

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAUT RETIREE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

In April 2019, James Coulton was elected Chair of MAUT's Retiree Affairs Committee (RAC). He committed to **Activities, Achievements** and **Opportunities** on behalf of our growing membership.

As a Standing Committee of MAUT, the RAC is represented on Council by its Chair who sits for all MAUT-retirees. We welcome all professors and librarians who retired from academic positions at McGill, as well as those who retired from clinical teaching duties, to join as MAUT-retirees. Our **Mission** is to represent the interests of retirees to the University through MAUT; to create opportunities for retirees to engage in enjoyable educational, academic and social activities; and to foster a sense of community among those who spent their academic careers at McGill. We encourage retirees to continue their association with McGill, and to demonstrate to the University that retired academic members represent an important pool of talent that will continue to serve in various ways.

Activities and Achievements This past year has been highly unusual because of disruption by the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning March 15, 2020. The RAC pivoted to on-line activities, purchasing its Zoom licence, and holding nine minuted monthly committee meetings and all lectures virtually. The series of four autumn lectures on the theme *Climate Change* engaged prominent McGill scholars to present at monthly intervals, September to December 2020. The series of four winter lectures on the theme *Equity, Diversity and Racism* continues until May 2021, again featuring distinguished McGill speakers. The Bulletins for these series are appended. Luncheon dates at the Faculty Club were cancelled; expenses to subsidize luncheons were therefore not incurred by the RAC.

The RAC's reduced expenses are not unique. Since the RAC took paid membership in the Association of Retirement Organizations (ROs) in Higher Education [<http://arohe.org>] that counts prominent institutions in Canada and the USA, the chair of the RAC attended three *Idea Exchanges* and *Member Meet-Ups* on-line. All ROs report their diminished costs this year, confined by COVID-19 and by the inability to meet in-person. In addition, the RAC, a founding partner (2010), re-joined the College and University Retiree Association of Canada (CURAC).

Significant RAC effort was devoted to launching a membership campaign. Target groups for recruitment were recently retired members of MAUT, plus lapsed members, Professors Emeriti (-ae), and significantly, McGill retired clinicians. Personal letters and e-mails were sent to over 100 persons. The RAC web site was updated. RAC membership has increased from 98 (June 2020) to 155 currently.

Opportunities Carry-over of monies to the coming year will permit expansion of creative programming. Anticipating re-opening of the Faculty Club, four dates are reserved, September to December 2021, to convene a luncheon and lecture series on *Ethical Dilemmas*. The availability of RAC funds will provide for multiple activities and endeavours with passion and purpose.

RAC members 2020-2021 were D. Canning (Libraries), M. Frankman (Arts), J. Hebert (Libraries), G. Tannenbaum (Medicine), and J. Wolforth, Treasurer (Student Services), J. Coulton (Medicine). We look forward to supporting our ever-increasing numbers in the coming year, especially newly joined MAUT-retirees, offering engaging programs and opportunities to socialize with long-standing colleagues.

J.W. Coulton, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Medicine

Chair, Retiree Affairs Committee of MAUT

April 2021



FALL 2020 PROGRAM

MAUT RETIREE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Welcome to the beginning of a new academic year. During this time of post-lockdown, we are pleased to announce some initiatives for the Fall 2020 semester.

Our Fall series of monthly **Luncheons and Lectures** will follow the theme of **Climate Change**. All presentations will be offered by Zoom. Luncheon is at your own location. Our **Luncheon and Lectures** will begin at 12-noon and are open to all MAUT members, not just retirees. This gives retirees and regular members the opportunity to experience our lectures and it also builds support for MAUT members who may be pre-retirement.

Tuesday September 22

Gerbern Oegema, Professor of Biblical Studies, School of Religious Studies

<https://www.mcgill.ca/religiousstudies/gerbern-s-oegema>

"Climate Change as Apocalypse"

Tuesday October 20

Nigel Roulet, James McGill Professor of Biogeosciences; Chair, Department of Geography

<https://www.mcgill.ca/geography/people-0/roulet>

"Canada and Climate Policy: The Problems of Resources & Having Lots of Land"

Thursday November 19

Lyle Whyte, Canada Research Chair, Polar Microbiology; Department of Natural Resource Sciences

<https://www.mcgill.ca/macdonald/lyle-whyte>

"Polar microbial ecology and biodiversity"

Thursday December 10

Thomas Mulcair, Département de science politique, Université de Montréal

<https://cerium.umontreal.ca/communaute/fellows/portrait/thomas-mulcair/>

"Canada's Climate Crisis"

Registration information for each lecture will follow.



MAUT-Retiree Affairs Committee

...academic events offered by McGill retirees

Winter 2021 Lecture Series

Equity, Diversity and Racism

“Understanding Systemic Discrimination in Challenging Times”

Professor Colleen Sheppard

Faculty of Law, Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism

Friday, February 12, 2021

“Systemic Discrimination and its Impact on First Nations”

Dr. Cindy Blackstock

Professor, School of Social Work, Gitxsan activist

Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

“Race, Democracy, and the Boundaries of Belonging”

Dr. Debra Thompson

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Canada Research Chair in Racial Inequality and Democratic Societies

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

“Saying Something about Discrimination is Harder than Some People Think”

Dr. Michael Smith

Professor, Department of Sociology, and Centre for Population Dynamics

Thursday May 13, 2021

Please join us for these informative events.

All sessions are via Zoom at 12 noon

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Open to all MAUT Members