

NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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In requesting this contribution to the Newsletter, the Editor asked if, as the incoming President, I would write about my objectives for the Association during my two-year term. The CURAC Board approved a strategic plan for the organization in December 2012, and a report on progress was distributed at the Annual General Meeting in Newfoundland in June. As President, I am guided by the plan which coincidentally was jointly authored by John Meyer, then Past President, and myself. So, to some extent, my objectives are enshrined in that document.

The top priority objective in the strategic plan is to enhance the visibility of CURAC. To achieve this goal, I propose to engage each member association in an individual dialogue to explore suggestions for strengthening the links with the member association, as follows:

- determine what additional services CURAC can provide to the association;
- to identify the major issues, concerns or problems confronting the association;
- to solicit advice as to issues which CURAC might profitably address.

Secondarily, potential volunteers who may be interested in serving on the CURAC Board or on a committee can be discovered and their candidacy fostered. And, the possibility of hosting an annual and/or regional conference will also be explored. In regard to this latter point, one of my objectives will be to provide increased support to the local association organizing a regional or annual conference.

Another strategy for improving the visibility of the national organization is to implement a system for formally recognizing the significant initiatives of member associations as well as the meritorious contributions or achievements of retirees (faculty and staff) to their host university and/or to the community. Plans for the implementation of these awards are underway.

Extending the reach of the Association is another initiative to enhance visibility. One such endeavour moves us into the international

arena via an investigation of the experience of retirees from post-secondary institutions in other countries. These comparative data may be very useful to member associations. Also relevant in this regard is expanding our connections and collaborations with other agencies in Canada. Joining with these other bodies in various advocacy initiatives is a major objective which will help to put CURAC on the map domestically.

Another objective in the strategic plan is to clarify organization structures and enhance the efficiency of operations. To that end, committee chairs are updating and revising the terms of reference for their committees and establishing the committee memberships.

The exploration of alternative sources of funding and the development of financial policies, procedures and reporting practices to support operations is another initiative currently underway. Presently CURAC relies totally on membership fees and whatever profit ensues from the annual conference. The current fiscal resources are insufficient to do much more than maintain the status quo. Our finance committee is investigating creative means of augmenting our financial base. With increased resources, financial support for various new initiatives can be considered.

Although the objectives outlined above will certainly influence my game plan, nevertheless, I welcome your input and encourage all of you to share your thoughts with me. Feedback from our member associations is crucial to maintaining a strong and relevant national organization of retirees from academic institutions. So, I look forward to working with all the member associations over the next two years. Please do not hesitate to contact me at spyke@yorku.ca - I am eager to participate in an ongoing dialogue.

Very best wishes for a successful year,

Sincerely,

Sandra W. Pyke
CURAC President

**THE
2013 CURAC
CONFERENCE
by
Marianne Walters
(McMaster)**

The 2013 CURAC Conference was held June 11-14 in St. John's, Newfoundland. The organizers did a wonderful job of introducing us to the Newfoundland culture, and of making us comfortable even though the temperature fell to 4 degrees, with rain and wind making it feel appreciably colder. Underground tunnels connect all the Memorial University buildings where the meetings, lunches and the banquet were held, thus making movement from one location to another very easy.

Memorial University of Newfoundland was established in 1925 as a memorial to the 739 from a total of 825 members of the Newfoundland Regiment who died in World War I on the morning of July 1, 1916, during the Battle of the Somme. The university came into being largely because of the efforts of the mothers of those who died, and the tragic loss of so many young lives so quickly explains why July 1st in Newfoundland is observed as Commemoration Day, along with Canada Day.

Day One

The sessions the first morning of the conference included delightful story telling by the well-known actor and writer, Andy Jones, and a presentation by Greg Malone, actor, impersonator and writer, who presented a controversial view of how Newfoundland became part of Canada, which prompted a very spirited discussion.

We learned about the development of the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre on Aging, and about the disturbing increase of elder abuse in nursing homes. The speaker pointed out that the worst abuse occurs in cases of individuals with dementia who have no family member involvement in their care. He stressed the need to train caregivers to make appropriate behavioural responses rather than increase the use of drugs.

Day Two

The second day began with a presentation on the past, present and future of CURAC. While discussions about a national organization had begun in 1994, the founding meeting did not happen until 2003. During the 1990's, university and college staff/faculty started retiring in large numbers, and this combined with the fact that we are living longer has led to the realization that there is a substantial third period of life for many of us. In the same session the future of CURAC was considered. Responses to a survey in May 2013 revealed that fewer retirees wish to belong to retiree associations, and many had had enough of organizational/committee work; more were becoming involved in volunteer work in the community. While health and financial concerns continue to top the list for retirees, resources are now available from other sources. As in previous CURAC conferences, the questions of sustainability, mandate, and available resources were raised and need to be addressed.

Another session considered the experiences of the regional CURAC conferences, including their value and how they might be improved. Ontario held its first regional conference last fall and there have been six regional conferences in the Maritimes.

**Best
Practices**

The yearly session of sharing "Best Practices" included an interesting report from Barbara Cox, president of Memorial University Pensioners Association. She described a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University and the pensioners association whereby the association became a recognized part of the University. The retirees enjoy a "home" department within Human Resources (HR) and have regular meetings with HR and senior university administrators. Others attending the conference reported working out similar MOUs; they feel these agreements offer assistance to retirees when the employees they had known in positions of importance change jobs, and it also encourages closer affiliation with their universities. An MOU is a direction that other associations could profitably pursue.

**Note from
Doug Creelman
(Toronto)**

Several people at the St. John's conference asked to see the detailed responses to the survey that was reported there. The complete set of responses is now available on the CURAC/ARUCC website at www.curac.ca. The link to the document is under the heading of "News."

CURAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

by

Ed Williams (Memorial)

Directors

and

Officers

elected 2013

The CURAC annual general meeting took place during the afternoon of Day Two of the conference in St. John's. Twenty-seven voting members (delegates or alternate delegates) were present, together with a number of observers. The meeting received reports from the President, Secretary, and Treasurer as well as from the Standing and Ad Hoc committee chairs. The budget for 2013-14 and the revised operating By-Law No. 1 (a lengthy revision made necessary by the new Federal Not-For-Profit Corporations Act) were passed. (The draft of the 2013 AGM minutes is available at http://www.curac.ca/?page_id=1862)

The following were elected to serve on the CURAC/ARUCC Board of Directors for the two-year period 2013-15:

Sandra Pyke	York University Retirees Association	President
Kenneth Craig *	UBC Association of Professors Emeriti	Vice-President
George Brandie	Retirees Association of Queen's	Director
Bryan Harvey *	Univ. of Saskatchewan Retirees' Assn.	Director
Linda Kealey *	UNB Retired Employees' Association	Director
Geraldine Thomas *	St. Mary's University RA	Director

(*Photos and short bios on page 5)

These newly elected members join incumbent Board members who were elected at the 2012 Annual General Meeting for the two-year period 2012-14:

June Panteluk	U. of Alberta Assn. of Professors Emeriti	Treasurer
Edgar Williams	Memorial University Pensioners Association	Secretary
Joan Cunningham Kohur	Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association	Director
Gowrisankaran	Retiree Section of the McGill MAUT	Director
Patti Stoll	Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association	Director

Directors

and

Officers

elected 2012

The 2013 AGM marked the completion of the terms of office of the following directors who have served with distinction and whose service was recognized at the Conference Banquet:

Retiring

Directors

and

Officers



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Left to right:

Jack Boan	University of Regina Academic and Administrative PA	Director
John Stager	UBC Association of Professors Emeriti	Director
John Meyer	University of Windsor Retirees' Association	Past President
Paul Huber	Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners	Director

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Not in photo:

Bob Lucas	Memorial University Pensioners Association	Director
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Newly minted President Sandra Pyke recognized the enormous contributions of these members and extended a sincere thank you to the retiring directors on behalf of CURAC/ARUCC and its member organizations.

The following appointments have been made to the CURAC committees:

Standing Committees

Committees and Chairs 2013-14	Awards	TBA	Health Care Policy	Linda Kealey
	Archives	TBA	Membership	Ken Craig
	Benefits	Patti Stoll	Nominating	George Brandie
	Board Conference	Geraldine Thomas	Pensions	Paul Huber
	Communications	Bryan Harvey	Professional Support	Peter Russell
	Bulletin	Bryan Harvey		
	Newsletter	Joan Cunnington	Ad Hoc Committees	
	Translation	Kohur Gowrisankaran	Constitution	George Brandie
	Website Manager	George Brandie	Local Conference	Mary Johnston
	Finance	June Panteluk Kohur Gowrisankaran	Strategic Plan	Sandra Pyke

**VISIT TO
SHIP
HARBOUR
AND
PLACENTIA
BAY
by Joan
Cunnington
(OCRA - Seneca)**

The post-conference trip to the Atlantic Charter National Historic Site was organized and led by Peter Russell. For some of us, this trip brought back memories of the sinister days of World War II when Great Britain and the Empire stood alone against the threat of the Nazi juggernaut; for others, the value of preserving such sites for future generations was clearly demonstrated. While our small bus travelled along the Trans Canada Highway towards Ship Harbour and Placentia Bay, Peter provided commentary about the events which had happened there in 1941 and their importance.*

On August 9, 1941, in great secrecy and accompanied by flotillas of warships, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt met on board the USS *Augusta* in Placentia Bay. Over the next few days, they produced a declaration which provided a “broad general statement of war and post-war aims.... and principles” to guide policy during the war and afterwards. This declaration is known as the Atlantic Charter, and it became the foundation of the United Nations Charter.



When we reached the point of land where Parks Canada has erected plaques and flagpoles to commemorate the event, the sombre atmosphere of the place (rain was in the forecast) made it easy to imagine this isolated bay bustling with the activities of two flotillas of ships of various sizes during the Charter meetings.

View of Placentia Bay from the Atlantic Charter Historic Site near Ship Harbour

Imagination became reality at our next stop, the Atlantic Charter Museum in Ship Harbour, the village near the Charter historical site. The displays of the many photographs and newspaper clippings make interesting and perhaps even nostalgic reading. Pride of place in the museum goes to the wardroom table from USS *Augusta*, of particular importance because all the meetings between Churchill and Roosevelt were held in the *Augusta's* wardroom. After a difficult search, the museum’s director was able to acquire the table from a warehouse in New Jersey after the ship was decommissioned.

By the time we reached Philip’s Café in the village of Placentia Bay, everyone was more than ready to enjoy one (or more) of the delicious offerings on the menu, and what an outstanding lunch it was! A visit to the nearby Castle Hill National Historic Site followed, but there, unfortunately, the weather forecast turned out to be accurate, thus bringing the post-conference trip to its conclusion. Many thanks to Peter for organizing this most interesting outing.

(*Full details can be found in the booklet “The First Summit and the Atlantic Charter” which is sold to raise funds for the museum in Ship Harbour - contact Peter Russell at pbruss@aol.com for details)

THE NEW CURAC DIRECTORS



Kenneth Craig (Emeritus, 2003). Ken was first appointed in Psychology at UBC in 1963. Presently he is a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the UBC Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. He has been past president of the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti, and of the Canadian Psychological Association and the Canadian Pain Society. Numerous awards include the Canada Council I.W. Killam Fellowship and status as a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Senior Investigator.

He continues to be an active researcher pursuing psychosocial features of pain and suffering, focusing upon children and people with cognitive impairments, and is funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the US National Institutes of Health. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Pain Research & Management*, the official journal of the Canadian Pain Society.

Dr. Linda Kealey is a graduate of the University of Toronto (Ph.D., History). She taught at Memorial University of Newfoundland from 1980 to 2002 before moving to the Department of History at the University of New Brunswick eleven years ago. Her areas of study and research include women's history, women's studies, social history and labour history focused largely on Canada. For the last decade, her research has centred on the history of health care, medicine and nursing. Before retiring in 2012, she served as the Academic Convenor of Congress 2011, the annual meeting of the Humanities and Social Sciences. She received the University of New Brunswick President's medal in 2012 and currently serves on the board of the Atlantic Canada Studies Centre at UNB as well as the UNB Retired Employees' Association.



Geraldine Thomas is a long-time (1969-2007) faculty member at Saint Mary's University, Halifax, in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics where she taught Classics courses including Greek and Roman History, Latin, the History of Ancient Art, and Women in Antiquity.

She has published in Classics and on the Greek community in the Maritime Provinces. For several years she was Chair of the Department at Saint Mary's and later the first Associate Dean of Arts. She has won various teaching awards including an Atlantic Regional Award for Instructional Leadership as well as a National 3M Award for Teaching. She is the President of the Saint Mary's University Retirees' Association and was recently elected to the CURAC Executive and she is now Chair of the Board's Conference Committee.



Bryan Harvey, O.C., S.O.M., F.A.I.C., Ph.D., P.Ag., is an internationally recognized scholar, teacher, administrator and public servant. He is the breeder or co-breeder of over 60 varieties of barley, and the author of over 150 scientific and technical publications. His varieties made Canada a major player in world trade of malt and malting barley. He has trained a number of graduate students and developed an accreditation program for Agrology programs. At various times he has held the positions of Department Head, Associate Dean, Coordinator of Agricultural Research, Director Crop Development Centre, Vice President Research. Bryan has served on numerous boards and executives in Canada and abroad and conducted numerous program reviews in Canada and abroad. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, recipient of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Achievement, and holds numerous fellowships and recognition awards.



Looking Ahead
to 2014!

**CURAC/ARUCC
CONFERENCE
and AGM 2014
May 28 – 30, 2014**

McMaster

University

Hamilton

Ontario

by

**Helen Barton
(McMaster)**

University Hall,
McMaster
University Campus

The 2014 Conference and Annual General Meeting is being hosted by the McMaster University Retirees Association (MURA), with support from the Retirees Association of Mohawk College (RAMC).

Conference sessions will be held on the McMaster University campus, with accommodation available in a student residence on campus and at a hotel in downtown Hamilton, approximately 4 km from campus. Transportation will be provided between sites.

The Local Organizing Committee, co-chaired by Mary Johnston and Helen Barton, has planning well underway for what MURA hopes will be an interesting and memorable event.

“**Innovation: The Future of Aging**” will be the conference theme. Sessions will focus on innovations to keep older adults healthy and active for as long as possible. The program will also include a ‘Best Practices’ session and other opportunities for information exchange between retiree associations. Please contact Mary Johnston johnston@mcmaster.ca with topic suggestions and presentation offers for CURAC Best Practices.

Information about the conference program, registration, accommodation, travel and activities will be available at the conference website:
<http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/curac2014.html>

The retirees of McMaster and Mohawk invite you to come to Hamilton for CURAC 2014, and we hope you will plan extra time to enjoy some of the area’s many attractions, such as the [Royal Botanical Gardens](#), the [Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum](#), and [Dundurn Castle](#).

For further information, please contact curac2014@mcmaster.ca or call the MURA office at 905-525-9140, extension 23171. Please leave a message so that Mary or Helen will return your call.



**Reminder for
associations and
delegates
to the 2013
St. John’s
Conference**

Many informative, interesting sessions were given at the conference in St. John’s. All the presenters have given permission for their slides to be made available on the website of the Memorial University Pensioners Association website for access and sharing with associations and individuals. Please click on www.mun.ca/munpa/curac2013 then choose the session/s in which you are interested.

**PROPOSED
INTER-
NATIONAL
POST-
SECONDARY
RETIREE
NETWORK**

By

**Ken Rea
(Toronto)**

Over the past several months the Communications group at Senior College, University of Toronto, has been exploring the possibility of developing an international network to link post-secondary retirees around the world. The thought is that if the exchange of information about pensions, benefits, relations with not-yet-retired colleagues and institutional administrators regionally and nationally has been productive (and most of us think it has been), similar exchanges beyond national borders might be worth facilitating.

Our investigations to date suggest that contacting post-secondary retirees in countries where institutional cultures and organizational structures have supported the creation of formal bodies should be fairly simple, as is the case in North America. During the past decade, many college and university retiree groups have been established, and national umbrella organizations like CURAC and AROHE have evolved to promote interaction among them. But we also find that elsewhere it will be necessary to find other means of establishing contact and developing new nodes on the network.

Because of the scale of such an undertaking, a proposal was put before the CURAC Board at its August 2013 teleconference to establish a small working group within CURAC. This group would determine if there was enough interest on part of CURAC members to support the development of a broad-ranging effort to make individual contact with post-secondary retirees in other countries, utilizing the personal and professional contacts CURAC members might have with colleagues abroad. Any CURAC members interested in participating in such a project should contact Ken Rea (reak@chass.utoronto.ca). To review some of the preliminary material accumulated to date, please visit <http://psretiree.blogspot.ca/> which is set up as a multi-author blog. If you have any relevant material to add to this site or comments you would like to post there, please contact Ken who can issue the necessary permissions.



**REPORT
FROM THE
HEALTH CARE
POLICY
COMMITTEE**

by

**Linda Kealey
Chair**

The general meeting of the Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association (OCRA) will be held at St. Lawrence College in Kingston on October 24, 2013. The meeting begins at 10:00 am with registration and coffee. Activities include updates from the CAAT Pension Plan and from the College Employer Council which is the policy holder for the colleges' Sun Life retiree benefit plans. Reports from the association's officers will be presented, and there will be an election of directors. The keynote speaker this year is "Sir John A. MacDonald" - retired teacher Brian Porter's passion for history has resulted in hundreds of his appearances as the first Prime Minister of Canada. College retirees who live in the eastern part of the Province will be able to take advantage of this unique opportunity to attend the OCRA general meeting without having to make the long trek to Toronto or the GTA. OCRA would like to express its appreciation to St. Lawrence College for hosting the meeting and for the provision of refreshments and parking. Full details are posted on the OCRA website at www.ocraretirees.ca

The Committee has been discussing our priority areas for action. We have decided to focus on:

1. Population aging and access to health care for seniors within a comprehensive health care plan that addresses needs that go beyond physician care and hospitals. (home care, lifestyle management, chronic illness are some examples)
2. Sustainability of health care funding: this includes pressuring the federal government to take leadership and continue funding support to the provinces as well as taking a hard look at how to accomplish sustainable funding in the long term.

The Health Care Policy Committee welcomes and encourages feedback from the membership. Emails can be sent to the chair, Dr. Linda Kealey (lkealey@unb.ca)

UNBREA

by

Linda Kealey



Changes in
some Pensions?

Pension
Coalition NB
established

UNBREA
maintains a
watching
brief

The University of New Brunswick Retired Employees' Association is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. At present it has about 300 members, both retired faculty and staff. Its mandate is to assist members with health and other benefits, provide a collective voice for members, liaise with the University and provide social contacts for members.

When Dr. John McLaughlin was President of the University of New Brunswick (2002-2009), a President's Standing Committee on Retired Faculty and Staff was established to address issues of concern to retirees. Meetings resulted in the creation of the "value pack," as it is known, which enhanced certain guaranteed benefits for members. All retirees retain their email addresses, receive the University's communications via the Internet, have access to a supplementary health plan and travel insurance and can avail themselves of reciprocal library privileges.

Membership in the UNBREA also gives retirees other benefits: access to tuition waivers for credit courses; discounts for non-credit courses; reduced rates for recreation facilities and parking; and retirees can apply for small research grants. Free computer training is also available, and retirees can buy meals at the dining hall at a significantly reduced flat rate. In terms of retiree benefits at Canadian universities, UNB's arrangement ranks among the best.

The current president of the UNBREA, Dr. Wolfgang Faig, recently reflected on the main issues of concern for the organization. *Pension changes top the list.* As explained in the article by UNBREA past president David Wiesel in the Spring 2013 issue of the CURAC Newsletter, staff pensions fall under the provincial plan while the faculty pension plan is jointly owned and managed by the university and the faculty association. Originally faculty pensions were part of the provincial system but in 1993, the government of Frank McKenna moved to separate faculty pensions from the provincial plan.

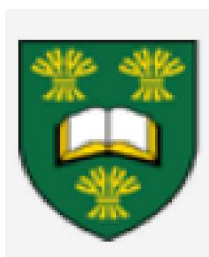
New Brunswick's recent move to a shared risk model thus affects all the staff at UNB and many faculty who accrued pension entitlement under the previous provincial plan. While a number of public sector unions have agreed to the shared risk model which makes indexing contingent on market conditions, a number of former public servants have objected strenuously to the change and have formed an organization known as the Pension Coalition NB. This organization, with government financial support, hired an independent actuary this summer to assess the assumptions and figures behind the province's move to a shared risk model. The first meetings of Pension Coalition NB were held this week with large turnouts; more public meetings are scheduled in all areas of the province within the next week. The Coalition is taking a poll at each meeting asking:

1. Should the Coalition continue to press the government to honour the existing pension plan or discuss with government the amended provisions of the proposed shared risk plan?
2. Should the Coalition pursue legal action if the government refuses to cooperate?

Results will be known sometime after the last meeting takes place on September 25.

While the UNBREA has sent a letter of protest to the government, as an organization it is not "on the barricades," according to Dr. Faig, but rather is keeping a close watch. The shared risk plan has been tentatively approved by the University of New Brunswick and the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT) to help rescue the co-owned plan from a significant deficit. As Dr. Faig observed, current retirees were not formally consulted on the changes to the faculty plan though several retirees were involved in the negotiations. The university has announced that a meeting will be called in September with retirees. The UNBREA will be paying close attention.

**UNIVERSITY
OF
SASKAT-
CHEWAN
RETIREEES'
ASSOCIATION
TODAY
by
Dale
Miquelon**



**THE
DUFF
SPAFFORD
AWARD
by
Dale
Miquelon**

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The USRA was founded at a time when changes in the U of S pension plan were perceived to threaten the well-being of retirees. That crisis passed long ago, and the USRA has become primarily a social club that links its members to one another and to the university. We have over 300 members. We have a two-fold challenge: The first is to schedule events that will attract as many members as possible and to persuade as many as possible to join our executive and participate in its work; and the second is to burnish our link with the university. We don't want to become a forgotten but not gone group of old timers.

We have a BBQ every spring and an AGM and banquet every fall, and this year it will be held on September 23. In addition our monthly lunches with speakers have a devoted following. But we will not pretend that a throng 300-strong attends our events!

Recently we have some bright new persons in administration who work hard to keep us in the university loop. They send mailings to prospective members on our behalf. They arrange that our president speaks at the annual retirement banquet (this year for the first time) and include our representative in convocation ceremonies.

One problem we are having is to receive new U of S cards that give access to services when our old pre-retirement cards are worn out or lost. Did you know that it takes a roomful of administrators and several months to rightly consider this request? We enjoy ourselves here in Saskatoon, but we run to stay in place.

Duff Spafford was for several years the link between the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association (USRA) and CURAC. Many people who read this will know him. A few months ago Duff had to retire from our executive as a result of a serious and debilitating illness. This led us to think about his long association with the University of Saskatchewan from student days to the present. We wanted to recognize him in some way, but his accomplishments were so particular that he did not fit the profile of the two awards we offer. Not only is Duff a scholar, not only is he a contributor to the University of Saskatchewan as an institution or to the University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association, but he is also, as we see him, a contributor to the whole university *community* in so many different ways. The result of our discussions has been the creation of a new award of which he is the first recipient:

The University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association Duff Spafford Award for Service to the University Community.

An edited version of the citation follows, written by Duff's longtime colleague and friend, John Courtney.

As a political scientist, Duff brought credit to the University from an international audience. The works for which he is best known include:

- His award-winning book (co-edited with Norman Ward), Politics in Saskatchewan;
- His empirically demonstrated link between the level of highway construction and the timing of provincial elections, published in the Canadian Journal of Political Science (a journal at which he later served with distinction as Assistant Editor);
- Duff's many contributions began with his outstanding editorship of The Sheaf (the University of Saskatchewan student newspaper) more than 50 years ago and concluded with his enthusiastic direction of a project unique among Canadian universities – the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Book Collection. This collection is housed in the

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Retirees' Lounge of the Peter MacKinnon Building, and it now includes hundreds of books written by University of Saskatchewan alumni.

- Perhaps most important was his widely acclaimed pair of articles on:
 - (a) the Canadian electoral system; and
 - (b) the “equilibrium division” of the vote.

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In those last two articles, published a year apart in the early 1970s in the American Political Science Review, Duff’s work drew on his training in economics by applying regression analysis to empirically-tested political questions This was relatively new for Canadian political scientists at the time.

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Duff has been extraordinarily generous to his alma mater. His love of anything Saskatchewan—from local ceramics to sheet music to circus posters—has led him to assemble valuable collections of folklore of his beloved province. He has donated many of these artifacts to the University Archives. Together with future generations, we are the beneficiaries of these unmatched gifts.

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The USRA is also mindful of Duff’s contributions to this organization as a longtime member of the Executive, recently as its treasurer, and as its link for several years with CURAC, the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada. As first recipient of this award, Duff Spafford has set the bar exceptionally high.

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Duff Spafford receives the inaugural Duff Spafford Award for Service to the University Community from Asai Sarkar, Chair of the USRA Awards Committee

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

**Assn. Of Professors Emeriti: University of Alberta
Alison Scott-Prelontzos**

Each year at the CURAC conference, delegates bring newsletters, brochures, fact sheets, and summaries about the activities of their local associations. Here is a selection of excerpts from the contributions at the conference in St. John’s.

In addition to regular social activities, such as monthly lunches, monthly afternoon meetings of interest groups, dining out and walking groups, and a small Chess Group, the Association has observer status at the meetings of the Council of the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (UA). Also a three-person ad hoc committee of APE members meets once a year to assess and rank applications for IODE National Doctoral Scholarships from students presently from or originally from Alberta.

**“Remembering
Memorial”**

**Roberta Buchanan
and
Stephen Riggins**

Retired professors, librarians, instructors, technical and administrative staff and their life partners are invited to contribute their personal memoirs to a book of reflections and experiences of life at Memorial University between approximately 1950 and 1990.

The editors, Roberta Buchanan, (Department of English), and Stephen Riggins, (Department of Sociology), think that “the uniqueness of Memorial University and its challenging early decades could result in our memoirs being a valuable supplement to the literature about academic life in Canada.” The following types of articles are solicited:

- Autobiographical memories of careers at Memorial;
- Articles about deceased faculty and staff;
- Interviews with faculty or staff who prefer not to write their own articles;
- Stories about institutions and events.

The book will be geared towards the general reader, especially alumni. The deadline for contributions was July 1, 2013.

Retirees’ Research Funding

“Dean John Craig has continued the funding of the Retirees Research in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Ten projects were funded for retired faculty in Archeology, English, Geography, History, Psychology, Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies. The competition has been opened again this year after an initial successful offering.

“For more detail about this newly established research funding for retirees, please refer to the Spring 2013 issue of “Simon Says,” available on the Simon Fraser website at:

<http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/Newsletters/2013/Newletter%20Spring%202013.pdf> ”

Follow-Up: A New Opportunity

“Following a discussion of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) by the Provost at a deans’ meeting, YURA was approached by the dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies about the possibility of retired faculty volunteers participating in a new workshop initiative on ‘Developing Conference Presentation Skills’ which is part of FGS’s Scholarly Communications series. In this workshop, graduate students present their research and faculty members are asked to critique their presentation techniques. The workshop took place and, based on its impact, FGS decided to make such workshops a regular part of their academic calendar and has asked that YURA continue its participation next year. We are happy to do so.

“In the meantime, we are actively looking for volunteer opportunities for YURA members within the Division of Advancement which encompasses Convocation, Alumni Affairs, and University Fund-Raising.”

This group offers social activities such as lunches at different local restaurants, and a large party in the late summer or early fall at a member’s country home or cottage. The group supports ongoing research of retired faculty by giving them the opportunity to present their work at meetings, and guest lecturers from inside and outside the membership are well received. While relations with the University are generally good, there is some frustration with the Faculty Union’s unwillingness to move on the extension of membership in the Health Benefits Plan to retirees.

**Simon Fraser
University Retirees
Association**

**Hiromi Matsui
Past President**

**York University
Retirees’
Association**

**John Lennox
Co-President**

**St. Mary’s
University
Retirees’
Association
Geraldine
Thomas, President**

**University of
New Brunswick
Retired
Employees'
Association
Wolfgang Faig
President**

**University of
British Columbia
Association of
Professors Emeriti
(UBCAPE)
Olav Slaymaker**

"UNBREA continues to enjoy excellent cooperation and support from the UNB Administration. As UNBREA President, I meet several times a year with the UNB President, who keeps reminding me that at UNB, retirees are considered an integral part of the institution.

"UNBREA has a seat on the university's fringe benefit committee, and is invited to make two presentations during the Retirement Information Session organized annually by the Human Resources Department, and also speaks to all new retirees during the Retirement Recognition Evening hosted by the VP (Academic).

"The most important link is the President's Committee on Retired Faculty and Staff, consisting of four members each from UNBREA and the UNB Senior Administration with the Chair alternating between the two groups. This committee successfully implemented the "Value Pack" (see UNBREA article on page 8).

"The committee also identified volunteer opportunities at UNB for retirees which were readily taken up, and also established research grants for UNBREA members, funded and administered by the VP (Research)."

Further to the UBCAPE article in the CURAC spring newsletter, there are new developments which include: UBCAPE now has a dedicated part-time administrator; new chapters are proposed in Vancouver Island, North Shore Vancouver, and the Okanagan Valley; connections have improved with senior and middle level Administrators within UBC and with St. John's College, Green College, and the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. Also a new vision has been agreed upon and the Constitution is being revised; the website is undergoing a radical improvement. The Association is pursuing representation on the Senate and on a wide range of university Committees. There is an increase in the number of special interest groups and activities; the New Scholarly Activities Committee is generating ideas for University-wide events, and varied and interesting presentations attract 80-100 members and guests. The quality of the newsletter has been improved and its circulation is increasing. And the Association continues to be committed to active membership in Tri-University Summit (UVICRA, SFURA, and UBCAPE).

Input from member associations for the newsletter is ALWAYS welcome! Please send your contributions to the Editor at toby339@sympatico.ca The next newsletter will be in January 2014.



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