

SFURA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We can look back to a very productive 06/07. In addition to our usual social program, seminar series and communication activities, we have produced a second oral history DVD and done other tapings. The membership has grown to 371. We have gained a commitment from the President for space, and Warren Gill has been identified as our contact in the upper administration. Progress has been made on a retiree centre. The details make up our Annual Report.

Changes have occurred to the Executive Board. Elizabeth Michno has taken over the role as Social Coordinator. Bob Horsfall has joined the Executive Board. Tom Poiker has assumed the role of Newsletter Editor.

After strong contributions, Janet Blanchet and Bill Yule will step down. Janet has been Newsletter editor for six years. Bill has served as Past President and President before that. Thanks Janet and Bill.

After two years as President of SFURA my term is over and I too will be stepping down. I would like to thank the Executive Board for their efforts these past two years. I would also like to thank every member of the organization for your support. It has been a privilege to serve as your president. It has also been a lot of fun.

NEW EDITOR

Dear Friends

Janet Blanchet has been SFURA's Newsletter editor for all of its existence. She thought six years was enough, so I took over. Welcome to the new Editor. You will have to be patient with me, I come into this job with little experience and will need a few Newsletters to get accustomed to the needs of all retirees. But I promise to do my best.

You are receiving this Newsletter a little later than usual because it was decided that the Board should discuss the general direction the Newsletter should take. Such a consideration was not necessary with Janet Blanchet, she was a natural when it came to Newsletters, but I am not. I have to learn to turn theory into practice.

We would like to make this YOUR newsletter as much as ours by way of your contributions, comments and critiques. Please write us what you like and what you don't, and send us short papers that could be of interest to others, etc. We have set the dates for January, May and September (the start of each semester to send the Newsletter), with the deadlines for submissions three weeks prior December 10, April 10 and August 10. If there are too many submissions (the dream of every editor), we will put some on the Association's website. Tom Poiker

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following members who have joined us this 2007-2008 year.

Lawrence Albright –Biological Sciences; Sharon Bailin -Education; Linda Baillie Education; Robyn Banerjee –Archaeology; John Berggren –Math; Barbara Clark Economics; Christine Bezanson –Reprographics; Peter Fankboner -Bi Sciences; Marcia Federly –Education; Howard Gabert, Dean Arts Office; Hannah Gay- Graduate Liberal Studies; Barbara Leighs- -Human Resources; Guy MacMillan - Facilities Management; Maureen McIlroy –Criminology; Gail McKechnie - Advancement; Martin Robin –Political Science; Teresa Sharp -Environmental Health and Safety; John Simmer -Learning and Structural Development; John Simms –Dean of Science Office; Vi Schleppe- Centre for Online & Distance Education; Jaap Tuinman –Education; Walter Wattamaniuk-Analytical Studies; Iris Woodham -Continuing Studies

EVENTS

April 14, 2007 several retirees and friends took the Pacific Coach Lines bus tour to the Skagit Valley to see the tulips. It turned out to be a fine day, the tulips were in full splendour and the rain held off till we were en route home. For the garden segment of the tour two master gardeners/docents joined us who were very knowledgeable about both the Skagit Valley and tulip lore. Also had free time to enjoy La Connor and catch the end of the tulip celebration. 'a weed is a plant that has mastered every known survival skill except growing in rows'.

May 23 – 25 2007– The CURAC Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held in Windsor Ontario. Details of Program and Registration can be found on the Website <www.curac.ca>

July 28, 2007 A Day at the Races Saturday July 28– a brochure giving all the information for this event is enclosed Please fill in your registration form and return to address indicated. This is always a great day of fun along with enjoying a wonderful Buffet.

Additional information on upcoming events and/or seminars please contact Elizabeth Michno or Margaret Jones (See executive listing front page)

JANET BLANCHET

It is an honor to take over from Janet in more ways than one. She is one of the pioneers who started all this and that is an achievement in itself. But there is a more personal reason for me to feel a certain humility towards Janet. You see, after Archie MacPherson, the chairman of the Geography Department, hired me from Heidelberg - by phone - Janet was the next member of the SFU community I spoke to, again by phone, but this time I was in Montreal. Let me tell you the story.

I arrived in Montreal on a freighter from Rotterdam on June 12, 1967. I had a little Volkswagen with me that was to carry me across the continent. I needed insurance for the car and I didn't know how to go about getting it. So I decided to call Archie and ask him for help. I called his office from a phone booth and Janet, then a secretary in the Geography Department, answered the phone. I asked her to let me speak to Archie and she said "hang on" and put the phone down to walk to Archie's office. Now, I wasn't used to idiomatic variations of the English language and didn't know what "hang on" meant. So I hung up.

I opened the door of the phone booth and asked a fellow who had crossed the Atlantic with me and had offered to come along until I had found my way, and he explained the term and suggested I call the operator to ask whether I could make that call again. All my change had been eaten by the first call. The operator found the misunderstanding very funny and – between outbursts of laughter – she passed me on to her supervisor. The supervisor thought that this was one of those occasions where Canada could be generous to a new arrival. "That call is on the house, Sir", she said. "What does "on the house" mean?" "Oh, we pay for it, Sir." So I was able to talk to Janet again. "Now, don't hang up, stay on the line while I get Archie."

Well, two and a half weeks later, on the first of July, 1967, I entered British Columbia and started a new life.

TIME FLIES WHEN YOU ARE HAVING FUN

Did you know that SFURA will soon celebrate its tenth anniversary? Yes, in 2008, it will be ten years. It has been that long. The Association would like to celebrate this occasion and in true democratic form, we are asking you for suggestions. Please call, email or write to, any member of the Board what you think would be a worthwhile activity and the Board will select from the (hopefully) numerous submissions. We would like to set July 2007 as the deadline for this. Thank you very much for your help.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOUR

There are several members of SFURA who would like to attend our events but cannot drive, especially at night. We would like to arrange help with this if possible. If you either need transportation or would, on occasion, like to assist with this, please contact us and we will try to bring you together.

An example- Marvin Stark lives in Vancouver and wanted to attend the AGM – calls were made and transportation was arranged.

PASSAGES

Since our last Newsletter we were saddened by the passing of the following members of our Retiree Association.: They will be remembered by their many friends and colleagues.

Ed Miller -- Academic Computing Services Came to University November 1965 and retired June 1988 Passed away September 2006

Anant Vaze -- Academic Computing Services - Came to University September 1969 and retired 1993 .. Passed away December 2006

Glenn Kirchner – Education Department - Came to University June 1965 and Retired September 1995. Passed away April 2007

IN MEMORIAM

After a prolonged battle with cancer, Glenn Kirchner, a professor emeritus in Education, died on Sunday the 8th of April. The following Thursday his wife Diane and their four sons held a memorial service for him in Parksville, which was attended by a number of retired staff and faculty from Simon Fraser, including Ian Andrews, Nancy Green and Marv Wideen.

Glenn, one of the originals in the university and the Faculty of Education, began in 1965 and served with distinction until he retired in 1983. As a faculty member, he developed an outstanding program in physical education, and through his work, had a strong influence on the shape and importance of physical education both in British Columbia and across North America. Everywhere in elementary education there are teachers influenced by Glenn, either directly or through his publications and films.

In 1998 Glenn published the tenth edition of his influential text *Physical Education for Elementary School Children*. In 2000 he published the second edition of *Games Around the World* with contributors from 'around the world.' Still hard at work in 2005, he published *Towards Cooperative Learning in Elementary School Physical Education*. To make his teaching ideas clear, especially on movement education, he produced a number of films, often with his colleagues Eileen Warrell and Jean Cunningham

Glenn was a robust, productive, fun-loving member of faculty. His colleagues are sad I fondly remember him. .
Maurice Gibbons

Note: Eulogies for members who passed away are welcome provided they are received by the deadlines for submission listed previously.