



USRA

Newsletter

September 2013

No. 94

In This Issue

From The President	1
AGM and Prime of Life Achievement Awards	2
Duff Spafford Award	2
Upcoming Events	4
U. of S. Women's Welcome Coffee Party	4

From The President

Friends behind the Scenes . . .

Sometimes we are tempted to think that we live outside the pale of the University, forgotten but not gone. But there are people working within the U of S who are very much aware of us. They are concerned to help us in any way they can. Many of you will know Melana Soroka, the Director of Alumni Relations and the Executive Director, U of S Alumni Association in University Advancement. (University Advancement—that's a unit of administration with its own vice president (Heather Magotiaux) and within which Alumni Relations and the U of S Alumni Association are to be found.) Fewer of you will yet have met Margot Weiner, who took on the job of Associate Director of Alumni Engagement in University Advancement, effective January 7, 2013. As things have worked out, Alumni Relations is the unit with which the USRA works most closely. We are like orphan chicks who have been brought into the brood.

Charlene Howard also hangs her coat (hats are out) in University Advancement. She is the event co-ordinator and another new appointee. Her assistance to us has been enormous. She revamped the Retirement Banquet this year and decided that two blank pages at the back of the program booklet cried out for letters from the presidents of the USRA and the NARA (Non-Academic Retirees Association). She made it possible for me to speak to those

retiring on behalf of the USRA and the NARA and set up a table where Kurt Tischler and I were able to distribute literature on behalf of these associations and talk to retiring personnel. Kurt, who knows everyone at the U of S, was especially good at this.



Kurt Tischler and Dale Miquelon

Most recently Charlene drafted a letter on behalf of the two retirees associations, ran it by us, and mailed it out to the retiring employees, along with the photo taken of them at the banquet. She anticipates our needs even before we do. I want you to see exactly what she wrote:

“Dear _____,

Thank you for attending this year’s retirement banquet. We hope you are enjoying all that retirement has to offer. As you may have noticed, a photographer was on site at the banquet to capture the events of the evening. Enclosed you will find a print of the photograph taken of you with President Busch-Vishniac and Chancellor Pezer. For more photos taken that night please go to the U of S Flickr Gallery online at www.flickr.com/photos/usask. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Your retirees associations are here to help keep you in touch with the university. If you haven’t already had the opportunity, please contact one of us to let us know how best to keep you up to date on all things U of S.”

She signed it Dale Miquelon USRA and Joe Hromek NARA

You too can check out those photos on Flickr (www.flickr.com). Another little task you would find enlightening would be to take the most recent Campus Telephone Directory and leaf through it. Is this the University as you remember it? Times change and in many ways for the better.

This is my last President’s Message. It has been great to have this bully pulpit for the past two years. One last little « bully » message: the USRA desperately needs new Executive members if there is to be a smooth transfer of the association from one « generation » of retirees to the next. Volunteer or nominate your friends at the upcoming AGM.

Dale Miquelon

AGM and Prime of Life Achievement Awards

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 23 at the University Club.

- 4:30 Annual General Meeting
- 5:30 Refreshments
- 6:00 Banquet and presentation of Prime of Life Achievement Awards

You may park in Lot R in front of the Kinesiology Building. There will be no charge; the gate will be open when you leave.

If you plan to attend, please contact Bryan Harvey (bryan.harvey@usask.ca or 306-373-0630) by Thursday, September 19 to ensure we have sufficient space for all those in attendance.

USRA Duff Spafford Award for Exceptional Service to the University Community

At a special meeting on August 2, the USRA presented this award for the first time.

Guidelines

1. USRA establishes a new award named “USRA Duff Spafford Award for Exceptional Service to the University Community”.
2. The awardee will be selected by the USRA executive on the recommendation of the Awards Committee based on nominations received.
3. The award will be made from time to time as circumstances dictate.
4. The award will recognize a U of S retiree based on total contribution made to the university community over the period of the retiree’s association with the University. This will include any contributions made during student years by a candidate who is an alumnus.
5. The award will be presented normally at a ceremony coinciding with the annual general meeting of the USRA, but if appropriate, can also be presented at other times.

The Awards Committee, on the nomination by John Courtney, recommended that the award be presented for the first time to Duff Spafford.



Duff Spafford

John Courtney prepared the following citation for the Awards Committee:

Citation

It is fitting that Duff Spafford should be the first recipient of the “USRA Duff Spafford Award for Exceptional Service to the University Community” named in his honour. Duff Spafford’s contributions to the University of Saskatchewan are as numerous as they are varied. They began with his outstanding editorship of *The Sheaf* over half a century ago and concluded with his enthusiastic direction of a project unique among Canadian universities - the U of S Alumni Book Collection, which is housed in the Retirees Lounge of the Peter MacKinnon Building. The collection now includes hundreds of books written by University of Saskatchewan alumni. Both of those undertakings highlight one of Duff’s lifelong passions: words. He was the “go-to guy” on campus when disputes among professors or students needed an expert opinion on a word’s meaning, etymology, correct spelling, or proper usage.

As a political scientist, Duff brought credit to the University from an international audience. His professional colleagues in Canada, the United States, and Britain respected his meticulous scholarship. The works for which he is best known include his award-winning book (co-edited with Norman Ward) *Politics in Saskatchewan*; his empirically demonstrated link between the level of highway construction and the timing of provincial elections, published in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (a journal on which he later served with distinction as Assistant Editor); his invariably judicious, perceptive and –when deserved– critical book reviews in numerous scholarly quarterlies; and, perhaps most important, his widely acclaimed pair of articles on (a) the Canadian electoral system and (b) the “equilibrium division” of the vote. In those last two articles, published a year apart in the early 1970s in the *American Political Science Review*, Duff’s work drew on his training in economics by applying regression analysis to empirically tested polit-

ical questions. This was relatively new for Canadian political scientists at the time. Duff helped to usher in a new era in political science in Canada and, at the same time, brought recognition both to his own careful scholarship and to the University of Saskatchewan.

Duff has been extraordinarily generous to this alma mater. His love of anything “Saskatchewan”—from local ceramics to sheet music to circus posters—has led him to assemble valuable collections of folklore of his beloved province. He has donated many of these artifacts to the University Archives. We, together with future generations, are the beneficiaries of these astonishing and unmatched gifts.



John Courtney reads the citation

The USRA is also mindful of Duff’s contributions to this organization as a longtime member of the Executive, recently as its treasurer, and as its link for several years with CURAC, the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada.

As first recipient of the USRA Award for Exceptional Service to the University Community, Duff Spafford has set the bar exceptionally high for the Award that will

now bear his name. For that we honour and thank him.



Asit Sarkar presents the award

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for our program offerings for 2013-14. Our web site (usra.usask.ca) always has the latest information.

U. of S. Women’s Welcome Coffee Party

The U of S Women asked that we include this announcement.

For female faculty, administrative staff, research affiliates, and partners of same.

Sunday, September 22, 2-4 pm
W. A. Edwards Family Centre, 333 4th Avenue North

Sign up for fun activities (books, bridge, cooking, needlecraft, bird watching, antiques, writing)

All are welcome.

Contact: Betty @ 306-373-3938