

President's Report, 2011-2012

This has been a very busy year for the UVRA, with a number of initiatives that have been implemented. The hosting of the 2012 CURAC Conference in April was a great success, thanks to the tireless work of John Schofield and his committee. The Conference was well-attended, with representation from across Canada and several parts of the USA. Members of the UVRA Board came away with some good ideas that we think may be applicable to our organization. It is our plan to hold a retreat in November, and see if there are any ideas that would benefit our members and association.

Many of you will also be aware of the 50th Anniversary Project that has been undertaken by the UVRA. The project involves interviewing UVic Retirees and recording what they consider to have been *transformative moments* in their own careers, or in the evolution of the University. It has been a major undertaking, ably coordinated by Peter Liddell. One particular gratifying spin-off was collaborating with a class taught by Elizabeth Grove-White on developing interview skills. Over 22 of our members were interviewed by students in the class, under the coordination of one of our UVRA members. At the end of the project, more than 77 people will have shared their transformative moments, which will be stored in the UVic Archives.

As indicated in the last newsletter, the UVRA is now identified in the new UVic Strategic Plan, in a number of sections. It is clear as a result of previous initiatives, such as the Masterminds Series, that the retirees are seen as a valuable resource and can contribute greatly to the UVic mission. We believe the recognition of the UVRA in the new Strategic Plan provides a good basis on which to enhance our profile and involvement with UVic. In particular, we are still committed to pursuing the concept of establishing an Elder Academy in UVic that will better serve the needs of seniors in providing stimulating educational opportunities to promote physical and mental health.

As you will see in the report from the Benefits Committee, they have been working hard in exploring some options in regard to Extended Health Benefits as well as travel insurance. Unfortunately things have not progressed as quickly as we had originally hoped and it will be the status quo for this year (2012-2013) but we are optimistic we will have more to report by this time next year (2013-2014) and in time for July 1 renewals of policies.

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Under the leadership of Winona Pugh, the UVRA offered many and varied social events that have been well-attended by our members. The Committee is exploring the idea of arm-chair travel, which will give our members the opportunity to share some of their exciting trips to exotic and perhaps not-so exotic places, plus a chance to share all those photos you have taken! Stay tuned for more information on this offering.

UVRA has been most fortunate in having many dedicated members who spend a lot of time and energy on your behalf to keep the Association vital and active. However, we are always looking for members to step forward to assume various roles to help share some of the work. If you have an interest and any special skills, especially related to databases and formatting, we would be most appreciative. Many hands make light work, so please do think about lending your hands. Please contact any member of the Board if you are interested in becoming more involved with the UVRA and helping out in small or large ways.

I would also like to thank those outgoing Board members, Elaine Gallagher and Joanne Thomas, who have given generously of their time. Also, a special thanks to Elizabeth Coey, who was editor of the UVRA newsletter for many years, and helped to make it an excellent publication. I would also like welcome Peter Zingeler, who replaced Elizabeth as the editor of the newsletter.

The Board has appreciated your support over the year and is always keen to hear how we can better serve your needs. So, please give us your suggestions. We are looking forward to this coming year, and the opportunities it presents to the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

David Docherty,
President, UVRA