

**Academy of Lifelong Learning**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**December 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom**  
**Consolidated Reports**

## **Short Bios for Communication Committee Chair and Assistant Chair**

**Linda Tu** is a scientist by training and inclination. She obtained a B.Sc. from the University of Wales and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in Chemistry and allied subjects. She has taught at Ryerson and subsequently earned a living in computer software systems. Thoroughly enjoying the retirement years, continuing to learn the new science and sharing this knowledge with folks at the academy. The Academy has enabled her to expand horizons to many new horizons. Currently she also hosts the University lecture series, this is a course offered by the School of Continuing Studies

**Patricia Stoll** is in her 4th year of Academy membership. She is a 5th generation Torontonian. When she was young, we lived in the deep South of the USA. Her degrees are from Canadian universities and her professional career has taken her to the USA and Canada: first in Systems Consulting (Washington DC), small business ownership, and later to higher education (Toronto), as Dean of Business and professor of organizational behaviour, management and ethics. In between, she worked as Exec. Assistant and speech writer to two senior public sector executives. In retirement, she has enjoyed working under contract to Elections Canada and Ontario as Head Trainer, as well as advising & mentoring of young women at two Ontario universities.

## **Business Arising Reports**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH SCS OR BUILDING NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO** **Report prepared by Martin Jones, Director and Treasurer, ALLTO**

On November 19, 2020, the task force on ALLTO's relationship with U of T's School of Continuing Studies (SCS) hosted a brainstorming session to generate ideas for improving the Academy's relationship with SCS and the larger U of T community. In addition to the three task force members (Martin Jones, Mandy Thomson and Jim Pike), participants included eight ex-presidents or other members of the Academy who it was felt had contributions to make.

The response was exceptional and many great ideas were generated covering a number of topics. Below are the themes that emerged during the session.

(This report, like the brainstorming session, leaves out the bigger question of whether or not the Academy *should* be spending time and resources building better relations with the UofT community. The appendix of this report includes a brief discussion of the issue as it was presented to the participants of the brainstorming meeting.)

**1. The Academy must do a much better job of understanding and actively communicating what it is and does and how it contributes to society.**

Lifelong learning is an international movement that contributes significantly to the education and quality of life of older adults and offers multiple opportunities for older people to continue contributing to the community. The Academy has been at the forefront of this movement for over 30 years and yet has rarely communicated its role or contributions – either to the university or to society at large. Yet if we are to build relationships with any body within UofT or other institution, we must begin by examining our own history and achievements and articulating precisely what our role, contributions and significance truly are, and then find effective ways of telling our story. This would assist not only with improving relations with the university, but also in attracting new members. In fact, when you think of it, lifelong learning is a major social and historical development, yet there is little societal knowledge about it. One can easily imagine the Academy as appearing in a feature story on the topic on the CBC or CTV national news.

**2. There are many initiatives the Academy might consider as we seek to strengthen our relationship with the School for Continuing Studies and other bodies.**

There is a consensus that we have allowed ourselves to fall into a passive relationship with SCS. Yet there is much that we can offer the SCS and many things we can do to strengthen this relationship or that the Academy could bring to new relationships within the U of T community. Here are ideas generated during the brainstorming session.

- The School for Continuing Studies has a high turnover of instructors and consequently faces a big challenge in testing the teaching abilities of applicants. We could help SCS – or other university bodies – by providing classes of ALLTO members to test and rate prospective instructors.
- The Academy has developed considerable expertise over time on the peer-to-peer based learning model. Perhaps we might offer our consulting expertise to the university.
- Explore with SCS the ways in which we can support that organization with its outreach and marketing to the community. Perhaps we could make space available at Tartu to promote courses at SCS.
- Relationships need to be renewed regularly as people move away from the roles that established the original agreement and institutional memories fade or get lost over time. Both parties need to recall and be reminded of the goals of the relationship and the accomplishments that benefit both sides.
- We might consider opening our Forums and Talks to the wider university and advertising them with the assistance of UofT's communications/public affairs department.

- Invitations to Annual Meetings and Spring or December luncheons are a way of bringing the agreement to both party's attention and perhaps a short report by the president when introducing the Director can let members in attendance know what benefits currently exist.
- Offer discount membership fees to SCS staff or students who may wish to take classes with us.
- Acknowledge the partnership on our website and state the common and similar goals of each organization on both websites.

**3. The Academy should consider how individual members can contribute their assets and skills to SCS and the larger U of T community. In other words, what do we as individuals have to offer in building relationships?**

The Academy's members possess an extraordinary range of skills and expertise that may be of assistance to SCS and the larger U of T community. Participants came up with the following ideas for offering value to the SCS and other university bodies:

- Members might volunteer time to English Language tutoring in group and individual settings. Many international students do not speak English as a first language and would benefit from conversations to improve their English Language competency in class and the workplace. Some Academy members may be interested in meeting with small groups of students informally, e.g. An hour a week over coffee to talk, in English, perhaps about the courses that students are taking and the application of the course material in a Canadian workplace. We could set up a roster of Academy members willing to tutor international students in conversational and business English. This may be of real value as conversational English programs often have very little money to hire tutors.
- Many Academy members have expertise in specific fields, or wisdom on life & success to impart to younger people, plus great speaking ability. Consider establishing a Speaker's Bureau which would then be advertised to university departments and student associations.

**4. The Academy must consider broadening its approach to foster a strong and more welcoming approach to a partnership. This includes reaching out to new institutes within the University to establish ties**

People were truly thinking outside the box at times – producing an exciting set of ideas for expanding our presence in the university well beyond SCS. Here they are, in their rough form:

- Research and understand U of T's philosophy re: outreach to Seniors
- We should explore whether the University public affairs office might show an interest in our story and recognize ALLTO's potential value to the university. How about the VP of community

relations? (Ryerson and York brag about their senior learning partnerships – if U of T were more aware of the Academy’s contributions, it would too!)

- Could we find a Champion within the university? At one time Margaret Macmillan was one, and her mother, a member
- Consider if there is some affiliation with the SENIOR organization (ie. retired librarians and faculty) which could raise our profile.
- Could there be an affiliation with the Faculty Club?
- Approach Adult Education at OISE to be an alternative affiliate.
- Find out about Innis’ affiliation with U of T – could we replicate it?
- Find out where U of T is going with regard to the future of post-secondary education and if there is a way that seniors can enhance that direction
- Consider new and innovative centres/faculties at U of T to partner with. These institutions are far less likely to be operating within the worn-out paradigms of the past. These exciting new ventures include:
  - The Swartz/ Reisman Centre for Technology and Society
  - Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research
  - Dalla Lana Centre for Public Health

Ideas for building relationships with these organizations might include offering their researchers speaking opportunities at the Academy; (it was pointed out that Molly Shoichet, one of the Donnelly Centre’s high-profile scientists spoke at the Spring Talks, but there are many more potential speakers available and that such overtures can open the door for other initiatives.) Other ideas include communicating to our members and perhaps a wider audience all of the events and speeches that these new institutes host for the public.

- We might consider seeking an affiliation with a community college who may be more receptive to the concept of lifelong learning and the role of the Academy

### **If the Academy Decides to Proceed, How Do We Begin?**

I suggest starting with very simple steps. For example, our first step would be recruiting an Academy member with a background in corporate communications/public affairs to undertake one basic task: developing the Academy’s story and presentation pitch. Who we are and why we are, as a leader in lifelong learning, so important to the life of Toronto and the university. This will include the articulation of our achievements and the great value we bring to the university and society.

The second and third tasks might be to study and obtain an understanding of the opportunities for partnerships at the university and design of a plan to proceed, preferably one that is simple and does not require great time or resources to implement.

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## **APPENDIX: BACKGROUNDER FOR THE BRAINSTORMING SESSION**

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### **ALLTO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH UofT AND THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES: BACKGROUNDER FOR NOVEMBER 19 BRAINSTORMING SESSION**

During the AGM on June 2, 2020, questions arose about the status of the Academy's long-term relationship with U of T's School of Continuing Studies. This relationship, which began in 2007, remains in effect; however, it has become fairly "passive" in recent years.

The consensus expressed at the AGM is that it is important to maintain strong ties with University of Toronto. This relationship assists in promoting the Academy's offerings, provides access to valuable university resources and enhances the credibility of the Academy as a leading Toronto institution for third age learning. Our move off-campus to Tartu College makes maintaining this relationship with SCS and the larger U of T community even more critical.

However, troubling issues with respect to our relationship with the University have arisen. Rental space on campus has become increasingly difficult for non-student groups such as ours to obtain. This was the major factor behind our decision to re-located off-campus at Tartu College.

Recently, the university made it clear that space should be made available only to groups who are closely aligned with the specific mandates of the constituent bodies of the university. Thus, in early 2020, we were informed that the Academy no longer has access to the Media Commons at Robarts Library for its Documentary Films workshop. Considerable effort was made without success to re-establish the arrangement.

A motion was put forward at the AGM that the Board explore the potential for strengthening the relationship with SCS and consider new opportunities for cooperation with SCS and other bodies of University of Toronto. It was passed by a large majority of members.

Following this, two sets of actions were initiated.

1. ALLTO president Sue Kralik has written to Dr MacDonald of the U of T SCS outlining the past relationship between the Academy and SCS and requesting a meeting to discuss a future relationship with SCS.

2. A task force of three members was established to examine this issue. It was suggested that the Task Force begin its work by soliciting the view and ideas of former Academy presidents and other members who, because of their background, might have valuable ideas to contribute. This is the origin of the brainstorming session planned for Thursday, November 19 at 2 pm over Zoom.

The agreement with SCS is outlined in the attached documents: The 2007 Letter of Understanding with SCS, a 2013 renewal of the agreement and a 2007 newsletter article on the relationship with SCS.

To sum up this relationship, collaboration between the Academy and SCS has included:

- Allowance of the Academy to use SCS' name as follows "Academy for Lifelong Learning in collaboration with SCS offering programs for adult learners"
- establishment of an endowment of \$35,000 by the Academy for SCS for bursaries assisting students in need
- a sharing of invitations to members of the two bodies to attend each other's lecture series
- placement of information about ALLTO by SCS in its publications
- information placed in ALLTO newsletters about the beneficiaries of the bursary
- invitation to SCS to attend the Academy's luncheons
- a greeting from the SCS prior to our yearly AGMs

The Letter of Understanding allows the termination of the understanding on the part of both parties with 30 days notice. There has been no suggestion on the part of the SCS that it wishes to terminate the agreement, nor has the Academy sent such notice.

### **Our Brainstorming Session**

We might begin our session by considering ideas for strengthening our relationship with SCS. How can we contribute to advancing its role as an open-enrolment, non-credit school catering to a diverse range of learners? And how can SCS help the Academy advance its mission?

Secondly, what opportunities might there be for establishing ties with other bodies of the university? What we can offer that others might value?

## Officer Reports

**President's Report** - No written report

**Vice President's Report** - No written report

**Treasurer's Report** - Report will be presented at our meeting

**Secretary's Report**

As the list of Committee Members will be updated for posting on the Academy website, Committee chairs are requested to forward the information about changes to their Committee to Connie.

## Committee Reports

### Communication Committee

As the incoming chair of the communications I am in the process of gathering the committee together and will hold a meeting of the new committee on the afternoon of December the 15<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will acquaint the new members with the relevant information from the Academy's handbook relevant to the committee and will establish responsibilities for the finalization of the winter Academy Quarterly Review (AQR) which we hope to be able to have published to the webpage by mid to late January 2021.

The members of the committee are, as of this writing:

Linda Tu (Chair) - [lindatu@sympatico.ca](mailto:lindatu@sympatico.ca)

Patti Stoll (assist Chair) - [knoxacademypatti@gmail.com](mailto:knoxacademypatti@gmail.com)

Janet Broadley - [janetpete0@gmail.com](mailto:janetpete0@gmail.com)

Matthew Segal - [matthewsegal@rogers.com](mailto:matthewsegal@rogers.com)

Tanya Long - [tlong@osteoporosis.ca](mailto:tlong@osteoporosis.ca)

Barrie Wilson - [barriewilson1908@gmail.com](mailto:barriewilson1908@gmail.com)

Karena de Sousa [karena@futurecasting.ca](mailto:karena@futurecasting.ca)

Keith Walden [keithwalden50@gmail.com](mailto:keithwalden50@gmail.com)

Virginia Clark [clarkvirginia45@gmail.com](mailto:clarkvirginia45@gmail.com) - board representative

Gillian Long [longgillian374@gmail.com](mailto:longgillian374@gmail.com) - Ex officio member

As webmistress, Cathy Spark is an advisor to the committee. ( According to the handbook she should be on the committee but she advised me that she prefers not to be so)

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Tu

## Curriculum Committee

The annual Workshop Members Survey is underway. The survey closes at the end of this week and data are being collected. Survey results will be collated, compiled and facilitators will be advised of the results of their own workshops in January. I plan to provide an overall report to the Board at the February meeting.

Current indications are still not positive for an in-class start to our 2021/22 academic year, so we are indicating to facilitators and members that we expect to run the first semester by Zoom, with a fervent hope for a return to class by the Winter term.

Looking ahead to next year's academic roster, we have 46 slots that could be filled. To date we have notifications for 23 workshops to return next year, plus two that will return with a change of emphasis. We have requests for 17 new workshops with facilitators, including many from current facilitators who have proposed new topics. This adds up to 42 filled slots.

We have received a number of suggestions which need facilitators, but have not included them in our preliminary roster. We have increased the number of Art-specific workshops, and believe that all our members will be able to find workshops that meet their interests next year. I have attached a colour-coded list of planned and proposed workshops for your reading pleasure. It is subject to change before being presented formally.

Respectively submitted,  
Jeff Biteen

## 2021/2022 WORKSHOPS BY CATEGORY

Continuing workshops in red (23)

Revised workshops in purple (2)

New workshops (w/facilitator) in blue (17)

Proposed new workshops (no facilitator) in brown (6)

Unlikely to be continuing or reviving workshops in black (3)

Total suggested continuing, revised and proposed workshops (48) Maximum workshop slots available (46)

## CANADA

Canada by Treaty: Relations Between the Indigenous Groups and Governments - Mian/?

Canada at War - Biteen/Steiner

Toronto: City of Neighbourhoods - Darragh/Weatherburn (only if in-class. I asked them to be prepared to step in late summer or winter only if things change)

## DISCUSSION

The Economist Readers (2 workshops) - Tu/McCartney

Events of the Fortnight - Laukat/Snelson

Opinions - Pike/Kralik

New Yorker Readers - Milne/Wallace

## FILM

Contemporary Film A - Kralik/Morriss

Contemporary Film B - Sidorchuk/Wilson

Socio-Political Feature Films (double workshop) - Chastain/Mian/Prugovecki

Documentary Film - Harris/D. Wilson (considering their options. Not likely at this point)

## HISTORY

Europe Between the Wars - Steiner/Biteen

Movers and Shakers - G. Long/Wolpert

Investigative Journalism that Changed the World - Spark/B. Gaston

Scams and Scammers - Linton/Linton

The Anglo-Saxons (410-1066CE) - ?/?

The Celts - ?/?

Revolution and Populism - ?/?

## LITERATURE

Memoir Reading and Writing - Spofforth/Honickman/Tyrell

Writers Looking Homeward: Contemporary Fiction from the Diaspora - Clark/Murphy

New and Emerging Canadian Authors - Fitzgerald/McLean Poetry - Hickie/Edmonds

Biographies - B. Wilson/?

Play Reading - ?/?

## MUSIC

Celebration of Song - Nash/Rubenis

Jazz Appreciation - Gordon/Richmond

## PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY & ETHICS

Exploring Gender Equity through Literary and Visual Texts - Akler/Reid  
History of Ideas (1800-Today) - Brodie/Jones  
The Examined Life - Matyas/Herman  
Sports and its Influence on Society - Johnson/Spark

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Human Brain: Refreshed! - Miller/Tyson  
The Web of Natural Science - Tu  
The Zoom Phenomenon - Miller/Tyson  
Big Data and Democracy – Platt/Wessenger

## SOCIO-POLITICAL

Democracy and Conflict Resolution - Johnson  
Cities of the Future - Rubenis/de Souza  
Toronto's Housing Crisis - Fitzgerald/McLean (Winter 2021 start)

## VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Stand-Up Comedy for Seniors - Darragh/Platt  
Great Gardens of the World - G. Long/Woodcock  
Art Crime: Fraud, Plunder and Theft of Culture - Spark/ S. Gaston  
Artists' Lives Through Literary and Cinematc Texts - Akler/Murray  
Portraits Then and Now - Matyas/Silverman  
Artists Who Have Broken Barriers - Harris/Stoll  
Public Art: From the Medicis to the Mirvishes - ?/?

## WELL-BEING

Physical Fitness and Aging – Platt/Stoll  
Virtual Travel - McMonagle/?  
Navigating Life

## WORLD AFFAIRS

The Modern Middle East - Bakir/McCordic  
China, Canada and the USA (new in Winter 2021) - Guisso/King

## Membership

Karen Kwan is beginning to prepare the 2022 database and making the changes required by the revised privacy. She wants to be assured that she will only make the changes once. When we know of the changes required, we will ask for Board approval. It appears that she will be able to tweak the current database.

Karen has been responsible for the database for several years and we need a back up for her. It may be necessary to pay someone to do some of the work. However; we are looking for a volunteer.

### Registration Data Update:

| <b>Membership Status:</b>    | <b>March 31, 2020</b> | <b>Dec. 11, 2020</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Continuing Member Count      | 287                   | 245                  |
| Rejoining Member Count       | 9                     | 1                    |
| Facilitator Member Count     | 61                    | 64                   |
| New Member Count             | 56                    | 21                   |
| Associate Member Count       | 2                     | 4                    |
| Life Member Count            | 2                     | 2                    |
| <b>Total Active Members:</b> | <b>417</b>            | <b>337</b>           |
| Withdrawn Member Count       | 18                    | 6                    |

Two new members has joined since the last report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Moore

## Special Events

WALKS- Academy walks have finished for the season, planning to resume in the spring 2021.

VIRTUAL HOLIDAY TRIVIA EVENT- The Special Events Committee is pleased to announce that the Academy's first ever, virtual holiday trivia event on December 8<sup>th</sup>, was a resounding success. In collaboration with IT and Canadian Webinar Solutions, 57 members participated in a total of 15 teams. The three top winners and the most honest team (with the lowest score) had \$100.00 donations made in their name to the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund, FOODSHARE, Sistering and Second Harvest. The Committee has scheduled a debriefing meeting for Monday December 14, so will provide any new recommendations verbally, however based on the numerous responses we have already received, members enjoyed themselves, were extremely appreciative and would like to see a spring event.

Respectfully submitted  
Donna Reid, Co-chair

## Talks

The Fall Forums are now finished, and the Talks Committee is pleased with both the audience numbers attending our webinars – from the 90s and even over 100 people at times – higher than when Forums were in person

We are looking forward to the January through March 2021 Winter Forums, which will feature housing options for seniors and talks on espionage, systemic racism against indigenous peoples, and happiness in old age.

Spring Talks are all booked, too, featuring US/Canada relations under a new US president, black lives in Canada, architecture, art, music and environmental progress against climate change.

We are assuming that all Forums and Talks for this academic year will be continue to be presented via Webinars. Several people have contacted us saying that they enjoy talks via Webinars as much as in person.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Guccione