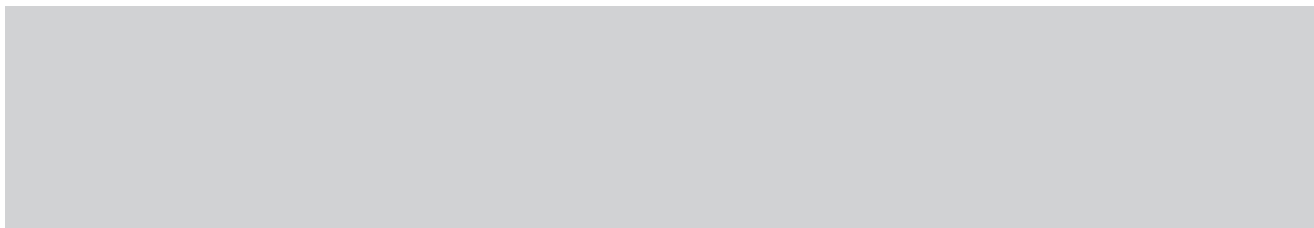


been established. John Gordon will be RAQ's representative. Many universities in the United States and a few in Canada have established retirement homes on or near campus. If Queen's does decide to pursue this idea, it will be part of long-term development planning.

Retired faculty were again invited to participate as application readers in the Major Entrance Award selection process. The Admissions Office was pleased once more to have RAQ members participate.

### ***Opportunities for volunteers to interact with students***

A section listing Volunteer opportunities has been added to the RAQ home page. Please check it out. One of the items gives more details about a notice we printed in the Fall newsletter about the Queen's University International Centre (QUIC). At September's RAQ Council meeting, Susan Anderson spoke to us about the Centre's role in providing a variety of services to incoming international students, staff and faculty, as well as to North American students seeking opportunities abroad. Volunteers are needed for English language support (ELS)



On November 12, 2008, Human Resources mailed its annual statement to Queen's pensioners, outlining the pension fund's rate of return for the last four years and explaining why the latest increase in our payments is about 2%. I would like to use my first report as chair of RAQ's Pension and Benefits Committee to give you an overview of pension governance and to differentiate

between the Board of Trustees' Pension Committee and your RAQ Pension and Benefits Committee, which is made up of David Bonham, Chris Chapler (new member) and me.

On that same November day, we three, along with RAQ President Arlene Aish, met with Rod Morrison (VP Human Resources) and Bob Weisnagel (Pensions & Benefits) to discuss the following areas of mutual concern.

**Governance** During the past year, the composition of the Board of Trustees' Pension Committee has been modified slightly to add two more Board appointees, replacing the two sitting Vice-Principals but leaving them on the committee as non-voting, ex officio members. Currently the Board's Pension Committee has 11 voting members, six from among members of the plan (two active staffers, two faculty members and two retirees) and five Board appointees, not necessarily Trustees. The final accountability of Queen's Pension Plan (QPP) matters remains with that committee, including establishing and maintaining investment policies, as was confirmed by the update on pension governance released by the University last March. At this stage, it seems advisable for RAQ's Pension and Benefits Committee to keep a careful watch on developments that follow from these changes. We're trying to do that.

**Financial Viability of the Plan** For all pension plans operating in Ontario, there is a statutory requirement to conduct a formal actuarial review every three years. This was last done at Queen's in February 2007

and showed an actuarial deficit of \$40.5 million. As we understand the rules, this deficit must be dealt with over a prescribed period of several years. Since 2007, the deficit quite clearly is increasing, and no doubt its course will be closely monitored by Queen's and both pension committees. The next formal actuarial review is scheduled for 2010 and will doubtless be the subject of great interest. In spite of the current deficit, RAQ was assured at the November meeting that the QPP continues to occupy a good relative position other universities and other employers. Nonetheless, the current state of the economy heightens these worries.

It's not easy to say specifically what causes a deficit. Although it's wonderful news for us that Queen's retirees as a whole are living longer than the

ayw

e

matteh that cinrenso

## ***Music in Picton a “magical evening”***

On a beautiful fall afternoon, 28 classical music lovers set off for the annual RAQ outing to the Prince Edward County Music Festival in Picton, stopping en route for dinner at the delightful Portabello Bistro just around the corner from the church where the concerts are held.

Here’s how Grace Orzech describes ‘the magic:’

*.....* 18,  
*.....*  
*..... C*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*C* *A* *C*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*..... C*  
*....., A*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*.....*  
*B*

Do mark your calendars for next year’s festival:

September 17-19.

[www.pecmusicfestival.com](http://www.pecmusicfestival.com).

MARJORIE PINKERTON

## ***“Drums in the Night” best drama outing yet***

The general opinion of those who attended Bertold Brecht’s “Drums in the Night” (November 1) was that it was the best Queen’s Drama Department play we had seen so far. Director and department head Craig Walker successfully surrounded the audience with the atmosphere of 1920s Berlin. The students managed their not-so-easy parts remarkably well and, all in all, we were left with much food for thought.

Although the director was not present to discuss the play afterward (a popular feature of other RAQ matinee outings), the student actors willingly and ably answered our questions. I was surprised that no-one – neither audience nor actors – questioned the very self-centred, final choice of the main protagonist, as if we were to believe “they lived happily ever after.” We are told that Brecht was embarrassed about this play in later life, but we enjoyed it very

# Coming RAQ Events Winter 2009

## **March matinee: Chekhov's "Seagull" with a twist**

Saturday, March 7  
Deerfield TBA

RAQ's first theatre outing in 2009 will feature "The Seagull" by Anton Chekhov (1860-1904), presented by Queen's Drama Department and directed by Prof. Kim Renders. This was Chekhov's first play after a long silence. Initially, it was received with such hostility by the audience that one of the actors lost her voice. However, in the end, the play

became known as the "greatest event of Russian theatre" and marked "the acceptance of new developments in play writing."

Chekhov commented that the play contains five tons of love. He shows that, typical of human tendencies, love, when freely given, is often rejected and, conversely, is sought when it is withheld. Director Renders intends to give "The Seagull" her own twist, challenging both her young cast and us seasoned theatre-goers by treating it as a comedy. Details about

location, time, and tickets will appear on RAQ's web site and will be announced to members with e-mail.

MARION MEYER

## **Luncheon Reminder**

January 25 will see the return of this popular noonhour series on the last Monday of most months. Restaurant TBA. All are welcome at these lunches, including members' spouses, other Queen's retirees, and friends. In due time, contact co-ordinator Jerry Roddy, [jroddy@kingston.net](mailto:jroddy@kingston.net) or 613-353-6959, for details and reservations.

## **Monday Morning Forums**

The Winter-Spring series of five Monday Morning Forums will continue to feature diverse specialists sparking lively discussions by posing challenging questions. All five Forums will be held at the University Club, 168 Stuart St. Come at 8:15 am to visit over coffee and muffins. The guest lecture is at 9:00, followed by an exchange of ideas. Everyone is welcome. This series is co-ordinated by Agnes Herzberg under the joint sponsorship of the University and Four Points by Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Kingston.

RAQ members will receive mail and e-mail reminders.

January 12

### ***How does one get the scientific results one wants?***

Guest Speaker DR. J.C. BAILAR  
National Academies of the USA

February 23

### ***Is there a future for classical music?***

Phone: 613-353-6959

RAQ is published three times a year by The Communications Committee, Chair: John Gordon. Contributors to this issue: Arlene Aish, Alan Green, Agnes Herzberg, Joy Hoselton, Bruce Hutchinson, Jim Kelly, Marion E. Meyer, Grace Orzech and Marjorie Pinkerton. Photos: George Brandie and Stephen Wild (left to right): Cathy Perkins; Doreen: Peter Dorn; George Brandie.

Special thanks to Queen's Printing Services, Queen's Post Office and RAQ volunteer staffers. RAQ's postal address is: Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room B410, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, K7L 3N6. Telephone 613-533-6986. E-mail [raq@queensu.ca](mailto:raq@queensu.ca) Web site [www.queensu.ca/retirees](http://www.queensu.ca/retirees).