

Retirees'

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News

52nd President's Reception for Retirees

The next University of Manitoba President's Reception for members of the University of Manitoba Retiree Association (UMRA) is set for Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 2:00 pm in McLuhan Hall in UMSU on the Fort Garry campus.

President Michael Benarroch will be in attendance. He will talk about recent developments and priorities of the university.

The featured speakers at this spring's reception will once again be several graduate students who gave outstanding presentations at the Three Minute Thesis competition. Since these speakers were so enthusiastically welcomed by retirees at previous President's receptions, the UMRA Executive decided to repeat the program this year.

For those of you unfamiliar with the 3MT[®] competition, the Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]) is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in Australia in 2008. The objective of the 3MT[®] is to compress months, even years, of graduate research into an attractive three-minute presentation.



A previous 3MT winner addresses UMRA members.

Participation in the 3MT[®] concept initially grew in universities in and near Australia. By 2011 the first 3MT[®] competitions were held in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. 3MT[®] competitions challenge students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries so that they can be presented concisely to a knowledgeable but non-specialist audience – which is exactly the kind of audience that attends the President's Reception. It's exciting to watch and learn about what our

innovative graduate students are researching.

If you are planning on attending this spring's reception, you are asked to RSVP by clicking on the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Mw4NhzJHUs> by Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

**Consult UMRA's
web-page often!**

<https://umanitoba.ca/um-retirees-association/>

UMRA President's Message

Last year was a busy and exciting year for UMRA as we celebrated our 20th anniversary at the Fall President's reception held on September 30, 2023.

Dr. Emőke Szathmáry was the keynote speaker at the reception and provided an informative talk on "UMRA then and now: What a difference 20 - 26 years makes." Dr. Szathmáry, who was the university President in 2003, was instrumental in recognizing UMRA as the official body to represent retirees and we greatly appreciated her willingness to speak to the retirees.

At that reception, we also presented our new service and merit awards for the first time. The service awards were retroactive to UMRA's inception and so we were very pleased to recognize the volunteers of UMRA for their many years of service to the association.

In keeping with the mission of UMRA to support the goals and vision of the University of Manitoba community through student awards, the following are our on-going commitments and initiatives.

The 2023/2024 UMRA-sponsored Undergraduate Bursary was awarded to a deserving student in the College of Nursing. The value of the bursary award was \$1,325.00. And the 2023/2024 UMRA-sponsored Scholarship was awarded to a student in the Faculty of Graduate Studies with an emphasis on research in aging. The value of the scholarship award was \$1,250.00.

The 2023 fall donation appeal to retirees for the UMRA bursary and scholarship was very successful. With the help of Ed Unrau,

chair of the UMRA Endowment committee, Donor Relations reported that the UM retiree community contributed a total of \$10,870.

- \$2,550 UMRA Scholarship
- \$7,760 UMRA Bursary

The remaining \$560 of the retiree gifts from retirees was allocated to other funds.

University retirees have again donated generously to the 2023 United Way of Winnipeg campaign. In fact, the average retiree's donation increased by 33% compared to the 2022 campaign. Many thanks go out to Dan Sitar, UMRA's Past President and the retiree representative on the university United Way campaign. He has been instrumental in ensuring accurate retiree contact data for the campaigns and promoting the campaign to retirees.

On behalf of the UMRA Executive I would like to thank all those retirees who donated to the UMRA bursary and scholarship campaign as well as the United Way of Winnipeg. Your generosity is outstanding!

On the matter of benefits coverage for retirees, we remain optimistic that the University is interested in improving our benefits coverage and it helps that the two largest unions at the university i.e. UMFA and AESES, appear to be in support of changes to the retirees' benefits. The UMRA Benefits and Pension committee are expecting a proposal from the university later in February on a revised benefits package. The U of M Staff Benefits committee recently approved changes to the benefits package



Janet Sealey, UMRA President

for active employees which is pending approval by the Board of Governors. We truly hope that the improvements to the retirees' benefits coverage that UMRA has been addressing for years will actually be considered.

Finally, to the amazing University of Manitoba retirees' community, I want to thank you for your support of UMRA so that we can continue to advocate for improvements/protection of retirees' benefits and pension and promote an environment of engagement and learning by continuing the associations that members enjoyed as employees.

Janet Sealey, UMRA President

From the Editor



Gene Walz

My Brain

My grandchildren do not have to memorize much in school these days. Ah, this generation! They have Google on their ever-present phones instead. No real need for memorization.

Me? I can still remember the first and last stanzas of that simple poem “Trees” by Joyce Kilmer.

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

Poems are made by fools like me
But only God can make a tree.

I had to memorize the entire poem in, I think, the fourth or fifth grade; I’ve forgotten most of it. (Thankfully? Oddly, I also remember that Joyce Kilmer was a guy with a “feminine” given name; it was a shock to me.) It’s amazing to me that those four lines and their attendant baggage are still rattling around in my brain. When I think about it – with my brain – I’m stunned by what a marvelous organ the brain is and how much stuff that’s not particularly useful is stored in mine.

Also hiding somewhere in that fragile, gelatinous blob, for

instance, are the entire math times-tables, parts of Hamlet’s “To be or not to be” soliloquy, the opening lines of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales and Homer’s Odyssey (in Greek!), and the mnemonic for the human facial muscles (On old Olympus towering tops a Finn and German vended some hops). And who knows what else.

When we as balky students objected to the memorization demands, we were told that memorizing would strengthen our brains. Like carrots were good for our eyes, or so we were told, memorization was good for the brain.

Was it? Is it? Will my supposedly strengthened brain persist to the end?

I wonder. When the stresses of work and life would overwhelm me during my career, I’d occasionally forget things that I shouldn’t have. My two daughters called it Walzheimer’s disease. A preview? Only time will tell – a platitude that I retrieved from the same sometimes forgetful brain.

Back in my school days when I visited my octogenarian grandmother in her care home, I was told that I was her favorite grandchild. But she could never remember my name! It was easy to overlook her forgetfulness; I was at the tag end of nearly fifty grandchildren she had to remember.

Dementia and Alzheimer’s were not ever mentioned back then, much less feared. Nowadays those two words are scarier than death itself. Did my grandmother have Alzheimer’s? Will I inherit it?

I don’t worry much about it; besides exercise and, evidently, New York Times crossword puzzles, there’s not much I can do about it at this late date. But I wonder about these things as I’m sure many of you do. I also wonder whether my grandchildren should memorize more -- not just for their present lives but for their aged lives.

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

United Way 2023 Campaign

Retirees from our University are continuing to demonstrate their leadership in supporting the mission of the United Way of Winnipeg. For the 2023 campaign, 228 University of Manitoba retirees donated a total of \$434,360. This amount represents 62% of all donations from the University, and a substantial increase in the average gift compared to that of 2022. Given the pressures of inflation, this continuing generous support is greatly appreciated. The University campaign was recognized with the “Spirit of Collaboration Award” for their overall generosity at the end of campaign celebration on January 31, 2024 at the RBC Convention Centre.

- Daniel Sitar, Retiree Representative, UM United Way Campaign

John Norquay and Me *By Gerald Friesen*

Gene Walz, editor of this newsletter, asked me to explain why I have spent a large portion of my retirement with John Norquay. Most of the answer lies in the Archives of Manitoba.

My interest in Norquay began during my doctoral work, when I learned that the parents of this early Premier of Manitoba were of mixed Indigenous and British ancestry. Norquay was born in the Red River settlement in 1841. Orphaned at the age of eight, he received a scholarship for study at St. John's Collegiate School and became a teacher at the age of seventeen. He married at twenty-one, and sustained his growing family by farming, fishing, and hunting in St. Andrews and later in High Bluff. He entered the Manitoba legislature in the province's first election, served as cabinet minister for six years in the 1870s, and as premier from 1878 to 1887.

These details have been known since his sudden death in 1889. But what more could be said about him? In the 1970s, when I wrote the entry for Norquay in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, (http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/norquay_john_11E.html), I could not reach firm conclusions about his character or career because the surviving record was too thin. A few years later, the provincial archives received a remarkable



donation from the historian Ellen Cooke. The gift comprised 4,000 letters and bills addressed to him, a thousand letters written by him, and extensive notes gathered by Cooke during her research, including interviews with two of Norquay's children. Such a treasure

trove could illuminate so much that had previously been obscured. (For an explanation of Cooke's role in the story of the Norquay papers see http://mhs.mb.ca/docs/mb_history/77/norquaygift.shtml).

I read these documents after I retired. By that time, the changes experienced in all of Canada during the previous four decades had placed Norquay in a new light. Louis Riel's prominence in reinterpretations of Manitoba's past had sharpened the contrasts between his political career and that of Norquay. The tensions that have developed in recent generations between prairie premiers and the national government have a parallel in Norquay's relations with John A. Macdonald. The influence of business corporations in public life, First Nation voting rights, the emergence of competitive party politics, our understanding of Métis citizenship, all played a part in the life of John Norquay.

I've now completed a full-length biography. How does this new portrait differ from the original DCB entry? Norquay was more successful as premier and provin-



cial treasurer than I had appreciated forty years ago. He had a greater impact on national affairs. He was more affected by the racism he encountered. He was more involved in business ventures. His departure from office was more obviously engineered by the CPR and the prime minister. His critics were harsher and his friends more supportive. *The Honourable John Norquay: Indigenous Premier, Canadian Statesman* will be published by University of Manitoba Press in April 2024.

Whether the book deals effectively with his life and career will be for others to judge. But, to answer Editor Walz: I spent these years with Manitoba's Indigenous Premier because the problems Norquay faced continue to preoccupy us, the qualities he brought to his work are impressive, and his choices in life – his personal style and his statesmanlike decisions – are worthy of reflection today.

Dr. Gerry Friesen is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Manitoba. In 2021 he was appointed to The Order of Canada for his important contributions to the history of the Prairies and the role communications have played in shaping Canadian society.

Raising the Spirits:

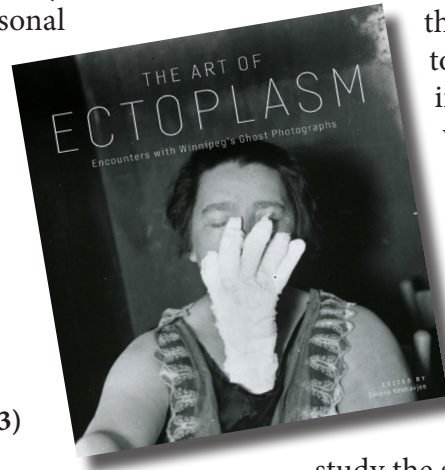
Dealing with Post-Pandemic Trauma in the Early 20th Century By Shelley Sweeney

According to the World Health Organization, about 122 million people have become ill and almost seven million have died from the COVID virus to date. In comparison, in 1918-19 an estimated 500 million people got sick and a whopping 50 million died from the Influenza Pandemic! So it is small wonder that the flu pandemic had a severe and long-lasting effect on the world community. Missing are records of what took place during and after this earlier pandemic. There is one collection held at the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections however, that provides insight into the lasting and profound effects of the death, grief and trauma resulting from the pandemic: the Hamilton Family Fonds.

The recently published *The Art of Ectoplasm: Encounters with Winnipeg's Ghost Photographs* (2023) edited by Dr. Serena Keshavjee, takes a deep dive into the archives of the Hamilton Family who lived on Henderson Highway at the beginning of the last century. Physician T.G. Hamilton and his wife, nurse Lillian Hamilton, began photographing séances they held in their home after their three-year-old son Arthur died during the flu pandemic. Their startling and captivating photos of tables flying through the air, mediums in trances and ectoplasm have in turn inspired artists around the world to create their own ectoplasmic manifestations in a wide variety of materials. Keshavjee thoroughly explores the archives and the art arising from the collection by bringing the photos and records out of the University of Manitoba

Archives and into the spotlight. Eight authors invite readers to explore the entrancing images that have become the subject of academic study, personal interest, comic parody and artistic and cinematic renderings.

The Art of Ectoplasm: Encounters with Winnipeg's Ghost Photographs (2023)



The book begins with a chapter on the influenza epidemic of 1918 which provides context to the Hamiltons' psychical investigations and more importantly why they felt they had to document everything they did so thoroughly. Dr. Keshavjee explores the role of photography in capturing what the family, their friends and associates considered proof of life after death that resulted in over 700 photos that now reside in the University of Manitoba Archives. Three chapters written by senior archivists present readers with snapshots of all the main players involved in the creation of the archive, as well as the role of the University of Manitoba Archives in promoting this fonds, the myriad uses made of the collection, and the lasting effect the fonds has had on the community of Winnipeg. The role of women in these psychical investigations, films and Indigenous art inspired by the fonds, round out the offerings.

The book has thorough footnoting of every photograph and textual record in the archive that was used, as well as all of the materials employed to support arguments in each chapter. Along with an index, a full-some bibliography of works cited, a list of Hamilton family publications and a reading list, they make this text the basis for anyone who wishes to further

study the subject of psychical research at the turn of the last century or the Hamilton archive itself. Over 50 photographs from the fonds are handsomely reproduced, allowing readers to fully appreciate the quality of the photography and to note the details that make these photographs so intriguing. The book invites every reader to explore for themselves the power of this particular collection and to appreciate why it is one of the most heavily used archival fonds at the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections.

A final thought: many times when confronted by the somewhat bizarre images in this collection viewers are consumed by the question of whether the images are fraudulent or not. The question however should be: were there people in the room where the séances took place who believed the photographs documented real phenomena? It would seem there were. Further, this was not an isolated case. Particularly in this time peri-

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Retired? Not Entirely! Traveling to Australia for a Total Solar Eclipse 2023

By Judy Anderson

This was our 24th total solar eclipse; our first was on February 26, 1979 in Winnipeg. This time, we'd be on a cruise just off the northwest coast of Australia after sailing from Bali, Indonesia. After the cruise, we would be camping in Northern Territories and Western Australia, and then visiting Adelaide. The warmth of an Indonesian seashore was very welcome after the blizzard that chased us out of Winnipeg just as we left. The world shifted from white to green and exotic.

We sailed to Komodo Island conservation area and saw lizards the size of salt-water crocodiles lurking in the undergrowth. Then we sailed to Diliin, East Timor before heading south to Darwin, enjoying lectures on science, history, birds, and geology, including a few by my husband, Jay, on clouds, weather, and the upcoming eclipse.

Leaving Darwin, we sailed west along the Kimberley coast with its stunning vistas of red-rock cliffs and rivers leading to huge waterfalls, voluminous from the typhoon-enhanced wet season that had just barely ended. We visited a Pink Beach, pink from naturally eroded red coral just offshore, and took a short flight southward over the Bungle Bungles, a fascinating formation of ancient, domed sedimentary hills and chasms eroded by wind and water into a multilayered red-rock landscape.

Finally, it was eclipse day! From our view on an aft balcony, a single cloud, of course, delighted my drama-loving forecaster husband; such an anxious minute while it



passed over the sun! That cloud all but obscured the last ten seconds before “second contact” (when the Moon completely covers the solar disk), but it felt like 10 minutes as we all held our collective breath. What a beautiful view of that big, sparkling “diamond ring”, when

the sun shines through the valley between the last two mountains poking up from the edge of the Moon.

Jay watched the flash spectrum of the thin ring of chromosphere which behaves like the slit on a spectroscope. A diffraction grating produces multiple rings, each of a different colour from the composite elements of the solar atmosphere. I took “a few” (hundred) photos of the celestial event: the chromosphere and a huge, brilliant-crimson prominence above the solar surface.

The excitement onboard was pretty high before the eclipse, it was very quiet during totality, people watching, remembering,





and clicking cameras. Afterwards, though, the exhilaration was palpable! Down at the stern, there was a general chant of “Jay, Jay!” and a party happening! Those who had watched from the pool were joined in successional splashes, by very happy members of the crew, serving staff, me, and then Jay. Quite the day!

The last day of the cruise we went to a birders’ highlight: the Lacepede Islands, and saw frigate birds, boobies, oystercatchers, plovers, terns, whimbrels, and green sea-turtles. Such an amazing afternoon memorable for the living masses and the myriad shades of calming blue.

On land in Australia, our cruise-style luxury switched to camping mode in a 4WD with a rooftop tent. The route went south to Katherine, along the Victoria Highway to Kununura, south to Wolfe Creek meteorite crater, and stopped in the Bungle Bungles (Purnululu) on our way back. Only a few weeks after the wet season, but because of the pandemic, some parks had been closed for nearly

four years and were pristine – dinner-plate sized spiders notwithstanding! Camping was fun and gave us a series of evening meals “in the middle of nowhere” at sunset, often the only ones in a huge national park.

Days were filled with sunshine, hiking, photography, bird-watching, and picnics just about anywhere. Over all, the colours of everything were so alive: the iridescent greens of flocks of budgerigars (budgies), so flashy in the wild; sunrises and sunsets that blended blue into peach; blue-blue skies in the daytime; dark black skies at night, laced with the Milky Way and Magellanic Clouds. Indigenous Australians named the dark core of the galaxy the Emu, whereas here, names apply to the bright, star-filled arms of our spiral galaxy.

This whole trip, all the birds were “lifera” for us – birds we were seeing for the very first time. This meant there was major homework each day and evening (if we stopped long enough), just to identify the species from photos

and online resources (the Birds of the World website is so good).

Our farewell to outback camping was at Litchfield Park; its billions of mosquitoes were way too many even for Manitobans! From there we flew to visit friends in Adelaide; they had seen the eclipse on land, from Exmouth, so there were lots of stories to tell and experiences to compare.

Memories continue to emerge since our return home – they’re the best souvenirs!

We’re heading out again this year -- to central Mexico to view the 2024 total solar eclipse in April, and then to the Atacama Desert and Easter Island in October to see an annular solar eclipse. With solar eclipses as the inspiration to dig out our passports, traveling, experiencing and learning the habits of other people have kept us young enough, still, to crave adventure. May your adventures and recollections be just as enjoyable!



June Stewart Answers Questions About Pensions

What is the Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan?

The plan was set up following a Request for Proposals (RFP) by the University of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba had decided to offer an alternate plan to potential retirees. The RFP was won by Sun Life and the Plan was available from 2012 onwards. It is monitored by the University of Manitoba Pension Committee who have delegated the responsibility to an Oversight Committee effective in 2023. I represent the retirement group on that sub-committee. The other members are Mike Emslie, Rene Quелlette, Lance McKinley, Maria Rodil, and one Administration area position currently vacant.

Who can invest in the Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan?

The Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan is available for any staff member at the University of Manitoba that wishes to use the

plan at retirement. In addition, a retiree who elected to take their University Pension Plan value out to any other financial institution can transfer into the Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan later. Spouses of University of Manitoba staff members may also transfer registered funds such as RRSP, LIRA, LIF, PRIF or RRIF funds, held at other financial institutions, to the Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan.

The target group for the Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan is individuals and their spouses who wish to transfer their funds to a retirement plan directed at providing low management fees (approximately 0.5%) and above-average returns.

What products are available in the Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan?

There are two main approaches to investing available within the products in the Plan. One approach involves choosing a

product from among five Granite funds. The Granite group of funds combine cash, fixed income, Canadian equities, US Equities, and international funds within each fund for a balance investment option with varying risk profiles. As you move from the Sun Life Conservative Granite to the Sun Life Aggressive Granite the percentage in Fixed Income decreases and the percentage in Equities increases. This means that the Sun Life Conservative Granite has 73% Fixed income and 27% Equities, and the Sun Life Aggressive Granite has 20% Fixed Income and 80% Equities with the other products varying in between these funds.

Performance Information on the Granite funds

Fund	Since Inception Return	2023 % Return	2022 % Return	2021 % Return	2020 % Return	2019 % Return
SL Conservative	5.58% (2012-04-02)	7.9%	-11.0%	4.37%	7.04%	10.64%
SL Moderate	7.54% (2012-01-17)	9.3%	-10.76%	8.29%	8.07%	13.60%
SL Balanced	8.54% (2012-01-17)	9.9%	-10.95%	10.43%	9.19%	15.41%
SL Gr. Growth	9.39% (2012-01-17)	10.6%	-10.79%	12.34%	9.54%	16.95%
SL Aggressive	10.10% (2012-01-17)	11.3%	-10.72%	14.29%	9.91%	18.47%

The percentages for 2019 to 2023 are calendar year returns, thus not a guarantee for future returns.

The Other Investment Approach

The other investment choices are listed below with their data. They can be regarded as Fixed Income--the first three funds, Canadian Equities—the next three funds, and US and International funds—the final four funds.

Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan Other Available funds

Fund	10 year Return	2023 % Return	2022 % Return	2021 % Return	2020 % Return	2019 % Return
BLK Bond Index	1.6%	6.7%	-11.7%	-2.6%	8.6%	6.9%
PIMCO Can. MI	4.2%	8.7%	-5.9%	2.3%	4.9%	7.8%
PH&N Core Plus	2.8%	7.5%	-11.3%	-1.9%	13.4%	6.8%
SL BG Can. Eq.	8.3%	10.9%	-1.4%	26.2%	3.0%	14.6%
SL MFS Can. Eq.	8.4%	11.4%	-3.9%	22.9%	7.1%	21.6%
SL MFS Can. Res.	8.3%	11.9%	-5.4%	23.7%	6.7%	22.7%
SL MFS Internat.	9.0%	17.1%	-8.5%	15.1%	9.4%	22.5%
SL MFS US Eq.	13.8%	16.4%	-9.8%	26.2%	12.6%	25.8%
SL TDAM Global	9.4%	3.8%	0.1%	17.2%	-8.7%	17.0%
SL TD US Market	15.0%	22.7%	-12.2%	27.5%	16.4%	24.7%

Management Fees by Asset Category

Category	Fund	Annual Fees (October 31, 2023)
Target Risk Group	Sun Life Granite Conservative	0.50%
	Sun Life Granite Moderate	0.52%
	Sun Life Granite Balanced	0.51%
	Sun Life Granite Growth	0.51%
	Sun Life Granite Aggressive	0.51%
Money Market	Sun Life Money Market	0.19%
Bond/Fixed Income	BlackRock Bond Index	0.38%
	PH & N Core Plus Bond	0.51%
Canadian Equity	Beutel Goodman Canadian Equity	0.49%
	MFS Canadian Research Equity	0.45%
	MFS Canadian Equity	0.45%
US Equity	Sun Life MFS US Equity Fund	0.47%
	TDAM US Market Index (Registered)	0.27%
Specialty Bond/Fixed Income	PIMCO Canadian Monthly Income	0.85%
International Equity	MFS International Equity Fund	0.90%
Global Equity	DAM Low Volatility Global Equity	0.43%

It should be noted that when an individual wishes to move his/her funds from another retail investment institution to Sun Life they will face “transfer fees” from the previous institution. Sun Life will cover those transfer fees, but the investor must provide their final Statement copy to Sun Life to inform them of the fee amounts. (This is a common practice in the industry but usually based on request.) If a potential retiree chooses to take their pension funds out of the University and go directly to Sun Life, then no transfer fees apply. More extensive fee information can be found on the Sun Life Group Retirement Plan website.

None of these products are at the highest risk level—some of them are considered Moderately-High risk. The products are monitored by Sun Life and the Oversight Committee for performance and appropriateness for this plan. A few funds were dropped in 2023 and several funds were added. The funds added are expressed in full calendar year performances.

Investors may choose from any of the above funds. It is recommended that only one of the Granite group of funds is selected because there is significant overlap in the investments within the group. This would affect the diversification of the portfolio. It is possible to view Morningstar data available on the Sun Life website by going to www.sunnet.sunlife.com and using the ID is 25644 and the PIN 259235.

What are the Group Retirement Plan management fees?

These fees pay professional investment managers who do research, select investments, and manage a fund’s investments. These fees also pay for account administration and member servicing costs.

Advantages for Retirees who choose the Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan:

- Option to manage one's own retirement income.
- Preferential fees (near wholesale rates) at half of 1% (0.5%) whereas retail fees can range up to an average of 2% at most other financial institutions.
- Products are competitive with the potential for high returns depending on the choice of products.
- Any residual in the plan after the owners' pass is available (after the tax liability is paid) for the Estate beneficiaries.
- The University Oversight Committee provides one more level of monitoring of the funds' performance.
- Sun Life's track record and performance for these products has been solid.
- Sun Life provides advisers to assist potential retirees or on-going investors.

The Sun Life University Group Retirement Plan is part of the upcoming *UMRA Coffee and Conversation* virtual series on *Retirement and Money* on May 1, 2024, 10:30 a.m. CT. It will be an opportunity to hear more details and ask questions about the Sun Life Plan. To register for the May 1 session, simply e-mail retirees@umanitoba.ca by April 26 and include Coffee and Conversation in the subject line.

Raising the Spirits *continued from page 5*



"Feather Teleplasm," 22 March 1933. UMASC, PC 12, Box 10, Folder 7, Item 50, <http://hdl.handle.net/10719/1410489>

od, people all over the world were desperate to make contact with their loved ones after they had died and they believed their attempts to contact the dead were successful. These encounters provided a measure of comfort, solace, and healing to those left behind.

The Art of Ectoplasm: Encounters with Winnipeg's Ghost Photographs can be ordered from the University of Manitoba Press at <https://uofmpress.ca/books/the-art-of-ectoplasm> or purchased at various bookstores in the city.

Although two parts of a companion exhibition have closed, "The Undead Archive: 100 Years of Photographing Ghosts," curated by Dr. Keshavjee, is still open at the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM until April 21, 2024. The Archives is located at 330 Elizabeth Dafoe Library.

Dr. Shelley Sweeney is Archivist Emerita and the Retired Head of the UM's Archives and Special Collections.

UMRA Award of Merit

An Award of Merit has been created to recognize a Member's exemplary contribution to UMRA. The contribution can be a single act or a number of acts which has/have a positive impact on the association. Any Member can make a nomination for the award. Nominations must provide specific evidence of the nominee's contribution, and will be vetted by the UMRA Executive Committee. Nominations should be submitted to retirees@umanitoba.ca before the deadline of June 30, 2024.

Centre on Aging Symposium

The University of Manitoba Centre on Aging will be holding their spring symposium on Wednesday May 8, 2024 in Marshall McLuhan Hall, Fort Gary campus. More information can be found at <https://umanitoba.ca/centre-on-aging/research/spring-symposium>

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.)

Dr. Gerald Edward Ackerman, Ag. Ec. (19?? – 1989). Decd. Dec. 24, 2023.
 Dr. Robert Anthony Altemeyer, Psych. (19?? – 20??). Decd. Feb. 7, 2024.
 Sheila Elizabeth Andrich, Libraries (19?? - 2008). Decd. Sept. 5, 2023.
 Dr. Robert Charles Barber, Physics (1965 – 2003). Decd. Sept. 16, 2023.
 Dr. Vivian May Bruce, Nutritional Sci. (1963 – 1996). Decd. Oct. 12, 2023.
 Gail Eleonore Coghlan, Pediatrics (1986 – 2011). Decd. Aug. 25, 2023.
 Cynthia Lauren Coop, Interior Design (19?? – 19??), Decd. Feb. 11, 2024.
 Dr. Douglas Booth Craig, Medicine (1971 – 2010). Decd. Aug. 4, 2023.
 Murray Hilton, Accounting/Finance (1967 – 2002). Decd. Oct. 13, 2023.
 Dr. Richard Allan Johnson, Admin. (1955 – 1998). Decd. Nov. 30, 2023.
 Krika Kasian, Medicine (19?? - ???). Decd. Nov. 21, 2023.
 Dr. Joseph Kaufert, Medicine (1976 – 2015). Decd. Oct. 2, 2023.
 Sophy Kamell Louka, Libraries (19?? - ???). Decd. Jan. 6, 2024.
 Luis Magalhaes, Civil Engineering (19?? – 20??) Decd. Nov. 26, 2023.
 Dr. Ronald Marquardt, Animal Science (1967 – 2000). Decd. Sept. 2, 2023.
 Dr. Glen H. McCabe, Education (19?? – 20??). Decd. August 14, 2023.
 Dr. James S.C. “Jasper” McKee, Physics (1974 - 1996). Decd. Jan. 6, 2024.
 John Thomas Moore, Bookstore (19?? – 20??). Decd. Jan. 20, 2024.
 George E. Phillips, Administration (1967 – 1996). Decd. Aug. 10, 2023.
 Dr. Edward Rector, Medicine (1974 – 2008). Decd. Oct. 12, 2023.
 Dr. Gail Robertson, Clinical Psych. (19?? - 2010). Decd. Feb. 6, 2024.
 Dr. Sheldon A. Rosenstock, Education (19?? – 2010). Decd. Dec. 21, 2023.
 Dr. Arvind Himatlal Shah, Engineering (1969 – 2010). Decd. Feb. 20, 2024.
 Dr. Michael Stack, Philosophy (1969 – 2022). Decd. Oct. 2, 2023.
 Bonnie Irene Stovel, Grad Studies (19?? - 1999). Decd. May 31, 2022.
 Dr. Lawrence Van Caesele, Botany (19?? – 2001). Decd. Feb. 22, 2024.



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>

Endowment Fund Committee Report

Donor Relations reported that, as a result of the Fall, 2023 donation appeal to retirees, the UM retiree community contributed a total of \$10,870. Of that total, \$2,550 went to the UMRA Scholarship Fund and \$7,760 to the UMRA Bursary Fund. The remaining \$560 of the gifts from retirees was allocated to other funds.

I think this may be the first time that most of the donations to the university's funds were allocated to either the scholarship or the bursary.

- Ed Unrau



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.