

USRA News



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USRA EXECUTIVE 2006-2007

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President's Report

Following tradition, the Annual general Meeting of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association was held in the Faculty Club on September 11 when the 2006-2007 officers were elected. They are shown at the head of this newsletter and will be guiding USRA activities until next year's Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting was followed by a banquet, after which we enjoyed an overview of the University's activities and priorities by University President Peter MacKinnon, an amusing retiree-directed view of "Jack and the Beanstalk" by Dennis and Rosemary Hunt, and a commentary and slide presentation based on a recent trip to Greece by Doug Knott. There was also time to simply mingle and meet old friends.

The Education, Recreation and Social committee has proposed a range of activities

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2006-07 IS A USRA YEAR OF THINGS TO HEAR, SEE AND DO - INTRODUCING "FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH" AT THE FACULTY CLUB

The Education, Recreational and Social Committee has designed a year filled with small and large enticing get-togethers for USRA members and their friends. Meeting dates are on pages 3 and 4, the next being on December 6th. So, mark your calendars now; then be with us on campus or elsewhere an event is held.

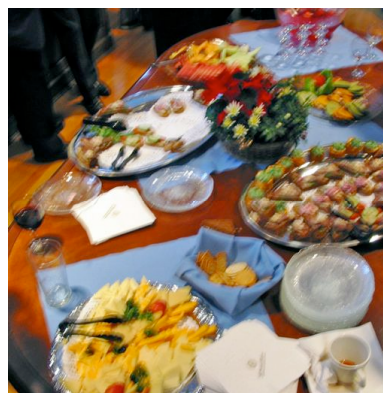
Have you been missing the Xmas (or Holiday) party at President Mackinnon's home? If you have been attending, have you let others know what a great afternoon it always is and will be again?

During this special festive time; make the President's home on the 13th of December the place to meet and talk with others, while snacking in classic holiday fashion. You will be greeted by your host, but help him know early that you are coming by registering your intentions (see invitation below).

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President Peter Mackinnon
invites you to the Come & Go Christmas Reception
for University of Saskatchewan Retirees



Wednesday, December 13, 2006
101 President's Place
Between 1:30 and 4:00 p.m.

If you plan to attend, please call 966-2999 or
e-mail eleanor.peppard@usask.ca

Tell us how we are doing and what we can do better.

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for 2006-2007 and is looking at several new initiatives. One of these is to hold small gatherings at the Faculty Club the first Monday of each month to cover a range of topics that might not attract a large audience. The first of these was held November 6, when Ted Hammer described health precautions he and his wife had used during visits to several continents (see separate article) and showed slides from Kenya and Bolivia. One advantage of a small group is the opportunity for both presenter and audience to ask questions and trade experiences. This worked well, and it is likely that we will see more, and more frequent, small-group meetings both on campus and elsewhere in Saskatoon to meet the range of interests of our members. Members in other cities might like to consider similar meetings that could be coffee parties, wine-and-cheese, whatever, with a member or guest invited to start things off by giving a talk, showing slides, or reviewing a book or film. Well worth the effort in our experience. The next small meeting in Saskatoon is scheduled for December 4 at the Faculty Club when Ghislaine McLeod, U of S Director of Communications, will update us on the University's plans to celebrate its centennial in 2007.

Murray Scharf is chairing a committee to look into ways we could contribute to the University centennial. Retirees carry a fund in campus memories, and it would

be a tragedy if these were lost. One of my treasures in "Inside These Greystone Walls" - an anecdotal history of the University of Saskatchewan by Michael Taft (University of Saskatchewan, 1984). The book includes verbatim transcripts of taped interviews with students, staff, and faculty and paints an informal picture of the campus and its inhabitants that is both amusing and revealing; it is also unlikely to find its way into any formal history of the University. Would USRA members be interested in recording their own memories and stories, perhaps by putting these on the new USRA web site once this is in operation? Let us know.

Mo Sachdev has agreed to take on our web site and recast it in a form that will be informative, up to date, and (hopefully) easy to use. Future newsletters will have more on this, and, once you have had a chance to view the new web site, we will ask for your suggestions for material to include on it.

On the financial side, the USRA is on solid ground, largely because Peter MacKinnon and the University of Saskatchewan continue to subsidise mailing costs for our Newsletter. The Newsletter is the main channel of communication between the USRA and its members, particularly those who do not have access to e-mail. So we are very, very fortunate to have this support. Thank you Peter and thank you U of S.

Other thanks are due to Norah Carey for presenting our wreath at the November 11th Remembrance Day ceremony in Saskatoon. Thank you Norah.

This should be an interesting year for the USRA. Please keep in touch and give us your comments and suggestions and we will do our best to give them effect. Take care.

LAUGHTER -it's very important to be able to see the funny side of life.. Pope Benedict XVI

An old man was sitting on a bench at the mall. A teenager walked up to the bench and sat down. He had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, orange, blue, and yellow.

The old man just stared. Every time the teenager looked, the old man was staring. The teenager finally said, "What's the matter old timer, never done anything wild in your life?"

Without batting an eye, the old man replied....."Got drunk once and had sex with a peacock.....I was wondering if you were my son."

A man walked into the produce section of this local supermarket and asked to buy a half head of lettuce.

The boy working in that department told him that they only sold whole heads of lettuce. The man was insistent that the boy ask his manager about the matter.

Walking into the back room, the boy said to the manager: "Some ass wants to buy a half head of lettuce." As he finished his sentence, he turned to find the man standing right behind him, and he quickly added, "And this gentleman kindly offered to buy the other half."

The manager approved the deal and the man went on his way. Later the manager said to the boy, "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from, son?"

"Wisconsin, sir" the boy replied.

"Well, why did you leave Wisconsin?" the manager asked. The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing up there but whores and football players!"

"Really?" said the manager. "My wife is from Wisconsin."

"No way?" replied the boy. "Who'd she play for?"

One Liners

A woman told her friend, "For 18 years my husband and I were the happiest people in the world. Then we met".

Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!" Patient: "I AM 60!" Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?"

Mail or e-mail your jokes

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On December 4th, the second “First Monday of the Month” should bring many of you to the Faculty Club’s Board Room at two o’clock. There you will hear Ghislaine McLeod tell about “Planning For the U of S Centennial Celebration.” This is the second of a series of small group meetings that have been scheduled from November into May on the first Monday of the month (learn about the first meeting on this page). The *First Mondays*’ varied contents offer much for the mind. They include a guided campus tour in April. Small group tours have been hits and need to be booked early.

How does First Monday work? During the first meeting devoted to your health while travelling, both speakers sat on either side of the table’s end and, in a sense, chatted with their friends as they might in their home dining room, except that what they had to tell and show was capably pre-planned.

The Committee expects the audience size to be small, but, perhaps, a topic will catch as Bob Wood noted in his column.

**WRITE REMINDERS ON YOUR
CALENDARS ABOUT FIRST MONDAY OF THE
MONTH**

Monday, December 4, 2006

2:00 p.m. Faculty Club
“Planning For the U of S Centennial Celebration”
Ghislaine McLeod

Monday, January 8, 2007

2:00 p.m. Faculty Club
“Issues and Options in the Law for Seniors”
Cheryl Kloppenberg

Monday, February 5, 2007

2:00 p.m. Faculty Club
“Nature’s Trails; Birds and Plants”
Frank Roy and Mary-Jean Roy

Monday, April 2, 2007

2:00 p.m. College Building
“Tour of College Building: Antiquities”
Michael Swan

Monday, May 7, 2007

2:00 p.m. Faculty Club
Round Table Discussion: “Snow” by Orhan Pamuk.
A Turkish author discusses the Armenian Genocide
Gary Hanson

First Monday of the Month Meeting Presents Suggestions to Safeguard Health in Unhealthy Exotic Destinations

The first Monday of the month meeting in the Faculty Club’s Board Room featured much travelled Marie and Ted Hammer, who detailed essential things to do before leaving Canada’s healthy climate to sojourn to more forbidding ones elsewhere in the world.

How secure one feel to have an English speaking doctor virtually anywhere in the world you might stay for a while. You can discover that English speaking doctors may be contacted where you might be by joining the International Association for Medical Assistance to Travelers (IAMAT).

Membership gives you access to English speaking doctors who will care for you at a set maximum limit fee.

Before leaving Canada, the couple urged taking, without fail, prescribed shots and filling a kit with various essential medicines. They issued a warning to confer with one’s doctor to learn whether a body can handle suggested shots and medicines. One might be surprised when signing up for a cruise through the Panama Canal that a shot was deemed necessary. Before paying for such a cruise, ascertain if it will protect you. For additional help and information about travel and your health contact Saskatoon Health Region International Travel Centre. Likely, across the nation there are similar centres.

Ted showed slides about his visits to South American high altitude locations and discussed how less oxygen 8000 feet above sea level can disastrously change a holiday. Diamox assists the body to make essential internal altitude adjustments. He warned that not following precautions such as taking a pill in high altitude areas could ruin time away from home, or worse - cause one’s death as he reported had occurred on a trip he took.

Learn what to avoid eating where you are going and carry medicines that can alleviate problems if a bad choice has been made. *Montezumma’s Revenge* could spoil a trip of a lifetime.

Relating anecdotes, the couple explained why tourists must keep their distance from wild animals. In Australia, Marie was attacked by a kangaroo mom while trying to get pictures of her



First Monday continues on page 4

Tell us. If you were Canada's Prime Minister in 2007, how might you govern differently?

WRITE REMINDERS IN YOUR 2006-07 CALANDARS MAJOR USRA EVENTS - 2006-07

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

President's Christmas Reception
1:30 – 4:00 pm
101 President's Place

Saturday, March 31, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Room 246, Kinesiology
Building
"Fitness and Nutrition for Seniors"

Presenters: Dr. Susan Whiting, Pat Dewar and Liz
Harrison

FEE \$10 – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Monday, June 4, 2007

"Spring BBQ"

Time & Place to be confirmed

Monday, September 10, 2007

Faculty Club
AGM and Annual Dinner

WHY DO HUMANS TELL JOKES?

The Brits, who like to study everything, are investigating jokes and why we make them and often laugh when we hear them. They list three main reasons for someone telling one and why we will stop to listen to them and seek them out; then, we try to retell them to others.

1. They make us feel superior, by depictions of people being silly or stupid, by circumstance or design.
2. They reduce emotional impact of anxiety-provoking situations, stuff that we'd otherwise avoid—death, sex, marriage, authority, bodily functions...
3. They create surprise at incongruity, including puns and word-play.

These are the main reasons that may encompass everything. Add some of your own. Which, if any, of the jokes on page two fit a listed reason above for their existence and reprinting in the News?

For continuously updated information
about USRA events, send your e-mail
address to -

ss.usra@usask.ca

You can also receive the *News* on the net.

In Memory

Elizabeth Vida died October 30, 2006. Dr. Vida retired from the Department of English in June of 1991. She was hired at the U of S in July of 1967. Her spouse, Joseph, predeceased her.

John Keith Johnstone died October 20, 2006. Dr. Johnstone retired in June of 1991 from the Department of English. He was hired on July 1, 1967. His spouse, Kathleen (Kay) Johnstone survives him.

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brood. She actually fussed at the female to be still and, ostensibly, annoyed by the berating, the kangaroo struck at Marie and ripped her blouse. She learned how lucky she had been because she might have been shredded to the bone from that singular blow.

When seeking adventures such as scuba diving, always do so with a buddy because accidents happen. A Saskatoon man diving alone, off the coast of Peru was not missed until his wife, who had been shopping, came looking for him. A search revealed he first suffered an injury and then drowned.

Over the last two years, the travel topic has been repeated. Could it be a regular informal event throughout the year in Saskatoon or elsewhere? Might someone with a travel bug organize a home based group to share stories and ideas as well as show off slides from trips and evaluate possible destinations or best cruises? If a group is formed USSRA News help will be at your service for publicity.



This is a prize winning picture. Send one of your's for the next issue of the *News*