



**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

211 TRC Building, 44 Campus Drive

Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 5B3

Tel. (306) 966 6618

E-Mail: ss_usra@duke.usask.ca



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Editor- Jim Wood

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all! I am indeed grateful to you for giving me the opportunity and the privilege of serving as President of the USRA for the year 2003-2004. I look forward to this task and I will do my best to maintain the high standards set by former presidents.

We have an effective group of people on our Executive. Many of them continue to serve in key committee positions and they have already initiated plans for an eventful year. These plans, of course, will be successful only with your help and support. We encourage you to submit your suggestions for planning the kinds of activities and/or events which might be of interest to you. We will make every effort to utilize your input in our plans for the year. We will also inform you of planned events well in advance so that you can make the necessary arrangements to attend. Your participation will be vitally important in assisting us to make this a successful year. I look forward to hearing from you and to working with you.

I extend to each one of you my best wishes for good health and much happiness in your retirement.

Sincerely, Joel L. Gajadharsingh

USRA EXECUTIVE 2003-2004

The Executive for 2003-2004 is as follows:

President - Joel Gajadharsingh

Vice-President - Pat Lawson

Secretary - Yvonne Cuttle

Treasurer - Bob Woods

Past President - Norah Carey

Members at Large -

Peter Cribb

Harbans Dhingra

Hans Dommasch

Howard Klein

Doug Knott

Peter Lane

Bob Sanche

Doug Schmeiser

Jim Wood

In addition, the Executive have the continuing support of the former USRA Presidents.

NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION

Some retirees did not receive a copy of the August Newsletter. We apologise for this situation. A significant factor was the decision of the USRA executive to stop sending the Newsletter to those retirees who were more than a year behind in their Association dues. In view of this situation the Executive have decided that the

November issue of the Newsletter will be sent by regular mail to all members of the Association, regardless of their “dues standing”. Subsequent issues will be sent only to those who are paid up to date. **The (July) expiry date of the member is printed on the top right-hand corner of the mailing label on the envelope of the current issue.** In addition the Executive have decided to compile a new, up-to-date list of all members who would prefer to have their copy of the Newsletter sent by e-mail. Therefore, all those retirees wishing to get the Newsletter by e-mail should send their request to the USRA office at the e-mail address provided in the letterhead. Those retirees who have previously requested an e-mail Newsletter must reconfirm this option.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP OPTION

Annual membership dues in the USRA are \$15 , payable on July 1 each year. However, it is now possible to pay for a life membership and thus avoid concern about when your membership expires. Currently, 148 retirees have selected this option.

One-Time Lifetime Membership Fee

<u>Age (on July 1st)</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<60	\$180
60 to 64	\$160
65 to 69	\$140
70 to 74	\$110
75 to 79	\$80
80+	\$50

Payment of fees should be sent to:
 Bob Woods, Treasurer USRA,
 211 TRC Building,
 44 Campus Drive,
 Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 5B3

MEMBERSHIP CARD

The subject of issuing USRA membership cards has been discussed by the Executive. Although some retirees have indicated that they would like to receive a card, there does not seem to be a widespread desire for this to occur. Accordingly, the Executive have decided that those retirees wishing to receive a membership card should so inform the USRA Office and a card will be mailed to them

PENSION FUND

The recession of the last couple of years has had a serious effect on the value of the Pension Fund. The declining value of the fund’s assets, particularly equities, has resulted in the disappearance of most of the fund’s contingency reserve and surplus. The loss could have been worse if the Pension Committee had not made a decision when the Retirees’ Plan was started to be conservative. Investments in equities were reduced and fixed income investments were increased. Nevertheless, it has not been possible to pay a cost-of-living increase for the past two years.

So far in 2003, the value of the Fund has appeared to stabilize, fluctuating between about \$79 million and \$81 million for the last several months. Pension payments are still large, about \$800,000 per month. If the Fund can continue to earn enough to pay the pensions without reducing its capital, the surplus will begin to increase. Hopefully, the Fund will eventually be able to pay cost-of-living increases again.

D. R. Knott,
 (Chairman, Pension/Benefits Committee)

TOUR OF THE SYNCHROTRON

The tour on October 9 was highly successful and much appreciated by the 31 members who attended. The subsequent luncheon at Boffins was enjoyed by 27 of the retirees. Many thanks are due to fellow retiree Dennis Johnson who gave the "Synchrotron Presentation" and answered retirees' questions.

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

The annual Christmas Reception at the residence of Peter McKinnon, President of the University of Saskatchewan, will be held on Tuesday December 9, 2003 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

RSVP for acceptance **ONLY** at 966-6613

CONGRATULATIONS ROLY

Roly Muir, former Administrative Assistant to the President, was recently honoured with the "Friend of Meewasin" Award. Roly was drafted from the President's Office in the 1970's to serve as Secretary/Coordinator for a Policy Committee which was responsible for establishing the Meewasin Valley Authority. Since that time he has continued to serve as Secretary to the Authority.

IN MEMORIAM

Gordon McMurray, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, passed away on August 16, 2003. He was a faculty member for 32 years and served as Head of the Psychology Department.

Robert (Bob) Murray, Dean Emeritus of Medicine, died on October 16, 2003. Appointed as Head of Ophthalmology in 1955, he served as Dean of Medicine from 1973 to 1981. He played a vital role in the establishment of the first medicare program and was appointed Head of the Medical Care Insurance Commission by Premier Thatcher.

William Orban, died on October 18, 2003. He was Dean of Physical Education from 1958 to 1966. He was the author of the 5BX (5 Basic Exercises) Revolutionary Fitness Plan, and at one time played for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Elizabeth Richards, passed away on September 8, 2003. She was among the first female doctors in the Prairies. In 1968 she helped revitalize the U of S Student Health Centre and served as its director for 15 years.

Howard Richards, Professor Emeritus of Geography, died on September 25, 2003. He came to the University in 1960 to establish and head the Department of Geography. He co-edited the first Atlas of Saskatchewan.

The following bulletin has been received from the Campus Community Campaign Office:

CAMPUS COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Ring those phones! That could be the motto of a group of U of S retirees who will soon be making a phone blitz in support of the Campus Community Campaign. Thirteen Saskatoon-based retirees, all under the leadership of Vera Pezer, will be calling as many of their former colleagues as they can.

They will be joined in their effort by a group of current U of S students. They'll be asking all of you to join with your fellow U of S retirees in supporting the Campaign.

The family campaign has had great response from retirees so far. Here's how it looks as of Tuesday October 14:

<u>Retirees</u>		<u>Total for CCG</u>
115	Donors	675
\$121,272	Amount	\$781,141

directed to things like student scholarships and awards, new buildings and restoration, library resources, new equipment and technology, athletics and recreation, to name just a few. We need this investment if we are to grow and thrive as an outstanding Canadian university.

If you have not yet made a donation to the U of S we want you to know that it's not too late to give and that a gift of any size, large or small, will play a vital role in attracting very significant gifts to this University in our upcoming national/international campaign. Even a gift of \$10 can help to leverage millions of dollars.

When President MacKinnon is talking to potential major donors he is often asked about the level of support from the campus community. They want to know that a large number of people from the internal community have demonstrated their commitment to the University's future with some sort of financial contribution. They don't care about the value of the gift; they just want to know that people here are behind this fundraising effort.

Charitable contributions are increasingly important to our University and all Canadian universities. We can no longer depend entirely on government funding, we must actively recruit students, and we are forced to compete in rankings against other institutions. Outside investment in the U of S enriches campus life – and the lives of our students, teachers, researchers, faculty and staff – by providing things we may not otherwise afford. Private donations are often