

USRA Newsletter
May, 2022
No. 115



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From Our President

Greetings USRA Members,



I wish to report to you from President Stoicheff's Office that **Cheryl Hamelin** has been appointed as the new Vice President of University Relations (VPUR) starting June 1st, 2022. Ms. Hamelin, a former graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, has wide experience in fundraising and development, alumni relations, communications, operations and services. The USRA looks forward to working with Cheryl Hamelin's Office as we continue to implement the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed last year for University retirees. We welcome Ms. Hamelin back to Saskatoon and wish her well in her new position.

I urge the membership to read the latest information of the events arranged by the Education, Social and Recreation found within this newsletter or on our website at usra.usask.ca. A tour of the Patterson Garden Arboretum is planned for this month. The monthly noon hour seminar series will resume in September at the Western Development Museum.

My personal invitation to the Celebration Banquet on June 23 immediately follows this report. I hope to meet many of you there.

I wish to thank the many Board members for their work on updates to our Constitution and By-Laws which were approved at the 2021 AGM as well as the new document covering Policies and Procedures. The Policies and Procedures document will assist all Board members working on the many activities within the various Standing Committees.

Other Board members have been very active in seeking answers to the pension questions that have been raised by the membership. Board members are currently working with the University Pension Office on how we best interact with them to get your pension questions answered.

After the Board takes a short break in July we will begin planning our 2022 Annual General Meeting for the fall.

Wishing everyone a warm and sunny summer!!

Regards,
Jim Thornhill, President of USRA

Invitation To Attend The Celebration Banquet June 23, 2022

Dear USRA Members:

It has been a long two years of isolation!

We have not been able to interact with you in-person during any of our programs or activities since March 2020. That is going to change as we welcome you to the Celebration Banquet, co-hosted by the University of Saskatchewan and USRA, to be held on Thursday, June 23 at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.

We have much to celebrate that evening as we will acknowledge and congratulate the meritorious contributions of eight USRA award recipients from the past two years, recognize new and recently retired University personnel, and celebrate the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the USRA and the University of Saskatchewan.

To share in our celebration Cheryl Hamelin, the new Vice President of University Relations, and Danielle Dunbar, returning to her position as Associate Vice President and Chief Development Officer, Advancement after June 1, will attend our banquet representing the University.

Equally important, this event is an opportunity to re-connect with colleagues and friends in-person – meet up during the reception hour in Saskatchewan Hall while listening to music by the Lost Keys, or while exploring the exhibits in the 1910 Boomtown Museum.

I sincerely hope you will be able to attend and share in the celebration with fellow retirees, recent retirees, award recipients and our co-hosts, Cheryl Hamelin and Danielle Dunbar.

Regards,

Jim

*Jim Thornhill President, USRA
Prof. Emeritus, UoFS*

USRA Celebration Banquet

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Western Development Museum, Saskatchewan Hall

Reception 5:00pm with music by Lost Keys

Program begins 6:00pm

Master of Ceremonies: Jim Thornhill

Guest Speaker and Co-Host: Danielle Dunbar

Cost per person: \$35.00

RSVP by Monday, June 13, 2022

*Cash bar during reception and banquet: beer, wine, soft drinks, spirits
Dinner menu: chicken entrée with all the trimmings, dessert, coffee and tea*

RSVP: Phone the USRA office at (306) 966-6618 OR email Mary Dykes at med970@usask.ca. Please let us know the number of people in your party and if you have any dietary requirements.

Pay in advance and be entered in a draw for a door prize! See instructions below.

Pay on arrival: cash, cheque, or e-transfer.

More Prizes! Every attendee will receive a USRA pen plus be entered in two more draws for door prizes!

Award Recipients:

- 2020 Continuing Contribution: Lillian Dyck, Dave Lepard
- 2021 Continuing Contribution: Angela Busch, Karim Nasser, Ron Steer
- 2021 Prime of Life Achievement: Gary Gullickson, Bill Waiser
- 2021 Honorary Life: Dean Jones

Cancellation Policy: As with all of our in-person social events, your safety is our top priority. If you registered to attend the celebration banquet and you are feeling unwell on June 23rd, we ask that you stay home. Please let us know that you are not coming, and if you paid in advance, your money will be reimbursed.

We encourage you to prepay.

By Mail: Send a cheque to our office USRA 221 Cumberland Ave N Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3

By e-transfer: Send the e-transfer to USRA Treasurer, Tom Wilson, at this email address: wilsontw1985@gmail.com. Send the answer to your secret question to Tom at his usask email address thomas.wilson@usask.ca.

Errata November 2021 Newsletter

2021 USRA Awards: Professor Emeritus Dr. Bill Waiser and Professor Gary Gullickson should have been reported as Prime of Life Achievement Award recipients.

Education, Social and Recreation Committee Report

Merry Beazely, Beryl Radcliffe, Rick Schwier, Jim Thornhill, Mary Dykes (chair)

Spring Campus Tours

Merlis Belsher Place: Our tour of Merlis Belsher Place, scheduled for April 20, was postponed due to the very high presence of virus in Saskatoon wastewater. We don't have a new date yet for this tour but will let members know when we do.

Patterson Garden Arboretum: This tour is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18 and all members wishing to attend should have rsvp'd to Mary Dykes med970@usask.ca by Friday May 13.

2022 Fall Seminars At The Western Development Museum

Our fall luncheon seminars will be held at the Western Development Museum, Saskatchewan Hall. Saskatchewan Hall is a new venue for our seminars. It has ample room to accommodate all who wish to attend and the caterers offer a variety of luncheon menus. As a bonus, you will be able to tour the 1910 Boomtown Museum at no cost after the seminars. To ensure we meet the needs of members for the resumption of our in-person luncheon seminars at this new location, we will ask for your feedback after each presentation.

Members with email will receive invitations a couple of weeks before each event listed below. Members without email can phone our USRA office at 306 966-6618 to register no later than one week before the seminar.

Wednesday September 21

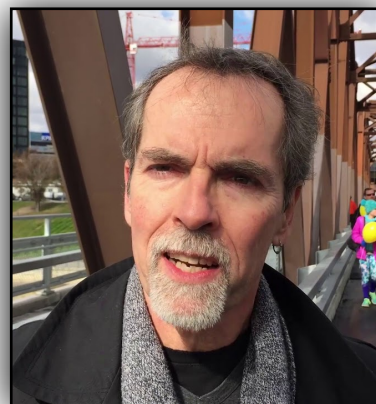
11:30 - 1:30

Jeff O'Brien, City of Saskatoon Archivist

Saskatoon: Temperance Colony to Prairie City, 1883-1914

Host and moderator: Rick Schwier

(Photo: Jeff O'Brien at the reopening of the Traffic Bridge)



Wednesday October 12

11:30 - 1:30

Shannon Chinn, Chief Athletics Officer

Update On Husky Athletics

Host and moderator: Merry Beazely



Wednesday, November 16

11:30 - 1:30

Jennifer Bond, Collette Travel

Travel Opportunities With Collette Travel

All USRA members are eligible to book tours through Collette Travel, a CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada) partner. Plus USRA receives a rebate when members book with Collette.



In **December** we hope to have an in-person gathering with President Peter Stoicheff at the President's Residence.

Last year's zoom presentations are still available for viewing on our website usra.usask.ca.

The Education, Social and Recreational Committee welcomes your suggestions for future speakers and presentation topics. Phone 306-966-6618 or email ss.usra@usask.ca.

Being Intensely Vigorous During an Intensely Long, Cold Winter

Lea Pennock and Mary Dykes, Team Captains

For the first time ever, the USRA fielded a team this winter for the Saskatoon Council on Aging's annual Globe Walk. Between January and April, our team, The **Intensely Vigorous University Retirees** with thirteen members logged a total of 110,970 minutes of exercise, which included walking, hiking, yoga, snow (and roof!) shovelling, swimming, cross-country skiing, and using treadmills, rowing machines and exercise bikes—on two continents. With some of our members in Europe, we fielded two sub-teams for a friendly competition. The SCOA's website kept us motivated and provided some fun group sessions, both on line and in person. We asked some of our members to let us know about their experience. Here's what they said:

Looking over my four past months of calculations, I marvel and smile. We in this climate are indeed intrepid people. I roof-shovelled and shovelled and shovelled some more. Then we had a few of wet slushy snow. My treadmill daily periods. But we prairie people are strong and we got through to greening spring. --Tonya

Living in Switzerland makes hiking easy. There are many beautiful walks, up hill and down hill, which can be enjoyed even for somebody in his 80s like me. --Winfried

I got to fully experience Saskatoon as a beautiful river city by walking the Meewasin Trail practically every day in all kinds of weather. I also enjoyed racking up minutes on the exercise bike and rowing machine, cross-country skiing, swimming and doing yoga—activities that helped get me through these challenging Covid times. --Kathryn

Exercise in winter during a pandemic is not the easiest thing to accomplish and although I came nowhere close to the logged times of others, being part of this group prompted me to get out there as often as the freezing winds and howling blizzards allowed in and further prompted me to do some exercises at home that are possible with very little equipment. Thanks everyone! --Caroline

I have always loved athletics and I realized at a very early age that athletics/sports don't necessarily make you fit, you have to be fit to be athletic. --Beryl

[Dani Rojas says 'football is life'](#)-- for me 'walking is life'. Come walk with our team next year! --Mary

Lucky for us that GlobeWalk coincided with our long walk in Spain! Walking every day was pretty much a given, and there was no snow and ice. We're impressed with how our fellow walkers in Saskatoon managed to put in so many hours in the middle of a tough winter. Solvitur ambulando! --Lea and Dan

Even though we were each 'doing our own thing' wherever we happened to be this winter, there was a sense of camaraderie and shared effort. We hope to do it again next year, and we hope you'll join us!

USRA Nominations Committee

Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson and Merry Beazely (Chair)



Would you like to work with this friendly group of retirees on the USRA Board?

Each fall, at our AGM, we elect the USRA Board for the year, to fill Executive positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and usually eight or more Director positions. This is with the exception of the President, who moves to Past-President and is automatically on the Board. The Vice-President normally takes on the role of President. Many of the Board members opt to let their names stand for several years and we appreciate the important institutional memories of our long-term Board members.

However, we also very much value having new members, who bring new ideas and new expertise to the Board. We aim for diversity on the Board in terms of genders and previous experiences with our different employee and bargaining groups on campus. We aim to spread the workload evenly, and ease new members in 'gently.' The time commitment is very reasonable and many of our Board continue to have other volunteer activities and hobbies. We now have a Policies and Procedures document that provides details on the responsibilities of the various positions. And we help each other out!

Please let us know if you are interested in finding out more to merry.beazely@usask.ca. We look forward to talking or meeting with you.

USRA Policies & Procedures

Rick Bunt, Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey and Merry Beazely (Chair)

Last year a sub-committee of the Board was formed to review the USRA Constitution and By-laws. We reviewed the definitions and purposes of governing documents of an organization. There were sections of our Constitution and By-laws that needed to be updated and/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.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws were approved by members at the USRA AGM held on October 19, 2021. The revised documents can be found at <https://usra.usask.ca/about.php#GovernanceandCommittees>. We noted that the next step was to draft Policies and Procedures to support the Constitution and By-laws. The sub-committee went about drafting these, with valuable input from all of the Board members providing details on the responsibilities of the Executive (i.e., President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and our several committees. We included a section called "USRA Objectives Facilitated Through Agreements." At this time, there is one agreement in place, and that is the MOU. There may be additional agreements with other organizations initiated in the future.

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. The document 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. Much of this information was not written down previously and we believe this document will be very helpful to both current and new members of the Board. We realize that policies and procedure will change over time, and we plan to review the document annually, following the AGM. The Policies and Procedures document will be available soon on our website at the URL above. Please send comments to merry.beazely@usask.ca.

Dementia: The Prince Of Maladies - Part 4

Dr. Tom Wilson

In the first three parts of this series (April, September and November 2021) I outlined the definition of dementia, its epidemiology, theories of causation, and current treatments. To summarize briefly: dementia is a decrease in cognitive functioning in more than one domain. I like the mnemonic “MALVE”: Memory, Attention, Language, Visuospatial, Executive. In we seniors, all of these decline with age; dementia is a greater decline than expected from aging.

Using this definition, dementia is a common problem: about 1% of people aged 60 and one third of those over 85 meet the criteria¹. Because many people with dementia are cared for in institutions the cost is staggering. About 1% of the Gross Domestic Product of the UK is spent on dementia care². The cost of “informal care” by spouses, offspring and others is estimated to be 3 times as much.

Current treatments for dementia include cholinesterase inhibitors like Aricept[®], the MDMA antagonist, memantine, and over-the-counter preparations like Prevagen[®]. All show modest, transient benefits and significant side effects.

In this final installment, I’ll address emerging therapies focusing on aducanumab. No drug has caused more controversy. Let’s start at the beginning. The figure below was published in 2016 in Nature³. These are cross sections of the human brain as revealed by PET-CT scans.

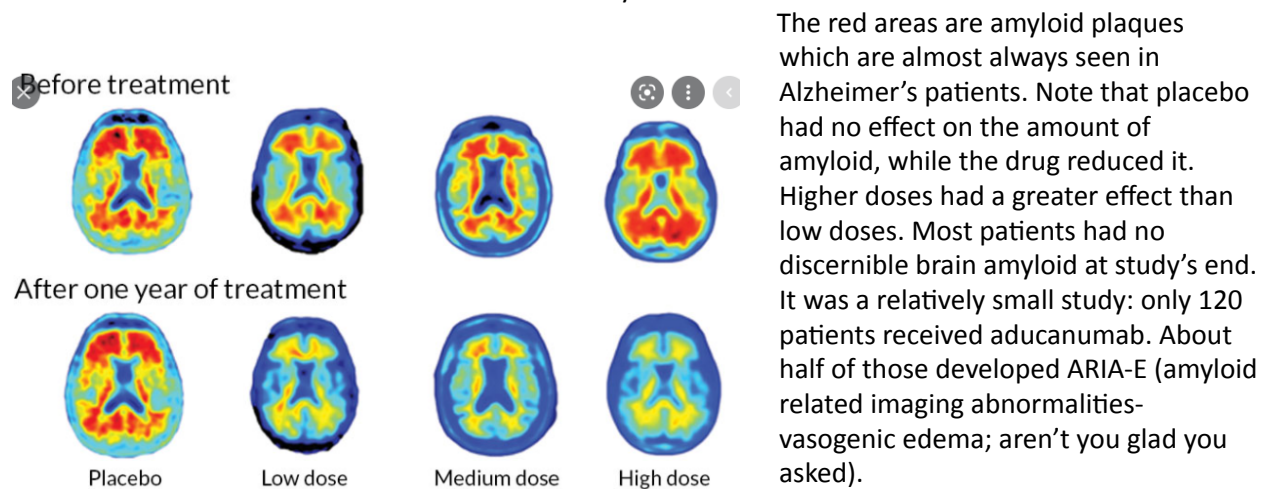


Image source: https://www.google.com/search?q=aducanumab+canada&rlz=1C1GGRV_enCA751CA751&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjO2sultaD1AhXBjIkEHfnSD6IQ_AUoAnoECAEQBA&biw=1920&bih=969&dpr=1#imgrc=82MJscPHOJQAgM&imgdii=-R-KJlr

ARIA-E was the main adverse effect; often with mild or no clinical symptoms and disappeared after 4-12 weeks. Aducanumab was given by intravenous infusion at monthly intervals for one year. Although several psychological tests were performed, the study was too small to detect a meaningful difference.

Biogen, the company making aducanumab, had begun two phase 3, "pivotal" clinical trials in March 2015: EMERGE and ENGAGE. A total of 1748 subjects with mild cognitive impairment or early Alzheimer's plus abundant amyloid plaques on PET-CT scans, were to be randomized to placebo, low dose or high dose aducanumab. The primary outcome was the change in the Clinical Dementia Rating-Sum of Boxes: CDR-SB. This questionnaire, filled out by a technician in consultation with patients and care-givers, examines 6 domains: memory, orientation (to person, place, and time), problem solving, community affairs, home/hobbies and personal care. Each domain is rated 0-3, with 0 being normal⁴. The investigators entered enough people to detect a 0.5 point difference between placebo and aducanumab treated patients at 3 years.

Why am I boring you with all these details? Because the devil is in them! In December 2018 the sponsor (Biogen) did an analysis of the results for 1748 patients who completed three years in the trial. They concluded that the trial had less than a 20% chance of a positive outcome, and stopped both studies in March 2019.

But wait, there's more. Between December 2018 and March 2019, 318 more patients completed the study. When these were analyzed, ENGAGE still showed no difference, but EMERGE found a "23%" difference in favour of aducanumab. Biogen submitted these data to the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA has a number of independent advisory committees, including the "Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs". This group of experts examined the study findings and recommended against approval. They pointed out the statistical errors and the small advantage, if any, of aducanumab⁵. Nevertheless, the FDA approved the drug on June 7th, 2021. It's currently being reviewed by Health Canada.

Biogen indicated the cost of aducanumab would be \$56,000 US per year. The high cost, minimal benefits, and uncertainty over the role of amyloid plaques in Alzheimer's suggest that payers like provincial drug plans will be hesitant to pony up the cash. Finally, the main side effect ARIA-E is common. There are several other "anti-amyloid" drugs in development⁶: to date none have shown marked improvement in outcomes.

Investigators are examining other possibilities. It's long been known that cardiovascular disease (e.g. heart attack and stroke) and dementia share risk factors. Hypertension, smoking, high cholesterol and diabetes all are more prevalent in people with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Moreover treating these risk factors reduces the incidence of dementia. Lowering blood pressure by about 8/5 mmHg, reduces the incidence of dementia by 55%⁷. Similarly, decreasing "bad" cholesterol leads to a 39% decrease⁸, and quitting smoking a 14% decrease⁹. Treating diabetes with older drugs does not appear to reduce dementia, but newer agents might be more successful¹⁰.

Other researchers are looking at the small blood vessels of the brain. There is a complex system of neurons, astrocytes (which support neurons) and small (<10 μ M) blood vessels¹¹. If small blood vessels are damaged or don't function properly, neurons suffer. Furthermore, our brains are somewhat protected from circulating toxins by the blood brain barrier. Small blood vessels are an integral part. The American National Institutes of Health has designated "Vascular Contributions to Cognitive Impairment and Dementia" as an emerging area of research. *Stay tuned!*

References available on request

Further reading

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3. Sevigny J, Chiao P, Bussiere T et al: The antibody aducanumab reduces Abeta plaques in Alzheimer's disease. *Nature* 2016;(537): 50-56.
4. O'Bryant SE, Lacritz LH, Hall J et al: Validation of the new interpretive guidelines for the clinical dementia rating scale sum of boxes score in the national Alzheimer's coordinating center database. *Arch Neurol* 2010;(67): 746-749.
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7. Forette F, Seux ML, Staessen JA et al: The prevention of dementia with antihypertensive treatment: new evidence from the Systolic Hypertension in Europe (Syst-Eur) study. *Arch Intern Med* 2002;(162): 2046-2052.
8. Dufouil C, Richard F, Fievet N et al: APOE genotype, cholesterol level, lipid-lowering treatment, and dementia: the Three-City Study. *Neurology* 2005;(64): 1531-1538.
9. Choi D, Choi S, Park SM: Effect of smoking cessation on the risk of dementia: a longitudinal study. *Ann Clin Transl Neurol* 2018;(5): 1192-1199.
10. McMillan JM, Mele BS, Hogan DB et al: Impact of pharmacological treatment of diabetes mellitus on dementia risk: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ Open Diabetes Res Care* 2018;(6): e000563-
11. Gonzalez-Fernandez E, Liu Y, Auchus AP et al: Vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia: the emerging role of 20-HETE. *Clin Sci (Lond)* 2021;(135): 1929-1944.

Did you know: Our sister organization, College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC), has a Health Care Policy Committee which includes among its members our very own **Dr. Tom Wilson**. The committee publishes their annual reports and bulletins on topics such as chronic pain, medications, social isolation, opioids, and more on the CURAC website at <https://curac.ca/committees/health-policy-committee/>

Members In The News

Dr. Robert Calder (BA'63, MA'65) Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Calder's many achievements were celebrated at the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Achievement Awards Gala, held on May 9.



Dr. Robert (Bob) Calder is a person of many talents and has accomplished widespread excellence. He has given his time and energy for nearly sixty years to pursuits both professional and personal that have had an impact on Saskatchewan and the world. As a writer and professor, Dr. Calder has explored a broad range of topics, including the life and work of William Somerset Maugham; British propaganda, battle fatigue and suicide in World War II; the meeting of the Spanish and the Maya in Yucatan in the sixteenth century; and the history of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Dedicated to lending his expertise and guidance to others, Dr. Calder has contributed to countless hours to serving the University of Saskatchewan and broader community through his volunteer work promoting writers and writing in the province.

(Photo and tribute copied from Alumni and Friends website: <https://alumni.usask.ca/get-involved/awards.php>).

Announcements

Employee Appreciation Picnic. After a two year hiatus the University is once again holding the Employee Appreciation Picnic in the bowl on Tuesday, June 14 from 11am-2pm. USRA will be there too with Board members in attendance.

PAWS Retirement Channel. Just in case you missed our email announcing this — retirees now have access to a wealth of retirement information through the PAWS Retirement Channel at <https://paws.usask.ca/go/retirement>. If you cannot add the Retirement Channel to your PAWS list of Apps and Services, contact ICT <https://servicecatalogue.usask.ca/it/>. Make sure to tell them you are a retiree.

University Pension Plans: An article on the Board's review of pension plans was not available by publication deadline. After receiving some questions from members about their plans, we had a meeting with Heather Fortosky, Pension Manager, in late April. We are waiting for clarification of a couple of points from Heather. Our article will be in the next newsletter. Members can contact the Pension Office directly with any questions by phone 306 966-6633 or email pension@usask.ca.

Members No Longer With Us

Judith Henderson, Membership Committee

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.)

Joseph Campbell (Regina, January 18, 1929 – Saskatoon, January 17, 2022) passed away peacefully at St. Paul's Hospital one day before his 93rd birthday and 36 days after the death on December 11, 2021, of his beloved wife of more than 70 years, **Rosemary (nee Specken) Campbell**. They were predeceased by their son Don, but they are survived by eight of their children, their fourteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Born February 12, 1931, Rosemary attended Krumpelman School, then moved from her parents' farm near Grandora to Saskatoon to complete her education at St. Joseph School and the Convent of Sion. Having qualified for a teaching certificate at Saskatoon Normal School at USask, she taught grades one to eight at Arlee (1949-50) and grades one to four at Asquith (1950-51). After marrying Joe, she was active in church and school organizations, and later, with Joe, in the pro-life movement. Joe attended St. Joseph School, Nutana Collegiate, and USask, graduating in arts and education with an arts major in philosophy through St. Thomas More College. After ten years as a radio and TV newsmen, for 20 years he handled media relations and various writing, editing, and publishing tasks as USask director of news and publications. Retiring in 1990, he was active in Roman Catholic organizations. He also freelanced for the secular and Catholic press and published two collections of humour, receiving the Stephen Leacock Association Award of Merit. He played trumpet from age 15, led the Joe Campbell Sextet at USask, and co-founded the Bridge City Dixieland Jazz Band, which became well known on radio, TV, and record, and at jazz festivals.

Dawn Hayton (July 3, 1931 – Saskatoon, September 4, 2017) inherited the USRA Life Membership of her husband, **Dr. Robert Carlyle (Bob) Hayton** (June 28, 1932 - April 9, 2003). Dr. Hayton developed Alzheimer's at age 59, according to USRA Treasurer Dr. Tom Wilson, who knew both of them well. He recalls that Bob had two Grey Cup rings from playing football with the Edmonton Eskimos while completing medical school at the University of Alberta. He was with the Eskimos when they won the Grey Cup in 1954, also the year of his marriage to Dawn. After his internship at Calgary General Hospital, they moved to Loon Lake, SK, in 1958, where he worked for a year as a General Practitioner before going to Saskatoon for two years of further training in Internal Medicine, followed by London Heart Hospital for another year of training in Cardiology. He spent the rest of his career as a Cardiologist in Saskatoon. Dawn had grown up in Springvale, AB, outside Red Deer, and had graduated with a teaching certificate from the University of Edmonton. She taught school in Loon Lake in 1958 and in Saskatoon completed a USask BA and BEd while raising her two children, then taught Elementary and High School English and later volunteered for Telecable 10 television station interviewing artists, authors, and environmentalists. Interested in reading, bridge, and political news, she enjoyed international travel with Bob. She also pursued running from age 49 into her early 70s but suffered later in life from arthritis and about ten years ago developed degenerative muscle disease. She was survived by her children Susan (Grant Stoneham) and Peter (Sarah Bornstein) and five grandchildren.

Sonja Margaret (nee Lilla) Kitzan (Port Arthur, ON, December 16, 1941 – Stonebridge Crossing, Saskatoon, April 20, 2022) is survived by her husband Laurence and their adopted children - son Chris (Janelle) and daughter Jennifer (Maurice) – and five grandchildren. Having met on a train from Thunder Bay to Toronto in 1961, Laurence and Sonja married in 1962. After a year in England, Laurence joined the USask History faculty and Sonja began working on her PhD in microbiology. Together they enjoyed extensive international travel over 50 years. A celebration of Sonja's life was held April 26 at Park Funeral Home. Saskatoon SPCA welcomes memorial donations.

Jean (nee Cameron) Kristjanson (1935 - December 1, 2021) was predeceased by her husband Leo, who is most remembered as USask President, especially for conducting a successful fund-raising campaign for a new College of Agriculture building, in spite of his declining health and mobility. Jean was raised on a farm near Moore Park, MB. At 16 she moved to Winnipeg to complete high school and enroll in nurses training at Winnipeg General Hospital. She met Leo and eventually they moved to Saskatoon, where he joined the USask faculty and they raised their four children. Jean was an active and contributing member of the Saskatoon community and, as wife of the USask President, was appreciated by the University's retirees as their gracious hostess at receptions in the President's House. Jean became an Associate Member when Leo joined USRA following his retirement. After they moved to Gimli, MB, she was her husband's caregiver in his final years, but she found a home in Betel for her own old age in order to ease her children's burden of caring for her. The family remembers "her compassionate, gentle and direct nature" and invites donations in her memory to the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

Marilynne Joyce Laxdal died February 16, 2022, age 90, in Calgary. She and her husband Victor had moved to a retirement home at St. Albert near Vic's extended Icelandic family. Married in 1955, they had moved to Regina the following year and five years later to Calgary, where they raised their two daughters and two sons. They moved to Saskatoon in 1970, where Vic completed doctoral studies while Marilynne worked at Millars' flowers and as a secretary at USask. They returned to Calgary when Vic retired. Together they enjoyed travel to Europe, Australia, and Hawaii, and warm winters in Mesa, AZ, as well as the family cabin at Fishing Lake. Marilynne also sang and played piano, and painted in oil and watercolor. A celebration of her life was held on March 5. Memorial donations may be made online to Diabetes Canada (diabetes.ca).

John Scappaticci (Edinburgh, Scotland 1935 - January 19, 2022) was predeceased by his wife, **Josephine (nee Corbett) Scappaticci**, a NARA and later USRA member. John inherited her Life Membership in USRA. They had met and married in 1958 and moved to Canada in October 1967 with their three children. Their grandchildren and great-grandchildren were born here. John enjoyed entertaining his large extended family at the Candle Lake cabin. His early years in Edinburgh had been followed by service in the Royal Air Force at age 20, apprenticeship as a carpenter at Robb's Shipyard in Leith, then a career in vending machines and jukeboxes that continued in Canada. USask accepted his proposal that they start their own vending services. John's position later expanded to include management of Conferences and Residences and, for a time, of surplus assets. John retired prematurely when he lost his sight. He had been involved in the Saskatchewan Soccer Association and, before coming to Canada, in golf. After his loss of eye-sight, the Saskatchewan Blind Golf Association re-ignited his interest in golf; he won many tournaments and played in several countries. Photography and music were continuing interests and he was a member of the Masonic Lodge (Oliver Lodge).

Nancy (nee Moore) Senior (Roseboro, NC, 1941 – Saskatoon, December 31, 2021) died suddenly and unexpectedly at home. An alumna of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (A.B. Chemistry, M.A., Ph.D. French), she joined the USask Department of French and Spanish in 1967 and served as Department Head (1999-2004) after its merger with other departments as "Languages and Linguistics". In 1973 Nancy married John Senior, a faculty colleague in Chemistry. She is survived by John, their son Mark (BSc 2002), and his family. Nancy taught and published on 18th-century French literature and civilization and subsequently on theory and practice of translation. She was a certified translator/member of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Saskatchewan (ATIS). After her USask retirement, she collaborated, as translator of the 17th-century French manuscript, on the book *The Codex Canadensis and the Writings of Louis Nicholas*. It won a Governor-General's Award for History in 2012. Nancy was valued as a member of the USRA, ATIS, and the Saskatchewan Perennial Society executives, and as a tutor of adults and elementary students with READSaskatoon. She also served as a volunteer with the SSO Book and Music Sale (Children's Literature section).

Otto Phillip Ulrich (Southey July 30, 1918 – Saskatoon November 29, 2021) was predeceased by his wife Ruth (December 28, 2008). He is survived by his daughter Elisa (Colin) Paul and their family. After graduating from Southey High School, he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from June 1938 to his retirement in 1967; he was an Auto Engine Mechanic and, commissioned as a Flying Officer in 1952, retired as Squadron Leader. Following three years in England during World War II, he served from 1955-58 in Baden-Baden, Germany, where his daughter Elisa was born. He returned to Saskatoon in 1966 and worked four years at USask's Institute of Space and Atmospheric Studies, then at WCVM, and in 1984 retired as Hospital Administrator. He was a member of Rotary Club, an active member of Saskatoon United Way, a Charter Director of Junior Achievement in Saskatoon, and a volunteer at Royal University Hospital. In 1978, he was nominated for Citizen of the Year.

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>.

Annual Membership Renewal

Beryl Radcliffe, Chair Membership Committee

Annual memberships cover July to June of the following year. For our members who retired anytime in 2021, your free year is over!

Notices will be sent out in June to our annual membership subscribers and to our 2021 new members who have not already elected a lifetime membership to consider renewing or taking out a life membership. Life members do not have to renew annually. If your membership will be up for renewal please consider renewing now. The membership form is available on our website <https://usra.usask.ca/member-information.php#MemberBenefits>. For convenience we have added the e-Transfers option.

The first year after retirement is free! New members who retire anytime in 2022 will not need to pay until June 2023.

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.

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