



**USRA Newsletter**  
**April, 2024**  
**No. 121**



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## From Our Co-Presidents

Greetings and Happy Spring to everyone!

We are pleased to report that the **Memorandum of Understanding** with the University of Saskatchewan for the next three years was signed on March 27, 2024. The Memorandum reinforces our shared goals and the benefits and support provided by the University to both the USRA and individual retirees. Added in this Memorandum is the University's commitment to help us promote our goals and activities to current members, retirees who have not yet joined and those planning to retire. Quoting from the MOU, "The University recognizes that an ongoing relationship with its retirees is mutually beneficial and welcomes opportunities for engagement with retirees."



Jim Thornhill, Peter Stoicheff and Merry Beazely (Photo credit: Kathryn Warden)

As in past years, members enjoyed a wonderful **USRA Holiday Reception at the President's Residence** on December 12. Many thanks to President Peter Stoicheff and Kathryn Warden for hosting us and for the wonderful visiting, music and refreshments!



Susan Whiting, Shirley Blackburn and Jackie Huck



Conversations around the hors d'oeuvres table



Tom Wilson and Vera Pezer

Caroline Cottrell and the Education, Social and Recreation Committee have delivered an excellent series of noon hour lunches, excellent speakers and a very enjoyable tour of Merlis Belsher Place. On April 16 we look forward to meeting Dr. Brooke Milne, Dean of Arts and Science. On May 14, Dr. Bill Waiser, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, will present his latest work, *Gordie's Skates*.



Guest Speaker Cheryl Avery and Members (Photo credit: Mel Hosain)



Guest Speaker Nancy Turner and Jim Thornhill (Photo credit: Mel Hosain)



Ana Maldonado and  
Caroline Cottrell

We bid a fond farewell to Ana Maldonado at our March luncheon. Ana has taken on the post of Director of Globalization with the College of Nursing. Through generous support of Provost Airini and University Relations, Ana was seconded to the USRA for .4 FTE. She contributed much this past year, notably coordinating all the speaker presentations at the 2023 CURAC Conference that the USRA hosted last spring; working with Jackie to keep our website up to date and our newsletters flowing; with Beryl and the Membership Committee to renew memberships and ensure accuracy of our records and contact information with members; and supporting the activities of the Education, Social and Recreation Committee. Caroline served as Ana’s liaison with the USRA. The position will be filled soon.

**Save the date!** The USRA Awards Committee is currently undertaking the happy task of reviewing nominations for our USRA awards. We will celebrate the award recipients at our annual **Wrap-Up Celebration** for all USRA members. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, May 30 at 5:00 pm in Saskatchewan Hall at the Western Development Museum**. More information will be sent to you all soon. Speaking of awards, please see articles in this newsletter about two USRA members who have recently been honoured.

**2024 retirees will be honoured in June!** We are delighted to report that our enthusiastic urging, we believe, contributed to the University reinstating an annual celebration of its upcoming cohort of retirees.



Our Campus Heritage Committee, chaired by Yannis Pahatouroglou, with Bob Card, Kathryn Warden, Vera Pezer and Patrick Hayes, has been working diligently on the issue of how to recognize local, valued historical collections that are mostly in storage in colleges and departments across campus. As well, Vera, as a member of the committee, will represent USRA on a newly formed Stone Barn group led by Vice-President Cheryl Hamelin to raise funds for immediate repairs to the Stone Barn – a first step toward the longer-term goal of repurposing the iconic Stone Barn once a vision has been determined. Please see Vera’s article *Spotlight on USask History: Creating a Future for USask’s Iconic Stone Barn*.



**Another date! Survive in retirement? No, thrive in retirement!** This is the theme of the annual CURAC/ARUCC National Conference to be held May 22-24 and hosted by the University of Waterloo Retirees Association. The Conference will offer practical tips, tools and advice to help you make the best of your retirement years. For more information, please visit

[University of Waterloo | Retirees Association | Conference 2024](#). Our CURAC Representative, Bryan Harvey, will represent us at the conference and AGM.

We invite your comments on USRA activities and welcome your ideas for speakers and tours. And of course, should you be interested in joining the board next year, please call 306-966-6618 or e-mail [ss.usra@usask.ca](mailto:ss.usra@usask.ca), or talk to any of us on the board.

Wishing you all the best in the coming months.

Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill  
Co-Presidents

## Education, Social and Recreation Committee Report

Caroline Cottrell (Chair), Bob Card, David Mandeville, Beryl Radcliffe and Jim Thornhill

Since our last newsletter in November and following the reception at the President's Residence, we have had a series of very successful noon-hour events at the Western Development Museum.

In January, Shelly Loeffler, of jazz fame in Saskatoon, gave us a terrific presentation on the Jazz Society and the Bassment, stalwarts of the music community in Saskatoon. It was wonderful to see how many people in attendance remembered Louis Armstrong coming to Saskatoon in 1952 – an event Shelly referenced.

In February, we were honoured to host Nancy Turner, Associate Vice-President (Teaching and Learning), who talked about the remarkable phenomenon of artificial intelligence. The presentation was both enlightening and a little disturbing, especially given the putative ability of AI to fool us.

In March, University Archivist Cheryl Avery spoke on the architecture/buildings on campus. This fascinating talk began with the University's origin and evolution over the years. Concerns regarding the potential loss of some sites of historical value, such as the Stone Barn, were raised. Ms. Avery wrote an article titled "A University Icon: The Stone Barn, Its Storied Past and Thoughts on Its Future"—complete with many photographs of the Stone Barn and farming operations—which was published in *Saskatoon History Review*, number 32, 2022. The issue is available for purchase at McNally Robinson.

Coming up we have:

April 16 – **Dr. Brooke Milne**, new Dean of the College of Arts and Science, will speak on "The College that Touches All."

May 14 – **Dr. Bill Waiser**, one of Canada's foremost historians, will give a presentation on what is perhaps his most unique work *Gordie's Skates*, a picture book that tells the story of hockey legend Gordie Howe and his first experience with skating. The author of 21 books, Bill is a two-time Governor General's award winner, a member of the Order of Canada, a recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the USRA's *Prime of Life Achievement Award*. The Mosquito First Nation recently honoured him with a blanket ceremony for his work on Nakoda history.

May 30 – **Wrap-up and Awards Celebration**, 5:00 P.M. at the Western Development Museum. More information to follow.

In June, there will be a **retirement event for new retirees** hosted by the University of Saskatchewan.

We are working on our program for next year, and we are always open to suggestions, so please feel free to contact me – Caroline Cottrell, [csc124@usask.ca](mailto:csc124@usask.ca).

## CURAC Tribute Award to Judith Rice Henderson



The College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC/ARUCC) Tribute Award recognizes local member retirees who have contributed exceptional post-retirement service to their host institution's retirement community.

Nominated by Bryan, Merry and the USRA Board, we are pleased to report Judy is a 2024 recipient of the *CURAC/ARUCC Tribute Award*. The Award will be presented at the CURAC/ARUCC annual conference, hosted by the University of Waterloo this May. Congratulations Judy!



Not long after retiring, Judy was recruited to fill a vacancy – the busy post of Vice-President of the USRA. She took on USRA responsibilities with gusto and was especially committed to recruitment of new retirees. She went on to become USRA President at an exciting time for the Association. She was instrumental in facilitating the cordial and mutually supportive joining of the USask Non-Academic Retirees Association with the USRA. Judy served on Awards, Communication, Education, Social and Recreation, Membership and Nominations committees. Her undergraduate degree in journalism was put to good use as USRA Newsletter editor and she wrote with care the *Members No Longer With Us* column.

Inclusiveness, women in academia and the humanities and fine arts have been important to Judy when it comes to her involvement with the USRA. Her scholarly contributions to the University continue through the *T.Y. and Judith Rice Henderson Performing Arts Collection*. The *Judith Rice Henderson Bursary in Humanities and Fine Arts* provides financial support for Honours students.

## Vera Pezer Celebrated as Huskie Woman of Distinction

The inaugural **Huskie Women of Influence Breakfast** took place on February 13, 2024. The event “celebrates phenomenal women and their achievements. It provides an opportunity for connection, story-sharing and cheering on the next generation of leaders and raising funds to support female student-athlete scholarships.” (*Huskie Athletics*)



First up on the morning agenda was the honouring of Dr. Vera Pezer, former AVP of Student Affairs and Services and later Chancellor, writer and contributor to many Boards, including ours! Vera was recognized as a renowned athlete, excelling in curling, golf and softball. Her curling team won the Canadian women's title on four occasions. Vera has been inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame as well as the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame. Very importantly, she has used her special leadership skills, mentoring and supporting athletes from numerous fields with mental training and strategy. Huskie Athletics provided a wonderful video of Vera's accomplishments, including some great shots showing that Vera is also an enthusiastic (and can we say raucous!) fan at Huskie events.

Shannon Chinn, USask's Chief Athletics Officer, presented Vera to the large audience of the USask and sports communities, including a large contingent of student athletes. Olympian and USask alumna Diane Jones Konihowski shared interesting stories about her own athletic career and took part in a fireside chat with three Huskie athletes – Carly Ahlstrom (basketball), Amou Midal (soccer) and SueAnne Harms (wrestling). It was a wonderful event that will be held annually to celebrate Huskie women athletes.

## Spotlight on USask History: Creating a Future for USask's Iconic Stone Barn

*Chancellor Emerita Vera Pezer, member of the USRA Campus Heritage Committee and USRA's representative on the Stone Barn Fundraising Group*



A photo from the 1920's of the Stone Barn, courtesy University Archives Photo A-69

Save the Stone Barn! That was the theme of numerous comments I received after I posted a message on a Facebook photo of the university's Stone Barn. Some people had worked in it during their time on campus. Others recalled stories they had heard describing the role the barn played in supporting agriculture in Saskatchewan. Still others simply loved the iconic image it represented as they drove past it on College Drive. Reasons varied but everyone expressed an attachment to the Stone Barn.

Their comments reminded me of what the Eiffel Tower means to Paris and the powerful symbol of perseverance offered by the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral rising above the smoke during the blitz in World War II London. The Stone Barn is not a casualty of war; it has simply succumbed to decades of disuse and the ravages of the Saskatchewan climate. Its huge historic value and exciting future potential make it worth saving and there is urgency to act given its deteriorating condition.

With its gabled roof, distinctive stone walls, dormer windows, and two silos considered to be the oldest in the province, the barn is a Saskatoon landmark and one of the few original buildings remaining on campus.

Completed in 1912, the barn enabled the university to become the first in Canada to create a College of Agriculture. The university's first president, Walter Murray, held the strong view that the university had a duty to "serve the province." Agriculture became a cornerstone of the university's service mandate. William Rutherford, a specialist in animal science, was the college's first dean serving for 21 years until his death in 1930. For Rutherford, considered the founder of agricultural education in Western Canada, the Stone Barn serves as his legacy.

Built to house 50 head of cattle and 30 horses, the huge loft was used for hay storage. The barn's functions evolved over time to include activities such as milking stations and the study of calving. For a century, the Stone Barn played an important role supporting the province's growth in agriculture. But with the agriculture college no longer having a use for it, particularly once planning was underway for the state-of-the-art Raynor Dairy Research and Teaching Facility, the Stone Barn was closed in 2010.

What do you do with an iconic heritage building that today has no viable use related to its original purpose? Over the last several years, the university has consulted widely with the community about potential future uses and has received several hundred suggestions. A challenge is that there is no heat, no running water and no electricity in the building. It will clearly take vision and significant investment—estimated to be in excess of \$30 million—to repurpose it.

In the meantime as a first step, the university needs help to refurbish the barn. While the university has maintained the structural integrity of the barn over the decades, an estimated \$7 million is needed just for immediate repairs to restore the roof and renew the siding so that the barn is in a maintainable state while efforts continue to determine a long-term sustainable vision for the barn.

To raise the up to \$7 million for immediate repairs, Vice-President University Relations Cheryl Hamelin has recently created a fundraising group in which I am excited to play a role on behalf of USRA. The Stone Barn is a history to be saved with imaginative potential for 21st century activities.

Friends on Facebook said “Save the Stone Barn.” Let’s begin.

Stay informed on updates related to the [Stone Barn](#) initiative.

## Supplements: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Dr. Tom Wilson, USask Professor Emeritus



Several weeks ago, a friend asked whether he should take the supplement Coenzyme Q10. He takes a “statin”, a cholesterol-lowering drug, and wondered whether he should take Q10 to mitigate muscle aches and other potential side effects of a statin drug.

The dizzying array of dietary supplements available today reminds me of the long-gone cigarette “power wall” of yesteryear. (Whatever happened to Du Maurier, Rothmans, Export A and Matinée?) Of course, cigarettes are definitely bad, whereas supplements can be useful.

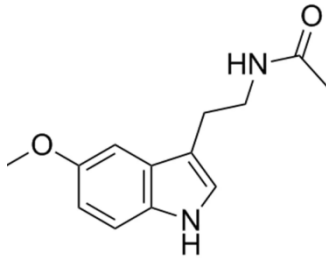
A supplement is “any substance used to improve health.” The U.S. Food and Drug Administration defines supplements as “any substance intended to be added to the conventional diet to improve health”.<sup>1</sup> Canada is more specific: “vitamins and minerals, herbal remedies, homeopathic medicines, traditional medicines (like Traditional Chinese Medicines), probiotics and other products like amino acids and essential fatty acids.”<sup>2</sup> There are 29,000 supplements available!<sup>3</sup> Both countries regulate them: they must be “safe” as evidenced by

long-term human use and health claims must be non-specific. For example:” X supports healthy bones.”<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> I emphasize that supplements lack evidence of efficacy and safety demanded of prescription drugs.



Supplements are big business; up to 75 per cent of seniors take at least one in a 30-day period,<sup>4</sup> at a total global yearly cost of \$150 billion.<sup>5</sup> Rather than reviewing all 29,000, I will discuss three.

### The (possibly) good: melatonin



Melatonin, derived from the amino acid tryptophan, is a hormone produced by the pineal gland deep within the brain. Darkness increases release of melatonin, while light decreases it. Melatonin acts on other parts of the brain to induce sleep.

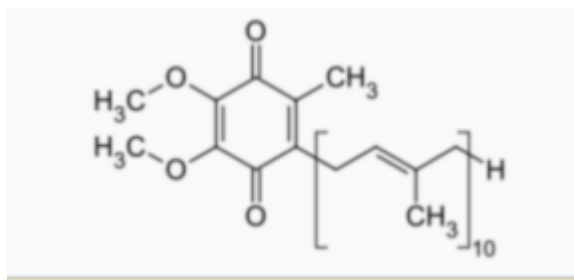
According to one study, older adults (>55 years) produce less melatonin than younger people and were more likely to complain of insomnia.<sup>6</sup> Those with low melatonin before treatment enjoyed greater improvement in sleep duration, sleep quality and morning functioning after treatment with two milligrams of melatonin daily for two weeks. Of the 396 subjects who completed the study, none had serious adverse effects.

Australian researcher David Kennaway cautions that the efficacy and safety of melatonin have not been adequately studied<sup>7</sup>. He notes that humans and animals that have their pineal gland removed have normal sleep patterns, and that mice as a species do not produce melatonin, but apparently sleep fine!

U.S. researchers Frank Besag and Michael Vasey found eight articles reporting adverse effects of long-term (six months or more) melatonin treatment (1-10 mg daily).<sup>8</sup> When the 584 subjects taking melatonin were compared with the 177 taking a placebo, there were no serious adverse effects in either group and no difference in any adverse effects. Not much of an oral dose of melatonin appears in our blood; 9-33 per cent. Taken by mouth, most is destroyed in the stomach, intestine and liver.<sup>9</sup> However, taking melatonin sublingually (under the tongue) increases the amount in the bloodstream.

In summary, melatonin shows modest efficacy in improving sleep and no evidence of serious adverse effects or drug interactions.

### The bad: co-enzyme Q10



Coenzyme Q10 is found in all tissues of animals and plants, thus its other name: ubiquinone. It's made in at least three parts of all our cells, most importantly in mitochondria where it's important in making energy for our muscles, hearts and brains. A few rare genetic diseases cause a deficiency of Coenzyme Q10. Affected persons suffer from brain, heart and muscle problems and die early.<sup>10</sup>

Does taking Coenzyme Q10 reduce any potential adverse effects of statins (such as Lipitor and Crestor) which are widely used to reduce LDL ("bad") cholesterol? Statins inhibit an enzyme called HMG-CoA reductase which reduces cholesterol synthesis and also that of Coenzyme Q10. The reduced synthesis has been hypothesized to lead to side effects of statins including muscle aches and heart failure. This led to the notion that supplementing the diet with Coenzyme Q10 would mitigate such adverse effects.

Indeed, blood levels of Coenzyme Q10 are increased by supplements.<sup>11</sup> Unfortunately, it appears that levels inside cells, especially mitochondria, are not increased. A Cochrane review of four randomized

controlled trials found no reduction of statin-adverse effects.<sup>12</sup> Coenzyme Q10 supplements appear to have no serious adverse effects—other than on your wallet.

### The ugly: St. John's wort



*Hypericum perforatum* is a tall flowering plant native to Eurasia and grown in most of North and South America. The flowers and leaves contain *hypericin* which is toxic to animals. While St. John's wort may have modest efficacy in depression, its main concern is interaction with commonly used prescription drugs.<sup>13</sup> Hypericin increases activity of certain enzymes that inactivate drugs. This reduces blood levels of some antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, oral contraceptives (admittedly not a problem in our age group), blood thinners (warfarin), statins, anti-cancer agents and antiviral drugs. Because most of us will be prescribed these in our lifetime, it's

best to avoid St. John's wort and save money.

### Further reading

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12. Flowers N, Hartley L, Todkill D, Stranges S, Rees K. Co-enzyme Q10 supplementation for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2014;2014(12):CD010405.
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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 Health Care Policy Committee](#) webpage.

## Intensely Vigorous USask Retirees - Globe Walk 2024 Report

*Lea Pennock and Mary Dykes*

Globe Walk, an annual event sponsored by the Saskatoon Council on Aging designed to help keep seniors active in the winter months, has been running from January to April for the last 11 years. For the last three years USRA has entered a team, Intensely Vigorous USask Retirees, with co-captains Lea Pennock and Mary Dykes. This year's team of 21 members as of the end of March has logged an impressive 8,831.4 kms. We should easily top 10,000 by the end of April!

Lea and husband Dan are currently on a trek in Italy. Lea was able to connect to the internet over the Easter weekend and sent this report about their adventures:

“For the last ten days our walking has been towards Rome, on the ancient pilgrimage route from Canterbury. We set off from a point midway along that route, just north and east of the Cinque Terra in rugged hills above the Ligurian sea. Our walk has led us up and over mountainous ridges, on forest paths and through little villages, cities, farmyards, industrial zones and vineyards. We’ve seen ruined castles, marble quarries, flooded rivers and all kinds of wildflowers. We’ve been barked at by a lot of dogs. There have been steep and tricky ascents and descents, muddy and heavily rutted tracks, torrential rain and wind, and a few scary moments on narrow roads with cars and trucks speeding past way too close and soaking our already drenched rain gear. We end each day stiff and tired but we’re starting to feel the strength building in our leg and shoulder muscles, and our Italian language skills are starting to kick in. We’re taking a couple of Easter rest days in Lucca before turning southward again. Happy Easter weekend from the road to Rome!”



Dan Pennock and an earlier pilgrim



There's a tree on the trail! Lea Pennock

Intensely Vigorous USask Retiree 2024 team members are: Nancy Allan, Merry Beazely, Hope Bilinski, Pat Bowman, Caroline Cottrell, Fern Fitzharris, Fraser Henderson, Don Johnson, Tonya Kaye, Maggie

L'Arrivée, Marlene Mahoney, Lucie Panko, Dan Pennock, Vera Pezer, Beryl Radcliffe, Carole Wakabayashi, Kathryn Warden, and Tom and Merne Wilson. We hope more members join us in 2025. Members of all abilities are welcome. We just stay active as much as we are able!

## 2023 Remembrance Day at the Memorial Gates

Jim Thornhill, Merry Beazely, Jacqueline Huck, Kathryn Warden and Beryl Radcliffe represented the USRA at the Remembrance Day Service on November 11 at the Memorial Gates. They placed a wreath on behalf of the USRA. USask Chief of Staff Dara Hrytzak led the service and President Peter Stoicheff shared stories of the soldiers. Other participants included Elder Roland Duquette, who blew the Eagle Whistle in the four directions to honour all veterans, and USSU President Ishita Mann who recited *In Flanders Fields*. Please see [University of Saskatchewan | Spotlight Remembrance at the University of Saskatchewan](#) for messages and stories.



Kathryn Warden, Merry Beazely, Jim Thornhill, Jacqueline Huck and Peter Stoicheff (Photo credit: Don Beazely)

## USask Online Publications

*Communication Committee*

All retirees should have continued access to USask online publications ***YOU/Sask*** and ***On Campus News***. USRA members were recently invited to also subscribe to ***Discovery Digest***.

From March to June of 2023, USRA forwarded to our current members four publications of *Discovery Digest*, an on-line monthly publication from the Office of the Vice President Research and we invited members to view and subscribe individually to the publication if they wished to continue to receive it.

For our newer members, and those who didn't sign up for subscription before June 2023, we invite you to register now to receive [Discovery Digest](#). If you decide not to subscribe, you can always access this publication and others on the [Research website](#) under Research News or from the Online Resources page on our website.

If you are not receiving *YOU/Sask* or *On Campus News*, please contact USRA at 306-966-6618 or [ss.usra@usask.ca](mailto:ss.usra@usask.ca).

## Members No Longer With Us

*USRA Board Members and Mary Dykes*

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 USRA via e-mail at [ss.usra@usask.ca](mailto:ss.usra@usask.ca) or phone 306 966-6618 for further information.

### **Margaret May Bartz (September 19, 1927 - October 29, 2023)**

USRA life member Margaret Bartz was the spouse of deceased life member Lothar E. Bartz who worked in USask's buildings and grounds department and passed away in 2020.

### **John and Helen Courtney John (1936 - November 30, 2023), Helen (1937 - November 30, 2023)**

Over his 58-year career at USask, John Courtney was a nationally influential professor of political science and later a Senior Policy Fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. A prolific author and highly regarded editor and media commentator, John made his mark on the university and his profession, and was awarded a USask Earned Doctor of Letters.

John and Helen were avid supporters of USRA, attending lunch presentations and other events. John was the recipient of the USRA *Prime of Life Achievement Award* in 2012. His love of politics was shared with USRA members at a 2023 luncheon presentation about his last book publication *Revival and Change: The 1957 and 1958 Diefenbaker Elections*.

### **Walter Gantner (December 5, 1932 - December 16, 2023)**

Walter Gantner joined the USask faculty in 1964 and was known as a wonderful teacher of the German language and literature who encouraged his students to be curious about history and society.

### **Hilda Marie Hackett (November 9, 1932 - March 17, 2024)**

USRA life member Hilda Hackett was the spouse of deceased life member, Elmer Hackett, who worked at USask in various departments including as an animal assistant in the College of Medicine and as a technician in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Elmer was a founding member of the Non-Academic Retirees Association and with Hilda's help served as the association's newsletter editor for many years. He passed away in 2015.

### **Linda Carol Hodgson (September 1948 - June 23, 2023)**

Linda Hodgson worked in administration at the USask Veterinary College and upon retirement, she returned to the Maritimes.

### **Winnifred Kelm (May 25, 1935 - August 6, 2022)**

USRA life member Winnie Kelm was the spouse of deceased life member and USask psychology professor Harold Kelm, who passed away in 2012.

### **John King (November 4, 1938 - December 27, 2023)**

Over his 39-year at USask in the biology department (1967 to 2006), John wrote two books and was awarded a Society Medal for outstanding contributions to plant physiology by the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists. He was also known for his passion for singing, contributing to several Saskatoon choirs.

**[John William MacEdward](#) (June 21, 1939 - January 21, 2024)**

John worked at USask as a security guard and then in the maintenance department, retiring in June of 2004.

**[Donald James McEwen](#) (1930 - November 5, 2023)**

Professor Emeritus Don McEwen primarily spent his nearly 60-year career at USask. He served as chair of the Institute for Space and Atmospheric Studies (ISAS) for over 20 years and was known as an expert on Northern Lights.

**[Robert Barrie McKercher](#) (January 3, 1931 - January 1, 2024)**

Bob McKercher worked at USask for 44 years in a variety of positions including as a professor of soil science, associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research and assistant dean of the College of Agriculture. He played an integral role in the planning and construction of the Agriculture Building which open in 1991 and was described in a recent article published in alumni news, [Pioneering ag prof grows deep roots on campus](#).

Bob was an avid supporter of USRA, attending lunch presentations and other events. He received the USRA's *Prime of Life Achievement Award* in 2017.

**[Julie Muir](#) (1930 - January 7, 2024)**

USRA life member Julie Muir was the wife of deceased life member Roly Muir who worked at USask in a variety of academic and administrative positions and passed away in 2008.

**[Dorothy Bell Peake](#) (November 4, 1930 - November 5, 2023)**

Dorothy Peake, who passed away at the age of 93, worked in several USask departments. A founding member of the Non-Academic Retirees Association (NARA), she served as the association's secretary for 20 years until NARA's merger with USRA. She was an enthusiastic participant in NARA socials and monthly coffee gatherings. A meticulous record keeper, Dorothy retained a complete record of NARA executive minutes and its newsletter which her family passed on to USRA. (NARA records are also housed in University Archives.)

**[John Wilson Quail](#) (March 19, 1936 - October 14, 2023)**

Renowned crystallographer and Emeritus Professor Wilson Quail worked in the USask chemistry department for 39 years (1964 to 2003), publishing more than 100 scientific articles and collaborating with scientists in Canada and around the world. A career highlight was being part of a research team that sent protein crystals into space to grow in zero gravity aboard the Discovery Space Shuttle in 1994. Following retirement, he continued to work in the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre for more than a decade.

**[Dorothy Riemer](#) (November 1, 1933 - March 6, 2024)**

USRA life member and nursing alumnus Dorothy Riemer was the wife of deceased life member and *Prime of Life Achievement Award* winner Paul Riemer, a USask engineering faculty member for 40 years. He was responsible for the design of many major landmark buildings in Saskatoon such as City Hall and City Hospital. He passed away in 2012.

*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.*

## Annual Membership Renewal

*Beryl Radcliffe, Chair, Membership Committee*

Annual memberships cover July to June of the following year. Although notices are sent out in June, if your membership will be up for renewal, please consider renewing now. Life members do not have to renew annually.

The membership form is available for download on [Member Information | Join USRA](#) on our website. For convenience, we have added the option of e-transfer.

## Keep in Touch!

We welcome your letters to the editors Jackie, Kathryn, Bob and Judith. Do you have an event you want to let other members know about? We are happy to pass on news about your event by e-mail and in the newsletter. Please send information by e-mail.



### **Moving? Changing your e-mail address?**

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter or the e-mail notices about upcoming activities!  
Make sure you send us your new contact information.

University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association

221 Cumberland Ave N

Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3

phone: 306-966-6618 e-mail: [ss.usra@usask.ca](mailto:ss.usra@usask.ca)

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