



USRA

Newsletter

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From The President

The first signs of spring have finally brought their cheer to the prairies. The snow is almost gone, some potholes are already filled, Canada's snowbirds have returned home from their southern retreats, and many of our feathered friends can be heard cawing or cooing in trees, gardens, or on rooftops as they start to build their nests. University of Saskatchewan President Stoicheff's holiday reception



for retirees and a series of luncheons organized for January to March at Mano's on 8th Street by USRA Vice President Tom Wilson have warmed us through another Saskatchewan winter: see in this issue the photograph of attending Board Members with our host at the President's House on December 5, taken by Dr. Mel Hosain, a review of the luncheon talk on craft beer by Steve Cavan, founder of Paddock Wood Brewing Co., on January 9, and a review of the talk about the Global Institute for Food Security by its first director, Dr. Maurice Moloney. Even the dismal shadows of U.S. political wrangling and of Provincial and Municipal budget woes cannot quite stifle the lightness of spirit brought on by the lengthening days. So the USRA Board

wishes you the joy of this new season of greening and growth as we bring you up-to-date with a spring newsletter, the first in several years.

We have finally made some progress in our 2016-17 campaign for new members in spite of the cancellation last spring of the annual Retirees' Banquet around which earlier efforts were focused. In desperation I labored to compile contact information of retired faculty members posted on department and college websites, distributed it to the Board for future use, and emailed an invitation to retirees who remain non-members, but that desperate measure reaches only a fraction of those eligible to join USRA, excluding many faculty (especially in some professional colleges), as well as librarians, senior administrative staff, and contract researchers. Fortunately, Board Member Merry Beazely convinced On Campus News (OCN) to publish an article about our Association in its December 9 issue (p. 2) and both Human Resources and the Pension Office to assist us in distributing our annually updated letter of invitation to all retirees eligible to join the USRA. The letter was sent to 2016 retirees in February 2017 and included in the annual information package to academic employees potentially retiring in 2017. We also thank warmly our members who contacted colleagues to encourage them to join. The result is that our membership is holding steady and we have established precedents that we hope will serve us in the coming years.

We look forward to meeting these new members and seeing familiar faces at the remaining events of this academic year. Please don't forget to book yourself and guest(s) by contacting USRA via telephone or

email. The schedule finalized by Vice President Tom Wilson is published here, ending with a return of the annual summer barbecue but at a new location: the outdoor deck and upstairs loft at the Memorial Union Building. Happy spring!

Judith Henderson

President's Retirees' Holiday Reception

Some of our members attended this reception, which was held on December 5 in the President's Residence on campus.



L to R: Ken Smith, Judith Henderson, Michael Hayden, Peter Stoicheff, Jackie Huck, Merry Beazely, Tom Wilson, Dale Miquelon

President's Christmas Reception 1997

The tradition of the University President's Christmas/Holiday receptions is long. Do you recognize any of these people?



Saskatchewan's Craft Brewing Industry

By Judith Rice Henderson

Steve Cavan, a former classics instructor at our University, founded Saskatchewan's now burgeoning craft beer industry with Paddock Wood Brewing Co. in 1995 and opened Saskatoon's The Woods Alehouse in 2012. He spoke to the USRA luncheon at Mano's on 8th Street on Tuesday, February 10, 2017.

Craft beers are made from barley, water, yeast, and hops, sometimes with other flavorings, as in chocolate stout, though a little chocolate "goes a long way." The more recently founded Prairie Sun Brewery in Saskatoon makes a beer flavored with new growth spruce needles. Spruce beer is popular in the Maritimes (and in Quebec, to judge by Stuart McLean's story "Christmas on the Road").

Cavan specializes in European styles with traditional ingredients when he can get them. For his pilsner, he replicated the water of Pilsen and used Czech hops. In the

Middle Ages, "lager" meant a German beer flavored with hops alone. "Ale" could be brewed faster because in lager the yeast worked at a colder temperature. Traditional lager has a clean but less complex flavor. "In a good British ale, fruit flavors lie just below the level of perception." Today the terms "ale" and "lager" are used interchangeably, yet Cavan says there are more kinds of beer than of wine.

Mixing corn or rice with barley and creating foam with additives, industrial lagers give some drinkers, including Cavan, "a massive headache," but in Saskatchewan ingredients for brewing at home could be purchased only in bulk. So he began a home-based, mail-order business, at first selling ingredients and, later, custom-made brew kits. (University colleagues supplied the boxes in which publishers had mailed them sample textbooks.)

Discovering that he needed a license, Cavan partnered with others to set up his own microbrewery in 2003. After a struggle to get the Saskatchewan Liquor Board to list his products, he was brewing 35,000 litres per year by 2007 and per month by 2012. He now has trouble keeping up with the demand. He opened his own tap alehouse when big breweries started paying bars not to serve his popular brews, but owning an alehouse has proved even more time consuming than brewing; he would think twice about doing it again. In part because of the alehouse, the growth of Paddock Wood has now stabilized at 250,000 to 350,000 litres per year.

New craft breweries in Saskatchewan became possible once the province relaxed some complex laws that included restrictions on deliveries to bars, and from 2013 public interest in this craft has grown exponentially. The province now has perhaps seven such

breweries, though distinguishing them from brew houses such as Mano's makes an exact count difficult. Cavan claims that the big breweries often pretend to offer craft beers and advises consumers to read the label carefully and try to buy locally. SLGA does not store craft beers in the coolers they prefer (they are unpasteurized and less stable than industrial lagers).

Establishing his brand with national chains is a challenge: Sobeys has a 12-page application form. Regulations in other provinces also vary widely. Alberta used to be the only province to make applications easy for brewers but is now favoring locals, as British Columbia also does. In Saskatchewan, though, Cavan can now sell directly to co-ops. He predicts that privatization of liquor stores in Saskatchewan will be good for craft beers.

Feeding a Hungry World: Challenges and Opportunities

by Dean Jones

The world's population is expected to rise to 9 billion by 2050; climate change and water, nutrient and energy availability is affecting our capacity for food production. The Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), a public-private partnership with funds from PotashCorp, the Saskatchewan Government and Viterra, was started in 2014 to develop solutions to address this situation. The speaker, Dr. Maurice Moloney, the first director, spoke at a lunch on February 7.

Some facts:

- We must produce 70% more food on the same land area by 2050, a 1.5% per year increase every year.
- The lowest yields are often in countries with the highest populations, e.g. China.
- 800 million people do not have year-to-year food security.

- The Arab Spring started as food riots.
- Migration to Europe driven by food shortages in Africa has been going on for years.

GIFS' priority areas are seeds- greater yields with lower inputs- soil-healthier root and soil biology(rhizosphere)-and software-digital agriculture to improve yield. GIFS doesn't deal with animals, but works with agencies such as WCVN and Animal Science.

Hybridization has greatly improved plants, but subsequent generations lose some desirable qualities. GIFS is exploring apomixis, which is non-sexual reproduction that results in seeds that are clonal copies of the parent plant, i.e., no qualities are lost. This is useful because it allows farmers to keep seeds from one generation to the next.

Improving the root microbiome results in broader and deeper roots, which ensure better drought resistance and utilize nutrients that would otherwise be washed away. Photosynthesis is the best way to remove CO₂ from the air. 1.6×10^8 (160,000,000) hectares (617,000 square miles, approximately 2.5 times the area of Saskatchewan) of deep-rooted plants could remove all excess CO₂ from the air.

The federal government has provided \$37,000,000 to advance digital agriculture. One of the goals is to find ways of linking the information contained in DNA databases to characteristics seen in the field. Another is to digitize field characteristics (digital imaging) to facilitate linking field and database. This is necessary because plants in the field do not respond the same way as plants in the greenhouse.

GIFS is also looking at ways to utilize emerging technology effectively, e.g. using drones to survey fields.

In summary, the most efficient crop agriculture now uses molecular genetics and information technology.

Activities Planned

The following activities have been planned. Details will be available on the web site and at the USRA telephone number a few weeks before the event. We would love to see you at any or all of them.

May 10 lunch - Scoundrels and Scams

June 12 - BBQ

September - AGM and Awards Banquet

October lunch - Saskatoon airport

November lunch - Terrorism

As always, if there is a topic or activity that would interest you, please contact us.

CURAC Conference

In May, 2016 we hosted the CURAC National Conference on the U of S campus. The 2017 conference is being held at Carleton University to coincide with the Canada 150 celebrations. If you are going to be in or near Ottawa in late May, you may wish to attend this conference. See <http://www.curac.ca/2017-annual-conference-and-agm/> for information.

Awards Nomination Deadline Approaching

The deadline for nominations for our Prime of Life Achievement and Continuing Contribution awards is May 15. Details and nomination forms are available on our web site. If you know anyone who is deserving of recognition for work and activities during their retirement, please consider nominating them.

Useful Sites

Our web site contains links to lots of sites of interest to retirees, seniors and people interested in the U of S. See http://homepage.usask.ca/~ss_usra/RelatedSites/mainRelatedSites.html.

Members No Longer With Us

The University Secretary maintains an In Memoriam page on the U of S web site.

The Canadian flag on the Thorvaldson Building is flown at half-mast in respect of all faculty, staff and students who pass away while an employee or student of the University of Saskatchewan. This includes part-time as well as full-time students, faculty and staff as well as retired members of the university staff. The flag is also flown at half-mast on the death of the Sovereign, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of the province or other distinguished persons as designated by the president, a vice-president or the university secretary.

See

<https://www.usask.ca/secretariat/document/s/flag-at-half-mast.php>.