



WURA

Windsor University Retirees' Association

e-Bulletin

DECEMBER 2024

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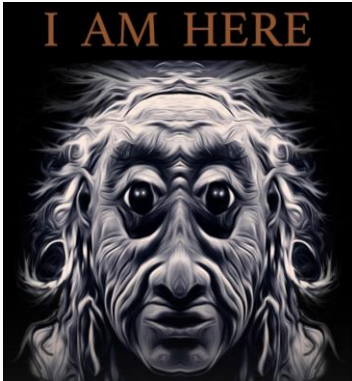
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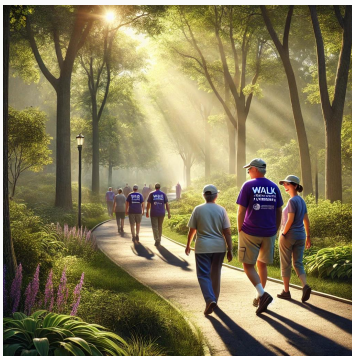
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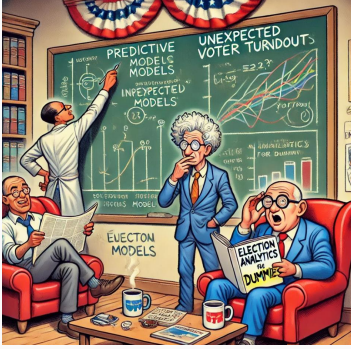
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Dear Friends:

Let me begin with a warm welcome to our new members: **Ed Drouillard** (Technical Support & Infrastructure), **Benedicta Egbo** (Education), **Jill Grant** (Social Work), **James Higginson** (Marketing), **Nick Keren** (VIP/eDS Support Consultant), **Anna Kirby** (Senior Manager), **Lana Lee** (Chemistry and Biochemistry), **Cyndra Macdowall** (Visual Arts), **Marion Overholt** (Law), **Cyril Rodrigues** (Earth Sciences), **Lorie Stolarchuk** (Centre for Teaching and Learning), **James Wittebols** (Political Science), and **Rosemary Zanutto** (Institutional Analysis). We hope that you will all become active members of WURA!

We had a very successful Annual General Meeting and Holiday Luncheon in the Freed Orman Center on December 3, 2024. All of the Reports are available on our website at [Annual reports of WURA Committees](#). Also available, for your

viewing pleasure, is [the recording of the AGM](#).

In addition to our WURA Reports, there were presentations from Jody Fraser, Associate VP Human Resources; Marion Doll, Student Awards & Financial Aid; and President Dr. Rob Gordon. Jody reviewed the status of our Pension Plan, noting changes (both decreases and increases) in the money-purchase component of the Plan during the year. The one-year return on the Plan was 9.1%. She also reported on much needed changes in Pension Plan language as well as on the on-going review and up-dating of Benefits.

Marion's Report included the welcome news that our six **WURA Scholarship Awards** for next year will be in the amount of \$2,000 each, an increase of \$200.00 per Award. The capital in the Scholarship Fund stood at \$252,541.00. Please see the article below on the WURA Scholarships below for more details.

Dr. Gordon reported on further actions that will be taken to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the University. He focused first on positives -- higher University rankings, Pension sustainability, plus growth in both Research funding and Endowments. These, however, were off-set by serious challenges -- close to a 1,000 drop in Visa Graduate students from 2023 to 2024, which will be followed by a more significant drop in 2025. This combined with a domestic tuition freeze and no indication that Government funding is about to increase,

will result in an anticipated \$30 million Budget shortfall in 2025-26. With no help in sight, cost-cutting measures are needed and difficult decisions will have to be made -- an important one will be to align faculties, programs, and research with both student and industry demand.

As part of the Luncheon Program, the Social Committee held a raffle and I am pleased to report that the \$445 proceeds will be split between our **WURA Scholarship Fund** and the Drouillard Place Food Bank.

The renovations to 360 Sunset -- WURA's new home -- are complete. Two hybrid events have been held to test our new OWL communications technology. We are still looking into issues of access, parking, and programming. We expect to be in full occupancy early in the New Year.

Our Membership Committee continues to work hard to attract new members. We are convinced that there has never been a better or more important time to join our Association. We welcome Member involvement -- if you have an idea for an in-person, hybrid, or exclusively on-line program, let us know. Our Association is for ALL OF US, so become involved in whatever way suits you. It's good for your mental health.

We sadly note the passing of **Bernhard (Bernie) Kroeker**, Social Work, and **Ray Hermiston**, former Dean of Faculty of Human Kinetics. The University continues to update its [Memoriam webpage](#).

You can expect to receive your e-ballot for the **Election of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members for 2025** very soon. When this arrives in your inbox, please take the time to immediately register your vote.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a very joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Gwendolyn Ebbett
President

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WURA Scholarships To Increase! (Image created by Dall-E, December 2024)

Four WURA Scholarships to be Named Value of Scholarships Increased

By Gwendolyn Ebbett

At our recent Annual General Meeting, I was very pleased to report that the WURA Executive Committee had approved the naming of four of our six Scholarships in honour of members, now deceased, who made substantial contributions to the Association over the years. The ***Windsor University Retirees' Association Scholarship Endowment Fund*** will remain

whole and all of the six scholarships – specifically named or not – will come from the Interest on the Fund, as has been the case in the past. The University has agreed with this arrangement. The four named Scholarships are to be designated as follows:

- Windsor University Retirees' Association Scholarship in Memory of Dr. William G. (Bill) Phillips;
- Windsor University Retirees' Association Scholarship in Memory of Dr. Alexander (Cormac) Smith;
- Windsor University Retirees' Association Scholarship in Memory of Dr. Datta Pillay;
and
- Windsor University Retirees' Association Scholarship in Memory of Dr. David Palmer.

The remaining two scholarships will, at least for the time being, continue to be referred to as **Windsor University Retirees' Association Scholarship**.

I, also, reported that, for next year, ALL six WURA Scholarship Awards will be in the amount of \$2,000 each, an increase of \$200.00 per Award. The capital in the **Windsor University Retirees' Association Scholarship Endowment Fund** stands at \$252,541.00. Sixty-four (64) students applied for our Scholarships this year, and 28 were short-listed for the WURA Scholarship Committee's consideration. Scholarships are awarded to full-time Undergraduate students and are based on need.

Also noted was a **Pryke Family Scholarship** of \$1600, honouring Kenneth and Sean Pryke, which will be awarded for the first time in 2025, thus bringing the total number of WURA scholarships to seven.

Many members have asked: "How, exactly, can I make a gift specifically to the WURA Scholarship Fund?" Go to our WURA website where you will find a link to make a donation to our Scholarship Fund, or you can go directly to the University link and follow the instructions below:

1. Go to: <https://www.uwindsor.ca/supportuwindsor/donate>;
2. Select 'Make a single gift' and the donation amount or 'Other';
3. Under 'Designation', from the drop-down menu, select 'Other';
4. In the field that pops up, enter 'Faculty Retirees' Scholarship – Fund ID: 60263';
5. Under 'Gift Preferences', enter 'No' if this is a one-time donation that is not linked to a multi-year pledge commitment;
6. Complete the 'Tribute Gift' field if appropriate, otherwise leave blank;
7. Enter 'Billing Address'; and

8. Enter payment information to complete donation.

The Executive adds approximately \$1,000 per year to our Scholarship Fund and, when circumstances allow, we make additional contributions to the Fund. ***Individual contributions from our members are, of course, all welcomed and, in fact, encouraged!***

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From "I Am Here" by Gina Lori Riley.

WURA "Research Corner"

By Jake Soderlund

The New Year, along with a new WURA "House on Sunset" (the former Odette House), offer

some interesting possibilities for our Research Support Group. First, there appears to be some research space available in the House, which I would describe as a small number of unsecured, desk and chair-sized cubicles. If anyone has need of such facilities, please get back to me and I will bring your request to the Executive Committee.

Second, if there is interest, we could use the House for the in-person component of a hybrid Zoom session focused on projected, on-going or completed research on the part of our members. It appears that we will have the hardware/software necessary to run such a session. If there is any interest in moving in this direction, please get back to me, along with your contribution to such a program. I would envision that about three projects could be reviewed in an hour-long session.

A related item of interest to retired researchers is that the University is in the process of investigating joining the “Age Friendly University Network” -- check it out on “Google”. Research among seniors is among the 10 AFU Principles to which the University would agree, and I feel we are handling this one quite nicely. In addition, among the AFU Principles is “inter-generational research,” which implies working with students. The latter requires some creative thinking -- any ideas? If we come up with one, I will attempt to secure a small grant to support the project.

RECENT RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Gina Lori Riley: Research Completed

Gina Lori Riley’s film short “[I Am Here](#)” has been garnering awards, nominations and screenings from international film festivals across three continents. “I Am Here” presents socio-political and cultural views of aging, old age and erasure of age on the body. The Windsor-made film is produced, written, directed and choreographed by University of Windsor Alumna and Professor Emerita, Gina Lori Riley. It has been recognized for its groundbreaking approach to diversity and experimental filmmaking. It has won awards in Canada, USA, Japan, France, and the Netherlands and has been selected for screening at 77 international festivals. Accolades include: Best Experimental Film (4 times); Best Editor; Best Short Film on Diversity; Best Director; Best Female Short Director; Best Editing; Make-Up Design; Original Score; and Produced Screenplay.



Local audiences will have the opportunity to experience “I Am Here” alongside Riley’s other acclaimed works, “One of Those Nights” and the award winning “Commedia Fantasia” at an upcoming film night at the School of Creative Arts on Saturday, May 24, 2025. Details on ticket availability will be announced soon.

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Socializing by Dall-E, December, 2024

The Social Committee News

By Christina Simmons

In the past month, WURA has hosted two very enjoyable events.

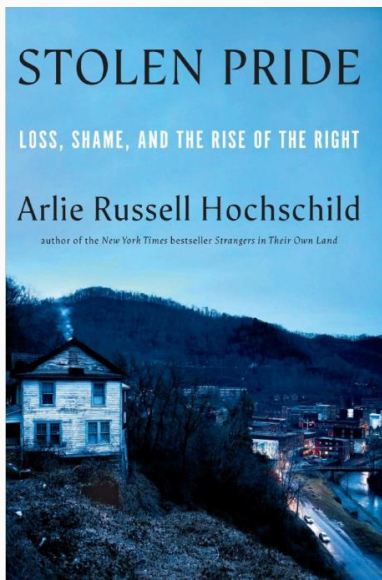
On Friday, November 22nd, Barb and Don Thomas gave a very engaging and informative presentation on the novel, *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah, about army nurses in Vietnam. The

program was held at our new campus headquarters – 360 Sunset Ave. We had a lively discussion among those physically present as well as those online.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, after our hybrid AGM, we hosted the annual Holiday Luncheon at Freed-Orman Commons, with over 40 in attendance. It was a lovely social time. See attached photos. Afterwards, Veronika Mogyorody led a tour of 360 Sunset.

Upcoming:

For the new year, we have two more hybrid reading events planned for the Sunset House:



- On Thursday, January 22nd, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Christina Simmons will discuss *Stolen Pride: Loss, Shame, and the Rise of the Right*, by Berkeley sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild. It examines Pike County, Kentucky, the whitest and second-poorest Congressional district in the U.S. and one that swung very strongly from voting largely Democratic to supporting Trump in 2016. It is a major scholarly contribution to answering the question that many of us have: What drives support for Trump?
- On Thursday, February 20th, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Jake Soderlund, Mary Lou Drake, and Norm King will discuss their authoring of children's books.

We are exploring the possibility of a musical event at the House for March. **Stay tuned!** ("Tuned" -- get it?)

Donations for Sunset House?

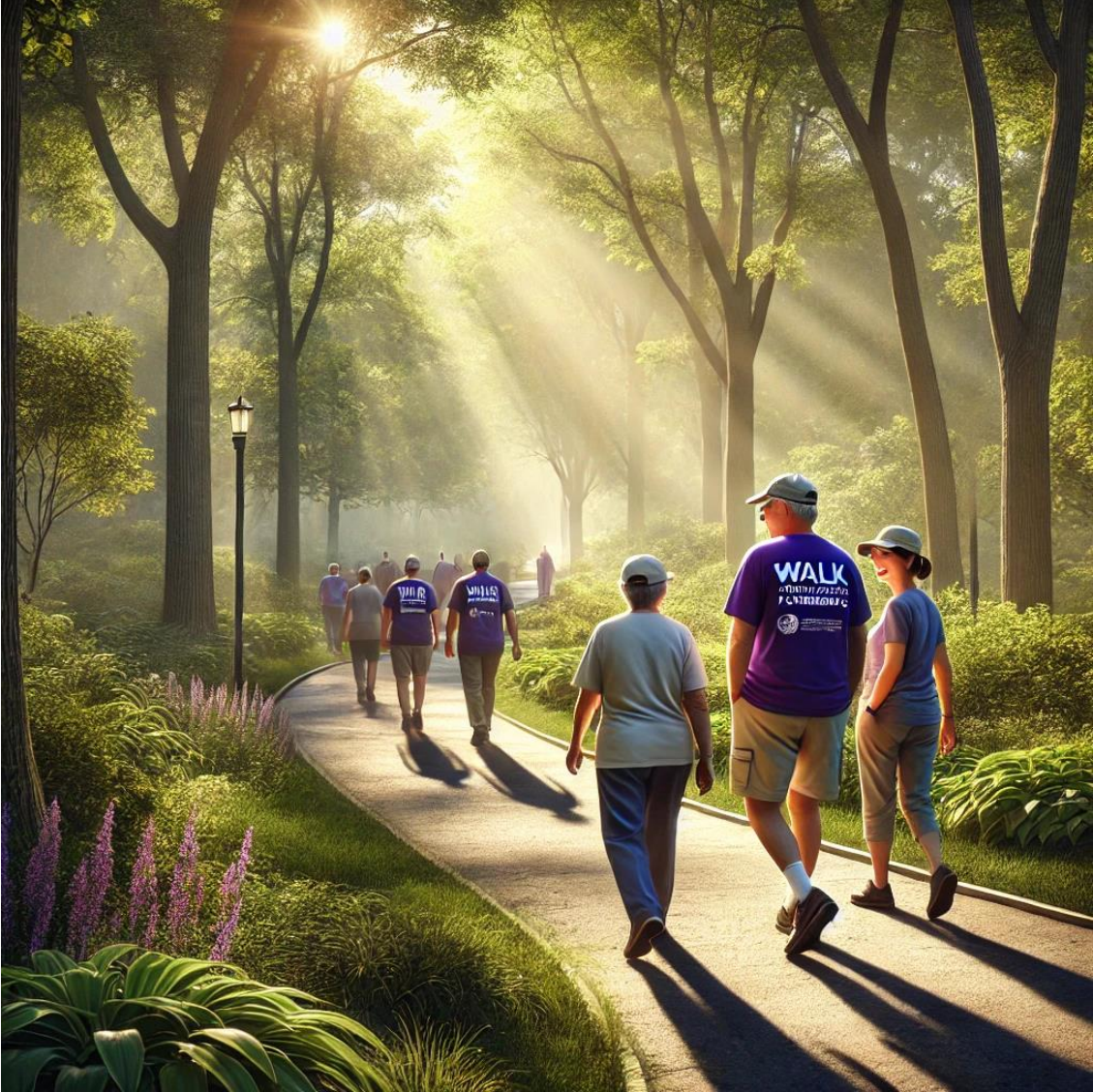
We need several things to furnish the house and make it fully functional. Is anyone able to donate any of the following items (in good condition, not necessarily new)?

- small refrigerator (bar size)
- coat rack
- silverware
- sharp knife
- dish towels and dish cloths

- bathroom towels
- glasses
- microwave
- coffee maker
- plates
- coffee mugs
- reading lamps for the desks in the study space
- pens and notepaper

If you can donate something, please email Christina Simmons (simmonc@uwindsor.ca).

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"Walk for Parkinson's" by Dall-E, December 2024.

How it turned out: my 2024 Walk for Parkinson's

By Stuart Selby



Some of our colleagues found my item in the last issue of the Bulletin interesting enough to want to know how the Walk actually turned out, and I am happy to let you know. I titled the last item “Walking for Parkinson’s as a retirement activity” and if this follow-up encourages any of us to engage in a support activity for a worthwhile cause in retirement, it will be a bonus to the Walk itself. If all it does is get you to start walking for your own health, that too will be sufficient.

September 8th this year was a clear cool sunny day -- exactly the kind of day I was hoping for when I first solicited my friends and family at the end of June. This year, rather than walking the entire circumference of Malden Park, we looped back at some point along the route. This may have been to shorten the time of the event or to make it easier for the participants using canes and walkers, but it was a good idea. Because I have been walking all year in preparation for the day, and though I am a year older than the last time, I am in better health than I was a year ago. Some friends volunteered to walk with me,

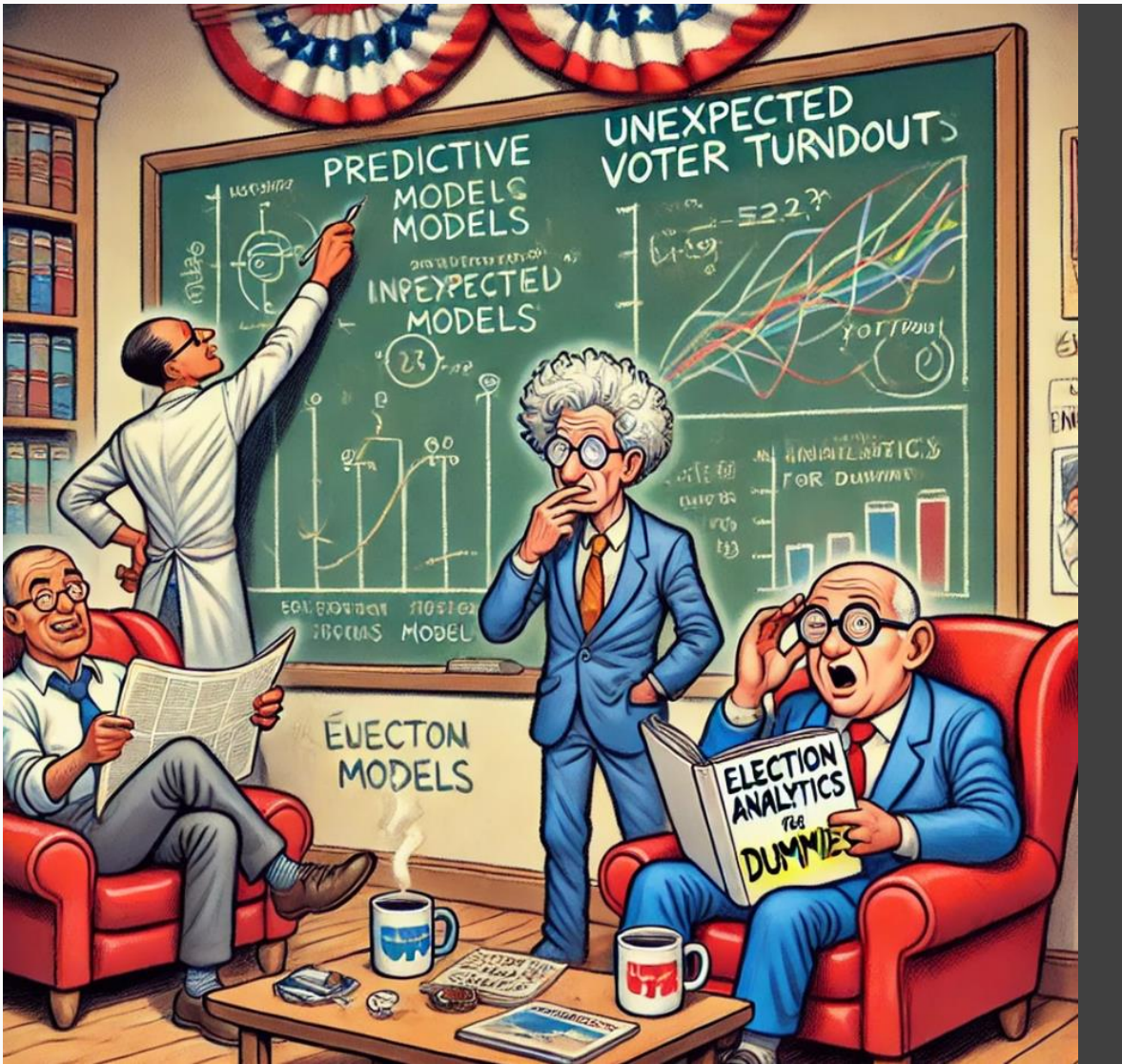
and the walk was not just an accomplishment but a pleasure as well.

We are all realistic enough to know that in addition to the public awareness of each disease sponsoring a walk, a ride, a marathon or whatever, support organizations do it to raise money to deliver services and research grants to people and universities. I am delighted to report that my sponsors raised \$9676 for the Parkinson Society of Southwestern Ontario – far more than any other Windsor-Essex walker or team of walkers brought in. Here at the University of Windsor, PSSO has, in recent years, awarded grants to Dr. Siyaram Pandey and the late Dr. Jerry Cohen, and to many neuromotor researchers in the School of Medicine at Western University.

I am glad to be able to honour University of Windsor alumna Suzanne Selby’s memory in this tangible way, and to share my Walk for Parkinson’s experience with you, my friends and colleagues.

Stu Selby

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Understanding Election Results by Dall-E, December 2024.

OPINION

The U.S. Election: Being Wrong and Understanding What Went Wrong

By Bruce Tucker and Christina Simmons

From Bruce:

In a WURA “Hot Topics” webinar on October 30th, I predicted a Democratic trifecta – a Democratic Presidency and control of both the House and Senate. I was wrong! Why was that?

In retrospect, I see these errors in my approach:

1. **Wish Fulfillment.** I wanted the Democratic Party to win. As I scoured the polls, I put more credence in those that pointed to a Harris and Democratic party victory and overlooked some of the signs that Trump was gaining adherents among traditional Democratic voters such as African-Americans and Latino/a voters.
2. **He’s a Criminal!** I could not believe that a majority of Americans would vote for a racist, misogynist, convicted felon, and advocate of white nationalism.
3. **Bidenomics.** I believed that President Biden’s economic policies, particularly his success in making the economy work for working-class and middle-class Americans, would convince voters to support Harris and the Democratic Party.
4. **Social Media.** Finally, I ignored social media platforms of all kinds because of the distortions, outright fabrications, and manipulative content. I did not factor in their impact or the campaigns of foreign agents to affect the outcome.

From Christina:

When Bruce said that Harris could win the US election, that did not mean the race was not tight. The polls kept saying that, and it turned out they were right. Harris got 48.32% of the vote, and Trump got 49.79% (Cook Political Report) (and 36% of eligible voters did not vote, so Trump got about 31.5% of the total potential electorate) ---definitely not a “mandate.” Those of us who view Trump as utterly unfit and extremely dangerous are still feeling stunned. How did this happen?

As a dual US-Canadian citizen, I have been reading analyses of the issues nonstop for months. Five significant factors are often cited about what undermined Harris: racism, sexism, anger about Gaza, the power of media disinformation, and the neoliberal economy. All are valid, but I personally believe the overarching reason is the impact of forty years of neoliberalism on US society and economy.

Certainly racism and sexism were operating. I recall an article citing not only white men but also white women saying that a woman would not be “strong enough” to deal with male world leaders. And, though Obama won, maybe an African-American/Indian-American woman just could not leap the additional barrier. About 53% of white women and 60% of white men voted for Trump, who did make gains among younger men, even Blacks and Latinos, by playing on gender stereotypes of masculinity.

Additionally, Democrats underestimated anger over Gaza, remaining committed to the decades-long bipartisan and unquestioning support of Israel throughout a period of

catastrophically destructive military action there. Trump, if anything, is even more supportive of Netanyahu, but he did reach out to concerned voters more than Harris did. Democrats lost many votes from Michigan's large Muslim- and Arab-American groups, to both Trump and Green Party candidate Jill Stein, but probably not enough fully to explain Trump's win in the state. And it was less important elsewhere.

Also influential was the extreme division between "media bubbles" that rely on rightwing, leftwing, or mainstream media sources. Online foreign interference from Russia, China, and Iran probably exacerbated pervasive mistrust and increased the tendency to demonize opponents. Trump's firehose of insults, violent threats, and lies, spread through his rallies and rightwing media, have degraded political discourse, while terrifying many of his followers about crime and immigrants. It is difficult to quantify these effects, but they must certainly have had an impact.

However, I believe that the cumulative effects of four decades of neoliberal capitalism offer the most far-reaching explanation of Trump's win. Important sources I am drawing on include Ezra Klein's interview in the *New York Times* with historian Gary Gerstle, Nov. 1, "Are We on the Cusp of a New Political Order?"; economist Daniel Chandler's guest essay on philosopher John Rawls, *NYT*, Nov. 24, "The Democrats Are in Trouble. This Man Can Save Them."; and the 2024 book by Guardian columnist George Monbiot and Peter Hutchison, *Invisible Doctrine: The Secret History of Neoliberalism*.

In most elections across the world recently, incumbent parties have lost a lot of support or been booted out. Levels of inequality, as well as public alienation and anger against politicians and corporate leaders, are intense in many places, not only the US. (For a striking account of such anger that was revealed after the December 4 murder of United Healthcare executive Brian Thompson, see Zeynep Tufekci, "The Rage and Glee That Followed a C.E.O.'s Killing Should Ring All Alarms," *NYT*, Dec. 6.) Sources I am reading attribute this anger against the wealthy and political incumbents to the rise of neoliberalism and abandonment since the 1980s (in the US, but similar patterns elsewhere) of the New Deal order, which balanced some level of social welfare, re-distribution through the tax system, and regulation of the excesses of wealth, with continued support of a capitalist system. Instead, after the economic slowdown in the 1970s, the forces that had always opposed Roosevelt's reforms rebuilt their power and, often deploying culture-war rhetoric that mobilized racism, sexism, and rightwing Christianity, began to successfully attack unions and the regulatory and welfare state, expanding the ability of capitalists to operate with less restriction across the globe. Corporations accelerated the offshoring of manufacturing to find cheap labour while US workers lost well-paying, unionized jobs. Democrats like Bill Clinton and Labour's Tony Blair in the UK in the 1990s capitulated. The 2008 financial meltdown was a direct result.

For ordinary folks, especially the non-college-educated/working class, these changes have increased insecurity. Wealth inequality since the 1990s has worsened substantially in the US. The top 1% of households moved from holding 23% of wealth in 1990 to holding 31% in 2023,

while the 50-90% category of households moved from holding 36% down to 31% of the wealth (with the bottom 50% possessing 3-4% of it). (Marcus Lu, "Visualizing Wealth Distribution in America, 1990-2023"). Peter Baker argues all this has fueled anger for Trump supporters "that the country they knew was slipping away, under siege economically, culturally and demographically" ("Trump's America: His Comeback Victory Signals a Different Kind of Country," *NYT*, Nov. 6).

Covid further damaged social bonds, while hurting many working-class people economically. Post-Covid, significant inflation and prices that stayed high even after inflation rates declined, plus huge increases in the cost of housing, have all further contributed to public anger and disaffection and the desire just to rebel and destroy "the system."

For me, a Dec. 7 reflection by unsuccessful Missouri Democratic Senate candidate Lucas Kunce touchingly captures much of this. In "Why do people keep voting against their own self-interest?", he discusses how often people would ask him this about the working-class voters attracted to Trump. Drawing on conversations and messages from Trump voters, he explains how those voters see their own "self-interest." They don't attend much to policy in Washington, D.C., but they do "notice that they can't afford groceries anymore and that the President is a Democrat." Kunce points especially to the impact of the 2008 financial crisis and people who lost their homes asking him "how the bankers could get away with it. Didn't we all just bail these banks out? . . . Who is the government supposed to be looking out for, anyway? Why isn't it us?" He argues: "So many powerful people actively destroyed, actually ruined, the lives of everyday people in this country during that time and not a single one of those who caused the damage suffered or lost anything. Does that feel like an administration that was in a normal person's 'self-interest?'" While the wealthy backing Trump want to "tear the system down" to increase their profits, "[e]veryday people want to tear down the system because it is corrupt, they can't afford groceries, they can't buy a house, and they basically have to work until they die. . . . people just don't think the system is in their own self-interest anymore."

There are undoubtedly many more factors in this election loss, some beyond Democrats' control, but I am convinced a better grasp of these issues would have helped. Let's hope we can all survive the next four years.

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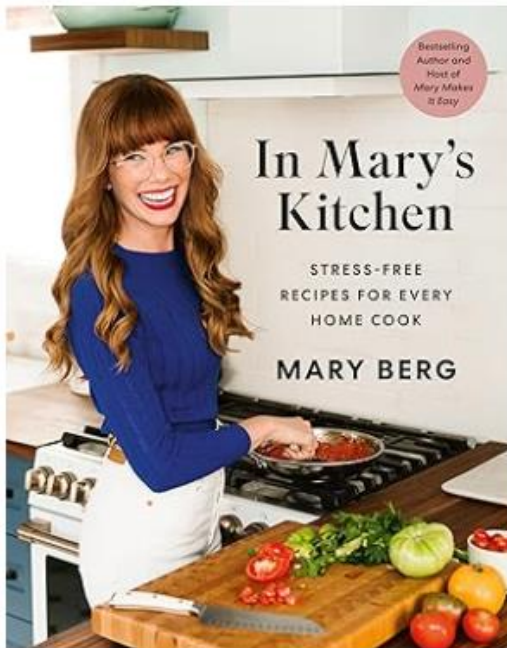


"Winter Reading" by Dall-E, December 2024.

Winter Reading

Well Seasoned and In Mary's Kitchen

By Gwen Ebbett



I first encountered Mary Berg on an episode of her TV cooking show. Her vivacious personality caught my attention and her fresh fun presentation -- all the while cooking -- intrigued me. So, of course I had to buy one of her cookbooks. I first bought her **Well Seasoned** book, published by Appetite, Random House in 2021. It is an enjoyable read of recipes that reflect Mary's mood for meals appropriate for each season. Some recipes are very easy to make, but she also serves up more complex special event dishes. The book is divided by the seasons beginning with Spring, followed by Summer, Fall and Winter. Each recipe is accompanied by a beautiful photograph of the finished product. There are, also, many side comments and photos of Mary and her husband reaping the benefits of her efforts.

I enjoyed reading **Well Seasoned** so much that when I saw in the *Globe & Mail* Best Books for 2023, a recommendation for **In Mary's Kitchen**, also published by Appetite, Random House, 2023, I added it to my collection. This book is more traditional in that the chapters are arranged by main ingredient, e.g., "Eggs & Things", "Veg & Starch", "Pasta", "Fish", and so forth. However, it has the same fun relaxed presentation of the first cookbook and is, similarly, filled with beautiful photographs and interesting and helpful asides. It truly reflects Mary's 30:70 rule -- "a recipe should at most require 30 percent effort leaving you with a delicious 70 per cent payoff".

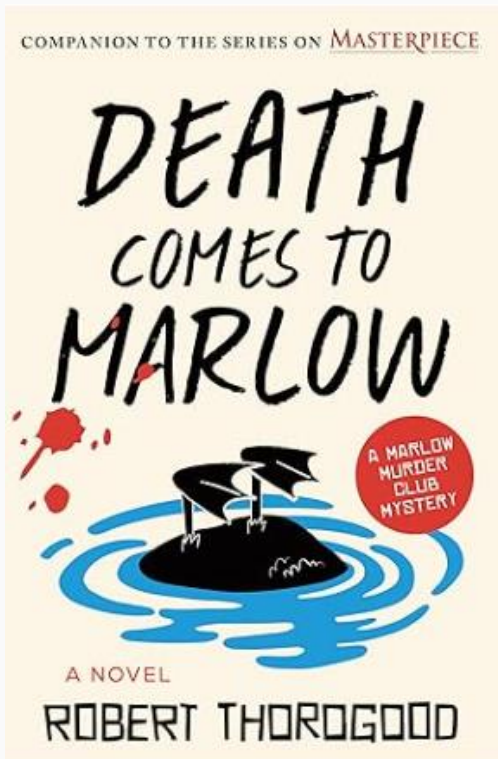


Are these my "go to" cookbooks for everyday cooking? Not really. That role is fulfilled by my ever-growing collection of saved *NYT Cooking* recipes and my very sticky copy of *The Canadian Living Cookbook* by Carol Ferguson published by Random House Canada, 1987. However, I am really glad I added Mary's two books to my collection, and can easily recommend them to you for your reading pleasure. The fact that she is a successful female Canadian chef is a bonus.

The Marlowe Murder Club Mysteries

By Bruce Elman

I am a sucker for fictional crime/mystery novels. Not the violent, depraved, salacious, perverted, graphic, gory ones; rather, I like the ones with a nice self-contained, relatively bloodless, murder (or even two). And, I like a compelling set of characters. You know, the ones that the BBC or ITV makes into television series -- shows such as "Midsomer Murder" or "New Tricks" or "Poirot" or even "Shetland". I confess that shows such as "Vera" and "Van der Valk" are getting a bit too intense for me.



One of my favourite shows is “Death in Paradise”, now entering its 14th season, I believe. It is perennially one of the top three shows in Great Britain. The centerpiece of the show is always a very, very quirky British Detective Inspector (DI), who is assigned to the mythical Caribbean Island of Ste. Marie, to be the lead investigator for the small island constabulary. I love the DI’s quirkiness – they are now on their fifth Detective Inspector. They have all been quirky but none quirkier than the first DI – Richard Poole played by Ben Miller. The show is the brainchild of screen writer and author Robert Thorogood. Thorogood wrote the original screenplays and was later commissioned to write a series of “Death in Paradise” books centred on the first DI, Richard Poole. There have been four books in the “Murder in Paradise” series.

However, as inevitably happens, Thorogood tired of “Paradise” and created a new series of novels,

“The Marlowe Mystery Club Murders”, where a trio of amateur sleuths help the local police solve murders. The three crime fighters are led by a 77-year-old, crossword puzzle creator, named Judith Potts. Doesn’t seem very quirky at first but you need to know that Judith likes to swim naked in the Thames River, which runs by her home, even though the river is frequented by college rowing crews and families out punting for the day. Judith also doesn’t listen to anyone – not the police, not the criminals who occasionally threaten her, nor even her fellow amateur detectives – Suzie, a dog walker and community radio show host, who cannot get her contractor to finish her house renovation, and Becks, the Vicar’s wife, who is, frankly, bored with being the Vicar’s wife, bored with the Vicar, and bored with her two children – but not bored with crime solving.

The first book in the series, “**The Marlowe Murder Club**”, appeared in 2021; the second, “**Death Comes to Marlowe**”, in 2022; the third, “**The Queen of Poisons**”, in 2024; and the fourth book, “**Murder on the Marlowe Belle**” is due for publication in 2025. The first book has already been serialized and aired on PBS last month. (Thorogood seems to be a bit of an over-achiever!)

As I said, I like quirky characters who solve crime. What’s the best part of the Judith Potts character for me? She’s old – older than me, albeit only by a year – and she is essentially retired, although she still wants some activity to keep her from fading into obscurity – also like me, if I am being honest. And, she doesn’t give a crap about what anyone thinks about her – unless, they are trying to kill her. I admire that.

Before you go south or elsewhere, load all three books onto your Kobo or Kindle and you can live vicariously through Judith and her friends.

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("New WURA Golf League" by Dall-E, October 2024)

Are you interested in playing golf?

By Jeff Berryman

Are you interested in **EXERCISE, COMRADERIE, SOCIALIZING** (perhaps even some drinking) **AND A LOT OF LAUGHS AND GOOD FUN!**

If so, join the **WURA Golf League!**

As a recently retired faculty member, member of WURA, and bad amateur golfer, I would like to gauge the interest in starting a WURA Golf League. The Golf League has the support of the WURA Executive Committee and this message is being sent to elicit members' interest in such an initiative.

Here's the Proposal: Subject to interested member's own ideas, what I envisage is a summer golf league along the following lines:

1. The League will be open to all WURA members, both men and women;
2. Play will be one day a week starting around mid-May through to mid-September;
3. Given our age, we would probably plan to play nine holes (two hours play) each week, but I would be open to a discussion for those wanting to play eighteen holes;
4. Depending upon interest, I would be prepared to organize handicapping and keep a competition board for those interested in participating in a more competitive model. (Others may choose to destroy their card and forget their score.)

If there is enough interest, my plan would be to approach a number of local golf courses to determine those willing to accommodate a new golf league, and under what terms. I would then convene a meeting of those interested to work out next steps with a plan to commence the league in May 2025.

If you are interested in this proposal, or have more questions, please e-mail Jeff Berryman (retired 2024 from the Faculty of Law) at jberrym@uwindsor.ca

The aim of this proposal is to create a fun recreational golf league. For me, although I love playing golf, I play with Mark Twain in mind, "Golf is a good walk spoiled."

Editor's Note: Jeff is a "very good guy" and a masterful organizer. However, he is no Bobby Jones. If you sign on to Jeff's idea, you will have a great time even without great scores. In this league, being a good golfer is probably NOT an asset. (BPE)

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("By The Numbers". A humorous cartoon by Dall-E, October 2024)

By the Numbers

by Joe Saso

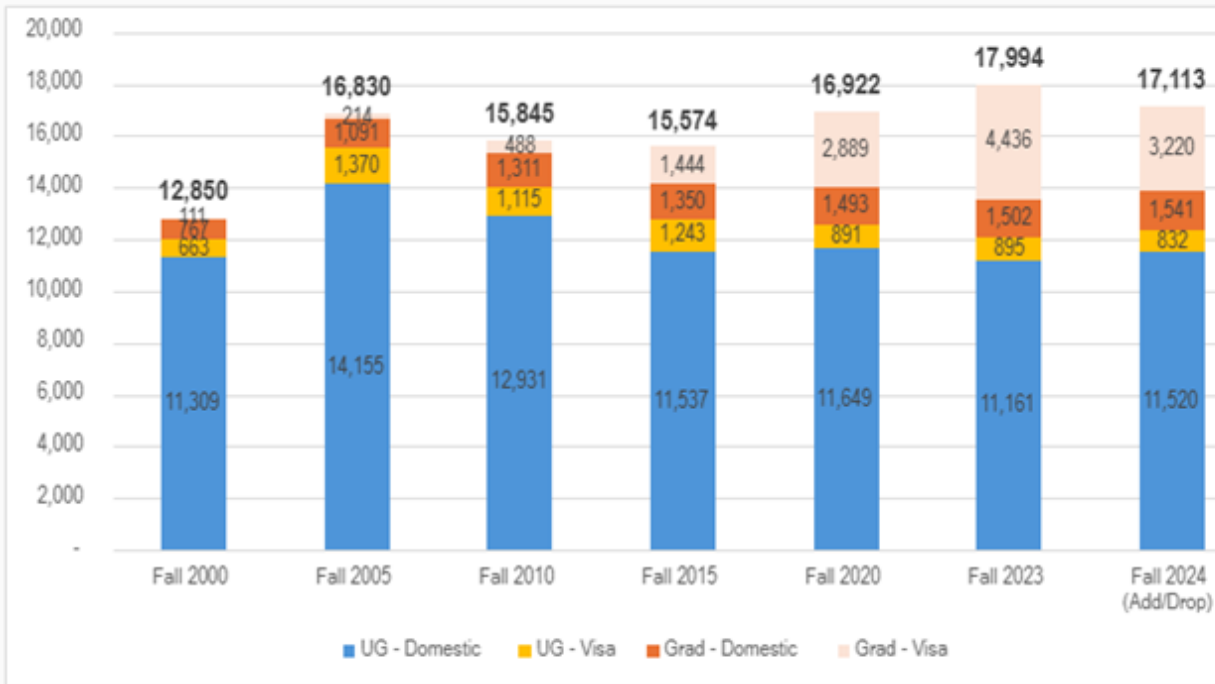
On Tuesday, December 3, at the WURA Annual General Meeting, President Gordon spoke to issues of the finances of the university. His comments were based on the enrolment statistics

represented in the charts below.

A quick examination of the charts will show that Undergraduate enrolment numbers have remained steady over time, while Graduate numbers have grown substantially. Since 2000 total Undergraduate numbers have grown from 11,972 to 12,532 or +3.2%. During that same period Graduate enrolment increased by a factor 5.5 times -- from 878 to 4,761 or about +550%. *However, if one takes a closer look at the number of Graduate Visa students between the fall of 2023 and 2024 the enrolment shows a precipitous drop from 4,436 students to 3,320 or -32.2%.* Losing tuition from that number of Graduate students dealt a serious blow to the University Budget.

	Fall 2000	Fall 2020	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Total Undergrad	11,972	12,540	12,056	12,352
UG - Domestic	11,309	11,649	11,161	11,520
UG - Visa	663	891	895	832
Total Grad	878	4,382	5,938	4,761
Grad - Domestic	767	1,493	1,502	1,541
Grad - Visa	111	2,889	4,436	3,220
Total Overall	12,850	16,922	17,994	17,113

Further examination of the chart shows that our undergraduate domestic enrolment grew by 359 students and our Graduate domestic numbers went up slightly. These increases helped to, marginally, mitigate the large decrease in Visa Graduate students.



The bar chart above shows enrolment figures over the last 24 years. The substantial increase in domestic students in 2005 was due to the elimination of Grade 13 in the Ontario Secondary School system. That year students graduated from both grade 13 and grade 12 and entered the postsecondary system. It was the time of the Double Cohort!

In his closing remarks, President Gordon acknowledged the seriousness of our situation and the challenges that face us in the future. Ours is not the only postsecondary institution facing these problems. They are the result of continuing underfunding by the Provincial government, and of the reductions placed on the number of Graduate Visas granted by the Federal Government.

Bruce Elman Comments:

The President’s Remarks at the WURA Annual General Meeting and Joe’s “By the Numbers” article above should come as no surprise to anyone who has been reading the *e-Bulletin* over the past few years. In November 2022, in the wake of the Laurentian Bankruptcy proceedings, the Auditor General of Ontario, Bonnie Lysyk, conducted an audit of four Ontario Universities, including Windsor, to determine their financial health and vitality. A major component in the AG’s Report regarding Windsor -- and the subject of three Recommendations -- concerned International Students. **Here is the background the AG outlined in her Report:** She noted that International students had become a very important part of the University’s financial balance sheet. Between 2016/17 and 2020/21, the University increased both International student enrolment and revenues. **This was not serendipitous.** The University increased International enrolment precisely to increase revenue. Enrolment rose by 33% and the proportion of revenue generated by International students rose from 9.6% to 20.9%. And, as

we know from Joe's article, it continued to climb after 2020/21.

In fact, as the AG noted, it appeared (and it has subsequently become clear) that increased International student enrolment has had the effect of ensuring the University's financial stability. The AG, however, questioned whether this stability was risk-free. Among her concerns was the following: The University was recruiting and enrolling students mainly from India (60%) and China (12%) and the AG saw this as an overreliance on students from one country or region. There was, in her view, a risk that geopolitical events could disrupt the intake of International students, upon which the University relied.

The above scenario led to this Recommendation: **Recommendation #5: Mitigate Geopolitical Risk:** Avoid the over-reliance on one country or geographical area by: (1) regularly completing a financial sensitivity analysis to determine the impact of losses of students from various regions; (2) diversify recruiting of students from different geographical regions; and (3) focus on recruiting students from priority countries identified in the Government of Canada's *International Education Strategy 2019 -24*, namely Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Morocco, Turkey, France, and Ukraine.

Now, it turned out that the risk was not geopolitical; it was domestic – that is, the Canadian government, under pressure regarding the extensive demands being made on health care, housing, and social services came to realize it would be prudent to cut back on immigration generally, and Visa students more specifically. . . and so, they did. However, it doesn't actually matter whether the AG was correct about the exact nature of the risk – geopolitical or domestic; the fact is that the University had become heavily reliant on International students to make ends meet. The University was using International students as “cash cows”. This was a risky strategy and, to use another farm analogy, the “chickens have come home to roost”.

In reviewing the AG's Report in the [December 2022 e-Bulletin](#), I wrote the following: “When I sat in Senate as the Dean of Law, many of you expressed concern about the University's ever-increasing reliance on the recruitment of International students . . . To be honest, I paid very little attention to this (recurring) debate because it had no relevance to the Law school where every seat was filled by an exceptional Canadian student wanting to be a lawyer. **Mea culpa! Mea culpa!** It is clear from the Auditor General's Report (and Joe's "By the Numbers") that the recruitment and enrolment of International students is not without its drawbacks and risks including, I would suggest, potential damage to the reputation of the University. It may be time for a reboot on this issue. Perhaps, the University will now take up this challenge.”

Actually, the University has no choice; it has to learn to live within its means and those means no longer include the tuition derived large numbers of International students!

Editors' Note: [Watch President Rob Gordon's address](#) at the WURA December 2024 AGM. Jump to 47.25 to advance directly to his address.

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Save The Date!



**Our Next Trip to Stratford will be on
Tuesday, June 10, 2024 for the 2:00 p.m. performance
of [Dirty Rotten Scoundrels](#)
at the Avon Theatre in Stratford, Ontario**

Details to follow soon.

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WURA puts “more money in your pocket” than the Federal and Provincial governments

By Stuart Selby



The Canadian Department of Finance is planning to send \$250 cheques or deposits to Canadians who were working last year and earned up to \$150,000. Aside from the fact that we are retired and ineligible, we scoff at this embarrassingly obvious attempt to seduce us with our own tax money. Still, \$250 can buy a dinner for four without drinks, and how can WURA match that?

Well, friends and colleagues, this is your embarrassingly obvious dues reminder for this issue of the **e-Bulletin** and a good time to remind you that WURA's input into Pension meetings and promotion of

Retirees' interests have put more money into our bank accounts [who keeps actual money in pockets anymore?] over the years than any cheap stunts by our governments. Seen that way, our annual \$25 dues payment is not only a vote of support for the hard-working WURA Executive and its committees but a real financial bargain. As we come to the end of 2024, we remind you that if you haven't already sent in your dues, you have two weeks to do it.

Please send your cheque for 2024-25 dues made out to WURA for \$25.00 to our Treasurer:

Norman King
#103, 1935 Normandy St.
LaSalle, ON

N9H 1P9.

You may also make a direct deposit if you prefer through email to: nking@uwindsor.ca.

If you wish to save yourself some time and avoid being late next year, you may also pay for more than one year (for 2024 + 2025 if you missed a year). If you have forgotten your present dues status, please send an email message to nking@uwindsor.ca, or write to him at the above address.

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Editorial Notice

The WURA *e-Bulletin* is published by the University of Windsor Retirees' Association.

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