

USRA Newsletter

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From Our President



President's Message 2017-2018

It's been an exciting year for the USRA. In December we welcomed about 130 new members after the amalgamation of the Non-Academic Retirees Association (NARA) and the USRA. Infusing "new blood" benefits all organizations. Mary Dykes and Lois Dumbovic joined the Board and have provided great counsel and energetic participation in USRA activities. We decided to maintain our office in the R. J. Williams Building while relinquishing the former NARA office in McLean Hall.

We now have a permanent conduit into University administration in the person of Darwin Roy. Born and raised in remote northern Saskatchewan, Darwin completed his B.Ed. (with distinction) in 2002. After teaching high school in La Ronge, he worked in public relations for Cameco and Cenovus. In March 2018 he joined the team, headed by Dr. Debra Pozega-Osburn, Vice President of University Relations, as Director of Community Relations and Engagement (CRE) in March 2018. Darwin and Debra

have been very supportive of the USRA and we look forward to continuing to work with them.

Social activities continued apace. Our much loved President's Christmas reception was held in late November and continues to be "number one" among our members. Our monthly lunches continue to be popular. Merry Beazely orchestrated a wonderful series including Lea Pennock's introduction into Spanish walking tours. Many members considered buying new hiking boots. We were well represented at the Remembrance Day ceremony. Although weather was uncooperative, our June barbecue at Louis' had a record attendance.

We experimented with changing the venue of our luncheon meetings. Smiley's Buffet on Circle Drive offers good parking, a private room with good sight lines to the screen and a complimentary sound system. Our post-meeting survey, however, revealed some resistance to changing from Manos. For the time being, we'll stick with Manos.

We can be proud that two of our suggestions to the Honorary Degrees Committee received their degrees at convocation. Dr. Ali Rajput was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science and Dr. David Carpenter an Honorary Doctor of Letters. See Judy's summary of their careers. Thanks to Judy and Merry for doing much of the work for these nominations.

As always, your Board worked hard on your behalf. Judy Henderson arranged for a tent on the Bowl at the Annual Employees Appreciation Picnic. Jackie Huck made posters and handouts for potential new members approaching retirement. Rick Bunt and Merry gave up their supper hour to represent us at the evening event at

Marquis Hall. I continue to be impressed at the dedication and cooperation of the Board. Every single member contributes and every single member volunteers time and effort.

Congratulations to Bryan Harvey on being elected Vice President of [CURAC](https://www.curac.ca/) (<https://www.curac.ca/>), the College and University Retirees Association of Canada, at the 2018 convention in Halifax.

A reality of organizations like ours is that each year some of our members pass away. Judy scours local and national obituaries and notifies me so that I can send a card on the USRA's behalf. I try to mention some of the accomplishments of the departed in my note. All of us would like to have had "a life well lived", but what is the definition? A movie director named Sky Bergman has produced a [documentary](https://www.lives-well-lived.com/) (<https://www.lives-well-lived.com/>) for which he interviewed 40 people aged 75 to 100, asking them to define "a life well lived". As you might expect there was a wide range. A few threads seemed common: A Life Well Lived includes:

- Loving and being loved
- Making the world better
- Cooperating with others
- Showing compassion to those who oppose you
- Enjoying the moment
- Not worrying about things you can't change
- A glass of wine!

Our members departed and annual award recipients all demonstrate Lives Well Lived.

In closing, I'd like to recognize and thank the members of our Board, for donating their time, energy and treasure to the

USRA. It is truly a privilege to serve with them. Merry and I look forward to another banner year.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Wilson

CURAC Benefits

CURAC has negotiated a number of benefits that are available to all members of member organizations. These include travel opportunities, home & auto insurance, travel insurance, extended health care insurance, CARP membership and others. They are explained on the [CURAC Member Benefits](http://www.curac.ca/members-benefits/) (<http://www.curac.ca/members-benefits/>) page.

At least one of our members has joined the RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Insurance plan and is satisfied with her choice. As she says "It is a good plan, not inexpensive, but it provides many more benefits than we were able to get. And you can get in with no medical." (This may be true only to March 31, 2018.)

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.

- Rosemary Von Elling **Bolaria**, December 5, 1939 – July 18, 2017, survived by her husband Bhopinder Singh
- Joyce Helen (Haight) **Brack**, August 27, 1929 – May 6, 2018, widow of Robert (Bob), former USRA President
- Thomas John (Tom) **Burwell**, November 30, 1942 – January 14, 2018, survived by his wife Betty
- Douglas A. **Schmeiser**, S.O.M., Q.C., May 22, 1934 – April 28, 2018, survived by his wife Irene
- Charles Melville (Red) **Williams**, C.M., S.O.M., Ph.D., F.A.I.C., March 18, 1925 – March 26, 2018
- Margaret (Peggy) **Woods**, September 17, 1931 – May 17, 2018, survived by her husband Robert (Bob)

Tracing members whose mail has been returned recently, we have also verified the deaths of the following:

- Dr. Feroze Novroji **Ghadijally**, 1920 - December 28, 2014. See [Ghadijally A Personal Remembrance](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4569247/) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4569247/>).
- Joseph **Shuya**, 1929-May 2017, age 87, a former USNARA member survived by his wife Emily. See [Shuya obituary](http://thestarphoenix.remembering.ca/obituaries/all-categories/search?search_type=advanced&ap_search_keyword=shuya) (http://thestarphoenix.remembering.ca/obituaries/all-categories/search?search_type=advanced&ap_search_keyword=shuya)

We have not been able to trace former USNARA member Patricia Susan **Bergen** after mail to her as a USRA Life Member was returned marked “Deceased.” USRA would be grateful for further information about her.

For notices in memoriam of former employees of the University of Saskatchewan, as well as current students, employees, and others honoured when the flag on the Thorvaldson Building is flown at half-mast, please see [U of S In Memoriam](http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/documents/flag-at-half-mast.php) (<http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/documents/flag-at-half-mast.php>) maintained by the University Secretary.

Bryan Harvey Elected CURAC Vice President

At the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) at Dalhousie University May 24, Past USRA President Bryan Harvey was elected Vice President for the first year of a two-year term on the Board of Directors. All USRA members are members of CURAC, an umbrella organization of post-secondary Canadian retiree associations. Bryan led the organization of CURAC’s annual conference when it was hosted by USRA at the University of Saskatchewan in May 2016. The CURAC Nominating Committee described Bryan as follows:

“Bryan Harvey ... an internationally recognized scholar and administrator ... as a faculty member at the Universities of Guelph and Saskatchewan ... has taught courses at all levels and supervised many graduate students. He created an accreditation mechanism for Programs in Agrology used for Canadian and foreign universities. He was Head of the Crop Science and Plant Ecology and Horticulture

departments, Director of the Crop Development Centre, Co-ordinator of Agricultural Research and Vice President Research at the University of Saskatchewan. He has served on numerous executives and committees and over 30 Boards (many as chair) in Canada and Internationally. He served on the executive of the USRA and held the following positions, President, chair Education and Social Committee, Awards Committee, Engagement Committee and local organizing committee for the CURAC meeting 2016. His research helped to establish Canada as a major exporter of malt and malting barley bringing billions of dollars into the economy. His accomplishments have been recognized by numerous awards, including, Officer Order of Canada, Saskatchewan Order of Merit, Fellow Agricultural Institute of Canada, American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America, Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame and Honorary Life Memberships in the CSGA, SSGA and ASGA.”

Congratulations, Bryan!

USRA Nominees Awarded Honorary Degrees

Each spring the USRA’s Honorary Degrees Committee asks the membership to suggest candidates worthy of receiving one of the University of Saskatchewan’s degrees *honoris causa*: Doctor of Science (D.Sc.), Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.), or Doctor of Laws (LL.D., which since the mid-1960s has been preferred to Doctor of Civil Law, D.C.L). In 2017-18, the USRA Executive was gratified that two of its candidates nominated in 2016 were awarded the D.Sc., *honoris causa*, and D.Litt., *honoris causa*, respectively: at the Fall Convocation, **Dr. Ali Rajput**, Professor Emeritus and former Head of Neurology in the College of Medicine, and at the Spring Convocation, **Dr. David Carpenter**, Professor Emeritus of English in the College of Arts and Science.

A degree *honoris causa* is the highest honour bestowed by the University. Customarily one honorary doctorate is presented at each Convocation ceremony. Nominations must be kept confidential even from the candidate until the President of the University announces the recipient not long before the honorary doctorate is conferred. For the nomination criteria and process, see [Guidelines for Honorary Degrees](http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/governin g-bodies/senate/GuidelinesForHonoraryDegrees.pdf) (<http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/governin g-bodies/senate/GuidelinesForHonoraryDegrees.pdf>).

Consideration of nominees, who are vetted by the University’s Honorary Degrees Committee for recommendation to the Senate, usually takes several years. This Committee will not meet again until 2019, but it is not too early to begin assembling a nomination. The process requires

completion of a form signed by three nominators, a short statement on the candidate, supporting letters of recommendation by the nominators and others, and (if possible) the candidate's *curriculum vitae*. Only in extremely rare circumstances are Honorary Degrees awarded posthumously or *in absentia*.

The criteria and process differ from those for the degrees of Earned Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) and Earned Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) approved by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Only members of Convocation or current and emeritus faculty members of the University may be either nominated by others or apply for the Earned Doctorates.

Among the rules the University uses to avoid conflict of interest in awarding Honorary Doctorates is the exclusion of "current or recent faculty and staff" from consideration; i.e., the candidate must not have been employed by the University for at least five years. The USRA-nominated Professors Emeriti who received Honorary Doctorates in 2017-18 had retired before 2012-13. But Dr. Rajput, MSc, FRCPC, OC, SOM, MBBS, a renowned expert on Parkinson's Disease and other movement disorders, has remained active in clinical practice and research long past his official "retirement" date from faculty. (See his own description of his research career in the March 2018 USRA Newsletter, pp. 9-10.) Dr. Carpenter, after teaching English on the faculty from 1975 to 1998, took early retirement to become a full-time creative writer. Capping his production of novels, short stories, essays, and poems, and his editing and mentoring of other writers, he has recently edited the pioneering, three-volume *Literary History of Saskatchewan* and has been celebrated for guiding into

print over many years *The Education of Augie Merasty*, the memoir of a Cree trapper's residential school experiences. Dr. Carpenter's Convocation address encouraged graduands to reach out to and learn from those whose experiences of life have been diverse from their own.

The USRA Honorary Degrees Committee welcomes suggestions and assistance in nominating candidates as a service to the University. Nominators may be *members of the University community or the public*, but USRA endorses only nominations signed by at least one USRA member and forwarded by its Executive following Committee approval. The deadline for USRA-supported nominations will be announced in early 2019.

Provost Touts "Plan 2025" to Sceptical Audience

Reviewed by Judith Rice Henderson

At the USRA's April 18 luncheon, held at Smiley's Buffet on Circle Drive, Provost and Vice-President Academic Tony Vannelli described the University of Saskatchewan's new strategic framework, the eight-year "Plan 2025" to become "the university the world needs," to a sceptical audience. The plan is an outcome of the University's consultation, with the USRA Executive Committee among others, on its new "Mission, Vision, and Values" statement, revised and approved in 2016. Much of this consultation was focused on assembling and refining lists of key words to define how the University conceives itself and its roles. Work on the strategic plan incorporating these words began early in 2017, before Dr. Vannelli took office last August. He credits President Peter Stoicheff with spearheading its development.

Dr. Vannelli (B.Sc. Hons., M.Sc. Mathematics, Concordia, Ph.D. Electrical Engineering, Waterloo) introduced himself as a Montreal native and as an engineering professor with extensive administrative experience in Ontario universities. At Waterloo he served as Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering and as Associate Dean of Research and External Partnerships, and at Guelph as Dean of Physical and Engineering Science. In 2016 for his research into the design of circuits for computers, he was appointed Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering (FCAE).

He sees his new role as Provost as responsibility for resources, including lives. He recalled that his father, a World War II officer, advised him to “remember who’s on the ground.” The U of S, with its remarkable range of programs and facilities, seems to him “very modest” about its unique opportunity to serve a needy world, but he admires its attitude that “people matter” and the “get-it-done mentality” that Saskatchewan has shown in the aftermath of the Humboldt tragedy.

Dr. Vannelli explained the University’s visual representation of Plan 2025 as a “Weave” of key goals. They are the black, gray, and green threads of a plaid, or as the University website describes it, “a tightly woven belt of fabric ... tying together our University’s legacy, spirit, and future into a singular description of who we are and aspire to become”: see [The University Plan](https://www.usask.ca/plan) (<https://www.usask.ca/plan>).

The Provost said that the horizontal lines of the “Weave” present “what we do.” The black horizontal lines define the geography of the strategy as Regional, Provincial, National, and International. The grey lines present our Mission: of Discovery,

Indigenization, Teaching and Learning, and Engagement. The green lines present our Vision: of Courageous Curiosity impacting world problems through discovery, Indigenization, interdisciplinarity, and problem solving; of Boundless Collaboration among disciplines and colleges and in partnership with governments and industries; and of Inspired Communities achieving reconciliation and meaningful change by healthy dialogue between rural and urban, Indigenous peoples and newcomers. The black vertical lines holding these threads together are the University’s Values or principles: Sustainability, Diversity, Connectivity, and Creativity. The website relates them also to values expressed by words in the Cree and Michif languages.

Dr. Vannelli mentioned changes under consideration, such as a new bachelor’s degree in pre-med or health sciences and collaboration between engineering and medicine to develop technology for treating tumours. He invites the engagement of alumni and retirees in the process of developing by June 2019 a campaign to support key areas in the University. He asserts his respect for retirees as those who “built this place” and invites dialogue about the directions the University takes.

Nevertheless, in the discussion period Dr. Vannelli found himself fielding hard questions that addressed the past as well as the future of the University. Some retired faculty questioned Plan 2025’s goal of solving world problems and objected to past cuts to units, such as the Extension Division, oriented to serving Saskatchewan people. Professor Emeritus of History Michael Hayden, introducing himself as “author of the only peer-reviewed history of the University”, defined its founding as

“the People’s University” as meaning engagement with the people of the Province. One of the *emeriti* in the audience disagreed with Dr. Hayden, observing that the world-class synchrotron was strongly supported by Saskatchewan people, but others expressed concern about administrative neglect of the liberal arts as core of the University, the creation of Global Institutes that “have no impact on the Province,” recent extreme budget cuts to colleges, especially Agriculture and Biotechnology (11%), and failure to explain “Indigenization” to the people, who “don’t understand it.”

In response, Dr. Vannelli replied respectfully to several of the objections. He acknowledged that Engineering was also cut 10% and the average cutback to colleges across campus was 5 ½%. Administrative decisions were based on a Control Management Model weighing direct and indirect costs against measures of success. He explained “Indigenization” as, first, understanding how Indigenous peoples look at issues and bringing their thinking into our University, for instance, in academic programs, and second, aligning equity, fairness, law, and justice as our communities deal with each other. “Reconciliation is always much harder than walking away.” To Dr. Don Hamilton’s challenge to the Provost to “be a champion for the core liberal arts,” Dr. Vannelli agreed that they are “a core driver” with “measurable impact” in “what they do” and assured the audience that in the pre-budget decisions underway he “is working to protect that core, which is critical to the University’s success.”

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning (SSCL) Course Offerings, Fall 2018

Yes, it is close to the time to consider what SSCL non-credit course(s), taught by highly qualified instructors, you will register for and enjoy commencing the week of September 10, 2018.

- **Course 1: The Third Reich: Of Storm & Seduction** by Dr. Clay Burlingham
Mon, Sept 10-Nov 5, 2018 from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Rm 217 Arts Bldg, U of S
- **Course 2: Armies & Aqueducts: The Culture & Society of Ancient Rome** by Dr. Kyle McLeister
Mon, Sept 10-Nov 5, 2018 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Rm 217 Arts Bldg, U of S
- **Course 3: Buddhism in Asia: Past & Present** by Sessional Instructor Ms. Anne Baycroft
Tues, Sept 11-Oct 30, 2018 from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Rm 217 Arts Bldg, U of S
- **Course 4: Environmental Chemistry** by Professor Emeritus Dr. Ron Steer
Tues, Sept 11-Oct 30, 2018 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Rm 217 Arts Bldg, U of S
- **Course 5: What Makes Us Human: An Introduction to Anthropology** by Dr. Susan Barnes
Wed, Sept 12-Oct 31, 2018 from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Rm 217 Arts Bldg, U of S
- **Course 6: The President’s Lecture Series: How the University of Saskatchewan is Meeting Today’s Biggest Research Challenges**
Wed, Sept 19-Nov 7, 2018 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Rm 233 Arts Bldg, U of S
Dr. Peter Stoicheff, President of the U of S opens this important lecture series. Seven Deans of Colleges and Heads of

research institutions of the U of S will speak of the research their organizations are carrying out and the implications of their research for the future.

The online registration period is August 13, 2018, 12:05 p.m. to August 21, 2018, 5:00 p.m. Course fees are \$55 per course for individuals 55 years or older who are SSCL members. Membership fees are \$5 per year from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Payment is part of the registration procedure. You will not be considered registered until payment is received. Take note that there will be NO REFUNDS after you have registered in a class unless the class is cancelled.

Please visit the [SSCL's website](https://artsandscience.usask.ca/noncredit/sscl.php) (<https://artsandscience.usask.ca/noncredit/sscl.php>) at the U of S for complete course descriptions and to register beginning August 13, 2018, 12:05 p.m. **HAPPY LEARNING!**

Book Ahead for USRA's Fall 2018 Events

Vice President Merry Beazely has arranged the following three events for October and November 2018: the annual AGM and Awards Banquet and two luncheons at Mano's Restaurant.

If you and/or your partner are planning to attend any of these events, please be sure to book at least a week in advance of the event by email (ss.usra@usask.ca) or telephone voice mail (306-966-6618). Space is often limited, especially for luncheons at Manos on 8th Street. If you book and find that you cannot attend, please contact USRA to free your seat in case we are maintaining a waiting list. At the University Club, USRA must pay for the number booked in advance. We collect for the Banquet at the door, but members who have booked for the Awards Banquet and fail to show may need to be billed by the Association for their meals.

We hope to see you at some of these events.

Monday, October 1, 2018 at University Club, University of Saskatchewan

AGM at 4:30 pm

See the slate of officers for election at the AGM in this newsletter.

Drinks (cash bar) at 5:30 pm

Awards Banquet to Follow

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 - Noon Luncheon at Mano's on 8th St.

Alan Long, Director of Marketing and Development, *Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan*, will present:

Staging the Future

Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan (SOTS) is planning with the City of Saskatoon and Meewasin Valley Authority to develop its leased space, next to the Children's Museum, into a new park with public trails beside the river, accessible year round. Permanent structures, including locked storage and an amphitheatre with river view as base for SOTS' main stage tent, will save the troupe set-up time for their annual Festival and allow rental of the space to other event organizers (e.g. the Children's Festival) before and after their July-August season. Come see and comment on the plans at the [Staging the Future Campaign](http://www.shakespearesask.com/pages/staging_the_future.html) (http://www.shakespearesask.com/pages/staging_the_future.html) site.



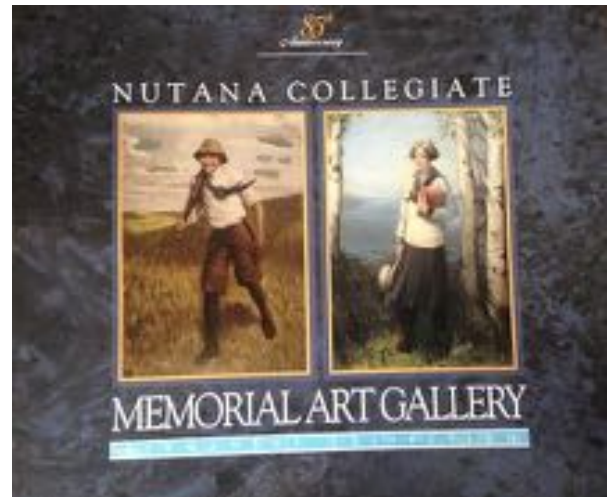
Architect's Rendering of Proposed Site

Monday, November 19, 2018 – Noon Luncheon at Mano's on 8th St.

Ken Pontikes, Murray Scarf and Jim Blackburn, Proud NCI Alumni, will present:

A Hidden Gem: The Nutana Collegiate Memorial Art Gallery

In 1919, the students and Principal of Nutana Collegiate (Saskatoon's original university) began a memorial project to honour alumni who had died because of the First World War. The resulting amazing Gallery contains 29 works by renowned Canadian and Saskatchewan artists. Come hear more about the collection and the restoration project that is underway to preserve this wonderful treasure. A beautiful book picturing the valiant alumni honoured and the works of art in memory will be available for special purchase of \$5. There will be a 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the end of World War I in November at the Gallery (TBA).



Nutana Art Collection Memorial Book

USRA 2018 Election at AGM

USRA's Annual General Meeting will be held in the University Club at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 1, 2018, immediately before the Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. (cash bar opens at 5:30). In preparation for the election of the Executive Committee at this AGM, the Nominations Committee here presents to the membership the following slate of officers and members-at-large for the 2018-19 academic year. The election at the AGM will be by acclamation unless further nominations, each signed by three members of the Association, are received by the USRA Secretary at least 15 days prior to October 1 (see below). The current members of the Nominations Committee are Past Presidents Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson (Chair), and Asit Sarkar.

Election Slate:

President: Tom Wilson

Vice-President: Merry Beazely

Secretary: Jacqueline Huck

Treasurer: Ken Smith

Immediate Past President: Judith Henderson

Members-at-Large: Alan Anderson, Michael Brockbank, Rick Bunt, Lois Dumbovic, Bryan Harvey (USRA Past President, current CURAC Vice President), Dean Jones (Past President and current Secretary), Ioannis (Yannis) Pahatouroglou, Brad Steeves.

All terms are for one year. The only new officer nominated is Jacqueline Huck, to replace Secretary Dean Jones, who has agreed to stand for election as member-at-large. Normally, the current President becomes Immediate Past President and the Vice-President is nominated for President.

When a new candidate for Vice-President could not be found, current President Wilson, Vice-President Beazely, and Immediate Past President Henderson agreed to stand for re-election to the Executive Committee in their current offices, as did Treasurer Ken Smith. Of the candidates for members-at-large, Alan Anderson, Michael Brockbank, Yannis Pahatouroglou, and Brad Steeves are first-time nominees to the USRA Board; the other candidates are standing for reelection.

See [By-Laws \(Section 10\)](#)

(http://homepage.usask.ca/~ss_usra/resources/Home/About-USRA/Bylaws-170925.pdf) on the USRA website for procedures allowing Ordinary Members of the Association to submit nominations of additional candidate(s) to the Secretary.

The Nominations Committee thanks for their excellent service to the USRA the members who are stepping down from the Executive: Mary Dykes, Michael Hayden, and Asit Sarkar. We urge the USRA membership to attend the AGM and participate in the 2018 election.

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