

Retirees'

Volume Twenty-seven, Issue One
Fall, 2023

News

51st President's Reception for Retirees

The next University of Manitoba President's Reception for members of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA) is set for Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 2:00 pm in McLuhan Hall in UMSU on the Fort Garry campus.

This year is UMRA's 20th anniversary; accordingly, the reception will include some special activities to celebrate this milestone including a gift for everyone in attendance.

The featured speaker at the reception will be former UM president Dr. Emőke Szathmáry. It was during her tenure as the 10th President of the University (1996 – 2008), that UMRA was approved by the administration as being the official body to represent the University of Manitoba retirees. Dr. Szathmáry's topic is "UMRA then and now: What a difference 20 - 26 years makes."

Emőke J. E. Szathmáry, CM, OM, BA (Hon), PhD, FRSC, is President Emeritus of the University of Manitoba. A biological anthropologist, her research focused on the causes of type-2

diabetes in Indigenous North Americans, the genetic relationships within and between North American and Siberian peoples, and the microevolution of subarctic populations. She has published over ninety scientific studies and reviews, coedited four books, and continues to write in retirement.

Szathmáry has received seven honorary doctorates and is a Member of the Order of Canada and of the Order of Manitoba. In 2005 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 2021 she was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit.

If you are planning on attending this fall's reception and celebration of UMRA's 20th Anniversary, you are asked to



Emőke Szathmáry

RSVP to Lynn Bohonos, Learning and Organizational Development, by Friday September 15, 2023. Just send her an email at: lynn.bohonos@umanitoba.ca.

NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association will be held on Saturday September 30, 2023 from NOON until 1:30 pm (or so) in Marshall McLuhan Hall, Fort Garry Campus, University of Manitoba prior to the President's Reception. All Members are invited to attend.

UMRA President's Message

This year is the 20th anniversary of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA), and I am very pleased to announce that we are planning to celebrate this milestone at the Fall President's Reception.

It is a golden opportunity to reflect on the years that have passed and to look ahead to the future. In looking back, I am grateful to Dr. John Mundie, UMRA's first president, who prepared a report in January 2006 entitled "History of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association." What follows is a summary of that report.

In 1996 Dr. Mundie was asked to be the retirees' representative on the upcoming University of Manitoba United Way Campaign. To help him fulfill this responsibility, he got together several other retired persons, i.e., Dr. Helen Glass, Dr. Bob Hudson, John Markham, Ms. Vera Moroz, Dr. John Steele, Dr. Steve Stothers and Ms. Edith Williams. This group took on the name Retirees' Committee, and in addition to helping with the United Way Campaign, they discussed what other things might be done to maintain the interest of retirees in the University.

Dr. Emőke Szathmary who became the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University in July 1996 was supportive of bringing retirees into closer contact with one another and the University. To this end, the Retirees' Committee suggested that a reception be held and that Dr. Szathmary host the reception. The first reception was held on Saturday February 1, 1997 with Dr. Szathmary as the keynote speaker; 125 retirees were in attendance.

Some of the accomplishments of the Retirees' Committee included the publishing of the first edition of the Retirees' News. Julie Mikuska, Assistant to the Executive Director

of Public Affairs, with the help of Dr. Mundie, published the first edition in June 1997. The response to that first publication encouraged the Retirees' Committee to continue publishing the News twice a year.

In addition, the Retirees Committee was given the authority by the Board of Governors to name a retiree to sit on the Staff Benefits Committee which reviews the Supplementary Health and Dental Benefits. In 1998, Dr. Nora Losey formed a subgroup of the Retirees Committee to look at the benefits programs from the perspective of retirees and to make recommendations for changes through a retiree representative on the Staff Benefits Committee and the Pensions Committee and to monitor how the programs are being administered.

In May 2002, nineteen university retiree associations from across Canada met in Toronto to discuss the formation of a national association. There it was agreed that to become a member of the national association, a retiree association had to be formally established and recognized by its university.

Dr. Mundie and other representatives of the UM Retirees' Committee met with Mr. Terry Voss, Executive Director of Human Resources to discuss formalizing the relationship with the University. On May 14, 2003, Mr. Voss wrote to the Retirees' Committee, confirming 'that the University accepted the University of Manitoba Retirees Association as the body authorized to represent all retirees of the University of Manitoba. Liaison with the University would be through the Executive Director of Human Resources'. Thus the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA) was formally established.

In May 26, 2003, the national association was formed and was



Janet Sealey, UMRA President

named the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC). UMRA became a founding member of CURAC, and John Mundie and Nora Losey attended the inaugural meeting of CURAC on behalf of UMRA.

Today, UMRA continues to hold a President's reception semi-annually, and an informative newsletter is sent to all retirees twice a year. Over the last couple of years, the UMRA committees have worked hard to raise the profile of the association through events, increased funding for students' awards and scholarships and meetings with the university administration on improving the retirees' benefits. And the UMRA Executive recently approved a new By-law to recognize volunteers for their years of service to the association plus a merit-based award for outstanding contributions to UMRA. These awards are retroactive and will be presented for the first time at the Fall President's Reception.

I hope to see you at the Fall President's reception to help us celebrate UMRA's 20th anniversary and to show your appreciation to the many volunteers who were the UMRA pioneers and to those volunteers who today continue to work hard to represent the interests of retirees.

Janet Sealey, UMRA President

Note: Dr. Mundie's full report can be found on the UMRA website at https://umanitoba.ca/um-retirees-association/sites/um-retirees-association/files/2022-11/UMRA%20history_1.pdf

From the Editor



Gene Walz

The Scourge of Poorly-trained Help

Airports, especially large ones like Toronto's Pearson and Montreal's Trudeau, can be intimidating, bewildering places. International airports like those in Denver, Frankfurt, or De Gaulle in Paris can be downright paralyzing.

With two very arthritic knees and a left leg not fully recovered from a stroke, I occasionally make use of Disability Services at airports – especially at those airports where long distances and awkward flights of stairs are involved. Ideally these services should help passengers negotiate their way through the often mazelike spaces and the crowds of cellphone-gazing, self-absorbed masses. You are put in a wheelchair and pushed by an attendant through Security and right up to the Gate you're departing from. Then you're given first or third priority to get to your seat. Overall, I've had success with Disability Services, but sometimes they don't run as efficiently as they should.

My worst experience occurred in Montreal when I was ushered

into a holding area opposite the Disability Services desk adjacent to the check-in desks where I had registered over two hours early for my flight. They were busy at first but not overly so; I could watch them from my wheelchair.

After an hour I grew restive and, with some difficulty, wheeled myself over to the desk. I was told that I was not to worry. An hour later I struggled back to the desk and informed them I'd been waiting for almost two hours. "No, you haven't," I was told. Stunned, I switched to someone else. She informed me that they were "terribly busy." I begged to differ as I'd watched the attendants talking casually most of the evening, including the past twenty minutes or so when I'd tried unsuccessfully to get their attention. It was clear that they'd simply forgotten about me.

With less than ten minutes until boarding ended for my flight, I was finally led to the front of the security lines, hurried through, pushed at a runner's pace to my gate, and allowed to board just before the gate closed. Everyone else was on board, and, of course, there was no room for my carry-on luggage.

On my flight from Toronto to Windsor early this summer, I was quickly and painlessly navigated to the tarmac-level gate. Another person was already in the handicapped area, two seats away; three employees talked with each other

at the desk. Soon a black woman in African garb was wheel-chaired in and deposited next to me. The attendant confronted me and told me: "Make sure she gets on the plane to Windsor!" I replied that she should tell the staff at the desk, but she disappeared before I got half that sentence out.

As it turns out, the woman had a Nigerian passport and, more problematically, could not hear or speak words. When we showed her our boarding passes, she could not comprehend what they were and couldn't find hers. (We found it under my seat just before boarding.)

The usual practice for boarding is for gate staff to approach the people in the handicapped seats to inform them about boarding procedures:

"Sometimes Airport Disability Services don't run as efficiently as the should."

it usually occurs before everyone else or after people with priority tickets. This didn't happen.

As I boarded after everyone else, I told one of the gate attendants to make sure the Nigerian woman got on the plane, explaining the circumstances.

Once seated on the plane, I waited. No Nigerian lady. After five long minutes or so, I saw her being wheeled across the tarmac to the plane's steps. But she wouldn't or couldn't get out of the wheelchair. The other disabled woman got up and limped down the stairs to help. Eventually, they both entered the plane, but the

Nigerian woman, her eyes wild, refused to leave the entrance and proceed to her seat. I too tried to help – to no avail. Eventually, after a brief stand-off, she was helped back down the stairway and wheeled away. I hope she found more sympathetic attendants in the terminal than before.

As I arrived in Toronto, I learned that my next flight to Winnipeg was cancelled at the very last minute, and after a long wait I was issued a couple of vouchers for meals (\$15.00 for dinner in Toronto!!) and a room at a Four Points hotel. An attendant wheeled me outside, luggage between my knees, and left me to wait for the hotel shuttle at pillar S1. After a half-hour wait, I got on the Four Points shuttle. Who knew there are several Four Points hotels each with different shuttles near the Toronto airport?! I got the wrong one. Luckily, the driver agreed to take me back to the terminal's correct pillar – S6 -- after his run. There I sat for another 45 minutes. I finally arrived at the correct hotel after midnight. No food available there or nearby; very early plane the next morning. Arrrrgh!

In the morning I was paired with a nine-year-old boy travelling on his own to PEI. (Disability Services in many places also provides attendants for underage passengers to get them safely to their seats.) As he said Good-bye to his father, he burst into tears. Away from the father, the attendant



called him a “Cry baby” and ordered him to stop crying. She then tried to get me on the same plane to PEI with the boy even after I told her I was going to Winnipeg. Flustered, she put me on a golf cart to get me to my intended gate. I made it just in time.

My stories, I suppose or, better, I hope, are uncommon. It's clear that airports and airline companies have not yet fully recovered from the COVID plague that, they say, forced them to let many employees go. They are scrambling to replace them and need to train all

their staff better. It's also clear that I need to be more politely insistent in getting my needs met when I require assistance. You need to be too.

Happy Contrails to you! (with apologies to Roy Rogers).

*Gene Walz (retired, but not entirely)
Senior Scholar,
Department of English, Theatre,
Film, and Media*

To access past issues of the UMRA Newsletter:
Go to UM Retirees Association on the web, Click on Events and opportunities, Scroll down to Newsletters, Click on the issue you desire.

A New Book by Myroslav Shkandrij

In the Maelstrom: The Waffen-SS 'Galicia' Division and its Legacy

An estimated 25,000 Ukrainians served in the 14th Waffen-SS, a German division known during the Second World War as the “Galician” Division. Many Canadians first heard of this formation in the 1980s, when some media outlets began describing veterans of the force as mass murderers and war criminals who apparently met in secret covens to plot a fascist takeover of Ukraine. A number of newspaper accounts at the time described the Division as a monolith, ignored differences within the Ukrainian diaspora community toward the force, and showed no interest in what the veterans had experienced. Instead, the coverage revelled in a nightmarish image of monsters “living next door.” *In the Maelstrom: The Waffen-SS 'Galicia' Division and its Legacy* emerged from a desire to examine the facts and present a more accurate and realistic picture.

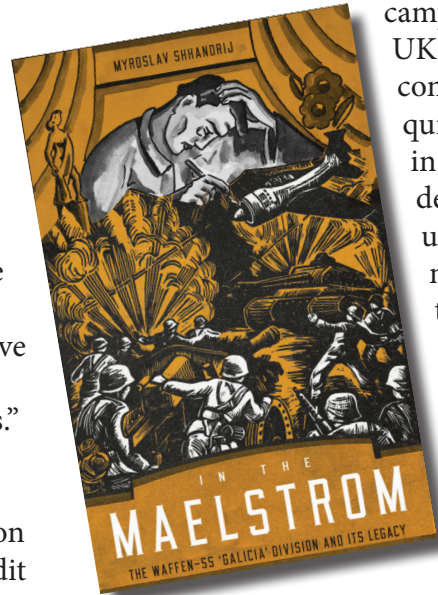
The Division remained a contentious topic for several decades; it is probably the only formation in the German army that has elicited so much contradictory commentary for so long. Debates have taken place over what motivated individuals to join the force, whether any of them committed war crimes or participated in the Holocaust, and why the men were released from British POW camps in 1949. These polemics were embedded in different historical contexts: the anti-Soviet guerrilla war of 1944-45, the Cold War, Russian colonialism, Ukraine’s national liberation struggle, the role of diaspora groups, and developments after Ukrainian independence in 1991.

The conflict comes down to this: “Victims of German aggression have naturally seen the force as complicit in Nazi criminality, specifically in the victimization of Jewish and Polish civilians, while the counter-perspective has cast the soldiers as patriots and pragmatists who grasped arms from the Germans because they wanted to fight Stalin. Both views have sometimes calcified into tropes or memes.”

Today Putin’s propagandists reference the “Galician” Division in attempts to discredit Ukraine’s military resistance to the Russian invasion by drawing strained parallels to the Second World War. In fact, a million and a half former citizens of the Soviet Union, most of them Russians, wore German uniforms – a fact that has almost never been discussed in Russia, either before or after the Soviet Union collapsed. *In the Maelstrom* supplies this wider context and looks at the way the competing perspectives have been generated.

Individuals found themselves in the force for various reasons, and after the war they had many illuminating stories to tell. Memoirs and documentation in the archives of several countries contain interrogation records and interviews. The book uses them to explain why individuals entered the force, what options the political situation gave them, and how they made their choices.

This is the first comprehensive study that covers not only the Division’s wartime experience but also its postwar fate. It describes life in prisoner of war camps in Italy and the UK during the 1940s, commissions of inquiry into war crimes in the 1980s, recent debates over monuments and commemorations, and the different ways in which researchers and political commentators have approached the subject. It also introduces readers to many personal experiences that have deserved to be better known.



In the Maelstrom: The Waffen-SS 'Galicia' Division and its Legacy is published by McGill-Queens University Press.

Myroslav Shkandrij is Professor Emeritus of the University of Manitoba and a former head of the Department of German and Slavic Studies. His research covers aspects of modern Ukrainian and Russian cultural history, including the avant-garde, Soviet literary politics, nationalism, imperialism and contemporary debates around decolonization. He is the author of seven scholarly books from such prestigious publishers as Yale University and McGill-Queens University Presses. His articles have appeared in Canadian Slavonic Papers, Nationalities Papers, Nationalism and Ethnic Politics, Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society, Kyiv-Mohyla Humanities Journal and other periodicals. He is also the curator of several art exhibitions.

Retired? Not Entirely! Focusing on Ukraine

By Myroslav Shkandrij

Since he retired from the German and Slavic Studies Department in 2019, Professor Emeritus Myroslav Shkandrij has been teaching during the fall term at Columbia University -- one course on Ukraine in WW2 and another on Ukraine and Empire.

In addition to *In the Maelstrom* he has also released three other books: *Revolutionary Ukraine, 1917-2017: Flashpoints in History and Contemporary Memory Wars*. New York: Routledge, 2020; *Avant-garde Art in Ukraine: Contested Memory, 1910-1930*. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2019; and *Ukrainian Nationalism: Politics, Ideology and Literature, 1929-1956*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.

Who better to feature in this column?!

The interview that follows is the result of a series of questions and answers exchanged with Professor Shkandrij by email during this past summer.

UMRA: You've published four different books in the past eight years. That's quite an impressive accomplishment!

Myroslav: The books came about because I was able to free up some time and could devote myself to projects that I had been thinking about and working towards. The invasion of Ukraine in 2014 and again in 2022 provided additional incentives.

UMRA: When did you start researching and writing *In the Maelstrom*?

Myroslav: I researched the book for about six years in several ar-

chives in the US, Canada, Ukraine, Germany, and the UK.

UMRA: How did you go about finding memoirs and other kinds of documentation of the Galician Division?

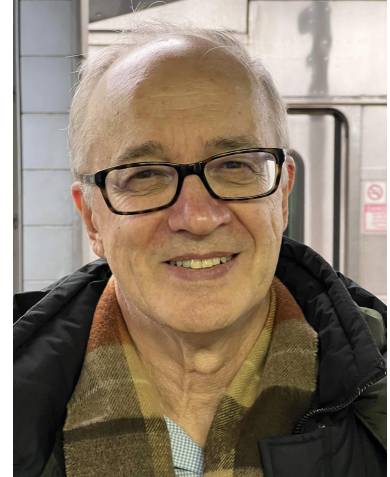
Myroslav: The memoirs are published or in journals. There are also 120 recorded interviews with members of the Division housed in the Ukrainian Research and Documentation Centre in Toronto.

UMRA: Did you get to interview any Division members personally?

Myroslav: I had met members from the Division in both the UK and Canada, but by the time I decided to write the book most had died. I realized, however, that they had given many oral interviews and published memoirs; so I was able to use these. I also used the interrogation records in the former KGB archives, which recorded the sentencing of about 200 men captured in the Ternopil area shortly after the Division was crushed in its first encounter with the Red Army in July 1944.

UMRA: Are there any personal experiences that stand out particularly?

Myroslav: A couple of chapters deal with remarkable experiences and biographies of individuals. Some men were captured by Soviet troops during battles and, although sentenced to be shot by NKVD men [ed: NKVD, now the KGB, was The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, i.e., the interior ministry of the Soviet Union], they were allowed to escape by Ukrainian front-line



Myroslav Shkandrij

soldiers. Other captured men were sentenced to hard labour but either escaped or were released as part of the postwar exchange of populations between Poland and the Soviet Union. One group escaped from the Germans and joined the French Resistance. It was not unusual for some men to have served consecutively in different armies: the Polish, German, Soviet armies, and after the war in the French or US forces.

In all cases the personal histories make fascinating reading. Each individual's experience was unique, and many recorded their journeys in interviews or written memoirs. Particularly poignant is the fate of young boys and girls who were recruited or conscripted to serve in the German anti-aircraft forces. They were teenagers, some as young as thirteen, and were termed the Youth SS or the Galicia Division's youth. They were, of course, neither, and in many cases were forcibly sent to Germany. Their story has seldom been told.

UMRA: Have any authorities or groups tried to interfere with your work?

continued on page 7

UMRA's Initiatives Secure Long-Term Funding for the Retirement Planning Workshops at the U of M

In fall, 2016, the UMRA Executive Committee created a subcommittee to examine retirement planning services at the U of M and to recommend ways in which those services could be improved. The subcommittee consisted of Jay Goldstein and Janet Sealey.

The subcommittee solicited feedback about how the University can best assist staff to plan for retirement from current retirees and from active members of AESES and UMFA, the two largest campus unions. In addition, the subcommittee sought to identify best practices by reviewing the planning services provided by the U15 group of Canadian research universities, and major employers in Manitoba such as Hydro, MTS and the City of Winnipeg. In November, 2016, the subcommittee issued its report, copies of which were distributed to AESES, UMFA, and the University.

Subsequent discussions between AESES and the administration resulted in the administration agreeing that improvements in the retirement planning services at the U of M were needed.

The university administration struck a Retirement Planning Workshop Group (RPWG) consisting of representatives from the administration, AESES, UMFA, UMRA, CUPE sessionals, UNIFOR and CUPE Engineering. The first meeting of the RPWG was held in November, 2017. At a subsequent meeting (December, 2017), the administration demonstrated its support for improving retirement planning services by contributing \$120,000 to fund a 3-year pilot project for workshops.

Based on discussions and recommendations by the RPWG, the first workshops were offered in spring, 2018. Since then, in-person and/or remote workshops

have been offered every spring and fall. Attendees are asked to complete a survey on the value of the workshop. The survey results have been extremely positive. The RPWG continues to meet regularly to make recommendations on all aspects of the workshops, i.e., information presented, method of delivery, and time spent on the various topics.

At the last meeting of the RPWG (June, 2023), Bernie Gold, Director, Pension Office, informed the group that the administration sees great value in the workshops, and that funds for holding them will be built into the budget of the Staff Benefits Office. UMRA is extremely pleased that, as a result of our initiative, and the efforts of the RPWG, going forward, U of M employees will be better able to make informed decisions about retiring.

Focusing on Ukraine *continued from page 6*

Myroslav: No one interfered with my research or writing. In fact, because of the present war, there is now considerably more sympathy for Ukrainians who attempted to mobilize and fight against Stalin, and a greater understanding of the difficult choices that individuals had to make during wartime. This has not always been the case.

UMRA: What were the biggest challenges in researching this topic?

Myroslav: The topic is a sensitive and controversial one, but also one

that few scholars have researched in any depth. A great deal of misinformation, political manipulation and sensationalism has taken the place of historical research.

UMRA: Your previous book was titled "Revolutionary Ukraine." Why that title?

Myroslav: Ukraine has gone through four cycles of revolution in the last hundred years: 1917-20; Stalin's counter-revolution of 1929-34 (collectivisation, famine, and the execution of an entire generation of cultural leaders);

the underground movement of 1939-50; and the revolutions of 2004-14 (Orange Revolution in 2004 and Revolution of Dignity in 2014).

UMRA: Any more books in your future?

Myroslav: I'm now working on a book on the contemporary war in light of two narratives — the Russian imperial and Ukrainian liberationist.



Drugs and the Older Adult *By Dan Sitar*

On May 1, 2023, Daniel Sitar, UMRA's past president, was invited to make a presentation at the Fortieth Anniversary Spring Research Symposium of the Centre on Aging at the University of Manitoba.

The title of his presentation was "Drugs and the older adult – A long and winding road." In it he described the research findings emanating from the Clinical Pharmacology Section at the University of Manitoba that have been highly cited by researchers around the world since their publication.

The six papers identified for discussion were published between 1983 and 2006 and have been cited from 212 to 482 times. The most cited paper showed that in the mid 1980's about 20% of acute hospital admissions could be related to the sub-optimal management of diseases of the older adult by use of drug therapy.

Two other papers demonstrated that determination of adherence to prescribed drug therapy was problematic -- regardless of the assessment method used. The remaining highly-cited studies provided examples of increasing age as a confounding factor in optimizing drug therapy for the management

of pain and for the treatment of infections in the older adult.

The invited presentation supports the important role of the Centre on Aging as a prominent contributor to the ongoing efforts to improve the optimization of drug therapy to manage the multiple and chronic diseases of older adults.

Other presentations at this Symposium that should be of interest to University of Manitoba retirees included:

- "Mobility in older adults – a mobility framework's travels around the world,"
- "Assumptions, explorations and implications: The science and uncertainties of cannabis use in older adults,"
- "COVID in the House of Old project and exhibit,"
- "Manitoba PCH situation during the pandemic,
- "Cohort studies of health."

Retirees are reminded that this annual event provides an interesting selection of issues that are often concerns of attendees, as well as an opportunity to raise issues with the presenters that are likely to improve attendees' understanding of residual uncertainties related to the topic presented.

Campus News

The Faculty of Arts is conducting a search for a new Dean.

The Where We Are Today consultation and survey conducted recently is now available online at: <https://umanitoba.ca/sites/default/files/2023-08/StrategicPlan-WhereWeAreToday-Addendum.pdf>

According to a message from UM President Michael Benarroch, the final report showcases a "commitment to knowledge, research, community well-being, Reconciliation, and inclusivity. Despite areas of differing views—which reflect the strength and diversity of our community—common themes continued to emerge, such as prioritizing climate action, supporting the academic mission, and embracing diversity."

In Memoriam

In Memoriam is a regular column in this newsletter, included to keep UMRA members and other interested individuals informed of the recent passing of retired employees of the University of Manitoba. It's also available on our UMRA website – where there is a link to obituaries. Tributes to and information regarding deceased retired employees not listed is welcome. Please e-mail to UMRA at retirees@umanitoba.ca

Here is a list of UMRA members who have passed away in the last six months. To view the obituary, please go to the In Memoriam & All Obituaries pages on our website. (It sometimes takes a while to add information – employment times at UM and obituaries – to the website.)

- Stephen S. Bilik, Physical Plant (???? - ????). Decd. May 2023.
 David Brown, Physical Plant (1968 – 1999). Decd. August 7, 2023.
 Dr. Alan Catchpole, Geography (19?? – 1999). Decd. November 22, 2022.
 Dr. Douglas Booth Craig, Medicine (1971 – 2010). Decd. August 4, 2023.
 Dr. Martin Clutton-Brock, Astronomy (197? - 1997). Decd. July 31, 2023.
 Barbara Lynn Crutchley, Admin. (1987 – 2017). Decd. June 07, 2023.
 Patricia Susan Darlington, Libraries (1985 – 2005). Decd. June 8, 2023.
 Dr. Alan R. Downs, Medicine (1966 – 1997). Decd. January 23, 2023.
 Dr. Nelma Irene Fetterman, Human Ecology (1990 – 2003). Decd. March 9, 2023.
 Dr. Alexander (Sandy) Gregor, Education (19?? – 2002). Decd. January 12, 2023.
 Evelyn Gurvey, Libraries (1975 – 1986). Decd. May 18, 2023.
 Dr. Peter Hudson (Social Work (1970 - 2001). Decd. April 23, 2023.
 Donald Johnson, Agriculture (1976 – 2013). Decd. October 22, 2022.
 Dr. Robin C. Krause, Medicine (1981 – 1992). Decd. December 6, 2022.
 Dr. Edward N. Larter, Plant Science (1966 – 1989). Decd. May 9, 2023.
 Dr. William E. Muir, Agriculture (1967 – 2001). Decd. September 16, 2022.
 Dr. Mangalam Parameswaran, Mathematics (19?? – 19??). Decd. May 13, 2023.
 Dr. Pawan Kumar Singal, Physiology (19?? – 20??). Decd. June 6, 2023.
 Dr. Russell Charles Smandych, Sociology (1986 - 2021). Decd. May 9, 2023.
 Edward James Swirsky, Agriculture (19?? - ????). Decd. June 7, 2023.
 Dr. Gordon D. Thomas, Commerce (1965 – 1996). Decd. January 16, 2023.
 Barry Wolk, Mathematics (198? - 20??). Decd. June 16, 2023.



Photo Credit: Bob Talbot



Contact information

UMRA'S MAILING ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

The new address (effective immediately) is:

University of Manitoba Retirees Association
 c/o Learning & Organizational Development
 309 Administration Building
 University of Manitoba,
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2
 Phone: (204)474-7175

E-mail: retirees@umanitoba.ca

Website: <http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees>

Do you have a new email address?

If you are one of the retirees who has registered for the university's "umr" email address, please send your new email address to: retirees@umanitoba.ca

If you have changed internet providers and/or you prefer to use another email address, this request for an update of your email address applies to you as well.

This will ensure that you will continue to get regular retiree updates and other missives, including *Retirees News*, the twice-yearly UMRA newsletter.



University of Manitoba Retirees Association
100 Innovation Drive Suite 300
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 6G2
(204) 474-7175
retirees@umanitoba.ca
www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees

Dear Retiree,

If you are not already among the 800 members of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA), please accept this invitation to become one.

One of UMRA's objectives is to promote awareness of the contributions that retirees make to the university community. For example, UMRA has spearheaded the creation of retiree bursary and scholarship endowment funds to provide financial support to students. UMRA also plays an active role in the annual United Way campaign. Through its committees UMRA ensures that retirees have input into post-retirement benefits and pensions decisions. We encourage your participation by becoming a member of our committees and a potential future leader of our Association.

To learn more about UMRA, visit our website: <http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees>. A modest fee to become a Member entitles you to full participation and to benefits available through UMRA's affiliation with the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada.

Sincerely,

Janet Sealey, President



University of Manitoba Retirees Association
c/o Learning & Organizational Development
309 Administration Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 2N2
(204) 474-7175
umanitoba.ca/um-retirees-association/

Membership Application

[Please Print]

Name: _____
(First name or initial) (Middle name or initial) (Last name)

Status: Retiree Spouse/Partner of Retiree

Year Started U of M Employment: _____ Year Retired from U of M: _____

Department/Unit: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____

E-mail address*: _____

**Required to receive news and notices.*

I want to become a(n):

Member

___ 1 year @ \$15

___ 2 years @ \$25

___ Lifetime @ \$100

Associate (no fee)

Members and Associates are invited to serve on our committees. Check the one(s) that you would like to join:

Benefits and Pensions Membership Endowment Fund Communications

Signature: _____ Date : _____

Please send your completed form to: UMRA, 309 Administration Building, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2. **Payment options:** by cheque payable to "UMRA" or by INTERAC e-Transfer to "retirees@umanitoba.ca" (with the message "membership".)

(For Office Use Only)

Date received _____ Cheque # _____ Amount \$ _____

What is UMRA?

The University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA) evolved from the 1996 University of Manitoba United Way Campaign Committee. Under the leadership of John Mundie, that committee continued on as the Retirees Committee. The Retirees Committee focused on monitoring retiree benefits and promoting the interests of retirees. In 2003, the University recognized the Retirees Committee as the University of Manitoba Retirees Association, which was authorized to represent all retirees at the University. In October, 2004, UMRA held its first Annual General Meeting, at which time its constitution and privacy policy were ratified.

In 2003, UMRA became a founding member of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC/ARUCC). CURAC is a federation of retiree associations at colleges and universities across Canada. In 2004, UMRA and the University of Winnipeg Retirement Association co-hosted CURAC's annual national conference.

Since 1997, the former Retirees Committee and now UMRA has been instrumental in organizing the semi-annual President's Reception for Retirees. The reception features a guest speaker followed by refreshments and an opportunity for retirees to renew acquaintances. Information about the date and location of the President's Reception is published in the *Retirees' News* which is sent to all retired employees of the University.

For more information about UMRA's history please visit our website: www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees.

UMRA's Purposes

- ✓ To act as a liaison between retirees and the University.
- ✓ To promote and defend the interests of retirees in the pension and benefit plans of the University.
- ✓ To provide a means for continuing the associations which members enjoyed as employees.
- ✓ To organize and promote recreational, educational, and other events.
- ✓ To facilitate interaction with other retiree/older adult organizations.

Membership Q & A

Q. Who can join UMRA?

A. Anyone who has retired from the U of M, or who is the spouse/partner of someone who retired from the U of M, is eligible to join UMRA.

Q. What's the difference between being a Member and an Associate?

A. There are several differences: (1) Members pay a fee which supports the operations of UMRA, Associates do not pay a fee; (2) only Members can participate in the governance of the Association, e.g., voting in elections and serving as voting members of the Executive Committee; (3) only Members can take advantage of benefits that may become available from UMRA and/or CURAC.

Q. I'm a Member paying the annual/biennial fee. When do I have to renew my membership?

A. Our membership year runs from October 1st to September 30th. When it is time to renew we'll notify you by mail.

Q. Do Associates have to renew their membership?

A. No. However, please be sure to notify us if your contact information changes.