

USRA Speakers Series and other events, 2010/11

Monday, December 6

Lunch – 12:00 noon; Presentation – 12:50 PM
(Mano's Restaurant 200- 1820 8th St. E.)

Brad Steeves, Director of Operations-Health Sciences, Council of Health Sciences Dean's office

"The New Health Sciences Facility"

Monday, December 13

President MacKinnon's Come and Go Reception

Monday, January 24

Lunch – 12:00 noon; Presentation – 12:50 PM
(Mano's Restaurant 200- 1820 8th St. E.)

Dr. Karen Chad, Vice President
Research U of S

Monday, February 21

Lunch – 12:00 noon; Presentation – 12:50 PM
(Mano's Restaurant 200- 1820 8th St. E.)

Henry Kloppenburg

"Who owns and controls Potash in the Ground and Above Ground: the Province, the Feds, the Aborigines, and/or the Mining Companies?"

Monday, March 21

Lunch – 12:00 noon; Presentation – 12:50 PM
(Mano's Restaurant 200- 1820 8th St. E.)

Colin Tennent, Associate VP & University Architect

Facilities Planning and Development at the University of Saskatchewan.

Retiree Honours

On September 20, 2010, seven retirees were honoured by the USRA with Prime of Life Achievement Awards. These awards are presented to recognize and show appreciation for significant achievements by retirees in the period after retirement. In the order of the presentation of the awards, they are: Roy

Billinton, Lawrence C. Fowke, Cedric Gillott, Donald Cameron Kerr, John McLeod, Karim Nasser, and Sara Williams. The citations:

Roy Billinton

Roy Billinton (appointment, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1964; retirement, 2003). Roy is actively involved in research dealing with engineering system reliability evaluation with particular emphasis on electric power systems. Since his retirement, he has authored/co-authored seventy-seven journal publications and fifty-five conference papers. During this period, twelve of his M.Sc. students and five of his Ph.D. students have received their degrees. Since retirement, the province has awarded him the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal (2005), the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) awarded him the Charles Proteus Steinmetz Award (2008) and established in his honour the Roy Billinton Power System Reliability Award, first granted in 2010, and the IEEE Canada awarded him the Electric Power Medal (2008). He has also been elected a Foreign Associate of the United States National Academy of Engineering (2007).

Lawrence C. Fowke

Lawrence (Larry) C. Fowke (appointment, Department of Biology, 1970; retirement 2006). Larry is a plant cell biologist. His stellar career has been marked by a co-edited book, a number of patents, and the publication of scores of refereed articles and book chapters. He was head of the Department of Biology from 1994-2000. He received many awards at the U of S, including the Earned D. Sc. in the year of his retirement. Since his retirement, the University has recognized his work on somatic embryogenesis in conifers and its application in the forest industry by awarding him the U of S Award of Innovation (May 2008), which recognizes research used at the commercial level. In November, 2009, Larry was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (Life Sciences) for his lifetime research contribution to the field of plant cell biology.

Cedric Gillott

Cedric Gillott (appointment 1965, Department of Biology; retirement, 1999). Cedric is an entomologist known nationally and internationally for his research in the areas of insect mating and reproduction, insect maturation, and plant-

insect/parasitoid interactions. The third edition of his textbook, *Entomology*, was published in 2005, six years after his retirement. In 2007, the Entomological Society of Canada awarded him its Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Canadian Entomology. A prolific writer, Cedric continues his research publication. His supervision of graduate students has also continued beyond his retirement. Always active on many fronts, Cedric served as assistant department head for three terms and coached the men's Huskie soccer team for many years. Since retirement, he has won the gold medal for his cider entry in a North American home brewing competition (2007)!

Donald Cameron Kerr

Donald Cameron Kerr (appointment, Department of English, 1964; retirement, 2004). Don enjoyed a distinguished teaching career at the U of S spanning more than forty years. He is the author of seven books of poetry, two books of fiction, three non-fiction volumes, eleven edited books, six full-length plays and a number of one-act dramas. A galvanizing force for heritage preservation, he served as the first chair of the Saskatoon Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and was a member of the board of the Meewasin Valley Authority. He has served on the boards of many cultural organizations. He was awarded the U of S Public Service Extension Award in 2003 and received the Saskatchewan Book Award for *The Garden of Art: Vic Cicansky, Sculptor* in 2004. Since his retirement, he has been awarded the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal (2005) and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (2007). His writing and public service continue unabated.

John McLeod

John McLeod (appointment 1968, Institute of Child Guidance and Development; retirement 1992). John was the first director of the institute, noted for its pioneering research in the areas of Early Childhood Education and Special Education. He developed a number of achievement tests, including the GAP tests, the first commercially-published reading tests based on information theory. He collaborated with the Department of Pediatrics in establishing a clinic that offered diagnosis and remedial treatment for children with learning disabilities. Throughout his career, he received many honours. Since his retirement, he has received

the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (2004), the Council for Exceptional Children Lifetime Achievement Award (2003), the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), and the Canada 125 Medal (1992). In 1996 John was included in *Canada Who's Who*. He was invited to deliver the keynote address at the national colloquium on dyslexia in Athens, Greece, in 2005.

Karim Nasser

Karim W. Nasser (appointment, 1961, Department of Civil Engineering; retirement, 1994). A native of Lebanon, Karim pursued graduate studies at the University of Kansas and the U of S. He joined the department in 1961. He has been described as "the king of concrete" for his research and many inventions, in particular the K-slump tester, used to test the consistency of concrete. This was used in the building of the CN Tower in 1973 and still in use. Karim is equally known as an entrepreneur of exceptional ability and as a caring philanthropist. The gift of \$12,000,000 that he and his family have given the University this year is the largest ever received by the U of S. It is only the most recent of the many gifts of the Nassars to the University, which has named the downtown campus of the Edwards School of Business, the K. W. Nasser Centre in honour of this generous donor.

Sara Williams

Sara Williams (appointment, Extension Division, 1989; retirement, 2001). Sara earned degrees in Agriculture and Agriculture Extension at the U of S before taking up her appointment as Horticulture Extension Specialist. She was the first editor of *The Saskatchewan Gardener/the Gardener for the Prairies*, founded the Saskatchewan Perennial Society, and initiated the Saskatchewan Master Gardener Program. She has reached a wide public through her books and workshops. In retirement, she continues to lead by example, volunteering with the upkeep of the Forestry Farm Park Meditation and Rose gardens. She has received the Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award (2005) and the Prairie Garden Award for Excellence (2008). She is a past member of the board of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame. She supports the Canadian Harambee Education Society project to build a school dormitory for girls in Tanzania, the country where she grew her first garden as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Gleanings From the Minutes

(This column highlights items of interest from the Minutes of Executive Committee meetings.)

October 4 Executive Minutes

- Executive Committee Chair Kevin Wilson noted how well the Annual Banquet had gone. He thanked the Prime of Life Achievement Awards Committee for the excellent work they had done in preparing the citations and in organizing the presentation of awards. He also thanked Michael Hayden and Dean Jones for their major work for the USRA over the past year.
- Chair Michael Hayden reported progress in the ongoing work of the Ad hoc Committee on the Future Role of the USRA.

November 1 Executive Minutes

- In Business Arising from the Minutes, Kevin Wilson reminded Executive Committee members about the upcoming President's Reception for retirees, which will be held on December 13. He also mentioned that the Executive need to consider a membership fee increase in the near future. Yvonne Cuttle noted that she would be sending out a revised USRA calendar of events for the year 2010/11.
- Treasurer Duff Spafford presented the financial report showing a small deficit of \$240 following the AGM banquet.
- Eileen Harvey, chair of the Prime of Life Achievement Awards Committee, mentioned how well the presentation of awards went at the banquet. She also welcomed Dale Miquelon as a new member of the committee.
- There was discussion—to be followed up at subsequent meetings—about placing pictures of Prime of Life Award winners and the pictorial history of the USRA on our web site, and also placing pictures, or at least framed lists, of the founders and of annual Prime of Life Award winners on the walls of the Retirees' Lounge.
- The Treasurer was authorized to pay the Annual CURAC fees of approximately \$140.
- The Ad hoc Committee on the Future Role of the USRA reported progress in its work. It

also reported on its contacts with McMaster University, where a volunteer retiree service program has been started.

Current USRA Membership Fees

In the next few months, the USRA will need to consider increasing membership fees. Currently the annual membership fee is \$15. Life memberships are dependent on age, according to the following schedule:

<60	\$ 180
60 - 64	\$ 160
65 - 69	\$ 140
70 - 74	\$ 110
75 - 79	\$ 80
80 +	\$ 50

Please consider buying a life membership or renewing your membership before the likely fees increase in 2011. Payment of fees should be sent to:

**Duff Spafford, Treasurer, Univ. of Sask.
Retirees Association, RJD Williams bldg., 221
Cumberland Ave. Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3**

Non-Credit Courses for Seniors

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning will offer the following non-credit courses at the University of Saskatchewan, beginning the week of January 2, 2011.

1. The History of the Mystery
2. Penology and Corrections (Criminology)
3. Understanding Medical Imaging
4. Digital Photography

The registration deadline is December 10, 2010.

For more information, see the SSCL website at <http://www.ccde.usask.ca/ExtensionDivision/noncredit/Adults/>

If you have items or information for the USRA Newsletter, please contact:

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