



USRA

Newsletter

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From The President

One of the benefits of an organization like the USRA is being part of a community, in this case of former colleagues and partners. We have set a goal of expanding our community by increasing participation in our events and growing our membership in the coming year. An important source of members/participants is new retirees. Current privacy legislation prevents the University from providing us with contact information for retirees, and, while the University has been very helpful by allowing us to represent ourselves to potential members, we have no means to contact them beyond the one opportunity provided at the retirees banquet. If you know of anyone who is a retiree, recent or not, please encourage them to join us for an activity or two. We also welcome partners of retirees who wish to participate in our activities, whether the retiree can participate or not.

We must also be mindful of our finances, and I encourage you to consider becoming a lifetime member if you are not already one.

It is always rewarding, through our Prime of Life Achievement Awards, to recognize colleagues who have continued to contribute their time and talents in their disciplines and in other areas after most of us have retired and moved on to less demanding pursuits. The accomplishments of four such colleagues are presented in this issue.

We have started the 2013-14 program year with two, excellent, educational events—John Courtney speaking about a recent constituency boundary exercise and Gregory Burke speaking about the new Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan—and many more are planned. Because we contact you only a few times per year via paper mail, please check our web site periodically for the latest program information.

AGM and Prime of Life Achievement Awards

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Monday, September 23 at the University Club. Aside from the usual business matters, discussion made it clear that ways to attract recent retirees to our membership need to be found. Minutes are available on the USRA web site (usra.usask.ca) under the *About USRA* tab.

A new executive was selected for the 2013-14 year.

President: Dean Jones

Past President: Dale Miquelon

Vice President: Byran Harvey (actually appointed at the next executive meeting)

Treasurer: Ken Smith

Secretary: Kevin Wilson

Other Members: Michael Hayden, Asit Sarkar, and Walt Pawlovich

Past Presidents who are active members of the Executive: Les Coleman, Jim Blackburn, Faye Kernan.

The main part of the evening was the presentation of our Prime of Life Achievement Award to four worthy colleagues: Madan M. Gupta, Ali H. Rajput, Brian Rossnagel and Murray P. Scharf.

“The Prime of Life Achievement Award honours and expresses appreciation of persons who have retired from work at the

University and, after their retirement, have been recognized for outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contributions. Such contributions will have been recognized by international, national, provincial or local bodies (for example, 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).”

Madan M. Gupta

(Appointment—1968 Mechanical Engineering; Retirement—2004)

Dr. Madan Gupta’s career at the U of S represents lifetime achievements and research contributions in different dimensions of intelligent systems including neurocontrol systems, neuro-vision systems, fuzzy logic, development of Theta-Invariant Signature Algorithms for incipient failure detection, diagnosis and localization in cyclic machines and Phase-Invariant Signature Algorithm for the detection, diagnosis and localization of incipient ischemic cardio-vascular diseases. His achievements and recognitions prior to



Dean Jones (President), Madan Gupta, Asit Sarkar (presenter, absent)

retirement include: Earned D.Sc. from U of S, Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc., Senior Fellow of the Society for the Promotion of Science

(Japan), Fellow of the International Society for Optical Engineering, Fellow of the International Fuzzy Systems Association and NSERC Outstanding Merit Award for accomplishments in neuro-vision, neurocontrol and neuro-fuzzy systems. His post-retirement recognitions include: Lifetime Achievement Award at the Fifth Biannual World Automation Congress (2003) for outstanding contributions to the fields of Neural Networks and their Applications and appointment as Distinguished Research Chair at the U of S. He remains active as Director of Intelligent Systems Research Laboratory at the College of Engineering.

Ali H. Rajput

(Appointment—1967 Neurology; Retirement—2002)

Dr. Ali Rajput retired in 2002 from the College of Medicine after a distinguished career of pioneering research and compassionate patient care. He founded the Movement Disorder Clinic at the U of S in 1968 and built it to be one of the best of Canada and the world. Because of this unique resource he has been able to attract leading international authorities to join him to find answers to major questions on



Dean Jones (President), Ali Rajput, Jim Blackburn (presenter)

Parkinson's Disease. His publications on clinical, pathological, biochemical and genetic studies on movement disorders total

over 200 peer reviewed publications, 66 of which came after his official retirement. Dr. Rajput is co-founder of Movement Disorder Group of Canada, Saskatchewan Parkinson's Disease Foundation, and was instrumental in development of annual TeleMiracle Program run by Kinsmen Foundation of Saskatchewan. His professional honours before retirement include: U of S Distinguished Researcher Award, U of Regina's Distinguished Canadian Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medicine, Parkinson's Society of Canada's Morton Shulman Award, Tony Dagnone Spirit of Royal University Hospital Award, Saskatchewan Order of Merit, Officer of the Order of Canada and Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. Dr. Rajput's continuing dedication to research and patient care after retirement has been recognized with awards including Saskatoon Physician of the Year (2006), CTV Saskatoon Citizen of the Year (2006), Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. His dedication to patient care continues by remaining on unpaid 24/7 call for autopsy and -80c freezers.

Brian Rossnagel

(Appointment—1977 Agriculture; Retirement—2011)

Brian Rossnagel has been a leader in the agriculture of Saskatchewan and the prairies. He has been a pioneer in breeding of barley and oat through his research at the University of Saskatchewan. His varieties have invariably dominated the acreage for their type when released for production and have been widely used as germplasm in breeding programs in Canada and around the world. In addition, Brian has been a tireless and effective public servant. He has provided sage advice to thousands of farmers at field days, through the press, radio and TV and direct contact by phone and internet. His contributions have been recognized by honorary life memberships in the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Canadian Seed Growers Associations. He chaired the North American

Barley Workers and served on several occasions as President of the International Oat Workers. His stellar outreach and extension activities have been recognized by the University of Saskatchewan when it named him for the Outstanding Extension and Public Service Award in 2004. Brian's research contributions in oat were



Dean Jones (President), Brian Rosnagel, Bryan Harvey (presenter)

recognized by the Prairie Oat Growers Kirylchuk Award for Contributions to the Oat Industry. Awards in recognition of his excellence in research include: Outstanding Young Agronomist by the Canadian Society of Agronomy, Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, Distinguished Agrologist Award by the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and W.J. White Professorship in Agriculture. and more recently he was made a University Professor. In 2011 Brian was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural hall of Fame and in 2012 into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

Murray P. Scharf

(Appointment—1966 Educational Administration; Retirement—2006)

Dr. Scharf has a long history of service to the teaching profession and to the public education system in Saskatchewan, and much of its public policy on education has been influenced by his work. As the Dean of the College of Education for ten years, he mentored the faculty's special focus on rural

education resulting in the creation of the Congress on Rural Education, an annual gathering of educators and community leaders from across Canada. His interests in governance, finance and rural education found expression in his teaching and educational leadership development activities. A founder of Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit, he helped bringing innovative ideas to institutions and agencies in Canada and around the world. His work on school finance and governance is reflected in the restructuring of provincial school divisions. Murray's many honours



Dean Jones (President), Murray Scharf, Walt Pawlovich (presenter)

include: U of S Award for Distinction in Extension and Public Service, the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation Medal for work in rural education, the SCEA's Administrator of the Decade Award and an honorary life membership in the International Congress on Education for Teaching, an UNESCO affiliated organization. In 2013, he was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for services to education and the community.

Upcoming Events

December 9: Lloyd Isaak on “Future Planning for Meewasin.” For further information on this, please visit our web site (usra.usask.ca) a week or so before the date.

December 17: U of S President’s Come & Go Holiday Reception, 2 - 4:00 PM. See the invitation below/enclosed.



CURAC (College and Universities Retirement Association of Canada)

The latest CURAC newsletter contains an extensive report on the national conference held in St. John's, Newfoundland, last June as well as extensive news on issues of interest to university retirees and activities in our sister organizations around the country.

All the presenters have given permission for their slides to be made available on the website of the Memorial University Pensioners Association website for access and sharing with associations and individuals. Please go to on www.mun.ca/munpa/curac2013 then choose the session/s in which you are interested.

Planning is underway for the 2014 CURAC conference.

“The 2014 Conference and Annual General Meeting is being hosted by the McMaster University Retirees Association (MURA), with support from the Retirees Association of Mohawk College (RAMC).

Conference sessions will be held on the McMaster University campus, with accommodation available in a student residence on campus and at a hotel in downtown Hamilton, approximately 4 km from campus. Transportation will be provided between sites.

The Local Organizing Committee, co-chaired by Mary Johnston and Helen Barton, has planning well underway for what MURA hopes will be an interesting and memorable event.

‘Innovation: The Future of Aging’ will be the conference theme. Sessions will focus on innovations to keep older adults healthy and active for as long as possible. The program

will also include a 'Best Practices' session and other opportunities for information exchange between retiree associations. Please contact Mary Johnston (johnston@mcmaster.ca) with topic suggestions and presentation offers for CURAC Best Practices.

Information about the conference program, registration, accommodation, travel and activities will be available at the conference website

mcmaster-retirees.ca/curac2014.html

The retirees of McMaster and Mohawk invite you to come to Hamilton for CURAC 2014, and we hope you will plan extra time to enjoy some of the area's many attractions, such as the Royal Botanical Gardens, the

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, and Dundurn Castle.

For further information, please send a message to curac2014@mcmaster.ca or call the MURA office at 905-525-9140, extension 23171. Please leave a message so that Mary or Helen will return your call."

University Club

Formerly the Faculty Club, the Club offers memberships to USRA members at 25% of the member price. For membership benefits and details about the Club, contact Baya Zacharias at 306.966.7777 or baya.zacharias@usask.ca, go to the Club's web site at <http://www.usask.ca/uclub/> or drop in anytime during business hours.

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