



Newsletter

McMaster University Faculty Association

October/November 2008 — Volume 35.2 — John Berlinsky, Editor

What Can Faculty Do?

The global economic crisis has already hit McMaster. It just hasn't yet been reported. The consequences are at least three-fold. The Pension Fund, which was doing reasonably well as of April 30, will have fallen into serious deficit and will sooner or later require extra payments. The endowment has undoubtedly also been hit. This will reduce the University's operating income. Thirdly the economy has entered recession, which means that Provincial tax revenues will plummet and the Provincial government will have to cut back. Is McMaster ready to face this looming crisis? Almost certainly not.

What should be done? How should we proceed? Faculty who care about McMaster must share responsibility for addressing our most urgent problems, speaking out about them and working to make things better. It will require all of our talent and ingenuity to navigate through the next few difficult years and to emerge as a stronger, better focused institution when the economy finally regains its health. We need to position ourselves for the future, to take advantage of the kinds of opportunities to strengthen our academic and research core that were missed over the past five years.

A series of questions must be addressed. In a world in which resources are evaporating, how do we deal with overcrowding and understaffing? Can we afford extravagant adventures which are tangential to our core mission of teaching and research? Does McMaster need a new Business School in Burlington? Or do we need more seats for students right here in West Hamilton? The Innovation Park may be a great project, but can we afford to put scarce funds into it at a time when we lack the resources to maintain essential infrastructure? Do we have too many administrative services and systems, with too many layers, given that we can't afford to hire enough faculty to teach our classes?

We are a University that prides itself on being a leader in innovation. We cannot simply shrug and say that all Ontario universities are in the same boat. The entire University must

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Martin Johns

Professor Emeritus, Physics & Astronomy

1913 — 2008

*Martin Johns died on September 18, 2008 at the age of 95. He received both his BA and MA degrees from McMaster in 1932 and 1934 respectively. He joined the Physics Department at McMaster in 1947 and served as its chair for two terms. Dr. Johns served as President of the Faculty Association in 1955/56. We thought our readers would enjoy reading his "Recollections of McMaster from 1947 to 1952", an article that Dr. Johns prepared for the Association's 50th anniversary publication, MUFA's **First 50 Years: The Presidents Reminisce**.*

Because I am one of the few faculty members still alive from the era when the Faculty Association was being created, my recollections of the University in the period from 1947 to 1952 may be of interest. These comments have nothing to do with the Faculty Association *per se*, but they may cast some light on why the association needed to be created.

The arrival of McMaster University in Hamilton in 1930 predated mine as a student by one year. It had a student body of about 400 and the departments were either one or two person departments. My father came from Brandon College to help Dr. Findlay in Mathematics in 1931. I registered in a third year pass program with a class that had already spent two years together in Toronto. I left for the University of Toronto three years later to work on my doctorate but McMaster still felt a bit like home.

When I joined the faculty in 1947 after nine years at Brandon College and a stint at Chalk River, the enrolment had risen to about seven hundred, and research, given the impetus of the war, was beginning to be important in the sciences. Dean Burke and his proteges, Harry Thode, Ron Graham, and Laurie Cragg were directing students to the MSc level in chemistry and physics and there were serious beginnings in Biology and Geology. The Physics Department had spent the war years training naval recruits in radar and so had not developed any research activity. I was hired to start research in the department.

A new Head of Physics, Dr. Moon, from the Manhattan project had agreed to come to replace Dr. Dawes who was about to retire, and his projected arrival supplied one of the main reasons that I

accepted an offer to come to McMaster. As it turned out, Moon never relocated on the campus, though he did buy a house in Ancaster, and I only met him once at a Saturday morning departmental meeting. We spent all morning discussing equipment that needed to be purchased and had allocated the afternoon to deal with teaching assignments for a term that was to be upon us in two weeks time. Moon never appeared at that afternoon session and I have never seen him since! It transpired that he had driven all night from Chicago to get to the meeting and that his post-prandial nap lasted until well into the evening. After patiently awaiting his arrival for two years, President Gilmour cancelled his appointment and the department grew without his input.

The faculty in 1947 could all meet comfortably in the tower room of University Hall. The meeting began with a welcome from President Gilmour and then a discourse on the nature of the University and the responsibility of the faculty in maintaining that nature. We always heard the words of the famous headmaster of Eton who reminded his gentlemen faculty that the school existed for the "young gentlemen". (Gilmour did graciously admit that there were "ladies" both on the faculty and in the student body at McMaster.)

Then there were the inevitable directives concerning faculty attire. The requirement that all faculty should wear gowns was completely ignored by the science faculty who regarded them as dangerous appendages in a laboratory. We did however wear gowns when it became our turn to take chapel. The discourse on attire traditionally included a statement that gentlemen should wear belts rather than braces. This infuriated my father who had heard this admonition for well over a decade and he interrupted the

President to ask “What does a faculty member do when a belt cannot prevent his trousers from falling down”. After the laughter had subsided, father suggested that he was quite willing to wear a belt if he were permitted to wear braces as well. I think that this was the last time that a discussion of braces appeared in the presidential welcome.

Up until about 1950, the faculty reviewed all final undergraduate marks. This operation took the best part of a day and finally became an overwhelming task. Students who failed more than two courses were ineligible to play on University teams in the following year. I vividly recall the case of two football players whose failure was going to mean defeat at the hands of the Ontario Agricultural College during the next school year. Dr. New, who was both a distinguished scholar and an ardent sportsman quickly recognized the seriousness of the situation and asked the French Department if it would not take pity on these two fine young men and raise their grades from 48 to 50. The French Department would not oblige and suggested that New’s own department (history) might raise the grades of these students instead. History would not oblige and the football team was a disaster. Sports were never mentioned but everyone knew that football was really the topic on the agenda. In the following year the faculty introduced a rule that no mark between 45 and 50 could be sent to the registrar. That forced departments to make their own decisions before the faculty review occurred.

Chapel was an important feature of campus life during the Baptist era. The fact that there were no lectures scheduled between 10:15 and 11:00 am meant that chapel was available to all. Of course not all of the students who attended chapel were there for religious reasons. Chapel offered a wonderful opportunity to make social contacts and to keep abreast of the latest campus gossip. It was a strong integrating force for both students and faculty that we have lost in our growth to a large multi-Faculty University. Taking chapel was a formidable task for a young professor, given that President Gilmour and the heads of all the departments in the University were sitting in the front rows of the stage, right behind the chaplain of the day. The chaplain was required to follow a prescribed order of service — one or two hymns, a bible reading and a prayer. To create a unified service within that

prescription was difficult and time consuming and it usually took me a full evening of sweating before I arrived at something that I felt could be offered in those august surroundings. I shall never forget the time that I arrived at the University fully prepared for chapel, and then got so involved in helping students after my first year class that I forgot to go to chapel. Gilmour, with his incomparable use of English and his knowledge of the Bible, turned to my father and said “This is the day that the sins of the son shall be visited on the father. You will have to take chapel”.

Many of the senior faculty had private sources of income or had married into money. For these, the matter of faculty salaries was not an important issue. We lived next door to Chester and Mildred New for many years and Mildred and my wife Margaret were close friends. They often discussed faculty salaries. Mildred admitted that they banked all of Chester’s salary and that she looked after all the housekeeping costs from her own funds. Margaret complained there was only one wage earner in her establishment and that after the taxes and food were looked after, there was not enough left to provide the four Johns children with shoes. It was only when a new breed of faculty drawn from a different stratum of society began to control the University that a strong faculty voice to raise salaries began to be heard.

Of course there was no pension fund in the University and it was accepted practice that the President would have a friendly discussion with a faculty member who had reached retirement age as to his financial ability to handle the retirement years. The President then determined the retirement gratuity on the basis of this interview. My father came to his meeting with President Gilmour in the early fifties and shocked the President when he refused to disclose his financial position. My father pointed out with some measure of fairness that he did not see why a person who had skimped all life to save for retirement should get a small gratuity while one who had spent to the limit should get a large one. Although President Gilmour was somewhat shocked by this approach, Dad never felt that he was treated unfairly.

When the Faculty Association was organized in 1951 with my father as its first president there was no

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Project Status Reports

(as of November 19, 2008)

Project Name	Estimated Completion Date	Approved or Anticipated Budget	Status
Project & Budget Approved			
Engineering Technology Building	Summer 2009	\$48,000,000 \$38,000,000 (pre B Tech Prog) \$8,600,000 (orig project scope - Dec 2005)	All structural concrete complete. Curtain-wall 98% complete. Mechanical/electrical systems 50% complete. Roofing complete. Internal masonry 60% complete. New B. Tech Programme has been integrated into the building scope. Drywall work and interior partitions 40% complete. Freight elevator complete.
Burke Science Bldg - Phases 1, 2a & 2b General Science Bldg - Air quality and health & safety upgrades - Phase 3	Spring 2008 (Phase 2b)	\$43,574,413 \$30,000,000 (orig project scope - Jan 2004)	Phase 1 (BSB south wing) - All floors completed Phase 2a (BSB east wing) - All floors completed Phase 2b (BSB north wing) - All floors completed. Deficiencies 99% complete. Phase 3 (GSB) - Work completed
McMaster Front Entrance Improvements - Phase 2	Summer 2008	\$4,900,000	Design work complete. First stage of landscaping to be implemented with construction of Engineering Technology Building in 2009.
MUMC Biosafety Lab 3 (FHS)	Spring 2008	\$2,500,000	Engineering design work complete. Financing to be confirmed.
MUMC Life Safety Systems	Spring 2008	\$6,594,000 (McMaster share)	Project 99% complete. Final certification in November 2008.
Ronald V. Joyce Stadium / Underground Parking Garage	April 2008	\$34,457,900 \$23,500,000 (orig budget - Jan 2006)	Project complete. Deficiencies 99% complete. Landscaping work around stadium complete.
MDCL - 2 nd Floor Fitup	Summer 2009	\$26,000,000	The new 2 nd floor bridge is complete. Drywall 65% complete. Mechanical and electrical infrastructure 80% complete. Finishing in washrooms has commenced. Flooring has commenced.
MUMC Surgical Skills Facility	Summer 2009	\$3,150,000	General layout complete. Moving into detail design stage. Architect meeting with faculty.
MUMC Farncombe Digestive Health Research Institute	Summer 2009	\$3,675,000	Architect has been retained and in schematic design phase.
Thode Library Learning Commons	Phase 1 Fall 2008	\$884,471	Phase 1 - Construction work 85% complete.

Project Not Approved & Budget Pending			
Main Entrance Building Complex for the Faculties of Engineering, Science & Health Sciences (Phase 2)			
Burlington Campus	Fall 2009	\$28,000,000	Site plan approval underway.
Project Not Approved, Under Consideration			
Liberal Arts Building			Functional programme development is underway.
For Future Consideration			
Above Ground Parking Structure			On hold pending a campus wide parking review
Sports Arena			Offsite location
Tennis Courts			
Other			
City of Hamilton Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tank			City of Hamilton has deferred the project until Fall 2009.

Welcome New Members

Clinton Betts	Nursing
Stephanie Campbell	Nursing
Benoit Chachuat	Chemical Engineering
Courtney Evers	Nursing
Gregory Flynn	Political Science
Alison Hay	Geography & Earth Sciences
Eva Lam	Mills Library
Christopher McLean	Math & Statistics
Amy Palma	Nursing
Jo-Anne Petropoulos	Health Sciences Library
Stefan Rodde	Philosophy
Susan Shepley	Mills Library
Diana Sherifali	Nursing

Many thanks to **KAREN BEATTIE** who has volunteered to represent the Department of Medicine on the MUFA Council.

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Martin Johns (*continued from page 3*)

agreement as to what the function of that body should be. Very few of those involved in developing it saw it as more than a body which could discuss matters such as salaries, pensions and conditions of work with the president of the University and there was very little of the militancy that later marked the CAUT in those early days. It took many years of evolution before the complex and comprehensive committee structure of the later years was in place. Our association started from a position of mutual trust between faculty and administration while others, such as the one at the

University of Manitoba, started from one of mistrust and anger. During the eight years that I was on the faculty of Brandon College with its Manitoba affiliation, I had ample opportunity to witness the dislike that existed between controller Crawford of the University of Manitoba and the Manitoba faculty. The lack of mutual trust on that campus was in some measure transferred to the faculty of United College. The Crowe case at United College that rocked Canadian academia a few years later was almost destined to occur in Winnipeg!

Other Passages

ADAM BROMKE, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, October 5, 2008

COLIN CAMPBELL, Professor Emeritus, Electrical Engineering, September 9, 2008

MARIA-AMPERO GONZALEZ-NICOLAU, Retired Associate Professor, Romance Languages,
May 31, 2008

**Jay Newman Award for Academic Integrity
Call for Nominations**

The University of Guelph Faculty Association is calling for nominations for an important new award, open to scholars around the world. The Jay Newman Award for Academic Integrity will be given for the first time in the Fall of 2009; nominations may be submitted until May 1, 2009. The condition of the award states that "It is for the purpose of recognizing a university scholar and teacher who either at a particular time or in the course of an academic career has demonstrated combined meritorious academic achievement with noteworthy courage or compassion in the defense of academic ideals." The award is given biennially and carries a prize of \$1500.00.

The award honours the memory of Dr. Jay Newman, FRSC, a distinguished member of the University of

Guelph Philosophy Department whose thirty-six years of service were ended by his death in 2007. The author of eleven books, he was a successful and popular teacher and an active participant in the life of the university. He was widely known as a fearless and articulate defender of academic freedom as a core value of a university, and of the rights of faculty members.

Nominations, along with any supporting material, should be sent to:

Chair, Academic Freedom Committee
University of Guelph Faculty Association
Room 535, University Centre
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1.

What Can Faculty Do? *(continued from p. 1)*

work together to solve the problems we face. Can the Board of Governors fix those problems? Not really, but, as they bear the ultimate responsibility for the University's financial health, the Board should consider initiating an immediate, in-depth review of the University's present financial state. The Senate needs to examine what the coming crisis means for our academic programs. How can we safeguard their integrity? As resources shrink, what can McMaster afford and what can we not afford, and, most important, what are the essentials that must be preserved?

We as a University must not sleep-walk our way through the next few months. We need to be prepared. Faculty at all levels should take part in this process.

John Berlinsky

[The opinions expressed above are those of the author and are not necessarily shared by the MUFA Executive. Whether you agree or disagree with these opinions, please write to MUFA to express your views. We will be happy to publish your submissions in future Newsletters.]

This Newsletter is published monthly between September and May by the Faculty Association at McMaster University. The Association's Executive for 2008/09 is composed of the following members:

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Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Association or of its Executive unless so specified. Anyone wishing to contribute to the MUFA Newsletter is invited to send submissions to the Faculty Association Office (HH-103A, e-mail: mufa@mcmaster.ca, ext. 24682). Deadlines are the 15th of each month. All submissions will be published at the discretion of the Editor.

Current and past issues of the MUFA Newsletter are posted on the MUFA website (www.mcmaster.ca/mufa).

➔ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** ◀

MUFA General Meeting
Thursday, December 11, 2008 — 2:00 pm
Council Chambers (Gilmour Hall 111)