

USRA News



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USRA EXECUTIVE 2006-2007

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President's Report

The President's Report is essentially a summary of activities past and activities planned. Since the last Newsletter published in November 2006, the main events have been Peter MacKinnon's Christmas reception for the retirees and two 'small group' meetings held in the Faculty Club following Executive Meetings.

President MacKinnon's reception was held on Wednesday December 13, 2006, and, while very much appreciated by those present, had a rather lower turnout than in recent years. Peter MacKinnon commented that it is the reception he likes best because it is the noisiest and that that tells him that people are enjoying it. Unfortunately the time of year (retirees turn their backs on winter cold), icy sidewalks (a campus horror), and simple cold weather, deter attendance. The reception is intended for all faculty and

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2006-07 IS A USRA YEAR OF THINGS TO HEAR, SEE AND DO

First things first! The "First Monday of the Month" seminars and Executive meetings may be moved to the Emeritus Room in the College Building (#132) which is a comfortable informal room looking out on the campus bowl.

Reads like a fait accompli, but scheduling uncertainty blights the move, notwithstanding an urgent request to retirees "use the dedicated area or lose it."

To protect the location, the USRA held an Executive meeting there and moved 2007's First "Monday of the Month" seminar to the room, but there are scheduling problems. So, look for e-mails and possible phone calls to verify meeting locations.

Three of the "First Monday of the Month" seminars have met. Those who have been attending feel expectations have been realized. They are small interesting home-like campus gatherings. Join one, You will not be

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2006-07 CALANDARS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Monday, February 5, 2007

2:00 p.m. Faculty Club

"Nature's Trails; Birds and Plants"

Frank Roy and Mary-Jean Roy

Monday, April 2, 2007

2:00 p.m. College Building

"Tour of College Building: Antiquities"

Michael Swan

Monday, May 7, 2007

2:00 p.m. Faculty Club

Round Table Discussion: "Snow" by Orhan Pamuk.

A Turkish author discusses the Armenian Genocide

Lead by Gary Hanson

MAJOR USRA EVENTS - 2006-07

Saturday, March 31, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Room 246, Kinesiology Building

"Fitness and Nutrition for Seniors"

Presenters: Dr. Susan Whiting, Pat Dewar and Liz Harrison

FEE \$10 - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Monday, June 4, 2007

"Spring BBQ"

Time & Place to be confirmed

Monday, September 10, 2007

AGM and Annual Dinner

Faculty Club

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administration retirees, and perhaps next year we should confirm this and try to make non-USRA retirees aware of it. We would all welcome the opportunity to meet old friends and colleagues whether or not they are members of the USRA. For our part, suggestions to next years President and Executive Committee are: (1) that we phone all friends retired from the U of S and invite them; (2) make sure that widows/widowers of deceased members are invited and, if necessary, offered a ride; (3) see whether members or their dependents who need transport can be picked up and taken to the reception (this was discussed several years ago but not acted on because of uncertainty whether the driver and passengers would be covered by the driver's insurance. Given the state of some of Saskatoon's roads in winter, it is not a trivial concern, but surely one that is resolvable.

The small-group meetings have proved modestly popular and are described separately in the newsletter. The University's plans in celebration of its centenary as described by Ghislaine McLeod are widespread but somewhat diffuse. Murray Scharf has agreed to work with Ghislaine and the University to narrow down the areas where the USRA and its members could contribute.

The small-group meeting in December was held in the retirees lounge in the renovated College (Administration) Building. This is a rather underutilized area that became available last year. With Duff Spaffords prompting, we are attempting to make use of the lounge for meetings in fear that it may be a case of 'use it, or lose it.'

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of two members awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards relatively recently: Cliff Shook and Otto Radostits. Otto was gravely ill when he was nominated for the award, and it is a credit to Peter Cribb and the committee that they decided to present the award at last years BBQ in June rather than wait until the annual banquet in September. This made it possible for Otto to attend in person and receive his well-deserved award among friends and colleagues.

On a happier note, Mo Sachdev returned to the Executive in December after serious heart surgery looking well and active. One benefit of his enforced convalescence that he demonstrated at the Executive meeting was a new USRA web site. This should be available shortly through the U of S web site and will provide much more, and more up-to-date, information for our members. This is a computer world and the web site is our two-way window to it, so for great work Mo, many thanks.

LAUGHTER *My way of joking is to tell the truth. It's the funniest joke in the world. George Bernard Shaw*

While Sally was driving home from a business trip in Northern Arizona she saw a Navajo woman walking on the road. She stopped the car and asked if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, The woman got into the car and silently studied her surrounding taking an interest in a brown bag next to Sally.

"What's in bag?" she asked

Glancing at the bag, Sally answered, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."

The Navajo woman, after a moment of silence, said: "Good trade..

A senior citizen said to his eighty-year old buddy: "So I hear you're getting married?"

"Yep!"

"Do I know her?"

"Nope!"

"This woman, is she good looking?"

"Not really."

"Is she a good cook?"

"Naw, she can't cook too well."

"Does she have lots of money?"

"Nope! Poor as a church mouse."

"Well, then, is she good in bed?"

"I don't know."

"Why in the world do you want to marry her then?"

"Because she can still drive!"

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?"

Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'

The doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'"

The newly appointed priest was being briefed by the housekeeper on problems in the rectory that required immediate attention. "Your roof needs repair Father." she said. "Your water pressure is bad and your furnace is not working."

"Now, Mrs. Kelly," the priest allowed, "you've been the housekeeper here five years, and I've only been here a few days. Why not say our roof and our furnace?"

Several weeks later, when the pastor was meeting with the bishop and several other priests, Mrs. Kelly burst into the office terribly upset. "Father, Father," she blurted, "there's a mouse in our room and it's under our bed!"

I smile because I don't know what the heck is going on.

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disappointed.

Ghislaine McLeod, in December, described the planning for the U of S Centennial Celebrations which had a very successful showcase opening at Convocation Hall in early January.

Over the year, a myriad of big and small events will take place across campus and in the city. You will find information on the U. of S. internet site and in the local media.

Ghislaine urged retirees to contact their former departments and colleges to learn their plans and to ask how a former member could make contributions to ongoing events that will continue to December 31st, 2007.

On January eighth, Cheryl Kloppenberg discussed wills and their planning. Wills, she reiterated through the hour, should be very specific and straight forward so that they express intentions clearly, thereby holding costs to a minimum for the estate. She urged that secrecy be avoided.



For most couples who hold everything jointly, the transfer is greatly simplified and reduces all costs. A suggestion made was to hold as few accounts in different banks as possible. Keep banks close to home. Bickering

causes costs to rise.

Retirees must think about emergencies and avoid possibilities of leaving themselves destitute by giving away their wealth as a living will.

Expert guidance is essential. It is only a bargain if it is excellent, mindful that it and probate can be expensive. Decisions are especially needed for the the only survivor. Whatever he or she does will have a different set of problems than when everything was jointly owned. The session ended with a host of questions including some anecdotal stories which could have added a second session.

Scheduled for February fifth are Frank Roy and Mary-Jean Roy to take us on: "Nature Trails: Birds and Plants." Whether you have heard either or both, being with them always brings something new. If you have never been in their company, coming this once will cause you to seek them out in the future.

TYPE IN "USRA.USASK.CA TO VIEW OUR REBUILT INTERNET HOME PAGE

Mohindar Sachdev

The USRA web site is operational now. The address is <http://usra.usask.ca>. When you visit the site, you will see the Home page that is divided in two parts. The upper frame, shown



below, contains an index of what you can access at this web site.

The purpose of the USRA is stated in the lower frame. You are also invited to send your comments to the Web Master by Email. If you click on the Email address of Dr. Mohindar Sachdev, your software that handles Email messages should open a form for sending your message.

Clicking on one of the buttons in the upper frame, opens the web page that displays the information on the subject indicated on that button.



For example, clicking on the News Letter button divides the lower frame in two parts. A list of USRA News that you can view is displayed in the left frame as shown here. Each USRA News is identified by its month of publication. Clicking on one of the buttons displays a PDF copy of the selected USRA News. The first page of the News is displayed in the right part of the lower frame. You can scroll down to the bottom of the page and then click on the page advancer provided by the PDF reader.

You will need a PDF reader on your computer. If you do not have one, you can down load a copy from the web site <http://www.adobe.com> of the Adobe Systems

Incorporated free of charge.

In addition to accessing the USRA News, information on Social Events, other notices and President's message are also accessible by clicking on the appropriate button.

Clicking on the Constitution button displays a PDF copy of the constitution of the USRA in the lower frame. In this case, the lower frame is not divided in two parts.

Clicking on the Executive Committee button displays a list of the members of the Executive Committee of the USRA. In addition to the names of the members of the executive committee, Email address of each member is displayed. If you click on the Email address of one of the members, your software that handles

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Email messages should open a form for sending your message to that member. You are invited to send your comments and suggestions regarding the operation of USRA to the President of the USRA or any member of the Executive Committee.

Similarly, clicking on the Links –Other sites button displays Hyperlinks to five other sites. These are the web sites of College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC), University of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan Students Union, University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association and the University of Saskatchewan Administrative & Supervisory Personnel Association.

Clicking on the Meetings button displays a list of Annual General Meetings held since 2000, and where and when they were held.

Particulars of the Committees of the Executive Committee can be accessed by clicking on the Other Committees button. The lower frame is divided in two parts. Nine buttons, one for each committee, are displayed in the left part of lower frame. Clicking on the button of a committee displays the membership of that committee in the right part of the lower frame. In future addition information on the activities of the committees will be posted on these pages.

The web page Reports is organized like the News Letter and Other Committees pages. Buttons for reports are displayed in the left part of the lower frame. Selecting the button for a report displays the report in the right part of the lower frame. At this time, no reports are posted on the web site. At the upcoming meetings of the Executive Committee, reports will be selected; the selected reports will be posted on the web site soon after they are selected.

The web page Agenda is organized like the News Letter, Other Committees and Reports pages. Agenda's of the Annual General Meetings held in 2005 and 2006 are posted on these pages. Clicking on one of the buttons displays a PDF copy of the selected agenda. As soon as agenda for the 2007 Annual General Meeting is prepared, it will be posted on this page.

Clicking on the Minutes button in the upper frame displays the minutes in two parts of the lower frame. Five buttons are displayed in the left lower frame. They are for the minutes of the Annual General Meetings of the USRA held in 2002 through 2006. Clicking on one of the buttons displays a PDF copy of the minutes of the selected meeting. The minutes of Annual General Meetings held in 2002 through 2005 displayed at the web site are the approved minutes. However, the minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the 2006 meeting are un-approved minutes. Their approval will be taken up at the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

In Memory

Otto M. Radostits passed away December 15, 2006. Dr. Radostits retired in June of 2002 from the College of Veterinary Medicine. He was hired on September 1, 1964. His spouse, Ruth Radostits, survives him.

Finally, the Prime of Life Achievement Award button in the upper frame provides information on the Prime of Life Achievement Award. It also allows the visitors to down load a copy of the Nomination Form that should be completed and submitted for consideration of the USRA.

Please send your suggestions to Dr. Mohindar S. Sachdev at sachdev@sasktel.net.



SHE: Oh, Gawd. I'm convinced my mind is almost gone.

HE: I'm not surprised you've given me a piece of it every day for twenty years.

>If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

>If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

>If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

>If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

>Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?