



**Message from the President
Dale Miquelon**

Looking at old photos gets me thinking . . .

The Executive's sub-committee on our pictorial history has been given the task of hanging a few photos of significant USRA members from our past, as well as lists of the names of Prime of Life Achievement Award recipients, on the walls of our Retirees Lounge on the main floor in the College Building. There is also the task ahead of us of building up a photo archive on our website. Going through old photos of the likes of Jack Pringle and Doug Knott reminds me that our association has been around for over twenty years and can be said to have a history itself. In the last few years, the number of Faculty and ASPA members retiring each year has been smaller than a decade ago. It is important to invite new Retirees to become USRA members and to reconnect with those who

have drifted away. There are some new faces on the Executive, but with one exception, they are all men. That is a second problem for us. We need more women in the USRA and more women on the Executive. As a member you can help by inviting your retired friends who could be in our ranks and your younger friends who will retire this year or very soon.

Today the USRA has 271 members, though far fewer attend our many events. I think our annual program of USRA events provides many occasions for retirees to socialize, maintain ongoing relationships and enjoy learning new things together. Besides our Spring and Fall Barbecues at the Faculty Club, we have the Annual Banquet following the AGM in September. The monthly luncheon Speaker Series at Manos Restaurant is also very popular as are the special seminars or workshops such as the very successful "Driving for Seniors" and "Computers for Seniors," and our Prime of Life Achievement Awards have all been exceedingly worthwhile. It is good to get together to enjoy ourselves, to stay connected to the University, and even to learn new things in the process.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read about other, new benefits being negotiated with the University of Saskatchewan. The more members we have, the more feasible these programs and benefits become. We need numbers not only for the vitality and renewal they bring to the USRA, but because strong, active membership helps us to maintain these programs.

Back to those pictures of USRA old-timers: we don't have them on the walls yet, but President McKinnon has provided us the

necessary money to frame and hang some real treasures from the University Art Collection. You should feel free to come and take a look. If you are on campus, the lounge is a place where you can hang your coat, and be free to go almost everywhere by tunnel, sit down for a chat, arrange a meeting, read the paper, or whatever. If the door is locked, just ask the President's Office to please open it. I have a feeling that when it comes to the lounge, the adage "Use it or Lose it" applies. P.S. Bring your own coffee!

IN MEMORY

Elinor Chelsom Stinson

Date of Death: November 12, 2011
Department: College of Education
Joined the U. of S: July 1, 1962
Retired: June 30, 1978

USRA PROGRAMS

Winter – Spring, 2012

Tuesday, February 14

Valentine's Day Special CPR

Course – Two for the Price of One –
\$ 70.00 for two.

Six Hour Course – 1808 Broadway Ave.

You need to pre-register and prepay over the phone (343-0041) with a credit card or if you wish to use cash or debit, just come into St. John's Ambulance office at 1808 Broadway Ave.

Monday, February 20

Lunch – 12:00 noon;
Presentation – 12:50 PM
(Mano's Restaurant 200- 1820 8th St. E.)
Cheryl Kloppenburg, New Relationships and the Law

Friday, March 16th

Lunch–12:00 noon; Presentation–12:50 PM
(Mano's Restaurant 200- 1820 8th St. E.)

Victor Sawa "The Saskatchewan Music Scene"

Monday, April 16

Lunch – 12:00 noon; Presentation – 12:50 PM
(Mano's Restaurant 200- 1820 8th St. E.)

President Peter McKinnon,

"Reflections on the Presidency of the University of Saskatchewan"

May – TBA

**Seniors 55 Driving Course – program to
Be featured over two day period**

*(If interested please contact Jim
Blackburn (374-9751 or
jblackburn@sasktel.net)*

Monday, June 4

USRA Barbecue at Faculty Club

5:30 PM – Refreshments

6:00 PM - Barbecue

Retiree Volunteers Needed!

Volunteering is a great way to stay connected with the University of Saskatchewan. Whether you live close to Saskatoon or far away, there are many ways to stay involved. Please consider volunteering your time and expertise. To express your interest in volunteering, visit alumni.usask.ca/volunteer or contact Alumni Relations at 966-5186 or 1-800-699-1907.

USRA Membership And Dues

Any faculty or ASPA retiree can become a member of the USRA by paying the appropriate membership dues to the USRA Treasurer at the address below.

Membership dues in the USRA have remained unchanged for more than a decade. At the September 2011 Annual General Meeting, a dues increase was approved so that on July 1 2012, annual membership dues will go from \$15 to \$20 and each category of Life Membership will increase by \$20, depending on the age of the Retiree, according to the following schedule:

	<u>Now</u>	<u>July 1st</u>
<60 years	\$ 180	\$200
60 - 64	\$ 160	\$180
65 - 69	\$ 140	\$160
70 - 74	\$ 110	\$130
75 - 79	\$ 80	\$100
80 +	\$ 50	\$70

For those who are annual members, please consider renewing your USRA membership now at the low rates that prevail before the fee increase in July and, if you have trouble remembering to renew your annual USRA Membership, consider a once-only, Life Membership. Payment of fees should be sent to:

Duff Spafford, Treasurer, USRA
RJD Williams Building,
221 Cumberland Ave.
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3

Send Donna Your Memories!

The Faculty Club celebrates 50 years of service to the University Community this year and the 100th anniversary of this beautiful building, and we need your help.

We would love it if you could share your thoughts and memories about your time at

the club and, space permitting, we will include them in a memory book which will be available for purchase in the near future. Feel free to drop Club Manager Donna Cram an email (donna.cram@usask.ca), or handwritten note or photograph (in care of the Faculty Club) by February 29th.

Thank you all so much for helping us out. Hope to hear from you.

Prime of Life Achievement Awards

The University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association (USRA) requests your assistance in identifying prospective recipients for the Prime of Life Achievement Award (PLAA), which honours and shows appreciation of recognition given to persons who have retired from work at the University. If you know an individual who fits the Award description below, please submit a nomination.

History

The University and its respective Colleges often recognize and reward employees for outstanding accomplishments. However, if after retirement a former University employee receives special awards or recognition, the University does not have a mechanism by which to offer congratulations. In 1997, the USRA inaugurated such a mechanism. The first Prime of Life Awards were given in 1997 to a backlog of 60 worthy recipients. Since that time, a further 31 Awards have been presented.

Award Description

The PLAA honours and expresses appreciation of persons who have retired from work at the University and who, **after their retirement**, have been recognized for outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contributions. Such contributions would have been recognized by international, national, provincial or local bodies (e.g., Order of Canada, Saskatchewan Order of Merit, honorary lifetime recognitions from national or provincial professional societies or associations, honorary degrees, national artistic

commissions, Saskatoon Citizen of the Year). The Awards are presented at the banquet following the USRA AGM in the Fall.

Nomination Forms

The Prime of Life Achievement Awards Committee invites nominations from the University Community; however, anyone may nominate a worthy candidate. Should you require nomination forms, please send us an email at ss.usra@usask.ca or download a form from the USRA website www.usra.usask.ca. Please note that two signatures are required for the nomination and a **complete post-retirement CV** may be requested.

Nominations may be submitted at any time, but must be received by April 30 to be considered for an Award in that same year.

USRA Achieves Enhanced Benefits and Volunteer Roles

--By Michael Hayden, Chair

Ad hoc Committee on the Future of the USRA

Members of an Ad hoc committee of the USRA executive spent the last two years considering the future course of the organization. They found that the USRA provides a range of social and intellectual activities that equals or exceeds that of other Canadian associations of academic retirees. Therefore, the committee concentrated on finding ways to provide enhanced benefits to members and to provide service to the university and community through volunteer activities.

The committee has obtained a number of new benefits for members of the USRA. These include discounts at the bookstore and computer store and associate membership in the Alumni Association (with the benefits of full membership, including a PAC discount). A membership card is being prepared which will provide access to these benefits. The card will also serve as proof of status as a retiree of the U. of S. The committee is involved in discussions with university officials that may well result in an enhanced membership card which will also provide discounts at commercial

outlets on and off campus, including bus service, super markets and restaurants.

As a result of many meetings with representatives of a multitude of administrative entities, a formal, permanent and funded framework has been established to provide volunteer services to departments and colleges of the U of S and to the community at large.

Six working groups made up of USRA Executive members and university officials have been created to further develop volunteer activities. One of the groups has become a standing committee of the USRA Executive charged with nominating candidates for honorary degrees. A university committee consisting of three representatives from the USRA Executive will monitor the activities of the working groups. A formal evaluation of the retiree engagement strategy will be carried out in 2013.

The three USRA representatives on the monitoring committee will form the new Retirement Engagement Committee of the USRA Executive. This committee will continue negotiations with the university administration concerning additional benefits for members of the USRA, including free parking for volunteers, and ways in which retirees can be of service to the U Of S.

Committee members: Bryan Harvey, Murray Scharf, Kurt Tischler

10th Annual CURAC/ARUCC Conference

The 10th Annual CURAC Conference is being held at the University of Victoria, from April 18 – 20, 2012. Accommodation and social events are at the Harbour Towers Hotel, close to the Inner Harbour. Special hotel rates of \$79 single or double apply. Retirees can complete conference registration by telephone at (250) 472-4747 or on line at <http://www.curac.ca/>. You are invited!!

If you have items or information for the Newsletter, please contact:

Robert Sanche (306) 374-5501
robert.sanche@usask.ca