

## **President's Report**

Today UMRA is celebrating its fourth birthday. In keeping with the developmental theme introduced two years ago, we have in the past year worked on refining the operations of our committees which are described in their respective reports. Through the efforts of Horst Frank, we now have an office on the third floor of the Alumni House equipped with a desktop computer and, most importantly, a telephone so our members and the outside world can get in touch with us.

As an organization whose constitution states among its purposes “to encourage and promote a spirit of fraternity among its members” and “to organize and promote recreational, educational and other events of benefit to members,” we attempted to set up interest groups through our web site. After a year of experimenting with the JUMP facility which provides the platform for such activities on the University web site, it was decided to drop the effort. The major problem is the complexity of the JUMP program which tends to discourage its use. However, a positive outcome of our efforts is that all UMRA members who have an e-mail account with the University now have access to the JUMP facility. We will continue to pursue other avenues to organize interest groups if our membership so wishes. Ideas from our members are most welcome.

This past year our identification has been enhanced with the adoption of a logo. As winner of the logo contest, Maureen Johnson is receiving a life membership in UMRA .

Positive feedback was received on the April President's Reception when our guest speaker, John Wilkins, informed us of the field of Proteomics and arranged for a laboratory tour. Approximately 100 people attended, some of whom used the University bus transportation we arranged from the Fort Garry Campus to the Bannatyne Campus. Some photos of this event are posted on our web site.

With the announcement of the University's purchase of the Southwood Golf Course and their stated plans to include a residential community, the Ad hoc Committee on a Retiree Centre has been re-activated. We have informed the University of our interest and have asked that we be kept informed of the development of their plans.

As your Executive, we invite your suggestions and comments. For example, the workshop on basic computing skills and the assistance with computer problems in your home mentioned in the September issue of the *Retirees' News* resulted from inquiries or suggestions made by our members. Suggestions for topics or guest speakers for the President's Reception are most welcome. You are also encouraged to consider volunteering to serve on one of our committees. The task is not onerous, perhaps two or three meetings a year.

Last but not least, we have increased our representation on the national organization, the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada (CURAC). Currently John Mundie is on their Communications Committee, Frits Stevens on their Benefits Committee, Marilyn Stothers on their Housing Committee and Lois Brockman is a Director on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Brockman