

USRA News



Number: 56

University of Saskatchewan

April, 2004

USRA EXECUTIVE 2003-2004

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*Reserve your evening at the Faculty Club, May 27th
for a musical time with maestro David Kaplan*



HE WILL BE BRINGING TO THE FACULTY CLUB SOME OF THE
UNIQUE INSTRUMENTS IN HIS COLLECTION TO TALK ABOUT
THEM, TO PLAY THEM AND TO LET YOU TRY THEM.
WHAT MORE ENTERTAINING WAY TO SPEND AN EVENING AT A
USRA GET-TOGETHER?

When - May 27th, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

Where - The Faculty Club, University of Sask.

Tickets - \$10.00 per person.

Phone 966-6618 before May 24, 2004 for your reservations

Expect Phone Calls Inviting You to Attend the Musical Evening and Barbecue at the Faculty Club

Phoners will be in touch with local members some time, early to mid-May. They will ask you if you plan to attend the Kaplan evening, the Barbeque and kinesiology visit. They will, of course, remind you to put on your calendar the Annual Meeting in September. If you intend coming to the events, please tell the phoner. Nevertheless, phone the USRA office to make a reservation

If you do not enjoy having us call your number, please write a letter or an e-mail to berate us. Spell out your reasons in 100 words or more explaining why we should discontinue our contacts.

Actually, phoners have found a most receptive group of people on the other end of the line. Many encourage phoners to call back. So, expect us.

The weather should be great and parking might be readily available in May and June. Of course, you can always come green - by bike or foot.

PRESIDENT'S CHATTER BOX

Eleanor Charman, in her presentation of "The Laughter Remedy" evening, on April 7, 2004, offered a rollicking time to her appreciative audience.

Many members also joined in entertaining us and they delivered jokes with such great aplomb, that the audience howled with laughter. A special thank you to those who volunteered to make us laugh, and to all who joined us for the evening of laughter and humour.

PSST!!!!

Did you know that the word "STRESSED" spelled backwards is "DESSERTS"? Well, on May 27, 2004, at 7:30 p.m., at the Faculty Club, we will not tempt you with desserts to reduce your stress (no promises about your weight), but we will take you on a memorable musical trip with Dr. David Kaplan as he presents, "The Musical Instruments of the

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World".

Some people believe that life without music would be like a burdensome trek through a bleak, barren land. Some voice their innermost feelings about music in the following ways:

... Without music, life would be an error. (Fredrich Nietzsche)

... I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. (Bily Joel)

...Just as certain selections of music will nourish your physical body and your emotional layer, so other works will bring greater health to your mind. (Hal A. Lingerman)

... Music washes away from the soul, the dust of everyday life. (Red Auerbach)

... Music, the greatest good that mortals know,
And all of heaven we have below. (Joseph Addison)

READ ON MY FRIENDS!

WHAT - "Musical Instruments of the World"
by Dr. David Kaplan.

WHEN - May 27, 2004, at 7:30 p. m.

WHERE - Faculty Club, U of S

TICKETS - \$10.00 per person

JUNE - UPCOMING EVENTS!!!!

1. Tour of Kinesiology Building - June 7, 2004, at 3:45 p.m.

and

2. Annual Spring BBQ - June 7, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. at the Faculty Club, U of S.

Tickets - \$15.00 per person.

Please phone 966-6618 before June 5, 2004, for your resevations for one or both events.

AUGUST - ONE EVENT PLANNED!!!

Help us choose **ONE** of the following:

1. Synchrotron Tour - Parking could pose a problem and seating accommodations may be limited. On the bright side, an After-Tour Lunch at Boffins can be arranged.

2. "The Barber of Seville" (opera)

3. Shakespaere on the Saskatchewan - "Much Ado About Nothing" (comedy).

Please phone the USRA Office at 966-6618 to indicate your interest and/or your choice before June 30, 2004.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - September 20, 2004, at 4:30 p.m., Faculty Club.

We believe that the success of our Association depends entirely on your interest and your involvement. We urge you to join us and to participate in as many events as possible.

LAUGHTER

I was irrevocably betrothed to laughter, the sound of which has always seemed to me the most civilized music in the world. Peter Ustinov

One Sunday, a Welsh minister was preaching about recognising the call of God when it came. He recalled a recent religious experience.

'In the middle of the night,' he said, 'I heard a voice call out "Dai Evans".'

I did not reply. Again the voice called out "Dai Evans". I ignored the voice and attempted to go back to sleep.

Then, a third time, the voice called to me, 'Reverend Daffyd Evans, Minister of Capel Zion, graduate of the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth, with honours in the third class.'

And I replied, "Lord, thy humble servant waits to do thy bidding."

from Peter Walmsley

"How was your golf game, dear?" asked Jack's wife Tracy. "Well, I was hitting pretty well, but my eyesight's gotten so bad, I couldn't see where the ball went."

"You're seventy-five years old, Jack!" admonished his wife.

"Why don't you take my brother Scott along?"

"But he's eighty-five and doesn't even play golf anymore," protested Jack.

"Yes, but he's got perfect eyesight and can watch your ball for you," Tracy pointed out.

The next day Jack teed off with Scott looking on. Jack swung and the ball disappeared down the middle of the fairway. "Did you see where it went?" asked Jack.

"Yup," Scott answered.

"Well, where is it?" yelled Jack, peering off into the distance.

"I forgot."

There was a boy in kindergarten who played the viola. One day, he came home and said, "Mommy, today we practiced counting! I got all the way up to 10, but most of the kids messed up around 6 or 7!!!"

His mom said, "Good, that's because you're a violist."

The next day he came home and said, "Mommy, today we practiced the alphabet! I got all the way to the end, but most of the kids got messed up around "s" or "t"!"

His mom said, "Good, that's because you're a violist."

The next day, he came home and said "Mommy, guess what, they measured us today and I'm the tallest person in the whole class!!! Is that because I'm a violist, too?"

His mom said, "No, dear, that's because you're 25 years old."

*Peter W. sent us jokes. You can too:
klein@duke.usask.ca*

Eleanor Charman Stars in Laughter Remedy

Almost immediately into her telling of how to make laughter a remedy to improve health, she explained that you are who you are as soon as you get up in the morning and began to sing, "Oh what a beautiful morning." That set the tone and direction of her presentation to over 40 USRA members.



Eleanor did a solo performance because Mickey Maclellan, part of an advertised duo, could not be present. Ever the show-person, Eleanor Charman very quickly induced audience participation by, periodically, inviting members to read jokes placed on their tables. The jokes produced the contagious laughter she sought. Interspersed were 'funny shop' devices that travelled from table to table as she talked.

For almost two hours, she mixed anecdotes, clowning and sound advice. She declared that everyone can recall funny

moments with the intention of sharing them. Therefore, we must be constantly on the lookout for humour in situations to talk about. Like everything else we do, it requires training ourselves to seek, observe, record and rehearse what we saw to tell later.

She interspersed many of her own jokes and anecdotes during the evening, and distinguished joke collections designed to cause laughter with true stories. The joke structure should be a basis for developing anecdotes about oneself or others. Such anecdotes help people to laugh at oneself.

She criticized the medical profession for not being in touch with the value of humour and used the white walls in her doctor's office to make her point. She has campaigned to have him hang and continually change cartoons and other funny materials to 'lighten up' the mood of his waiting room.

She conceded *Time* and *Macleans* have a place in medical offices, but, also, do joke and cartoon books which are likely to produce smiles or laughter and reduce, however momentarily, the anxiety accompanying visits to medical offices.

She admitted, however, that her personal crusade to bring about changes in her own doctor's office, has, thus far, been long and unsuccessful. Nonetheless, she believes her persistence is producing an attitude change.

When dropping by a homebound or hospitalized patient, she delivers only very funny cards. A funny outrageous card is always shared and put on display to be enjoyed by all who may come by, thus extending a moment of levity many times over. Eleanor admitted to willingly mock, in a good feeling way, a significant occasion, such as an 80th birthday or 30th anniversary, because it is beneficial to one's health to bring about laughter.

The evening with Eleanor Charman did just that.

POINT OF VIEW

by Peter Walmsley

I have an idea that might be considered as a continuing feature for your Newsletter. It seems to me that among the USRA membership there is likely to be a vast reservoir of anecdotal material that would be worth putting on the record in a rather informal way through the medium of your Newsletter. I have in mind people putting together little stories about their experiences as members of the University of Saskatchewan community. I'm sure many of our colleagues and associates were personally involved in some important and interesting events that have occurred over the last few decades. Many such events would have given rise to official accounts, reports and press coverage. What I have in mind might be viewed as a more personal, off hand sidebar to such published material, providing a somewhat more intimate human touch.

When I was active on the campus, I remember being fascinated by such stories as told by many colleagues about accomplishments of themselves and others in the sciences and in other faculties.

Also there will be recalled experiences that arose out of the day to day happenings of university life that would merit being put into print for a broader audience. I'm thinking of the stories that we tell each other whenever we get together with a friend or a

group of friends that we haven't seen for some time. It could be a way of remembering with affection and paying a particular kind of respect to someone who touched our lives in a special way. Or such contributions might be rather ordinary and commonplace, some might be humorous, but it is such incidents that give texture and colour to our remembrance of what our time spent at the university was all about.

The idea of passing on such anecdotes came to mind as I reflected on some of my casual conversations with Leon Katz when I read of his passing. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with him on a number of occasions. We were on some committees together. I was always fascinated by the stories he told of his various exploits especially about the early days of the linear accelerator and all that was involved in getting it to the University of Saskatchewan.



Phone 966-6618 to
reserve your place
on
a Kinesiology
Building tour June
7, 2004, at 3:45 p.m.

PRIME OF LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The University of Saskatchewan and its Colleges often recognise and reward current employees for outstanding accomplishments and contributions, particularly in the areas of scholarly, artistic or community service.

Many former faculty and staff continue to make considerable contributions in their chosen fields of expertise and to society in general, after their retirement, and, yet, there was no formal way for the university community to acclaim their meritorious efforts.

Consequently, the Retirees Association inaugurated a program to honour and show appreciation to former faculty and staff who, after retirement, have been noted for outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contributions. Such contributions often will have been recognised by international, national or local bodies, e.g., Order of Canada, Saskatchewan Order of Merit, honorary lifetime recognition from international, national or provincial professional societies or associations, honorary degrees, national artistic commissions, etc..

The first awards were given in 1987. Awards are normally presented at the USRA's Annual General Meeting. Please note that many members of the Association now live outside Saskatchewan and we often do not hear of their achievements.

If you know of a retired faculty or staff member who you believe deserves a Prime of Life Achievement Award, having been recognized by others as having made an outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contribution, we urge you to nominate that individual. Please provide a brief summary of her/his accomplishments since retirement. Subsequently, more information about the person may be sought.

Please send all nominations to Dr. Peter H. Cribb, Chair, Prime of Life Achievement Awards Committee, USRA, Room 211, Toxicology Building, 44 Campus Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 5B3.

Join your friends at the Barbecue

When: June 7th at 5:30 PM

Where: Faculty Club

Cost: 15.00

IN MEMORIAM

William Reed (1929-2004)

Bill died Tuesday, March 16, in Victoria. He retired from Agriculture Biology Engineering in 1994.

Retirees' Pension Plan

D. R. Knott

The Retirees' Pension Fund earned 8.4% in 2003. This appears to be a rather poor return compared, for example, with the performance of Canadian equities. However, several things must be kept in mind. The fund is invested very conservatively with substantial holdings in fixed income investments (the benchmark is 55%). Bonds performed relatively poorly in 2003, earning only 6.5%. In addition, although U. S. equities performed well in U. S. dollars, the rapid increase in the value of the Canadian dollar resulted in our portfolio earning only 0.1%.

During the year, the value of the Fund declined from \$83,639,000 to \$79,735,000, a decrease of \$3,905,000. Payments to pensioners during the year were \$10,158,000. For the first two months of 2004, the earnings of the fund have been approximately equal to payments to pensioners so the value of the Fund is relatively unchanged.

The actuarial analysis of the Fund Shows that on a going-concern basis the actuarial surplus increased by \$395,000 to \$4,336,000. Unfortunately, this is not yet large enough to permit the payment of cost-of-living increases.

Peter Walmsley (page One) Is This the Kind of Material You Would Like to Have Appear in the USRA News?

John Courtney (Political Science), who is retiring this year, was interviewed by Colleen MacPherson (Campus News 06-04-04:1) about his collection of student excuses. He advertises his interest by taping 'excuse' cartoons outside his office.

John identifies the day papers are due as the prime time for excuse making. A prominent excuse for handing in a late paper has been a death in the family. One year, he recalled, there were so many uncles' deaths that he wondered if that group of males were to become an endangered species in Saskatchewan.

He also told about four Yale roommates who were barred from the exam room by their prof when they showed up 45 minutes late. They explained that they had a flat tire en-route to school. Hearing this, the prof allowed them to write the exam one week later. All showed up on time. Each was handed an exam paper on which was printed a single question - which tire on the car was flat?