

CUASA COMMUNIQUÉ

Volume 36 No. 1

Editor: Arnd Bohm

September, 2005

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Welcome from the President

The beginning of the 2005/06 academic year is at hand and I would like to extend a warm and special welcome to all our new and returning faculty and librarians. This year promises to be an exciting one as we prepare for the next round of collective bargaining with the employer.

I welcome your valued input as we proceed to put together our proposals. Your Association is also undergoing a renewal, with new constitutional changes designed as a first step, albeit an important and necessary one, to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the way we serve our members.

Finally, I encourage you all to participate in our activities and make CUASA a vibrant union. Consider volunteering to be your academic unit's Council Representative, a member of the Bargaining Team, serving on the Steering Committee or just being an enthusiastic supporter and defender of the union.

Every contribution is important. Thank you and have an excellent year.

E. Osei Kwadwo Prempeh
President

Editorial: A Season for Beginnings

Once in a while, television commercials get it right. The woman shrieking at the sight of the first red leaf of autumn captures so many of our mixed feelings. We are shocked to notice summer almost over and are perhaps a bit dismayed that we did not get everything done. Winter is coming and, despite the skiers and snowboarders, we are not entirely convinced that the season is evidence of intelligent design.

However, for academics autumn is also a season of beginnings and fresh starts. At Carleton we welcome new colleagues -- so young! -- who bring novel perspectives and insights to the whole community. There are also eager first-year students embarking on intellectual voyages into unexplored terrain. Returning faculty and students have reinvigorated dedication and energy, determined to make this year even more productive than last.

Both the University and CUASA have new presidents, who will no doubt be agents of change and innovation. One sign of renewal in CUASA is the revision of the constitution, which reflects the ongoing evolution of the Association. The renovation of the Steering Committee structure will help the executive serve members effectively and will provide new opportunities for members to become active in the Association.

There will also be new challenges for CUASA this year. First, it is a bargaining year, in the context of signs that Queen's Park is willing to make improvements in supporting higher education. We are also on the threshold of an end to mandatory retirement (likely to take effect in 2007; check the CUASA website for more information), which will alter our relations to employers and each other in ways still to be negotiated. Other issues, while not new, will continue to bear down on us: threats to academic freedom, insistent calls for censorship in the classroom, the growing gap between sophisticated technology and under-informed citizens, moves to privatize and commercialize education, indifference or hostility to labour unions, the disparity between faculty salaries and what other professionals earn.

As CUASA celebrates thirty years of service and solidarity this year, we recognize that a young association has reached maturity. CUASA has been a pioneer in academic unions in Canada and has won many benefits for our members that are easy to take for granted. But we need to ensure that a new generation of members will be prepared to keep our Association moving forward, as the song puts it, into a green and pleasant land.

Let's get started.

Update Your E-Mail Information

Please be sure to let Deborah Jackson in the CUASA office know your e-mail address if your campus address is not the primary one where you receive e-mail, so the distribution list can be kept current. This will ensure that you receive the electronic version of the newsletter promptly.

Deadlines



Tenure/Promotion

- Dossiers must be ready for Departmental Committees by the end of **September**

Research and Teaching Awards

- Nomination/application for Research/Teaching Awards to Dean by end of **September**

Sabbatical

- Green forms must be filed by the end of **October** for sabbaticals commencing during the 2006-07 academic year.