



**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

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Editor- Iain MacLean

President's Report

Doris Hasell

Happy New Year to each of you and may 2001 bring you many precious moments!

While enjoying a pleasant January, at least pleasant for Saskatchewan at this time of year, your USRA executive have continued to be active by planning a most promising and comprehensive Alzheimer Symposium (scheduled for April 7th this year); offering further input on matters concerning pension and benefits for members; compiling and mailing the Newsletters; maintaining an office and a presence on the campus (many thanks to all our volunteers); and investigating the possibilities of medical and dental opportunities for members.

Also, we presented a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service held at Saskatchewan Plan on November 11th 2000.

Again, in early December, we experienced a joyful, friendly time at the open house hosted by Peter MacKinnon, the President for the University of Saskatchewan. We had the best attendance yet for this event. It was a great way to start the festive season. We pass on our sincere thanks to Peter MacKinnon for hosting this successful event.

After studying our finances, your executive has agreed to increase membership fees from ten dollars to fifteen dollars per year. This change will become effective as of July 1st, 2001, when our next fiscal year begins. We trust that this change will meet with you approval.

We would appreciate hearing from you. Your comments and ideas are always welcome.

USFA Office Staffing

The Faculty Association office is staffed each weekday afternoon for an hour or two between 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Adjoining the office is a lounge, which members are invited to use whenever they visit the campus, and it is open at all times the building is open. Most volunteers who staff the office do so some particular weekday, every second or third week, while some do it every week. Because a number of these volunteers are away from Saskatoon for extended periods, particularly during the winter, there always is a need for additional volunteers. Those that can serve the Association in this way are asked to leave a message on the office answering machine or to contact Les Coleman (652-9044).

ALZHEIMER SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, April 7th, 2001, 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

Sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association and the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

WHERE: Room 143 Arts Building
U. of S. Campus

WHY: Over 50% of Canadians know someone with Alzheimer Disease

We will provide the information to the general public about the disease and Ways of providing support for individuals, caregivers and families. New Treatments will also be discussed.

AIM: To spread the word to health care professionals so that they can inform people of this symposium.

Registration fee \$5.00. To register call the USRA office 966-6618.

RETIRES' PENSION PLAN

Doug Knott

The good news about the Pension Plan is that there is very little news- the Plan is proceeding normally. To recapitulate, the Academic Pension Plan has been split into its two components, back indexation was paid at the end of November indexation for 2001 was approved and payments began last month.

The Retirees; Pension Plan Committee is now considering the investment mix that will be appropriate for the pension fund. There is agreement that we want the fund to earn the maximum possible but maintain a reasonable degree of safety. The Committee will shortly consider a couple of scenarios proposed by the investment advisor, J.P. Marshall.

The biggest threat to the Retirees' Pension Plan is if the earnings of the fund are not sufficient to pay the current pensions and the capital has to be drawn down. This becomes less of a problem as the years go by and the pension payments decline because of the death of pensioners. Then surpluses will build and pension improvements should be possible. So far the pension fund has been doing reasonably well, particularly considering current market conditions. An actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2000 will be available shortly.

Notice Regarding Newsletter Mailing

In recent years, the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association has been mailing its newsletter to all retired academic and administrative personnel of the University of Saskatchewan, whether or not they are paid up members. Commonly the newsletter has accompanied one from the University President. In such cases mailing costs, but not the newsletter's production costs, have been born by the President's Office. Unfortunately because of financial constraints, the executive of the USRA has decided that, in future, we can only afford to send the USRA Newsletter to paid-up members of the Association. However, we will continue to help the President's Office send the President's Newsletter to those who are not members.

The status of your membership (or nonmembership) is indicated on the mailing label on the envelope in which you receive this newsletter. If there is a number following your name, it indicates the year in which, according to our records, your membership expired or expires (e.g., "2000" indicates that your membership was paid up through June 30, 2000). If there is no number it indicates that, according to our records, your membership has been in arrears for several years or else you have never taken out a membership. **If there is a mistake in our records, please let us know.**

Citations for Prime of Life Achievement Awards

Howard R. Nixon

In 1952, Howard was appointed to the Department of Physical Education and, other than educational and administrative leaves, served this University until his retirement in 1992. His undergraduate education was taken at the University of British Columbia and his advanced studies at Indiana University. He was the third Canadian to receive a doctorate in his field. At our university he was a coach, teacher, researcher, professor, School Director, College Dean and the first Assistant Vice-President of Student Services.

Howard served as an executive member of the Boy Scouts, the United Way, the Parks and Recreation Board, Sask Sport, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation, and the Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Sport Halls of Fame. He also served as an alderman in Saskatoon.

As well, Howard was involved in several national projects, including three Canada Games, the Western Canada Games, two Arctic Games and he directed the establishment of the Provincial Department of Culture and Youth. He shared in ParticipAction and headed up the Umea, Sweden and Otaru, Japan projects and was the Founding Co-Chairman of the federal Katimavik program.

Howard has received recognition from many groups including the Canadian professional Physical Education Association, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, the City of Saskatoon, and five student professional societies. The statue of the "Triumph of Youth" by Bill Epp was placed in Place Riel by the students in his honor when he retired. This year he was named as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Howard and his wife Elva have five daughters and eight grandchildren.

Speakers Bureau

The Office of Communications provides a service to the community in the form of the Speakers Bureau. As many of you were previously registered you will know that the purpose is to offer the University's resources of knowledge and expertise to the public, and to increase University participation in the community at large.

Our office would be pleased to have members of your association included. If you are interested in participating,, a brief questionnaire will be sent out to you for completion to assist in updating our database. Even if you have previously been listed in this database, we would ask that you complete another form to ensure we have the most up-to-date information. For a copy of the questionnaire or if you require further information, please call 966-6607.

Heather Magotiaux, Director
Office of Communications

Editor's Message

Iain MacLean

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this, my first editor's message.

First, I would like to thank Ted Hammer for his service as previous editor.

Second, you will see elsewhere in the Newsletter the need to maintain an active and robust membership in the USRA. I will attempt through the Newsletter to encourage participation in the Association by highlighting the educational and social events being planned by your Executive.

Finally, I encourage members to contribute to the Newsletter through suggestions for its improvement, letters on topical events or articles on current issues.

Your comments will be welcomed.

In Memoriam

Mani Lal Dasgupta, Commerce (Accounting)
Marketa Newman, Library

22 November, 2000
6 November, 2000

We shall remember them.