

ARC News

ARC's Bi-monthly Newsletter • Volume 1, Issue 1 • December 2009

Welcome to the Academic Retiree Centre

The Academic Retiree Centre (ARC) provides a base for retired faculty, librarians and senior administrators where they can continue their connection with and service to the University of Toronto, as well as carry on their scholarly and professional activities.

Whether you are interested in using ARC's services and space—or offering your own as a volunteer—we would like to keep you informed of our activities as



we continue to grow. Keep in touch by joining our listserv to receive news and notices of events on a regular basis. Request a subscription by email at academic.retiree@utoronto.ca.

ARC's Opening Reception

ARC had an opening reception on **Thursday, October 1st, 2009** to welcome all retired faculty, librarians and senior administrators, and to thank all those who worked hard to ensure the creation of the Centre. Over 100 guests enjoyed wine, cheese and good company while informal tours of the Centre were offered by volunteers. Thoughtful addresses were given by President **David Naylor**, **Edith Hillan**, Vice-Provost, Faculty and Academic Life, who also serves as Chair of the ARC Board of Management, and **George Luste**, President of UTFA. Acting as Master of Ceremonies, University Professor Emeritus **Peter Russell**, Co-Chair of the ARC Board of Management, thanked

*I think what we
have now is a
fabulous space*

*Edith Hillan, from her address at
ARC's Opening Reception*

many and welcomed all to stop by ARC for a free cup of coffee or to use the welcoming space available at the centre. A video of the evening's speeches is available [here](#), and Media Services also produced on the same evening a short video tour of ARC, complete with background music, available [here](#).

Location

ARC's location in Suite 412 at 256 McCaul Street (just south of College) is convenient to Queen's Park subway and steps from the College streetcar. Paid parking next to the building is accessed from McCaul.

The front entrance of the building presents two stairs, while the back entrance is grade-level and fully wheelchair accessible with an automatic entrance. The building is equipped with an elevator.

www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc

Services at ARC

The Academic Retiree Centre provides retired faculty, librarians and senior administrators with managed access to shared office space at the University of Toronto, including the use of:

- lockers in which to store files and other personal property.
- eight study carrels that are wired for power and direct internet access, providing a quiet and private workspace on the St. George campus. Two of the carrels are set aside for drop-in use and others may be reserved via email to academic.retiree@utoronto.ca.
- a comfortable and welcoming reception area/lounge with kitchenette facilities.
- a high-quality photocopier. Pre-paid blocks of 50 copies for \$5, which contribute financial support to the centre's operations, are available.



Photo: Ken Rea

ARC Volunteers

We are currently recruiting volunteers who value continuing connections to the University of Toronto, to be at the centre on weekdays, between 9am and 5pm. Responsibilities may include greeting visitors, answering questions, making coffee/tea and other duties in support of the Centre.

One-on-One Computer Help

Are you having trouble sending or saving attached files or having problems with Microsoft Word? ARC is providing one-on-one assistance for any retiree with computer-related questions or problems.

You are welcome to stop by ARC on Mondays and Thursdays between 10am and 4pm with your questions. You may also make an appointment with Madeha Batool by e-mail at madeha_b@hotmail.com. Please include your name, phone number, availability, and a brief description of the problem.



If you create visual art (photographs, paintings, drawings), here is an opportunity for you to showcase your work at ARC for an appreciative audience of your peers. The Art Committee of the Academic Retiree Centre is now accepting submissions of artwork from retired faculty, clinical faculty, librarians and senior administrators to be exhibited at the centre on a rotating basis. Submissions can be made by email and will be approved on an ongoing basis throughout the year for showing periods of one to four months. Please submit a maximum of seven jpg image(s) of your work to academic.retiree@utoronto.ca with a subject heading of *ARC Art Submissions* with the following information included in the body of the email message: your name, phone number, short biography, titles of works, dimensions, and media.

Pension and Benefits

There is so much information on the web about benefits and pension that it can sometimes be confusing. ARC offers direct access to Benefits Advisor Libby Shirriff and Benefits Specialist/Supervisor Keithann Newton, who can answer all of your questions directly through a phone call or an e-mail: libby.shirriff@utoronto.ca 978-2113; keithann.newton@utoronto.ca 978-4673. If there is sufficient demand from retirees with benefits and pension queries, ARC will host in-person group sessions with Libby or Keithann. Let us know your concerns!

People at ARC

It would be impossible for ARC to operate and fulfill its mandate without the extensive collaborative support of volunteers, Work-Study students, staff and its Board of Management. Get to know everyone by dropping in to the centre or browsing our website for lists of personnel, schedules as well as some short bios.

Senior College

The University of Toronto's Senior College supports and fosters the scholarly, professional and creative activities of retired faculty, librarians and senior administrators. Its mission is to serve as a beacon for intellectual exchange, academic and cultural activities for collegial interaction among members of the university's retiree community, while initially operating under the auspices of the Academic Retiree Centre on the St. George Campus of University of Toronto. Senior College is currently in the process of being officially recognized by the University of Toronto.

The inaugural meeting of Senior College Fellows was held on May 14, 2009, and its first council meeting took place on June 18, 2009.

Speakers Bureau

As part of its mandate "to facilitate and encourage retirees' involvement and contribution to the larger community beyond the University," the Academic Retiree Centre is forming a Speakers Bureau. The Bureau will list retired faculty, librarians and senior administrators who are willing to give talks or lead discussions and the subjects on which they have expertise. The list will be sent to schools, seniors' homes, service clubs and other organizations in the GTA community.

➤ *If you are willing to be a member of the ARC Speakers Bureau, please email academic.retiree@utoronto.ca, indicating (1) Your name and phone number(s) (2) A brief description (keywords) of your fields of interest, indicating some of the topics on which you wish to speak (3) Any restrictions regarding your availability—such as days of the week or times during the year.*

Information about Senior College including its program of weekly seminars and talks, the 5th Annual Senior Scholars Symposium (April 13), its brochure, Council, Fellows, reports and podcasts of past programs, and minutes of meetings are available on the ARC website at <http://www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc/college.htm>.

Senior College also maintains a separate website at <http://sites.google.com/site/seniorcollegedcommunications/> which is open for input from all Senior College Fellows as stated: *Any Fellow of the College who would like to participate in maintaining this site, by posting material, creating pages devoted to special interests, etc., should contact [Ken Rea](#) who will issue the necessary permissions to edit the site.*

Contact Senior College at senior.college@utoronto.ca.

A brief time line of events

Intended to serve as an overview for anyone wondering how ARC came to be, the excerpts below are taken from official records of negotiations and policy documents that led to the historic creation of the University of Toronto's Academic Retiree Centre.

The relevant history can be divided into two sections, with March 14, 2005 as the dividing point. Before March 14, 2005, retirement was mandatory at age 65, and since that date, retirement is no longer mandatory. This development set into motion negotiations for more and improved services for retirees and the provision of space for a retiree centre.

February 14, 2002: Policy on Assignment and Usage of Academic Offices approved by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

"...offices are not automatically assigned to Professors Emeriti; individual requests should be considered by department chairs and assessed in the context of the total contribution to the department/faculty; typically, such offices would be shared by three individuals."

March 14, 2005 2 AM: Agreement between the Governing Council of the University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Faculty Association on Retirement Matters. Signed by UofT: Vivek Goel, Angela Hildyard. UTFA: George Luste, Tom Alloway, Peter Russell, Mary Pugh, Ken Lavin, Margaret Procter, Joseph Boyle.

The University and the Association agree to the elimination of mandatory retirement, effective June 30, 2006 ...

- 15 Senior Scholar/Retiree Centres
- a) *The University will develop, in consultation with UTFA and RALUT, a Statement of Commitment to Retired Faculty Members and Librarians for approval by Governing Council no later than June 30, 2005. The statement will profile the important role that retired faculty can play in the life of the University and the ways in which the University may recognize and support these contributions.*
 - b) *Subject to the Approval of the Statement by Governing Council the University will appoint Project Planning Committees for the Senior Scholar/Retiree Centres on each campus. Each such committee will be established no later than Sept. 30, 2005 with committees to be established at University of Toronto at Mississauga and University of Toronto at Scarborough within a reasonable time period.*

- c) *The parties have also agreed to a "Letter of Understanding with regard to Retired Faculty and Librarians."*

March 14, 2005, 4AM: Letter of Understanding Between the Governing Council of the University of Toronto and The University of Toronto Faculty Association with Regard to Retired Faculty and Librarians approved by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

The University is committed to the establishment of retiree centres on each campus. These Centres, which will represent a first for Canada and reflect best practice within peer institutions in the US, will develop and administer, in collaboration with retirees and those soon to retire, a range of programmes and facilities to support retired Faculty Members and Librarians in continuing their intellectual activities and to retain their connection with the University. The University will immediately commence its efforts to establish these Centres... Retired faculty members and librarians should have reasonable access to shared office space at the University. Such access should include facilities to receive mail and email at a University address, access to a computer connected to the University network, and access to lockable space in which to store files and other personal property. Ideally, these facilities should be in or near the retired faculty member's or librarian's department or college. When space in the department or college is not available, these facilities should be provided in an appropriately equipped and staffed Senior Scholar/Emeritus Centre to be located on the retired faculty member's or librarian's campus.

June 29, 2005: Statement of Commitment to Retired Faculty and Librarians approved by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

The University commits to the following:

- a) *Retiree/Senior Scholars Centres: The University of Toronto is committed to establishing Retiree/Senior Scholar Centres on all three of its campuses.*
- b) *Office space: Retired faculty and librarians should have reasonable access to shared office space at the University (in accordance with the University's space standards and the Policy on Assignment and Usage of Academic Offices) allowing for desk space, mail, email, a networked computer and lockable filing cabinets. In the event that there is not space available within the retiree's department or college, these facilities may be provided in the Retiree/Senior Scholars Centres to be established on all three campuses.*

Fall 2005: First Meetings of the Project Planning Committee for the Senior Scholar/Retiree Centre, St. George Campus

December 31, 2006: Memorandum of Agreement between The Governing Council of the University of Toronto and The University of Toronto Faculty Association The Governing Council of the University

of Toronto: Rose M. Patten, Chairman, D. Naylor, President; The University of Toronto Faculty Association: George Luste, President, Tom Alloway, Vice-President.

March 2008: [Final Report of the Project Planning Committee for the Senior Scholar/Retiree Centre St. George Campus](#) submitted to Planning & Budget Committee. *Committee membership:* Professor Edith Hillan Vice Provost Academic (co-chair); Ms Elizabeth Sisam, Assistant Vice President Campus and Facilities Planning (co-chair); Dr Sara-Jane Finlay, Director, Academic Human Resources; Professor David Cook, Principal, Victoria College; Professor Brian Corman, Chair, Department of English, Faculty of Arts & Science; Professor Esme Fuller-Thomson, Faculty of Social Work; Professor Wayne Hindmarsh, Faculty of Pharmacy; Ms Leanne Pepper, Manager, Faculty Club; Professor Tom Alloway, UTM, VP (Salaries, Benefits & Pensions) UTFA; Professor Douglas Creelman, President RALUT; Professor Lino Grima, RALUT Executive Member; Professor Allan Jacobs, Retired faculty member UTSC; Professor Peter Russell, Executive Member RALUT, Council Member UTFA; David Bateman, Treasurer, Graduate Student Union (until December 2007); Sara Suliman, Incoming VP External, Graduate Student Union (from January 2008).

May 2, 2008 for May 14, 2008: **Report for Information** to Planning and Budget Committee, ref. Agenda Item 10. Sponsor: Elizabeth Sisam, Assistant Vice-President, Campus and Facilities Planning.

August 12, 2008: **Approval of Project No. 083-08-148, \$415,000, central administration** Letter from the Office of the Vice-President and Provost to Vice-Provost, Academic Edith Hillan's office.

February 11, 2009: **Renovations begin at 256 McCaul, 4th floor.**

June 17, 2009: **Occupancy permit achieved.**

October 1, 2009: **Official Opening Reception of Academic Retiree Centre.**

ARC Board of Management

Chair: Edith Hillan, Vice-Provost, Faculty & Academic Life

Co-Chair: Peter Russell, University Professor Emeritus, Political Science

David Cook, Principal, Victoria College

John Dirks, President and Scientific Director, The Gairdner Foundation; Professor Emeritus of Medicine

Sara-Jane Finlay, Director, Faculty & Academic Life

Esme Fuller-Thomson, Associate Professor, cross-appointed to faculties of Social Work, Medicine and Nursing

George Luste, President, University of Toronto Faculty Association

Marian Press, Academic Librarian, OISE Library

Jack Stevenson, President, RALUT

Joan Winearls, Retired Librarian, University of Toronto Library; RALUT Senior Scholars Committee

Staff

Pat Doherty, Administrator

Work-Study Students

Tina Baoukian, Madeha Batool

Volunteers

Douglas Creelman, Rick Hayward, Tony Key, Ken Norwich, June Pemberton, Reuben Pereira, Eva Smirnova, Mary Vohryzek, Wolf von Kalben, Cicely Watson, Kiana Xu.

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ACADEMIC RETIREE CENTRE (ARC)