



USRA

Newsletter

March 2014

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From The President

We hear increasingly that retirement at a fixed age is an outdated concept. Everyone's path in life is different, but we all strive to be useful, appreciated, satisfied and happy at every step on the path. One of the initiatives we have taken over the past few years is looking for ways in which retirees who wish to can continue to contribute to the University. It has been difficult to find ways. While various people in University management have paid close attention to and supported our message that we can make a contribution, little has come of our efforts.

We will continue our efforts as this is one of reasons we exist and we believe this is important for our group. If you have ideas or have some experience to share, let any one of us know.

In the meantime, we can continue to learn and enjoy our colleagues and friends. Join us for a lunch that comes with an engaging presentation, good conversation and fellowship.



Upcoming Luncheon Presentations

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

“A look at some interesting aspects of Saskatoon’s history” - J. Jeffrey O'Brien, City Archivist

Lunch - 12:00 noon; Presentation - 12:50 PM
(Manos Restaurant, 200-1820 8th St E)

Please let Bryan Harvey know (bryan.harvey@usask.ca or 306-373-0630) by **Friday, February 28** if you plan to attend. Note that guests are welcome.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

“The proposed heritage fund for Saskatchewan” - Peter MacKinnon

Lunch - 12:00 noon; Presentation - 12:50 PM
(Manos Restaurant, 200-1820 8th St E)

Please let Bryan Harvey know (bryan.harvey@usask.ca or 306-373-0630) by **Thursday, March 20** if you plan to attend. Note that guests are welcome.

If there are other topics that you are interested in or if you wish to be notified of future events a few days before they take place, send us a note (with your e-mail address for event notifications).

Nominations Solicited for Prime of Life Achievement Award

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).

The Award is presented at the banquet following the USRA Annual General Meeting in the fall.

In 2013 the award was presented to Madan M. Gupta, Ali H. Rajput, Brian Rosnagel and Murray P. Scharf.

The Achievement Awards Committee invites nominations from the University Community; however, anyone may nominate a worthy candidate. A brief, easy to complete, nomination form is enclosed. Please note that two signatures are required for the nomination. The nominations may be submitted electronically to asit.sarkar@usask.ca. They may also be mailed at: University of Saskatchewan Retirees’ Association, RJD Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3.

Nominations may be submitted at any time. A nomination form is enclosed with this newsletter. For 2014, the USRA Executive will accept nominations **until April 30, 2014**.

Should you require additional information, please contact Asit Sarkar, Chair, Prime of Life Achievement Award Committee (asit.sarkar@usask.ca).

Improvement to Parking on Campus

Who remembers when parking on campus was not an issue? It's no cheaper, but it's a little bit more convenient for those coming to the University Club or nearby buildings. The parking lot in front of the Kinesiology Building has been converted into a pay lot (\$2 per hour) so you don't have to worry about your meter expiring or a long walk from the parkade.

Meeting with the President, Dr. Busch-Vishniac

On February 19 the executive met with the President to apprise her of the role and activities of the USRA and to bring forward some issues with which she might be able to help. We outlined our social and educational activities, primarily lunch presentations, and described the awards—Prime of Life Achievement Award and Duff Spafford Award for Exceptional Service—that the USRA presents to outstanding persons. The main items of discussion were retiree engagement, financial assistance with the costs of attending CURAC conferences and achieving consistency re listing retired faculty on college/department web sites. We were left with the impression that the President will look for ways in which she can assist in these areas.

Looking for a Newsletter Editor

We are looking for a member who wants to take over as newsletter editor. The newsletter is our way of informing our members about coming events, reporting on past activities of the USRA and bringing forward matters of interest to our members. Other members of the executive will usually provide material if asked and expertise is available for formatting and distribution so the focus for the editor would be content. We have been putting out three or four newsletters per year. If you are interested, let us know.

And whether or not you are interested in being the editor or a contributor, let us know whether there's anything you'd like to see in our newsletter.

Don't Forget Your Cards (U of S Services ID)

If your present card is look old and ratty with a smudged photo, or if you have lost it, you may now get a new card at the

bookstore with either a new photo or the photo on file and your current status: emeritus, emerita, retired indicated.

You should also have a USRA ID card, either a permanent one if you are a life member, or an annual one ,if you pay by the year, indicating that you have (like so many things) a best-before date. You can get discounts with this card.

Discounts For You: Support Our Campus Stores

The U of S Bookstore now offers a 10% discount to our members on all their stock with the exception of textbooks. Remember to bring your card. The Bookstore will review this policy in a year to see whether the interest in the discount is sufficient to make it worthwhile for them.

The Computer Store extends to our members the same discounts that staff receive. This can vary depending on the policies of the suppliers of goods. When I recently bought an iMac there, I handed over both my U of S emeritus ID and my USRA ID. I think the young salesperson liked getting both!

Discount for University Club Membership

Retirees can become members of the University Club for 25% of the fee paid by faculty and staff of the University.

Get Together with Your Nearby Colleagues

A member has asked us to make available lists of retirees in specific regions so that get-togethers can be organized. We don't feel that we can make your contact information available without your permission so we propose the following mechanism: If you wish to contact other retirees in your area, let us know, and we will make your contact information available

to other retirees in your area so that they can contact you.

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning (SSCL)

Spring class registration for non-credit studies. Classes are two hours per week for eight weeks at the University starting March 17th. Interesting topics include:

- Economics and Ethics
- Demystifying Contemporary Jazz
- From Prime Minister to Elected Dictators: A Political History of Canada
- Western European Art and Architecture
- Saskatoon History to 1939
- Animal behaviour
- A Sky Filled with Stars, Planets and Galaxies: An Introductory Look at Astronomy

Visit www.ccde.usask.ca/sscl or call 306-343-6773 for more information.

Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA) Programs for March

Saskatoon Field House 2020 College Drive

- Watercolours for seniors
- Men's Cooking
- Legal Lessons
- Computer and technology Workshops

Visit www.scoa.ca or call 306-652-2255

CURAC Statement on Health Policy

CURAC released in January a position paper on the reform to the Canada Health Transfer recently implemented by the federal government. The basic message of this position paper is that the reform is unfair because provinces are treated unequally under the new mechanism, in particular that the only province to benefit is Alberta. If you want to read this position paper—it's less than two pages long—go to <http://www.curac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Bulletin%20No%2004%20Jan%202014.pdf>.

We have forwarded this position paper to the Saskatchewan Minister of Health.

2014 CURAC Conference, May 28-30, McMaster University

Conference Theme: "Innovation: The Future of Aging".

There will be a range of interesting talks on this theme, including presentations by eminent Hamilton academics on innovations related to hearing aids, older drivers, and community engagement. There will also be sessions on keeping up with new developments in computing, population aging and its economic costs, and university & college support for professional activities of retiree.

If you would more information, go to <http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/curac2014.html>.

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