

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

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

Web Site: http://duke.usask.ca/~ss_usra/

Pat's Place

This is my second opportunity to send greetings from southern California. I am happy to report that the weather has been dry and warm lately. I am very grateful to the executive for carrying on USRA business in my absence - particularly Joel and Peter Cribb who have chaired the meetings. I will be back to take the chair at the April 4th executive meeting.

One item that has been on the agenda has been the relocation of the USRA office. Our office and lounge are located in the Toxicology building. But now the toxicologists need more space, so relocation of other agencies may be mandated. Space is available in the Research Annex to the north. Another space possibility is in the renovated College building, where there is to be a Professor Emeritus room. Negotiations are ongoing and involve accessibility and security among other things. We will keep you informed. (see Where oh Where...page 3)

Let us know if you have nominees in mind for the USRA "Prime of Life" Award.

Pat's Place: continued on page two.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TO SHARE TRAVEL STORIES AT THE CAVE, APRIL 6, 2005

Conferences, consulting, and research have almost compelled University professors and their spouses or partners to be travelers. Such folk have countless personal stories about their time in distant cities or long stays in university centres, sojourns in unique little towns, trips to historic locations, and living in isolated or primitive settings.

Retirees enjoy a choice of getting abroad quickly or relaxing on ocean cruise ships or small freighters. Others would never go on a freighter while some go on their first and last cruise and others rave about their 20th. Why?

It is becoming commonplace for retirees who like big ship cruises to invite some or all of the family to join them through the Panama Canal or



visiting one Caribbean island after another. Why?

There a few over 65s who become adventuresome enough to climb South American mountains

or join a camel train across a desert. More would choose the train to cross Siberia, Europe or our own Canada. Not a few would take river cruises or world tours. Virtually all travel tale memories extending back to the first trip away from home into the present are enhanced with photographs and video tapes or DVDs.

The April sixth travel tale event at the Cave, beginning at 1130, is planned to share travel memories. The luncheon table talk might begin with 'the best place we ever visited' or 'the funniest travel story we can tell...'. An hour later, more formal presentations would follow that may or may not include projected slides or photographs passed around tables.

Might a successful luncheon on the topic of travel breed regular informal group get-togethers during the year? (see Viewpoint, page 3)

Let's fill the Cave banquet room on April 6th for what should be an engrossing several hours. Luncheon choices will be made from the menu. Prices range up and down from \$5.75.

Call in your reservations to 966-6618 (Deadline, April 4th). Give names and phone numbers of all who will be coming. The full development of the luncheon program, is dependent on knowing who may be presenters to the whole group. If you wish to be a presenter, let us know. You will be contacted by a committee member to confirm your luncheon role.

Pat's Place: continued from page one

Our next social event is a luncheon at the Cave restaurant on April 6th. People are invited to share their travel experiences. I will be happy to talk about the spot in California where I have spent parts of 14 winters.

In May - on the 7th, your executive has arranged for an all -star cast to instruct us in the art of digital photography .This is something I have wanted to learn about for some time. I hope many of you will join me there.

June 6th is the date of our annual Bar-B-Q. We have always had a good turn out with its superb setting on the deck of the Faculty Club where we dine on great hamburgers or chicken breasts and salad. It is a time of fellowship just before we break for the summer holidays. Adding to the joy of the evening, there are plans for a delightful surprise music program.

On Campus News (Feb 18) in an article, "Universities Face Questions On Cutting Mandatory Retirement" summarized arguments for retaining mandatory retirement or eliminating it. It is worth reading (see page 4 to learn how the U of Toronto has dealt with the issue that receives ongoing attention from CURAC; go to www.curac.ca)

Speaking of CURAC, we are still looking for someone to represent the USRA at its annual meeting to be held in Vancouver on May 11 to 13. Do you know of any members who would like to spend a few days in beautiful British Columbia? We can provide some minimal financial assistance. Please contact the office or a member of the executiv, if you are interested, or, if you know someone who lives in BC whom we might contact.

My thanks to Howard Klein and his helpers for producing this newsletter about four times a year. And thanks to the President's office for covering the mailing costs associated with distributing the newsletter to our members.

See you soon. Hope the snow has all gone by the time I return.



LAUGHTER - a good laugh is sunshine in the house

william makepeace thackeray

A pious man who had reached the age of 105 suddenly stopped going to synagogue. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance the Rabbi went to see him.

He found him in excellent health, so the Rabbi asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man looked around and lowered his voice. "I'll tell you, Rabbi," he whispered. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and I don't want to remind Him!"

A psychiatrist visited a California mental institution and asked a patient, "How did you get here? What was the nature of your illness?" He got this reply...

"Well, it all started when I got married and I guess I should never have done it. I got hitched to a widow with a grown daughter who then became my stepdaughter. My daddy came to visit us, fell in love with my lovely stepdaughter, then married her. And so my stepdaughter was now my stepmother. Soon, my wife had a son who was, of course, my daddy's brother-in-law since he is the half-brother of my stepdaughter, who is now, of course, my daddy's wife. So, as I told you, when my stepdaughter married my daddy, she was at once my stepmother! Now, since my new son is brother to my stepmother, he also became my uncle. As you know, my wife is my step-grandmother since she is my stepmother's mother. Don't forget that my stepmother is my stepdaughter. Remember, too, that I am my wife's grandson. But hold on just a few minutes more. You see, since I'm married to my step-grandmother, I am not only the wife's grandson and her hubby, but I am also my own grandfather. Now can you understand how I got put in this place?"

Some students at the University of Saskatchewan are required to take a difficult class in physics. One day, the professor was discussing a particularly complicated concept. A student rudely interrupted to ask, "Why do we have to learn this stuff?"

"To save lives," the professor responded quickly and continued the lecture.

A few minutes later, the same student spoke up again. "So how does physics save lives?" he persisted.

"It prevents idiots like you from graduating as civil engineers and building things," replied the professor.

ALWAYS CHECK...If you have a life membership, stop reading. When 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 one for life. Life 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

VIEWPOINT

Howard Klein

Professor Bruce Andrews and I met at Syracuse University as undergraduates where we both also earned our PhDs. Bruce taught political science at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. For about five decades, we were intermittently in touch via the post office (never e-mail).

I was shocked to learn that Bruce died suddenly. Our periodic letters ignored our professional lives, fixing on politics, and, at the end of each, a tad about family. I 'googled' to gain a perspective on Bruce's professional world and discovered he won awards and accolades for his teaching and work with the Democrat Party. Serendipitously, the search revealed his association with the Dickinson retirees association. What follows should relate to the USRA.

The Dickinson association appears to have developed active small topical groups getting together as often as twice a month. Could this style of meeting be a model for USRA members in Saskatoon or out in the far west where many of our retirees have settled? Occasionally, we receive inquiries from individuals asking how they might get together regularly with other U of S retirees in Victoria or Vancouver. It may be, however, that the Dickinson approach is a patent only that works in a small college-small town way.

Now, check out the Dickinson College Coming Events

Our interest groups have expanded by one, a Science group led by Bob Leyon which meets every two weeks (as do the other groups) with about 10 participants. Topics have included string theory, the tsunami phenomenon, and global warming.

Our Hot Topics group now numbers about 18, and we have had some very good discussions about the November election, the economy, terrorism etc. We mourn the loss of Bruce Andrews who was not only our political science expert on elections, but always a mediating influence when discussions got "hot".

The Play Reading Group headed by Marcia Conner started with Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*, then read Somerset Maugham's *Rain* which was made into a play years ago, Aristophanes' *The Frogs*, and ended with Giraudoux's *Ondine*, which, fortuitously, is being presented by the Mermaid Players the first week of April, so play readers will have a chance to see the play! The group becomes a poetry group in February and will be preparing readings by William Carlos Williams, Langston Hughes, and Adrienne Rich, among others.

The Music Group under the direction of Truman Bullard thrives, as well, with loyal listeners! Truman has been gracious enough to handle the arrangements for members of RPDC and Friends to attend a chamber music concert presented by Market Square Concerts on February 20, after which those who wish will go to dinner together. So far there are 28 of us signed up!

Can the topic, Travel, be developed to appeal to a small group's interests. Join us on April 6th at the Cave to discover if Travel would be a strong magnet that would attract regular group members. Reminder: lunch is at 1130. We need input from our readership about this topic and all other matters of concern. Accolades happily accepted. (klein@duke.usask.ca).

Where oh Where Is Our Little Emeritus Room?

Last year, the Executive held modest hopes that the USRA office might be located in what was to be an Emeritus Room on the ground floor of the renovated College Building. These expectations have been virtually dashed since the newsletter's last issue, for the anticipated "Emeritus" room might well become the Alumni Room, or gain some other designation.

Even if it were to be identified as the Emeritus Room, it apparently would not be a suitable office,

whatever intriguing space divisions might be designed for the room, because the room would always be available by reservation for others. Furthermore, the USRA would not have a stranglehold on such reservations for various events; rather, vying for its use would always be a competition.

When you read this, the USRA may or may not retain an office in the Toxicology Building where office space is much needed for a recently hired Toxicology professor. At this writing, the Executive members were informed that by giving up the USRA lounge, it retains its present office. Standby for future developments.

E	Look, look! See the	E
E	two ground floor	E
E	windows on the	E
E	right.	E
E	That should be the	E
E	location of the	E
E	Emeritus Reading	E
E	Room in September.	E
E	Newsletter - 01-05	E

Saskatchewan Centennial 2005



Saskatchewan became a province in 1905

I would vision those vast prairies inhabited by a strong, independent patriotic people building towns, cities, and villages and making the stubborn prairie soil yield its wealth in order to provide happy and prosperous homes for multitudes, and helping to furnish sustenance for dwellers in less favoured regions, living in harmony and peace, and fulfilling their destiny as patriotic Canadians. "

Excerpt from speech of Sir Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, at Regina, Saskatchewan, September 4, 1905

U OF TORONTO ON THE ROAD TO OPTING OUT OF MANDATORY RETIREMENT

In February, 2004's Newsletter, John Owens and Keith Johnstone raised the issue of mandatory retirement. Its pros and cons were recently presented in *On Campus News* (Feb 18) in an article, "Universities Face Questions On Cutting Mandatory Retirement." The article summarizes arguments for retaining mandatory retirement or eliminating it. The University of Toronto appears to be moving to eliminating it.

A landmark agreement, subject to ratification, was reached at the University of Toronto to end mandatory retirement for faculty and librarians whose 65th birthday occurs on or after July 1, 2005. As well, the agreement includes transitional arrangements for those who turn 65 prior to June 30, 2005 and are scheduled to retire this year. The agreement must still go before Governing Council for approval and to the UTFA council for ratification.

A key component is the development of senior scholar/retiree centres on the University of Toronto's three campuses. The centres would enable retired faculty and librarians to continue their intellectual activities and to retain their connection with the university. The agreement also allows a substantial new flexibility in retiring arrangements. In particular, it enables the university to retain and attract senior scholars to reinforce its leadership in teaching and research by ensuring that its retired faculty and librarians have opportunities to continue to contribute to its success.

Under the agreement, there would be a range of retirement options, including:

- The elimination of the existing Voluntary Early Academic Retirement Program as of Dec. 31, 2005. Eligible faculty and librarians who apply and are approved before Dec. 31, 2005 could set an irrevocable retirement date up to June 30, 2010.

- The pension plan would be amended for retirements on or after June 30, 2006, allowing actuarially unreduced early retirement for faculty and librarians who are age 60 or more and have 10 years of pensionable service.

- A phased retirement program would be instituted effective July 1, 2006. This program would allow faculty members and librarians – in the three years before they are eligible for the new, unreduced early retirement, and up to age 66 – to scale down their responsibilities over a three-year period. They would continue to accrue pension based on their full salary and with an incentive premium in the form of a retiring allowance of 75 per cent of regular salary.

- Those faculty members and librarians who chose to postpone retirement beyond 65 (which remains the normal retirement date under the pension plan) would continue to participate in the pension plan and accrue benefits. They could choose to retire in any year upon one-year's notice. To assist faculty members and librarians assess their retirement options, the university would pay for up to three hours of independent retirement counseling. (for more complete information see www.news.utoronto.ca)

In Memory

Irene Waldman, deceased February 24, 2005. She retired from the College of Education in June of 1979.

Walter Edwin Roe, deceased February 20, 2005. He retired December 31, 1992 from the Vet Physiology Dept. His spouse, Loretta (also a retiree), predeceased him in 2001.

Elizabeth Ward-LaFreniere, deceased January 16, 2005. Mrs. Ward is the spouse of the late Dr. Norman M. Ward, deceased February 4, 1990.

April 6, 2005, at 1130
 come to the cave to share
 your travel experiences.
 Bring some photos and/or
 slides of your journeys

*Offer tips that will make future
 travels safer, easier, less
 expensive, and more enjoyable.
 Cave luncheon prices range from*



\$5.75 to \$7.95.

*A Seniors' menu is available.
 Parking is free!!!*

We look forward to seeing you there.
 Before April 4, 2005 (deadline), phone the
 USRA Office at (306) 966- 6618, to let us
 know who will be attending the luncheon

USRA TRAVEL EXPERIENCE LUNCHEON