

USRA News



Number: 67

University of Saskatchewan

AUGUST 2006

USRA EXECUTIVE 2005-2006

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President's Report

We have approached the summer hiatus, and USRA Board Meetings have been suspended for the summer months. Meanwhile, behind the scenes planning is going on for September's annual banquet.

Members of the Executive are not inactive. For example, as I write, the Newsletter is being readied for its voyage to your computer or mail box by Howard who deserves the thanks of all of us for the work that he puts in, which includes cajoling Board members (particularly your President) to submit their promised material on time.

In getting the newsletter to you by E-mail or Snail Mail, he is ably supported by Norah Carey and Les Coleman, who, for days on end, were at the computer revising the mailing list and other information about membership.

President's Report continues on page two

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY FOR THE ANNUAL BANQUET AT THE FACULTY CLUB, ON SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH

It is still July and chain stores have filled their shelves with school supplies while aggressively selling off everything that has something to do with summer. COSTCO already displays Halloween and Christmas decorations. So, the USRA is not rushing the season by telling you about its annual fall banquet in August, which, as usual, takes place in late summer.

Do attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 4:30, preceding cocktails and dinner. It promises to be a most interesting session. Ask some of your retired friends to join you. The Club chef is doing a great job. So advertise that the banquet will be a taste treat that is to be followed by an entertainment package.

The evening closes with four acts that include Presidents Cribb and MacKinnon, a radio comedy script reading, written by Dennis Hunt and acted with Rosemary. It was broadcast on CBC starring Henry Woolf. The last act will be a travel show, which is to be Doug Knott's secret until he presents it. It is important for you to make a reservation early and keep it, but notify the USRA immediately if something causes you to cancel; otherwise the USRA usually pays for the meals of 'no-shows'.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

WHAT 2006-07 AGM and Fall Banquet
WHEN

AGM MEETING starts at 4:30 PM
Cocktails at 5:30 PM
Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

WHERE Faculty Club
PARKING Seek and ye shall find
DINNER

Carved Roast Beef with Pan Gravy
Salad Bar, Two Hot Vegetables
Dessert, Tea, Coffee
Cost Per Person: \$28.00

PROGRAM

USRA & U of S Opening Comments and Introduction of Executive – Peter Cribb
Prime of Life Achievement Award – Peter Cribb
Introduction of Dr. Peter MacKinnon – Bob Woods -Greetings and University Update

ENTERTAINMENT

Radio Comedy - Dennis and Rosemary Hunt
Travel "Memorable Moments" Doug Knott

Reservations

Telephone 966-6618 [office machine]
Telephone 374-5786 [humans]
e-mail: ss_usra@duke.usask.ca

President's Report continued from page one

I discovered that this was not always an easy task without Les who was, when we desperately needed him to be at the computer, hiking/climbing in South America. Proof is that anyone who missed the last issue will have to take issue with me!

Our new office in the Williams Building is rather small but quite adequate for USRA continuing tasks, though not for an Executive Meeting, which generally takes place over lunch (self-funded!) in a private Faculty Club room.

Despite ample free parking, the summer BBQ at the Willows failed to increase attendance. Notwithstanding perfect weather, it was an indoor event (due to switching of locations which was not any fault of the organising committee). Everyone present seemed to enjoy themselves when some BBQers went to the mike to entertain the rest. Surprising is the reticence of (retired) faculty when given the opportunity to take center stage before a gathering of retired faculty members (and without an entrance exam or audition!) even though invited months earlier to bring at very least a kazoo .

Unknown to most, I was given a pre-performance interview to be part of a dual presentation (I am not going to reveal which one) and failed miserably, so the presentation became an applauded solo one - well done and obviously far superior to what would have been achieved by adding me to it.

The Executive scheduled the "Prime of Life" award presentation for the BBQ which was given to Dr. Otto Radostits, a most worthy recipient (see article on page 3). We anticipate a second annual award at the Banquet following the AGM. Do come early for the AGM and have your say. We need your input there.

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.
 "What are you doing?" she asked.
 "Hunting Flies," he responded.
 "Oh. killing any?" she asked.
 "Yep, three males and two females," he replied.
 Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"
 He responded, "three were on a beer can and two were on the phone."

Why are mosquitos religious?
 They prey on you!

Why did the mosquito go to the dentist?
 To improve his bite!

LAUGHTER - Try it. I did. It helps - Stephen Harper

For about half an hour, a restaurant customer asked that the air conditioning be turned up because he was too hot, then he asked it be turned down because he was too cold, and so on. The waiter patiently obliged him and never once showed anger.

Finally, a second customer asked him why he didn't throw out the pest. "Oh I don't care." said the waiter with a smile. "We don't even have an air conditioner."

Things people actually said in court - word for word.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke up that morning?

A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

Q: And why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan.

Q: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Q: She had three children, right?

A: Yes.

Q: How many were boys?

A: None.

Q: Were there any girls?

Q: Can you describe the individual?

A: He was about medium height and had a beard.

Q: Was this a male, or a female?

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

A: Oral.

Q: The youngest son, the twenty-year old, how old is he?

Q: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

A: Yes.

Q: And what were you doing at that time?



Mail or e-mail your jokes

CURAC Conference 2006 Doug Spafford

The annual conference of CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada), held May 24-26 at the University of Guelph, produced interesting sessions on several topics, including non-medical benefits available to retirees, preparation for retirement and retirees as resources in university and community programs. Results of an ambitious Canada-wide survey of non-medical benefits available to university and college retirees were presented (medical benefits had been surveyed two years before). The survey covered 19 categories of benefits ranging from employee recognition at retirement through parking privileges to eligibility for office and laboratory space on campus. There was a great deal of variation from university to university in most categories.

It emerged from the survey that this university was among a minority which offered no program of seminars or courses whose purpose was to prepare employees for retirement. A session was devoted to some programs of the kind now in place. McMaster University decided three years

ago to hire an outside firm--one with no financial products to sell-- to conduct a program of preparation for retirement which involves several hours in the classroom and a textbook and workbook for home study. Topics covered include social adjustment to retirement, wills, financial planning and selection of a financial advisor. York University has a Retirement Planning Centre with a staff of two. The centre serves all university employees and puts on a variety of seminars.

“What do retirees do for their college or university?” was the question addressed in another session. Several retiree organizations reported that they raised funds for scholarships and bursaries. In Toronto, there is a program called *Prime Mentors* which has retired university teachers, among others, working with advanced high school students carrying out research projects. Of great interest was an account of the work of the Seniors’ College of Prince Edward Island, an independent institution which puts on more than 80 courses per year (gardening, photography, computers, Mozart) for students 50-plus years of age. The registration fee is \$125 per year and for this one can take any number of courses. Many instructors are retired university teachers.

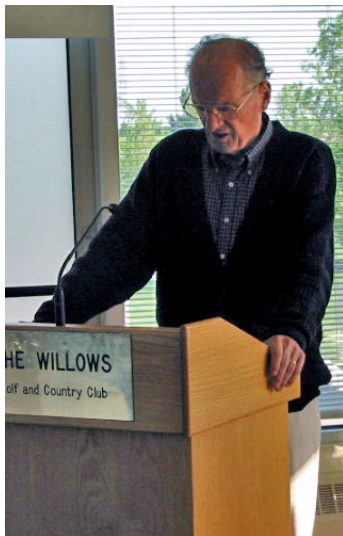
THE PRIME OF LIFE AWARD

In various ways, the University of Saskatchewan and its Colleges recognize employees for their outstanding scholarly and artistic accomplishments or community service. Once retired, even if they continue to make similar contributions in their chosen fields of expertise they tend to be ignored by the university.

In order to fill an obvious gap, the Retirees Association, designed the *Prime of Life Achievement Award* to recognize a retiree’s ongoing scholarly, artistic or service contributions. The first awards were presented in 1987. In most years, the award is made at the Annual Banquet in September.

A brief overview of Otto Radostits’ retirement career reveals his contributions the Committee looked for in making its award to him at the 2006 BBQ.

In 2002, he was the moderator and summarizer of a symposium held at Harvard University, following which he published a paper based on that symposium. Also that year, he co-authored a task force report, in the *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, on the “Education, licensing and the expanding scope of Veterinary



Practice.” The next year, the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education, Engineering Veterinary Education*, published his paper which laid out critical choices facing veterinary education.

Dr. Radostits is first author of the tenth edition of *Veterinary Medicine. A Textbook of the diseases of Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Goats and Horses*. to be published in 2006. He has co-authored each edition to date.

He has, since retirement, by invitation, presented lectures and been published in conference proceedings: Halifax, Kansas State University, PEI, Four papers at the V11 Veterinary International Meeting, Portugal. He consulted on the establishment of a new Veterinary College at the University of Alberta. As well, he served on the University of Saskatchewan Senate from July 2002 – 2005.

“The past is prologue,” noted Shakespeare. So it is that the articles Otto or anyone publishes immediately after retirement and, in particular, Otto’s many awards, noted in his citation, since retirement are to be expected and, early on, signaled for him, in particular, what might have continued well into the distant future.

The Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners in 2003 established the O.M. Radostits Legacy Fund and Lecture Series. He was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2004. He received the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan in 2006 and he will be granted the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association President’s Award for special contributions to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and to the Profession in general.

Surely, his output and the accumulated awards given since retirement commemorate his long active university career by identifying his productivity, but, most important, the listing, since retirement, reveals his academic recognition and a plan, with goals fed by his work ethic, to be productive, as long as he is able to do so.

SOCIAL-EDUCATION PLANS FOR 2006-07

The Social/Education Committee (Norah Carey, Doris Hasell and Joel Gajadharsingh) announce program plans for 2006 – 2007. Learn more about them at the AGM.

One idea being advanced by the committee and other Executive members is small groups one has to join that set their own agenda (see October). They would meet regularly and decide about *all whens, wheres, whats and hows*.

In contrast, USSRA programming is a top-down design - a meeting about something, featuring someone - advertised in the *News*. Travel became a repeated noon lunch dealing with the broad topic travel and has had reasonable attendance. Last year, was added examples of retirees' creativity. Travel included thoughts about how to travel best and a debate - to cruise or not to cruise. Campus tours draw very well and have been followed by a luncheon at Boffins.

The May topic would benefit from membership input. Tell us your thoughts. What information would be most helpful to you and how might it best be presented?

October – Evening or Afternoon Gathering – Movie or Book Critique – (Gary Hanson?) (Dinner or Lunch Meeting)

December – President's Christmas Reception

February – Noon Luncheon – Manos

Travel Experiences

Art/Craft/Photos – Open Ended

April – Tour – Thorvaldson Building followed by Lunch at Boffins

May – Saturday Presentation

Topics: Keeping Fit – Proactive Activities and/or Nutrition

June – Spring B.B.Q.

September – Annual General Meeting and Dinner

Do you use Bounce in your dryer? The U. S. Post Office urged their outdoor posties to hang Bounce from their pants' loops to ward off yellow jackets. Others will tell you it keeps ants out of the home, chases mosquitoes and bees and thwarts mice from entering a building. Are these urban myths created and perpetuated by Proctor and Gamble?



Try some of these suggestions and tell us which work. Over 20 more can be e-mailed to you to stimulate your research, or check Bounce on the internet.

1. Place a sheet of Bounce in your shoes or sneakers overnight so they will smell better in the AM.
2. A used sheet of Bounce will collect sawdust.
3. Rubbing the area with a sheet of Bounce will magnetically attract all of a cat's loose hairs.
4. Freshen the air in your car. Place a sheet of Bounce under the front seat. Try it anywhere that odors may persist.
5. Prevent thread from tangling. Run a threaded needle through a sheet of Bounce before beginning to sew.
6. Eliminates static electricity from your television screen by wiping it with a used sheet of Bounce.

In Memory

Blaine Holmlund passed away June 17, 2006. Dr. Holmlund joined the University of Saskatchewan on July 1, 1958 and retired June 30, 1992.

Norman Cram passed away June 12, 2006. Mr. Cram retired in June of 1984. At the time of his retirement he was the University Secretary. He joined the University on November 1, 1947. His spouse, Dorothy Jean Cram, survives him.

W. Howard McConnell passed away June 9, 2006. Howard McConnell was hired July 1, 1970 and retired from the College of Law June 30, 1998. His next of kin is his son, Richard.

USRA 2006-07 Nominations of Officers and Executive Members

The Bylaws of the USRA state that 10.3 The list of candidates put forward by the Nomination Committee shall be circulated to the members of the Association at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the General Meeting. And 10.4. Member may nominate candidates other than those recommended by the Nominating Committee. A nomination form accepted by the nominee and signed by a minimum of three (3) members shall be submitted to the Secretary to be received no later than fifteen(15) days prior to the date of the General Meeting. Note the vice president position is vacant. Other nominees from the membership would be most welcome.

The Nominating Committee submits:

Bob Woods (President)
Peter Cribb (Past President)
Ken Smith (Treasurer)
Yvonne Cuttle (Secretary)
"Vacancy" (Vice President's Position)

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Jim Blackburn
Norah Carey
Les Coleman
Joel Gajadharsingh
Doris Hasell
Fay Kernan
Howard Klein
Doug Knott
Mohindar Sachdev
Bob Sanche
Murray Scharf
Duff Spafford

Our Treasurer and Membership Chairman worry about 2005 members and some earlier ones who have not paid their annual dues. The best solution is life memberships to ensure that the USRA News will make its visits to your home.

Be a regular reader member and also contribute to the News content.