



USRA

Newsletter

November 2015 No. 98

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From The President

I am honoured and humbled to have been chosen to serve as your President for the 2015-16 year. Since its establishment, USRA has focused on keeping the retirees informed and engaged in the present and the future of this great university. My predecessors have paved a solid pathway for their successors and I pledge to continue that process. Many of us expressed considerable concern with the ways in which the University was moving under the leadership of its previous President, prior to the handover of the charge to an Interim President. In that capacity, Gordon Barnhart has ensured that the University changes its course and an environment of turmoil and retribution becomes a thing of the past. I had the opportunity to attend the convocation at which our new President, Peter Stoicheff was installed. Peter's new vision for the University is one of respect for diverse intellectual discourse, moving forward with passion as well as compassion so that the U of S community becomes a hub of new ways of creating and sharing knowledge that is inclusive and respectful of traditions and cultures. We can ask for no more from the new leader. As interested stakeholders, the retiree community can find



much to contribute to the building and nurturing of this new hub of knowledge creating and knowledge sharing.

Over the past few years, we have seen strong member support for our luncheon series. I can assure you that the executive will do its best to bring together speakers that address contemporary issues of concern to the University as well as to the larger society. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see the report on our plans to host the 2016 national conference of our national organization of retirees, CURAC. We look forward to your participation in this event.

If you have any suggestions on how we can add new dimensions to our activities or improve our current activities, please do not hesitate to contact me personally or any other member of the executive.

Asit Sarkar

Report on the AGM

Report of the Annual General Meeting, held September 28, 2015.

Twenty-two members of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association (USRA) met at the University Club for the Annual General meeting. This is a summary extracted from the minutes.

President's Remarks

Bryan Harvey asked the meeting to observe a minute of silence remembering our former members who died during the past year, and thanked the past year's executive for their work.

During the past year the USRA board submitted suggestions to the Search Committee for abilities that the new president of the University had to have: he/she must understand and support academic freedom, he/she must be able to provide leadership within a collegial form of governance, he/she must appreciate the complexity of the University of

Saskatchewan, and he/she must appreciate the relationship between the University and the people of Saskatchewan.

We have proposed to CURAC, and the CURAC Board has agreed, that we host the 2016 CURAC conference. A committee has been formed, dates have been set-May 25-27, 2016-, a theme has been developed-Past, Present and Future of the 'University. We expect 55-60 attendees.

Treasurer's Report

Ken Smith could not attend the meeting so the report was presented by Asit Sarkar.

Membership revenue is down slightly (\$56.97). The relative share coming from annual dues and from the allocation from Lifetime Fees remains approximately the same. The balance sheet indicates that the prepaid, lifetime membership account is declining. Consequently the year to year allocation from this account to membership revenue is also declining. As all our operating funds come from member fees, we are endeavoring to get members who pay yearly to purchase lifetime memberships.

Even though our investment holdings have increased by \$511.61, the year to year interest revenue is down slightly (\$16.02) because of the lower interest rates.

The costs associated with the Prime of Life Awards, which are presented at the annual banquet, were just over \$900. The AGM and BBQ dinners themselves, without the costs of the Prime of Life Awards, would just about break even.

The income statement shows a postage expense and a postage revenue of an equivalent amount. The Office of the President at the University generously continues to cover our postage costs so that net income is not affected.

CURAC, our national association, has raised its dues. This increase is the primary reason for the increased annual cost from \$123 to

\$201. The CURAC conference fee will be set so that we will not lose any money. Any money we make is split 50-50 between us and CURAC.

The luncheon series expense is for the guest speaker’s lunches. In contrast to the current year, none had been billed to the Association in 2013-2014.

The balance sheet shows that we have no fixed assets and no accounts payable.

While there was a small deficit (\$26.34) with expenses this year of \$5697.97, our equity remains substantial and our finances are strong.

Members approved that there will be no audit this year.

Committee Reports

(a) Awards: Walt Pawlovich reported that three Prime of Life Achievement Awards will be awarded and two Honorary Life Memberships . (Recipients are highlighted later in this newsletter.) Walt reported that the committee is developing terms of reference for another award recognizing scholarship after retirement. The committee has not awarded the Duff Spafford Award; nominations are welcomed.

(b) CURAC: Bryan Harvey was scheduled to go to the CURAC 2014 conference at Queen’s in May, but was unable to do so because of a family emergency. No one else was able to attend on short notice. Bryan did sit in on two Board meetings by teleconference, mostly to understand our commitment if we undertook to host a conference and then to present our proposal.

(c) Communication: Dean Jones reported that one hardcopy newsletter and two notices were sent this year. The more frequently used communication with members is through the website usasks.ca/USRA, and email notices of luncheon meetings with RSVP requests.

(d) Social, Education and Recreation: The mandate of this committee is to organize social and educational events for the membership. Asit Sarkar reported that the chancellor has committed to speak to us on October 16. Peter Stoicheff will be asked to speak once he has settled into his position.

(e) Membership: Judith Henderson reported that we have 286 members, 238 of which are life members, 252 of which have paid. Bryan Harvey noted that privacy legislation makes it is difficult to get contact information for new retirees and that Judith had spent a lot of time on the telephone contacting people.

(f) Nominations: Dean Jones reported that the committee was unable to find a candidate for vice president. It will be filled per the mechanism provided in the constitution. Two additional members were identified for standing committees.

(g) Retiree Engagement: Michael Hayden reported that this work has been put on hold until the new administration has settled.

(h) Honorary Degrees: Bryan Harvey explained the mandate of the Committee is to seek nominees for honorary degrees and to facilitate their nominations. The committee has not been active this past year, but has some nominations that it is working on. Anyone who knows someone who is deserving should forward a nomination to the committee, which will do the work to prepare the nomination for the University.

Election of Officers

Nominations Committee chair Dean Jones presented the slate of officers for the forthcoming year:

- President—Asit Sarkar
- Vice President—no candidate*
- Treasurer—Ken Smith
- Secretary—Gail Laing

* Judith Henderson accepted this position at the November 3 Board meeting.

Prime of Life Achievement Awards

These awards, presented at the banquet following the AGM, honour and express appreciation of persons who have retired from work at the University and, **after their retirement**, have been recognized for outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contributions. Such contributions will have been recognized by international, national, provincial or local bodies (for example, 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).

Richard T. Burton

(Mechanical Engineering 1974-2012)



Asit Sarkar, Walt Pawlovich and Madan Gupta (accepting for Richard Burton)

Richard Burton has been a model teacher-scholar during his thirty-eight years of service. During this period, he taught over twenty undergraduate and graduate courses and supervised the research of over 70 graduate students. His scholarly focus has been on hydraulics, fluid power systems including control and design of fluid power valves. He served as Assistant Dean of undergraduate programs for five years. He has served as Chair of Fluid Power and Systems Technology group of American

Society of Mechanical Engineers and was one of the founding members of the Fluid Power Network International. Along with his colleagues and students, he introduced artificial intelligence concepts to the fluid power area. Richard has served on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Centre of Compact and Efficient Fluid Power, an American network of five universities involved with fluid power. Prior to his retirement, Richard was honoured with Fellow of ASME (2004) and R.E.Koski Medal of ASME (2011). He continues to serve the Mechanical Engineering profession as a member of the Canadian Accreditation Board. Since his retirement, Richard received such recognitions as: Joseph Bramah Medal (2013) of Institute of Mechanical Engineering England and Outstanding Achievement Award (2014) of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. Richard maintains continuing professional involvement as student research supervisor, academic review committee member of APEGS as well as in the activities of ASME and CCEFP.

Dennis Gorecki

(Pharmacy and Nutrition 1982-2012)



Asit Sarkar, Dennis Gorecki and Walt Pawlovich

Dennis Gorecki's research focus has been on drug design, pharmaceutical analysis and

drug and dietary supplement standards. He has served as Chair of the Blueprint for Pharmacy Steering Committee and the Drug Advisory Committee of Saskatchewan. As an academic leader, Dennis served as the Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for 11 years. Throughout his scholarly and professional career, Dennis played a key role in strengthening professional linkages for scholars in Pharmacy and Nutrition. Through his service on the Blueprint for Pharmacy Steering Committee (2010-2014), Dennis facilitated the achievement of many practice research and innovative practice projects, as well as educational projects and the development of practice tools that will ultimately enhance the pharmacy profession. Prior to his retirement, Dennis received the Honorary Life Membership (2010) of the Canadian Pharmacists Association. In 2014, Dennis was recognized as one of 100 Alumni of Influence in the history of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan. In 2015, he received the Meritorious Service Award of Canadian Pharmacists Association for being “a key visionary in setting directions for the future of the health workforce in Canada”. Since retirement, Dennis remains professionally active through publications in journals, supervision of students, presentation of workshops and lectures in international fora focusing on natural medicine, providing regulatory guidance on dietary supplements, herbal medicine and various non-prescription drugs as well as serving on accreditation teams of Canadian Council on Academic Pharmacy Programs.

Faye Kernan

(Western College of Veterinary Medicine
1967-1990)

Faye Kernan was the first pharmacist to work at a Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Canada. As a pharmacy professional, Faye



Asit Sarkar, Faye Kernan and Jim Blackburn

communicated with all the professionals in Veterinary Medicine the importance of the key role that a pharmacist can play in the team of veterinarians developing care strategies and protocols in veterinary medicine (Canadian Veterinary Journal, 1977). Her contribution to the research of veterinary medicine academics and professionals has been acknowledged in a number of scholarly articles. Shortly before her retirement, Faye presented at the 7th biennial conference (1990) of the American Academy of Pharmacology Therapeutics her experience as a hospital pharmacist in the paper - Current Issues and viewpoints in Veterinary Pharmacology: A Pharmacist's Perspective. She was a founding member of the Society for Veterinary Hospital Pharmacists, an organization of professionals in Canada and the U.S. In 2011, Faye received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Society of Veterinary Hospital Pharmacists. Besides her service as a pharmacy professional, Faye has contributed more than two decades of active service to the U of S Retirees Association.

Honorary Life Members

This is presented to USRA members who have made a significant contribution over a long period to the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association and the University Community.

Jim Blackburn



Asit Sarkar, Jim Blackburn and Dean Jones

For more than three decades, Jim has served the University as a teacher, an academic and administrative leader. His professional service has also been recognized at the provincial, national and international levels. In 2014, Jim received the USRA Prime of Life Achievement Award. Since his retirement, he has made continuing commitment to the USRA activities, serving as President and setting directions for the Association's education and social engagement programs. He continues to play a role in engaging the retirees with various activities of the University.

Murray Scharf

Murray has served the U of S with a distinguished record of teaching, research, administrative leadership and service to the profession of education. Besides many local, national and international recognitions, Murray is the recipient of the USRA Prime of



Asit Sarkar, Murray Scharf and Dale Miquelon

Life Achievement Award (2013). He has been a dedicated volunteer of USRA, serving as President and setting directions for programs and activities that continue to keep the USRA members remain engaged with the U of S as well as with Saskatoon's aging community.

Message from the Incoming University President

Dear retirees,

This is a very exciting time for me as I begin my role as president of the University of Saskatchewan.

I am honoured to be the 11th president of the U of S, a place that I care about immensely, and I look forward to working with the entire university community, including our group of dedicated retirees, in this new role.

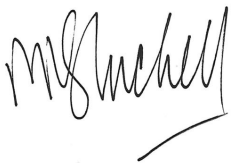
As dean of the College of Arts and Science, I had the opportunity to learn a great deal about the rich diversity and strengths of our century-old institution. The U of S has had great success in the past, and I believe there is significant potential here to do even more. I'm eager to find ways to tap into that potential.

As you know, our community extends beyond the boundaries of campus, across the province and in fact across Canada and

internationally. The one thing we all share is a passion for the success of our university. I know well the level of connection our retirees have to the U of S, and I'm humbled by the support I've received already as I step into this new role.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you in the coming months at university events. Please come by and introduce yourself as I appreciate every opportunity to connect with our extended university community.

Kind regards,



Peter Stoicheff

President, University of Saskatchewan

For more about Peter's installation at convocation on October 24th, please visit usask.ca/leadershipteam.

Renew Your Membership!

If you took advantage of our "free for the first year after retirement" membership, your membership has expired if you retired prior to 2015. Please consider renewing your membership. Membership rates are available at the web site (address at the end of the newsletter). Contact us if you are not certain what your membership status is.

Members No Longer With Us

The USRA has learned of the deaths of the following members. We extend our sympathy to their families. Spouses of deceased Life Members remain members of the Association.

Floyd W. **Bigsby**, died October 20, 2015, age 91

Helen ("Bubs") **Coleman**, wife of Leslie C. Coleman, August 14, 1929 - October 29, 2015

Peter Harold **Cribb** (February 6, 1931 - June 19, 2015)

Ruth L. Hood **Horlick** (September 25, 1919 - February 21, 2015), widow of Louis Horlick

Slavek J. **Hurka** (d. August 5, 2015, age 89)

David Leon **Kaplan** (December 12, 1923 - April 6, 2015)

George Edward **Lee** (October 19, 1934 - June 10, 2014)

Robert Iain Angus **MacLean** (d. September 21, 2015, age 73)

Ernest John **McCullough** (December 3, 1925 - July 21, 2015)

Rampurkar **Manohar**, July 11, 1925 - October 24, 2015

Murray **Marshall** (d. May 1, 2015, age 75)

Walter **Mills** (May 29, 1924 - November 1, 2014)

Howard Ronald **Nixon** (May 19, 1928 - January 6, 2015)

John Shirley **Owen** (January 19, 1923 - June 12, 2015)

Dufferin Stewart **Spafford** (March 18, 1936 - May 24, 2014)

Ludmila Anne **Zaleski** (1923 - September 6, 2014)

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Classes

Art Battiste, the coordinator for the non-credit classes offered for seniors through the College of Arts and Science to members of Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning (SSCL) has informed us that he is looking for qualified individuals to teach classes. Each class consists of eight two hour lectures, once a week for eight weeks. There are no texts, no assignments and no examinations. The audience is composed of up to fifty seniors. At present there are three sessions each year (fall, winter and spring) with eight courses in each session. A modest honorarium

is available. Past subject matter has included aspects of everything from agricultural economics, archaeology and art history through history and literature to political studies, psychology and sociology.

Members of the USRA who are interested in proposing a class can contact Art Battiste by email at ssclcoordinator@usask.ca or by phone at either 306.227.8778 or 306.966.7552. Alternately, they can contact Michael Hayden of the USRA Retiree Engagement Committee at michael.hayden@usask.ca who will be glad to provide additional preliminary information about the types of courses sought, the audiences, classroom facilities, etc., as well as the application form.

Members of the USRA who are interested in joining the SSCL so that they can sign up for one or more of the classes can consult the website of the organization: <https://ccde.usask.ca/sscl>

President's Come and Go Holiday Reception: December 9

All retirees are invited to this event, a chance to meet the new University president and former colleagues.

Wednesday, December 9
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
President's Residence
101 President's Place

Please RSVPs for attendance only to 306-966-5600 or via email to events@usask.ca before December 1.

Remembrance Day at the Memorial Gates

Bryan Harvey, Joan Sawatzky and Dean Jones represented the USRA at the Remembrance Day service, with Bryan Harvey placing a wreath on behalf of the USRA.



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