

# WLU RETIREES' NEWS

A Publication of the Wilfrid Laurier University Retirees' Association

To contact the executive: [retirees@wlu.ca](mailto:retirees@wlu.ca) WLURA website: [www.wlura.ca](http://www.wlura.ca)

Spring 2025

## Indigenous-led Climate Change Adaptation in the Northwest Territories

by Gerry Schaus

The last speaker in the Fall 2024 series of presentations to WLURA members was Dr. Alex Latta, WLU Associate Professor in the Departments of Global Studies and of Geography and Environmental Studies, and a member of both the Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science and the Balsillie School of International Affairs. In his fascinating talk on November 28 to an audience of 25 retirees, Prof. Latta described the effects of climate change on one of the worst affected regions in all of Canada and the adaptations being applied to ameliorate these effects. Prof. Latta and a team of students and researchers from WLU and other Canadian universities have been working with Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories on issues of conservation, food security, and other facets of climate change adaptation in the face of stark and increasingly devastating problems.



*Professor Latta beside a burnt-out forest*

Some of the effects of climate change on the North are already familiar to us, including larger and more numerous wild fires, flooding caused by early ice break-ups on lakes and rivers and extensive thawing of permafrost, but other effects are less familiar, such as seriously re-

## Annual General Meeting and New Retirees Welcoming

WLU Retirees' Association

Friday, May 30, 2025

2:00 p.m.

202 Regina St. Lounge and by Zoom

duced caribou and fish populations, impacts on mobility such as trails being blocked by tree slumping (“drunken trees”) caused by permafrost thawing, landslides, and slumps, very slow rebound of caribou lichen (60–70 years!) after wild fires, low water levels in rivers that are crucial for transportation, and severe challenges to traditional livelihoods, as well as transmission of Indigenous culture and knowledge.



*“Drunken Trees” along forest trail. Photo: Ryan Planche*

Treaty 11 was signed in 1921 with the Athapaskan-speaking peoples (Dene and Métis) by the Canadian and



*Riverbank slumping*

British governments to cover huge parts of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon. But since then it has been recognized in Canadian courts that this Treaty and others were not fair and their terms were not adhered to by the British and Canadian governments after the signing of the treaty. Since the 1970s, aspects of the Treaty have in fact been re-negotiated allowing for greater co-management arrangements between the Canadian and Indigenous governments. Large regions within the Northwest Territories have been set aside for the sole management and use of Dene and Métis peoples, for example. Now, there is a climate change adaptation plan, with a native Natural Resource Coordinator listening to the advice of native Elders. There is much better environmental monitoring, according to Dr. Latta, with which WLU is involved, combining western technology with Indigenous knowledge and reporting. A group called the Indigenous Guardians has been organized to track on-going impacts of climate change. A “Harvester Safety” plan has been implemented to map rest spots, construct safety cabins, and widen trails for hunters. There is also a movement to introduce agroecology in the North to promote successful ways to grow food, such as potatoes and vegetables, through a better understanding of soils and the use of greenhouses. To help carry out these projects and develop others, the Project Finance for Permanence, a \$375 million fund led by private donations, has been created.



*Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science, WLU*

Great changes have already taken place in the North. Greater changes are coming down the road, soon. WLU has played a role in monitoring the effects of climate change in this region but carrying out successful counter measures to reduce the effects of these changes is going to be the greatest challenge.

## Fifty Years In and Out of Libya

by Gerry Schaus



*Figs. 1-2: The author with two sculpture finds at Cyrene, Libya, 1976*

In a presentation to members on January 31, the present writer described, and celebrated, a fifty-year association with one of the largest, and least-known, countries in Africa – Libya (figs. 1–2). It was a mixture of anecdotal strolls down memory lane and tempting tidbits of information, bringing to people’s attention this enigmatic country with its rich history, stark beauty and puzzling contradictions.

Most people of our generation, if they think of Libya at all, remember Muammar Gaddafi, the once dashing army officer who overthrew the old king of Libya in 1969, only to become a brutal and reclusive dictator, protected by a cadre of female bodyguards, and who eventually was killed shamefully in 2011 during the Arab Spring uprisings. That is one image of Libya. For me, though, Libya was the fulfillment of a youthful joke in my Nova Scotia high school yearbook, predicting as a lark that I would one day become an archaeologist, presciently one working in Africa. That was in 1968, well before I even knew where Libya was.

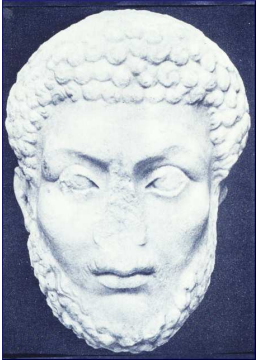


Fig. 3. Head of a Libyan, 2nd c. CE, from Cyrene

In 1974, I was offered as an essay topic a lovely piece of Roman sculpture, representing the head of a young male Libyan, for a PhD course I was taking at the University of Pennsylvania (fig. 3). This essay, once vetted and edited by my professor, an archaeologist excavating the Demeter Sanctuary at Cyrene in Libya, became my first publication a year later. It was followed by an invitation to travel to Cyrene, the ancient colony sent out by Greeks from

Santorini (ancient Thera) in 640 B.C. This was the first of five trips I made to Libya to excavate in the Demeter Sanctuary, to study a corpus of decorated pottery from the sixth century B.C. for my doctoral dissertation, and eventually to act as lecturer for two archaeological study tours to the eastern (Cyrenaica), western (Tripolitania), and southern (Sahara Desert) parts of the country.

Very few archaeology students dream of becoming pottery specialists. I certainly didn't. Not in my naïve view of archaeological specializations. How many medical students set out to be proctologists, do you think? But things change when the inducement is a free trip to Egypt and Libya. My response was, "Sure! Show me what you want done! What's the timeline?" So, off I went, without ever looking back.

Drab little pot sherds are like pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle, holding secrets, sometimes big ones, particularly when the sherds depict human figures that unlock doors to hidden rooms where ancient peoples live their fascinating lives, at a time and in a space you are eager to learn more about (fig. 4). What is this vase painter telling his customer?



Fig. 4. Spartan sherd: enthroned goddess holding wreath in left hand; label uses a non-Spartan script!

After completing the doctorate and writing a dissertation on the Cyrene pottery while at the Blegen Library, American School of Classical Studies in Athens, I returned to the pot sheds of Cyrene a third time in 1979 to study new pottery discovered since 1976 (fig. 5). My efforts appeared as a monograph in 1985, helping to cement a permanent position at WLU, but also establishing some expertise in the art of the Spartans

at a time when the Spartans were grounding their own reputation as the fiercest of all Greek warriors. It even gave me a chance to identify and name a new Laconian [Spartan] vase painter whom I called the "Hoplite

Painter," after the warriors ["hoplites"] he loved to paint (fig 6).



Fig. 5. Quiet work in the dusty pottery shed



Fig. 6. Hoplite Painter's name vase, in Bryn Mawr, PA

The summer of 1976 was a low point in an otherwise quite successful scholastic career. Sure, I had an innocuous brush with Gaddafi himself and almost had my camera confiscated once by Libyan police, but it was my dissertation advisor, the excavator at Cyrene, and his wife, who made my life a living hell. The experience gave me deep and painful insights into the vulnerability of grad students at the hands of their advisors who controlled their degrees and their future careers. And there was no relief to be found by going and getting a stiff drink at a local pub with friends! Libya is alcohol free! Still, the Italian dig team lived less than a kilometer away and they were always fun to socialize with.

Time passed; I penned several Libya-related articles, but for the most part, I moved on to other sites and other subjects back in Greece, got married, had a family, leaving time to slowly heal old wounds. Then out of the blue one day in spring 2005, I got a phone call from a woman in New York City wondering if I would be interested in lecturing on an archaeological tour she was organizing to Libya. The country was starting to open up slightly and she wanted to be the first to bring tourists to see the wonderful sites, not just around Cyrene, but across Tripolitania in the west and even down into the Sahara Desert.



Fig. 7. Temple of Zeus, Cyrene



Fig. 8. Arch of Septimius, Leptis Magna

“Sure! Show me what you want done! What’s the timeline?” says I, and off I went a few months later with 24 trusting – and certainly curious – people in tow to see parts of Libya I knew and others I had never cast an eye on before, especially in the Sahara. This was the first of two “tours” allowing my wife to join me, the second time, to wield her camera and be the envy of WLU’s Geography Department.

The second year, we travelled on a special permit to see the total eclipse of the sun in Libya. The fact that the permit was issued with a date of entry two days *after* the eclipse occurred didn’t seem to bother the Libyans, until



Fig. 9. Desert rock art, Methkandush, Crocodile



Fig. 10. Formal lunch in ancient tomb



Fig. 11. Swimming in Sahara Desert salt lake

the day our plane arrived, of course. That’s when several greased palms and some chutzpah got us out of the airport, through all the planned tour stops, and past the numerous police roadblocks.

Libya has five UNESCO World Heritage sites. We saw them all, and much more (figs. 7–9). We ate group



Fig. 12. Tunnel street in Ghadames



Fig. 13. Tourist tents in the Ubari Sand Sea

lunches inside ancient chamber tombs (fig. 10), drove all night on a bus around the Gulf of Sirte when our plane couldn't fly in a sandstorm, got stuck in the sand when our 4-wheel drive vehicles buried their tires up to their axles, swam in a salt lake in the middle of the Ubari Sand Sea (fig. 11), visited a town whose main streets were tunnels through the ground floors of connected white-washed houses (fig. 12), and stayed both at a luxury five-star hotel in Tripoli with marble showers so big you could play tag in them, and in spacious two-person tents in the desert surrounded by sand dunes where it unexpectedly rained overnight (fig. 13).

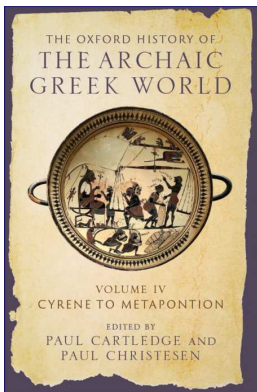


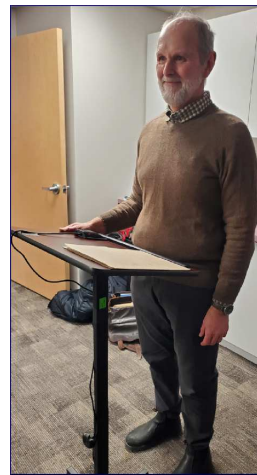
Fig. 14. OHAGW Vol. IV cover; Laconian vase: wicked King Arcesilas II of Cyrene

The story comes to a conclusion, fifty years after my first exposure to Libya, with the publication in 2024 of a chapter on Cyrene in the *Oxford History of the Archaic Greek World*. Very few English-speaking scholars have any familiarity with that great city of the ancient world, so when the editors of the series were casting about to see who might write a hundred-page summary of Cyrene's history for them, my name came up. They sent an invitation. My answer was a familiar one, "Sure! Show me what you want done! What's the timeline?" Two years of work during the Covid-19 crisis finished the bulk of the writing,

and as an afterthought just before publication, I asked the editors if I might add a dedication on the title page of my chapter. They agreed. And so the chapter begins, "*In memoriam*. Donald White, archaeologist and educator." My old dissertation advisor, truly the bane of my existence in the summer of '76, died tragically in a single-car accident late one night in November, 2018, with his wife at the wheel. In a sad, albeit posthumous way, I finally brought myself around to forgiving him.

## The Gilded Age

By Gerry Schaus



Prof. David Monod

In the midst of another wintry day, the 28th of February to be precise, Retirees' Association members who braved the trip to campus (16 of us) or stayed at home and tuned in on Zoom (12 more) were treated to a lively presentation by Prof. David Monod, former Chair of the History Department at WLU and former President of the WLU Faculty Association, on the subject of two American "Gilded Ages." Prof. Monod made it clear that these were not "Golden," but rather "Gilded" – a thin veneer of gold

over a core of base metal – periods in American history, the first one occurring in the second half of the nineteenth century, and now again in the current decades of American society. Mark Twain coined the term as he viewed the concentrations of wealth and displays of conspicuous consumption in his own day.

The term "New Gilded Age" has been applied again in 2008 by Henri Giroux, professor of American history at McMaster University, who pointed out the similarities between the two prosperous periods in the States. Both are characterized by great disparities of wealth and outlandish displays of consumption. From eye-popping mansions to ocean-going yachts, private jets, or bookings now-a-days on space-bound vehicles, the wealthy 1% of the population controlled 20% of the wealth in the 19th century Gilded Age, and almost the same percentages as today in the States.

One big difference though is that huge fortunes were amassed in steel, railroads, and oil in the 19th century, providing employment for a large percentage of the American workforce but taking advantage of very cheap labour coming from the Far East and Europe, not to men-

tion of the freed black population in the South. Today, fortunes are made in the digital services industries as well

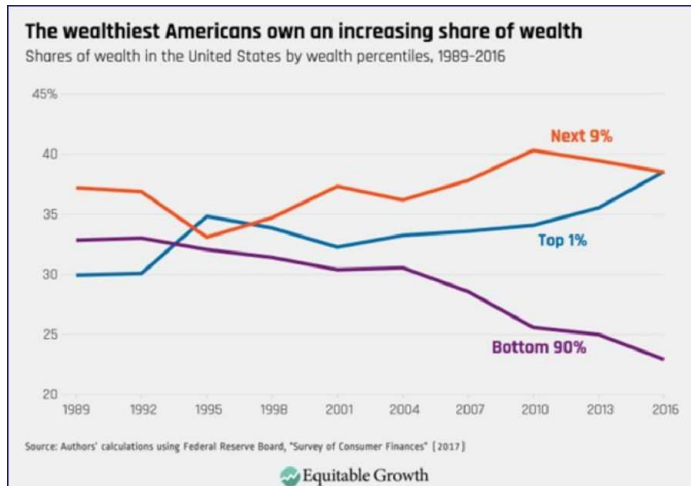


J.D. Rockefeller, owner of Standard Oil

as concentrated businesses in investment banking, pharmaceuticals, and social media platforms, which only employ 4% to 6% of the population, but again taking advantage of cheap labour brought about by immigration, both illegal and legal.

One noteworthy fact that David mentioned was that from 1973 to 2017, worker productivity increased by 246%, yet take-home pay for American workers only increased by 115% (in constant dollars). The difference in these two wealth indicators was

enjoyed by the small elite pocket of wealthy Americans. In the 19th century, due to a strong labour movement, the common worker benefitted much more from improvements in productivity, but at the cost of bitter, sometimes violent protests and strikes. Today, the American labour movement is much weaker, strikes are shorter and less violent, and big business has much less to fear in grinding out settlements.



Zuckerberg's home, Lake Tahoe

One other fascinating aspect of these "gilded ages" is the effect they have had on rising social and political forces. A wave of "Populism" was observed by Kevin

Phillips already in 1969 from a status-anxious populace that voiced right-wing concerns against liberalism and changes to American society. The effect was an increased strength in the Republican party, causing it to enjoy a kind of permanent majority, albeit commonly a "silent majority" in the political sphere. There is now, as there was in the late 19th century, a strong "us-versus-them" mentality, whether demonstrated in the rise of segregation in the South or today the backlash against DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) policies in government and businesses. About 15% of the American population was made up of immigrants in the late 19th century. Coincidentally, once again, the American population is back up to 15% being immigrants today, although the new immigrants mostly come from places other than Europe. The reaction of the American people has been very similar at both times, moving forcefully to protect the status especially of the white American population.



Elon Musk's jet (\$270 million)

Prof. Monod painted a gloomy picture of American society in very broad strokes, but it was enlightening for Laurier retirees to reflect on the widening crevasse between Canada and the United States with their current voting patterns. Are we being eyed greedily by personalities south of our shared border as targets for expansion in light of the guiding principles of the Gilded Age? One shudders to think.

## Excerpt from *Thriving in Retirement: A Holistic Approach*

by Howard Armitage

(reprinted with the author's permission from <https://universityaffairs.ca/career-advice/thriving-in-retirement-a-holistic-approach/>)

In recent years, the concept of "thriving in retirement" has gained significant traction. This is partly due to the growing number of retirees in Canada. Currently, 20% of our population is over 65, a figure that's rapidly in-

creasing. By 2030, an additional five million Canadians will turn 65. StatsCan reports that there are now 13,500 centenarians in Canada, a 43% increase since 2018. This heightened interest in longevity is reflected in academic research, with more papers on this subject published since 2010 than in the previous 150 years.

However, the focus isn't just on living longer but on aging healthily. Greater longevity is often accompanied by more illness, prompting the question: Do we want to live longer if our last years are plagued by poor health? University and college retirees are concerned not just with longevity but with how to thrive as they age.

As people live healthier and longer lives, the traditional retirement model is undergoing a paradigm shift. Retirement is increasingly seen as a new chapter in life, an opportunity for exploration and growth. This shift reframes retirement from primarily financial considerations to a focus on emotional preparedness, with plans and goals supporting the transition from primary careers to a stage of life filled with new opportunities. As a society, we're embracing the belief that the greatest wealth is health.

Thriving in retirement is a holistic concept encompassing physical health, emotional well-being, meaningful connections, continued personal growth, and a positive approach to life's changes and challenges. It's about actively shaping one's post-career years to lead a purposeful and fulfilling life.

posed pension plan move to the Universities Pension Plan (UPP). WLURA endeavored to ensure that the details and implications were well understood. The vote was conducted by an independent consultant resulting in a decision to approve the plan's move. We will continue to monitor the changeover as it progresses.

Laurier's post-retirement benefits programs are provided either at no cost or charged as a percentage of the premiums depending on your date of retirement. The proportion of retirees who pay benefit premiums is growing. Moreover, benefit premiums continue to outpace inflation by a wide margin notwithstanding that benefit levels are fixed. WLURA has a continuing interest in the cost-effective provision of post-retirement benefits. To this end, we have formed a committee to work on this important file.

WLURA has once again renewed its membership in CURAC, a national association of university and college retirees. One benefit of this membership is the optional access it gives you to obtain additional retiree benefits protection should you pre-decease your spouse or partner. As a reminder, your spouse or partner's WLU retiree benefits cease two years after your death.

We will be working on our plans for 2025–2026 shortly and welcome any suggestions you may have, especially for speakers and topics of interest. We also invite you to consider volunteering for membership on the Executive. There are a few vacancies to be filled with confirmation of the Executive to occur at the meeting in May. The nomination list will be sent out prior to the meeting.

## President's Message

By Jim Butler



Jim Butler

I do hope that this message finds you well and enjoying your retirement.

At the time of writing, WLURA has two in-person meetings scheduled, apart from March's Beer Town Pub event. I hope to see you at the April and May meetings held at 202 Regina Street in the first-floor lounge. As

a reminder, our meetings are held on the last Friday of the month commencing at 1:30 pm and usually concluding between 3:00 and 3:30 pm. You may also attend via Zoom; connection instructions are sent out in advance of the meetings.

As you are aware, WLURA arranged several information sessions to assist in an important decision that each member was asked to make regarding WLU's pension plan. WLU's retirees had to approve the University's pro-

## Pension Update

by Alastair Robertson

### Conversion of the WLUPP to the UPP

The University continues to prepare for conversion of the Wilfrid Laurier University Pension Plan (WLUPP) to the jointly sponsored University Pension Plan of Ontario (UPP), effective January 1, 2026. On January 15th of this year, WLU's Chief Human Resources & Equity Officer announced that the University had achieved the required levels of consent to pension conversion by members of the WLUPP. Under the Ontario Pension Benefits Act (PBA), conversion of a single-employer pension plan to a jointly sponsored pension plan can proceed only if at least two-thirds of active (employee) members of the single-employer plan consent to that conversion and, in addition, no more than one-third of the inactive (retiree and deferred vested) members of the plan object to such conversion. In the case of conversion to the UPP, 84.8% of active members of the WLUPP consented to conversion, while

only 1.5% of inactive plan members objected to conversion. At January 1, 2024, there were 1918 active members of the WLUPP, and a total of 1407 inactive members, consisting of 750 retirees, or their surviving beneficiaries, and 657 deferred vested members.

The formal consent process began in late August 2024 when “Notice Packages” were sent to all members of the WLUPP advising of the proposed transition to the UPP on January 1, 2026. The packages provided plan members with information about both the WLUPP and the UPP, and included details of their personal pension benefit entitlement under each of these plans. Inactive plan members were each provided with a form to be submitted if they wished to object to conversion. The deadline for submission of objection forms, originally set at November 28, 2024, was revised to January 1, 2025, to take account of the suspension of mail services during the Canada Post strike. The regular September meeting of the WLU Retirees' Association was devoted to an information and discussion session on the transition to the UPP, while the Autumn 2024 issue of this newsletter provided further information and opinion on pension conversion.

With the member consent process now complete, the University is able to submit a Transfer Application to the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA) to authorize the transfer of the assets and liabilities of the WLUPP to the UPP, effective January 1, 2026. In making that application, the University will be assisted by the services of the WLUPP Actuary and by legal counsel to the University on matters related to pension conversion. Under PBA regulations, the Chief Executive Officer of FSRA, the pension regulator for Ontario, must give final approval for pension conversion.

Transition to the UPP will also require certain amendments to the WLUPP, effective January 1, 2026, and contingent on regulatory approval of conversion. These amendments will provide for: the transfer of assets and liabilities from the WLUPP to the UPP; the cessation of accruals of pensionable service under the WLUPP and its closure to new members; and the termination of the plan's registration under the PBA and Income Tax Act. Over the course of this year, Laurier's Human Resources and Financial Resources will work closely with the UPP to prepare for the transfer to the UPP of both pension fund assets and the administration of pension benefits, including the movement of all member records.

### **Pension Fund Rate of Return and Funded Status**

With equity markets experiencing an exceptionally strong year, the Laurier pension fund enjoyed significant investment gains in 2024. Based on (unaudited) year-end data, the fund earned an annual rate of return of 12.40% in 2024. This is an increase from the 10.31% rate of return

posted in 2023 and brings the average annual rate of return of the fund over the last four years to 8.64%. Last year's strong investment gains also contributed to an increase in the funded status of the Laurier pension plan. The latest actuarial valuation reveals that at January 1, 2025, the plan had an estimated going-concern funded ratio (assets divided by pension liabilities) of 106%, yielding a going-concern surplus of \$63.5 million. This is an increase from the going-concern funded ratio of 102%, and corresponding surplus of \$20.8 million recorded at January 1, 2024.

### **Editor's note**

Major changes are happening to markets currently with the global trade war initiated under U.S. President Trump. These will affect rates of return for 2025.

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## **CURAC Affinity Agreements**

by Frank Millerd

Please mention that you are a member of the Wilfrid Laurier University Retirees' Association when applying for coverage under any of the CURAC affinity programs. Some programs provide rebates to our Association.

### **Registered Teachers of Ontario Plans**

Members of WLURA may join the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) and participate in RTO's group plans. You must be a member of RTO (fee is \$76.50 per year) to join an RTO group insurance plan, but you can join RTO without joining an RTO plan.

### **RTO Extended Health Care Plan**

- ◆ Pays for eligible expenses that are recommended as medically necessary but are not normally covered by a government health insurance plan.
- ◆ Includes, with some limitations, prescription drugs, vision care, eldercare guidance, paramedical practitioners, aids and appliances, accidental dental, and guidance on treatment options.
- ◆ Comprehensive travel medical insurance for 93 days per trip.

Retirees not now members of WLU or another extended health care plan, or those wishing additional insurance, may join RTO and the RTO Extended Health Care Plan. RTO members currently in Laurier's plan will be accepted into the RTO Extended Health Care Plan without a medical questionnaire. Coverage is also available for a spouse and dependent children.

**Joining RTO to ensure that the surviving spouse or partner is eligible to join RTO group plans:**



- ◆ The surviving spouse of a deceased retiree may join RTO and RTO's plans only if the deceased retiree was an RTO member at time of the retiree's death.
- ◆ After a retiree dies, health and dental benefits from Laurier for a surviving spouse and eligible dependents continue for two years.
- ◆ A surviving spouse who joins the RTO plan within two years of the retiree's death and is still a member of Laurier's Group Benefits Plan will be accepted into the RTO plan without a medical questionnaire.

RTO does not offer stand-alone travel insurance but their full extended health care package includes competitive travel and trip-cancellation insurance.

### Travel Planning

- ◆ **Collette Travel:** Inquiries and bookings can be made at [1-855-394-8687](tel:1-855-394-8687) or through a travel agent. CURAC members save \$100 per person on all tours, all dates. Mention your CURAC membership when calling. Use code CURACSAVE for seasonal offers up to \$500 off per person. [www.gocollette.com](http://www.gocollette.com)
- ◆ **Trip Merchant:** At the website [www.curac.tripmerchant.ca/](http://www.curac.tripmerchant.ca/) enter the CURAC password: CURACTM18. Mention your CURAC membership when inquiring.
- ◆ **Travel Insurance:** Johnson Inc. offers two Travel Insurance plans to CURAC members.
  - MEDOC Travel Insurance provides emergency health care as well as trip cancellation or interruption coverage.
  - Stand Alone Trip Cancellation Insurance for those who already have out-of-province medical insurance. The coverage is per person per trip for an unlimited number of trips per year at an annual premium to cover an individual, a couple, or a family. Extended family members or friends of CURAC members are also eligible.

For information on the policies and how to enrol, go to:

[curac.johnson.ca](http://curac.johnson.ca).

Members who do not see a fit with the above may contact Securiglobe ([1-888-211-4444](tel:1-888-211-4444)), a broker that endeavours to match individual clients to insurance coverage that suits their needs.

### Home and Car Insurance

Belair Insurance offers auto and home insurance at advantageous rates to CURAC-affiliated retirees. Details at [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca). Click on "Member Benefits, Insurance, Home and Auto."

### Pet Care Insurance

PetSecure offers retirees affiliated with CURAC pet insurance at advantageous rates. PetSecure is a member company of Economical.

Visit [petsecure.com/group](http://petsecure.com/group) for information.

For further information on all affinity agreements go to the CURAC web site [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca) and click on Member Benefits.

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## Notes and Announcements

by Gerry Schaus

### April 25 WLURA Presentation

Prof. Steve Wenn, former Chair of Kinesiology and Physical Education at WLU will speak on: *A Games Changer: The International Olympic Committee, Tokyo 2020, and COVID-19*. Prof. Wenn is co-authoring a new book with Prof. Robert Barney, UWO, based on behind-the-scenes interviews with Thomas Bach, the Chair of the IOC, and other officials on how the decisions about the Tokyo Olympic Games unfolded, to postpone and then to chart the way forward a year later.

Coffee and snacks start in the 202 Regina St. Lounge at 1:30 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2025, with Prof. Wenn's talk beginning at 2:00 p.m.

For free parking, simply register at Parking Office, 202 Regina St. when you arrive.

### Peter Eglin's New Book

On their website [bit.ly/482p6Fa](https://bit.ly/482p6Fa) Routledge notes that *Analyzing the Israel Effect in Canada* by Peter Eglin (May 2024) "documents and analyzes the discursive and organizational methods by which public criticism of Israel's oppression of the Palestinians is silenced in Canada, as experienced through ten episodes in the life of the author over a thirty-year period from 1990–2020 in interaction with his university and local and national Canadian news media."

### CURAC seeking a volunteer

In a letter to WLURA members, Carole-Lynne Le Navenec, representing the executive of CURAC (Colleges and Universities Retirees Associations of Canada), addresses retirees:

"CURAC is looking for a person who is interested in sitting on its Later Life Learning (LLL) Committee. This might involve 10 minutes of work per month and only 2 meetings per year (see details at: <https://curac.ca/en/committees/later-life-learning-committee>).

"The major function is sharing information about upcoming online sessions, and ways of keeping our IT skills up to date, and perhaps even writing an article of your choice for CURAC's Academic for Life column in University Affairs – which is distributed to all universities across

Canada and which is also shared with colleagues in the European Association of Professor Emeriti.”

Carole-Lynne Le Navenec is free anytime to provide further information about this role. Drop her a note whenever you have a free moment: Carole-Lynne (aka CLL): [cllenave@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cllenave@ucalgary.ca)

### Peter Tiidus Sends Greetings

Peter Tiidus, Professor and Dean, Brock University, sends his greetings to Laurier retirees:

“In 2015, after 26 years as a Kinesiology faculty member, department chair and for a while Interim Dean of Science, I ‘retired’ from Laurier to take on the position of Dean of the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences at Brock University. I am now in my tenth and final year of this appointment and have greatly enjoyed the experience of leading this remarkable Faculty. Upon the completion of my term as Dean at the end of June 2025, I will be taking two years of accumulated ‘Administrative Leave’ during which I expect to catch up on some academic writing, research and course preparation and hopefully have time for some travel with my wife Ann and to also see a bit more of our grandchildren. After my leave, I plan to return to Brock to teach for 2–3 years on a phased retirement plan and then perhaps really fully ‘retire’ by 2030. Best wishes to all WLU retirees.”

### A Note from Frank Millerd:

WLUFA has biographies of many retired faculty members on their website. Go to [www.wlufa.ca/full-time-faculty](http://www.wlufa.ca/full-time-faculty); click on “Retirees.” Biographies of retirees from 2012/2013 to 2023/2024 are presented.

A sample:

[www.wlufa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Retirees-2022-2023.pdf](http://www.wlufa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Retirees-2022-2023.pdf).

## WLURA Newsletter Editor’s Note

The Association is still looking for a new editor. If interested, send a note to me: [gschaus@wlu.ca](mailto:gschaus@wlu.ca). Only two or three issues are sent out each year. Some writing is involved, but it’s not onerous work. Some good person needs to help an old guy out here!

The Association’s Pub Night in March was not so well attended, but there was lots of good cheer and funny anecdotes shared among us. I learned something about my wife’s childhood from Jim Wilgar, a fellow character from Barrie, and I shared a funny story about applying to renew my passport last month. Shockingly, it took only fifteen minutes from the time I walked into the Kitchener

passport office, to when I walked out \$160 lighter. More shocking was that the new passport arrived at my doorstep ten days ahead of schedule, six days after I submitted the application. You’d have to have been there though to hear the funny part of the story!

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