distribution of the informative RALUT Reporter, the monthly “first-Wednesday” luncheons at the Faculty Club, the rather festive AGM and so on). Already last year we proposed two possibilities. One of these was that RALUT should provide, for its members, personal assistance in understanding and helping them to address problems about their medical benefits or their pensions. This proposal has come to fruition, thanks to the generosity of Doug Creelman in volunteering to make himself available to provide this service on Friday mornings. It appears to be proving an unqualified success.

The other tentative suggestion was that some of our members would likely be interested in taking part in small study groups on subjects they considered important, and that RALUT could help in organising such groups and providing facilities. Such groups might be able to make important contributions to public dialogue, since our members are practised in critical thought and may often have relevant expertise as well as a little leisure time; of course, there would also be the possibility of advocacy by such groups where that seemed warranted. Not everyone is convinced that enthusiasm for such activity is to be expected, however. One subject that we supposed might have special interest for members was the adequacy and stability of Ontario’s public health care system, perhaps especially as it affects the elderly. Accordingly, we proposed a members-only small meeting, meant to test the interest in a study group on the subject.

In the event, however, this morphed into the larger and more public RALUT Forum on the viability of public healthcare, with prominent speakers (February 7). This was a highly successful event in itself, but the original purpose not fulfilled. Meanwhile, Senior College has just announced its own series of member discussion groups, admittedly directed in more scholarly and less practical directions. The decision is to forego our proposal for the moment while we see how the Senior College proposal takes flight. We would very much appreciate hearing from any member who expresses interest in this type of activity, however, on the above or any other topic, and we stand ready to promote it if there is such interest: please let us know!

In fact, we remain anxious to extend whatever services or distractions our members would appreciate, and urge you to offer any suggestions you may have.

The Committee includes: Claudia Colas, Elinor Fillion, Diane Henderson, David Olson, Roselyn Stone, John Valleau (chair), Fred Wilson, and (ex officio) Tom Alloway.

## **2013 AGM: Report of the Benefits Committee**

The Benefits Committee has met eight times since our last AGM. Our concerns have focused on the ability of RALUT members to contact the U of T Department of Human Resources to get information regarding our benefits; members have reported difficulty in reaching them for answers to questions.

The Benefits Chair has participated in the CURAC and AROHE meetings, sharing information regarding benefits coverage and University involvement in supporting retired librarians and academics. The heartening news is that at U of T our health benefits and institutional support for the organization compare well across the continent.

A disappointment was our unsuccessful request to meet with the University Affairs Board of



Governing Council to push for official and more systematic recognition of retirees as members of the university community. Other university retiree organizations in Canada and the United States have achieved establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding with their administrations, recognizing status at least comparable to that of alumni and students. Our efforts will continue.

The Friday morning health insurance information service has been able to help about 20 members in the short time since it was instituted. This has involved advice, information and active advocacy. It will continue.

Plans for next year include expanding membership in the Committee, and developing ways to reach our membership and retirees who are not RALUT members to learn of their concerns. We continue a rewarding connection with UTFa, who bargain on our behalf with the University.

Members during the year:

- Hans DeGroot (Chair)
- Doug Creelman (Temporary Chair)
- Eva Spevak
- Jack Stevenson
- Peter Russell
- Scott Rogers
- Tom Alloway

### 2013 AGM: Report of the Pensions Committee

In the fall of 2013, I succeeded Prof. Lino Grima as Chair of RALUT's Pensions Committee, when he resigned from the board for family reasons. Previously, I had been co-Chair of this committee.

This year, the Pensions Committee did not meet, simply because negotiations between the University of Toronto and UTFa have not yet commenced, and will not do so until much later in the year, possibly not until December 2013. UTFa's Salaries, Benefits, Pensions, and Workloads Committee has met only twice this year, and will not meet again until the fall of 2013.

I have, however, kept the RALUT Pensions Committee fully abreast of all recent developments by circulating memos through e-mail, often with file attachments. The most interesting developments concerning pensions this year are:

(1) **The Morneau Report:** The publication, in October 2012, of the so-called Morneau Report: *Facilitating Pooled Asset Management for Ontario's Public-Sector Institutions*. On 28 February 2013, Prof. George Brandie (Queen's University) issued a critical appraisal of the Morneau Report on behalf of CURAC - ARUUC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada); and it was sent to The Honourable Charles Sousa, the new Minister of Finance of the Ontario Government.

At the meeting of UTFa's Salaries, Benefits, Pensions, and Workloads Committee held very shortly after, on Friday, 8 March, I provided a commentary on these two reports; and my report, along with the PDF file attachments for these two documents, were sent to all members of the RALUT Board and the Pension Committee.

(a) The essential contention of the Morneau Report is that a properly constituted and well administered new public corporation for managing Ontario public-sector pensions could achieve significant economies of scale and other efficiencies, with superior financial bargaining power, to produce cost-savings of perhaps \$100 million per year—an amount offset, however, by start-up costs of about \$50 million a year, for several years. To be excluded from this new Corporation—to operate at 'arm's length' from the Ontario government—would be the Big Three, which already enjoy such economies of scale: the Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan ('Teachers'), the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS), and the Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP). All others, including the university sector (about \$12 billion in assets), would be compelled to

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(Cont'd 2013 AGM: Report of the Pensions Committee, p. 9) join, i.e., to surrender their pension assets, to provide a hoped-for total of \$100 billion in pension assets (with a minimum of \$50 billion). But each public sector scheme—and thus our U of T scheme—would be left free to determine contributions and benefits (pensions pay outs). One obvious problem would be the fate of UTAM (University of Toronto Asset Management), and the management of endowment funds, if pensions were hived off into this new public corporation.

(b) The Brandie-CURAC report criticizes most, if not all features of the Morneau report, but most especially the contention that a minimum of \$50 billion in combined pension assets is required, and that public-sector pension membership in the new Corporation be compulsory. Brandie cites the current success of Yale's endowment fund with 'just' \$20 billion in assets. But whether a Canadian public-sector pension fund can be compared to a private American university's endowment fund is not clear. Brandie also questions whether the Morneau recommendations on establishing an 11-member board of directors would be truly efficient, truly in the interests of all the 'stakeholders', and truly at arm's length from government interference, in managing assets.

(c) My view is that, in view of the critical CURAC report, the Ontario legislature may spend several years debating the establishment of a new Corporation to pool and manage assets of public-sector pension funds. Members of RALUT are encouraged to read both my report and these two documents, which should be available soon from the RALUT website.

(2) News about the **SRA (Supplementary Retirement Allowance)** is the other important development. My Economics colleague, Prof. Ettore Damiano, who also serves on the UTFAs Salaries, Benefits, Pensions, and Workloads Committee, is a faculty member on the

Governing Council's Pension Committee.<sup>1</sup> He stated that we retirees who are now receiving the SRA need have no fear that it will ever be discontinued (even if the payments are not as securely guaranteed by law as our regular pensions), for two related reasons:

- (a) Very few if any newly retiring faculty will receive it, because the federal cap (once rigidly fixed at about \$95,000) has now about reached the upper limit of the SRA: \$150,000; and thus there will be virtually no future additional SRA payment to be a burden on our U of T pension scheme.
- (b) As current retirees die, the total SRA payments will diminish—and they are now a very small, really insignificant percentage of the total U of T pension payments.

Respectfully submitted by John H. Munro  
Professor Emeritus of Economics  
March 26, 2013

### **2013 AGM: Report of the Nominations Committee**

In preparing a slate of 15 to be elected to the Board by the RALUT members present at the 2013 AGM, we have been guided by the RALUT Constitution, RALUT custom and certain other considerations, namely, that we should:

- (a) Find replacements for the four persons retiring from the Board;
- (b) Achieve a balance of new and returning members so that the rotation policy set out in the Constitution Article 3.03 can be restored;
- (c) Achieve a more equitable gender balance

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<sup>1</sup> This is a joint committee of members of the Governing Council and faculty, chaired by Professor George Luste, past-President of UTFAs. The other faculty members (along with Ettore Damiano and George Luste) are Helen Rosenthal (retiree representative), Lawrence Booth (Rotman) and Jennifer Jenkins (History).

on the Board.

nomination at the 2014 AGM.

The resulting slate of nominees is:

**New Members:** two-year terms, starting at AGM 2013 and ending at AGM 2015:

1. Geraldine (Jody) Macdonald
2. Mary Alice Guttman
3. Anne Lancashire
4. Michael Finlayson

**Returning Members:** two-year terms, starting at AGM 2013 and ending at AGM 2015:

5. Beate Lowenberg
6. Robin Healey
7. Scott Rogers

**Returning Members:** one-year terms, starting at AGM 2013 and ending AGM 2014:

8. Roselyn Stone
9. Elinor Fillion
10. Doug Creelman
11. Fred Wilson
12. John Valleau
13. John Munro
14. David Olson
15. George Luste

**Ex Officio:**

16. Peter Russell (Honorary President)
17. Tom Alloway (Past President)

**Notes on Board Nominations:**

- (1) If there are nominations from the floor at the 2013 AGM, an election by written ballot will be held.
- (2) With 7 two-year term members and 8 one-year term members, the rotation possibility provision is settled as nearly as possible with 15 to be elected. Those elected for a one-year term would still be eligible for another

- (3) The gender balance has been improved with 6 women nominated out of 15.
- (4) We have in the Constitution a provision for certain unfortunate contingencies, Article 3.07, which states that "...any vacancy occurring in the board of directors may be filled for the remainder of the term by the directors then in office...."

Submitted by the Nominations Committee  
Peter Russell, John Munro and Jack Stevenson



**2013 AGM: New RALUT Officers**

The RALUT Constitution, Article 4, states that the Officers of the association are appointed by the Board annually, or more often if necessary.

The Annual General Meeting appointed to the association Board the members proposed by the Nominating Committee.

At its first meeting after the AGM, the Board appointed the following officers:

- President .....Beate Lowenberg
- Vice-President (Operations) ....Roselyn Stone
- Vice-President (Policy)..... John Valleau
- Treasurer .....Elinor Fillion
- Corporate Secretary .....David Olson

2013 AGM: Annual Financial Report, 2012

<b>RALUT: Retired Academics and Librarians of the University of Toronto</b>		
<b><u>Annual Financial Report, 2012</u></b>		
<b>Balance, January 1</b>		49,854
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Membership fees	21,041	
Donations	3,145	
Interest	<u>477</u>	
<b>Total</b>		24,663
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Staff	6,252	
Supplies	644	
Copying	535	
Postage	746	
Telephone	<u>534</u>	
<b>Total</b>		8,711
Reporter (including postage)		728
AGM		1,103 *
Affiliations (CURAC and AROHE memberships)		406
Conference travel and expenses		2,591
Board of Directors		1,869
Endowed RALUT Memorial Award		1,070
New Retirees' Event (50% of total; balance paid by ARC)		235
Bank charges		160
ARC coffee supplies		142
Petty cash		16
Refund of deceased member's fee		<u>50</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>17,081</u>
<b>Difference between income and expenditures</b>		<u>7,582</u>
<b>Balance, December 31</b>		57,436
<b><u>Appropriations for special funds</u></b>		
Legal	10,000	
Special projects	14,500	
General contingency	<u>11,000</u>	
<b>Total</b>		35,500
<p>*In previous years we were required to prepay half the estimated cost of the next year's AGM. Hart House no longer requires the prepayment, so this figure represents the balance paid in 2012, not the full cost of the 2012 AGM.</p> <p><i>My thanks to Connie Reed, who checked the cash transactions.</i></p> <p>Submitted by Elinor Fillion, Treasurer</p>		

## Deceased Members May'12-April'13

Arrowood, John  
 Beaton, George  
 Bregzis, Ritvars  
 Cotter, Evelyn  
 Dupre, J. Stefan  
 Farrell, Joseph  
 Gordon, Duncan  
 Granatstein, Elaine  
 Helmstadter, Richard  
 Luk, Shiu Hung  
 O'Connell, Joseph  
 Scane, Ralph  
 Silvers, Ronald  
 Simon, Roger  
 Smythe, Hugh  
 Sobel, Jordan Howard  
 Tough, Allen

## Monthly Luncheons

Members of RALUT get together for lunch at the Faculty Club on the first Wednesday of each month. These lunches are now, like many members, having a summer break. But they will resume in September. We would love to have you join us for some good conversation.



## Academic Volunteers Sought

On January 5, 2009, CURAC/ARUCC President Tarun Ghose and AHED/UPESED Board Chair Steven Davis signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate closer cooperation between the two organizations.



Academics for Higher Education and Development -- Universitaires pour l'éducation supérieure et le développement (AHED -- UPESED) mission is to

support developing countries build and expand institutional strength in higher education. It fulfills its mission by sending volunteers to work on projects in the full range of post-secondary institutions—in universities, colleges, and professional and technical schools and in all areas of instruction including among others, humanities, pure and applied science, engineering, business administration, medicine and nursing.

[www.ahed-upesed.org](http://www.ahed-upesed.org).

## Subscribe to the Literary Review of Canada



LITERARY REVIEW OF CANADA



College and University Retiree Associations of Canada  
 Associations de retraités des universités et collèges du Canada

A special offer to CURAC/ARUCC members from the [Literary Review of Canada \(LRC\)](http://www.literaryreviewofcanada.com).

Published ten times a year, the LRC offers a unique perspective on national culture, politics and ideas, explored through both long-format reviews of Canadian books and original essays. Since 1991, this approach has made the LRC a lively forum for the discussion of Canadian thought—a role recognized with the Arthur Kroeger Prize for Public Discourse. The LRC was the first magazine to win this prestigious award.

In recognition of our contribution to Canadian intellectual life, the magazine is offering CURAC/ARUCC members a discounted subscription rate of \$35 to 41% less than the regular price of a year's subscription.

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**Jack Stevenson's Distinguished Service to RALUT**

Jack Stevenson has now retired from the RALUT Board of Directors. Jack has made a variety of notable contributions to RALUT. For example, he prepared two checklists that members may wish to consult. In case of emergency, incompetence or death, there is important financial and medical information that should be available. These checklists contain suggestions for what you need to have on hand and how to get it. [["Planning Ahead: a RALUT Checklist in Case of Death"](#) and ["Medical Records Project in Case of Medical Emergency"](#) are available on the RALUT Website.]

He served as President and Past President. As President, Jack did the hard work involved in securing our incorporation, including arranging for necessary alterations to the RALUT constitution. His duties included chairing regular meetings of the Board of Directors: boards of volunteer organizations are not always the easiest groups to chair, but he was able to keep things moving smoothly and to keep the various members satisfied enough that all had been fairly done that they regularly went out to lunch together (at O'Grady's) after meetings. In perhaps Jack's most onerous RALUT role, he several times chaired the Nominations Committee.

His retirement from the Board was noted by incoming President Beate Lowenberg at the 2013 AGM, and those present showed their appreciation of his contributions with a round of vigorous applause. I have little doubt that those members who were not present will similarly applaud him upon his retirement. I think we can all join in saying "Job well done, Jack; thanks."

At the AGM Jack thanked those present for their heartily expressed appreciation. He went on to remark how he had enjoyed the companionship of the interesting people with whom he had worked. In such situations, as in lapidary inscriptions, one is not on oath, but I am sure Jack really did mean what he said.

Fred Wilson



RALUT's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2011



David Crombie, Roselyn Stone, 2011



Doug Creelman, 2011

## 2013/2014 Committee Chairs

- **Benefits:** Mary Alice Guttman (with Doug Creelman acting as interim chair January-March 2014)
- **Commemorative Initiatives:** Beate Lowenberg
- **Communications:** Robin Healey
- **Membership:** Jody Macdonald
- **Nominations:** Michael Finlayson
- **Pensions:** John Munro

## Contact List

### 2013 / 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Doug Creelman**, [creelman@psych.utoronto.ca](mailto:creelman@psych.utoronto.ca)

**Elinor Fillion**, Treasurer, [e.fillion@rogers.com](mailto:e.fillion@rogers.com)

**Michael Finlayson**, Chair, Nominations Committee, [mgfinlayson@gmail.com](mailto:mgfinlayson@gmail.com)

**Mary Alice Guttman**, Chair, Benefits Committee, [maryalice.guttman@utoronto.ca](mailto:maryalice.guttman@utoronto.ca)

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# RALUT

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