

USRA Newsletter

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From Our President



It has been an honour to serve as your President this year, and work with the wonderful and dedicated Officers of our Board. It was great to see so many of you, our members, at events in the fall and winter, and lately in the little Zoom squares!

Half-way through the year, we all were faced with the presence of COVID-19. It has been heartbreaking to see the toll of the virus, most sadly in mortalities and in health, and the impact on all aspects of life. We continue to appreciate everyone who has stepped forward to help.

There have been some positives: governments aiming to work together to give the best advice available to us at the time, and new programs and financial resources to provide needed support. This has also been a time that we reached out to family and friends we hadn't seen in a long time. Separation has brought many closer together!

We trust that steps our Board has taken through website postings, educational links, Newsletters and Zoom events have helped, and we will continue these until we can resume former activities. We hope that you, your families and friends have been

doing well through these challenging months.

The year has been a busy one for the USRA Board. Unfortunately, work on some of our projects has stalled, partly a result of the change to our designated liaison at the University. We hope to get back on track soon.

USRA Projects Underway in Conjunction with University Relations (Advancement)

In recent years, the Alumni Relations unit was designated by President Peter Stoicheff and Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President University Relations, as the USRA's prime link with the University. This team, led by then Associate VP Guy Larocque, provided enthusiastic support in enhancing the relationship between the USRA and the institution. University Relations has recently re-structured, and we are pleased to report that Danielle Dunbar, Associate VP Advancement, and her colleagues will now be our key contacts. Danielle and Christy Miller, Executive Director of the Alumni Association, met (virtually) with the Board in August to discuss ongoing initiatives.

- **Memorandum of Understanding** – The USRA Engagement Committee, led by Rick Bunt, with Bryan Harvey, Yannis Pahatourglou, Jim Thornhill, Tom Wilson and Merry Beazely, has been working to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USRA and the University. The aim is to ensure an ongoing beneficial relationship. Danielle advised that Rick should receive feedback from the University soon and we look forward to finalizing the MOU.
- **Surveys of Current USRA Members and Future USRA Members** – Jim Thornhill, and the Ad Hoc Committee Determining

Future Priorities of USRA, including Rick Bunt, Hank Classen, Brad Steeves and Merry Beazely, have been working with Advancement to finalize two surveys to engage current retirees and future retirees with the goal of ensuring a vibrant and responsive retirees' organization. Jim is working with Christy and they hope to get the survey of current retirees to you in the next month or two.

- **USRA Presence on the USask Website** – Dean Jones, Communication Chair, is redesigning the USRA website on a new server to ensure that when a user types 'retirees' into the search box, the USRA comes up first. We will also work to link with the University Advancement and Faculty and Staff sites. In addition, Dean, Judith Henderson, Jackie Huck and Hank Classen work to keep us all informed.
- **Welcoming 2020 Retirees/Other Eligible Individuals to the USRA** – Advancement has been most helpful in sending upcoming retirees a letter on our behalf, inviting them to join the USRA. We also want to contact and invite to join us all those individuals who left the University in 2019-20 and who meet USRA eligibility for membership. Our joint welcome BBQ for new retirees could not happen this year. We will pursue hosting a 'virtual' event. We have also spoken with President Stoicheff about re-instating a University-wide event to celebrate retirees.
- **USRA Awards and Annual Banquet** – Awards Chair Dean Jones, and members Bryan Harvey and Jim Thornhill, recently reviewed terms of our awards to ensure they encompass all our members. Dean has facilitated contacting the University community to submit nominations. We

will go ahead with nominations for 2020, but recipients will be honored at a joint 2020 and 2021 Banquet in September 2021.

Additional USRA Programs and Projects Underway

- **Programs for Members** – Brad Steeves, Chair, and the Education, Social and Recreation Committee members Hank Classen and Beryl Radcliffe, with valuable IT assistance from Dean Jones and Rick Bunt, have organized virtual sessions via Zoom. Additional virtual events are planned (see page 5).
- **Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 21 at 2:00 via Zoom Videoconference** – The agenda for the AGM and slate of officers for the coming year has been sent to members. We will send information about signing into the AGM to members who have indicated they would like to attend.
- **USRA Congratulatory Message to 2020 Graduates** – A USRA Board member normally attends each of the Spring and Fall Convocation ceremonies to recognize the achievements of new graduates. With Convocation ceremonies cancelled, we have provided a virtual [message from the USRA](#) to 2020 graduates.
- **Minister Responsible for Seniors** – Tom Wilson, USRA Past-President, has contacted the Honorable Warren Kaeding, Minister for Rural and Remote Health and for Seniors, to meet to discuss seniors' issues. Bryan Harvey, currently President of CURAC, and Tom recently participated in preparing a comprehensive CURAC draft *Strategies for an Aging Population: Maintaining Independence*. We have shared this

document with our membership and provincial leaders.

- **College and University Retiree Associations of Canada** – Bryan will be presiding over the CURAC/ARUCC 2020 AGM that will be held virtually on September 30. Tom has kindly agreed to be our voting delegate.
- **Heritage Buildings on Campus** – Board member Hank Classen has been involved with a group addressing concerns about the status of heritage buildings on campus. Hank brought this issue to the Board, and he and Merry have written to Greg Fowler, VP Finances and Resources, to urge maintaining ‘respect for heritage’ and ‘preservation of cherished built form’ of our campus as outlined in the draft *Campus Plan*.
- **Membership Updates** – Judith Henderson, Chair of the Membership Committee, colleagues Jackie Huck, Dean Jones, Ken Smith, the entire Board, former Board members Mary Dykes, Murray Scharf, and others have worked diligently to locate Life Members with whom we have lost contact. Judith has sent Life Member Cards to those who had not previously received them (former Associate Members who inherited Life Membership from their deceased spouses). Life Member cards will enable them and perhaps their descendants to apply for benefits through USRA and CURAC. We are pleased to report that nearly all missing Life Members have been found.
- **Honorary Degrees** – Tom Wilson, Chair, and Committee members Beryl Radcliffe and Asit Sarkar facilitated two nominations to the University Secretary

in fall 2019 and a third will be submitted in the coming months.

- **Nominations and Thanks** – Tom, Judith and Bryan have arranged for a first-rate slate of candidates for the 2020-2021 Board. We are most pleased to welcome Mary Dykes (former USNARA member) back to the Board. Sincere thanks to ‘retiring’ Board members Ken Smith, our long time and excellent Treasurer, and Hank Classen, who brought to us important issues and ideas. We will miss you!

Most sincerely,



Merry Beazely
USRA President
merry.beazely@usask.ca

From the Education, Social and Recreation Committee

By Brad Steeves, USRA Vice-President

Now that we are into our 6th month of this pandemic, most likely we all are becoming a bit more comfortable with or at least adapted to our new routines. Respecting this new normal and wanting to continue to connect with our members, the USRA has hosted 2 presentations via Zoom. The participants have been overwhelmingly supportive of the new delivery method (Zoom) as well as extremely positive on the speakers and their topics. We therefore will continue to present some of our previously scheduled presentations via Zoom.

Below is a short recap of what has occurred or been postponed since March.

- On May 13, 2020, Dr. J. Blondeau, Saskatchewan Health Authority/University of Saskatchewan presented a very informative overview of the Coronavirus that causes the COVID-19 disease including a summary of the properties of the virus and how it spreads. He also summarized many pertinent public health measures to follow to remain healthy.
- On July 8, 2020, Dr. Asit Sarkar, Professor Emeritus, U of S, presented "Shape of the Post Covid-19 Economy: A Not-so-Speculative View"

Both of these presentations can be found on the USRA website.

- We had planned to tour Merlis Belsher Place but as you all may be aware it has been designated as a potential field hospital in case our city and provincial hospitals become overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients. Even if it had not been designated as such, we would have had to cancel this event in order to follow Public Health guidelines.
- As reported previously we had to postpone our annual barbeque where we welcome new retirees to our Association. We hope that we can reschedule this event sometime in the future.
- Collette Travel had planned to present to us on their upcoming excursions. While I am sure we all would find this presentation informative and would like to be able to travel again soon, this presentation has not yet been rescheduled.

This fall we will continue to connect with our members using Zoom technology. A week before each of these presentations

you will receive an email asking if you plan to attend. After the deadline to respond, you will receive an additional email that contains the link to join the event.

Please find below our upcoming presentations and events:

September 16, 2020, 11:45 A.M. Sask. Time

Erika Dyck, Department of History, College of Arts and Science, U of S

Erika is a Professor in the Department of History and is a Canada Research Chair in the History of Medicine

Title of Presentation: "To Fall in Hell or Soar Angelic': Psychedelic Trials in Saskatchewan in the 1950s"

September 21, 2020, 2:00 P.M. Sask. Time

Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM agenda has been sent out from the USRA by separate email on August 16, 2020. Please watch for additional information closer to the meeting date.

October 28, 2020, 11:45 A.M. Sask. Time

Lilian Thorpe MD PhD FRCP, Departments of Psychiatry and Community Health & Epidemiology, College of Medicine, U of S

Title of Presentation: "Medical Assistance in Dying: Taking a balanced approach to a challenging addition to end of life care"

November 23, 2020, 11:45 A.M. Sask. Time

Alanna Baillod MD FRCP, Geriatric Psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, U of S

Title of Presentation: "Mental wellness issues facing older adults"

December 2020 Annual U of S President's Holiday Reception

Unfortunately, the annual President's Holiday Reception has been cancelled this

year because of the pandemic. However, President Stoicheff has agreed to speak with the USRA members over Zoom on the state of the University during the pandemic. Actual title of the talk, date and time will be announced later this fall.

The Education, Social and Recreational committee has received several other suggestions for presentations. Email notices will be sent out as these events get scheduled.

Since COVID-19 has dominated our lives, many individuals on campus have been preparing for alternative delivery methods of classes or refocusing their research or areas of study on the pandemic's effects either on the health effects or on the social and economic impacts.

The Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy has been presenting a variety of webinars and presentations on COVID-19 and its impact. If you are interested in these presentations, please visit their website and sign up for their upcoming events newsletter under News and Events. <https://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca>

One of our previously scheduled presentations was to be from Nancy Turner and Peter Hedley from the Office of the Vice Provost Teaching, Learning and Student Experience. Since they now are working hard to adapt many aspects of the student experience this fall, we have not asked them to present at this time. However, please find below a link to their TED talk that they were going to speak to us about.

TEDx Talk: <https://youtu.be/UeEpVXd430>

In addition, I found this podcast quite interesting. It is an interview that Peter Hedley did with Dr. Patti McDougall, Vice

Provost, describing the challenges she as a leader underwent as this pandemic hit the University of Saskatchewan.

'Challenging Times and the Way Ahead' episode: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvsvxKITiP3U&list=PLQptLdMDrox2_HZ0XAfHqw6DZoQOhoXes&index=19

I hope that you can join us for these upcoming presentations and the AGM.

On behalf of the USRA Education, Social and Recreational committee, stay healthy and safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Steeves

VP USRA

The Missing Food Group

By Tom Wilson

Although Canada's Food Guide states that water should be our drink of choice(1), many of us (at least half of us over the age of 65) enjoy an alcoholic beverage on a regular basis(2). Neither Canadian nor American food guides advise against consuming alcohol, but they do describe "safe drinking amounts": 8 or fewer standard drinks per week, and fewer than 4 at a sitting for women, and 15 and 5, for men. British Columbia women are allowed up to 10 drinks per week"(3). No wonder so many of us retire there.

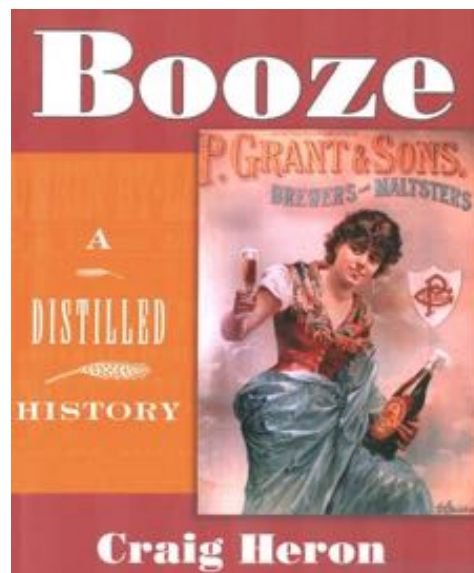


Alcoholic beverages have been consumed for most of recorded history. The major wine grape, *Vitis, vinifera* is native to the Mediterranean and Asia minor. It makes sense that yeast came into contact with grapes, fermented, and produced wine. The oldest winery, dated 4100 BCE, was found in Armenia(4), but earlier clues have been found in China, 7000 BCE, and Georgia, 6000 BCE. In 3100 BCE Egyptian pharaohs used the red juice from crushed grapes as a blood surrogate in state ceremonies. The seafaring Phoenicians were trading wine in Europe by 1200 BCE.

Beer was likely first produced in the Middle East, any time after 10,000 BCE when cereals were farmed. Almost any natural starch can be fermented by yeast, so it is likely that fruit, herbs and spices were added to early beer. Hops became a mainstay in European beer in the ninth century CE.

The alcohol content of beer and wine is limited (to about 14%) because, as the yeast produces alcohol, it poisons itself, stopping the fermentation. Enter the process of distillation, whereby complex solutions such as beer or wine, are heated. The more volatile parts of the solution turn to vapor, which is then cooled and turned back into liquid. Sea water can be distilled, yielding fresh water. Production of alcohol by distillation may have occurred in the 9th century CE in Iraq, and by 1200 was practiced in Europe, Russia, and China. The first written mention of “whisky” occurred in 1405 in Ireland, after a gentleman died of a “surfeit” of aqua vitae; perhaps the first alcohol-related death. By the mid-18th century whisky making was firmly established in North America.

Craig Heron, a Professor Emeritus of History at York University, has written a fascinating



book on the history of alcohol in Canada. He notes that we swung between unbridled enthusiasm and prohibition during World War One. At one time there were more



distilleries in Regina than in all the rest of Canada!

The effects of alcohol on health are complex. The acute effects of alcohol are fairly well predicted by the blood alcohol concentration (BAC)(5). A BAC of 0.08% (commonly abbreviated to “.08”), the legal limit in many jurisdictions, causes a measurable decrease in driving skills. In Saskatchewan, driving with a BAC of .04 can

result in a suspension of the driver's license and impounding of the vehicle for 3 days.

How much do you have to drink before reaching these limits? First, know what a "standard drink" is: 12 ounces of beer, 6 of wine and 1.25 ounces of spirits. Women are not only smaller than men, but also absorb alcohol more rapidly and completely. When consuming alcohol on an empty stomach, peak blood levels are reached in 30 minutes; a fatty meal will delay the peak up to 3 hours. Finally, we metabolize (break down) alcohol at a constant rate: about 1 standard drink per hour. You can plug these data into an online calculator (5) to estimate your BAC. If I have 2 standard drinks in 1 hour, my predicted BAC is about 0.03. Having said that, it is much safer to call a cab or Uber or have a designated driver.

A problem with predicting behavior from BAC is the varying "tolerance" of individuals. As with all sedatives, people develop tolerance to alcohol: the need for larger doses to achieve the same effect. Dedicated drinkers can withstand near lethal BAC's without apparent ill effect. The flip side is "withdrawal" symptoms occurring when alcohol intake stops. The worst is "delirium tremens", characterized by agitation, hallucinations (the classic pink elephants), seizures, and even death.

Researching the long-term effects of alcohol on health, Thun and colleagues observed 490,000 adults, 35-69, for 10 years(6). They found 20% lower all-cause mortality in people who reported drinking one alcoholic beverage per day compared to those abstaining from alcohol. Furthermore, although the death rate in heavier drinkers increased, it did not exceed that of teetotalers unless they consumed more than 6 standard drinks per day. The

decrease was driven by a 35% reduction in heart attack and stroke deaths. This benefit was partially offset by increased deaths from trauma, cirrhosis, and cancer.

Alcohol use disorder (AUD), defined as "continued use of alcohol despite negative physical, social or economic consequences", was found in 1.5% of Americans over 65(7). Considering that half of us drink alcohol regularly, about 1 in 30 drinkers has AUD. This is a little lower than the 4-7% prevalence in the population as a whole. Twin studies have shown that AUD has a significant genetic component; 50% of the variance in a population is due to inheritance(8). Some genes are protective against AUD: many East Asians cannot break down the main metabolite of alcohol and suffer flushing, nausea, headache and rapid heart rate and suffer more than others after consuming it. Dozens of genes, including those linked to depression, contribute to AUD. Environment plays a role. Changes in our lives with aging, such as loss of a loved one, are associated with increased consumption. CAGE, a simple, validated questionnaire is a useful diagnostic test(9):

- C: have you ever felt you should **Cut** down on your drinking?
- A: are you **Annoyed** when people criticize your drinking?
- G: do you feel **Guilty** about drinking?
- E: have you ever had an "**Eye opener**" (morning drink)

A score of 4 "yeses" is virtually diagnostic of AUD. A score of 0 or 1 rules out AUD.

To summarize: alcoholic beverages have been imbibed for thousands of years; they have both positive and negative effects on health; moderation is the key. Cheers!

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Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame Inducts Dr. Bryan Harvey

This July, Dr. Bryan Harvey was one of four “influential leaders and lifelong agricultural ambassadors” honoured as a 2020 inductee into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. He was nominated by the Canadian Seed Growers Association for this prestigious national award, one of many honours he has received since beginning his USask career in 1966. Bryan is now Professor Emeritus in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Past President of the USRA, and President of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada.



The official announcement from the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame observed:

“Renowned plant breeder Dr. Bryan Harvey developed more than 60 varieties of barley throughout his prolific 50-year research career. At the University of Saskatchewan, his ground-breaking research developed two-row malting barley varieties that would deliver tremendous returns to Canadian agriculture and the malting industry. His most notable variety, Harrington, became the gold standard for two-row malting barley and the dominant

variety across the Prairies for more than 20 years. An esteemed academic, Bryan's commitment to germplasm conservation is evident in his numerous awards and honours including the Order of Canada."

The other 2020 inductees are Jay Bradshaw of Guelph, ON; James Halford of Indian Head, SK; and Douglas Hedley of Nepean, ON. They will all be recognized at the 2021 induction ceremony, as the November 2020 ceremony in Toronto was cancelled because of the pandemic.

For more details see:

<https://www.cahfa.com/en-us/news/four-influential-leaders-join-canadian-agricultural-hall-of-fame-in-2020>.

The College of Agriculture and Bioresources has published a detailed biography of Bryan's distinguished career at the University of Saskatchewan in teaching, research, and administration in its announcement of this most recent of Bryan's many impressive awards. See:

<https://news.usask.ca/articles/colleges/2020/ag-bio-usask-emeritus-professor-appointed-to-canadian-agricultural-hall-of-fame.php>

Congratulations, Bryan!

Remai Modern/Biography Show Thelma Pepper's Photography

By Judith Henderson

When Thelma Pepper turned 100 years old on July 28, 2020, the Remai Modern in Saskatoon celebrated her birthday by announcing that its long-planned retrospective exhibition of her black-and-white photographs of Prairie women and men, entitled "Ordinary Women," will run six months (February 13 to August 15) in 2021. MacIntyre Purcell Publishing (Lunenburg, NS) plans release in September of a biography, *Thelma: A Life in Pictures*, by Amy Jo Ehman. Thelma received the Lieutenant-Governor's Arts Award—Lifetime Achievement in 2014, and Saskatchewan's highest honour, the Order of Merit, in April 2018.

Thelma has a Life Membership in USRA, an inheritance from her husband James Pepper, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, who died at Sherbrooke Community Centre in Saskatoon on November 27, 2003. They met at McGill U in Montreal, where in 1945 Thelma completed her study of biology (BSc, Acadia U; MSc, McGill), and they moved to Saskatoon in 1947, when Jim began his 38-year USask career.

Thelma, née Stevens, was born in the Annapolis Valley, NS. She learned the science of photography by working in a darkroom with her grandfather and father, both amateur photographers. Thelma says that the upcoming exhibition at Remai Modern will include some of her grandfather's photography. She followed her father's model in developing her own darkroom at home as she and Jim became "empty nesters."

Thelma credits her husband with suggesting that she overcome boredom after their children left home by reading to the elderly in seniors' residences. Volunteering in 1980, she also began photographing and taping the voices of those she met as "they poured out their stories to me." In a 2018 interview on CBC Radio's "Sunday Edition," she described the satisfaction and self-confidence she gained by taking up photography and by working with these residents, especially the women. The following link will take you to the interview:

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thesundayedition/thelma-pepper-98-has-photographed-rural-life-people-often-overlooked-by-society-1.4870992>

Now Leah Taylor, Curator of the University of Saskatchewan Art Galleries and Collection, is digitizing Thelma's cassette recordings, which are among 40 pieces, including photographs, that she donated to the University Collection. The following link will take you to the photographs. Click on each photograph for a larger view of it:

<http://saskcollections.org/kenderdine/MultiSearch/Index?search=thelma+pepper>

Visitors to the upcoming Remai Modern exhibition will be able to hear the voices of those they see in Thelma's photographs. Some of the cassettes will also be on display.

Leah is co-curator of the exhibition with Sandra Fraser, Remai Modern Curator (Collections). The Remai Modern holds the largest collection of Thelma's art, but Sandra is also arranging loans from the University Collection and other institutions for this exhibition. To provide context, it will include artwork of Thelma's female contemporaries, including international, national, and local photographers.

Thelma became active in the Photographers Gallery in Saskatoon, and for many years she has contributed to group exhibitions, some of them held at the University. She had her first solo exhibition in 1986: "Decades of Voices: Saskatoon Pioneer Women". This and two other series of her work, "Spaces of Belonging – A Journey along Highway 41" and "Untie the Spirit," will be shown in the Remai Modern exhibition.

"Spaces of Belonging" depicts the "disappearing communities" along "Highway 41," settled by the diversity of ethnic groups that Thelma says amazed her when she arrived in Saskatchewan from Eastern Canada. Highway 41 is a series of ordinary roads built across the country to link small towns, often between major East-West highways. A segment of the "Highway 41" near Saskatoon that Thelma photographed still runs diagonally northeast from Aberdeen to southwest across a corner of University land in Saskatoon. The highway has been upgraded and extended north to Wakaw, but her photographs capture its earlier history.

"Untie the Spirit" will reprise the series of Thelma's photographs that in 2009 was the subject of a National Film Board of Canada Production, "A Year at Sherbrooke".

Leah describes Thelma's photographs in terms of the spaces they depict: the primarily outdoor settings of everyday Prairie work, the towns along Highway 41, and the mainly interior spaces of the elderly in their residences.

To judge by the 1985 photograph "Thankfulness" (shown here), and some of her other photographs of the elderly in the University Collection, Thelma often



Thelma Pepper, Thankfulness, 1985, silver gelatin on paper, 15 inches x 15 inches. Collection of the University of Saskatchewan. Gift of the artist, 1996.

captures not only the physical but also the mental interior spaces in which they live, remember, and assess their lives.

To Leah, both recordings and photographs show that “Thelma has genuinely listened to women’s stories.” There is “a quite feminist tone to her work. Her photographs show women as being strong, critical, and influential.” Thelma, Leah, and Sandra all find irony in the upcoming Remai Modern exhibition’s title, “Ordinary Women”. They deem the role of women who contributed to Prairie communities and economy by their unpretentious daily labours to have been truly extraordinary.

Members No Longer with Us

Helen Edith (née Perkin) Card (March 3, 1939 – May 5, 2020) is survived by her husband Robert (Bob). They met at Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, when he was studying medicine and she was completing her education (Toronto Western Hospital School of Nursing, RN 1960, Queen’s University School of Nursing, BNSc

1962). Marrying in 1962, they moved to Saskatoon in 1973. Helen has worked in turn as a nurse and nursing instructor, homemaker/mother, and joint owner (with Judith Gidluck) of Needlework Nook in Saskatoon.

Norma Joy Fulton (October 30, 1931 – August 7, 2020) is survived by her husband of 66 years, Fred. While he farmed at Kincaid in the summer and taught in the USask School of Agriculture in the winter, Norma (USask BN, 1953; Masters in Continuing Education, 1971) was on the USask faculty in Nursing and later Director of Continuing Nursing Education for the province.

John McLeod (February 26, 1925 – August 20, 2020) was born in Blackburn, England. As Director of the USask Institute of Child Guidance and Development, he created influential programmes for preparing teachers of children with special needs and those of preschool students. In 2004, he was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. He was predeceased by his first wife **Maureen** and is survived by his “estranged wife” Rita.

Earl Ostlund (December 1, 1920 – February 15, 2020) is survived by his wife of 70+ years, Dorothy. He worked at USask in Crop Sciences for 31 years, retiring in 1983.

Jacqueline Marguerite Eliane (née Dauban) Owen (Paris, France, April 1, 1928 – Saskatoon, June 20, 2020) grew up in the Seychelles Islands and there in 1957 married **Dr. John Shirley Owen**, having met him in London, England, where both studied health education. After 11 years in Ibadan, Nigeria, with their growing family, in Saskatoon Jacqueline earned an M.A. in French and taught at elementary, high school, and university levels while Professor

Owen pursued his USask career in Community Health and Epidemiology. He retired in 1993 and predeceased her on June 12, 2015.

Sultana Qureshi (April 4, 1951 – July 2, 2020) is survived by her husband Abdul Mabood Qureshi. Having earned the Bachelor and Masters' degrees in Education at Aligarh Muslim University, she taught at PECHS college in Karachi, Pakistan, before her marriage and move to Regina in 1974. She resided in Saskatchewan 45 years.

Violet (née Newton) Reynolds was born May 20, 1930, in Baldwinton, SK, and died April 16, 2020. She was predeceased by her husband, **George (Ted)**, who retired from USask as Chief Engineer of the Heating Plant.

H. Bruno Schiefer (August 25, 1929 – July 21, 2020), earned his D.V.M. and Ph.D. at UMunich and was visiting professor at UConnecticut before beginning in 1969 his distinguished career at USask in Veterinary Pathology. He headed the Department, founded a Canadian network of Toxicology Research Centres, and directed its Western node. For Canada's Department of External Affairs, he investigated the alleged use of chemical warfare agents in Southeast Asia and served as consultant to its Arms Control and Disarmament Division. In 1995 the Society of Toxicology of Canada, which he served as President, honoured his "exceptional contribution to his profession and the Society" with its Award of Distinction.

Anna Tresher (December 3, 1922 - July 6, 2020) was a stewardess for Czech Airlines before fleeing the Communists in Czechoslovakia with her husband **Otto** and son Otto in 1968. She worked at USask as a

microbiologist. Her husband predeceased her in 1977.

USRA Search for Lost Members

By Judith Henderson, Membership Chair

In addition to remembering recent deaths in Members No Longer with Us, the Membership and Communication Committees are now able to honour many other USRA members whose deaths, as far as we know, have not been previously reported in our newsletters. (The collection of past newsletters posted on our website under Publications is incomplete.)

We have been working intensively with the Board and our colleagues and friends for more than a month to find members for whom we no longer had contact information and have been able to locate most of them. But inevitably, some have died.

Our campaign to fill in the blanks in our membership list with postal and email addresses and phone numbers began as an effort to inform spouses of deceased Life Members about the recent Johnson Insurance scholarship competition for descendants of USRA members, announced in our April 2020 newsletter. All USRA members are automatically enrolled also in the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC), which announced this scholarship competition for 2020 high school graduates.

Johnson Insurance did not exclude from their 2020 scholarship competition the graduating high school students descended from a *deceased* parent or grandparent who had been a USRA/CURAC member. To alert these graduating students of their eligibility to compete for a \$1,000 grant for post-secondary study, we sent a letter and a Life

Membership card to spouses of deceased life members. Although we have supplied membership cards to University retirees in the past, we now saw our failure to do the same for a spouse who has inherited a Life Membership as an inappropriate omission. The card can be used to prove the USRA and CURAC membership of the parent or grandparent of a graduating student, as well as to access other benefits of membership in both associations.

As we reviewed our current membership list, we also noticed the many members with whom we had lost contact. Often this happens when our members move away from Saskatoon, looking for a warmer climate or proximity to younger family, and/or when they stop aging in place and move by choice, financial necessity, poor health, or disability into assisted living residences or care homes.

We did eventually find contact information for most of them, and almost all were glad to hear from us. For some in poor health, it proved necessary to update our membership record by accepting a contact with a family member who lived nearby and was willing to share our newsletter and messages with a member who no longer has email or does not want to be bothered with sorting Canada Post. Getting a letter, card, phone call, or visit from a USRA member has been cheering up some of our elderly members by showing them that they are still valued and remembered. And it cheers us up too.

USRA Board members present and past, as well as many friends, relatives, and colleagues of members, have enthusiastically contributed to our search, and even a few patient strangers with similar names or addresses to those we seek have offered useful information by

telephone to the members of the two Committees (Judith Henderson, Jacqueline Huck, and Dean Jones), who struggle to keep our membership records up to date.

The collaboration on this project has been outstanding and has lifted all our spirits as we endure social isolation during the pandemic. In a sense, COVID-19 gave us an unusual opportunity to undertake this updating of our membership list because it kept us and our members at home with time on our hands.

But it is rare for our busy volunteers on the Board and its committees to have the opportunity to do searches of this magnitude, so please, members (especially Life Members), if you move, send us your new contact information, preferably mail and email addresses, telephone number(s), and social media used, if any. The more information we have, the better our odds of finding you if you change or drop one or more of these methods of communicating. Your friends in USRA do care what becomes of you.

For USRA contact information, see the back page of this USRA newsletter or your membership card. If you have lost your membership card, contact us so that we can send you another. Put USRA's contact information with the files you assemble for your executor or give it to a family member who can help us keep our membership records up to date.

Here we remember colleagues and friends whose passing, however long ago, USRA is now able to report. (Notices of the deaths of some of their spouses have appeared in previous newsletters. The names of the deceased are in boldface.)

James G. C. Ellis (April 19, 1925, Winnipeg - June 13, 2014, Abbotsford, BC) was

predeceased by his wife **Alice** in 1985. He moved to BC after his retirement. There his second partner, **Ruth Zoorkan**, also predeceased him in 2013. An RCAF veteran, in his 38-year career at USask (to 1988), he was a pioneer in soil science.

Joyce (née Greenhalgh) Gibson (July 27, 1921, North Battleford, SK - April 2, 2014, Victoria, BC), daughter of an Anglican minister, died at age 92. She was predeceased by her first husband, Norman Noakes (d. October 1964) and by her second husband, **Professor Douglas L. Gibson** (d. 1982). Having served the Canadian Army as Nutrition Advisor during WW2, Professor Gibson, MBE, BSA, MS, Ph.D., joined the USask College of Agriculture in 1946. He was Head of Dairy and Food Science (1948-76) and Dean of Home Economics (1976-81), retiring in 1982. His research on improving food nutrition in developing countries required travel abroad. His daughter Ellen (Mrs. Don Bartel), living near Clavet, recalls falling in love with Africa in her travels with her father and stepmother. She also described Joyce's difficulties negotiating with police in Egypt for release of her husband's remains when he suddenly died there soon after his USask retirement.

Dudley A. Goddard (May 9, 1926 – June 12, 2016) worked 43 years at USask in a variety of jobs: on the University Farm, as caretaker in Qu'Appelle Hall, assistant storekeeper in the Chemistry building, and after education by correspondence and apprenticeship, as a journeyman electrician. He retired in 1986 as Mechanical Supervisor. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Eunice, who lives in Saskatoon.

Elizabeth ("Betty," neé Harvey) Holmes died at age 92 on December 26, 2016, at Samaritan Place in Saskatoon. She was

predeceased by her husband of 60 years, **Dr. Ian Hugh Holmes** (Schreiber, ON, September 30, 1926 – Samaritan Place, Saskatoon, August 19, 2012). He taught in the USask Faculty of Medicine while practicing in Saskatoon.

Harold Kelm, Ph.D. UManitoba (Winnipeg, May 13, 1933 – Regina, June 4, 2012) died at age 79, survived by his wife Winnifred (née Milner). A USask Professor of Psychology, he retired in 1993.

Frederick F. Langford, USask Professor Emeritus in Geological Sciences, was predeceased by his first wife, **Sydney**. He died January 24, 2015, in Sidney, BC, where he had enjoyed retirement with his second wife, Isabel Anderson, formerly a USask faculty member in Economics, who survives him.

Rita McMurray (March 31, 1924-January 3, 2015) died in Duncan, B.C., at age 90. Our membership file indicates that she had a connection with the Psychology Department at USask (as an employee or an employee's spouse), but her brief obituary provides no further detail.

Patsy (née Quinn) Mills (September 15, 1925 – December 19, 2017) had a successful career in the Federal Department of Agriculture, retiring in 1981. She was predeceased by her husband **Dr. D. Keith Mills**, who died suddenly of a heart attack on May 8, 2016, in his 89th year. Although both of them were born in Ottawa, ON, and spent most of their lives there, near the end of his career as a practicing psychiatrist and an associate professor of psychiatry at the UOttawa Medical School, Dr. Mills was invited to teach as a full professor in the USask College of Medicine, which at that time had no Psychoanalytic Division. When

he retired from USask, he and Patsy returned to Ottawa.

William (“Bill”) Bernard Reed, a Professional Engineer who was an award-winning Research Scientist in the USask Department of Agricultural Engineering, died March 16, 2004, at age 74 in Victoria, BC. He was predeceased by his first wife, **Ruth**, and is survived by his second wife Diana of Sidney, BC. Bill and Diana moved to Vancouver Island after he retired in 1994.

Dr. Gerald Sankey (October 28, 1918 – January 31, 2016) and his wife **Gladys Maud Sankey** (April 6, 1920 – July 4, 2017) both lived to age 97 after retiring to Surrey, BC. He was in Educational Psychology at USask. Her Estate established an endowment fund for the Gladys and Gerald Sankey Scholarship in Career Counselling for outstanding graduate students in the Counselling Psychology programme of Education at UBC, where Dr. Sankey had earned his B.A. 1943, B.Ed. 1954, M.A. 1959.

Edward Stanek (October 13, 1927 - March 24, 2013) was born near Jaslo, Poland. He came to Canada as international legal advisor of the Polish Embassy in 1959 and stayed. After studying library science at UBC, he became Head Librarian and Director of the Law Library at USask (1970-95), retiring Professor Emeritus. He is survived by his second wife Banani Bhaumick-Stanek, who had a 13-year research career in the Department of Medicine at USask, becoming full Professor before she joined Edward in Vancouver following his retirement. They later moved to White Rock, BC.

Avra Peter Ginieres Watson, (1922 – May 2014), was predeceased by her husband **Linville Fielding Watson** (Philadelphia 1918 –

Saskatoon, October 1996). They were an impressive team of anthropological researchers and teachers. After his death, Avra moved back to her hometown Lowell, Massachusetts. She earned her BA 1945, MA 1949 at BostonU, Ph.D. 1976 at UPittsburgh. Linville earned his AB 1938 and PhD 1953 at UPennsylvania. Arriving with Avra at USask in 1966 after he had held several academic positions, he founded the Department of Sociology and Avra worked for a year as Research Associate in the Canadian Centre for Community Studies of the College of Commerce. In 1967-70 she was Assistant Professor as a Cultural Anthropologist in Educational Foundations. In the mid-80s she was a sessional lecturer in Anthropology and Archaeology, the department to which Linville had been cross-appointed in 1970. He left Sociology in 1982 and retired as Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology in 1986.

University of Saskatchewan Retirees'
Association

221 Cumberland Ave N
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3
306-966-6618

ss.usra@usask.ca / <https://usra.usask.ca>