

USRA Newsletter

September, 2021
No. 113



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From Our President

Greetings USRA Members,



It has been about 17 months since we have had to adapt to the new normal. These last few weeks have shown that the pandemic is not over yet and we still need to be on guard.

With this current health situation comes much uncertainty. The USRA Board has struggled with how we continue to provide programming and other events to our members. I personally believe we need to proceed with caution, especially if we are planning to return to group gatherings in indoor spaces. The Board has been somewhat divided on this issue mainly because there is a feeling that most, if not all, of us are double vaccinated and we can proceed with indoor events. However, we have, with regret, agreed that for now, the wisest course for us all is to continue our activities virtually, including our Fall lecture program.

One major activity that is about to begin is the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the University and our Association. Although we have had the document signed by both parties, work must begin to ensure we can implement the agreed upon conditions as they are intended. As you know the University is a complex organization and it takes some work to get everyone moving in the same direction. My thanks to Rick Bunt for taking the lead on this.

We urge you to attend the **Annual General Meeting**, scheduled for **Tuesday October 19 at 2:00 via Zoom**. The Agenda with information on how to connect to the meeting is on page 15 of the newsletter. The slate of nominees for 2021-2022 is item 9 on the agenda. We are looking forward to seeing you at the AGM and welcome your participation! We have **postponed our Awards Banquet** to a time that we can be together again in person and honour the 2020 and 2021 recipients of our USRA Awards.

We encourage your comments and questions regarding the work that our dedicated Board members have been doing on your behalf. I wish you all the best in the months ahead.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Steeves, President

Addendum: Brad Steeves and Jim Thornhill were planning to continue in their positions as President and Vice-President for the year ahead. Our Board was pleased about their commitment to another year as we transition, hopefully before long, to in-person activities and as well complete some initiatives. Since Brad's writing of the above report, he has continued valiantly to carry on as President, having acquired adverse effects from the first vaccination. This situation is rare but serious. It should resolve in the months ahead, but for now Brad needs to concentrate on recovery and will step away from the Board

this month. Jim will move into the President's role for 2021-2022 and we are delighted that Mary Dykes has agreed to run as our Vice-President. Please join us and the USRA Board in wishing Brad a speedy recovery and thanking him for his excellent service to our Association.

Yours sincerely, Jim Thornhill, Vice-President and Merry Beazely, Past President.

Award Nominees 2021

As mentioned in the President's report the awards banquet has been postponed until a time when we can safely honour the recipients from 2020 (Senator Emeritus Lillian Dyck and Dave Lepard) as well as 2021. The November newsletter will include tributes for this year's nominees.

Continuing Contribution:	Angela Busch, Karim Nasser, Ron Steer
Prime of Life Achievement:	Gary Gullickson, Bill Waiser
Honorary Life Member:	Dean Jones

Fall, 2021 Noon-Hour Educational Series

Mark your calendars for the following noon-hour seminars. For the Fall, 2021 program, we will use Zoom videoconferencing technology for the noon hour presentations. Look in your email for invitations to join our seminar presentations roughly 7-10 days before the date of the presentation by one of the following keynote speakers.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 12:00-1:00
Dr. Sarah Buhler
College of Law, University of Saskatchewan
Pandemic Evictions and the Access to Justice for Tenants in Saskatchewan



Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 12:00-1:00
Dr. Airini
Provost & Vice President, Academic, University of Saskatchewan
University of Saskatchewan 2025 Plan: Aspirations and Actions



Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 12:00-1:00
Russell Wangersky
Editor-in-Chief, Regina Leader Post & Saskatoon Star Phoenix
Fake News



December, 2021, date to be determined,
President Peter Stoicheff's Reception
At his residence if possible or by Zoom regarding current events ongoing at the University of Saskatchewan.



Last year's zoom presentations are available for viewing on our website usra.usask.ca
The Education, Social, and Recreational Committee welcome your suggestions for future speakers and presentation topics. Phone: 306-966-6618 or email: ss.usra@usask.ca

Report of the Committee On Honorary Degrees 2020-2021

Members: Thomas Wilson (chair), Merry Beazely, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson, Asit Sarkar

We can be proud that three of our nominees to the University Senate Honorary Degrees Committee were awarded degrees in 2020-2021. As reported in our November 2020 newsletter, USask alumna Joy Kogawa, an award-winning Japanese-Canadian novelist, poet, and autobiographer, received an Honorary Doctor of Letters at Fall Convocation in 2020. At Spring Convocation this year, Dr. That Ngo, a biochemist who earned his Ph.D. at USask and went on to improve testing of blood glucose levels, received an Honorary Doctor of Science; and our own Past-President of USRA and of its umbrella organization CURAC, Dr. Bryan Harvey the “barley king,” added an Honorary Doctor of Science to his many accolades. He continues to serve on our Executive and that of CURAC.

Dr. That T. Ngo



Dr. That received an Honorary Doctor of Science at the 2021 Spring Convocation. He was nominated by USRA; Dr. Frank Vella, Professor emeritus, did most of the heavy lifting supporting his nomination. Dr. That, a native of Indonesia, arrived in Saskatchewan in 1966. He enrolled in the Honors Biochemistry program and found he liked the cool, dry prairies. He continued his education here, completing his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1973. After post-doctoral fellowships in Ottawa, New York and Montreal he accepted a position with the Ames company research laboratories in Illinois. There he helped develop the first accurate finger prick blood glucose measuring system: a technology that changed the lives of millions of diabetics. He then worked for a number of pharmaceutical research companies, always maintaining his love of academia. He has published 140 papers in peer reviewed journals, was awarded 14 patents, edited 3 books, published 2

others (including a book of poetry) and received many honors including a USask Alumni of Influence Award in 2016. From 1999 to 2003 he was President and CEO of Axiom Pharmaceuticals, a company that guides small and medium size enterprises, in getting revolutionary diagnostic and therapeutic products from bench, to bedside, to market.

Dr. Bryan L. Harvey, O.C., S.O.M., Ph.D., F.A.I.C., P.Ag.



Photo of Chancellor Grit McCreath presenting to Bryan, courtesy Lesley Leonhardt.

Bryan Harvey is a world-renowned scientist, who has greatly contributed to the Canadian agricultural economy, to his field of expertise and to the community. He has had an immense impact as a plant breeder, who, with colleagues, produced over 50 varieties of high-quality barley, including Harrington, resulting in billions of dollars in returns to western Canada. Academic and administrative accomplishments are equally significant, including his key role in establishing the U of S Crop Development Centre as a trailblazer in plant breeding, and co-authoring the University's research intensiveness plan. His extraordinary public service includes outstanding leadership for a multitude of national and international delegations, missions and organizations, including the United Nations and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture. He has shaped Canada's superior regulatory system as relates to variety registration, intellectual property and breeder's rights. At

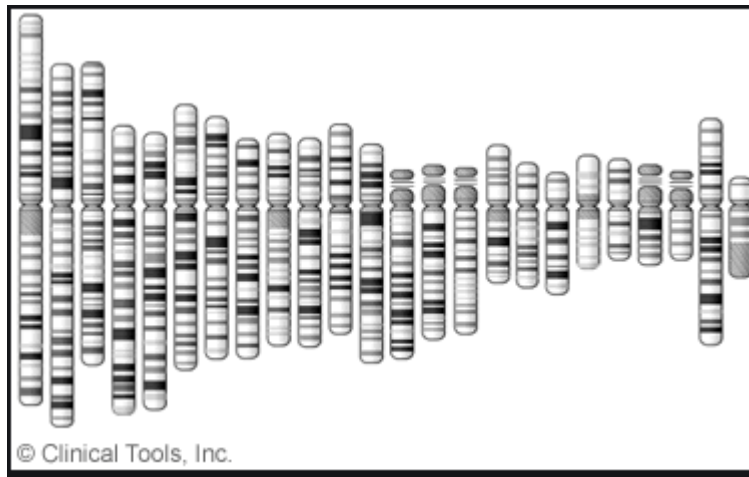
home, his contributions include long-time service with Rotary, Charter Presidency of Saskatoon's Crohn's and Colitis Foundation and Presidencies of the U of S Alumni and Retirees Associations. Bryan has been called a 'true Prairie hero,' and is most proud of his working-class family who instilled his great love of plants. He shared his vast experience, grassroots perspectives, importance of diligent leadership, and love of discovery and of the USask with graduating students at Spring Convocation 2021. He is recipient of local, provincial, national and international awards, medals, hall and wall of fame honours, including investiture as Officer of the Order of Canada. He continues to be highly and widely sought after for his expertise. We are so proud to claim him as a graduate and Professor Emeritus of USask and a long-time member and leader with the USRA.

Dementia: The Prince Of Maladies - Part 2

Tom Wilson

In Part 1 of this essay (USRA Newsletter April 2021) I introduced the topic of dementia. I provided a definition (loss of function in 3 of 5 cognitive domains, e.g. memory, language, visuospatial construction, attention and executive functions¹), described the history of the most common cause: Alzheimer's, and dabbled in its pathology. I noted the generally accepted postmortem findings in the brain: amyloid deposits between nerve cells (neurons), "neurofibrillary tangles" within neurons, and degeneration or death of neurons. My plan was to survey research into dementia in Part 2. Silly me. When I began my literature search I found that it would take all the space of several more newsletters. To prevent anxiety and heart palpitations among the editors, I'll submit these in bite-size pieces. In this section I'll look at what we know of the genetics of Alzheimer's and how animal models can elucidate its cause.

The figure below depicts the 23 human chromosomes: our DNA blueprint (<https://www2.le.ac.uk/projects/vgec/highereducation/topics/genomics>). These chromosomes reside in the nucleus of each of our trillion cells. They contain about 20,000 genes (collectively known as the genome), conglomerations of DNA, which, in turn, direct the assembly of more than 100,000 proteins. Proteins are the structure of our cells and the enzymes, receptors and hormones that make us what we are.



It's long been known that Alzheimer's takes two forms: a rare (1%) form called early onset (EOAD), starting before age 60, and a more common sporadic form with onset over age 65. EOAD is definitely inherited. Half the offspring of an affected person will manifest the disease. Three separate abnormal genes on three separate chromosomes are associated with EOAD. This association does not necessarily mean causation. It's possible that the abnormal genes are simply close to the culprit genes on each chromosome and are inherited together with them.

What about the more common, sporadic, or late onset Alzheimer's (LOAD)? Physicians depend on family history to assess the possibility of inheriting disease. It turns out that having a first degree relative (parent, or sibling) with Alzheimer's doubles the risk of developing it². Note that this relative risk doesn't mean that a person with a first degree relative will get the disease. If the risk of Alzheimer's at 65 is 1%, only 2% of those with a first degree relative will manifest it. 98% of us won't.

In the late 1990's a powerful tool to identify genes associated with complex diseases was developed: Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS). In essence, two large populations, one with the disease and one without, are compared. Differences in any number of our 20,000 genes, between disease sufferers and normal folks can be identified. For Alzheimer's three international consortiums have used this tool to identify such differences.

Earlier research had identified that the gene coding for apolipoprotein E (Apo E) was abnormal in many patients with LOAD³. ApoE may be thought of as a housekeeping gene: it helps clean up damaged

molecules. If ApoE were defective, such molecular garbage could build up and cause problems. Early GWAS studies confirmed abnormal ApoE genes to confer risk for Alzheimer's second only to age. By 2013 an international "mega-consortium" had identified 24 abnormal genes in 25,580 Alzheimer's patients, that were rare in 48,466 controls⁴.

Association studies serve to identify a region of the genome which differs between patients with Alzheimer's and normal controls. Such regions often contain dozens of "candidate" genes. The next step involves proving whether or not candidate genes cause the disease. It is a complex problem for which studies in animals are useful.

<https://www.deviantart.com/drchrissy/art/Simple-mouse-15419672> Mice are easy to handle, share many genes with humans, can be shown to have memory, and most importantly can be genetically manipulated. The "transgenic" mouse has a native gene "knocked out" and a human gene substituted. In this fashion the effect of the human gene can be measured. Mice readily learn complex tasks involving attention and memory. For example, when kept in a square box, mice can be trained to go to one corner, identified by a colored light, for water. They then can be trained to get water only from the opposite corner. Transgenic mice harboring the amyloid protein precursor gene could not remember which corner from which to get water.⁵ Is this enough to revive the "amyloid hypothesis" that I declared dead in Part 1? Uncertain, but at the least it's back on life support.



In the next installment, I look at research for early diagnosis and novel therapies, including aducanumab (Aduhelm[®], Biogen) recently approved by the American FDA (Saskatoon StarPhoenix, June 8, 2021)

Further reading

1. Rubin EH, Storandt M, Miller JP et al: A prospective study of cognitive function and onset of dementia in cognitively healthy elders. *Arch Neurol* 1998;(55): 395-401.
2. Lautenschlager NT, Cupples LA, Rao VS et al: Risk of dementia among relatives of Alzheimer's disease patients in the MIRAGE study: What is in store for the oldest old? *Neurology* 1996;(46): 641-650.
3. Saunders AM, Trowers MK, Shimkets RA et al: The role of apolipoprotein E in Alzheimer's disease: pharmacogenomic target selection. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 2000;(1502): 85-94.
4. Lambert JC, Ibrahim-Verbaas CA, Harold D et al: Meta-analysis of 74,046 individuals identifies 11 new susceptibility loci for Alzheimer's disease. *Nat Genet* 2013;(45): 1452-1458.
5. Masuda A, Kobayashi Y, Kogo N et al: Cognitive deficits in single App knock-in mouse models. *Neurobiol Learn Mem* 2016;(135): 73-82.

Members No Longer with Us

The USRA has learned of the deaths of the following members. We extend our sympathies to their families. Surviving partners of deceased Life Members may inherit their partner's membership if they wish to remain members of the Association. (Please contact the Membership Committee for further information.)

Julianne Carol (née Hampel) Bidwell, B.Sc. Nursing, McMaster U, 1965, died in St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, on May 11, 2021, at age 77. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Paul, children Mark (Kristina) Bidwell and Medbh (Ivan) English, and 5 grandsons. Born in Fergus, ON, she began her nursing career with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Kingston. After moving to Saskatoon, where Paul had accepted a USask faculty position in English, Julie became a founding member of the Nightingale Nursing Group, developed a specialty in occupational health, and eventually joined the University's Centre for Agricultural Medicine. Paul and Julie retired in 2010 to their newly built home on Vancouver Island but returned to Saskatoon in 2019 for proximity to family and health care.

Susan Buczkowski (September 5, 1948 – September 4, 2021) is survived by her husband of 52 years, Peter, their daughter Sheila (Craig) Hordal and son Paul (Delane), six grandchildren, and other family. Born in Saskatoon, Susan graduated from Mount Royal High School and as a Lab Technologist from St. Paul's Hospital. She worked many jobs, but spent 25 years at USask as a Clinical Pathologist in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. She loved teaching and technology. Arrangements for a private family celebration of life are entrusted to Prairieview Cremation and Memorial Services.

Margaret Crowle, born in 1928, died June 14, 2021, aged 93, at Diamond House in Warman, predeceased by her husband William Leigh Crowle in 2001 and her later life partner Eugene Duncan in 2020. She is survived by her 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Associate professor and a former Dean of the College of Home Economics, she had received many honours and awards recognizing her outstanding community service, innovation, and contributions to the peoples of Saskatchewan.

Clarence Stuart Houston, OC, SOM, DLitt, DCnL, MD, FRCPC (Williston, ND, September 26, 1927 – Saskatoon, July 22, 2021) was predeceased in 2019 by his wife of 68 years, Mary Isabel (née Belcher). They are survived by 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Having earned his MD at UManitoba, he practiced with his parents Drs. Clarence J. and Sigga (Christianson) Houston (1951-60) in his hometown, Yorkton, before specializing in Radiology (now Medical Imaging) at USask and pursuing pediatric radiology for a year in Boston. His USask faculty career (1964- 1996) included terms as Department Head (1982-7) and as Canadian Association of Radiologists journal editor, as well as service on the council of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and as three-time honorary president of the Student Medical Society. He was also active in the Saskatoon and provincial Natural History societies. As a bander for Ducks Unlimited in his teens, Stuart developed a lifetime commitment to banding birds. Assisted by his wife in banding and in research, Stuart wrote four books on Saskatchewan natural history and 311 articles in ornithology and natural history journals, culminating in his publication in 2020 with Frank Roy and Alan Smith of the definitive *Birds of Saskatchewan*. He was named Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1989 and received the Roland Michener Conservation Award from the Canadian Wildlife Federation. He also wrote 13 books of history, including 4 on the observations of early Canadian explorer naturalists with the Franklin expedition, 2 biographies of pioneer Saskatchewan doctors, and 3 books describing Saskatchewan's early achievements in health

care. Among many honours that he received in these areas of activity were Officer of the Order of Canada, Saskatchewan Order of Merit, D.Litt., and D.CnL.

Faye Kernan, a Past President who contributed more than two decades of service to USRA, died at age 88 on July 20, 2021, in St. Paul's Hospital Palliative Care. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Jack, their 3 sons and daughter and their spouses, by 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and other family. Born in 1932 at Veregin and raised in Kamsack, SK, in a family of Doukhobor heritage, she studied pharmacy at the University (BSc 1955), where Jack was her lab instructor in organic chemistry. They married at Grace United Church in 1954. After their 1955 graduations, Jack found work in Ontario and later Quebec but they returned to Saskatchewan with their children in 1966. Faye earned a Master's in Theological Studies, St. Andrew's College, 1985. She volunteered at Grace Westminster United Church and for a housing charity, the Voyageur Club, predecessor to The Lighthouse. As the first pharmacist to work at a Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Canada (WCVM, 1967-90), she started Central Supply there, and participated in research. She was instrumental in establishing the Society of Veterinary Hospital Pharmacists in U.S.A. and Canada and in 2011 received its Lifetime Achievement Award. USRA awarded her its Prime of Life Achievement Award in 2015. Saskatoon Funeral Home live-streamed the family's Celebration of Life for her at Agar's Corner, July 29, 2021.

Doris Colleen Firor MacLachlan died at Royal University Hospital on April 8, 2019. Born Doris Caverly in Belleville and raised in Madoc, Ontario, she earned her credentials as a Registered Nurse at Ottawa Civic Hospital. She met her first husband, Dr. Whitmer Firor Jr., a physician, in Baltimore, MD, while she was working as a surgical nurse at Johns Hopkins. They moved in 1966 from Baltimore to Toronto and then permanently to Saskatoon. Together they raised 3 children, a daughter Carley Caverly (Allen) of Saskatoon and sons Jonathan Firor of Burnaby, BC, and Per Firor of Brisbane, Australia. The year after Dr. Firor died in 1995, Doris married **Dr. Thomas Butler MacLachlan II (August 3, 1924-November 17, 2008)**, a widower who had retired Emeritus from the USask College of Medicine (1964-1991). Born in St. Catharines, ON, and raised in Toronto, Tom MacLachlan had served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II as an instrument mechanic. In medical school at UToronto, he had met a fellow student Anne Kathleen Haskey, and they married in 1951. After his 1952 graduation and post-graduate study and internship in Washington, DC, he shared a family medical practice with Anne in Ontario (1953-58). Their move in 1958 to Vancouver, where he studied Obstetrics and Gynecology, and his Pharmacology Fellowship at UAlberta (1964) led to his USask career at Royal University Hospital as an Obstetrician and Gynecologist (Department Head 1967-83) and as a Teaching Professor. His first wife Anne died in 1992 and their son Paul in 1993, but 5 children of Tom and Anne--Thomas III, Robert, Peter, Catherine (m. John Gillard), Caroline (Brian Beus) --and their families survived them. For the last 15 years of his life, Dr. Tom was an ordained Patriarch in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He died surrounded by family in Rapid City, SD, where his son and daughter-in-law Drs. Robert and Sheila MacLachlan, had made their home, but he is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Saskatoon. In the April 10, 2019, StarPhoenix obituary of "Doris Colleen Firor," only members of her Firor family, including 4 grandchildren, are mentioned as her survivors, but the Firor family describes her second marriage in 1996 to Dr. MacLachlan as happy. In his 2008 obituary, his children by Anne compliment Doris as "a very remarkable lady who brought him great happiness" and acknowledge Doris's children as their father's stepchildren.

Isabelle Mills, (ARCT) 1948, BA 1964 (U Manitoba), MA 1965 and Ed D 1971 (Columbia U), died August 10, 2021, in Saskatoon at age 97, predeceased by her parents and siblings but with many nieces, nephews, and their families to remember her. Born September 3, 1923, in Fleming, SK, she earned her

BA at nearby Brandon College in Manitoba. Founded as Baptist College ca 1900, it had added a music school in 1906. The college was renamed when it became a non-denominational affiliate of McMaster University (1911-38), and the music school gained national acclaim for its graduate diplomas in voice and piano. After affiliation with the University of Manitoba replaced that with McMaster in 1938, Brandon College offered music courses as credit toward B.A. and B.Sc. degrees. It also developed from 1963 a Bachelor of Music, and from 1969 a Bachelor of Teaching. From the late 1940s, enrollment, programmes, and campus infrastructure rapidly expanded, and the college in 1967 received its charter as Brandon University. Isabelle witnessed these changes during her 20 years (1947-67) as student and teacher at Brandon College, and director of church and college choirs. During the summers of 1947, 1949 and 1950, she also studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, obtaining certification as an Associate (ARCT) and working toward Licentiate. In 1967, with a BA and MA, Isabelle joined the University of Saskatchewan faculty to teach music and music education (1967-91). She completed her doctorate in Education from Columbia University and established and directed Quance Chorus to train education students in music. She also served a term as Assistant Dean of Students in the College of Arts and Science (1979-84). Isabelle's own disability from polio as a child (walking with a cane and later confined to a wheel chair) inspired her volunteer service to the SaskAbilities Council and March of Dimes, and her ongoing advocacy for the disabled. USRA recognized her with a Prime of Life Achievement Award in 2003. Her Saskatoon Funeral Home obituary invites donations in her memory to the Dr. Isabelle Mills Bursary for University of Saskatchewan Students (15 Thorvaldson Building, 110 Science Place, Saskatoon SK S7N 5C9). Her ashes will be held in the family plot at Fleming.

Leonard F. Proctor died peacefully at home on May 21, 2021, surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Arlene, his sons Jorden (Jennifer) and Brendan (Jill), and ten grandchildren. Professor Barry Brown hired Len in 1966 as Chief Photographer in the University's Audio-Visual Services. Len was transferred to Educational Communications, an amalgamation of several departments, in 1968, went to Indiana University, and after completing a Ph.D. in Instructional Systems Technology there, became a USask professor in Educational Communications, specializing in Educational Technology and Design. He researched computer-based learning systems, particularly those based on models of inquiry. Before retiring in 2014, Len also served for several years as head of the Department of Curriculum Studies. Alongside their academic careers, after he and his colleague Barry were offered two free hives in 1988, they began developing bee-keeping businesses side by side at Langham. Len's family business, Cornucopia Honey, is now run primarily by his son Jorden.

Margaret Ruth Robinson, wife of retired Professor Sam Robinson in Curriculum Studies, College of Education, died suddenly on August 27, 2021. A USask alumna in Arts and Education, Ruth was born in Toronto in 1939, later moved to Saskatchewan with her parents, and met Sam in her first teaching position at Swift Current. They settled in Saskatoon with their 4 children in 1975 and now have 5 granddaughters. Ruth received many awards for her extensive volunteer career with a focus on consumer rights and information, mental health, women's equality and education, homelessness, architectural heritage, and church activities. Her awards include 1992 Saskatoon Citizen of the Year, 2003 Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, and 2004 Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

P.M. (Peter Michael) Swan, B.A., M.A. University of Saskatchewan, Ph.D. Harvard University, was born October 4, 1931, in Kennedy, SK, to Peter White Swan, who ran a real estate and insurance business, and Jean Carolyn (Dodd) Swan, a school teacher who had become a music teacher and community leader. His father was from Coatbridge, Scotland, and his mother from Wawota, Northwest Territories.

Introduced to Latin in Kennedy's 2-room high school, Michael retired in 1999 as a Master Teacher (1989) and Professor Emeritus of History from his 40-year USask career of teaching and research on classical, especially Roman, history. His most notable publication, *The Augustan Succession* (Oxford University Press), appeared in 2004. He also shared generously his thorough classical training with other scholars as an editor, translator, and occasionally as a co-author. His service as an administrator included 7 years as Assistant Dean of Arts and Science. Having co-founded (with art historian Nicholas Gyenes) the Museum of Antiquities (now in the Peter MacKinnon Building), P.M. (Michael) Swan continued to support and encourage the curators and student volunteers who have developed it since 1974. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Margaret (née Kovach), their three children--sons David, Michael, and daughter Kleis (all three of whom became professional musicians) -- and their families.

For notices in memory of former employees of the University, as well as current students, employees, and others honoured when the flag on the Thorvaldson Building is flown at half mast, please see the In Memoriam website maintained by the University Secretary:

<https://governance.usask.ca/about/flag-at-half-mast.php#InMemoriam>

Are you interested in joining a USRA book club?

At its September meeting the Board expressed interest in forming a book club. We are surveying our members to gauge interest. Among the many questions to be answered:

- What are the minimum and maximum members of the club?
- How shall we pick the books? Local authors (who might attend)? University authors writing for a general audience (who also might attend)?
- Are you interested in buying each book, or would you rather borrow it from a Library? The Edmonton Public Library has Book Club Kits: https://epl.bibliocommons.com/v2/search?custom_edit=false&query=callnumber%3A%28%22book+club+kit%2A%2A%22%29&searchType=bl&sort=PUBLISHED_DATE&suppress=true . They have 10 copies of each book which can be borrowed for 6 weeks. I've reached out to them regarding our joining their library.
- How shall we meet; virtual (Zoom) or in person? If the latter, where?

If you're interested, contact Tom Wilson thomas.wilson@usask.ca .

From the Saskatoon Council on Aging

June Gawdun, Executive Director, and Virginia Dakiniewich, Fund Development & Communication Coordinator of the Saskatoon Council on Aging, invites our members to view the fall issue of SCOA's newsletter, *Coming of Age*, on the SCOA website at <https://scoa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Coming-of-Age-Fall-2021-2.pdf> . As well as information on fall programming, this issue has several articles on health:

- *Promoting Health Literacy Awareness* by Sheila Clements, Chair Communication Committee
- *Pain in Older Adults with Moderate to Severe Dementia* by Thomas Hadjistavropoulos, Ph.D., FCAHS
- *Persistent Pain! What's in a Name?* by Mercedes Montgomery, RN (Retired)

- *SCOA Explores the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Older Adults* by Candace Skrapek
Chair, Age-friendly Community Development Committee

Dates to remember:

October 1, 2021 International Day of Older Persons.

On 14 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons

October 1-31 Health Literacy Month

October 6 @ 1:00pm Zoom presentation *Healthy Eating for Older Adults* with Alyson Little, Registered Dietitian. Preregister on the SCOA website scoa.ca

Thank you June and Virginia for permission to pass this information on to our members.

Annual Membership Renewal

Annual memberships cover July to June of the following year. If you are an annual subscriber, it's time to renew! The membership form is on the last page. (Life members need not renew.)

New members, those who retired anytime in 2021, will not need to pay until June of 2022.
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Keep in Touch!

We welcome your letters to the editor. Write, phone or email us.

Moving? Changing your email address? Don't miss an issue of our newsletter or notices about upcoming activities! Make sure you let us know your new contact information.

University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association 221 Cumberland Ave N Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3
phone: 306-966-6618 email: ss.usra@usask.ca website: <https://usra.usask.ca>

Annual General Meeting

Dear Members:

If you have received this Agenda in the September Newsletter by email, and are planning to attend the AGM via Zoom, please contact Dean Jones at dean.jones@usask.ca by October 12, 2021. We will email you back with information about how to join the AGM meeting on October 19, 2021 and will forward meeting materials to you.

If you have received this Agenda in the September Newsletter by post and would like to attend the AGM via Zoom, and have access to a computer/Internet, please phone our USRA phone number at 306-966-6618 by October 12, 2021. We will phone you back with information on how to join the AGM meeting on October 19, 2021 and access meeting materials.

AGM Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Via Zoom Videoconference

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2020
4. President's Report: Jim Thornhill and Merry Beazely, for Brad Steeves
5. Treasurer's Report: Tom Wilson
6. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Awards: Dean Jones
 - b. College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC): Bryan Harvey
 - c. Communication: Dean Jones
 - d. Education, Social and Recreation: Jim Thornhill
 - e. Membership and Tribute to Members No Longer with Us: Beryl Radcliffe and Judith Henderson
 - f. Engagement: Rick Bunt
 - g. Honorary Degrees: Tom Wilson
 - h. Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Heritage: Merry Beazely
7. New Business
 - a. Motions to Amend the Constitution and By-Laws of the USRA: Merry Beazely (please see information below)
 - b. USRA Book Club: Tom Wilson
8. Report of Nominations Committee: Merry Beazely
9. Election of Executive Committee/Board for 2021-2022

President	Jim Thornhill
Vice-President	Mary Dykes
Secretary	Jackie Huck
Treasurer	Tom Wilson
Immediate Past-President	Merry Beazely
Members-at-Large	Rick Bunt, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson, Yannis Papatouroglou, Beryl Radcliffe and Rick Schwier
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

Amendments to the USRA Constitution and By-laws

This year a committee of the Board was formed to review the USRA Constitution and By-laws. There were sections of the Constitution and By-laws that needed to be updated or clarified. We also wanted to review these documents in light of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University (signed March 26, 2021), and its impact on our operations.

The committee, comprising Merry Beazely (Chair), Rick Bunt, Mary Dykes and Bryan Harvey, reviewed the definitions and purposes of governing documents of an organization. We came to understand that four things needed to be done regarding the USRA Constitution and By-laws.

1. Constitution – this document has a limited purpose and includes formal name, number of directors, high level goal of the organization and dissolution requirements. There is content in our current Constitution that needs to be updated or moved to another document, that we have termed Policies and Procedures (see below). Changes to the Constitution need to be ratified by our membership.
2. By-laws – serve to regulate the affairs of our organization with respect to the functioning of the Board, its relationship to members and voting rights. By-law changes must be ratified by the members. There is content in our current By-laws that needs to be updated or moved to a Policies and Procedures document.
3. MOU with the University – the committee believes it is not appropriate to mesh the MOU articles into our Constitution and By-laws. The MOU is a three-year commitment, focussing on operational matters. In addition, we may enter into agreements with other institutions or organizations. Therefore, we have added a section to our Constitution that reads “The objectives of the Association may be facilitated through agreement(s) with the University of Saskatchewan and other organizations.”
4. Policies and Procedures – are determined and approved by the Board of an organization, without going to the membership. This gives the Board the flexibility and opportunity to identify organizational practices and day-to-day operations and to modify them when the need arises. We need a Policies and Procedures document that provides details on the duties of Board members, Board committees and their work, and other operational guidelines, including referencing specific information where appropriate from the MOU. Such a document will be very helpful to new members of the Board. We will ensure that the Policies and Procedures are available to members, realizing that they will change over time.

Agenda item 7 a) for the AGM on October 19, 2021, is a motion to amend our Constitution and another motion to amend our By-laws, along with the rationale for these amendments, approved by the USRA Board on September 7, 2021. Please note that Article 13 of the Constitution, with minor editing of wording, will continue to require that changes to the Constitution and By-laws must be approved by a two-thirds majority of ordinary members present at a General Meeting.

Please see <https://usra.usask.ca/documents/constitution-170925.pdf> to read our current Constitution and By-laws. If you have any questions about the proposed amendments, please don't hesitate to contact merry.beazely@usask.ca or the other members of our committee, rick.bunt@usask.ca, mary.dykes@icloud.com or bryan.harvey@usask.ca.

University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association Membership Application



Membership in the Association is open to any **retired employee of** the University of Saskatchewan and its federated and affiliated colleges, including staff employed under research grants and contracts. Also eligible are persons who have been employed by the University of Saskatchewan for 6 or more years and have reached the age of 55 years. **The partner of a member may be a non-voting Associate Member and may inherit his/her Life Membership.**

Provide contact information:

Name _____

Postal Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Name of Partner (Optional) _____

Membership Type (choose one):

New Retiree (you will receive the newsletter for first year following your retirement) <input type="checkbox"/> \$0 Date of Retirement _____	
Annual Membership (July – June): <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00	Life Membership (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> <60 years \$200 <input type="checkbox"/> 60-64 \$180 <input type="checkbox"/> 65-69 \$160 <input type="checkbox"/> 70-74 \$130 <input type="checkbox"/> 75-79 \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ \$ 70

Newsletter Delivery (choose one):

- I prefer to receive my newsletter via e-mail.
- I prefer to receive my newsletter via Canada Post.
- From time to time we take pictures at our events. These pictures may be used in newsletters and on our website. Check here if you **do not** want to be identified in these pictures.

Mail this form and your cheque for an annual or Life membership fee to: Membership Committee, USRA, 221 Cumberland Ave N, Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3 **OR** e-mail this form to ss.usra@usask.ca and use etransfer to remit your annual or Life membership fee to Treasurer, Tom Wilson (thomas.wilson@usask.ca).