The 35th President’s Reception for Retirees

The 35th President’s Reception for Retirees will be held on Saturday, April 12th, 2014, at 2:00pm in Marshall McLuhan Hall, 204 University Centre, The University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus. You are invited to hear our speaker, Dr. Michelle Porter, who is a Professor and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management at the University of Manitoba, speak on preliminary findings from the Candrive longitudinal study of older drivers.

Candrive is a longitudinal study of older drivers at seven different cities (Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, and Victoria). More than 900 older drivers (70 years and older) were enrolled starting in the summer of 2009. Every year, each participant is assessed for abilities related to driving, has their driving monitored by in-vehicle devices, and has collision/violation records collected from provincial licensing authorities. The main purpose of the study is to determine which tests could be used by family physicians to screen older adults in order to determine medical fitness to drive. In many Canadian provinces, including Manitoba, physicians are mandated by law to report medically unfit drivers of any age. However, many physicians are reluctant to do this and, in fact, there is no good evidence available to use individual tests that are currently promoted for the purpose of screening older drivers. Importantly, in Candrive, the selection of appropriate tests will be done to ensure that high numbers of older drivers will not be inappropriately deemed unfit to drive or be required to undergo stressful and expensive further assessments. The presentation will highlight research findings to date.

Dr. Michelle Porter

Dr. Porter received her undergraduate degree from Laurentian University, her Master’s from the University of Toronto, and her PhD in Kinesiology from the University of Western Ontario. She completed post-doctoral training at Tufts University and the New England Medical Center in Boston, as well as at Lund University in Sweden. Dr. Porter’s areas of research include age-related changes in the neuromuscular system, the effects of exercise training on physiology and function, and driving and aging. Since 1999, Dr. Porter has been conducting research in the area of older drivers. She developed an innovative method to assess driving in a quantitative fashion using a global positioning system (GPS) and video technology. This work led to several studies including: age group comparisons of driving performance and behaviours, driver education, functional performance related to driving, and also the interaction between road users and road design. Her research has been funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Manitoba Health Research Council, the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, AUTO21, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

The 2014 Fall President’s Reception will be held starting at 2:00pm on Sunday, October 19, 2014, in Marshall McLuhan Hall, Room 204 University Centre.
From the Editor

As the incoming editor, I want first to extend my thanks to Sheila Andrich for her five years of dedicated service as Editor of this Newsletter. I’m sure she is happy to be relieved of the responsibilities.

A newsletter is only as good as its members make it. The more feedback, information, and story ideas that you the readers can provide, the more valuable this Newsletter will be.

We all know that many retirees do not end their “working lives”. Some find new opportunities for service; some continue their research activities; others find meaningful fulfillment in travel or “hobbies”. I have initiated a new column called “Retired? Not Entirely!” It’s here that retirees can submit material or suggestions or contact information for future issues of this newsletter. I hope I get flooded with material so that the Newsletter is livelier, more informative and more participatory. In that way I can be a true editor – not sole writer or contributor. (Deadline for material is July 1, 2014)

Gene Walz, Professor of Film Studies (retired)

New UMRA President

After two years as Vice-President, Ed Unrau was elected the new President of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association at the October AGM. Ed spent 36 years with the university and was a member first of the public relations department, which evolved into the public affairs department and still later into university relations. He was editor of the Bulletin and then assistant director of the department. He looks forward to maintaining and enhancing the interests retirees have with the university at the AGM in October.

The UMRA AGM will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2014, from 12:30pm - 2pm in Room 543-544 University Centre.

UMREF
Recognizing Retirees’ Support of Students

Retirees of the University, both faculty and staff, have dedicated many years of their lives to educate and support students in achieving their educational goals. Following retirement, they continue their support in many ways, many through donations to a variety of student awards, scholarships, and bursaries.

The objective of the University of Manitoba Retirees Endowment Fund (UMREF) is to recognize the many financial contributions retirees have made and continue to make in support of students’ education. To this end, the UMREF website has been developed and can be accessed from the UMRA website (umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees). It provides information on the types of awards that may be considered, the kinds of donations that may be made, and a list of UMREF endowments with links to their respective terms of reference. This site is monitored by the UMREF Committee of UMRA.

In addition, the University of Manitoba Senate has approved a new general bursary known as the University of Manitoba Retirees Association Bursary. The terms of reference for this bursary are on the UMREF website. Donations made to this bursary by March 31, 2014, will be matched dollar for dollar up to $10,000 from the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursaries Initiative. Charitable receipts will be issued for donations of $10.00 or more.

Let’s make this bursary available as soon as possible. Send your donation to Donor Relations, University of Manitoba, 179 Extended Education Complex, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 or you may donate online at umanitoba.ca/giving. For more information or to make a donation by credit card, telephone 204-474-9195 or 1-800-330-8066.

If you have an existing named scholarship or bursary or wish to establish a new one, your donation may also be eligible for matching funds. For more information contact Beth Proven at 204-474-6246.
Retired? Not Entirely

What do historians do in retirement? It is a cliché to say that retirement is something like an extended sabbatical, but it certainly has allowed me to complete several projects. My “sabbatical” has allowed me to read fairly widely and generally and to review several books a year, mostly in Irish history. Through reading one or two books on the Second World War, I became intrigued by the descriptions of the outbreak of the war on 3 September 1939: the British and French ultimatum to withdraw German troops from Poland, the announcement that a state of war now existed, Winston S. Churchill’s entry into the government, and the sinking of the Athenia by a U-Boot. What was this Athenia? I found the only book about this ship was written over fifty years ago. Here was a passenger liner sailing to Montreal and sunk within hours of the declaration of war and the story of what happened to it seemed quite forgotten.

In 2006 I was giving a paper in Europe and I decided to stop over in London and have a look at the Admiralty records in The National Archives at Kew. I found a treasure trove of material on the Athenia—reports, memos, and correspondence. When I got home I ordered five reels of US State Department documents on the Athenia and telephoned the Library and Archives of Canada for their Athenia materials. Google put me onto many private collections of papers in archives, all of which began to expand the human interest element of the disaster. Here was the material for a book.

So what was the Athenia? This Scottish liner took on passengers in Glasgow, Belfast, and Liverpool and sailed on September 2nd, 1939. The ship had been at sea for over twenty-four hours before it was spotted by the German submarine U-30 in the early evening of the 3rd. The U-boat fired four torpedoes, one of which hit the ship at 7:40 pm and sent passengers and crew scrambling for the lifeboats. Miraculously, all of the lifeboats got away, but they were adrift at sea with night falling. Fortunately, several freighters, one private yacht, and three Royal Navy destroyers were able to get to the lifeboats. Although 112 people were lost, 1,306 were saved. One freighter took survivors to Galway in Ireland, the destroyers took people to Glasgow in Scotland, and another freighter took people straight across the Atlantic to Halifax.

As I got into my research I discovered that there were a number of Manitoba connections among the 469 Canadians on board. Three of the Molgat brothers and their father from Ste. Rose du Lac survived. Gildas (aka Gil) became the leader of the Liberal Party in Manitoba and a Senator, Dr. André a surgeon at St. Boniface Hospital, and Louis ran the family store. David Cass-Beggs, an electrical engineer, and his wife Barbara were separated from their infant daughter in the lifeboats. Three-year-old Rosemary was looked after by Mrs. Winifred Davidson of Winnipeg until they could be reunited. David Cass-Beggs became the head of Manitoba Hydro in the 1970s. The young actress Judith Evelyn (born Evelyn Morris), with recent degrees from the University of Manitoba, survived a dramatic lifeboat accident. She went on to have lead roles in many Broadway plays in the 1940s and as many as 115 TV series or dramas from 1946 to 1962, as well as movies such as Giant and The Egyptian. But she is perhaps best remembered today for her role as “Miss Lonelyhearts” in the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock film Rear Window.

About a year and a half ago the book came out in the United States and Britain—Athenia Torpedoed: The U-Boat Attack that Ignited the Battle of the Atlantic (Naval Institute Press, 2012).

So what will I do now that this project is finished? Why, more Irish history, of course.
Computer Problems at Home?

UMRA has arranged for a computer support service to be available to UMRA Members. This service is provided by graduate students in Computer Science and includes assistance with both hardware and software problems. The charge for service will depend upon the nature of the problem and the time involved in solving it. If you are a Member of UMRA you can request assistance by telephoning the UMRA office at 204-474-7175 or by sending an e-mail to retirees@ad.umanitoba.ca

Campus News

UM Today, Digitized Documents, Former Golf Course

The Bulletin, the newspaper for the University of Manitoba for over 70 years, has gone paperless. UM Today is an enhanced version of the former newspaper. It contains the usual news items and feature-length profiles and articles plus stories centered on a specific theme. It’s mobile-friendly and interactive, allowing readers to comment on contents and suggest ideas for future issues. You can find it at <news.umanitoba.ca>

More than 75,000 digitized documents – including issues of The Winnipeg Tribune, yearly copies of the Brown and Gold yearbook, and, soon, the entire collection of the venerable student newspaper The Manitoban are now available for anyone to access. Find what you want at: <digitalcollections.lib.umanitoba.ca>

After sifting through 45 entries from 17 countries, the university selected a proposal by a group led by Toronto landscape-architecture firm Janet Rosenberg & Studio to lead the redevelopment of the former Southwood golf course. The first-place winner is called Arpent, after the land division of long narrow river lots by early French settlers. The Rosenberg-led group, best-known in Winnipeg for winning a previous competition to redesign Portage & Main, also includes Toronto consulting firm Arup and Winnipeg firms Cibinel Architects and Landmark Planning & Design. To see images of the proposed redevelopment still at the conceptual stages, go to:

<http://news.umanitoba.ca/visionary-regeneration-winner-selected-by-jury/>

Moving? New address?

This is a reminder to all retirees to advise the Staff Benefits Office of any change in address or family status. If you currently receive monthly payments, such as a Post Retirement Adjustment payment from the University, or have Retiree Supplementary Health, Dental, or Optional Life Insurance benefits, please report changes to the Staff Benefits Office directly at 204-474-7428 or E-mail: SB-Webmaster@ms.umanitoba.ca

Contact information for UMRA
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Phone: (204)474-7175
E-mail: retirees@ad.umanitoba.ca
Website: http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees

Email contact to Retirees
UMRA is using e-mail to send reminders and notices of events of interest to retirees. To receive these, retirees should forward their e-mail address to retirees@ad.umanitoba.ca
Email address changes may be sent to retirees@ad.umanitoba.ca