

RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWS February 2008

Number 73 www.usra.usask.ca

Message From President Murray Scharf:



As noted in my October report, the goal of the Executive for 2007-2008 is to strengthen the structure of the Association and to complete the transformation of USRA from a benefits-oriented organization with a focus on pension and retirement benefits to a service-oriented organization with a focus on services to its members and to the University. In order to give definition to this reformulation, the Past President's and the Executive Committee held a strategic planning session on November 6th. The discussion ranged from descriptions of our current activities and how they can be improved, to consideration of other activities we should consider. Among these new activities were 1) serving as a clearing house for volunteer opportunities at the University; 2) forming partnerships with allied agencies to strengthen and broaden the services available to our members; 3) providing more

courses, such as a driver refresher course, for our members; 4) partnering with the University on working with international students; 5) organizing at least one excursion for members each year; and 6) encouraging retired Sessional Lecturers to join our organization.

This meeting provided guidance for the formulation of an agenda for this year's activities.

In order to achieve cosponsorship of membership of retired sessional lecturers into USRA, Heather Wagg of the Sessional Lecturers' Union has been approached.

In order to achieve a partnership yielding synergy in the delivery of services and in opportunities for engagement, the Saskatoon Council of Aging has been approached. The issue of inadequate facilities and lack of a support system for Level 1 and Level 2 Intermediate Care patients was identified as one area of joint interest.

In order to promote member involvement with international students, the Executive has held a meeting with Kurt Tischler, and a follow-up meeting with Derek Tannis, International Advisor in Student Service Division, has been arranged. Our hope would

be to create a list of possible support activities and to develop the procedures for administering these activities.

In all, given the positive reception we have experienced to date, it would appear that these activities will be successful and should significantly contribute to our meeting our stated purposes.

While the above lists new initiatives, some continuing activities have been performed. I would like to point out that with the strike over, the circulation of newsletters letters has resumed. On behalf of the USRA, I attended and placed a wreath at the City of Saskatoon and University of Saskatchewan Remembrance Day celebrations. On December 17th, the President's Reception for Retirees was held – this year it was particularly well attended.

On January 17th, Bill Waiser gave a presentation, entitled "Tale of Two Futures – Saskatchewan in 1905 and 2005," to over 35 members at Mano's Restaurant. *Please note Michael Pomedli will be making a presentation shortly after 12:00 noon on February 28th at the same venue on 8th St. A large number of individual retirees continue to provide*

voluntary services to the University and the university community. Future events are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Again, if you have advice to proffer or issues you wish addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me at 374-0874 of any other member of the Executive.

Murray P. Scharf

IN MEMORY

Aninda Chakravarti

Deceased December 1, 2007 Geography Department 1965 - 1994

Donald Rennie

Deceased: December 23, 2007 College of Agriculture, Soil Science 1952 - 1989

W. Harold Silvester

Deceased January 31, 2008 Accounting, College of Commerce 1974 -1994

Girdhari Lal Saini

Deceased February 7, 2008 Dept. of Mathematics 1967 -

USRA PROGRAMS 2008

(Please mark your calendars for these events!)

Thurs., Feb. 28- 12 Noon Dr. Michael Pomedli St. Thomas Moore College (Mano's Restaurant 200-1820 8th St. E.)

Thurs., March 27 – 12 Noon Dr. George Sofko
"The Real Elephant and Mouse Story - the Sun and the Earth".

(Mano's Restaurant 200-1820 8th St. E.)

Saturday, April 26
Richard Schwier –
Computers & Technology
Day – We will spend the
morning with hands-on
demonstrations of how to
make the best use our
computers

May - tour of Canadian Light Source and lunch at Boffins (date to be finalized in March)

June 2 – USRA Annual Barbecue, Faculty Club

Christmas Reception

We sincerely thank President Peter MacKinnon for his generosity in again opening his home for the Christmas Reception. It was enjoyed greatly be all who attended the event.

Registering for regular University courses

As you no doubt know, people over 65 years of age can take University of Saskatchewan courses either for credit or as auditors without paying tuition; only student fees have to be paid. Now undergraduate students are required to buy a bus pass, and people who already have a senior's bus pass bought directly from Saskatoon Transit do not qualify for exemption. This would mean having to buy two passes for the same time. The solution is to register as an "audit only" student. For this category, student fees are reduced and the bus pass is not required.

SSCL courses

Another option is to take the non-credit courses offered at the University by Saskatchewan Seniors' Continued Learning. Information is available at P. O. Box 8695, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 6S5, or call (306) 343-6773, or visit the website at http://www.extension.usask.ca/ ExtensionDivision/noncredit/Adul ts/

Registration is now open for spring classes, which begin in March.

Functions of Interest to Retirees:

March 1, 7:30 PM Greystone Singers Winter Concert, Convocation Hall

March 8th, 7:30 PM Mozart Requiem with Greystone Singers, University Chorus and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra Saturday

Greystone Theatre: March 26 Preview March 27 – April 5, 2008 She Stoops to Conquer

Written by Oliver Goldsmith Directed by Dwayne Brenna in the John Mitchell Building (306) 966-5188 or (306) 966-5177

University Retirees Lounge on Campus!

When the College Building (Admin Building) was re-opened, Room 132 on the ground floor was set aside for the use of University retirees as a lounge and meeting place. The room has comfortable chairs and facilities for making coffee and tea. It is open for use during University business hours. When you are on campus, drop in for a visit. We encourage retirees to make use of the lounge. If the door is locked, go to the University Secretaries office (212) to obtain a key.

Membership in the USRA

At present, there are 286 paid-up members of the Association and another 40 whose dues are no more than a year in arrears. Almost 80% of the paid up members have elected to become Life Members, an option which, for many of us with progressively diminishing memory, eliminates the need to worry about renewing. For those who pay dues on an annual basis, the key to knowing when their membership expires is on the mailing label for the newsletter (or beside their name if they receive it by email) on which the year of expiry is shown. Annual dues are for the period July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

Currently the annual membership fee is \$15 and that for a life membership is dependent on age according to the following schedule:

Age (on July 1)	Fee		
<60	\$ 180		
60 - 64	\$ 160		
65 - 69	\$ 140		
70 - 74	\$ 110		
75 - 79	\$ 80		
80 +	\$ 50		

Payment of fees should be sent to:

Ken Smith, Treasurer University of Sask. Retirees Association RJD Williams, 221 Cumberland Ave. Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3 USRA EXECUTIVE 2007-2008

President: Murray Scharf
Past President: Bob Woods

Vice President: Jim

Blackburn

Secretary: Yvonne Cuttle

Treasurer: Ken Smith Members at Large:

Norah Carey Les Coleman

Peter Cribb

Faye Kernan

Barry McLennan

Dale Miquelon

Mohindar Sachdev

Bob Sanche

Nancy Senior

George Sofko

Duff Spafford

It's winter in Canada And the gentle breezes blow Seventy miles an hour At twenty-five below.

Oh, how I love Canada
When the snow's up to your butt
You take a breath of winter
And you nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful So I guess I'll hang around I could never leave Canada -

'Cause I'm frozen to the ground!!

USRA WEB SITE: www.usra.usask.ca

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USRA Contact Information: Telephone – 306-966-6618 E-mail – <u>ss.usra@usask.ca</u>

Ground Mail – USRA, RJD Williams, 221 Cumberland Ave.

Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3

Engineers:

Bubba and Ray were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole," said Bubba, "but we don't have a ladder."

The woman took a wrench from her purse, loosened a few bolts, and laid the pole down. Then she took a tape measure from her pocket, took a measurement, announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches," and walked away.

Ray shook his head and laughed. "Ain't that just like a *woman*! We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Bubba and Ray are currently doing government work, supervising in Ottawa.

After 42 Years of Marriage:

After being married for 42 years, I took a careful look at my wife on day and said, "Honey 42 years ago we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10 inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 19 year old gal.

Now I have \$ 500,000 home, a \$45,000 car, a nice big bed and a plasma screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 61 year old woman. It seems you're not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman, she told me to go out and find a hot 19-year-old gal, and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV,

AREN'T OLDER WOMEN GREAT? THEY REALLY KNOW HOW TO SOLVE YOUR MID-LIFE CRISIS!

We Need Your Input!

As noted by President Murray, we seek your input regarding USRA programs or suggestions for the Newsletter. Please take a moment to contact either the USRA web site or Jim Blackburn at 374-9751 (jblackburn@sasktel.net)

Jim Blackburn, Editor