



Humber College Retirees' Association

Newsletter, Fall 2009



After Humber

Number Eighteen

The Newsletter for Former Employees of Humber College

Fall 2009

Christmas Fest 2009-Luncheon

Reacting to the consensus expressed at the Annual General Meeting in June and the result of an earlier survey, HCRA directors plan to mark Christmas Fest with a **luncheon** instead of a dinner. This reflects the concern over declining attendance at the fest dinners over the past few years. The **luncheon** event will be held in the Seventh Semester Tuesday December 15th, from **12:00 to 3:00pm**. (Lunch will be served at 12:30pm) In our 10th year of operation, something new. Menu for Christmas Fest is on Page 3.

AGM/BBQ 2009

This year's AGM/BBQ attendance was up and a great success as we elected 6 new Board members to replace recent retirements. Our speaker CAROL ANDERSON, Facilities Manager brought us up to date on the progress of the College Building projects which are numerous, also those lined up for the future. You might be hard pressed to recognize parts of the college due to recent changes. We raised \$162 from our 50/50 draw for our Bursary fund. Photo of the winner Mr. Bud Watson is on page 2.

President's Breakfast - 2009

A Few excerpts from his speech

From the very first Breakfast that I attended seven years ago, I have been impressed by the spirit and size of this event. Impressed, I think, because the Breakfast is emblematic of the enthusiasm with which the Humber community embraces all that we do so well at the College, and because it is also emblematic of the great significance that we place on a strong sense that permeates this great start to the new academic year.

I do, at the outset, want to acknowledge the sad passing this year of two of the key architects of Humber's culture and success - the founding President, Gordon Wragg, and the 'first lady of Humber', Doris Tallon - both of whom played such a pivotal role in establishing the values of respect, inclusion and caring that are still so central to our work together at Humber. You might be interested to know that it was Doris Tallon's idea to hold this celebratory breakfast at the beginning of the new academic year.

Wragg and Doris were both central to the early success of Humber, and laid a foundation



President John Davies

strong enough that we still stand firm on it today. They are greatly missed by all who knew them. There are scholarships and bursaries established in both of their names, and donations are still being accepted through the Development Office.

It is also my pleasure to welcome Dr. Robert Gordon here this morning. Squee, we are delighted that you are able to join us.

By any yardstick, Humber is a strong and vital institution, the work of exceptional past Presidents, terrific staff and great students.

At this moment, including
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Humber College Retirees' Association

President's Speech continued

Guelph-Humber, we are standing at an enrolment approaching 21,000 full-time students, and expect to serve in excess of 50,000 part-time students this year. In June, the graduating class was the largest in the history of Humber with more than 7,500 graduates. Included in this number was our first cohort of Orangeville graduates, and I want to particularly welcome those who are joining us this morning from the Town of Orangeville.

Humber is not only Ontario's largest college - it is also the most popular. Close to 66,000 students applied to Humber for one of this year's 10,000 first year places. Our applications are well above those of the second place college, and Humber has led all Ontario colleges in the number of applications for more than a decade. The year-over-year rise in applications to Humber is in excess of 10 per cent, well above the rate for the system as a whole.

The University of Guelph-Humber, which still represents one of the most innovative College-University partnerships in Canada, continues to attract high quality students and to provide access to degree programs for diploma graduates. This year, when university applications across the province decreased by .03 per cent, Guelph-Humber applications grew by 22 per cent. More significantly, perhaps, first choice applications to Guelph-Humber also increased by 22 per cent. Humber's partnership with Guelph continues to serve not only Humber students, but students

from Ontario colleges, with over 250 college diploma graduates transferring to the University of Guelph-Humber this year alone.

But as we all know, the issue for us is not fundamentally about size, but it is fundamentally about quality. This year, we still lead all GTA colleges in student satisfaction, graduate satisfaction and the percentage of students that are employed in their field within six months of graduating. This number for our 2008 grads, including our nursing students, was in excess of 92 per cent.

You might also be interested to know that, in the past year, 475 articles in the print and electronic media have referenced the expertise of Humber Faculty, the achievements of our students, and the excellence of our programs. They include:

(a) The huge interest in "operation First Contact" profiling students in the School of Applied Technology, and their successful initiative to contact the international space station.

(b) The "New York Apple Awards", profiling the consistently high achievements of our journalism students. Humber students have won 26 awards over the past 6 years at the prestigious Columbia University Scholastic Press Association awards ceremony in New York, and

(c) The Skills Canada Competition, recognizing the stellar performance of Humber students who won multiple awards in mechatronics, electronics and plumbing.

By any standards, I stand before you this morning, confident that



Bud Watson - 50/50 Winner AGM

Humber is a successful, leading, national and, indeed, international institution, and we can all take great pride in what has been accomplished to date.

The central core through of any operation is the capability, energy, enthusiasm and professionalism of its staff.

Be assured that I, and other members of the senior team, will work tirelessly to support you. Please accept my very best wishes for the upcoming academic year.



Final Footsteps.....

In Remembrance

It is with a deep sense of loss that we record the deaths of the following retirees/employees:

Doris Tallon - Executive Assistant to President Wragg & President Gordon

Laura Masella - Business

'First Lady's' lasting legacy

Former Presidents' assistant dies at 87

Doris Tallon, long-time executive assistant to Humber's first and second presidents Gordon Wragg and Dr. Robert Gordon, passed away on July 14. She was 87.

Playing a large role in Humber's establishment, Tallon was often referred to as the 'first Lady' of the college.

'She opened the doors to Humber,' said Michael Hatton, vice president of academics. 'She was the fundamental of day-to-day aspects of this college.'

'She was particularly supportive of students coming out of poorer back-grounds,' said President John Davies, who worked with Tallon until her retirement in 2007.

Dr. Gordon said Tallon personified the values of the college, like respect, equality and compassion.

Student-oriented, caring, encouraging, inclusive, dedicated and a tremendous sense of humour were commonly used when colleagues described her.

'Without sounding cheesy, everyday was quite fun with her,' said Valerie Hewson, current executive assistant to Davies. 'I really enjoyed working with her, I miss her now,' she said. 'It's a shame she isn't at the other end of the phone line anymore.' Despite retirement, Tallon continued to contribute to Humber



Doris Tallon, seen here at the August 2003 President's Breakfast, spent her retired years supporting the Humber community.

until December 2008, organizing numerous convocations and a Remembrance Day ceremony, Davies said. Tallon remained committed to helping students in financial need, privately helping them in various ways without ever taking credit.

'Even though she retired, she was always here,' said MaryAnn Rad, assistant to Hatton, 'and her spirit is still here.'

Tallon will remain a large part of Humber's culture and will continue to be remembered. While Tallon and family strongly

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Written by News Reporter
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expressed a memorial is not necessary, a dining hall in the Seventh Semester was named in her honour, prior to her death. The arboretum's tranquility garden is also dedicated to her.

'She didn't like notoriety,' said Hewson. 'She wasn't big on awards either, at least not for herself.'

'The best way to remember her is to do things that Doris did,' said Davies, adding students should continue to receive help 'Even if you need to go out of your way to help them, do it, because that's what Doris would want and that's what Doris would do.'

In support of Tallon's wishes, bursaries have been created to continue to help students in financial need, specifically international students.

WITH FILES FROM KYLE BARON □

Christmas Fest Menu

Garden Salad with Dressing

Fresh Crudites of Vegetable Dip

Roast Breast of Turkey, Pasta Primavera

Steamed Vegetables

Roast Potatoes

Assorted Rolls & Butter

Fresh Fruit platters

Assorted Festive Sweets

Coffee, Tea, Egg Nog

Pay Bar Offered