



**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the USRA Executive I extend to each one of you our best wishes for an exciting year filled with good health and happiness.

Our Executive is in the process of planning a number of social and educational events for the year 2004. You cannot miss our first social event:

WINE AND CHEESE

FACULTY CLUB

6:00 p.m. January 29, 2004

Guest Speaker: Dr. David Kaplan

"Instruments of the World".

COME! JOIN US!

Listen to and/or play a new instrument!!

Tickets- \$10.00 per person

Because the Faculty Club requires specific numbers in order to make the necessary preparations for the evening, we would deeply appreciate your help in purchasing your tickets before January 27, 2004. Tickets may be purchased by phoning the USRA office at 966-6618. Your tickets will then be available at the door on January 29, 2004. Similarly, if you indicated that you were attending and subsequently find that you cannot, please inform the USRA office by January 27. (N.B. the USRA is liable for no-shows).

The following events are in the planning stages. We would like to hear from you regarding any suggestions or advice you might wish to share.

“Laughter” - Wine and Cheese - March
Tour of Kinesiology Building - April
Tour of Synchrotron - Spring
BBQ - Spring
Annual Dinner - September

We are also working on the Prime of Life Achievement Awards and the Pictorial History Display. If you have any nominations and/or any photographs which we may use, please contact Peter Cribb and Faye Kernan respectively, or any member of the Executive.

We need your support to make these events interesting and successful. Please make a note of the dates in your calendar, plan to attend, and bring along a friend. See you all on January 29, 2004.

Joel Gajadharsingh
(USRA President)

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Association’s Constitution a Newsletter Editorial Committee has been formed consisting of Jim Wood (editor), Howard Klein (assistant editor) and Joel Gajadharsingh (USRA president)

USRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Some members are uncertain as to who can and who cannot attend and vote at the USRA Annual General Meeting. The Association’s Constitution states that retirees are considered Ordinary Members and as such can attend the AGM and have voting privileges. Spouses/partners of retirees are considered Associate Members and as such can attend the AGM but do not have voting privileges. In the event of the death of the retiree, the surviving spouse/partner becomes an Ordinary Member with all its privileges.

LAUGHTER

It was Shakespeare who said “Frame your mine to mirth and merriment, which bar a thousand harms and lengthen life”. In an attempt to prolong the lives of USRA members the following item is offered:

Life in the fast lane

An older lady gets pulled over for speeding

Older Woman: Is there a problem, Officer?

Officer: Ma'am, you were speeding.

Older Woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please?

Older Woman: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one?

Older Woman: Lost it, 4 years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please.

Older Woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Older Woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Older Woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Older Woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see.

The Officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up.

Within minutes 5 police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasp his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please! The woman steps out of her vehicle.

Older woman: Is there a problem sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Older Woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the trunk of your car, please. The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Officer 2: Is this your car, ma'am?

Older Woman: Yes, here are the registration papers.

The officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a driving license. The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands it to the officer. The officer examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you ma'am, one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Older Woman: Bet the lying b----- told you I was speeding, too.

USRA AND THE CCRA

You may recall that in a recent Newsletter members were asked for their views and comments on our Association joining the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC). Despite the almost total apathy of members (only one comment was received), the USRA Executive were of the opinion that joining CURAC could provide useful information on matters affecting retirees in general. Accordingly, the required steps were taken and the USRA is now a fully-fledged member of CURAC. For your information, the CURAC web site is www.curac.ca . Its next meeting is to be held in Winnipeg 26-28 May, 2004.

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

We sincerely thank President Peter MacKinnon for his generosity in again opening his home for the Christmas Reception. It was enjoyed greatly by all who attended the event.

INFORMAL COFFEE SESSIONS

The suggestion has been made that some retirees might like to get together on an informal basis for coffee in a restaurant or a retiree's home (or how about a pub!). Any enthusiasm or suggestions for such an event?.

VICTORIA AND VICINITY MEMBERS

An earlier survey published in the January 2003 issue of the Newsletter indicated that, next to Saskatoon, the Victoria area had the greatest number of USRA members. Fifteen members resided in Victoria and another thirteen in other locations throughout Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. This raises the possibility of organizing a get-together or some other event or activity for these members. Any member interested in such an occurrence should contact the USRA office, and if there is sufficient interest, we shall try to facilitate the necessary organization

RETIREES HONOURED

Thelma Howard was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal at a ceremony held recently in Saskatoon in recognition of her work with the Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO).

The Queen's Jubilee Medal is awarded to Canadians who over the past 50 years, have helped shape Canada through outstanding and exemplary achievement or service to Canada or their community.

Roger Carter was the first winner of the Willy Hodgson Award created by the Law Society of Saskatchewan. He was honoured for helping pave the way for aboriginal law students. As Dean of Law Carter was responsible for establishing the Native Law Centre. It was the first program of its kind in Canada. Willy Hodgson was a Cree elder who was a member of the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission and of the Moose Jaw Police Commission, and who was appointed to the Law Society of Saskatchewan as a lay bencher.

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

You may recall that in the November Newsletter those retirees wishing to get the Newsletter by e-mail were asked to so inform the USRA office. So far, only a few members have chosen this option. In view of the ever increasing cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter, retirees are encouraged to receive their copy by e-mail wherever possible. Requests for the e-mail version should be sent to the USRA office at the e-mail address provided in the letterhead.

IN MEMORIAM

Dan McFadden, died on November 15, 2003. He was Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Saskatchewan and Chief of Surgery at St. Paul's Hospital.

Stephen Pastershank, passed away on November 25, 2003. A graduate of the U of S College of Medicine, he returned after postgraduate training at McGill to take up a faculty appointment in the Department of Radiology.

Jim Pepper, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, died on November 27, 2003. He was a member of the Department for thirty eight years and served as Department Head for several years.