

USRA News



Number: 58

University of Saskatchewan

November 2004

USRA EXECUTIVE 2004-2005

President - Pat Lawson

Vice-President - Peter Cribb

Secretary - Yvonne Cuttle

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Faye Kernan

Howard Klein (Editor)

Doug Knott

Peter Lane

Bob Sanche

Duff Spafford

Jim Wood

Bob Woods

Telephone Number: 306-966-6618

e-mail: ss_usra@duke.usask.ca

Pat's Place

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2004-05 year. I will be your president for the upcoming year and I hope that together we will have an entertaining and educational year.

I would like to introduce two new members of the executive. Firstly - Duff Spafford, who will keep us informed about the new Retirees Lounge which is to be included in the refurbished College Building. Our second newcomer is Ken Smith (former Registrar) who answered our plea for a volunteer to look after the treasurer's duties. I think our money continues to be in good hands. Welcome to these two gentlemen and thanks to the executive members who are returning for another year.

In September we had our annual meeting and dinner at the Faculty Club. Sixty three people enjoyed the dinner, a chance to hear President MacKinnon, and the presentation of the Prime of Life Achievement Award to Dr. Frank Vella who gave an interesting and inspirational acceptance speech. We would like

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Can You Help?

President Mackinnon and some members of the USRA believe the University would benefit from retirees working with students, faculty and the public. How can the University benefit from our help? What do you think?

This is designed to be a two part survey. To begin with, the USRA Executive Committee seeks to learn what you, as retirees, could envision doing. Are many retirees interested in being actively involved with the University? To be sure, one might ask first, what are specific niches that need filling across campus that would utilize our talents and interests? If we knew what was needed, a number of us might be sought for appropriate matches. In that respect, we will not be filling jobs, rather an individual's talents and inclinations will match determined U of S needs. It seems to make sense to start with the USRA membership and then advertise what we have to offer. Perhaps, by 2005, we can show our mettle, in a small way, with one or two projects initiated, and continuously build more activities over time.

Using the internet, last month, we sent the message below to selected e-mail addresses. Thirteen responses were received. Now we are reaching out in hard copy. Your reactions to this message would be greatly appreciated, so give us opinions, advice, and suggestions. If you have already forwarded a response to e-mail, feel free to add something new. This would not be construed a 'flip-flop.'

PLEASE REACT

Several Members of the USRA have asked the Executive to determine whether or not there might be ways in which retirees can continue to assist the University in carrying out its various activities. Consequently, we have conducted discussions with Dr. Peter MacKinnon, President of the University of Saskatchewan, who was delighted with the prospect of working with and receiving some help from us. He has asked us to assist him in mapping out a course of action by delineating the ways in which our expertise can be utilized. A few ways appear to be:

- * Meeting with in-coming students to inform them about various programs of studies.
- * Meeting with foreign students to inform them about programs of studies, expectations, cultural differences, etc.
- * Assisting students who might be experiencing difficulties with courses.
- * Acting as consultants in areas of curriculum development and evaluation procedures.
- * Assisting with PR and Community development activities.

We are in the process of developing a response to Dr. MacKinnon's request, and your written assistance will be very helpful. Please list three or four ways in which USRA Retirees might be able to make a contribution to the various activities conducted by the U of S.

Forward your thoughts to Howard Klein before December 20, 2004
e-mail: klein@duke.usask.ca
by post: 3610 Balfour Court, Saskatoon, SK S7H 4B2
The Executive thanks you in advance for your assistance.

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to see more members attend. It is a wonderful chance to meet and chat with people we don't see very often.

President MacKinnon hosts a Christmas reception each year at the President's Residence on campus. This is another opportunity to meet with other retirees - both academic and non-academic. I hope to see as many as possible on December 8 at 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the President's house.

The date of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada annual meeting in Vancouver had been tentatively set for May 12th and 13th, 2005. Since we are members, it would be nice if we could have some representation at that meeting. Is there anyone travelling to BC at that time? Or do we have members living in the area who might be willing to attend?

One of our fellow retirees has had his 100th birthday !! Lorne Paul reached that milestone on October 27th. A public reception was held on October 30th. The USRA gave some small help to Lorne in 1992 when he published a "Directory of Personal Care Homes in Saskatoon" which he compiled after discovering that there was no place that information could be obtained. Congratulations Lorne.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful cooperation we have received from President MacKinnon. Not only does he invite us into his home every Christmas season, he attends our barbeque and dinner each year. And this year he has also met with us on two occasions to discuss ways in which retirees and the University could help each other. In addition the President has given us some significant financial assistance in the form of the costs of mailing our Newsletters. We are also discussing ways in which our association can access the expertise of university personnel if we need it.

Our next event is an evening with University architect, Colin Tennent on November 25th at the Faculty Club. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

We would like to hear from you. Do you have any suggestions for (a) interaction with the University? (b) social events? (c) educational events? Contact the Retirees office or get in touch with me directly : 931-7763 or pal509@duke.usask.ca

LAUGHTER *If we believe our logicians, humankind is distinguished from all other creatures by the faculty of laughter.*

Joseph Addison

A retiree was given a set of golf clubs by his co-workers.

Thinking he'd try the game, he asked the local pro for lessons, explaining that he knew nothing whatsoever about the game.

The pro showed him the stance and swing, then said, "Just hit the ball toward the flag on the first green."

The novice teed up and smacked the ball straight down the fairway and onto the green, where it stopped just inches short of the hole.

"Now what?" the fellow asked the speechless pro.

"Uh... you're supposed to hit the ball into the cup." the pro finally said, when he was able to speak again.

"Oh great! So now you tell me!"

Mother: "Why are you home from school so early?"

Son: "I was the only one who could answer a question."

Mother: "Oh, really? What was the question?"

Son: "Who threw the eraser at the principal?"

A teacher asked her students to draw a picture of their favorite Old Testament story, and as she moved around the class, she saw there were many wonderful drawings being done.

Then she came across Johnny who had drawn a man driving an old car. In the back seat was a scantily-clad man and woman. "It's a lovely picture," said the teacher, "but which story does it tell?"

Alex seemed surprised at the question. "Well!" he exclaimed, "doesn't it say in the Bible that God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden?"

An elderly Saskatchewan farmer had been the owner of a huge profitable piece of land near the city for several years. He had a large pond in the back forty and had it fixed up with picnic tables, horse shoe courts, a basketball court, and much more. He also fixed up the pond for swimming. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond and look it over as he hadn't been there for a while. Getting closer to the pond, he heard voices shouting and gleeful laughter.

He soon saw it was a bunch of young women skinny dipping in his pond and noisily made the women aware of his presence. They all quickly went to the deep end of the pond. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The farmer replied, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim or insist you get out of the pond, I only came to feed my alligators."

PLEASE CHECK...

If, on the mailing label for this newsletter, the number "2004" appears beside your name, it indicates that your membership was paid up until the end of June, 2004. In that case, we would urge you to renew your membership or to consider a life membership. Many of us consider it useful for overcoming forgetfulness.

Annual Membership dues are \$15; think One-Time Lifetime.

Age on July 1 (less than) 60	\$180 for life
60 to 64	\$160
65 to 69	\$140
70 to 74	\$110
75 to 79	\$ 80
80+	\$ 50

Francis (Frank) Vella Recognized with USRA Prime of Life Award at AGM

Vice President, Peter Cribb, reminded the audience that the Prime of Life Achievement Award is given to retirees who have made outstanding scholarly, service or artistic contributions that have been recognized by international, national or provincial bodies. Such an individual is Frank Vella, a micro-biologist who was on faculty for 31 years.

Frank received a U of S master teacher award in 1986 and, more recently, the CAUT Dedicated Service Award. Over the years, he had served on numerous editorial boards, was a speaker at international conferences and other meetings.

He explained to the audience that he had no specific plans for his retirement, but he did begin to accept invitations to speak overseas, observing the nine times he did so could never have happened when he was teaching.

The offer of a two year stint as general secretary of the international union of biochemists came out of the blue one day from a friend when an immediate vacancy developed. After some deliberation he signed on. He was given the task of establishing standards for an international PhD in molecular bio science, updating his decade old work on standards. This was done with the computer, typing with two fingers. He detailed how his family taught him how to use it.

Over a year of intensive work, 120 biochemists in 30 countries and he communicated on the internet. They read and commented on his original document; then he and they put together 13 drafts, each read and commented on. Eventually, consensus allowed the union to print 15,000 copies, many of which Frank Vella mailed out from Saskatoon. The publication has been officially translated into Spanish and Chinese and at least one unofficial translation has been made.

In summing up his retirement thus far, Frank conceded, "One does not know where life will take one and one does not know what early career contacts would create". He granted that his contacts produced much work and excitement - "a rewarding new life of much richness."



Don't miss Architect, Colin Tennent's personal history of U of S buildings

revealing how the university has clung to the original campus plan during its building cycles.

When - November 25 at 7:00 PM

Where - Faculty Club (Light Lunch - \$8.00)

Make and honor your reservation - 966-6618

Moden Era Huskie Intercollegiate Football Began with Howie Nixon in 1959

Shortly after Howard Nixon returned from Indiana University with his doctorate in physical education, intercollegiate football was to be revived on the U of S campus. There was a hiatus during World War II. In 1947, an inter-varsity football game was played, but, after it, once more doldrums set in. Then in 1956, U of S students overwhelmingly voted to renew the university's western intercollegiate football ties.

In 1957, Lorne Schemmer, president of the Education Students' Society agreed to support an invitational inter-varsity six man football final between teams from the University of Manitoba and the U of S. Schemmer and the phys-ed department believed that if the game scheduled for November 2, 1957 was successful, Huskie football would be revived and it might goad the Manitobans into doing the same. To cover their expenses, at least a thousand spectators had to buy tickets. University officials were confident the minimum required would be far exceeded.

Howard Nixon, who had coached eleven man tackle football, felt in a week he could get the six man team ready for the game, despite admitting that neither he nor Coach George Wearing had six man football experience.

The Canadian co-ed of 1957, Donna Kernaghan, kicked off the ball which was held by Frosh Queen Ann Schnell. With that sort of a football beginning, it hardly matters who won.

The 1957 game was the essential step that created Nixon's problems two years later - how to compete in the western conference without experienced players. His and Wearing's solution was to produce a team from mostly raw material. With a training camp opening on September

fifth and the first Huskie game in the Western Intercollegiate football season beginning two weeks later, Nixon and assistant coach, George Wearing with line coach Mike Regush had insurmountable problems in need of quick solutions.

To begin with, four key players had to sit out the 1959 season. With very few experienced players, Nixon had no choice but to depend on a pool of university freshmen to face the other more mature squads in the conference.

Nixon hoped recent high school graduates could be recruited, but did they had enough desire to make the team? He feared that too many would doubt their ability to play college

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level football. Huskie officials tracked ball players in the southern part of the province and urged prospects to think about attending training camp early at Qu'Appelle Hall with 60 or more other players. What better inducement than a two week taste of university with living expenses subsidized by the team?

Nixon could not be overly optimistic about a successful season, but he expected the team to put on good football entertainment for Saskatoon fans in Griffiths Stadium with its increased capacity. The coaches had one field with lights that would enable night practices. Ticket sales began.

So, how did the 1959 football Huskies do? Some, when asked, laughingly recall that the Huskies lost all their games, but, at least, one person thought they had one victory.

What matters now is that in 1959, Howie Nixon and his coaches successfully began the current always fun-filled, win or lose, excitement of Huskie football highlighted by several Canadian intercollegiate football championships.

Architect Colin Tennent Will Reveal How the U of S Created and Preserved the Most Beautiful Campus in Canada

An evening to mark on your calendar is Thursday, November 25th at 7:00 pm for a power-point lecture by Colin Tennent at the Faculty Club. A light lunch of sandwiches, fruit and coffee will be served for \$8.00. Please call 966-6618 to make a reservation.

A person who attended a Tennent lecture wrote, "You probably have not gone to many more logically and esthetically pleasing illustrated lectures than the one that will be given by Colin Tennent discussing the architecture of the U of S."

His story will tell about people and buildings that hewed to the original plan's retention over the decades despite an explosion of construction employing different materials and designs. What happened to create sameness and differences? Learn and enjoy.

The speaker, a U of S graduate in biological sciences and now an architect, exudes a love and knowledge of the U of S that he will make engagingly apparent during the evening.

"I think that you should tell retirees to drop everything to come," concluded the writer.



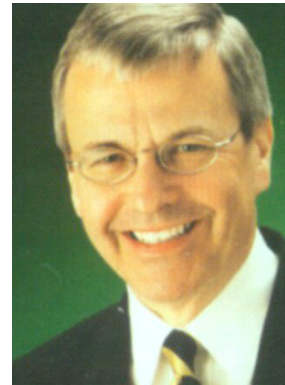
For the warmest reception of the season, attend President MacKinnon's Christmas party for retirees.
When: December 8 - 1:30 to 4:00 pm
Where: President's house.

phone his office to say you are coming...

966 - 6612

President MacKinnon's Remarks To AGM

Before dinner, USRA President, Joel Gajadharsingh mentioned that tonight's program does not include speeches which was greeted with a burst of applause. After dinner, Joel introduced the President who commented, "That was a very warm introduction...it partly makes up for all the



warnings about the nature of he evening and my words...so true to Joel I will not give a speech, I will make some remarks."

He immediately told us how much he enjoys meeting with the USRA and informed the audience that the University will fully subsidize the mailing out of the Newsletter. He spoke about the involvement of retirees in the university and pointed out that "sometimes it comes naturally, but for other people it happens less so." He explained "I would be very interested in ways retirees are involved in the university and ways in which we can meet your wishes in the nature of that involvement." He looks forward to possibilities that might evolve out of a more structured formal arrangement.

In the course of his remarks he noted that enrollment numbers show a slight increase this year, but formal planning for the future is essential, considering the demographics of the province. Implicit is registering North American and a host of other international students to matriculate on the U of S campus.

Reaching out beyond the province's boundaries is the Canadian Light Source, the largest scientific project created in Canada, which is bringing the best to Saskatoon and should provide a host of opportunities for he whole university. To make it work, funding had to be put together from countless sources, not government alone.

He related bringing money to fund CLS to what he calls a "transformation of the system of public education" which he insists is rapidly being privatized without much public knowledge and little discussion. He contended it is evolutionary, happening world-wide. He urged that it is in need of being debated. He noted that in 1980, 80% of funding came from the government. More recently, it has dropped to 58%. "If this continues," he predicted, "it will be irreversible."

His conclusion was an epiphany to the U of S as the most beautiful campus in Canada. The impact of the campus is special to him because he walks to work from his campus house. He urged retirees to be present in his home by accepting his invitation to his annual reception on December 8th; then he added, almost as an essential afterthought, "this is a very interesting time and a very interesting job."