

USRA News



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USRA EXECUTIVE 2004-2005

President - Pat Lawson

Vice-President - Peter Cribb

Secretary - Yvonne Cuttle

Treasurer - Ken Smith

Past President - Joel Gajadharsingh

Members at Large:

Norah Carey

Les Coleman

Harbans Dhingra

Doris Hasell

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Come to the Faculty Club on February 14th (Valentine's Day) for a Card Party

Might spending a Valentine evening playing cards with USRA members and their spouses or partners at the Faculty Club on February 14th be a bit unusual? Why not find out?

Registration begins at seven and the first USRA Valentine get-together could, if successful, herald an annual event.



This may be a stretch, but playing cards and Saint Valentine have, depending on authorities, intersecting histories, both coming to fruition in the middle ages.

You will find edibles throughout the evening. Card players will sign-up at registration (ten dollars per guest) for up to eight different card games including bridge, gin rummy, cribbage, poker with

chips, or even solitaire. Periodically, rotation times will be announced that can be ignored.

Available will be cards, scoring pads, cribbage boards and, of course, rule books, or bring your own. Make your reservations early for a joyous different Valentine evening - 966-6618.

Pat's Place

Happy New Year to you all and greetings from not-so sunny California:

Newsletter editor Howard thought I should write this column from southern California and tell you about my golf game and the warm sunny weather that is the norm here. But things have been a little damp for the three weeks I have been here. The town of Hemet/San Jacinto where I am, has had eighteen inches of rain since October. The area's average amount of rainfall between October and January ranges from six to seven inches. I obviously haven't played much golf.

California has lots of "weather". They have earthquakes, floods, fires, tidal waves, mudslides, and droughts. Someone has said that living in California is like living in the Old Testament!

While I am enjoying the good life elsewhere, your executive has planned events I hope you will come out and enjoy, beginning with a card party on February 14th. On April

Please Note Dates and Events on Home Calendars

14-02 Faculty Club 7 PM \$10 Valentine Eve Card Party & Food

06 04 The Cave Noon \$ "You decide" Luncheon & Your Travel

07-05 Kinesiology Building tba \$ tba On Digital Photography
Whether you attend the symposium or not, send or bring up to 3 favorite film or digital photos (any size to 8.5 x 11). Photos will be put on display and eventually, they will be compiled into a book to be located in the planned Emeritus Reading Room.

06-06 Faculty Club tba \$tba BBQ Preceded by Spinks Addition tour



Look, look! See the two ground floor windows on the right. That should be the location of the Emeritus Reading Room in September.

Pat's Place continued on page two.

Pat's Place continued from page one

6th, attend a luncheon at the Cave and talk about your travels. One member has already volunteered to tell about a visit to Poland. On May 7th we will learn much about digital photography. Our annual BBQ comes, as usual, on the first Monday in June. Remember to call the USRA office to make a reservation. Tell us who will be coming - 306-966-6618.

We are indebted to Mohindar Sachdev for the creation of our website. You can visit it at <http://duke.usask.ca/~ss usra/>. As we go along, we will add more features. Leave a message on the office phone, or e-mail, if you have any ideas about what we might include. Our website provides a link to the CURAC website. The papers presented at the last annual meeting are there.

The 2005 CURAC conference will be held in Vancouver from May 11th to 13th. We are still looking for someone to represent us at the meetings. The CURAC website advertises a cruise to Alaska which could be combined with the meeting.

The executive has had discussions about what we might do to help fellow retirees who need assistance of any kind such as providing transportation to USRA functions or offering assistance in time of bereavement. Norah Carey reviewed the minutes of what was called the "Outreach Committee." It was formed in November 1993 with the mandate of extending a helping hand to those who, for one reason or another, need a friend or assistance. The committee met many times and consulted with a number of people. But in March of 1996 the committee dissolved itself, because "it was the feeling of the members present that we had made the best effort we could of our perceived mandate and had been unable to serve any useful purpose." The executive will investigate further this type of "outreach" activity. We seek your opinions.

Thanks to Joel Gajadharsingh and Peter Cribb who are chairing the executive meetings in my absence.

We extend our sincere condolences to Doug Knott and his family. Doug, who has been on the USRA Executive and representative on the pension committee for many years suffered the loss of his wife, Pat, on December 27, 2004.

LAUGHTER

Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can: all of them make me laugh. W. H. Auden

At the height of a political corruption trial, the prosecuting attorney attacked a witness. "Isn't it true," he bellowed, "that you accepted five thousand dollars to compromise this case?"

The witness stared out the window as though he hadn't heard the question.

"Isn't it true that you accepted five thousand dollars to compromise this case?" the lawyer repeated.

The witness still did not respond.

Finally, the judge leaned over and said, "Sir, please answer the question."

"Oh," the startled witness said, "I thought he was talking to you."

Will Rogers (1879 - 1935) on Growing Older

- 1 ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
- 2 ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
- 3 ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.
- 4 ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.
- 5 ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.
- 6 ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.
- 7 ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.
- 8 ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.
- 9 ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.
- 10 ~ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

A young Harvard graduate, thinking about his future, got into a taxi. The driver cheerfully asked "How are you on this lovely day?" "I just graduated, Harvard, class of 2004," exclaimed the young man, "and I can't wait to see what the future has in store for me."

The driver looks back and then shakes the new graduate by the hand and introduces himself. "Hi, I'm Mitch - class of '99."

ALWAYS CHECK...

If you have a life membership, stop reading. If a date, other than the current one, appears beside your name, it indicates that your membership is not paid up. In that case, we urge you to renew your membership or to consider a life membership. A life membership overcomes forgetfulness and keeps you informed of USRA news and upcoming events you would not want to miss.

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

Think about the three photos you will bring to the digital seminar in May.

Reminiscence St at the corner of Walmsley Rd

where we are to meet Dan Doritich

Dan Doritich received the USRA "Prime of Life" award in Saskatoon on September 10, 2001 and began his journey home on September 11th. His reminiscence is interesting, because it is a very human response to a personal extremely deep concern that appears to blot out the overriding trauma felt by much of the world, one way or another, at the time.

September 10, 2001 was memorable for me when my wife and I visited Saskatoon, where I received the "Prime of Life" award from the USRA. If I had something to look forward by flying east, my future after our return was on the side of very *iffy*. Peter Cribb drove us to Saskatoon's airport the next morning. Our flight to Calgary was as pleasant as a flight could be over the prairies.

Looking out the window as the plane descended for its landing, we noticed a scattering of large aircraft on the ground. Another surprise came when we saw a yellow ribbon cordon on both sides of the plane. We wondered what that was all about, as we disembarked, and I got into a wheelchair that was awaiting me on my arrival. When we reached the lobby, we saw it filled with people and piled high with luggage. We were instructed by the public address system not to leave the area.

"What gives?" was written on everybody's face, and Betty left me to find out. I was due in a few days in Vancouver for major back surgery and could not but wonder if I would meet my schedule. After a while, my wife returned with some vague intelligence about some kind of aerial attack against New York. About all she was certain is that our flight to Kelowna had been postponed. For how long, no one could tell. Hours? Days? Nobody knew. Maybe, two or three days?

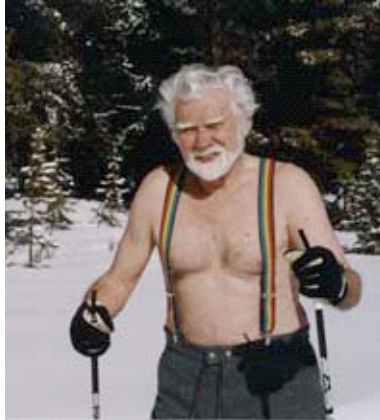
My operation was scheduled for September 19th, but I had to be in Vancouver at least one week earlier to have some tests, talk with the anesthetist, and have a steel corset made to measure.

Soon, we learned all North American flights had been grounded, and we would have to find a hotel room. Betty decided to phone our son, Paul, to take us to his home in Cochrane to await the resumption of our flight with a two days window; otherwise, he might have to drive us to the Kelowna airport where our car was parked.

A car journey to Vancouver was an essential part of our plan, so that I could be brought back home to Summerland after the operation. Our Subaru could serve as ambulance or hearse, as the case may be with its very comfortable and adjustable seats. Two days later, we were able to fly into Kelowna. Betty drove to Summerland and loaded the car with the paraphernalia needed for an almost three weeks stay in Vancouver.

Not to bother you with details, let me just tell you that I am now a Bionic Titan of a Man: six three and a half inch long

screws, three on each side of the lowest part of the spine, held together by plates, on to which they are fastened by nuts and bolts. Inside the middle vertebra of those fused together, is a one cubic inch mesh, containing bone-marrow bone scrapings from my pelvis. All of this is made of precious titanium. And if you add to it the 32mm. long titanium mesh inside my main coronary artery, you will understand that I am not really



indulging in poetic license.

But, hey! Here we are, Betty and I, in winters, cross-country skiing on Apex mountain, the rest of the year, hiking up and down the hills and mountains around Summerland and all over BC. And, until fairly recently, Betty no longer needs to be my Llama, carrying my photographic

equipment, partly because I can, within reasonable limits, now carry my own and also because we spent a lot of our savings on lighter equipment.

Postscript

Betty just came to tell me goodbye. She is going out to shovel off the five inches of snow on the drive-way. Yours Truly is a Mail (sic)-Chauvinist Sultan, full of Titanium in his heart and spine, and somewhat Unbending. His Royal, what am I saying, Regal/ No, Imperial Chariot sports a wheel-chair sign on the rear-view mirror. His spine won't let him carry heavy weight, let alone swing around with a shovel-full of heavy snow. WHAW KAN AH DOO?



USRA
December
Christmas
Reception with
President
MacKinnon
08-12-04

November Survey Update

In the November, 2004 Newsletter issue, we asked readers to tell us how, as retirees, you can continue to assist the University in carrying out its various activities. Thus far, we have received about 20 responses.

The survey listed five ideas (below) gleaned from members. Several respondents told us these were a good start; others told us things they have been doing that are related:

A Meeting with in-coming students to inform them about various programs of studies.

B Meeting with foreign students to inform them about programs of studies, expectations, cultural differences, and special services.

C Assisting students who might be experiencing difficulties with course work.

D Acting as consultants in areas of curriculum development and evaluation procedures.

E Assisting with PR and Community development activities.

Snippets:

1. Those living great distances from the U of S wondered what help they could be to the university and wondered why the university has not reached out to them.
2. One writer observed that retirees helping new students in a variety of ways would provide opportunities for them to have direct contact again with the younger generation.
3. Retirees told of working with students. One, since retirement, has taught graduate students how to write research papers, theses and dissertations. He has conducted writing research seminars and continues to be on thesis and dissertation committees as chair, member or co-advisor.
4. Another retiree would be willing to offer, without remuneration, services performed while on pay roll, including some teaching or individual arrangements such as guest appearances in lecture courses, seminars and labs. He, however, envisions problems related to departments accepting such offers. (It is not clear, for example, if the work with graduate students (above) has been remunerative. If it has or has not been, then there exists precedents.)
5. A retiree's family, has, over the years, sought one or two foreign students to live in their home rent free. (This story made one of those inter cultural ah hah impressions on retirees hearing it; then they about dual advantages having foreign students living in a house). During the owner's absences, the house is occupied and students become responsible for pets, plants etc. If this idea has appeal, you may turn to the U of S for help in finding students to live in your house (or even to invite them for a thanksgiving dinner), but help has been inconsistent.
6. A very busy retiree described his working with foreign doctors, to assist them in their acclimation to Canada and guiding them in their upgrading for medical school.

Many declared or alluded to a need for a clear university policy about enlisting and optimizing retirees' contributions to the university community. Is the reading room enough?

Should retirees be welcomed on campus as a living part of needed U of S history in a department or field? Should they be an

IN

MEMORIUM

Donald M. Gray, deceased January 4, 2005. He retired in June of 1995 as Professor of Hydrology in the College of Engineering. His spouse, Beverly, survives him.

Lorne C. Paul, deceased December 16, 2004. He retired from the Extension Division . His spouse, Mildred, predeceased him.

Marshall Gilliland, deceased November 27, 2004. He retired in June of 1996 as Professor of English. His spouse, Mary, survives him

Bohdan Rozdilsky, deceased November 26, 2004. He retired in June of 1986 as Professor of Pathology from the College of Medicine. His spouse, Anna, predeceased him.

Richard Blum, deceased November 22, 2004. He retired in June of 1981 as Professor, Mathematics Department. His spouse, Martha, survives him.

Maybell Symes, deceased November 14, 2004. Mrs. Symes is the spouse of the late Dr. Oliver Symes, retired Academic Pension Plan member (deceased November 22, 1986).

Edwin V. Wahn, deceased October 23, 2004. He retired June 30, 1987 from the College of Commerce. His spouse, Connie Wahn, survives him.

Christopher D. Pritchett, deceased October 18, 2004, He retired June 30, 1983 from Dept of Classics. His spouse predeceased him.

W. Grant Milne, deceased October 25, 2004, retired June 30, 2000 as Professor of Ag Bioresource Engineering. His spouse, Vickie, survives him.

Wilfred Cotter, deceased September 30, 2004. He retired June 30, 1988 from the Dept of Restorative and Prosthetic Dentistry. His spouse, Constance Mae, survives him.

active link in connecting past problems and successes to departmental or college changes currently being sought? Could their knowledge and insights help avoid repeating mistakes made decades ago by revealing to contemporaries - this is what we did, this is how we did it and this is what happened - providing the paper trail (for some reasons filed away) to prove the case - sound familiar?

Argue with anything written above or elsewhere. Add your ideas and reminiscences to what has been included in this compilation. Do so, to klein@duke.usask.ca.