



USRA

Newsletter

April 2013

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From The President

There's something special about lunch.

Most days, we are home for breakfast and for dinner/supper. But not as often for lunch. We often use lunch as an occasion to get out to discover a new lunch joint, to touch base with a friend, or as an informal setting to do a bit of work with someone. You probably know the old line of a woman to her husband, "I married you for better or worse, but not for lunch!" There is one occasion where husbands and wives, and friends can gather at the noon hour for lunch, talk, and even enlightenment: a USRA lunch at Mano's, five or six times in the academic year. Just let me remind you of the stimulating speakers we have heard over the past twelve months:

March 2013: President Ilene Busch-Vishniac;

February 2013: Howard Wheater, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Water Security;

January 2013: Jim Miller, Canada Research Chair in Native-Newcomer Relations;

November 2012: Jim Dosman, Distinguished Chair, the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture;



October 2012: Kevin Wilson, Executive Director, Drug Plan & Extended Benefits Branch, Saskatchewan Health;
 February 2012: Cheryl Kloppenburg, barrister and solicitor;
 March 2012: Victor Sawa, Music Director, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra & Regina Symphony Orchestra;
 April 2012: President Peter MacKinnon.

It's an impressive lineup. At the last meeting, so many turned out to hear President Busch-Vishniac that about a dozen people had to have their lunch outside the meeting room and then bring in their chairs to hear the speaker's remarks. We promise to keep bringing you after-lunch speakers you won't want to miss.

I am sure we will have a great crowd for Henry Woolf, who has postponed his annual getaway to England to accommodate us and leaves the next day. He will send us into spring in just the right spirit. I hesitate to predict what April will be like this year. After all that long waiting (longer than usual this year), we most often find this long-awaited month is one of brown grass, black earth with patches of ice, and the same bare branches we have seen all winter. But I know that Henry will send us into Spring in just the right spirit. Lingering ice will melt; green shoots will shoot. That's my prediction.

Upcoming Events

April 22: If you saw Persephone Theatre's presentation of *The Caretaker* starring Henry Woolf—professor emeritus, actor and director—you will be interested in this luncheon event. Henry will be talking about whatever he fancies. If you plan to attend please contact us at bryan.harvey@usask.ca or 306-966-6618 by Thursday, April 18. This event starts at 12 noon at Mano's Restaurant & Lounge on 8th Street.

June 3: Our annual BBQ brings to an end our 2012-13 year. Join us for refreshments @ 5:30 and food @ 6:00 at the University Club on what will surely be a fine summer day. If you plan to attend please contact us at bryan.harvey@usask.ca or 306-966-6618 by Thursday, May 30.

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.

CURAC/ARUCC ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2013

June 12 - 14, 2013

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Planning is well underway for our 2013 national conference on the campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. We are very much looking forward to hosting delegates from June 12 - 14 and engaging you on the theme of "Staying Connected." Our conference website (www.mun.ca/munpa/curac2013) will offer continuously updated information as the planning process proceeds. There is also a conference email address, curac2013@mun.ca, should you have queries or suggestions.

We are also delighted to inform you that delegates to the CURAC conference will be joined for one day of the conference by local members of Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners' Association (MUNPA). The organizing committee thought

this was an excellent opportunity to bring the two groups together so that we can enrich each other with shared knowledge on overlapping interests.

The fee structure for CURAC delegates will be similar to that of recent CURAC national conferences as will the overall structure of the program. Thus, seven sessions, two luncheons, two receptions and a banquet are proposed.

A block of 40 rooms has been booked at Quality Inns (downtown) at a guaranteed rate of \$149/night. This rate will also apply for participants seeking to arrive a few days early or to stay on a few days after the conference. The rooms will be held until 60 days before the conference. In addition to hotel rooms, 25 recently upgraded campus residence rooms have been booked at approximate rates of: Single Room: \$28.00 (no maid service); Double Room: \$50.00 (no maid service) or Single Room \$35.00 (with maid service) and Double Room: \$60.00 (with maid service*). (*maid service includes fresh towels daily and linens exchanged and beds remade when the guest indicates). Links to tourism sites will appear on the conference website in due course but in the meantime the following sites may be helpful or of interest: <http://destinationstjohns.com> and www.newfoundlandlabrador.com.



(photo above: St. John's Harbour)

Because St. John's is currently a "hot" destination for conferences and tourism, it is strongly recommended that bookings for accommodations, as well as any car rentals that may be desired, be done as early as possible.

We are looking forward to an enthusiastic response to this CURAC invitation to celebrate our beautiful province.

CURAC/ARUCC Secretary Ed Williams is also Program Chair of the Memorial Local Organizing Committee Program and, as he explains in the article below, input from members with program ideas will be very welcome.

As the Chair of the Program Committee for the 2013 CURAC Conference and AGM, I have received several suggestions from members and would very much like to receive more ideas from members.

Former CURAC/ARUCC President Howard Fink has suggested a 10th Anniversary Session to provide delegates with an overview of how the organization was established, what it has accomplished, and what realistic future expectations are. I agree with this suggestion and ask those pioneers from CURAC's early days to consider making a contribution, either in person, in writing, or by providing any old posters, notices, photographs, or other archival type documents that could create a poster session at the meeting. Howard suggested that we form a committee and if anyone wishes to volunteer, please let me know. I hope to receive your ideas and have something definite to report early in the new year.

Other sessions being considered for the remainder of the program include another Best Practices session where member associations present some of their success stories. This session will be chaired by Past

President John Meyer (jmeyer@uwindsor.ca), and we encourage you to consider contributing to this session.

There will be a session about Regional Conferences. During the past year, there have been two Atlantic Regional Conferences (Halifax and Moncton) and one Ontario Regional Conference (Toronto). This session will offer ideas and advice for planning and conducting a successful regional conference.

A session on Retiree Benefits across Canada is another program possibility. Anyone who can help our Benefits Committee add to its data base by providing information on current local retiree benefits is asked to contact Doug Creelman (creelman@psych.utoronto.ca).

Finally, the CURAC/ARUCC Board has for some time grappled with the development of a discussion paper on health care. With the guidance of former President and our resident health care expert, Tarun Ghose, a draft document has been prepared. We hope to distribute this discussion paper to member associations but more importantly, to discuss this draft policy statement at the 2013 conference.

I have provided a summary of current plans but I am most interested in your comments, favourable or otherwise and any suggestions that you may have to enhance the conference program. Please write to me at edgarwilliams@nl.rogers.com. Thanks!!

Ed Williams, Program Chair and
CURAC/ARUCC Secretary

2013-14 Executive Positions

At our AGM in September we elect a new executive. If you are interested in joining our executive, please contact the Nominations Committee at ss.usra@usask.ca or 306-966-6618.