

# USRA News



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Summer, 2004

## USRA EXECUTIVE 2003-2004

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## PRESIDENT'S CHATTER BOX

Almost one year ago, you elected me president of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association, and, now, my term of office is quickly coming to an end. This has been a wonderful experience for me, and I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to assist in carrying on the work of the association.

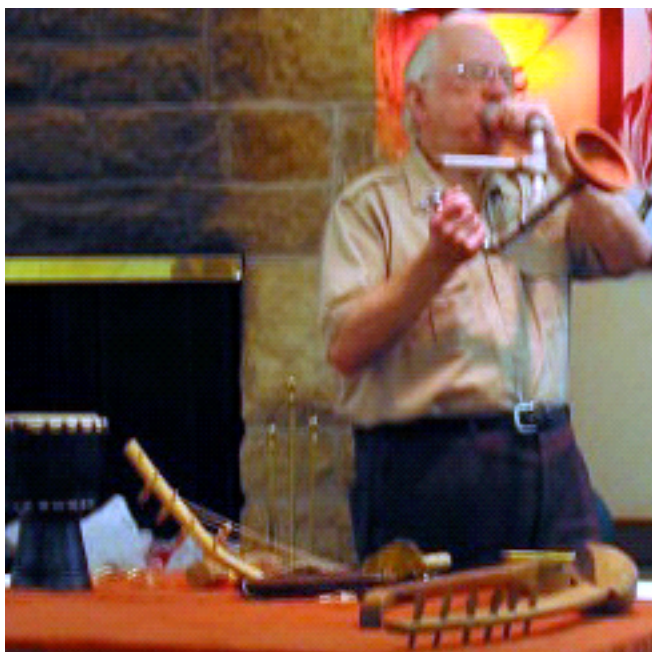
During the past year, I had the privilege of working with a co-operative, dependable executive, and, together, we were able to keep our financial status in the black. In order to maintain this status, we have initiated a search for some professional assistance in developing a financial strategy for the future. We sponsored two social evenings ("Laughter - The Best Medicine", and "Musical Instruments of the World"), a tour of the Kinesiology Building, and our Annual Spring Barbecue. We are now in the process of finalizing the menu for the Annual Dinner, which will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, on September 20, 2004, at the Faculty Club. In addition, our Newsletter has been formatted differently and

Chatterbox continued on page two.

## Kaplan's Music Instrument Collection Tells A Story about Humans the World Over

Why did USRA members and guests have a great time hearing Dr. David Kaplan tell about his musical instrument collection? Carting ten percent of his instrument collection to the Faculty Club, he presented his viewpoints. The maestro-collector guided the audience to appreciate, through his collected instruments, how similar and yet distinct are humans the world over.

David demonstrated that he is an entertaining teacher whose knowledge brings world music to life. He knows music and possesses a unique interest in collecting instruments, while possessing the skills to demonstrate them. Extensive travel allowed him to view, hear, buy, or be given instruments that form his personal



collection numbering over 350 items.

With rare exception, when he picked up an instrument, he played it so that the audience saw how it was done and heard the sounds it made. He reiterated throughout the evening that his instruments reveal the universality of humans across the globe. He described how environments define cultures and a people's music - particularly the instruments invented and played in performances of that music.

He dwelt on how isolated humans in the far east, millenia ago, invented instruments not unlike those found in South America, Africa, and Europe. Around the globe, essential similarities prevail. Specifically, one universal ancient type of wind instrument, whether European, African, South American or Asian, had three finger holes on one side and three on the other.

At the end of the session, each audience member was invited to try out an instrument, many of which were handmade by Saskatoon school children, and the hall resounded with music that, at best, could be described as fun for us.

Thanks to David for sharing stories about his collection at this truly special, enjoyable USRA event.

Chatterbox continued from page one.

from the feedback we have received, the change in content has provided more collegial information, as well as some much needed levity. We have also continued to work closely with the President's Office, and the President has confirmed that we will be assisted financially in defraying the cost of distributing our Newsletter.

Our general membership has not changed significantly over the past year. However, we may experience a slight decrease in the near future simply because fewer faculty members will be at, or near, the age of retirement. Consequently, the income from membership fees will decrease. In order to continue to have a viable association, we need your participation in our organized events. We encourage you to join us in these activities. With your help and your support, we will continue to have an active association.

Thank you again for giving me the privilege of working with all of you. My best wishes to each one of you for good health and happiness in the coming years.

*We'll be in the Faculty Club to register you for the annual 2004-05 Banquet, September 20, 2004. Please mark your calendars to make an appointment to be with us. Do attend the Annual General Meeting at 4:30*



Cocktails - 5:30

Dinner - 6:00

Buffet Gourmet Dinner - \$25.00 per person

PLEASE RESERVE  
PHONE: 306-966-6618  
E-MAIL: ss\_usra@duke.usask.ca

**Note: If you make a reservation, but cannot attend the dinner, you must cancel by Sept 15th.**

## LAUGHTER

*There is a similarity in the making of salads and jokes. They are more likely to suit our own tastes than the tastes of others.*

The Saskatoon Phenix, October 17, 1902 (Vol 1 - No. 1)

After living in the remote wilderness of Kentucky all his life, an old hillbilly decided it was time to visit the big city.

In one of the stores he picked up a mirror and looked in it. Not knowing what it was, he remarked, "How about that! Here's a picture of my daddy."

He bought the "picture," but on the way home he remembered his wife, Lizzy, didn't like his father. So he hung it in the barn, and every morning before leaving for the fields, he would go there and look at it.

Lizzy began to get suspicious of these many trips to the barn. One day after her husband left, she searched the barn and found the mirror. As she looked into the glass, she fumed, "So that's the ugly hussy he's runnin' around with!"

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws. "You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fella.

Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles, she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful!"

The boy looked up, "Really?"

"Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

Three sisters, aged 92, 94 and 96, live in a house together. One night the 96-year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I gettin' in or out of the bath?"

The 94-year old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs, pauses and says, "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92-year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea and listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." She knocks on wood for good measure, then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

Bob How is your history paper going?

Sally Well, my history professor suggested I use the internet for research, and it has been very helpful in getting it done.

Bob Really?

Sally Yes indeed, I've already located 17 people who sell them.

**NO JOKE: IF YOU RESERVE A BANQUET TICKET AND YOU DO NOT SHOW UP, THE USRA MUST PAY YOUR TAB!**

## Reminiscence St at the corner of Walmsley Rd

Guy Richards wrote, *As a response to Peter Walmsley's suggestion in the USRA News. I submit this incident in my friendship with Jack Pringle, long time member of the U of S administration...*

### Pringles and Richards

Saskatchewan has been kind to the Richards family, and the kindness began with a friendship. Greeting me and acquainting me with the ways of the University may have been part of Jack Pringle's duty in August 1948, when Liz, John (aged 4) and I first arrived from Cambridge, England. Jack Pringle then, I think, Assistant Treasurer of the University, was a patient and generous guide. Perhaps it stemmed from some shared wartime experience or perhaps it was because we were both enjoying the challenge of a new house and the ambition of persuading an unpromising piece of dry prairie mud to look like an English flower-garden. Whatever the cause we soon were friends. I asked Jack once when did he think we would be able to call our horticultural effort a success. After a thoughtful minute he said, "When you can stand with the hose in one hand a bottle of beer in the other and not feel guilty."

Jack and Marion were both sympathetic guides to life in Saskatoon, since they themselves had recently experienced England. They did their best to make us feel at home. One of these ways, I told Jack, was overdoing the hospitality. The Pringles had got used to the seldom warm British interiors. They seemed to like keeping their Main Street house sitting room at a cool 65° F. We had already got to like Canadian warmth at 70° F.

Liz must have become pregnant within a week of our arriving in Saskatoon. By the end of May 1949, she was full term and delivered of our second son (in St Paul's) by section. Liz's hospitalization coverage became valid 3 days before her admission, but she needed 2 units of blood. At that time you still had to find and pay your donor. Fortunately, all three of us were of the same common blood group. Liz and I, I knew to be group A rh+. So I could provide one bottle. Jack was the only person I knew well enough to approach. Wonderfully he was of the same group and was willing to give a litre of his blood to Liz. There can scarcely be a greater test of friendship.

When two years later I impulsively and needlessly resigned my university job and took my family back to England, Jack said 'My blood will bring you back.' He was right. Many acts of kindness by the Pringles, and our other friends, helped us get back on our feet after my irresponsible crisscrossing of the Atlantic. After sampling some different types of medical employment, in 1956, Liz and I set up our own general practice with an office in our house on Elliott Street, just two blocks from the campus.

The great fight in 1962 over the CCF provincial government's medicare plan found the Pringles and the Richards on opposite sides. We were for it. Few people outside the province realized

what a deep division this was. The Pringles were against medicare. This then, is not the story about medical politics; rather it is about trying to avoid medical politics. Sometime in May 1962 Marion and Liz must have arranged that we would stay a week with them in July at Wakaw Lake. And so on the second week-end in July we put this delightful plan into action. The Pringles were excellent hosts. Jack took us riding in his power-boat on the lake, and later I launched my recently home-built sailing dinghy (Dr. Bob Burt, Dave Mallow, a seed inspector, and I built 3 boats in Bob's basement), but I must confess I was not really enjoying this week-end.

In the Sunday afternoon a neighbour dropped in and told us harrowing stories about all the dreadful conflicts going on all over the province as a result of the 'doctors' strike' - doctors refusing to treat sick colleagues of opposite political faith, hospitals shutting out their own doctor, and other horrors. Jack realized some diplomatic action was called for. Drawing himself up to his full and considerable height, in a firm intimidating voice he said, "Guy and I have made an agreement that, for the duration of the conflict, we will not discuss, nor mention anything associated with it, in this house."

First time I was aware of any such agreement, but I was grateful to Jack because his little speech revealed to me why I had been unhappy. The unspoken 'agreement, we had both made separately, was denying ourselves the right to discuss the topic which dominated our thoughts, and the minds of everyone in Saskatchewan during that July 1962.

I returned happily to my sail-boat and enjoyed the remainder of the day. A cheerful group of informally clad members of the university administration arrived about supper time. I remember Norman Cram was among them and I was glad to see him. In fact, I was glad to see them all. I think the whole administration of the university must have been there demanding that I bring my boat closer to shore and give them a ride.

Some not quite planned movement of the boom tipped one large male administrator into the water, so a good time was had by all. It was a warm evening so the wet administrator soon dried. It may have been Jack himself.

#### NOTICE

Pursuant to Constitution requirements, the Executive presents USRA officer nominees for 2004 -2005:

President - Pat Lawson  
Vice-President - Peter Cribb  
Secretary - TBA  
Treasurer - Yvonne Cuttle



## An Amazing Building

The Kinesiology building visit was an oversubscribed successful event genially lead by the facilities manager, Roger Moskaluke .

Amazing is how part of the old building has seamlessly been incorporated into the new.

Walking through the building's main entrance, one stands

before the busy rock climbing wall. A turn left and one is in the midst of what appears to be an acre of exercise machines. The low chlorine pool may not be olympic size, but it would be a continuously challenging swim.

Upstairs are three connected gyms surrounded by a balcony



### WINNIPEG, MAY 26 & 27, 2004 CURAC ANNUAL MEETING by Pat Lawson

I was pleased to represent the USRA at the conference of the College and University Retiree Association of Canada. This was the second annual conference following the founding meeting held in 2003 in Halifax.

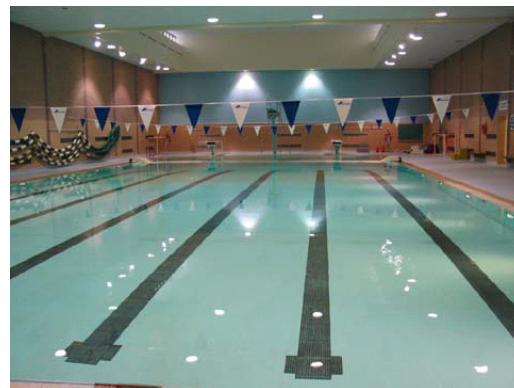
The Association has 28 paid-up institutions including the U of S. A major goal of CURAC is to encourage more of the 93 Canadian Colleges and Universities to become members. With increased numbers the organization would gain a stronger voice with university administrations and in concert with other organizations who are helping to define the role of seniors in our society.

As the coordinating body for Canadian Retiree Associations, CURAC was established to help its member organizations serve the interests of their members. These interests might include concerns with pensions and benefits; ongoing participation in teaching and research; enhancing opportunities for personal development in retirement; and continuing the contributions of retirees to the University and to the Faculty Association. For example, some Faculty Associations have retiree representation on their committees for the expertise they can provide in determining the benefits for retirement.

Most of the presentations at the conference will be available at the website-www.curac.ca. This service is provided by the very able secretary of CURAC, Ken Rae, who retired from the University of Toronto. Ken was a U of S student and then a faculty member for 10 years - at the time of his mentor,

track. Press a button and machines move the hidden grandstands to the perimeter of the centre gym to seat several thousand.

Of course, being a university building there are all kinds of offices, research facilities, spacious grad carrels, as well as a host of wired classrooms.



How fortunate are today's students who study in a modern building that was designed to fit seamlessly the architectural integrity of the campus plan. To service the facility for the U of S campus family and other users, the current payroll, for student help, is two million dollars.

If you received the print edition, the pictures do little justice to the photos. Try the electronic one. E-mail a request to klein@duke.usask.ca and we'll send you a copy of this edition. Then, let us know your preference - electronic or ground; even both.

Mabel Timlin.

The theme of the conference was "Building Relationships". The sessions examined: Relationships with Government Agencies; Relationships with Non-Profit Seniors Organizations; and Retirees Working Relationships With the Universities. There were two additional topics which received attention. The first was an update about the CURAC insurance initiative. One study was presented showing the variety of benefits among the Universities of Ontario. Another preliminary survey compared institutions across Canada. Information will continue to be sought and circulated about the potential of developing a health insurance plan for retirees. As with other interests of the association, this initiative probably has more potential benefit for future retirees than for us.

The second topic presented by a lawyer was about the new privacy act known as PIPEDA . His firm specializes in interpreting the law - in this case to non-profit organizations - which governs the way that organizations in Canada "collect, use and disclose personal information" about individuals. I am sure we will be hearing more about this. On a social note, the dinner speaker was Lloyd Axworthy, President of the University of Manitoba.

The USRA Newsletter will be periodically carrying information about CURAC. I would be happy to talk to anyone with questions or comments.

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