

USRA Newsletter

November 2017

No. 102



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From the President



The verb retire is derived from the Middle French: *retirer*-to withdraw. In the 1530's it was used in the military sense as the act of withdrawing troops from a battlefield. By the 1680's its meaning had changed to "withdraw from active service" or "leave an occupation". In 1881, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck proposed that government should provide financial assistance to those who wanted to retire at age 70 (often misquoted as 65). His rationale included opening job opportunities for younger workers. American companies including railroads and banks were providing pension plans by the 1920's to those who reached the age of 65. Increasing longevity and cost-of-living allowances soon made "defined benefit" plans for life a major expense for private companies, and most were phased out for new employees. To ameliorate that, governments developed concepts such as the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, RRSP's and Tax Free Savings Accounts. We are fortunate to have health care, some kind of pension and a small safety net.

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So, assuming that we have the financial wherewithal to retire, what else do we miss when we stop working? Universally, people mention the loss of social interactions. The USRA can help with that. We have (or will have) almost 400 members, all of whom have had interesting careers at the University of Saskatchewan. Our Board of 12 outstanding problem solvers meets monthly. Our Standing Committees provide advice to the Board on issues of interest to retirees. I urge all members to consider serving on the Board or Standing Committees; you will benefit both USRA and yourself.

It is an honour to serve as your President for the 2017-18 year. I look forward to meeting you and listening to your ideas on improving our organization.

Greeting from the Vice President University Relations

Dear retirees,

Thank you for the warm welcome and wise counsel that I have received from so many of you as I have moved into my position as Vice President, University Relations, at the University of Saskatchewan. It's a great privilege to step into this role at a university that has such strong, long-standing ties with its communities near and far.

As I have become immersed in the university, I have grown to admire and respect the institution's commitments and values. Few universities can so effectively weave together their commitment to their mission – here, comprising teaching and learning, discovery, engagement, and indigenization – with such forward-thinking principles as sustainability, diversity, connectivity, and creativity.

When I think of the work ahead for my portfolio, I focus on the fact that, in

University Relations, we are builders. We build awareness, reputation, and advocacy; we build relationships, respect, and support. We reach out to donors, alumni, and the broader community for new ways to build partnerships. You will see some changes in the way we undertake our work in the years ahead, and we will appreciate your continued insight and support as we build for the future of the University of Saskatchewan.

With highest regards,

Debra Pozega Osburn

Summary of the 2017 AGM

- Twenty-three members attended with two sending their regrets.
- Work through the summer yielded changes to the USRA constitution and bylaws allowing any University retiree to become a member and a plan to integrate NARA members into the USRA. NARA members approved this plan at a special general meeting in September.
- “Overall the USRA is in a good financial position.” The exceptional item was a donation or contribution from the University of approximately \$3,500.
- Six awards will be presented at the banquet following this meeting.
- The CURAC conference at Carleton was a success. The 2018 conference will be hosted by Dalhousie.
- More newsletters were published due to increased editorial contributions. Activity information was made available on the USRA’s voice mail.
- A survey established that our members like the lunch with speaker format. The June BBQ was held at Louis’, the new location being judged a success.
- Our membership total was reduced by 23 because of deaths. Legal restrictions

prevent us from obtaining contact information for new retirees.

- The Vice President University Relations seems interested in working with us. (See her letter in this issue.)
- One of our 2016 nominees will receive an honorary degree this fall. We have recommended one person this year.
- Constitution and bylaws changes, primarily to broaden our membership, were approved.
- The following slate of directors was accepted:
 - President: Tom Wilson
 - Vice-President: Michael Hayden
 - Secretary: Dean Jones
 - Treasurer: Ken Smith
 - Immediate Past President: Judith Henderson
 - Executive Committee Members: Merry Beazely, Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Jacqueline Huck, Asit Sarkar
- A motion passed thanking the members of USRA and NARA who worked through the summer to sort out the merger.

The agenda, minutes and committee reports are available on the USRA website.

Annual Awards

Honorary Life

Dale Miquelon

History, College of Arts & Science

U of S Years: 1970-2006



Tom Wilson, Dale Miquelon, Michael Hayden

Dale excelled as teacher, researcher, writer and administrator. He became a full professor in 1979, served as an Associate Dean of Arts and Science from 1984 to 1989 and as History Department head from 1990 to 1995. His three books have become standard sources for historians of Early Canada and early modern France. He is also the author of many articles. He created the first Canadian history course at the U of S designed for Indigenous students. Unusually for a Canadian historian, he brought an understanding of European history to bear on his Canadian studies. Since retirement Dale has remained active professionally and has devoted significant effort to the improvement of the USRA internally and externally as a member of its executive since 2007, as vice president (2010-11), president (2011-13) and continuing as past president until recently.

Prime of Life Achievement

Robert B. McKercher

Soil Science, College of Agriculture

U of S Years: 1955-1999



Tom Wilson, Robert McKercher, Bryan Harvey

Bob pioneered work on soil tests for fertilizer recommendations to Saskatchewan farmers. He has special expertise in soil organic phosphates and pesticides, and their fate in soil ecosystems. Bob was an innovative teacher; he was elected Honorary President of the ASA (1968). As Assistant Dean he was tasked to liaise between faculty, Facilities Management and the architect of the Agriculture Building. This was critical to translating the needs of the faculty into functional labs and teaching spaces. He played a similar role with the sixth-floor addition. His contributions to the college were recognized by an Honorary Life Membership in the SAGA. Bob's contributions to Saskatchewan and prairie agriculture were recognized by his induction into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame (2017). In 2017 Bob and Ted Turner published the book, "The Sodbusters Vision: An Agriculture Building for the University of Saskatchewan."

Continuing Contribution

Jonathan R. Dimmock
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

U of S Years: 1967-2002



Tom Wilson, Jonathan Dimmock, Merry Beazely

Dr. Dimmock retired over 15 years ago, and continues to work full-time on medicinal chemistry research, with emphasis on design, syntheses and bio-evaluations of anticancer drugs. His work is supported by major grants, including from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Funding of over \$1.4M has enabled the training of postdoctoral fellows, visiting scholars, PhD and MSc students. Of special note are the excellent collaborations he has established with colleagues in Texas, Japan, Belgium and the National Cancer Institute, USA. In addition, studies of anti-malarial properties of his research group's compounds have been undertaken by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Looking back on his 35 years prior to "retirement," Dr. Dimmock had an outstanding research and teaching career, publishing widely, providing first-class mentorship to graduate trainees, and receiving the USSU Teaching Excellence Award. In 2001, he was awarded the honor of Doctor of Science from the University of London.

David Brian Edney

Languages and Linguistics, College of Arts and Science

U of S Years: 1965-2006



Tom Wilson, Judith Henderson, David Edney

David taught French, acted in and directed plays, and translated sixty into English. Fourteen have been published, and many performed in Canadian, U.S., and U.K. theatres. Post-retirement, he earned his second Queen's University B.A.Hons (Spanish/History) and helped to select the Governor General's Prize winner in French-to-English literary translation. Ontario's 2006 Stratford Festival produced Edney's translation of Moliere's Don Juan. This summer he polished his commissioned translation of Jean Giraudoux's *The Madwoman of Chaillot* in rehearsal with the Festival's star-studded cast. David generously promotes cross-cultural/linguistic understanding with grants to visit Paris for Festival artists and Queen's University graduate students; to travel to or from the Third World for our University's M.A. students; and to support a Visiting Research Fellow in non-English language theatre. David has taught yoga to prisoners and seniors and now funds scholarships to train indigenous yoga teachers. He also organized a 2016-17 Saskatoon group sponsorship of Syrian refugees.

Samuel D. Robinson
Curriculum Studies, College of Education
U of S Years: 1965-2005



Tom Wilson, Sam Robinson, Asit Sarkar

Sam Robinson is a highly respected teacher, scholar and administrator in the College of Education. Sam received the Merron Chorney Award, Canadian English Teachers Association and after his retirement the Ted Aoki Award for distinguished service in the field of curriculum studies. He has continued to be very active in scholarly and volunteer activities since his retirement. These include: Editor of the Canadian Journal of Education; Acting Department Head Educational Psychology and Special Education; Program Chair Canadian Society for Studies in Education; volunteer in EAL program at Walter Murray Collegiate, twice weekly; Advisory Committee Kids of Note/ The Notations; Co-chair Council Grosvenor Park United Church; facilitator Writers Group Canadian Mental Health Association. Many clients of the CMHA have very poor self-images. Weekly meetings of the writers group provide them with an opportunity to have someone value what they are and what they have to say.

John Sheard
Biology, College of Arts and Science
U of S Years: 1968-2000



Tom Wilson, John Sheard, Bryan Harvey

John Sheard is a world-renowned lichenologist who has continued his active involvement in research since his retirement. He continues to serve on graduate student advisory committees 17 years after retirement. One of his crowning achievements was the publishing of his monograph on the lichen genus *Rinodina*, in 2010. It covers his entire career and has been widely praised: "One of the best monographs ever published in Lichenology", "work of distinction and true scholarship", "the single most outstanding contribution to lichen knowledge published in modern times". Since his retirement he has authored or co-authored four book chapters and 20 journal articles. One of these won the Edward Tuckerman Award for best paper in the field of Lichenology (American Bryological and Lichenological Society). Just this year he has two publications one of these is another epic at 111 pages.

USRA and NARA Merger Complete

With the approval at the AGM of the changes to the USRA constitution broadening the membership and the approval by the Board of Governors at their October meeting of the transfer of the NARA assets to the USRA in

exchange for life memberships in USRA for all NARA members, the merger of the organizations is nearly complete. All that remains is for NARA members to be contacted re becoming Life Members of the USRA.

Membership eligibility has also been extended beyond USFA, ASPA, and the former NARA members (CUPE 1975 Retirees) to include anyone age 55+ who has worked for the University for at least six years, so that the USRA can represent all University "Retirees," even those on contracts and/or without a U of S pension plan.



Between USRA President Tom Wilson and Immediate Past President Judith Henderson at the Awards Banquet are former NARA leaders (from l to r:) Newsletter Editor Mary Dykes, now a USRA Board Member; Tonya Kaye; Lois Dumbovic; and President Dave Lepard.

President's **Holiday** Reception

The President's Holiday Reception will be held on **Monday, November 27, at the President's Residence** which is located at 101 President's Place. We will have staff available to greet the retirees at the door **beginning at 2:00 pm, and the reception will end at 4:00 pm.**

We ask that if at all possible, rsvp's be sent via email to jennifer.adams@usask.ca. If

there are any food allergies or restrictions that we should know about, that information can be relayed in that email as well. ***The rsvp deadline is Friday, November 17.***

News of Our Members

Murray Scharf headlined an article in the October 9, 2017, issue of the Saskatoon Express. The article titled "Funds being raised to restore memorial art collection" reports on the committee working to ensure that the art collection housed in Nutana Collegiate is restored and preserved. See https://issuu.com/saskatoon_express/docs/sx20171009a.

Three decisions by Saskatoon's election disclosure complaints officer **John Courtney** were reported in the October 19, 2017, issue of The Saskatoon Star Phoenix. See <http://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/complaints-about-saskatoon-mayoral-campaign-endorsements-dismissed>.

If you know of any appearances in the news by our members, please let us know.

October 16 lunch: "Skyxe" Saskatoon's Airport in 2020

By Judith Rice Henderson

The goal of the Saskatoon Airport Authority (SAA) is to provide "Canada's Most Valued Airport Experience," according to Lori Sly, a U of S alumna (BComm, MBA) who is now its Vice-President of Business Development and Service Quality. As speaker at USRA's October 16 luncheon at Mano's on 8th Street, she described SAA's vision for 2020 as striving for "operation excellence" (safe, secure, on-time service).

Saskatoon's John G. Diefenbaker International Airport (YXE) retains its legal name but rebranded itself in 2016 as Skyxe: "The *Saskatoon Airport* Authority is now

known as Skyxe (pronounced sky – ex- ee) and ... SKY: We are the land of living skies. ... YXE: You know it, you love it” (<https://skyxe.ca>).

In 2016 Skyxe was named by Airport Council International (ACI) as the Best Airport in North America in the under 2-million passengers category. Other recent awards are ACI’s Most Improved Airport in North America in the same category in 2015 and Saskatchewan Tourism’s Service Excellence Award in 2016.

Saskatoon’s airport first opened in 1929 and was transferred from Transport Canada to SAA, a not-for-profit corporation, in 1999. Since then, its funding has come from generating fees rather than from taxpayer dollars, Sly explained. SAA pays federal taxes and local property taxes and levies airport improvement fees.

SAA manages parking, car rental and concession sales, and food services, maintains runways and baggage handling equipment, and leases space for baggage, security screening, and customs, but does not touch planes or baggage, screen passengers, or update flight information. It partners with aircraft maintenance. The 7-8 airlines it serves, including Air Canada and AC Jazz, hire baggage handlers. The NAVCAD manages air space. The control tower is run by a separate, not-for-profit corporation, Sly explained.

With some 40 businesses and government agencies that employ more than 1,460 on site, the airport counts its direct economic impact on the community as \$1.5 billion and 8,026 jobs (4,283 direct, 3,743 indirect). Passengers also receive daily assistance from 8 a.m. to midnight from 53 local volunteers.

While Regina has now lost its daily connection to the United States through Minneapolis, Saskatoon has retained it for 20

years. Our airport also offers good service within Canada to most major airports (Montreal and Kelowna are notable exceptions, and service to Ottawa is seasonal), as well as to northern communities. Seasonal service is available to southern sun destinations. WestJet’s low-cost carrier Swoop may soon bring a welcome increase in competition.

Although the airport’s recent growth in passenger traffic, like the GDP, levelled off this year, a plan still in draft proposes expansion to accommodate 3-4 million passengers by 2040, double the present number. Meantime, passengers will be inconvenienced this coming year by infrastructure renewal that will improve and expand the airfield, terminal, and parking. Additions inside the terminal will include a valet lounge. Outside, a double curb with two separate lanes for passengers and commercial transport will require more space. Parking will be divided into Park and Fly (a large, more distant lot with cell phone and shuttle service and cheaper rates), Valet Service, Long Term, Short Term, Express, and Standard.

The yet unpublished master plan for 2040 suggests that to achieve responsible growth without infrastructure restraints for 3.1 million passengers, the airport will need to expand to 13 terminal gates, 6 remote overnight stands, and 4 de-icing platforms. Nevertheless, Skyxe expects to remain a feeder rather than hub airport, without direct service to Europe.

Please Contribute to Canada's Pre-Medicare Health History

Ceilidh Auger-Day, a doctoral candidate in the history department, is conducting research on health care options in Canada before Medicare. If you have any records or

stories from before Medicare began that you might be willing to share, especially those related to private insurance or worker's compensation insurance (from your life or your parents' or grandparents'), you can reach her at ceilidh.auger-day@usask.ca or (902) 473-0689. Thank you so much.

Non-Credit Courses for Seniors

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Inc. (SSCL) will be registering seniors (age 55+) for its winter term of non-degree courses beginning at 12:05 pm on Monday, November 27. Registration ends December 8. The courses, which have no prerequisites, textbooks, essays, or exams, are offered on the University of Saskatchewan campus in partnership with the College of Arts and Science. The term runs from January 8 to March 2, 2018. Courses meet 2 hours a week for 8 weeks (except for Family Day on Monday, February 19). Among those offered is a repeat, by popular demand, of the fall term's sold-out multi-instructor course on "Caring for Bodies and Minds Through Time: History of Health Care and Medicine." The course brochure and registration can be found online at

<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/>.

Alternatively, call or write to SSCL, 306.343.6773 or P. O. Box 8695, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 6S5. The registration fee is \$55 per course plus the SSCL membership fee of \$5 for those who have not yet joined for this academic year. A review of the fall term's President's Lecture Series course on "Saskatchewan's Indigenous People," with multiple instructors, is planned for the next USRA newsletter.

Members No Longer with Us

The USRA has learned of the deaths of the following members. We extend our sympathies to their families. Surviving

partners of deceased Life Members remain members of the Association.

Melvin **Preston**, d. November 2, 2016, age 96 (Dundas, Ontario)

Roger **Servranckx**, November 26, 1928 – July 28, 2017 (Richmond, BC; predeceased by his second wife Genevieve, survived by his first wife Marguerite)

For notices *in memoriam* of former employees and students of the University of Saskatchewan, please see the website maintained by the University Secretary on those honoured when the flag on the Thorvaldson Building is flown at half-mast: <https://www.usask.ca/secretariat/documents/flag-at-half-mast.php>

Dates to Remember

Details of these events will be emailed to members and available on our website and voice mail about two weeks before the events.

Wednesday, January 24 Lunch

"How to Live to Be 100", Tom Wilson

Tom is Professor Emeritus of Medicine and currently President of the USRA. He practiced, researched, taught and served in various leadership roles in the College of Medicine. His areas of expertise include Clinical Trials, Internal Medicine (General Medicine) and Pharmacology. Among many recognitions, Tom has received the George Fodor Award from the Canadian Coalition for High Blood Pressure Prevention and Control for his work increasing awareness/control of high blood pressure. He was also awarded the Saskatchewan Medical

Association *Physician of the Year Award* for his significant contributions to the medical profession and his community.

Wednesday, February 28 Lunch

“Meet Huskie Athletics First Chief Athletics Officer”, Shawn Burt

Shawn Burt was announced as Huskie Athletics first Chief Athletics Officer in August 2017, following a national search. Shawn comes to the U of S most recently from The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation in Toronto, ON, where he was the chief hockey officer. While there, he built from the ground up Road Hockey to Conquer Cancer, an initiative that raised \$16 million over six years and set two official Guinness World Records. He has also worked with Ryerson University, IMG Canada Ltd. and Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Ltd., and earned his Bachelor of Arts at Dartmouth College while playing four years of varsity hockey at the Ivy League school. Shawn came to campus with a mandate from the new Huskie Athletics Board of Trustees to elevate the program, building on fundraising and marketing, sponsorships and scholarships, and of course student-athlete success in the classroom and in competition

Monday, March 19 Lunch

“U of S and Hawassa University: 20 Years of Successful Partnership“, Dr. Carol Henry and Hiwot Haileslassie, PhD Trainee

At this year's Fall Convocation, Carol Henry, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, received the *George Ivany Award for Internationalization* for her exceptional contributions toward the internationalization objectives of the university. Together with colleagues in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and Hawassa University in Ethiopia, Carol and Hiwot have undertaken initiatives to alleviate micronutrient deficiencies in the southern Ethiopian population using pulse crop-based agronomic and food strategies, and nutrition intervention. "Today, the partnership has evolved to one of jointly implementing research for development projects, including the Center of Excellence in Nutrition, Hawassa University and broader institutional partnerships between U of S and Hawassa University. This presentation will share progress and impact of our interventions to improve the livelihoods and nutritional status of the poorest and most vulnerable, including the empowerment of women, especially as it relates to adopting household food processing strategies (i.e. soaking, germination and fermentation)."

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