

USRA EXECUTIVE 2005-2006

President - Peter Cribb
Vice-President - Bob Woods
Secretary - Yvonne Cuttle
Treasurer - Ken Smith
Past President - Pat Lawson
Members at Large

Norah Carey
Les Coleman
Harbans Dhingra
Joel Gadharsingh
Doris Hasell
Faye Kernan
Howard Klein (Editor)
Doug Knott
Bob Sanche
Duff Spafford

telephone number: 306-966-6618

e-mail: ss_usra@duke.usask.ca

postal mail USRA, Toxicology Research
Centre, 44 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK
S7N 5B3

web site: http://duke.usask.ca/~ss_usra/

President's Report

As a spectator, I attended the official opening, on September 6, of the renovated College Building. The ceremony created a need to view the building twice and marvel at its restoration (For more information, go to [www.usask.ca/collegebuilding/brochure.html]). To the right of the main entrance is a room set aside for retirees. Check it out. Guides told us the Convocation Hall's acoustics remain excellent. It is the Amati Quartet's home.

The AGM was held on September 12 where it was confirmed that we had to give up our lounge to accommodate newly hired campus researchers as a result of a large input of research financing. Ultimately, we may have to move because the office is in a growing research area.

Please Help. If anyone has information about a missing USRA pictorial history volume, please contact the Association.

The Annual banquet was very successful.

President's Report continued on page two

POINT OF VIEW FROM THE EDITOR

The four page USRA News reaches members, either by ground mail or electronically from one end of Canada to the other, into the USA and as far away as Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. In addition, electronic USRA News reminders of meetings or events are sent mainly to local members.

The News, it must be agreed, is the only contact between the association and its total membership. It is included in members' dues. Must the decision to publish be prompted by the announcement of a USRA event? For a variety of reasons, most members cannot or do not attend meetings, however enticing, but the News can bring us together, whether something is scheduled or not. That said, what has been missing from its columns and report to you is YOU!

NEEDED are the shared thoughts of members stimulating a flow and exchange of ideas or concerns related to retirement and other matters or issues, not excluding politics, economics or religion. Surely some of you have photos you could show. Is there not any of you drawing or painting, bringing back a youthful interest, or developing one as did Grandma Moses? Display your art in the USRA News. How many holes in one have you gotten? Brag! We'd like to hear. Send the News your funny jokes and remove the job from the editor.

Tell us how you are spending your retirement in ways that are very different from your academic work era. If you had your life to live over, being able to look back now, what might you do differently and how might that be related to what is going on since leaving the U of S? Have you totally abandoned your career interests and, if so, what has replaced them? Do you miss the university? What is it you miss most?

The News can't be like the internet, but we can try to emulate it by giving you your say. Can we depend on you?

howard klein (klein@duke.usask.ca) write me.....

*President Peter MacKinnon Invites
you to the:*

*University of Saskatchewan Retirees
Come & Go Christmas Reception*

**Monday, December 5, 2005
101 President's Place
Between 1:30 and 4:00 p.m.**

If you plan to attend, please call Doreen at

966-6612 or

e-mail her at doreen.stumborg@usask.ca

Know a new retiree? Urge him or her to join you at the AGM and Banquet September 12th.

President's Report continued from page one

Several attendees described the dinner as probably the best in recent memory. The Faculty Club chef and staff are to be congratulated. The invited speaker was Heather Magotiaux, Vice President, University Advancement, who recently joined the administration. She provided an intriguing tightly woven overview of where the university is heading. This year's Prime of Life award citations were made to Dr. D.L. Kaplan and Dr. P.N. Nikiforuk. (See more, page 4) They epitomize the type of retired faculty that the award is intended to honour.

On November 11th, I attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Credit Union Centre and laid a wreath on behalf of the USRA. This was the largest indoor Remembrance Day Service in Canada, with over 7,000 people in attendance. The service included the participation of religious groups. The marching skills and precision of all the various units, from the oldest veteran to the youngest Boy Scout, were outstanding.

Later that day, I participated in a service at the University Gate, conducted by University of Saskatchewan personnel. The service was re-instated this year by President MacKinnon. Sadly, it drew a small crowd of university and non-university participants. There, I also laid a wreath in behalf of the Association.

I represented the USRA at a reception for the new Vice President of Finances and Resources, Dr. Richard Florizone, who has returned to Saskatchewan.

Richard is a U of S graduate in Engineering and Physics. He holds a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. When he received his Bachelor's degree, he was awarded the President's Medal as the most distinguished graduate. He conducted his Master studies under then Physics Professor Dennis Skopik, who was one of the early proponents of the Canadian Light Source.

He brings much experience to his position to run its diverse portfolio of Finance and Resources. He was a Director of Strategy for Bombardier Aerospace, Consultant and Project Leader for The Boston Consulting Group, and Senior Corporate Liaison Officer and, as well, Fundraising Consultant for Cambridge University. Also, he developed and implemented business strategies for major corporations in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

The Retirees Pension Fund appears to be in good order. Earlier this year we held a very successful digital photography seminar from which, I am assured, the promised CD's are nearly ready. I look forward to suggestions for future seminar topics, problems that the executive should be tackling, and all matters - major or minor - of importance to you that should be addressed.

If you have questions in need of answering or want to be on the Executive, send me an e-mail:
peter.cribb@sasktel.net

LAUGHTER - *The public will pay more for laughing than for any other privilege.* Bob Edwards

As a new bride, Aunt Edna moved into the small home on her husband's ranch in Wyoming. She put a shoebox on a shelf in her closet and asked her husband never to touch it.

For fifty years, Uncle Jack left the box alone, until Aunt Edna was old and dying. One day, when he was putting their affairs in order, he found the box again and thought it might hold something important. Opening it, he found two doilies and \$82,500 in cash. He took the box to her and asked about the contents.

"My mother gave me that box the day we married," she explained. "She told me to make a doily to help ease my frustrations every time I got mad at you."

Uncle Jack was very touched that in 50 years she'd only been mad at him twice. "What's the \$82,500 for?" he asked.

"Oh, that's the money I made selling the doilies."

A man traveling down a country road was forced to stop before a giant puddle covering the entire road. Looking to the side of the road, the man noticed a farmer leaning on a fence.

"Think it's safe to cross?" the man asked.

"I reckon so," replied the farmer.

The car was immediately swallowed by the puddle as the man drove in. In fact, it was so deep that he had to roll his window down to swim out of his car back to the surface. As his head broke the surface the man said to the farmer, "I thought you said I could safely drive through this puddle!"

"Well, shoot!" said the farmer, scratching his head. "It only come up chest-high on my ducks!"

While waiting for my first appointment in the reception room of a new dentist, I noticed his certificate, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered that a tall, handsome boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 30 years ago. Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought.

This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate. After he had examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended the local high school.

"Yes," he replied!

"When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered, "In 1971. Why?"

"You were in my class!" I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely and then the jerk asked, "What did you teach?"

Annual Membership dues \$15, so think One-Time Lifetime

Age on July 1	
(less than) 60	\$180
60 to 64	\$160
65 to 69	\$140
70 to 74	\$110
75 to 79	\$ 80

IS CAUT'S FOLLOWME MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR YOU?

In the August issue of the USRA Newsletter, we reported that CURAC has recently distributed to all member organizations, such as the USRA, an information kit concerning the recently announced new health plan CAUT (Canadian Association of University Teachers) has negotiated with Manulife.

This plan is called FollowMe. It was designed for persons at institutions that terminate health benefits for some or all of their employees at the time of retirement. It will be available to faculty and staff at the time of retirement, as well as to faculty and staff who are already retired. What makes FollowMe particularly attractive is that it is being offered to those members who are already retired, and who may not have had coverage for some time – without a medical examination, during a 60 day application window this fall. While FollowMe is a CAUT plan, not a CURAC/ARUCC plan, CURAC/ARUCC encouraged CAUT to develop such a plan for university and college retirees, including staff retirees.

Duff Spafford, Dean Botham and Doug Knott analyzed merits of the plan for us by comparing its costs to Blue Cross for two specific age groups. What follows are their findings. Each person who might consider joining or rejecting the program should gather as much information as possible in the short time remaining. Remember the deadline for joining the CAUT plan is November 30, 2005 for which no physical examination is required.

CAUT (the Canadian Association of University Teachers) has recently negotiated a medical insurance plan with Manulife Financial. The Plan is called FollowMe. To be eligible for the plan, a retiree must take out an associate membership in CAUT at a cost of \$25. A key feature of the Plan is that retirees will be accepted into it without a medical if they apply between October 1 and November 30, 2005.

FollowMe has four levels of coverage but people who are already retired are not eligible for the highest level. Each level is a package that must be taken as a whole. The two lowest levels have lower benefits and in particular do not provide dental coverage. The third level, the highest level for which people who are already retired are eligible, appears similar to the Blue Choice Plan provided by Blue Cross. A major difference between the two plans is that under Blue Choice a person can select the coverage he/she wants, i.e., core health care, prescription drug or dental care. Blue Cross also provides additional options such as VIP Travel.

Because of the differences in the plans, it is difficult to make comparisons between them. However, it appears that the coverage provided by the third level of FollowMe is fairly similar to that provided by Blue Choice if the insured person takes the core health care, prescription drug and dental care options. We understand that Group Medical Services provides similar coverage and cost to Blue Cross

The key question is the comparative costs. For both plans, premiums depend on age but the two plans do not use the same age brackets. For example, Blue Cross uses the range from 65 to 74 whereas FollowMe uses 65 to 69. For these ranges, the costs per year are as follows:

Blue Choice			FollowMe		
Age			Age		
65 – 74	Single	\$ 663.00	65 – 69	Single	\$1276.80
	Couple	1185.00		Couple	2428.80

For Blue Cross, the cost remains the same until age 74 whereas for FollowMe the cost increases at age 70. Clearly, Blue Cross is substantially less costly.

'The only advantage for FollowMe is that retirees who do not currently have medical insurance can obtain coverage without a medical. Retirees who are interested in this feature should obtain additional information from FollowMe.

FROM CURAC (August):

Basic information about the FollowMe plan is available online from the CAUT website here. More detail is provided in a printed Manulife booklet available in English or French. The booklet includes an application form and a schedule of rates. (The latter vary by province.) Copies of the booklet and answers to questions about eligibility and coverage may be obtained from Matt Power of Lee-Power Associates, 616 Cooper St., Ottawa, ON K1R 5J2, telephone 1-613 236-9007, fax 1-613 236-0329, email <matt@lee-power.ca>. Information about the plan may also be obtained directly from the Manulife customer service number 1-877-268-3763.

Applicants must also be signed up as associate members of CAUT. Information and an application form may be found on the CAUT website (here in Adobe PDF format). Note that although the fee quoted is \$30, CAUT has agreed that the fee for members of CURAC/ARUCC-affiliated associations who wish to join FollowMe in this inaugural period (including the 60-day window from October 1st to November 30th) will be only \$25.

Engineering and Music Profs Receive 2005 Prime of Life Citations

In Memory

After enjoying a superb meal, 60 attendees at the annual faculty club banquet on September 12th discovered who were the 2005 Prime of Life Award winners. Peter Cribb, the incoming President, introduced award winners: David Kaplan (Music) and Peter Nikiforuk (Engineering).



Peter Cribb explored the many activities of each, and the recipients joked about how their distinctive Saskatoon paths converged somewhat. Both joined the U of S faculty in the early Sixties, and

each admitted to expecting only a brief stay here of about two years. Instead, the engineer and musician remained long enough to retire some 30 years later, and both achieved illustrious academic careers along the way that continue, one way or another, into their retirements, David's began in 1990 and Peter's in 1997.

We learned that the Nikiforuks were having a house built, and the Kaplans later became new tenants in their previously rented house, which they eventually bought.

This may be an apocryphal story, but someone reported that the Nikiforuks joined the faculty here because the climate in Arizona, where Peter was then employed, was too hot.

In contrast, the Kaplan family had only a warning but no idea what Saskatchewan was really like. They were certain it was cold and their recruiters, Education Dean Kirkpatrick and Morley Tombs, assured them, it was. At the time the duo drove down to interview David, he was working on his doctorate in Indiana. They convinced him that Saskatchewan, despite its frigid winters, would be ideal and almost on arrival, the Kaplans learned that a permanent position had opened.

So, why did the two receive Prime of Life Citations? Peter Cribb forced brevity to rule the ceremony and quickly summarized and defined the accomplishments of each since retiring. The faculty and retirement careers of the two men are comparable, while being distinctly different, as are Arizona and Saskatchewan. Peter is a scientist-engineer who continues to publish articles (18 last count), works with graduate and post doctoral students, consults with businesses world wide, seeks and has been awarded a huge and a much smaller grant, benefitting the university.

In contrast, David is a composer/musician and impresario writing music, playing instruments in public or leading bands and putting on shows. His life is art and entertainment, whether theatre, jazz, klezmer or explanation. He caters to the local crowd from the very young to the very old, in front of small and large

Michael Bill Zink (1929-2005) died October 15, 2005. He retired from the Department of Biology in 1996. His spouse, Gail Zink, survives him.

John O. Iversen died September 6, 2005. He retired from the faculty of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, in December of 2000. His spouse, Lillian I. Iversen, survives him.

audiences and behind the scenes. For several years after retirement he taught music classes.

In an inordinate number of instances, the similarities between pre and post retirement for each deviate little in their business and productivity, save for omitting the inordinate time spent teaching, administrating and attending meetings.

So, what is the basis for their awards?

The idea behind the "Prime of Life" Award is to recognize persons who remain active after retirement and, in general, continue to contribute in some significant way to the University, to their profession/speciality and/or to society in general. The award was inaugurated in 1997 and was "To honour retired faculty and staff of the University of Saskatchewan for outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contributions they had made since their retirement. Such contributions should have been recognized by awards from international, national, provincial or local bodies (e.g. Order of Canada, Citizen of the year)."

As Peter Cribb put it, "David Kaplan and Peter Nikiforuk meet all the criteria and then some, and we are proud to bestow these citations to them."



**THE EXECUTIVE NEEDS YOU.
BE ACTIVE IN THE USRA BY PARTICIPATING.
CONTACT ME BY E-MAIL TO SAY YES I WILL.**

peter.cribb@sasktel.net