



**Message from
President Jim Blackburn**

The USRA had a most successful two-year term under Murray Scharf's guidance in meeting the objectives of our organization, "to enhance the quality of life of our members by providing services and activities addressing their needs and desires" and "to provide support and services to the University of Saskatchewan." A special motion expressing our thanks to Murray for his outstanding leadership was passed unanimously at our 2009 AGM.

Our annual general meeting was held on Monday, September 21. The 35 members in attendance received annual reports from President Murray Scharf (*in absentia*, as he was leading a Rotary delegation to Scotland) and from each of the committee chairs. Fifty-five members and their guests attended the Banquet, where the USRA recognized long-time Executive Member and Honorary Member Norah Carey for her significant contributions to our Association over many years. Norah's daughter and son were with her on this occasion. We were also pleased to have Chancellor Vera Pezer provide greetings

from the University and update members on current university activities and concerns.

During the past year, there was a wide variety of USRA educational offerings, and at the AGM members made several excellent suggestions for new topics and programming.

On October 15, Vice President Richard Florizone started our fall speaker series with a talk entitled **The Nuclear Industry and the University of Saskatchewan**, and on November 19, Vice President Brett Fairburn will speak on the topic **Planning: The Academic Future of the University of Saskatchewan**. On December 7, Dr. Michael Atkinson will speak on the topic: **The Nature of the School of Public Policy and Some Governance and Public Policy Issues of Current Concern**. A partial listing of programming for 2009-2010 is included in this newsletter.

Through the efforts of Kurt Tischler and Robert Sanche, the International Students' Emergency Loan Fund has been revised by the International Student Office. The intent is to provide monetary assistance for worthy international students enrolled at the University who are in dire need of financial assistance. USRA members will be encouraged to contribute to this fund as part of the University's charitable donations program.

Robert Sanche and Nancy Senior are in the process of revamping the *USRA Newsletter* to make it more appealing and interesting to our members. We encourage members to notify the USRA office (ss.usra@usask.ca) to sign up for e-mail distribution of the Newsletter to reduce mailing costs. (Continued on Page 2)

U of S Retiree Honours

John Owen

At the 142 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Medical Association held in Saskatoon in August 2009, retiree John Owen was inducted as an honorary life member. John served at the University of Saskatchewan for many years as professor in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. Dr. Owen was honoured particularly for his extensive contributions to the International Studies Program in the College of Medicine and his work in placing more than 200 medical students in developing countries for their elective course in Community Medicine.

David L. Kaplan

Professor Emeritus David Kaplan was recently honoured when the Saskatoon Composers' Concert Society established the new David L. Kaplan Concert Series. David was a key builder of the University of Saskatchewan Music Department and of the Saskatoon Symphony. For more than four decades, his work as a musician, composer and conductor has greatly enriched the music world.

(Note: This is a new column to recognize the awards received by retirees during retirement. Please submit items for this column in future newsletters).

Chancellor Pezer's Podcast

Chancellor Vera Pezer was honoured to be asked to write and record a speech to be given as part of the 2010 Winter Games Education Program at the Vancouver Winter Olympics, Chancellor Pezer's speech may be seen as a podcast at www.globeandmail.com/intellectualmuscle

IN MEMORY

Rose Kinash

Deceased – Aug. 6, 2009
College of Nursing
Hire Date: Aug./73
Retirement Date: June/93

Gordon Wyant

Deceased – October 22, 2009
College of Medicine
Hire Date: Dec./54
Retirement Date: June/81

Non-credit Courses for Seniors

SSCL (Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning) courses beginning in January 2010 should be announced in late November or early December 2009. Registration begins 10:45-11:45 at TCU Place on Wednesday, 2 December 2009.

<http://www.ccde.usask.ca/ExtensionDivision/noncredit/Adults/>

Gleanings From the Minutes

(This is a new column to highlight important items from Executive Committee meetings)

October 15 Executive minutes

- In 2010 the AGM and banquet will be scheduled for the third week in September to enable University President Peter MacKinnon to attend.
- Jim Blackburn will consult Doug Schmeiser about changes to the constitution voted at the 2009 AGM.
- Duff Spafford will represent the USRA at the next CURAC conference at York University.
- Michael Hayden will chair an ad hoc committee on the future role of the USRA. Other committee members are Kurt Tischler, Murray Scharf and Nancy Senior.

USRA EXECUTIVE 2009-2010

President: Jim Blackburn

Past President: Murray Scharf

Vice President: Kevin Wilson

Secretary: Yvonne Cuttle

Treasurer: Ken Smith

Members at Large:

Yvonne Brown

Les Coleman

Eileen Harvey

Michael Hayden

Faye Kernan

Dale Miquelon

Bob Sanche

Nancy Senior

George Sofko

Duff Spafford

Kurt Tischler

Bob Woods

E-Mail Addresses Requested – In addition to the distribution of the USRA Newsletter to some members via e-mail, we also distribute reminders just prior to our upcoming USRA Programs to those living in or near Saskatoon. We request that you send us your e-mail address in order to keep up to date with our activities.

Please send us an e-mail to – ss.usra@usask.ca requesting to be added to our e-mail distribution list and, if you wish, for the Newsletter. In order to respect privacy and keep addresses confidential, we take care to send these emails as “blind carbon copies.”

Dates for Executive Committee meetings

December 7 at Mano's following the Atkinson talk;

2010 dates: January 4; February 1; March 1; April 5; May 3 and June 7.

All at 2:00pm, Retirees' Lounge.

Please remember to RSVP Eleanor at (306) 966-6613 or eleanor.peppard@usask.ca if you are planning to attend President MacKinnon's Come & Go Christmas Reception, Friday December 11, 101 President's Place, 2:00-4:00pm.

