

Report to UVRA for the 2014 AGM

The Masterminds Lecture Series 2014 took place on April 9, 16, 23, and 30. The speakers were, in order of presentation, Fong Woon, retired member of the Department of Pacific Studies, Pauline Van Den Driessche, retired member of the Department of Mathematics, Andrew Rippin, retired Dean of Humanities and member of the Department of History, and Martin Collis, retired member of the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education. Our sincere thanks are extended to the presenters who spent significant time and effort to produce lectures that were engaging, thought provoking and well organized.

An effort was made to ensure that the lectures reflected differing areas of scholarship/interest and presenters were balanced for gender representation. The four lectures were held in the lecture theatre of the Harry Hickman Building and total attendance was 461. Attendance increased over the four lectures (83,92,108, and 178). This increase may reflect interest in the lecture topic or a growing awareness of the series, among other factors. Apparently, the increasing attendance has been evident in previous lecture series.

In general, all aspects of the lecture series were well received based on information from attendees, collected through a comprehensive evaluation instrument developed by members of COAG. The overall average score, across all rated aspects of the lectures, was 4.66 on a 5.0 scale. The lectures themselves were rated as excellent (an average of 4.50) and other aspects of the lecture organization (advertising, signage, parking, displays, and location) scored in the range of 3.76 to 4.66. Written comments from attendees were few and brief. Most issues raised were related to parking, signage, and presentation of visual materials in the lecture.

Members of the Centre on Aging and UVic Communication effectively accomplished the vast majority of the organization and communications. In particular, I would like to thank Lois Holizki, Arlene Senft, and Leah Potter for their excellent

administrative skills in making the series a success. Suzanne Ahearne, as the communications coordinator, was excellent in ensuring that our media coverage was top-notch. Holly Tuokko (COAG) and David Docherty (UVRA) took on the main introduction responsibilities and Christine St. Peter (retired from Women's Studies), Chris Bose (Math department chair), and Elizabeth Grove White (English department) provided specific introductions to the speakers.

My main task as the chair of the committee was to invite prospective lecturers from the pool of retired UVic faculty and staff and to follow up on those who indicate interest. It would be helpful to have a current list of all retired faculty and staff to ensure that the breadth of topics in the Masterminds Lecture Series is maintained. My thanks go to David Turkington who provided me an excellent blueprint for the processes related to the Masterminds Lecture Series. Lois Holizki (COAG) is using this material and other information and processes that they have documented over time, to develop a very detailed plan for the organization of the series and will ensure that all members of the Masterminds Series committee have access to this plan.

All presenters were invited to a luncheon on May 28 to thank them for their contribution, however; only one presenter was available for this date. Other dates were explored, but no one date before July 1 was appropriate for the majority of the presenters.

It was a pleasure to chair this committee, as all members were helpful and enthusiastic.

Respectfully submitted

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