



**Message from Vice-President
Dale Miquelon**

While waiting for Spring to really spring, it is a good time to look back on the past season, which has been a very good one for the USRA. Keeping in touch with you is our primary objective. With that in mind, Dean Jones has created a new website for the Association. The address is www.usra.usask.ca. The website posts our upcoming events and the many "buttons" on the left side of the screen can open pages that cover many aspects of the life of the USRA. Note that there is a "Contact USRA" button on the home page. We hope that this will make it much easier for you to have questions answered, to make your views known, and to renew your membership. We owe many thanks to Dean for doing this time-consuming task.

A committee chaired by Michael Hayden has been investigating another relationship important to all of us, that between the USRA and the university. The mandate of Michael's committee, in brief, is to consider what we can do for the U of S and what the U of S can do for us. The university recently approved a "Retiree Engagement Strategy" document. You will be hearing more of this in the coming months. But, no, it won't include free parking for retirees!

You may not know that the USRA belongs to an umbrella group, the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada (CURAC for short). This year's annual meeting will be in Regina, May 11-12. We are not involved in the planning of this event, but have sent \$200 to the organizers on your behalf. Consider attending the CURAC conference in Regina and meeting retirees from across the country.

Speaking of money, Treasurer Duff Spafford reports we are on a tight budget. After considering all ways and means, the Executive has approved a proposal to present to you at the Annual General Meeting in September, recommending that we raise the annual membership fee as well as the life membership fees (see elsewhere in this newsletter). This might be a good time to invest in a life membership at the current lower rate!

Our monthly Speaker Series and lunches at Mano's Restaurant have been well attended, and we have had excellent

speakers. In February, Henry Kloppenburg guiding us through the thickets of "Who Owns Potash?" drew what we think is our largest lunch crowd yet. Over fifty people attended. These are all such enjoyable events and the conversation is so excellent that it is surprising we do not have turnouts of a hundred!

Please keep in touch, encourage retirees who may not yet be members to join our association, and have a wonderful summer!

IN MEMORY

Alan A. Boulton

Date of Death: November 13, 2010
Department: Psychiatry
Joined the U of S: July 1, 1987
Retired: December 31, 2002

Arnold Njaa

Date of Death: March 10, 2011
Department: Purchasing
Joined the U of S: October 11, 1966
Retired: September 30, 1992

Donald George Ralph Blair

Date of Death: March 16, 2011
Department: Biochemistry
Joined the U of S: June 1, 1961
Retired: June 30, 1993

Harold Reid Baker –

Date of death: March 18, 2011
Department: Extension Division
Joined the U of S: May 1, 1963
Retired: July 1, 1994

Of Interest To Retirees

Retiree Gwenna Moss, in collaboration with three other former University Extension staff – Henrietta Mackay Goplen, Thelma Howard, and Glenora Pearce Slimmon, has recently edited a new book recalling the history of Home Economics Extension activities over more than fifty years in

Saskatchewan. Two dozen Extension home economists and a few program participants contributed their personal memories, stories and photographs.

The book is titled: **Stories from the Road: Memories of Home Economics Extension at the University of Saskatchewan, 1913-1980**. The authors note that "these stories, told by Extension staff and participants, show the links between the university and women and girls on farms, in small towns and on reserves, created through such programs as Homemakers' Clubs, Farm Girls' Camps, Homecraft Clubs, short courses, field days, 4-H camps, and youth training. Profiles of the directors and many staff members of the Department of Women's Work /Women's Service highlight these amazing women and their work. The book celebrates the spirit of the people of rural Saskatchewan who shared their energy and gifts as leaders."

Retirees who participated in any of these programs or who remember those years in rural Saskatchewan will find the book an especially interesting read. It can be purchased at the following book stores:

Saskatoon -- McNally Robinson Booksellers, and the U of S Bookstore.

Regina-- the University of Regina Bookstore.

Winnipeg -- McNally Robinson Booksellers.

For mail orders, contact Gwenna directly at gwenna.moss@gmail.com or phone 204 895-8016.

"The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age." --Lucille Ball

Changing Membership Dues

At the March meeting of the USRA Executive Committee, the Ad hoc Committee to Consider an Increase in USRA Dues made its report. The core recommendations are that the annual membership dues be increased from \$15 to \$20 and that life memberships in each category be increased by \$20.

Membership dues in the USRA have remained unchanged for more than a decade. In the past two years, the USRA has experienced small deficits in its operating budget—making an increase in dues a prudent step. Higher dues are also needed, because the USRA has increased its program and has negotiated a Retiree Engagement Strategy to enable Retirees to provide greater service to the University of Saskatchewan.

An increase in USRA dues will not occur unless it is approved at the Annual General Meeting in September. Any retiree considering a yearly or life membership in the USRA will be able to benefit from the current lower dues structure. Until September, the annual membership fee is \$15. Life memberships are dependent on age, according to the following schedule:

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

Please consider renewing your membership before the likely fee increase in September. Payment of fees should be sent to:

Duff Spafford, Treasurer, USRA
RJD Williams Building,
221 Cumberland Ave.
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3

Prime of Life Achievement Award

The University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association (USRA) requests your assistance in identifying prospective recipients of the Prime of Life Achievement Award (PLAA) which honours and shows appreciation of recognition given to persons who have retired from work at the University. If you know an individual who fits the Award description below, please submit a nomination.

History

The University and its respective Colleges often recognize and reward employees for outstanding accomplishments. However, if after retirement a former University employee receives special awards or recognition, the University does not have a mechanism by which to offer congratulations. In 1997, the USRA inaugurated such a mechanism.

The first Prime of Life Awards were given in 1997 to a backlog of 60 worthy recipients. Since that time, a further 31 Awards have been presented. Please see the insert for a list of past Award recipients.

Award Description

The PLAA honours and expresses appreciation of persons who have retired from work at the University and who, **after their retirement**, have been recognized for outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contributions. Such contributions would have been recognized by international, national, provincial or local bodies (e.g., Order of Canada, Saskatchewan Order of Merit, honorary lifetime recognitions from

national or provincial professional societies or associations, honorary degrees, national artistic commissions, Saskatoon Citizen of the Year).

The Awards are presented at the banquet following the USRA AGM in the Fall.

Nomination Forms

The Prime of Life Achievement Awards Committee invites nominations from the University Community; however, anyone may nominate a worthy candidate. A nomination form is included with this newsletter. Should you require additional nomination forms, please send us an email at ss.usra@usask.ca or download a form from the USRA website www.usra.usask.ca Please note that two signatures are required for the nomination and a **complete post-retirement CV** may be requested.

Nominations may be submitted at any time, but must be received by April 30 to be considered for an Award in that year.

Gleanings From The Minutes

Executive Committee meeting, March 7

-- Duff Spafford reported that the USRA had received a letter thanking us for the financial contribution toward the national CURAC conference to be held in Regina on May 11 and 12, 2011.

-- Michael Hayden indicated that the negotiations between the Ad hoc Committee on the Future Role of the USRA and the university administration were temporarily delayed.

-- Kurt Tischler reported on the slow progress toward approval of new guidelines for the International Student Bursary program. The proposed new terms of reference for the program are awaiting decisions from several University administration officials.

-- Duff Spafford presented the report of the Ad hoc Committee to Consider an Increase in USRA Dues.

Elder Wisdom

"Inside every 70-year-old is a 35-year-old asking, 'What happened?'" --Ann Landers

Procrastination gives you something to look forward to.

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

The man who says he is willing to meet you halfway is usually a poor judge of distance.

Some Important USRA Dates

The annual USRA Spring barbeque is set for Monday, June 6 at the U of S Faculty Club. The Annual General Meeting And banquet are set for Monday, September 19, also at the Faculty Club

To place news items in the USRA Newsletter, please contact:

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or

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