



**USRA Newsletter
September, 2024
No. 122**



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From Our Co-Presidents

Hello everyone! We hope you are well and have enjoyed the summer. We are pleased to bring you updates on USRA activities since our April newsletter.

On May 8th, our Intensely Vigorous USask Retirees enthusiastically represented us at the **2024 Globe Walk Celebration Luncheon** hosted by the Saskatoon Council on Aging. The excellent event at the WDM featured 34 teams, with such catchy names (in addition to ours) as the Martensville Movers, Happy Soles, Keenagers Regina, and Strasbourg Pace Makers! Many thanks again to SCOA and our USRA team captains Mary Dykes and Lea Pennock.



Team members Beryl, Lea, Maggie, Kathryn, Merry, Pat, Fern and Mary
Photo credit: WDM staff

May 30th saw a wonderful **USRA Awards and Wrap-up Celebration** at the WDM. It was a time to celebrate the bestowing of USRA awards on five deserving USask retirees, and notably the first awarding of ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan – “Let’s Fly Up Together.” That night, we also celebrated you, the members, and USRA initiatives over the past year. Please see page 5 for more details.

On June 3rd, representing the USRA, Merry and Jim were invited by Scott Walsworth, Vice-Provost of Faculty Relations, to participate in the **2024 Retirement Information Session**. It was led by that Office and the Pension Office for faculty who are thinking of retiring in the next few years. The university set forth steps to be taken by employees thinking of retiring and staff answered questions regarding pension options. We described USRA’s mandate and activities and encouraged faculty to join us upon retirement. We stressed the importance of establishing a work plan for retirement so that retirees are in a better position to develop financial plans that meet those needs during retirement.

President Stoicheff and Kathryn Warden kindly invited USRA Board members to attend the **President’s Reception for New USask Retirees** on June 19th at Marquis Hall. It was great to interact with the newest retirees and their family and friends. We had the opportunity to let them know of the many activities and benefits of the USRA, and answer questions on what we do for retirees. The President re-instated this celebratory event, and the USRA thanks him and his Office for acknowledging the service of USask employees through this much-appreciated reception.



Howler and Jackie at USRA booth
Photo credit: Merry Beazely

USRA Board members were happy to represent the USRA at the annual **Employee Appreciation Picnic** on June 26. We didn’t blow away this year and enjoyed speaking to employees from all parts of campus, even the young ones to keep us in mind in the future. Thank you to Jackie for organizing our participation again this year.

Be sure to read the report of the **Education, Social and Recreation Committee** within this newsletter for the list of fall noon-hour seminars to be held monthly at the WDM. Caroline and team have an exciting list of events scheduled that we hope you can attend. Please note that your payment for the monthly seminars and lunch allows free access to the museum.

We extend sincere thanks to the Newsletter team and to all Board members and their committees that work on our behalf. Our committees look forward

to reporting to you at our **Annual General Meeting** to be held on Wednesday, October 16 at 2:00 p.m., following our monthly noon lunch. We hope you can make it and please bring your comments and questions. Our thanks as well to former Board members Rick Bunt and Mary Dykes who have continued to provide much-needed advice and assistance for the USRA ICT and website issues, respectively, and to Marcy Hildebrand, Director of Alumni Relations and External Engagement, for her valuable support.

At any time, should you have ideas about seminar topics or speakers that you would like to hear, or know of USRA retirees who might wish to join the Board to assist with our many activities, **please contact USRA** by phone, mail, e-mail, or contact Merry at merry.beazely@usask.ca or Jim at jim.thornhill@usask.ca directly with any questions you have.

Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill
Co-Presidents

Education, Social and Recreation Committee Report

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

The committee has not met throughout the spring and summer, and will do so in the early fall. In the meantime, the following dates have been secured at the Western Development Museum (WDM) for the speakers listed beside each date. We apologize for the lack of a consistent day but, perhaps not surprisingly, the WDM is booked up to 18 months in advance.

All presentations will be held at the WDM, Saskatchewan Hall, unless otherwise stated, with doors opening at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:00 p.m. and presentation to follow. Email invitations will be sent to members approximately 2 weeks before the event with information on the presenter(s), lunch menu and cost.

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, September 25, 2024 | Lea and Dan Pennock will present on their recent pilgrimage treks. Inveterate hikers, they have walked more than 5,000 km following ancient routes in Europe. |
| Wednesday, October 16, 2024 | Jeff O'Brien , City of Saskatoon Archivist, will give us the third presentation on the history of Saskatoon. This has become a very welcomed tradition and is sure to be a crowd pleaser.
NOTE: <i>This presentation precedes the AGM which will commence at 2:00 p.m.</i> |
| Tuesday, November 19, 2024 | Dr. Airini will take a break for her usual role as Provost and VP Academic to give us a very special presentation on her adventures in Canada's north. Not to be missed. |
| December TBD | Reception for USRA members at the President's Residence. |
| Wednesday, January 22, 2025 | Zeba Ahmad , CEO of the Saskatoon Public School Foundation, will present on the very important topic of vulnerable children and how we can support them on their learning journey. |

Over the next little while and based on suggestions from the committee at an earlier meeting, we will endeavour to set up events for the other early months of 2025. Suggestions continue to be welcomed. WDM dates are all booked until May.

USRA Awards Celebration

Awards Committee: Merry Beazely (Chair), Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson (on leave), David Mandeville, and Jim Thornhill

This wonderful event was a time to celebrate all members of the USRA, our activities over the last year, and the accomplished recipients of the 2024 USRA Awards. We were delighted that Provost and Vice-President Academic Airini was with us to share the land acknowledgment, extend congratulations to USRA award recipients, and deliver a positive message regarding the good work of the USRA. She was also a great sport, taking part in emcee Jim Thornhill's ice-breaking prize contest and draws. Thank you Airini.



Celebration attendees welcome Provost Airini

We congratulated the 2024 USRA Award recipients and their families, friends and colleagues. Many thanks to members of the Awards Committee for all their work: Bryan Harvey, David Mandeville and Jim Thornhill, who served as emcee for the event. Thank you to Caroline Cottrell and the ESR Committee for arranging the venue and dinner. Jackie Huck kindly prepared the award certificates and looks after the award displays in our Retirees Lounge, 132 PMB on campus. Special thanks to Marcy Hildebrand, Director of Alumni Relations and External Engagement, who was instrumental in getting out the call for nominations and other valuable assistance. And to David Mandeville, our board "Photographer," who took all the photos at the event, thank you.



USRA Award recipients for 2024: Bill McKay, Rick Schwier, Verna St. Denis, Barry Brown, accepting for Judith Henderson, her sons Paul and Ian, with Provost Airini (far right). Missing: Jim Dosman

We took the opportunity that night to survey attendees, and asked them what is the most important thing that USRA does or could do for its members? Overwhelmingly, the answer was maintaining connections with USask friends, colleagues and the university, and learning about USask research and other activities, as well as about current issues and happenings in Saskatoon and beyond.

Please find below the outstanding recipients and summaries of their achievements, along with photos from the evening. Visit [USRA's Awards page](#) for more information about the 2024 recipients.

Continuing Contribution Awards

These awards recognize and express appreciation to persons who have retired from work at the university, but who have continued to make research, scholarly, artistic or service contributions, whether associated with their university work, their scholarly work, their artistic work or their service work, at an exceptional level. Such contributions may not have been recognized by international, national, provincial or local bodies, but have substantially benefitted society. Please see our three outstanding recipients below.

Dr. F. Barry Brown **Professor Emeritus of Curriculum Studies**



While Barry's academic preparation and scholarly and administrative contributions at our university are exceptional, his passion is beekeeping. Beekeeping! After retirement he scaled up to a commercial level operation and is currently operating about 1,000 beehives near Langham. Barry told us at the event that he will be entering his 2nd retirement very soon. Congratulations Barry!



Dr. Murray Scharf presenting award to Barry along with co-presidents Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill

Dr. James Dosman **Professor Emeritus of Medicine**



Considered the "Father of Agricultural Medicine in Canada," Dr. Dosman has been consistently persistent in the best way breaking new ground and turning research to knowledge translation and then to practices, programs and support for the safety and health of millions of farmers and agricultural workers worldwide. Jim was unable to attend our celebration and so we will look forward to presenting him with this award at our USRA Lunch/AGM on October 16, 2024. Congratulations Jim!

Dr. William (Bill) McKay **Professor Emeritus of Medicine**



Dr. McKay was a key figure in many anesthesiology trainees' development in both clinical care and scholarly activity. Despite Dr. McKay's "retirement," he continues to be more academically productive than almost anyone else in his department. Bill travelled from his home in Halifax to attend the USRA. Plus, he gamely attended our event after sustaining a fall and injuries earlier in the day! Thank you Bill and it was great to meet your colleagues!

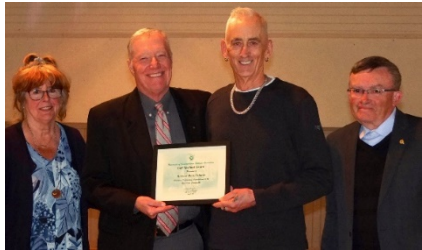


Bill with anesthesia colleagues and co-president Jim Thornhill, who presented the award

Duff Spafford Award

This award recognizes a USask retiree's total contribution made to the university community over the period of the retiree's association with the university, including any contributions made during student years by a candidate who is an alumnus. This is the third time this award has been made. Congratulations Rick!

Richard (Rick) Schwier Professor Emeritus of Curriculum Studies



Rick receiving award from Dr. Dirk Morrison, with co-presidents Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill

Throughout his career, Rick has made significant contributions to the field of educational technology and instructional design, and is a prolific scholar, supervisor, colleague and guide to many younger faculty. In retirement, Rick was the 'grand architect' of the new Jane and Ron Graham Centre for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Centre.



Schwier Family (spouse Karin, son Jim, and Rick) with Shirley Spafford and Mildred Kerr

Rick was very pleased to meet Shirley Spafford, Duff's spouse, at the celebration and her friend and member Mildred Kerr.

Honorary Life Award

This award recognizes USRA members who have made a significant contribution over a long period to the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association and the University community. Our recipient this year is Judith Henderson.

Dr. Judith Rice Henderson Professor Emerita of English



Judy became 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 is on leave from the Board. We were pleased that her sons, Paul and Ian Henderson, could attend and accept the award on her behalf.



Judy's sons Paul and Ian accepted the award from USRA board member Tom Wilson, with co-presidents Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill

ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan – “Let’s Fly Up Together” Award

This new USRA award recognizes meaningful and significant contributions of a USask individual retiree, or a pair or group that includes one or more USask retiree, Indigenous or non-Indigenous, towards achieving one or more of the commitments of the foundational document “ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan - Let’s Fly Up Together” Indigenous Strategy for the University.

In June 2022, the USRA Board agreed to pursue a new award to show USRA’s commitment to this Indigenous Strategy, gifted to the university in 2021, on behalf of Indigenous Peoples. An ad hoc committee was subsequently struck and undertook consultations with Indigenous leaders on campus and in the community and compiled relevant background for consideration by the board. At a special meeting in June 2023, the board unanimously agreed to create this award. We extend our appreciation to Provost Airini and Dr. Angela Jaime, Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, and her colleagues, for their invaluable input in the establishment of the ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan award and the selection of Verna St. Denis as the first most worthy and outstanding recipient.

Dr. Verna St. Denis Professor Emerita of Educational Foundations



Verna receiving award from board member Caroline Cottrell, with co-presidents Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill

Dr. St. Denis is a remarkable scholar and educator. She has made significant contributions to anti-racist education and advocacy and contributes whole-heartedly to the seven commitments of the “ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan - Let’s Fly Up Together” Indigenous Strategy, gifted to the University in 2021, on behalf of Indigenous Peoples, as a companion to the University Plan 2025.



Verna is currently Special Advisor on Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression to President Stoicheff.

USRA Members Receive Awards and Honours

The USRA celebrates retirees who receive awards and tributes from other organizations. Please find below the stories of two outstanding retirees who were honoured recently.

Dr. C. Lesley Biggs Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 YWCA Graham Women of Distinction

USRA member and retired faculty member Dr. C. Lesley Biggs received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Saskatoon YWCA’s Graham Women of Distinction celebration on May 30, 2024. Lesley is an interdisciplinary researcher in the areas of history and sociology of healthcare, alternative medicine, professionalization, and feminist studies. As Associate Professor of History in the USask College of Arts and Science, she developed, with colleague Susan Gingell (now Professor Emerita), the first women’s and gender course at the university—one of the many graduate and undergraduate courses Biggs created.

She was a recipient of the USask Master Teacher Award in 2009 and is known for her excellent mentorship abilities.

The Lesley Biggs Early Career Teaching Fellowship—the College of Arts and Science first donor-funded teaching award—was established in Lesley’s name and presented this spring. Congratulations, Lesley!

For more information, visit: [2024 Women of Distinction Recipients - YWCA Saskatoon](#) and [Outstanding faculty member, graduate receive Women of Distinction Awards](#).



Photo credit: Danielle Stasiuk Photography

Dr. Bruce E. Coulman **Professor Emeritus of Agriculture and Bioresources** **Inducted into the Canadian and Saskatchewan Agricultural Halls of Fame**



Photo credit: agbio.usask.ca

Dr. Coulman’s impactful 42-year academic career and his outstanding contributions to the sustainability and growth of Saskatchewan and Canadian agriculture are being celebrated through these provincial and national honours. Coulman worked tirelessly to improve crop varieties for producers and his legacy includes the development of 24 novel forage crop varieties in nine different species, some of which were the first of their kind. Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, noted that Coulman’s forage varieties will “continue to benefit livestock and forage producers, the agriculture sector and the environment for many decades to come.”

Coulman graduated from USask and U of Manitoba and joined McGill University in 1976 before moving back to USask’s Agriculture and Agri-Food Research Center in 1993. He later served as Head of the Department of Plant Sciences before retiring in 2019. He was involved in numerous international research and development projects.

Bruce was recently inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, whose mission is ‘to salute the agricultural leaders in Saskatchewan.’ This November, Bruce will be formally inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in honour and celebration of his outstanding contributions to the agriculture and food industry.

Congratulations and best wishes Bruce!

For more information, visit: [USask professor emeritus to be inducted into Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame - News | University of Saskatchewan](#) and [INDUCTEES | SAHF2020](#).

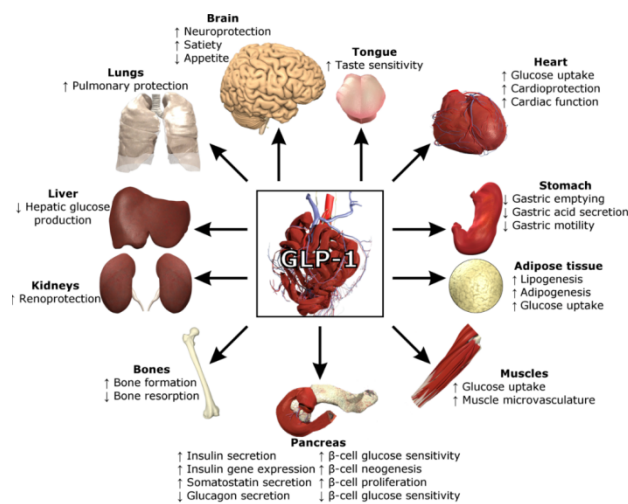
Weighing in on Ozempic™, Rybelsus™ and Wegovy™

Dr. Tom Wilson, USask Professor Emeritus, College of Medicine

If you've watched any TV, you've seen ads for Ozempic and Rybelsus. These ads feature overweight but happy people touting how much better their diabetes is controlled and how much weight they have lost from taking these novel medications.

Wegovy, another popular prescription drug, was recently approved by both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada for weight loss in people WITHOUT diabetes. The active ingredient of all three of these drugs is semaglutide, an injectable prescription and oral medicine that mimics the glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) hormone released in the gut in response to eating.

In 2023, semaglutide brought \$13.9-billion USD in revenue for Novo Nordisk, a Danish pharmaceutical company, pushing the value of the company to over \$500 billion¹. Semaglutide and similar “tide” drugs (liraglutide, exenatide, lixisenatide) may become the first “trillion-dollar” group. Given that 15% of Canadians (about 6 million) have type 2 diabetes² and Ozempic costs almost \$11,000 per year, Novo Nordisk will enjoy significant revenue from the Canadian market alone. The “tide” is definitely rising!



By mimicking the GLP-1 peptide hormone, these “tides” have a myriad of actions on several organs including the stomach, pancreas and brain. They slow down stomach emptying, increase the feeling of satiety in the brain, and increase the manufacturing and secretion of insulin. All of these medications lead to lower blood sugar levels.

For example, in a 2008 study, the first-in-class drug exenatide reduced average blood sugar (“glycosylated hemoglobin A1c” or HbA1c for short is a surrogate for average blood sugar). A weekly injection of 10 micrograms of exenatide achieved the HbA1c (7%) goal in 46% of subjects, compared to 13% for patients taking a placebo³.

In a 2018 study of 8,383 subjects⁴, semaglutide of 1 milligram injected weekly was tested in 7 clinical trials dubbed SUSTAIN 1-7 (Semaglutide Unabated Sustainability in Treatment of Type 2 diabetes). In all trials, semaglutide reduced blood sugar. Somewhat unexpectedly, subjects lost more weight (about 5 kilograms) taking semaglutide compared to taking a placebo or active diabetes drugs. Even more unexpected was a reduction in heart attacks, strokes and kidney damage⁵. Rybelsus, the oral form of semaglutide, produced similar results⁶.

Soon after SUSTAIN results were published, drug plan administrators noted that Ozempic was being prescribed for people WITHOUT diabetes. Clinical trials soon followed⁷. Wildman and over 100 colleagues enrolled 1,961 obese adults defined as BMI (weight in kilograms/height in M² >27) and who did not have diabetes. Two thirds received semaglutide 2.4 milligram injections weekly (higher than the maximal dose recommended for diabetes); the others received a placebo. Both groups had counselling for diet and exercise.

After 68 weeks, the semaglutide group lost an average of 15.3 kilograms (about 35 pounds), while the placebo group lost 2.6 kilograms—a highly significant difference. Blood pressure and serum cholesterol

were also lower in the semaglutide group. Low blood sugar was rare (0.8%) in both groups. About 4.5% of semaglutide treated subjects withdrew due to adverse effects: primarily nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

In summary, semaglutide demonstrates efficacy both in diabetes and in obesity without diabetes. Serious adverse effects appear to be very rare. When Dutch researchers Smits and Van Raalte reviewed the literature available in 2021⁸, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea were confirmed. Researchers found no difference in episodes of low blood sugar, pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), or pancreatic cancer. The relatively short duration of the studies (30-68 weeks) may preclude finding rare adverse effects.

One important adverse effect is regurgitation of stomach contents and aspiration into the lungs during anesthesia⁹. Given the long duration of semaglutide, the usual advice of “no solid food for 20 hours and no liquids for 8 hours” may not be enough. Some anesthesiologists recommend stopping semaglutide four weeks prior to elective surgery.

A rare genetic disease called multiple endocrine neoplasia (cancer of the thyroid and other tumors), is recognized as a contraindication for taking GLP-1 receptor stimulators such as semaglutides.

Further reading:

1. <https://www.axios.com/2024/01/31/novo-profits-jump-wegovy-ozempic>. 2024. Ref Type: Generic
2. https://www.diabetes.ca/DiabetesCanadaWebsite/media/Advocacy-and-Policy/Backgrounder/2022_Backgrounder_Canada_English_1.pdf. 2024. Ref Type: Generic
3. Gentilella R, Bianchi C, Rossi A, Rotella CM. Exenatide: a review from pharmacology to clinical practice. *Diabetes Obes Metab* 2009;11(6):544-556.
4. Sharma D, Verma S, Vaidya S, Kalia K, Tiwari V. Recent updates on GLP-1 agonists: Current advancements & challenges. *Biomed Pharmacother* 2018;108:952-962.
5. Goldenberg RM, Steen O. Semaglutide: Review and Place in Therapy for Adults With Type 2 Diabetes. *Can J Diabetes* 2019;43(2):136-145.
6. Meier JJ. Efficacy of Semaglutide in a Subcutaneous and an Oral Formulation. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)* 2021;12:645617.
7. Wilding JPH, Batterham RL, Calanna S et al. Once-Weekly Semaglutide in Adults with Overweight or Obesity. *N Engl J Med* 2021;384(11):989-1002.
8. Smits MM, van Raalte DH. Safety of Semaglutide. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)* 2021;12:645563.
9. Gulak MA, Murphy P. Regurgitation under anesthesia in a fasted patient prescribed semaglutide for weight loss: a case report. *Can J Anaesth* 2023;70(8):1397-1400.

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.

Spotlight on Seniors 2024

Celebrating 25 Years: Honoring a Legacy of Experience

Mary Dykes

Spotlight on Seniors is celebrating its 25th anniversary and USRA will, for the second year, have a table at this event!

Hosted by the Saskatoon Council on Aging and TCU Place, Spotlight is the largest trade show for seniors in Saskatchewan, attracting over 80 exhibitors while providing a full day of entertainment, demonstrations, and activities. You will find information on all things that add quality of life for seniors plus have the chance to enter your name for the many door prizes on offer by exhibitors and sponsors.

We encourage Saskatoon and area members to attend. Please visit our table and chat with your board members and volunteers.

Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Salon, TCU Place - 35 22nd Street East, Saskatoon

Admission: \$15 pay at the door (cash only)

Pension Questions???

Doral Johnson has taken over the post of Pension Manager at USask from long-time Manager Heather Fortosky, who retired recently. Congratulations Heather and welcome Doral! If you have any questions about your pension, Doral invites your inquiries at: 306-966-4125 or doral.johnson@usask.ca.

Members No Longer With Us

USRA Board Members and the Lopez Family

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 or phone 306 966-6618 for further information.

Violet Evelyn Ehman (November 4, 1928-November 1, 2023)

USRA life member Violet Ehman earned a B.Sc. in Nursing with Great Distinction and a postgraduate diploma in continuing education from USask. She taught nursing at Kelsey Institute in Saskatoon and health education at the USask College of Education, retiring in 1987 after 12 years as co-ordinator of continuing medical education in the College of Medicine.

Violet was the spouse of deceased USRA life member and USask alumnus Lorne Ehman (1925-2010). Lorne, who earned his B.A. in 1949 and his B.Ed. in 1959, went on to graduate studies in the U.S. before settling into a long career of service in the Saskatchewan education system as a high school physics teacher and then as a principal.

James Leslie (Les) Henry (July 7, 1940-June 14, 2024)

Les, who earned a bachelor's and master's degree at the USask College of Agriculture, joined the soil science department in 1968, focussing his research on soil fertility and salinity. Known for his ability to make complex science easy to understand, he retired as a professor and extension specialist in 1996. As

professor emeritus, he continued monthly columns in the farm newspaper GRAINEWS for 48 years. He also wrote a book about the “catalogue homes” or “kit homes” sold to Prairie customers by Eaton’s and other retailers in the first half of the 20th century.

Les was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2004 and the citation noted that his research on the underlying cause of soil salinity “provided a major breakthrough in the management of saline soils.” He was presented with a USask Honorary Doctor of Laws in June of 2022.

M.U. (Mel) Hosain (February 4, 1938-May 23, 2024)

Mel began his career at USask in 1969 and remained in the Civil Engineering Department until his retirement in 2005. A prolific researcher, he was recognized for his teaching skill through the 3M Teaching Excellence Award and the USask Master Teacher Award. In 2022 as professor emeritus, Mel was honored by the USask Engineering Advancement Trust with an Alumni Service Award for his devotion to the College of Engineering and his genuine concern for its students.

Mel was an avid supporter of USRA, attending lunch presentations and other events. He also took on the role as official photographer, capturing the history of USRA.

Jose F. (Pepe) Lopez (January 19, 1930-March 1, 2024)

Born in Seville, Spain in 1930, Jose (“Pepe”) studied at the prestigious Colegio de Francisco de Paula in Seville and then at the University of Seville’s College of Medicine. He later completed his military service as a lieutenant in the Spanish Foreign Legion in Northern Africa.

In 1956, Pepe left for Chicago to complete his work in internal medicine at Mercy Hospital, and then did a cardiology residency at Chicago’s Michael Reese Hospital. In the summer of 1963, Pepe moved his family to Saskatoon where he was asked to run the USask cardiology division’s Hemodynamics Laboratory. He rose to become chief of cardiology, a position he held until his retirement in 1997. He continued to do research in a part-time capacity for a number of years.

In 2018, Pepe was honoured with the College of Medicine’s Louis Horlick “Spirit of the College” award presented to an individual who has contributed “over and above” the call of duty and shows the spirit, dedication and enthusiasm Dr. Horlick exemplified during his career.

Pepe is survived by his wife, Matilde, and children Fernando, George, and Julia. He was an avid reader of literature and history. He enjoyed hiking, international travel and had a deep love for opera.

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.

Tribute to Retiree

This section features a tribute, written by an USRA member, that honours a recently deceased USask retiree who has contributed significantly to the university community but is not a member of USRA.

Craig Martin Hannah (June 8, 1963 - July 5, 2024)

It is with great sadness that USRA joins with the university community and in particular CUPE 1975 members in mourning the death of their Past President Craig Hannah. Craig held various term positions on campus as caretaker, store attendant, and general labourer before becoming a permanent caretaker

and later, after receiving his journey person papers, a painter. He worked as a painter from 1999 until 2016 when he was elected President. Craig served as CUPE President from 2016 until 2020 when he stepped down to attend to a life-threatening illness, and retired from the university.

In 2023 Craig received the CUPE Saskatchewan Award for Union Activism in recognition of his 110 per cent support for working people not only on campus but across all of Saskatchewan's public sector. In 2019 Craig and his team successfully argued before Saskatchewan's Essential Services Tribunal for a much-reduced number of essential service workers after members voted in favour of strike action. CUPE and the University agreed on terms for a new contract shortly after this precedent setting ruling.

On a very warm July 9, 2024, family, friends and many members of the entire campus community packed the hall at Christ Church Anglican Church to honour and celebrate the life of Craig Hannah, husband, father, labour leader and friend. He is survived by his wife Sherri and daughters Megan and Christi Klimchuk, her husband Kyle and their children Brynlee and Emerson Klimchuk, parents Les and Jan Hannah, in-laws Harry and Sarah Sanduliak and brother in-law and sister in-law Barry and Anita Sanduliak. Craig will be long remembered for his dedication to family, his fishing and moose hunting tales, and most particularly his remarkable gift of building strong relationships with all those he met. *Tribute by Mary Dykes with assistance from Heather Richinski Executive Assistant CUPE 1975; [Star Phoenix obituary](#); photo gallery of Craig on [CUPE 1975 website](#).*

Booking the USRA Retirees Lounge in Peter MacKinnon Building

USRA members are welcome to use the Retirees Lounge (Room 132 PMB) for a meeting or gathering to be held during regular office hours unless it is booked by another group.

The process to book the room is to contact the USRA office (306-966-6618 and leave a message or email ss.usra@usask.ca) or contact a member of the USRA Board, who will then contact the Office of the President to book the room. Note: Member bookings cannot be made directly with the Office of the President.

Keep in Touch!

We welcome your letters to the editors Jackie, Kathryn, Bob and Judith (on leave). Do you have an event of interest to retirees and seniors 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

website: <https://usra.usask.ca>

Annual Membership Renewal

Beryl Radcliffe, Chair, Membership Committee

Annual memberships cover July to June of the following year. Reminder notices were sent out in June. If your membership has not been renewed for 2024-2025, please consider renewing now by using the membership form on our website [Membership Page](#). For convenience, we have added the option of e-transfer of funds.

Please note that life members do not have to renew annually.

USRA Annual General Meeting Draft Agenda

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Western Development Museum, Saskatchewan Hall

Approximately 2:00 P.M. after Lunch and Speaker Presentation by Jeff O'Brien

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2023
4. Co-President's Report: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill
5. Treasurer's Report: Tom Wilson
6. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Awards: Merry Beazely
 - b. College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC): Bryan Harvey
 - c. Communication Committee: Jacqueline Huck
 - d. Education, Social and Recreation Committee: Caroline Cottrell
 - e. Membership Committee and Tribute to Members No Longer with Us: Beryl Radcliffe
 - f. Engagement Committee: Jim Thornhill
 - g. Honorary Degrees: Tom Wilson
 - h. Campus Heritage: Yannis Pahatouroglou
 - i. Ad Hoc Committee on USRA Documents: Merry Beazely
7. New Business
 - a. USRA Involvement in USask Activities
 - b. Administrative Support for USRA
 - c. Benefits Update
8. Report of Nominations Committee: Jim Thornhill
9. Election of Board for 2024-2025
 - a. Co-Presidents: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill
 - b. Vice President: TBA
 - c. Secretary: Jacqueline Huck
 - d. Treasurer: Tom Wilson
 - e. Immediate Past Co-Presidents: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill
 - f. Members at Large: Bob Card, Bryan Harvey, David Mandeville, Vera Pezer, Peggy Proctor, Beryl Radcliffe and Kathryn Warden
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

Report of Nominations Committee for 2024 AGM

Members: Jim Thornhill (Chair), Merry Beazely and Tom Wilson

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association on October 16th at the Western Development Museum, the Nominations Committee is pleased to present to the membership the following list of Officers (4 Executive positions) and Directors for the 2024-2025 year, for one-year terms.

Election Slate:

Co-Presidents: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill

Vice President: TBA

Secretary: Jacqueline Huck

Treasurer: Tom Wilson

Immediate Past Co-Presidents: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill

Directors: Bob Card, Bryan Harvey, David Mandeville, Vera Pezer, Peggy Proctor, Beryl Radcliffe, and Kathryn Warden

Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill have agreed to share the presidential duties again this year. We are most appreciative that Tom Wilson and Jacqueline Huck have agreed to continue in their important roles as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, again this coming year.

We are pleased that Bob Card, Bryan Harvey, David Mandeville, Vera Pezer, Beryl Radcliffe, and Kathryn Warden are continuing on the Board to share their many talents with us.

Yannis Pahatouraglou, Judith Henderson and Caroline Cottrell are stepping away from the Board and we thank them for all their time and effort in growing the USRA mandate.

We are pleased that Peggy Proctor has agreed to let her name stand to join the USRA Board. Peggy Proctor was a Clinical Associate Professor in the Master of Physical Education Program at the School of Rehabilitative Science at the University of Saskatchewan. She held the position of Academic Lead for Clinical Education and Community Affairs for the Physical Therapy Program. She worked as a physiotherapist in many clinical areas and geographic locations within Canada and abroad. She was actively involved in responding to Calls of Action for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and has a special interest in the professional and ethical issues surrounding the practice of physical therapy.

Note that the election of new Board members at the AGM will be by acclamation unless further nominations, each signed by three members of the Association, are received by the Secretary at least 15 days prior to the meeting. Please see USRA's By-Laws (Section 10) on the USRA website.

If you have any questions or if you are interested in serving with us on the Board, please contact Jim Thornhill at jim.thornhill@usask.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Thornhill, Chair, on behalf of the Nominations Committee