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Epilogue

APE:UA Executive

President:

J. Douglas Dale
780-486-5420

Vice-President:

Tim Hartnagel
780-435-7051

Past President:

June Panteluk
780-434-9364

Secretary

Peter Murphy
780-459-1176

Treasurer

Walter Allegretto
780-439-7452

Directors at Large:

Jan Murie
780-434-4526

Bente Roed

780-436-9398

Don Carmichael

780-433-1037

**Presidential
Appointees:**

Technical Advisor

Gordon Rostoker
780-434-4277

Epilogue Editor:

Ruth Gruhn
780-434-6586

**Emeritus House
11034 89 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 0Z6**

**Phone/Fax:
780- 492-2914**

emirhse@ualberta.ca

Association of Professors Emeriti - University of Alberta

Editor's note

The off-and-on winter weather of November leaves us wondering what kind of weather awaits us in the coming months. In any case, the Christmas Brunch is coming up on 14 December; and the speakers and topics of the Winter term Lunch With ... events are listed in this issue. The Reports section summarizes the Fall Lunch With ... presentations; and the major features of the AGM held in October. Happily, the In Memoriam box is the smallest in the Editor's memory. The issue ends with a reprint of Keith Smillie's column Mousing Around #53.

Ruth Gruhn

Notices

Schedule of Winter term Lunch With... events

22 January:

Stephanie Chamberlain, Faculty of Nursing, will speak on issues for seniors: social engagement, loneliness, and continuing care services.

26 February:

Speaker and topic to be announced.

25 March:

John England will speak on environmental change in the Arctic.

All events will be held in the Papaschase Room upstairs at the University Club at 12 noon on a Wednesday. If you plan to attend, notify Emeritus House by phone or e-mail on or before the preceding Monday.

Remember to sign up now for the Christmas Brunch, to be held at the University Club Saturday 14 December.

Reports

Elected to the Executive Committee at the AGM on 23 October were the following:

For the term 2019-21:	President:	J. Douglas Dale
	Vice-President:	Jan Murie
	Treasurer:	Walter Allegretto
	Member-at-Large:	Don Carmichael
	Member-at-Large:	Tim Hartnagel

For your information:

Executive members whose current term will expire in 2020: Bente Roed (Member-at-Large)
Peter Murphy (Secretary)

Presidential appointees without term are: Ruth Gruhn (Editor, *Epilogue*)
Gordon Rostoker (*Technical Advisor*)

Past-President (ex-officio): June Panteluk

President's Report to the AGM, 23 October 2019

I want to welcome all of you to the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Association of Professors Emeriti. I will present an overview of the Association and its activities of the past year. At our monthly Executive meetings, in addition to approving the Minutes of previous meetings and receiving reports from various coordinators, several issues have dominated the Executive Committee meetings:

Membership: The membership has remained steady the past two years, but has decreased by 31% over the past eight years. This 31% decrease occurred primarily in the years 2012 and 2018. We have been successful in contacting the individual in Employment Services responsible for putting together the information packages for retirees. This year they requested 75 copies of our brochure describing the Association and its activities. We also include a letter of invitation with the brochure. Because of privacy issues, we are not allowed to receive a list of retirees.

Several Faculties now hold annual luncheons for retired members. When possible, members of the APE Executive from those Faculties attend the events, to talk to the retirees about the Association and to hand out membership forms.

I would encourage all members to speak to retirees whom they know are not members about joining. Sometimes all it takes is to invite them to a Lunch With... event or Interest Group session.

The Association's website: Gordon Rostoker has been active in maintaining our website. The site not only has information about this association, but also contains links to related organizations such as CURAC (College and Universities Retiree Associations of Canada). Our

website can be reached at www.ualberta.ca/professors-emeriti. The University is in the process of switching its operating system from Sitecore software to Cascade software. This process will start late in November, so there may be some disruptions in service at that time. We will notify members when the change is to take place.

Office Assistant: Luke Panteluk, now a second year business student, has been with us for a year. His knowledge of Microsoft systems has been very helpful to Gordon Rostoker in maintaining the website and in working with our files.

Lunch With: Bente Roed is the coordinator of the program. Along with other members of the Executive, an excellent program of speakers was organized this past year. If members have any suggestions for future talks or speakers, please pass them on to Bente.

Interest Groups: There were five interest groups functioning this past year: the Arts group, Book Club, Dining Out, Travel Group, and Current Events. The timing and topics of these groups are advertised in the weekly online newsletter. Due to lack of interest, the Photography Group has not met for well over a year.

Financial: The Treasurer's Report states that we received our annual grant from the Office of the Vice-President (University Relations) to support our office operations. We are also permitted to carry over the unspent balance from the previous budget year. The value of the grant continues to shrink in step with changes to the operating grant that the University receives from the Alberta government. The grant is used to pay the salary of our office assistant, telephone costs, and when necessary to pay for training sessions for maintaining and updating our website. Other office expenses are paid for out of membership dues.

The Association continues to donate \$1000 annually to the Emergency Bursary fund at the Student Financial Support Department in the Registrar's Office. These funds also come from membership dues.

At the present time we are in good financial shape.

AASUA Council: The Association is invited as an observer at the AASUA Council meetings. Ruth Gruhn continues to attend, and she provides a report at our monthly Executive meetings. Gordon Rostoker and I serve as alternates when Ruth is not available to attend.

Epilogue: Ruth Gruhn serves as editor. The journal is published four times a year. Many thanks are due to Ruth for the excellent job she does in producing the journal. Past copies are available on the Association website.

CURAC: The annual meeting was held at the University of Guelph, May 22-24, 2019. As our association was not represented at the meeting, we have no first-hand report. The CURAC website suggests that the major outcome of the meeting was a decision to join in the formation of "Vibrant Voices," a seniors' advocacy group. The primary purpose of the group will be to engage political parties running for office in the federal election on issues such as income security, national pharmacare, a national senior strategy, and enhanced support for veterans. (Our

Association of Professors Emeriti was a founding member of CURAC when it was established 21 years ago).

Finally, thanks are due to all members of the Executive; with special thanks to Gordon Rostoker, who steps in when needed, and continues to be involved in a large fashion in all aspects of the Association.

J. Douglas Dale, President

Fall term Lunch With ... presentations

Lunch With... presentation on 26 September 2019

At this first Lunch With... event of the 2019/2020 academic year, political analyst Graham Thompson spoke on the new Alberta politics that have followed the Spring provincial election. He pointed out that Conservative voters grew in number after the provincial Conservative party merged with the Wild Rose party to form the UCP; thus while the NDP held its popular vote, it lost the election. As of September, a number of acts passed by the previous NDP government had been repealed by the UCP government; and there have also been attacks on climate change initiatives. Severe funding cuts, including to post-secondary institutions, were predicted for the October budget to come; alas, a prediction all too true.

Lunch With.... presentation on 27 November 2019

Mary Bailey, editor of *The Tomato*, a local food magazine, was to speak of her adventures in publishing a small local journal; but she could not appear. So, Gordon Rostoker led the group in a discussion of the problem of declining membership in our association in recent years, and ways to encourage recent retirees to join.

In Memoriam

Hans Peter Künzle	Mathematics
John Kuspira	Plant Genetics
Bill Mailo	Internal Audit
John Packer	Botany
Fred Ziegler	Library

N.B. : Hans Peter Künzle was a long time member of APE, and led the Walking Group for many years.

Mousing Around

Keith Smillie

53. More Mathematical Humour

This column was supposed to be on Public Key Encryption, but I decided that we might give prime numbers and cryptology a rest for one issue of *Epilogue*. Instead I would like to introduce some lighter fare taken from Desmond MacHale's *Comic Sections: The Book of Mathematical Jokes, Humour, Wit and Wisdom*, a book I used in a much earlier column for the same purpose. I hope you enjoy them. Incidentally MacHale is Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cork, and the two jokes about Irishmen given below have been taken from a chapter containing only Irish jokes.

A Japanese author is reputed to have written the following in a letter to the editor of a journal: "Please thank the referees for their many suggestions. I would like to execute them."

Just because I have a Ph.D. in mathematics doesn't mean I'm stupid."

"Can you do addition?" asked the White Queen. "What is one and one?" "I don't know," said Alice, "I lost count."

One Irishman was complaining to another that he had gone on an expensive fishing trip and caught only one fish. "That fish," he told him, "cost me £500." "Weren't you lucky," said the friend, "that you didn't catch two."

True incident in a bookshop:

Student: "Could I have some log tables, please?"

Assistant: "Sorry, we don't stock furniture!"

A statistician was about to undergo a serious operation, and asked the surgeon what his chances of survival were. "Your chances are excellent," said the surgeon. "Nine people out of ten die from this operation, and the last nine patients I've operated on have died."

A mathematician asked his little girl what she was doing in school mathematics at the moment. "We are doing gozintas at the moment," she told him. "Gozintas?" he asked her. "What in earth are they?" "You know," she said, "three gozinta six, five gozinta ten".

After Bertrand Russell's first child was born, he was asked by a friend if it was a boy or a girl. He replied, "Yes."

The famous wit Sydney Smith was out walking one day when he heard two women screaming abuse at each other from upstairs windows on opposite sides of a narrow street. "Those two will never agree," he remarked, "because they are arguing from different premises."

The following "almost limerick" was recited by school-children over fifty years ago:

Multiplication is vexation,

Division's just as bad.

The rule of three

Perplexes me,

And practice drives me mad.

Which is the oddest prime number? Two, because it's the only even prime number.

What does a retired mathematician call his house? Aftermath.

Some very good mathematics students become actuaries. An actuary is someone who can't stand the excitement of chartered accountancy.

The generation of random numbers is too important to be left to chance.

An Irishman travelling on the London Tube late one evening saw a notice saying

DOGS MUST BE CARRIED ON THE TUBE

"Where am I going to get a dog at this hour of the night?' he moaned.

What sort of computer did Newton use? An Apple.

Two statisticians, one very fat and the other very thin, fell off the top of a high building. Which one hit the ground first? Who cares, so long as they are both statisticians.

Those who consider mathematicians eccentric might like to reflect on the fact that a well-known American physicist is said to have cleaned one of his most expensive optical instruments by pushing his cat through it.

Finally, here are a few howlers that the author maintains have been taken from some of his examination papers:

Parallel lines never meet unless you bend one or both of them.

Parallel lines do not meet although produced to eternity.

A circle is a round line with no kinks in it joined up at the end so as not to show where the beginning is.

A circle is a round straight line with a hole in the middle.

If one angle of a triangle is more than 90 degrees, the triangle is obscene.

