



This issue of And By The Way, Retirees. was assembled and edited by Judy Boxler, Martin Gerson, Keith Gilley, Dave Lidstone and Roy Sinn, with valuable help from Diane Bradley, Gail Bremer, Patricia Cia, Elaine Cone, Robin MacQueen, Peter Prontzos, Dick Reiner and Susan Weber.

The editors encourage all LCAR members to submit suggestions, articles, announcements for future newsletters. Please write to newsletter@lcar.ca

AND BY THE WAY, RETIREES.

Newsletter of the Langara College Association of Retirees
Volume 1 / Issue 3 / February 2023

LCAR UPDATE

LCAR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

A hearty WELCOME to the following recent retirees who have joined LCAR since the last edition of this newsletter:

Chris Arnold-Forster, Organizational Risk & Internal Controls
Harry Lendvoy, Kinesiology Department
Robin MacQueen, Physics Department
Daniel Nykon, Psychology Department
Li Yu, Asian Studies Department

LCAR AGM

The 2022 AGM was chaired by Diane Bradley on September 24. We enjoyed a brief address by Dr. Paula Burns, the new President and CEO of the College (see below for more). Our activities since the 2021 AGM of last December were reviewed. Thanks were extended to various people and organizations who support LCAR, including the College for our operating budget, People and Culture for their generous aid and the

administrative work of Shannon Eeckhout, and the Langara Foundation for the contributions of Heidi Rahnumah. Board membership was then addressed starting with thanks to Ken Jillings, who is stepping down after long service that started with the original Steering Committee for the Retirees Group. His contributions have been invaluable and he will be missed. The following Board members will continue through 2023 (the second year of their current appointment): Gail Bremer (Past Chair), Martin Gerson, Bruce Kennedy, Dave Lidstone and Roy Sinn. The meeting approved Diane Bradley, Patricia Cia, Brian McGibney, Susan Weber for 2022-2024 appointments. At our first meeting after the AGM, Diane agreed to be Chair and Patricia the Vice-chair.

INTRODUCING LCAR'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER AND NEW VICE-CHAIR, PATRICIA CIA

Patricia joined Langara in 2005 as technical services/systems librarian. Since then, her roles included Coordinator, Department Chair, Head of Libraries (an interim role incorporating duties of a director), and then Director of Academic Innovation. As Director, her portfolio expanded to include Library, CAPER-BC, EdTech, and TCDC before retiring at the end of July 2021. During this time, Patricia also took on leadership roles on local and international levels of Special Libraries Association, as well as being strata president for many years. Balancing this work life, she started taking photography classes through Langara CS. You can see Patricia's work on her website at patriciacia.com. Besides realizing

the benefits of active participation in associations, joining LCAR means access to retiree discounts in Continuing Studies classes as well as connecting with others.

LCAR LOUNGES IN 2022

On each of April 28 and September 22, we hosted a social gathering tagged “LCAR Lounge”. They were presented in the T-Building Gallery with lounge style seating at round tables. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages were provided. The events included an entertainment program showcasing our colleagues’ talents.

Our April program opened with THE MERRY MADRILANGARANS, a madrigal quartet comprised of Martin Gerson (VP Academic & Provost), Lorna Hawes (English) and guests Arline Oishi and Andy Rose. Then BRIAN McGIBNEY (Fine Arts) sang some of his favourite songs to close the presentations.



Photo by Jose Aguirre



Photo by Susan Weber

In September, Evelyn Nodwell (Anthropology and Asian Studies) presented some results from a recent photography project capturing images of bumble-bees in her garden, and spoke to the processes she used during the project. This was followed by a solo acoustic guitar concert, with Edgar Avelino (Math/Stats) playing some pieces from the canon of bossa nova and samba standards, and some pieces by popular composers such as Carole King, Burt Bacharach, Cole Porter and The Beatles.

We expect there will be more such events. They are open to all retirees and attendees are welcome to bring along a guest. There is no admission charge but we do ask that attendees register so that we may submit an accurate food order and because seating is limited.

RETIREE TALES

ADVENTURES WITH PETER PRONTZOS

Peter first led a Langara educational tour to Greece over 20 years ago while co-teaching a class with Gwyneth Lewis in Classical Studies. That was a course offered through Langara’s regular program and so they had to give tests and assign term papers! Subsequent tours have been offered through Continuing Studies - no tests, no papers, no marking.

The tours were scheduled in the Spring or the Fall, when the temperature, costs and crowds were all more manageable. The itinerary included many well-known sites but also many less touristy ones such as Peter's own beautiful village of Kyparissi on the Aegean sea. While there, accommodation was in a wonderful seaside hotel owned his cousin Sofia.



Kyparissi from the air and from the balcony of cousin Sophia's hotel

If you are interested in Peter's current plans for a trip, please contact him at pprontzos@langara.ca.

DOODLES BY DICK REINER

I retired in 1995 after close to 30 years teaching Geography. I always felt lucky to have such a pleasant job and in such a congenial atmosphere. Over the years I contributed caricatures and silly doodles to the Faculty Affairs newsletter. In this connection, I still draw for the fun of it. I start with a truly random set of lines and then let my mind gradually shape them into an unplanned image of sorts. It is still an amusing pastime. I never lectured in this random fashion, though.

We thank Dick for the above note and accompanying sketch, in response to our call for submissions. One of the editors of this newsletter, digging through his boxes of old issues of Faculty Affairs, has found many of Dick's caricatures of past Langarans who contributed greatly to creating the spirit of the college. We intend to publish some of those drawings, along with stories about their subjects, in coming issues.



Doodle by Dick Reiner

MEMBERS & FRIENDS

REMEMBERING AL CONE

By Martin Gerson, with input from Elaine Cone and Robin MacQueen

Albert Aloysius Cone

November 24, 1935 - October 10, 2021

Physicist, musician, composer, Langara teacher, beloved father of four children: Conrad (Therese), Carolyn, Corbin, Kristi (Patrick), beloved "Baba" of two grandsons Marcus and Lucas and beloved husband of Elaine.

Married in Cambridge Massachusetts October 2 1965, Elaine brought Al home to Vancouver where he fell in love with the mountains.

He was a former member of the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra and the West Coast Symphony Orchestra, and a former member of the North Shore Hikers group where he spent weekends climbing mountains and dabbling in Rock Climbing, often taking his son Corbin with him ...



Al and Elaine with their kids, kids-in-law, and grandkids (2015)



Al and Elaine (2019)

So began the notice, written by Al's wife, Elaine, that was sent to the LCAR mailing list a year ago. Since then, some of us have had the time to remember our particular relationships with Al, what a remarkable contribution he made to our lives and to the Langara community, and what a wonderfully multi-faceted person he was. Those who saw him walking the halls of Langara but didn't know him much beyond that might be forgiven for thinking he was just a quiet, slow-walking man of few words, with his head probably so wrapped up in his Physics he had little time for much else. Not so!

Al the Jesuit: Born in Philadelphia, Al entered a Jesuit seminary after high school and seemed headed for the priesthood. In the end, the Jesuits couldn't offer him the answers he was looking for to the big questions of life, so he left before ordination. But along the way, he got a very strong

undergraduate education in Classical Studies as well as Physics and Math, in the seminary and at Fordham, New York City's Jesuit University. This included Philosophy and a deep knowledge of Latin and Greek, to which he added enough German, French and Russian to be able to read scholarly papers in those languages when he was later working on his Ph.D. in Physics at Harvard. And it left him well equipped to substitute, on a couple of occasions, for Rev. Jim Roberts (Langara's first instructor of Religious Studies and Latin, who retired in the mid-1990s).

Al the department chair: Al joined the faculty at the college in 1966, when it was still at the old King Edward Campus. Though originally hired to teach Math, he moved to the Science Department to teach Physics after a term or two. He soon became chair of the Science Department and remained chair of his department as the other sciences gradually split off, eventually serving at least three extended stints as Physics Department Chair.

Robin MacQueen remembers: *I first met Al when I joined the Physics Department in 1992, and we had many interactions until he retired about a decade later. For a good part of this time we had neighbouring offices, and we used to chat frequently. Al could appear gruff, but I found him to be a kind and generous man with a wry sense of humour.*

Al wrote my first classroom evaluation. In my subsequent years of reading hundreds of classroom visit reports, I never saw anything quite like it. Normally he was a man of few words, but this report was more than five pages long, and included hand-drawn diagrams as well as the names of students who responded in class. Here's one sentence: 'There was a genial air of cogitational chaos as the example got straightened out between the efforts of the [student] presenter and advice from the rest.'

Al knew when to bend the rules. Once I watched while, as department chair, he advised a student and granted a course override. After the student left, I asked why Al had not followed the posted procedure and asked for written proof of the course prerequisite. Al replied, 'I only stand on formality when I don't trust the person.'

In those days, before the web and even before email, we had to hand-write final grades onto an official copy of the grade sheet, then deliver it to a cardboard box labelled "Val's box for grades" just inside the Registrar's Office. At the end of one Spring term, I wanted to take a trip down the Pacific coast with my family, leaving just after my last exam. I asked Al, and he offered to fill in my grade sheet and drop it in Val's box if I phoned in the grades.

I will always appreciate the respect and kindness Al showed me as a young instructor.

Al the musician: And what a talented and enormously diverse musician he was! In addition to playing bassoon, oboe, other wind instruments and double bass at different periods with the two orchestras he played in, he was also a regular participant in the Langara Gala. One year he played bassoon in a wind chamber group he had pulled together for the Gala. In other years, he performed his own composition on the piano and sang the bass part in a madrigal quartet. Once he sang the "Catalogue Aria" from Mozart's Don Giovanni, in Italian, while accompanying himself on an electric keyboard. For a number of years, Al was seconded to UBC to teach a course on the Physics of Music.



LFA President 1976-77

Al the senator: When I became involved with the LFA in the very early '80s, I started hearing about “the Senate,” the moniker that was embraced by the group of past-(and current)-presidents of the LFA. Senate meetings consisted of getting together a couple of times a year, usually at the home of one of the senators, on a Friday for lunch and an afternoon of heavy drinking and light conversation. Al put his classical education to good use as the Senate’s de facto Director of Ceremonies. When I became LFA president and was initiated into the Senate, Al presented me with a laurel wreath and a scroll, entirely in Latin, composed in the style of a Roman senatorial declaration, which began something like “Senatus Populusque Langarenses ...”.

Al the mountaineer: An avid hiker, Al participated in and often led hikes up most of the accessible local mountains. One thing that he and I shared was a never-fulfilled desire to reach the

summit of Sky Pilot Mountain, the highest in the string of coastal peaks running up the east side of Howe Sound between Horseshoe Bay and Squamish. Sky Pilot is a shy thing, tucked out of sight, hiding well back behind the ridge over which Shannon Falls tumbles. From the Sea to Sky highway, it can only be seen by driving about 18 km north of Squamish, to the Tantalus Lookout, and then looking back, towards the south. Sky Pilot is typically climbed over two days, hiking up to make a base camp on the first day, camping overnight on a ridge or shoulder below the peak, and then climbing the peak the next morning before going back to pack up the base camp and hike down the mountain. I was on two failed attempts with Al - not the first attempt for either of us. Both times, we woke up at our base camp in thick cloud and decided that our lives were too valuable to be risked on the rock face under those conditions – i.e., we chickened out. Al’s obsession with Sky Pilot was greater than mine: some years later, during a discussion with Elaine on end-of-life issues, he expressed a desire for his ashes to be spread “beyond Sky Pilot.” After he died, Elaine hired a helicopter and, with their adult kids, finally took Al to Sky Pilot.



Sky Pilot group of peaks looking south from the Tantalus Lookout. Mt. Habrick (left), Ledge Mtn. (centre) and Sky Pilot Mtn. (right), highest of the three.

NEW EMERITI

Congratulations to those retirees who were honoured for their long and distinguished service to Langara and its students by being named Emeriti in 2022:

Harry Lendvoy, Faculty Emeritus, Kinesiology

Patty Moore, Faculty Emerita, Women's Studies

Frank Williams, Faculty Emeritus, Biology and Interdisciplinary Studies.

You can read more about these and other emeriti on the [Langara College Emeriti Web Page](#).

AND ON 49TH

LCAR MEETS PAULA



On June 15, 2022, Dr. Paula Burns was installed as the fourth President and CEO of Langara College. Her biography, including both a brief video presentation, and a full video record of her installation, can be seen on the [Langara College Office of the President web page](#).

On September 16, members of the LCAR Board enjoyed meeting with her, and shortly after, on September 22, she made a brief presentation to those of us who gathered for the LCAR social and AGM. Her friendly, approachable and engaging presence was abundantly evident at both events, so it's easy to honour her request to be addressed as "Paula".

After completing her PhD at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, her interest in the complexities of college administration prompted her to earn an MBA from Royal Roads University.

In her September meeting with us, she shared that her short time at the college has left her both impressed with its current state and well aware of challenges that lie ahead. In particular, the University Transfer component of Langara will be new ground for her to consider. She hopes the college can get better at strategic enrollment management.

She acknowledges the college is about half way through a five-year plan, and she hopes to continue progress on three branches of that plan: People, Organization and Mission. On the People branch, she would like to see wrap-around supports for student success, and continued efforts to respond to guidance from the Truth and Reconciliation Report. On the Organization branch, she applauds the College's record on environmentally sustainable practice and expects continued progress in that regard. She also recognises the challenges of moving to "Workday", the new on-line management system, and hopes that it might soon help with promoting student success. On the Mission branch, she spoke to a focus on academic programming, applied research, and improving community engagement.

Paula acknowledged that while she has little experience with retirees' associations, she hopes to give more thought to what role LCAR might play. She looks forward to continued interaction with and support of our association.

Our contribution to the meeting included sharing various past experiences that have promoted camaraderie, such as our collegial management structure, PD days run by faculty & staff between the spring & summer terms, the Langara Employee Development Centre with its ongoing activities for faculty and staff, social events run by the LFA such as Friday afternoon bars and the Gala, and infrastructure that promoted collegial exchange (for example, shared offices and an Employee Lounge with food service and round tables). We all acknowledged that while the clock cannot be turned back, some of that history might inform future endeavours.

We look forward to continuing a strong, mutually supportive relationship between LCAR and College Senior Management, especially with Paula.

DR. PAULA BURNS AWARDED QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL

At a ceremony in Calgary on Friday, January 27, snəwəyəl leləm Langara College President and CEO Dr. Paula Burns was awarded Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal for her outstanding service and dedication to the field of adult education in Alberta.

The commemorative medal was created by the Government of Alberta to mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada and honour Her Majesty's service to Canada. The Government of Alberta will award the medal to 7,000 Albertans throughout 2022-23 in recognition of significant contributions to the province.

LANGARA COLLEGE WELCOMES RAWI HAGE AS ITS FIRST WRITER IN RESIDENCE

A new Writer in Residence program at Langara has been made possible with a gift to the Langara College Foundation in honour of Gregory James Graham. Hosted by the English Department, the program will provide an opportunity for the writer to pursue creative projects while also being available to the College community for student mentorship, classroom visits, and a public reading for the wider community. The writer will contribute to literacy initiatives by promoting writing and reading at Langara.

Rawi Hage became Langara's first Writer in Residence in January, 2023. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Hage lived through nine years of the Lebanese civil war during the 1970s and 1980s before immigrating to Canada in 1992 and living, since then, in Montreal. He worked as a journalist and photographer before publishing his first novel, *De Nero's Game* in 2006, winning a number of major literary awards. He has published five novels or short story collections to date, four of which were nominated, and three shortlisted, for the Giller Prize, Canada's leading annual literary award.

