



USRA

Newsletter

November 2016 No. 99

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From The President

As Remembrance Day services conclude, we are rushing the November USRA Newsletter into print with the invitation of President Peter Stoicheff to one of the highlights of the year for our members, the traditional reception for University retirees at the President's House on campus. The USRA has been tasked with getting out the word. If you plan to attend, with or without a guest, be sure to RSVP to 306-966-6613 or to jennifer.adams@usask.ca before November 24 for this delightful come and go, to be held December 5 from 2 to 4 pm. As your new USRA President, I look forward to seeing you there. And please pass this invitation on to retired University academics you know, that is, to former faculty, senior administrators (ASPA), or research officers employed under contract, who are eligible for USRA membership but have not yet joined or have let their memberships lapse. The President's Holiday Reception is a good opportunity to introduce or re-introduce them to our activities.



The USRA Board needs your help. Renewing membership is an ongoing effort for retirees associations across Canada with both a generational turnover and a shift from defined

benefit to defined contribution pension plans in full swing. A proactive approach to recruiting recent retirees has kept our numbers up in recent years but has been hampered in 2016 by our University's need to reduce expenses. The University is legally barred from passing on to us contact information for its retired members, but the annual Retirees Banquet at least gave us a list of retiring employees and an opportunity to contact our subset of potential members by including a letter in that program and by greeting them in person at the event. However this year, in lieu of a banquet with presentation of gifts, retirees were invited to select a gift from a website list, and Human Resources staff, now put in charge of this process, responded with silence to my efforts to discover whether a letter about USRA had been sent out in retirement information packages, as before, or might be sent out subsequently. So we depend on all our members to supplement Board members' contacts with retirees. If you know of former colleagues retiring or soon to be retiring, especially if they are planning to remain in or near Saskatoon, please tell them who we are and what we do. Encourage them to join by referring them to our website, <http://usra.usask.ca>. Membership for the first year is free, thereafter only \$20 annually. Word of mouth is now almost our only, but has always been our best, recruitment tool! And if you are not yet a Life Member, please consider establishing a hassle-free, ongoing relationship with our Association by paying a one-time fee prorated by your age during the current academic year (see our website). It helps our bottom line.

Notwithstanding the budgetary challenges currently faced by the University, the USRA Board is relieved to see stable executive leadership in place as President Stoicheff begins his second year in office, and we appreciate his genial outreach to our Association in 2015-16 by his message to retirees in our previous November newsletter,

by meeting with our Board last March, by speaking at our June 15 luncheon on the University's mission, and by enabling the Board's input into defining the University's "Mission, Vision, and Values" foundational document as it was being formulated through consultation with stakeholders. We continue to pursue engagement with the University through constructive relations with the administration, most recently by requesting a meeting with the newly appointed Vice President for University Relations. We also continue to respond to invitations to send representatives to the platform parties at University Convocations and to lay a wreath at the Memorial Gates on Remembrance Day.

At the annual Awards Banquet September 19 at the University Club, which began our 2016-17 season of programming, the USRA recognized exceptional continuing service by presenting awards to eight University retirees. The second Duff Spafford Award for an alumnus contributing to the University community even from student days was presented to Kurt Tischler, the inaugural award having gone previously to Spafford himself. The Continuing Contribution Award, established this year, was presented to Alan Anderson, Winfried Grassmann, and Bruce Reeder for their ongoing service to the University or society. The USRA's longstanding Prime of Life Achievement Award was presented to four retired faculty who have been recognized nationally or internationally for scholarly, artistic, or service contributions: Glen Aikenhead, David Carpenter, Daniel Ish, and Robin Morrall. The Board is now soliciting nominations for these awards for 2017. See the USRA website for nomination forms. The USRA Board is also invited by the University to nominate candidates for honorary degrees and would welcome suggestions from members.

In March 2016 the USRA hosted on campus the annual conference of the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada (CURAC). In spite of short notice from CURAC, Bryan Harvey, with support from

Murray Scharf as head of the Program Committee and from many others, organized a successful event with a rich array of speakers and a delightful banquet in the Terrace Room of the Delta Bessborough Hotel. To avoid financial overextension, the Board invited USRA members to enjoy the banquet in lieu of our traditional June barbecue, but our newly elected Vice President, Tom Wilson, is planning to restore the barbecue this coming June at the end of the usual series of luncheon talks throughout the year. The luncheon talks will range widely from the October 17 overview by Artistic Director Del Surjik of Persephone Theatre’s strategic directions (reviewed in this issue), to Professor Bert Vandenberg’s November 18 discussion of Saskatchewan’s pulse crop industry and research to a winter-term series on the current state of what Tom Wilson calls “essentials”: local craft beer, global food security, water security, and local transit. Dates and topics for these luncheons are listed in the newsletter; May, June, and the fall 2017 events are being arranged. As space at Mano’s Restaurant on 8th Street is often tight (the fire code limit is 44), please book with the USRA by the deadline announced by email and on the USRA telephone menu and, if you must cancel, contact us immediately in case other members have been put on a waiting list for seats.

As I begin my new presidential duties for 2016-17, I would like to extend my gratitude to my predecessor Asit Sarkar, who will continue service on the Board with other hardworking officers (Tom Wilson as Vice President; Dean Jones as Secretary; Ken Smith as Treasurer) and committee chairs (Bryan Harvey and Michael Hayden). We warmly thank for their service four Board members who stepped down at the end of the academic year: Gail Laing, Dale Miquelon, Walt Pawlovich, and Joan Sawatzky. And we welcome our new Board members, Merry Beazely and Jackie Huck, who eagerly took on duties at the October

Board meeting after their election at the September AGM. I look forward to working with the new Board and with the membership at large.

Judith Henderson

President's Retirees’ Holiday Reception: December 5

All retirees are invited to this event, a chance to meet the University president and former colleagues.

Monday, December 5
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
President’s Residence
101 President’s Place

Please RSVPs for attendance only to 306-966-6613 or to jennifer.adams@usask.ca **before November 24.**

Report on the AGM

Report of the Annual General Meeting, held September 19, 2016.

Sixteen members of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association (USRA) met at the University Club for the Annual General meeting. This is a summary extracted from the minutes.

President’s Remarks

Asit Sarkar reviewed the work of the committees as set out in the reports of the chairs, and spoke of the successful hosting of the annual national meeting of CURAC.

Treasurer’s Report

Ken Smith emphasized the importance of the university’s financial support, both continuing and for this year’s national CURAC meeting. He reported that because of the sharing proceeds policy of CURAC the local USRA is in better financial shape than had been the case in recent years. The income statement shows a net income from traditional USRA

activity of \$459.15 and an income to the USRA from the conference hosting of \$3,508.69 for a total net income of \$3,967.84 for the year.

As noted, the University of Saskatchewan was a major sponsor of the CURAC conference and a tremendous support to the local organizers. Not only did the University provide a \$5,000 cash sponsorship, it also facilitated the registration process and provided space and other support at no cost permitting a financially successful conference.

Compared to 2014-15, the membership fees paid annually increased by \$85 but the annual allocation from the lifetime fees fell by about \$26. Thanks to the acceptance of electronic correspondence, postage expense continues to decline. But even more importantly for the USRA, the President's Office at the U of S continues to reimburse postal costs.

Committee Reports

(a) Awards: Walt Pawlovich announced that Prime of Life Awards would be given to Glen Aikenhead, David Carpenter, Daniel Ish and Robin Morrall. The new Continuing Contribution Award would be give to Alan Anderson, Winfried Grassmann and Bruce Reeder. The Duff Spafford Award would be given to Kurt Tischler. (Recipients are highlighted later in this newsletter.)

(b) Communication: Dean Jones reported that one hardcopy newsletter was published this year. The more frequently used communication with members is through the website and email notices of luncheon meetings. Information on activities is also recorded on our telephone message.

(c) CURAC: Bryan Harvey reported on the successful hosting of the national meeting of CURAC and presented a certificate of appreciation from the CURAC national board to President Sarkar.



Bryan Harvey presents a certificate of appreciation from CURAC to Asit Sarkar

The local organizing committee did an excellent job of putting the meeting together. The theme was the Changing Post-Secondary Education Institution. The target registration was 50 and was achieved. The meeting was held on campus on May 25-27. Attendees came from across the country and based on the feedback we received enjoyed the program, the social events and the Saskatoon hospitality.

(d) Social, Education and Recreation: Judith Henderson reviewed the events of the past year and provided a preview of some of the coming events. Experimentation indicated that Mano's remains the best venue for the luncheon and lecture series. Members were warned that early registration for these events is advised.

(e) Membership: The number of members of the USRA (272) remains essentially unchanged from last year. The successful campaign to add new members was offset by deaths of members and by the elimination of members who had not paid their annual dues for more than two years. Two problems face next year's committee: 1) convincing this year's new members to take out a paid membership; 2) finding a way to pry loose information from Human Resources concerning those who will be retiring in 2017. The newly appointed Vice President University Relations will be approached about this problem.

(f) Nominations: Bryan Harvey reported that the committee was unable to find a candidate for secretary. It will be filled per the mechanism provided in the constitution.

Walt Pawlovich, Gail Lang, Joan Sawatzky will be retiring from the Board.

(g) Retiree Engagement: Michael Hayden reported that the relevant university officials remain vague in positive statements about engaging retirees. Responses to the committee's survey indicated that USRA members enjoy the monthly luncheons and talks, the annual barbeque, the AGM and Banquet and, especially, the President's Reception. Relatively little interest was expressed in other activities.

(h) Honorary Degrees: The committee made three recommendations for honorary degrees. The result is not yet known. Anyone who knows someone who is deserving should forward a nomination to the committee, which will do the work to prepare the nomination for the University.

Election of Officers

Nominations Committee chair Bryan Harvey presented the slate of officers for the forthcoming year:

- President—Judith Henderson
- Vice President—Tom Wilson
- Treasurer—Ken Smith
- Secretary—no candidate
- General members—Dale Miquelon, Michael Hayden, Dean Jones, Bryan Harvey, Merry Beazely, Jacqueline Huck

Continuing Contribution Awards

The USRA created this award in early 2016 to recognize and express appreciation to persons who have retired from academic, scholarly, extension or administrative work at the University, but have continued to make research, scholarly, artistic or service contributions at an exceptional level. Such

contributions may not have been recognized by international, national, provincial or local bodies, but have substantially benefitted the university and society.

Alan B. Anderson

(Sociology, College of Arts & Science, 1968-2006)



Michael Hayden and Alan Anderson

Over thirty-eight years, Alan has not only contributed to student learning and research in Sociology but also to a larger array of public and social policy formulation processes in Canada. His contribution to scholarship and policy research has continued during retirement years. He continues as a Research Fellow in Ethnic and Indigenous Studies in the Department of Political Studies, a Research Associate of the Community-University Institute for Social Research, and an Associate Member of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Since his retirement, Alan has published two books, several book reviews, conference presentations, journal articles and continued to serve as a referee for a variety of Canadian and international social science journals. He also has been serving as guest

editor of a special issue of the Journal of Ethnic Minority Issues in Europe. He has served and continues to serve as an adjudicator of national research granting institutions such as SSHRC, Canada Research Chair program of SSHRC/NSERC/ CIHR. At the community level, Alan is active on different initiatives in such areas as urban aboriginal housing, immigrant and refugee settlement, including mentoring of new immigrants and refugees.

Winfried K. Grassmann

(Computer Science, College of Arts & Science, 1969-2006)



Judith Henderson and Ken Smith (accepting for Winifred Grassman)

Winfried has made sustained scholarly contribution in the areas of stochastic models, simulation, and performance evaluation. This is reflected in his publication of numerous papers on numerical queueing theory and the initial bias problem in simulation. Simultaneously, he has supervised a large number of graduate students. His commitment to research and student supervision has continued after retirement extending to topics ranging from simulation, health, and history of computers. His research has been supported by a number of grants from the NSERC and this funding has

continued after his retirement. He has supported his profession as editor or associate editor of journals such as Operations Research, Naval Research Logistics, The INFORMS Journal on Computing, INFOR, Journal of the Canadian Operations Research Society. Besides remaining committed to research and student supervision at this University, he continues as Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Ontario and the University of British Columbia Okanagan. In 2010, he was a Distinguished Speaker at the annual conference of the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada. He also continues as the President of the Saskatoon Section of the Canadian Operational Research Society.

Bruce Reeder

(Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine, 1987-2015)



Tom Wilson and Anne Leis (accepting for Bruce Reeder)

Bruce has served the U of S as a public health and preventive medicine specialist. Recognized as an outstanding teacher and engaged scholar, Bruce has been instrumental in the first vision of the School of Public Health and more recently, in the development of the University's One Health initiative. Recognitions and awards received by Bruce prior to retirement include:

Canadian Family Physician Research Award (1994); Canadian Journal of University Continuing Education Award (2000); Harold N. Segall Award of Merit from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (2003). His services for the Doctors Without Borders include: RDC Congo (2009, 2013); Kyrgyz Republic (2012); Liberia (2014). Since retirement, Bruce has continued building up the One Health initiative through teaching, program development and research. His commitment of service to global health has also continued in Central African Republic as well as to MSF Suisse. At the local level, Bruce remains associated with the new Sanctum HIV Hospice adjacent to St. Paul's Hospital and volunteers for the Alpine Club of Canada.

Duff Spafford Award

This award recognizes a U of S retiree based on total contribution made to the university community over the period of the retiree's association with the University, including any contributions made during student years by a candidate who is an alumnus. The award will be presented normally at a ceremony coinciding with the annual general meeting of the USRA, but if appropriate, can also be presented at other times.

Kurt Tischler

(College of Arts and Science & International Student and Study Abroad Centre, 1972-2007)

Kurt received three degrees from the U of S— B.A., B.Ed. & M.A. He served the University in two areas— first as a Student Adviser at the College of Arts and Science and later as the International Student Adviser (1985-2007) for the University. After his retirement, he served on the executive of the USRA for several years. As a student adviser, Kurt was aware that students came from a variety of backgrounds and had the usual array of problems, especially foreign students. With his own background as a



Asit Sarkar, Shirley Spafford and Kurt Tischler

German student in rural Saskatchewan and later as a volunteer in Africa, he understood their unique needs and helped them, always with a very personal touch. The U of S recognized him with two awards: President's Service Award and J.W.G. Ivany Internationalization Award. Other honours included: Living in Harmony Award of the City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Kurt continues to use the Retirees Lounge on Wednesday afternoons to notarize documents for international students. Kurt's selection for the Duff Spafford Award is for his service to students that went well beyond the job description. For him, it was personal—one person in the university community helping others.

Prime of Life Achievement Awards

These awards, presented at the banquet following the AGM, honour and express 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).

Glen S. Aikenhead

(Curriculum Studies, College of Education, 1971-2006)



Walt Pawlovich and Glen Aikenhead

Glen's career at the U of S has focused on science education with a cross-cultural, particularly indigenous, perspective. He has been a significant contributor to the development of science curriculum and instruction. Over the past two decades, he has remained committed to application his research into improving student learning experience in cross-cultural contexts in Canada, U.S. and many other countries of Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Caribbean as well as doing assignments for the UNESCO. His pre-retirement honours include: Canadian Education Association's Whitworth Award (1990); Canadian Education Researcher of the Year (1990); Canada 125 Commemorative Medal (1992). Following retirement, he held visiting professorships in Australia, Denmark, Japan and Taiwan. He has also continued to publish books and scholarly articles depicting the use of cross-cultural and indigenous perspectives in improving the quality of

science education. In 2014, National Association for Research in Science Teaching honoured him with the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Science Education through Research.

David C. Carpenter

(English, College of Arts & Science, 1975-1998)



Judith Henderson and David Carpenter

As author and editor of sixteen volumes, and as teacher, scholar, mentor, and leader of writers' organizations, David has made a rich and sustained contribution to the Canadian and Saskatchewan literary world. David's multi-award winning writing ranges across the genre of short story, novella, literary and mystery novel, nature- and life-writing, journalism, essay and poetry. His preretirement honours include: Saskatchewan Book Award (1997); City of Edmonton Book Prize (1998); and many other nominations. Among his many post-retirement honours are: Saskatchewan Centennial Medal (2005); City of Saskatoon Book Award (2009); Silver Medal for North American Short Fiction; Gold Medal for Canadian Fiction; Canadian Novella Award (2010); Saskatchewan Book of the Year (2011); Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence (2015). For his

residential school memoir *The Education of Augie Merasty*, the *Toronto Star* hailed him as “one of the best people of 2015.”

Daniel Ish

(College of Law, 1975-2010)



Bryan Harvey and Daniel Ish

Dan started his faculty career at the U of S in 1975. Soon he established himself as a beloved professor of tax and labour relations law. He developed an innovative focus on the law on cooperatives and was Director of the Centre for the Study of Cooperatives (1989-95). He served as the Dean of the College of Law during three different terms: 1982-88, 1996-87 & 2002-04. Following retirement, he became the Chief Adjudicator of the Indian Residential Schools Adjustment Secretariat as part of the agreed settlement process by courts in nine provinces to determine claims for compensation for thousands of residential school survivors. This process was reported to have resulted in awards of \$3 billion to the residential school survivors. For his role in this process, Dan was made a member of the Order of Canada in 2014. Earlier, he was given the designation of Queen’s Counsel by the Province of Saskatchewan (1991).

Robin A. A. Morrall

(Biology, College of Arts & Science, 1965-1997)

Robin served as a faculty member of the Department of Biology for over thirty years. His work on plant diseases has been recognized nationally and internationally. His pioneering research laid the foundation for



Bryan Harvey and Robin Morrall

controlling sclerotinia stem rot in canola and ascochyta blight in lentils, chickpeas and field peas in western Canada. Continuing long after his retirement, Robin undertook extensive off-campus work, offering advice, often literally in the field, to farmers concerning diseases and their management in their crops. He served as President of Canadian Phytopathological Society in 1993-94. His post-retirement honours include: Fellow of Canadian Phytopathological Society (2000) for outstanding service to the Society and to the profession of plant pathology; CPS Award for Achievements in Plant Diseases Management (2004); and most recently, induction to the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame (2016).

Surjik Describes Persephone's Strategic Directions

By Judith Henderson

At USRA's October 17 luncheon at Mano's on 8th Street, Artistic Director Del Surjik explained changes and planning at Saskatoon's Persephone Theatre as it copes with some stress from the delayed opening of the enveloping Remai Modern Art Gallery. The vision of this U of S alumnus in drama since taking the torch from Tibor Feregyhazi nine years ago has been to develop Persephone into a "complete" theatre company while consulting stakeholders and being careful to support rather than undermine other local theatre projects.

Reviving programs for youth initiated by Feregyhazi and by the Broadway Theatre has led Surjik to expand Persephone's youth theatre tour and found the Persephone Young Company, now recognized, he says, as "one of the best in the country." Tripling its services and programming in the past decade, Persephone has also produced the Deep End Series of "cutting-edge plays" on the second stage of its new building at River Landing and has assumed the original mandate of Twenty-Fifth Street Theatre (which now organizes the summer Fringe Festival) by developing a playwriting program that has premiered eighteen new plays, some dozen of which have been published. A Man A Fish, premiered by Persephone two seasons ago, has now been shortlisted for the Governor General's Award in Drama.

Construction of the Art Gallery required replacing the south wall of Persephone's building but allowed a "modest" enlargement: expanding its second stage to create a more versatile performance space, adding more dressing rooms and another rehearsal hall, and expanding the carpentry shop. Costs were reduced by "economies of scale" of building in tandem with the Gallery and City. But construction did force the Deep End Series to move to other venues, and its cancellation this year resulted from

reductions to revenue that had been expected from the Gallery's operation. Surjik hopes to revive this second series in the next four-year planning cycle. The theatre's parking lot was also lost, but original plans to build parking beneath the building are now moving forward. It will be shared with the Gallery and run by the City.

Surjik fielded questions from the USRA audience of about thirty on theatre programming, sources of funding, and, above all, parking.

Renew Your Membership!

If you took advantage of our "free for the first year after retirement" membership, your membership has expired if you retired prior to 2016. Please consider renewing your membership. Membership rates are available at the web site (address at the end of the newsletter). Contact us if you are not certain what your membership status is.

Lunches Planned

The following topics have been planned for lunches during the remainder of the current USRA year. Details will be available on the web site and at the USRA telephone number a few weeks before the event.

January 9 - The Future of Craft Beer

February 6/7/8 - Feeding a Hungry World

March 9 - Water for a Thirsty World

April 13 - Getting Around Saskatoon in the 21st Century

May 10 - Scoundrels and Scams

June - BBQ

Members No Longer With Us

The USRA has learned of the deaths of the following members. We extend our sympathy to their families. Surviving spouses of deceased Life members remain members of the Association.

Jack **Billinton**, d. April 18, 2015 (survived by his wife Marilyn)

Merle **Bocking**, May 10, 1925 - September 13, 2016 (widow of Douglas)

Yvonne Margaret Rose **Brown**, 1940 - March 5, 2016 (survived by her husband Barry)

Catherine Louise **Cherry**, October 6, 1919 - November 25, 2015 (widow of Douglas)

Gerri **Dickson**, September 28, 1946-August 10, 2016 (survived by her husband Murray)

Vivian **Hajnal**, 1943 - May 19, 2016 (survived by her husband Zoltan)

Erwin **Hoehn**, 1931 - January 19, 2016 (survived by his wife Ingrid)

Pauline **Laimon**, February 21, 1926 - December 15, 2014 (widow of Samuel)

Peter R. **Lane**, December 6, 1925 - October 5, 2014 (survived by his wife Neela)

Donald **Lefebre** (d. August 30, 2015)

John R. **Milani**, 1921 - May 21, 2016 (predeceased in 2012 by his wife Verna)

Herbert **Peters**, December 2, 1924 - May 15, 2014 (survived by his wife Justina)

Peter Anthony Cyril **Purdue**, July 10, 1942 - May 9, 2015 (survived by his partner Linda Wason-Ellam)

Alexander Artem **Sokalski**, Sept. 17, 1937 - Apr. 22, 2016 (survived by his husband Kenneth Bos, Regina)

Garth H. M. **Thomas**, 1926 - 2014 (survived by his wife Iris)

Anthony James (Tony) **Whitworth**, February 26, 1941 - December 14, 2015 (survived by his wife Lin)

Kevin Arthur **Wilson**, April 29, 1934 - November 20, 2015 (survived by his wife Jan)

Wanda Ena **Young**, January 4, 1923 - October 6, 2016

Correction to USRA Newsletter November 2015: We apologize for a mistake in the death date of Dufferin Stewart Spafford. Duff passed away on May 14, 2014, not May 24 as previously reported. He is survived by his wife Shirley.

Remembrance Day at the Memorial Gates

Merry Beazely, Jackie Huck and Dean Jones represented the USRA at the Remembrance Day service, with Jackie Huck placing a wreath on behalf of the USRA.



Jackie Huck with the USRA wreath at the Memorial Gates

University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association (USRA)
221 Cumberland Ave N
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3
306-966-6618
ss.usra@usask.ca
<http://usra.usask.ca>