



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Day in the Sun - As I write this, the city is in the midst of cleaning up from a late winter storm. Before the snow, spring had seemed just around the corner, dry roads and sidewalks and some lawns having emerged from under their winter's coat of white. Our day and season in the sun is not yet here, but with hope and a little patience, they soon will be; and we can all be out and about, getting our vitamin D directly from nature's source.

On the other hand, in our season of life as seniors, our day in the sun is already here. A recent article in the Gazette reported that, despite predominate stereotypes about aging, more seniors than any other demographic say they feel happy with their lives. What makes seniors smile? Quoting the Gazette, "The top responses among those 66 and older were being comfortable in their own skins, being surrounded by friends and family, and having time to do things that are important to them." For many seniors, the "belief that you should never stop living life to the fullest" keeps them active and engaged. As Aristotle might have put it, the feeling of satisfaction flows from living well and doing well; and evidently, seniors are doing a lot of living well.

For those of you looking for more occasions for being active and living well (and enjoying the company of friends and former colleagues from Concordia), I would like to draw your attention to the social activities organized by CUPARUC, under the skillful direction of Wendy Hedrich. Recent successful outings include a Museum of Fine Arts tour and a trip to the Segal Centre for the Mahalia Jackson Musical. Opportunities yet to come include a Centaur Theatre show (April 3) celebrating the work of Leonard Cohen called "Dance Me to the End on/off Love," the Stewart Museum's Craving for Design exhibit (April 12), and the Sherlock Holmes play at the Segal Centre (May 17).

In any case, let's remember that in our season of life, our day in the sun is here, and let's make the most of it.

Message du Président

Notre Journée au Soleil - Au moment d'écrire ces lignes, la ville est en train de ramasser la neige suite à la tempête de neige qui nous a frappée le dernier jour de l'hiver. Juste avant cette tempête, on avait l'impression que le printemps était arrivé, la chaussée et les trottoirs étaient rendus secs et les pelouses se sont débarrassées de leurs manteaux blancs. Notre journée et notre belle saison de soleil ne sont pas encore ici, mais avec de l'espoir et un peu de patience, ils y seront bientôt; ainsi nous pourrons tous jouir du soleil et prendre notre vitamine D directement de sa source.

En revanche, à l'automne de notre vie, notre journée au soleil est déjà là. Récemment le journal "The Gazette" a publié un article à propos des personnes âgées. L'article indiquait que, malgré les stéréotypes prédominants au sujet du vieillissement, les personnes âgées, plus que n'importe quel autre groupe démographique, se sentent satisfaites de leur vie. C'est quoi qui fait sourire les personnes âgées? Selon l'article, "les réponses les plus fréquentes parmi ceux de 66 ans et plus, furent qu'ils se sentaient bien dans leur peau, entourés des amis et de la famille, ayant la possibilité de faire les choses importantes pour eux."

Pour plusieurs, la "croyance que vous ne devriez jamais cesser de vivre la vie au maximum" les garde actifs et engagés. Comme Aristote aurait pu dire, le sentiment de satisfaction découle de bien vivre et de bien faire; il semblerait que nous jouissons beaucoup de "bien vivre."

Pour ceux parmi vous qui cherchent plus d'occasions d'être actifs et de bien vivre (et de profiter de la compagnie d'amis et d'anciens collègues), j'aimerais vous attirer l'attention aux activités organisées par CUPARUC, sous la très habile direction de Wendy Hedrich. Des récentes sorties réussies comprennent une visite au Musée des Beaux Arts et une assistance au Centre Segal pour la comédie musicale de Mahalia Jackson. D'autres sorties comprennent

un spectacle au theatre Centaur le 3 avril pour célébrer les oeuvres de Leonard Cohen qui s'appelle "Dance Me to the End on/off Love," une visite au Musée Stewart le 12 avril et l'assistance à la pièce "Sherlock Holmes" au Centre Segal le 17 mai.

En tout cas, souvenons nous que dans notre saison de la vie, notre journée au soleil est là, et que c'est à nous d'en profiter

SOCIAL EVENTS

The CUPARUC social events are in full swing. On February 27th, a group of us went on a guided tour of the Quebec and Canadian art exhibits at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, which was excellent and very informative. March 13th saw another group of 12 members attend the matinee performance of 'Mahalia Jackson: The Musical' at the Segal Centre. This play was wonderful, great singing by Rane Lee and a very good portrayal of life in Chicago and the South during the fifties and sixties.

On March 27th, a group of 18 people are taking a guided tour of Samurai, an exhibit at the Pointe-a-Callieres Museum. On April 3rd, another group will be taking in the matinee performance of 'Dance me to the end on/off love' at the Centaur Theatre.

The outings have been very enjoyable, an opportunity to meet new people and/or get reacquainted with former colleagues. Lunch is always planned before the events and is well-attended.

Upcoming, we have a visit to the Stewart Museum on April 12th and a performance of 'Sherlock Holmes' starring Jay Baruchel at the Segal Centre on May 17th. If you're interested in attending these two events or if you would like to join the Social Committee, please contact Wendy Hedrich at whedrich@bell.net or by phone at (514) 695-3626.

Notices will be sent out by email in the upcoming weeks to gather interest for a trip to Ottawa for the tulip festival in early May and a dinner boat cruise from the Old Port to see the fireworks competition in July as well as a walking tour sometime in June. As we send out most notices by

email, please ensure that we have your current email address (send to Roger Kenner at roger@rogerkenner.ca).

We are looking forward to seeing you at our events.

GUEST SPEAKER - RITA DE SANTIS

Rita Le de Santis is currently a member of the National Assembly of Québec and member of the official opposition, the Liberal Party of Québec. She was elected as the new M.N.A for the riding of Bourassa-Sauvé on September 4, 2012.



Her presentation topic will be: "The Reflections of a Political Novice--the First 8 Months."

Rita is the spokesperson of the official opposition for matters relating to the Commission des droits de la personne et la protection de la jeunesse and access to information.

Until September 9, 2013 Rita was a partner in the Corporate/Commercial, Commercial Real Estate, Corporate Finance & Securities and Public-Private Partnerships practices at Davies, Ward, Phillips & Vineberg in Montreal. She specialized in mergers and acquisitions, real estate law and project financing.

Rita de Santis has served on and chaired numerous Boards such as the Governance and Ethics Committee, Concordia University and the Governance and Ethics Committee, St. Mary's Hospital Centre. She was named 2011 Personality of the Year by the CIBPA (Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association), and named by the Women's Executive Network as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 for 2009.

Her list of awards and accomplishments is extensive and humbling.

Rita de Santis promises to be a most interesting speaker - don't miss her.....

POUR VOS VACANCES PASCALES, QU'ELLES SOIENT CHRETIENNES OU JUIVES

Mair Verthuy

Voici mes dernières lectures, qui toutes deux donnent à réfléchir.

1. Donna Leon, *The Death of Faith* (titre britannique), *Quietly in Their Sleep* (titre américain), no 6 dans la série au sujet du Commissario Brunetti. (MacMillan 1997) L'action se passe à Venise (comme c'est le cas pour la plupart de ses romans) que Leon connaît intimement, ainsi que Brunetti !

Donna Leon est une auteure américaine très bien connue, qui vit depuis de longues décennies à Venise, le cadre de la plupart de ses romans. La corruption est un de ses grands thèmes préférés; au départ elle s'intéressait tout particulièrement à celle qui semblait prévaloir à Venise, celle qui caractérisait la fonction publique dans tous ses avatars. Plus récemment, l'intérêt qu'elle porte à ce thème s'est davantage déplacé vers l'Église

Dans *The Death of Faith*, Brunetti cherche à venir en aide à une jeune religieuse, qui vient de quitter le voile et abandonner son poste d'infirmière après avoir été renvoyée de la résidence où Brunetti a installé sa mère. Elle s'inquiète à la suite de la mort inattendue de cinq des résidents de son couvent. Au départ, Brunetti n'est pas convaincu par les arguments de la jeune ex-religieuse mais peu à peu il découvre le mystère et commence à craindre pour la vie de Sœur Scolastica, comme il continue de la nommer.

Ici nous assistons aussi à la vie privée de Brunetti. Il est marié avec une grande intellectuelle, athée et un peu cynique, alors que lui serait plutôt croyant mais pas trop! Il avait été entendu lors du mariage, que, pour éviter une rupture, le choix de l'éducation des enfants dépendrait de lui; ceux-ci, un garçon et une fille, fréquentent alors une école catholique. Au fur et à mesure que l'histoire avance, nous constatons davantage que l'école elle-même est au moins partiellement corrompue et que la corruption dont il est question rejoint celle dont parlait l'ex-religieuse au début du roman. Le titre anglais commence à se justifier.

L'action se précipite, la tension s'aggrave, d'autres morts viennent s'ajouter à la liste, mais peut-on espérer que tout est bien qui finit bien ?

L'histoire est rondement menée, le roman est bien écrit, les personnages évoluent, le thème est à l'ordre du jour, vous pouvez le lire en anglais ou en traduction française, que demande le peuple ?

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PENSION AND BENEFITS

Two members of CUPARUC, Howard Fink and George Tsoublakis, sit on the University's Pension and Benefits Committee, representing all Concordia retirees. Howard and George presented a summation of the work of the Investment Sub-Committee's search for money managers for the Pension funds and the recommendations that will be brought to the Pension Committee for approval, at a recent meeting of the CUPARUC Executive meeting.

Following an exhaustive interview schedule of some 26 potential investment managers, the Sub-Committee has unanimously proposed the selection of 20. These investment managers will be apportioned an amount of the pension fund for investment. As well, there will be a change in the approach to the investments towards a more tactical, active fund management approach, rather than the traditional method of following the market; ie. stocks & bonds. The new investment strategy, which is closely modeled to that of CPP, is expected to more than achieve the objectives of the Pension Committee regarding the fund's annual return, volatility, risk, and liquidity.

Related to these matters, is the hiring of two new financial experts, within the Office of the Treasurer, who, along with Marc Gauthier, will be responsible for setting benchmarks, and for closely monitoring performance. At the present time their salaries are covered by the University, however, there is an intention that the total cost of the Treasury (including Marc Gauthier's salary) will be absorbed on a prorated basis by the users of the Treasury's services, which includes the Pension fund. The Pension Committee will have a vote on this matter. George commented that this is common practice.

The previously reported proposal of an "Overlay" investment strategy has been set aside.

Howard and George reported that they are currently satisfied with the appropriately conservative approach being taken with the investments of the pension fund.

Three old guys are out walking.
First one says, 'Windy, isn't it?'
Second one says, 'No, it's Thursday!'
Third one says, 'So am I. Let's go get a beer.'



NEXT GENERAL MEETING

April 25, 10am HB-130

Loyola Campus

GUEST SPEAKER: RITA DE SANTIS

NEW MEMBERS

- Steve Bush
- Claire Le Brun
- Leo Bissonnette
- Anne Brown
- James McIntosh
- Johanne Plamondon
- Ted Nowak
- Frank Healey
- Hendrik Boom
- Samia Gamati
- Jacqueline Anderson
- Mary Scott
- Erika Brazinskis
- Zalman Amit
- Winston Cross
- Edith Malik
- Mark Schofield
- Frank Chalk
- Edward Maly
- Jo Ann Welsh

CONDOLENCES - DECEASED MEMBERS

- Joe Kelly
- Marguerite Bouthillier
- Stanley Drummond
- Cedric Marsh
- Mary Maher
- Catherine Dallaire
- Eugene Genovese
- Elizabeth Ruszkowski
- Pamela Bright
- Audrey Brune
- Anna Carlevaris
- Alexa Parkin
- Doug Potvin
- Alice Morrison
- Stan Kubina
- Mona Farrell

“If some countries have too much history, we have too much geography,” said former Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King. Canada is the second largest country in the world (after Russia), but 80 percent of Canadians are concentrated on only 4 percent of the land, most near the U.S.-Canada border

The CUPARUC Newsletter

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The Newsletter continues with the Internet only version from this point. We apologize to those not having access to this however, it is necessary to control printing and mailing costs

The Annual CUPARUC Christmas Party



The gift table - Helen Raspin, Wendy Hedrich



The Carolers - Lorraine Toscano, Cindy Hedrich, Adrienne Willott, Danielle Pullen



Lorraine Boyce, Audrey Williams, Huguette Albert, Heather Edward



Country Entertainment - Jamie Morehouse, Bill Knitter, John Woodrow



Doreen Hutton, Johanne Plamondon, Colin Waters, Helen Raspin

CURAC/ARUCC is the federation of retiree associations at colleges and universities across Canada. Our association of Concordia retirees is a member of CURAC, and we therefore qualify for certain benefits....

A SPECIAL OFFER TO CURAC/ARUCC MEMBERS FROM THE LITERARY REVIEW OF CANADA (LRC)

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 – 41% less than the regular price of a year's subscription.

To learn more about the magazine, its contributors, and its content, please visit: <http://reviewcanada.ca>.

CURAC/ARUCC AND CARP: There is an agreement between CURAC/ARUCC and CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons) which provides a special benefit for members of CURAC/ARUCC member associations. CURAC/ARUCC members may join CARP and receive the Zoomer magazine at a membership rate that is 25% below the regular rate. To learn more about CARP and to become a member at the special CURAC/ARUCC rate, please visit the CURAC/ARUCC website at www.curac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/CARP-CURAC%20Group.pdf and under the tab BENEFITS-CARP MEMBERSHIP, click, download, complete, and mail the special CARP membership form.

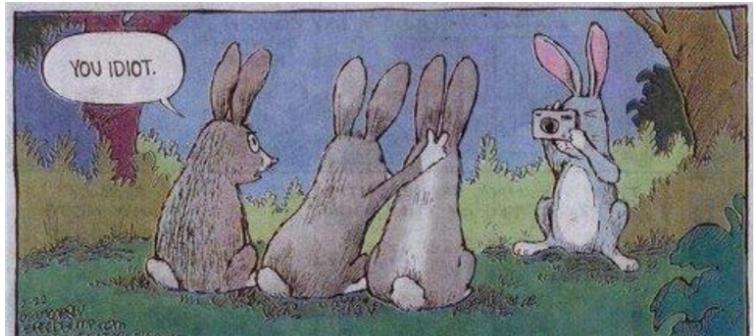
Mair Verthuy

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2. 1. Souad Labbize, *J'aurais voulu être un escargot*, Atlantica, Biarritz, 2011

Souad Labbize habite actuellement la France. Auteure d'origine algérienne, après une excellente éducation dans son pays, elle a enseigné le français, d'abord en Algérie ensuite en Tunisie, avant de s'exiler en France. Je ne trouve aucune autre publication sous son nom.

Ce livre est écrit un peu sous la forme de contes. La narratrice surtout raconte la vie d'une fillette habitant un petit bled ou hameau en pleine transition. Nous constatons, grâce à l'auteure, que l'endroit a été récemment investi par des intégristes musulmans ce qui le change complètement de l'islam traditionnel qui y régnait et où la vie quotidienne était donc plus douce. Il y avait, bien sûr, un certain nombre de contraintes dans l'ancienne vie, comme partout dans le monde, et qui probablement touchait davantage les filles que les garçons. Et voilà notre jeune héroïne prise entre un Islam méconnaissable, dur, qu'elle ne saurait aimer et son désir d'auto-affirmation. Elle veut surtout partir et donner libre cours à ses talents et à ses énergies.



SAYING GOODBYE TO THE PAST WHILE LIVING IN IT

Graeme Decarie

It was some 20 years ago that I was offered a senior administrative position at Con U. The offer came from lawyers acting on behalf of business members of the Board of Governors.

I refused.

I could say I refused to spare my fellow professors grief at losing me, or being stunned with dismay at what must lie in store for the university. But that wouldn't be true.

I thought at the time that I refused because I loved teaching, and I had no desire to become an administrator. But I have come to realize it was more than that. The refusal began with a book the lawyers loaned me on how to bargain for a great contract, and with the terms they offered for openers.

Much as I appreciated the offer of sudden wealth, I was appalled that universities had gone so far in emulating the attitudes of the corporation world; and that administration based on the business model had become the standard. It was a feeling strengthened a few months later when I chaired a very large and prestigious conference of MBA students, all of them active business executives selected for the programme as real movers.

The 'conference' was two hours of ideological brainwashing.

Since my retirement to New Brunswick, I've had the opportunity to watch this businessification of just about every aspect of life, including education, up close.

About two years ago, the leading businessman of New Brunswick announced in the newspapers, (all of which he owned) that he was now in coalition with the government. Put more plainly, he was announcing that without election or invitation he was a member of the government. Then he summoned his self-defined list of community leaders to attend a convention that would decide the economic future of the province.

There are four universities in the province. The four, always deferential, presidents were invited. The four scam-

pered with their eight little feet to the conference where all four were careful not to say anything of significance. They were there as potted plants; and they knew it.

When the hand-picked conference came to its predictable conclusions, it appointed six of its members to be official advisors to the Minister of Finance. The premier accepted all this without a whimper. We are now seeing stunning intrusions of big business into the operation of the civil service, the education system, the health system...all with a view to gradual privatization, and all by imposing quite unsuited business methods to their work. In US education, such innovations have already proven disastrous.

In the case of universities, one might expect faculty to present opposition to this.

Well, no. One shouldn't expect it.

Just a glance at university web pages indicates that the university idea of what education might be is whatever MacLean's says it should be, coupled with trite and questionable virtues perceived by faculty, ("most up-to-date information" for example.) As well, there is a great deal of touting courses which offer new fads in research methodology – as if most students care or have any use for them.

Teaching is frozen in a centuries-old mold of rote learning. We generally teach from the general to the specific from first year to graduation – a hopelessly ineffective way of developing essential skills of the disciplines.

That was okay in the days when universities were rewards for rich kids so they could enjoy a few years of drinking while professors did their research. But that whole world changed after 1945. And it's changing a lot more in 2013.

Our concept of higher education is now a hopelessly expensive one. Inevitably, it will be taken over primarily for services to business. It is quite possible that most of the arts will go the way of Latin. And it's happening in this way because faculty, rarely interested in education, have held on to antiquated values, have ignored changes in the nature of the university market, and exercise less influence in the direction of the universities with every passing day.

Some serious thought is desperately needed. Mindless boasting in university calendars won't cut it.

CONFESSIONS OF A LOVER

Alex S Anonymous



Move over Lady Chatterley, with your lover. Published in Italy in 1928 and in France one year later, this book was banned in England until 1960 only to sell 200,000 copies on the first day of publication. The publisher was called to trial over the racy content but found not guilty, despite the prosecutor's pointed question: "Is this the kind thing you would want your wife and servants to read"? Case dismissed, it looks like the wives and servants liked it and two million copies sold within the year, outselling the bible.

To avoid those problems I have taken the precaution to sign as Anonymous and on second thought, I have censored some of the more racy and controversial words.

Who would have thought, at this time, after all these years! I was just counting them the other day. I had twenty three [REDACTED] so far and I'm already thinking of number twenty four.

That does not mean I'm done with the old one, in fact I'm still using the last two and have not yet decided whether I should dump them. Probably not, I'm a guy who needs more than one at a time. Up to now I mostly had American ones, a few German ones, a French one and I even thought about a [REDACTED] Swedish and an Italian one, but I could not warm up to them. Did not feel the chemistry. And here is where the confession comes in.

I finally caved in to my curiosity and desire to try out an Asian one, actually a petit Japanese number. A very cute one on top of that and not too demanding, unlike the high maintenance German ones.

I do like the American ones a lot, they are always big and beautiful, some with a big [REDACTED] trunk, others with a small one, depending on your needs. Some looked good with a bra, others were stunning 'au naturel', so to speak, without one.

I know, I know, most guys have enough trouble keeping up with just one. Well, it's just a question of money. I treat them well, give them what they need at the right time. I take them out a lot, I [REDACTED] them and give them a special treatment when I'm in the right mood. Actually, it costs me a small fortune but I heard you can't take it

with you, so I'm trying to get as much as I can for as long as I can.

None of them was too big or too small for me, I wanted them all. The day may come when I can no longer handle all those beauties, maybe I forget what to do or what it's all about. Then I could still feel their smooth curves and think of the good old days, how I used to handle them and [REDACTED] them.

Almost looking forward to that day, purely from a financial perspective. No more periodic expenses, no more special funds just in case something happens. But in the meantime, I just love to look at them knowing the [REDACTED] pleasure each one has given me, each one in her own way, and the adrenalin rush I am getting when I take them out.

I'm just thinking of my new beauty in black, the small Japanese one. I'll take her out tonight, on a spin around town. I feel better now that that I have talked about this, I must have been one of the last holdouts to finally [REDACTED] one of those. And I have to admit, although we did not do much together so far, I'm impressed. This one gets by on just seven litres in the city and five and a half on the highway!