

President's Report

2016 - 2017

This is my fourth president's report and as I look back on this past year the following are highlights that I think are worth noting.

The first highlight is that the UMRA executive approved a resolution to fund the second-place prize in the annual Three-Minute Thesis competition, which is held in the spring term. The competition, which is organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, challenges graduate students to describe their research project in a three-minute oral presentation. The first-place prize of \$2,000 is named in honour of the late Dr. Archie McNicol, a former associate dean of graduate studies. UMRA executive, beginning with the 2018 competition, will be funding the second-place prize of \$500, which will be called the *University of Manitoba Retirees Association Prize for Second Place*. By funding the prize, UMRA will be more visible within the university community and will be a reminder that retirees have a continuing stake in the university's educational enterprise.

The second highlight to note is that the University of Manitoba Retiree Endowment Fund early in 2017 passed the \$15,000 mark. This fund is now large enough to support an annual bursary award. Again, this is another reminder of the continuing support that retirees are providing to the university.

A third highlight is that retirees continue to be major contributors to the United Way appeal within the university community. In 2016, donations from retirees totaled \$232,000, while donations from current staff totaled \$595,000.

Fourth, one of the objectives of UMRA is to meet regularly with university administration to make the point that while we have retired from employment, we are still members of the larger university community. This was achieved with at least three meetings with our administration contact, Mark O'Riley, Learning and Organizational Development, who has listened to our points of interest, some of which have been resolved and some of which are underway.

Finally, I extend my thanks all the members of the UMRA executive whose continuing interest in retiree affairs and the university is demonstrated by their consistent attendance at our three to four meetings per year, and who have provided me with good advice in the exercise of my presidential role. Following this annual meeting, I look forward to my role as past-president.

– Ed Unrau, President