



# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1998 – 2018

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION



# SFURA Constitution

## GOALS

In Support of the enhancement of interest in the University and each other, the purposes of the Association are:

- \* to provide a link between retired employees, the University and each other;
- \* to provide the opportunity for the social interaction of its members;
- \* to act as a forum for discussion about the University and education generally, and to promote and further higher education;
- \* to support the University in the larger community;
- \* to encourage members to donate their time and resources to appropriate University activities;
- \* to encourage the University and its various employee groups to take into account requirements of its retirees;
- \* to facilitate interaction with other retiree/seniors organizations;
- \* not to own, operate or manage a social club.

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Constitution of the Simon Fraser University Retirees Association registered under the B.C. *Societies Act* as File S-38485 in the Office of the Registrar of Companies, Victoria, B.C. Original registration June 1998. Renewed 2017 to conform to the revised *Societies Act*.

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# 20th Anniversary 1998 – 2018

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

PERCILLA E. GROVES  
EDITOR

Simon Fraser University  
Retirees Association

# Acknowledgements

The SFURA 20th Anniversary Booklet Committee was lead by Evelyn Palmer who planned the preparation of this publication. Committee members were Frances Atkinson, Jim Boyd, Ron Long, Walter Piovesan, Jean Trask and Marvin Wideen. Evelyn guided the process throughout and gave excellent advice on all aspects of the project.

The SFURA Executive Boards of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 sponsored the initiative. Members of the 2017-2018 board were Neil Abramson, Frances Atkinson, Jim Boyd, Jay Burr, Maurice Gibbons, Thea Hinds, Walter Piovesan, Allen Seager and Jean Trask. Members of the 2018-2019 board are Neil Abramson, Frances Atkinson, Jim Boyd, Jay Burr, Apollonia Cifarelli, Maurice Gibbons, Evelyn Palmer, Walter Piovesan and Allen Seager.

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# CONTENT

<i>MESSAGE FROM SFU PRESIDENT ANDREW PETTER</i>	6
<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	7
<i>MESSAGE FROM FRANCES ATKINSON SFURA PRESIDENT</i>	8
<i>PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS</i>	10
<i>ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS</i>	27
<i>AFFILIATIONS</i>	35
<i>ORAL HISTORY PROJECT</i>	36
<i>HOW WE MADE OUR BOOK</i>	38
<i>SCHOLARSHIP FUND</i>	40
<i>BOARD MEMBERS 1998 - 2018</i>	44
<i>EVERYTHING'S UP TO DATE AT SIMON FRASER</i>	48

# 20th Anniversary



Congratulations to the Simon Fraser University Retirees Association on your 20th Anniversary.

For the past two decades, SFURA has played an essential role ensuring our retirees stay connected to SFU, and to each other, through seminar series, volunteer opportunities, social activities and more.

Thank you for providing this critical link between the university and the retiree community, and for helping further SFU's mission as Canada's "engaged university."

I look forward to engaging with SFURA members throughout the year, and I wish you continued success in the years to come.

**Andrew Petter**  
President and Vice-Chancellor

# Introduction

Oct. - 2018

FROM THE EDITOR

As the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Simon Fraser University Retirees Association approached, the board decided to mark the occasion by updating the booklet published on the occasion of the 10th anniversary. The board agreed this account of the first 20 years should include an unofficial story as recounted by past presidents and an official history documenting major achievements enlivened by photographs giving a visual record of events. It is the nature of this type of organization that some past presidents are no longer alive; in such cases, the stories of their terms were written by members who knew them.

When I answered the call for an editor a few months after the book was well underway, I had little idea of the size of the task. With many current and former members of the SFURA board and its committees eager to contribute, the history grew to be the publication you are holding. Several members contributed to the making of this publication. As chair



of the 20th anniversary booklet committee, Evelyn Palmer guided decision-making as to contents, scope and timelines. By example she encouraged others to produce content. Her wise counsel was greatly appreciated. Walter Piovesan contributed his substantial layout skills. Ron Long provided his editing skills for the photos included. Jean Trask and Evelyn Palmer compiled the list of board members for all 20 years. Other committee members were Jim Boyd and Marvin Wideen. Readers of the 10th anniversary booklet will recognize Evelyn and Marvin as SFURA members active from the earliest days.

Such continuity has contributed to the success of the SFURA and lights the way for all members.

Many thanks to all who were involved in the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Percilla Groves".

Percilla Groves

# Message from Frances Atkinson

PRESIDENT OF THE SFU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Where do we go from here? Norman Swartz and Marv Wideen posed this question in their contribution to SFURA's 10th anniversary booklet. As they predicted, the seminars and the major social events begun early in SFURA's history continue. Also as predicted, SFURA's constitution and bylaws have been revised and a remunerated staff member assists with basic operations of the organization. Members continue to enjoy free (occasional) parking which enables them to contribute in a variety of ways to the life of the university. Members also continue to enjoy bringing projects to fruition in the company of other SFU people. This 20th anniversary booklet describes the accomplishments of many of these projects.

Some larger changes not completely foreseen in 2008 may have impacted the course of the SFURA. The increased membership foreseen 10 years ago has not become a reality. This may be because the end of mandatory retirement has resulted in more people working beyond age 65 at the university, or elsewhere.



Perhaps even more important is the escalation of house prices in the Lower Mainland. Some retirees choose to sell properties within a short commute from SFU campuses and move away to smaller communities. Others are reluctant to brave heavy traffic to return to SFU campuses to enjoy social events or volunteer activities.

What has endured is the willingness of SFURA members to devote energies to projects that enable the organization to work towards its constitutional goals. These goals are outlined inside the front cover of this publication. Also enduring is the adventurous spirit described in Ron Baker's lyrics as reproduced within this book.

You are invited to peruse this history to learn more about SFURA activities, and to consider how you may wish to become involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances Atkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frances Atkinson



# Presidential Reflections

## THE BEGINNINGS OF SFURA

by Marvin Wideen

How did SFURA begin? SFU President William Saywell launched the first attempt to set up a retirees' organization at Simon Fraser University in 1990 but, at the time not enough people had retired from the university to make it possible.

In other parts of Canada and the United States, many retiree and emeritus associations had developed. For example, in 1994 the University of Victoria formed a successful retirees association, which included all university retirees. Articles had been published about emeritus and retiree centres and an association called the Canadian Association of Emeriti and Retired Academics (CAERA) also existed. Thelma Finlayson and Bryan Beirne had attended CAERA annual meetings and had lots of information to share. Hence, there were many organizational examples from which to shape the SFURA.

As John Walkley reported in the 10th anniversary history of the SFURA, a group of recent SFU retirees came together over lunch to discuss forming

a retiree association in the summer of 1997. Members of this group had also worked at building SFU in the early days. They moved ahead, formed a steering committee and decided how the new organization would function and work, independently, but in harmony, with SFU. Harry Evans assisted with the legal and organizational issues in this regard.

In September 1997, a steering committee came together and included Doreen Badgero, Tom Bell, Marilyn Cairns, Roy Carlson, Harry Evans, Tom Mallinson and George Suart, with John Walkley as chairman. Jack Blaney, SFU's president, welcomed the idea of a retirees' organization and provided some start-up money. The steering committee agreed to have a board of six people elected each year at the annual meeting. The president's term would be two years and the past president would remain on the board for two years.

The first annual meeting of the SFURA was held April 23, 1998. The constitution drafted by the steering

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**Social Events 1998 – 2018** ▲ **Annual Events:** Annual Ides of March Reception; Annual Spring Dinner and AGM; Annual Retirees Reception; Annual Day at the Races –The Marg Jones Stakes; Annual Vancouver Canadians Baseball Game; Annual Welcome Back Lunch; Annual BC Lions Football Game; Annual Fall Dinner; – 1999: Vancouver Art Gallery Tour of Toulouse-Lautrec Exhibit; Steveston Dikes Walk and

committee was sent to all retirees with the help of Alan Black of SFU's Human Resources. Forty-eight people attended, ratified the constitution and made many suggestions for the future. SFURA was incorporated under the B.C. *Societies Act* in June 1998, and the first board was elected on October 20, 1998. The university provided meeting space.

Once SFURA was set up, events and activities quickly followed. Janet Blanchet started the SFURA newsletter. Bev Carlson organized a series of entertainment events, such as concerts and tours of the Capilano Dam and Granville Island Brewery. Evelyn Palmer organized the Seminar Series which drew audiences from all areas of the university. A financial interest group started a series of seminars. Several individuals also contributed. For example, John Walkley organized a wine tasting group that met on occasion. Ideas for more activities and events flourished.

Following incorporation under the *Societies Act*, the first executive board was elected on October 20, 1998. Members were John Walkley, president; George Suart, vice president; Janet Blanchet, secretary; Harry Evans: treasurer, Donna Laws, events; Norman Swartz, communications; Tom Mallinson, benefits; and Lionel Funt.

Much that was established within the first six months continues 20 years later: a newsletter, a website, meetings with the retirees' associations of UBC and UVic. Occasional free parking on campus for members was attained by George Suart. Committees were established to look after the concerns of members.

The first annual general meeting was in April 1999 and the membership year was established as April 1 – March 31. Margaret Jones joined the board as treasurer. There were frequent lunchtime and evening talks on many topics, including travel, photography, financial planning. Bev Carlson, assisted by Janet Blanchet and Marg Jones, organized a lively social program, which included a theatre matinée, tours of the Vancouver Art Gallery and the SFU Gallery, a walk and lunch at Steveston, and special dinners. The SFURA includes on its website a list events for each and every year since its inception. It is notable that there were 16 events in 1999 alone.

More serious concerns addressed by the executive included travel medical insurance, reciprocal membership arrangements with other universities and the desirability and function of a



**John Walkley**

**Donna Laws**

*John Walkley and Donna Laws are now deceased.*

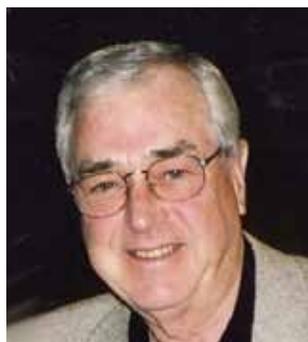
*Evelyn Palmer contributed these notes.*

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Lunch; SFU Gallery Photography Show; Lunch at Pat's Restaurant; Two Pianos, Four Hands; **2000**: VSO Pops – Tribute to Duke Ellington; Vancouver Playhouse – She Stoops to Conquer; George Suart's Lunches; Vancouver's Historic Chinatown; A Day at the Races; Tour of the Kilby Store and Farm; Buddhist Temple and Lunch at the Richmond Country Club; Walk and Lunch in Stanley Park; Guys and Dolls at The Playhouse

retirees centre on the SFU campus. The retiree associations of SFU, UVic and UBC established a tri-university association that continues to meet every year to discuss common concerns. They established an agreement with MEDOC for member travel insurance.

With expanding collaboration between the university president's office and many other units of SFU, and increased membership from all parts of the university, the SFURA became a distinctive and viable presence on campus.



### Bill Yule

*Bill Yule approved these notes as written by Evelyn Palmer*

By the fall of 2002 membership in the SFURA increased to 296, a large percentage of the number of SFU retirees at the time. The office in AQ 3048 was staffed for two hours each week by Secretary Penny Spagnolo, and Margaret Jones continued to volunteer her office in Athletics and Recreation for all SFURA business, membership, mailing, copying and newsletters. Marg also served as treasurer and membership chair.

Thanks to Bev Carlson's planning and assistance from Marg Jones and newsletter editor Janet Blanchet, the social events calendar was full with walks,

walking tours, plays, music and bus tours to Mission, Fraser Valley wineries, Victoria, the Capilano watershed, and more. A highlight of the fall was the carol ship cruise and dinner in Vancouver Harbour. The annual Afternoon at the Races event, later renamed The Marg Jones Stakes, began in 2002. Marv Wideen started his annual BC Lions game events in 2003. The Seminar Series was founded in September 2004.

The SFURA executive board continued as a conduit to SFU, handling problems with pensions and other benefits. Borrowing privileges at the SFU Library and gym membership were confirmed for all retirees. During these early days, the executive board was concerned with increasing membership by providing services and social events to members, and solidifying our relationship with the University.



### Marv Wideen

During my term as SFURA president, I found the executive willing to extend the mandate that had begun a decade earlier and to make progress with new ideas. Beverly Carlson continued to nurture the social program before passing it on to Elizabeth Michno. We enjoyed a variety of cultural events and travel. Janet Blanchet carried on as editor

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Theatre; Pilgrimage to Canterbury; SFU's New Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue; **2001:** Vienna Boys Choir at The Chan Centre; West Vancouver Seawall Walk; Lunch at Pat's Restaurant; Arts Club Theatre, Gold Mountain Guest; Steveston Dikes Walk and Lunch at Dave's Landing; Pendulum Gallery Jerry Grey Rare Spirits; A Personal Tribute to Vintage Elders; Vancouver Harbour Luncheon Cruise; The Music Man; **2002:**

of the newsletter. Marg Jones remained in charge of money and membership. The Seminar Series established by Evelyn Palmer drew audiences from all areas of the university.

But our rich discussions also produced new ventures. One of the early issues that came up was the organization of a retirees' centre. Much had been written about them and the idea was discussed at a CURAC conference. While the university provided us with meeting space we had to change areas for many of our meetings. We used Marg Jones's office in SFU's Physical Education for our address. Leigh Palmer, Evelyn Palmer, Marvin Stark and I drove to the University of Washington to visit the retirees' centre there. We were impressed with the centre having a support staff, and retirees sharing a visiting area. We put together a proposal for an SFU Retirees Centre, circulated it to members of SFURA and received many positive comments. During my yearly visit to President Stevenson, I presented him with our proposal and he sounded very supportive of the idea. He turned the issue over to SFU Vice-President Warren Gill, who provided us with the space that we still enjoy today.

Another development that occurred when I was part of the executive was the organization of the Financial Interest Group (FIG). Since that time, the FIG has offered approximately 30 seminars attended by SFURA members and others from the university community. More details are provided in another article in

this publication.

When SFU was nearing its 40th anniversary, the board discussed ways to help celebrate this event. Bev Carlson mentioned an idea of an oral history. Bill Yule's question, "What is an oral history?" led to a rich discussion and, ultimately, a proposal that the SFU president liked. That proposal suggested bringing together a group of retirees to describe their experiences of the early days of SFU. About 20 people were recruited and Joel Schwartz of the Learning and Instructional Development Centre agreed to help us with organization and editing.

On Joel Schwartz's advice, we set up three groups of faculty, staff and charter students, who met for a discussion that Joel recorded. A chairperson called on each participant to describe his or her experience of the early days of SFU, followed by plenty of discussion and some laughter. There was much to be learned from the participants. Joel did a first edit of the tapes, and shared them asking us to identify the text that should be retained. He then used the text to develop *The Excitement of the Early Years*. It was shown to a large audience at SFU, who appeared delighted. The following year, the same format of interviews was used for the second DVD, *The Instant University*. It, too, was shown to a large delighted audience at SFU. The DVDS are still available.

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UBC Museum of Anthropology; Theatre Matinee, Dinner with Friends; Lunch at Vina Vietnamese Restaurant; SFU Plant Sale; Walk in Deer Lake Park and Lunch at Heritage Village; SFURA Barbecue at the Pub; Port of Vancouver – Vanterm Container – Handling Facility; Chinese Lunch at the Pink Pearl; Carol Ships Parade of Lights Harbour Tour and Dinner; **2003**: VSO Tea and Trumpets, From Russia With Love; Arts Club Theatre,



### Norman Swartz

During my term as SFURA president, the benefits committee was established, and headed by newsletter editor Tom Poiker. Simon

Fraser University was going through a major change, abandoning mandatory retirement at age 65. SFU staff and faculty were now presented with new options for retirement planning. One could only speculate on what the implications would be for both SFU and the SFURA.

The third DVD in the Oral History series, *Thelma Finlayson—a Conversation with John Webster*, was produced. Sales of all three DVDs were brisk, and were offered through the SFU Bookstore as well as through the SFURA Office.

The Seminar Series and FIG continued with many lively talks on a variety of themes. Membership in the SFURA reached 378.

Social events organized by Elizabeth Michno included a concert by the Eybler Quartet, a series of six lunches and concerts at Helm Lodge (Sasamat Lake, Port Moody), a tour of the tulip fields in Washington's Skagit Valley, and bike trips. Local tours were to Electronic Arts, the SFU Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and to Granville Island Brewery. The traditions of the Day at the Races and the BC Lions football game were maintained. Maureen and Roy Carlson gave a slideshow about

northwest coast archaeology at the Fall Dinner.

The 10th anniversary of the SFURA occurred in April 2008 and a booklet of its history was produced by chair Marv Wideen, with committee members Elizabeth Michno and Evelyn Palmer (see <http://summit.sfu.ca/item/14254> and <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/history/10thAnniversary/>). The anniversary was celebrated at the annual general meeting in May with a dinner and reception honouring the founders and all executive board members of the 10 year span. A copy of the booklet was given to each attendee.

### Len Evenden

Retirement is a time to engage in new endeavours and pastimes. A medical intervention gave pause for reflection during which past president Marv



Wideen called. Apparently, SFURA was entering its busy season and needed an extra hand. I signed on.

SFURA was consolidating its presence and identity. Membership numbers were remarkably good, activities such as seminars, social outings, contacts with the university had been regularized, and there was a general sense that this was a group that fostered good relations among members and sought beneficial relations with the university. As with similar

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Little Shop of Horrors; Lunch at Carmelo's Restaurant; Coach Tour: Wine and Chocolates in the Valley; Walk in Mundy Park and Lunch at Paros Taverna; Summer Merriment, or, more exactly, Lunch at Whistler; A Walking Tour of Chinatown; **2004:** VSO Tea and Trumpets; Shall We Dance; Granville Island Stage; Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris; Tour of Westminster Abbey and lunch at the Mission Springs Pub;

groups, SFURA existed independently of the university, albeit symbiotically, deriving its legitimacy under the *Societies Act* of British Columbia. A certain tension, thus, existed at the core: as laid down in its constitution, SFURA seeks to bring together its social activities with those that advance the aims of publicly accessible higher education.

A dedicated and pleasant group had been elected to the executive committee, also referred to as the board. This also built up a core of volunteers already familiar with the tasks and willing to lend a hand as needed. Activities came to be categorized according to suggestions from the broader membership as well as the board. Each of the following (in no particular order) has maintained its own set of activities: the benefits committee, which has evolved largely into the FIG; the walking and hiking group; the Seminar Series that continues from earlier years with remarkable success; the reorganized newsletter found a catchy name, *Simon Says*, suggested by Christina Wong in a membership competition; the new logo, designed by Chris Hildred, was also adopted by way of a competition; relations with CURAC were clarified; contacts with the UVic and UBC retiree associations were established, and regular meetings with these groups are now held twice a year to co-ordinate interests in common, such as negotiating favourable travel insurance; a web site, started by Norman Swartz, evolved through various stages of development and negotiated relations with the SFU

computing services; early moves were made to establish an archival system for the records; a senior SFU administrator, Warren Gill, was appointed by SFU President Michael Stevenson to be the contact person between SFURA and the university; which led to the acquisition of office and committee meeting space on campus and access to the Human Resources Office.

Underlying all this, however, was the steady work of those who kept records and minutes, stuffed envelopes, mailed items out, handled telephone calls, checked emails, drove through Burnaby traffic to do the banking—and gradually shifted the burden to a mostly computerized system. Of course, someone had to book the rooms for meetings and social gatherings, set up the spaces and see that things went well organizationally throughout the various events. During these years, the board held strictly the conviction that nobody should be paid for their contributions, although an award system (the coveted Mug of Honour) was established so that speakers and others who made extraordinary contributions could be recognized. And the one-time modest increase of fees provided the confidence to support activities and projects that have flourished in the years since. Truly a community of interest!

The many individuals who initiated and carried out these projects all deserve much credit and thanks. Their names are listed elsewhere in this book of memories.

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Tour of UniverCity and lunch at the Pub; Tour of the Capilano Watershed; Luncheon at Eagle Creek; Coach trip to Victoria and Exhibit of Eternal Egypt at the Royal Victoria Museum; **2005:** Tour of The Orpheum Theatre; Storyeum: Through BC's History; Tour of the Capilano Watershed; Bus Trip to Minter Garden; Fall Dinner with premiere showing of the DVD "An Oral History of SFU: The Excitement of the Early Years"; Public



### Marilyn Bowman

The SFURA had an exceptionally busy year during my term as president. We began work to update our website, and had consultations with SFU IT staff to become part of its revised website system. As personal technologies were becoming part of everyone's lives, we began discussions for an interest group concerning personal technologies, held one meeting, and planned to create a digital photo archive for our website. Some of these plans did not happen that year, but the grounds were laid and were later completed with a beautiful new website with many new features. We had to stick-handle a threatened new charge for the use of the Halpern Centre for our Seminar Series, and were successful in fending it off. Board members took initiatives relating to insurance, with consultations with SFU regarding the possible need for directors and officers liability insurance which, thankfully, we did not need. I was concerned that with regular changes in board membership, we needed a manual that would outline the schedule of normal board tasks and the division of labour that new board members needed to take on to ensure the work of SFURA went on in an orderly way, so I created the manual. During this year we turned our office into a more

general working area for board meetings, and bought and set up a computer, printer and telephone. There were great movements of files, archives and working papers as we got this operational, with special help from Evelyn Palmer and Marg Jones. On behalf of the SFURA, I met with President Stevenson to ensure he appreciated our active involvement with the university, and also to ensure he continued to provide us with an annual grant. Mike Roberts spoke to the Faculty Association, Len Evenden participated in the SFU Campaign on our behalf, and I gave our annual recruitment talk to new retirees. Our board met with the boards of the retirees' associations from UBC and UVic to determine whether we could make arrangements for the best extended and travel medical insurance plans for our members.

Overall, the year was an incredibly busy one, with our annual dinner, a new fall lunch, the Ides of March social, many meetings of the FIG, many seminars, a very busy program of eight excellent social activities organized by Tom O'Shea, our regular weekly walking group, and a full slate of issues of our newsletter published by Tom Poiker. Looking back on the minutes of our board meetings, I am quite astonished at the many different and complex issues we tackled, even as we carried on the many regular member activities. I enjoyed the year and really appreciated the cooperation and good spirit of our board members.

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showing of *"An Oral History of SFU: The Excitement of the Early Years"* in Images Theatre; Tour of B.C. Place Stadium; **2006:** Granville Island Brewery Tour; Tour of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery in Steveston; Bicycle Tour on Pitt Meadows Dykes with lunch at Haney; Bicycle Tour on Richmond-Steveston Dyke with lunch in Steveston; Fall Dinner with premier showing of second DVD: *An Oral History of SFU, Instant University*; Tour of



**Tom O'Shea,**

I was President of the SFU Retirees Association for the year 2011-2012, after having served on the executive as social organizer for the previous two years. A number of initiatives were undertaken that year, in addition to the usual meetings, social events, financial seminars, walks, and inter-university collaborations.

Hiromi Matsui, who looked after major social events for the year, organized the first welcome-back fall luncheon at the Diamond Alumni Centre, attracting 30 members. This has since become an annual event.

The SFURA brochure was revised by a committee of Percilla Groves, Len Evenden, and Hiromi Matsui with graphic design contributed by Kathie Wraight. The glossy colour brochure was intended to serve as a recruiting tool to attract new members.

One of our major accomplishments was to develop a new website. Stephanie Mitchell helped us through the transition from the sites that Norman Swartz first developed and Stephanie redesigned, to the new one supported by SFU's IT Services. Marilyn Bowman, Percilla Groves, and Hiromi Matsui contributed to this effort, as well as Frances Atkinson and Melissa Luck from IT Services.

In November 2011, we hosted a meeting at SFU's Vancouver campus with the UBC and UVic retiree associations. As co-hosts, we also assisted in planning the national meeting of the College and University Retirees of Canada (CURAC) held in Victoria from April 18th to 20th. Len Evenden served as CURAC delegate on the program committee, arranged for and introduced the Friday lunch feature speaker, Gordon Harris of UniverCity, and chaired a session as well. Frances Atkinson presented a session on using social media for communication. Others attending were Marilyn Bowman, Hiromi Matsui, and myself.

With Evelyn Palmer taking the lead, we converted our 2006 interview with SFU architects Arthur Erickson and Geoffrey Massey into a DVD format and offered it for sale along with the three previous SFURA-produced DVDs on the history of SFU. In January 2012, we videotaped our seminar entitled *George Suart, Klaus Rieckhoff & Jerry Zaslove: Times of Turbulence at SFU (1968-70): Three Views* and made it available on our website. These five videos make a strong contribution to our understanding of the early years in the development of SFU.

Mike Roberts organized a very strong series of retiree seminars that included presentations by Bruce Alexander, Michael Fellman, Rob Gordon, and Lynn Copeland as well as the Suart/Rieckhoff/Zaslove trio mentioned above. Tom Poiker continued to improve our newsletter.

One initiative that I thought

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Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue; **2007:** Franz Liszt Piano Recital by Slava Senyshyn and Alan Kogosowski at the Massey Theatre, New Westminster; Public showing of second SFURA DVD: An Oral History of SFU, "Instant University" in Images Theatre; Rossini's An Italian Girl in Algiers performed by Burnaby Lyric Opera at the Shadbolt Centre James Cowan Theatre; Lunches and Concerts by the Helm Lodge Fireside at Lake

worthwhile, which eventually did not survive, was a personal technologies interest group intended to help retirees understand new hardware such as tablets and iPhones and new social networks (e.g., Facebook).

I would particularly like to acknowledge the untiring support of Marg Jones in all the activities of the association. Our annual Marg Jones Stakes at the Hastings Racetrack honours her contribution.



### Hiromi Matsui

What I remember most about working with the SFURA during the 2012- 2013 year is the people, those who gave their energy, support and laughter

to make the experience memorable. For example, working with members like Percilla Groves, Len Evenden, Marilyn Bowman and quite a few others was always lively and fun. We often had lunch together in the pub after our meetings, and it was good to relax and talk with friends, particularly in the summer when we could bask in the sunshine outside. Sometimes others joined us like Marg Jones, Maurice Gibbons and Marilyn Pankratz.

Tom O'Shea was an invaluable support when it came to meetings with SFU administrators. We had a good meeting with President Andrew Petter and Tom

gently pressed for additional support for SFURA, and it happened very easily and smoothly.

Other significant connections with the SFU administration were made in this period. Dean John Craig of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences initiated funding for the projects of 10 retired faculty. Maurice Gibbons, Marvin Wideen and Tom O'Shea started a pilot project with the support of the Dean of Education to connect the interests of current faculty and retirees.

Thanks to the willingness and help from John D'Auria and Evelyn Palmer, we had a talk by Ron Baker about the early days of SFU, and we made a DVD that is part of the SFU oral history project. Ron showed me the lyrics of a song, "Everything's up to date at Simon Fraser" and even sang a bit of it too.

The SFURA held four major social events for members, starting with a fall luncheon at the Diamond Alumni Centre. The annual fall dinner featured guest speaker Paul Brantingham, School of Criminology. We were pleased that President Petter joined us for the Ides of March reception. The social events of the year concluded with the annual general meeting and dinner.

Tom O'Shea organized three other events: a Vancouver Canadians baseball game at Nat Bailey Stadium, the Marg Jones Stakes at Hastings Track, and a Music in the Morning concert at the Vancouver Academy of Music. Percilla Groves organized a travel insurance seminar and researched the benefit

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Sasamat [There were 4]; 2008: Guided tour of the SFU Forensics Lab; Guided tour of the Inuit Doll Collection at the Burnaby Art Gallery; A Day in the Fraser Valley; Annie's Orchard with Jim Rahe and Larry Albright's Fish Farm; A Day in the Suburbs, Deer Lake Park; Plants, Birds and Bird Calls, and Historic Homes; 2009: Afternoon at The Vancouver Playhouse, Tour and Matinee performance of Toronto, Mississippi; Cavalleria

plans of various groups. She also arranged a talk by Don Taylor and Paul Hebbard about SFU Summit and the role of SFU Archives.

Maurice Gibbons took over from Tom Poiker as newsletter editor in June 2012.

Ted Cohn stepped up to the plate in September and organized the seminar speakers listed on the SFURA website. Ted was also one of the leaders of the very active walking group who organized weekly walks, rain or shine. He was helped by David Ryeburn, Parveen Bawa, Dan McDonald and Bob Horsfall.

Dan McDonald also helped build the SFU team with KIVA and has encouraged many to contribute micro-loans to citizens of various countries.

These people, and many more, helped to fly the SFURA flag. It was a good year.

in Canada, to the 2015 Fall Dinner as a speaker. John also arranged for Keith Baldrey, one of B.C.'s best-known political commentators, to provide his insights into the 2015 federal election campaign at a talk in September 2015. This was one of the best attended speakers program events put on by the SFURA. Another important event John organized was a personal tour of the TRIUMF Facility at UBC for SFU retirees in April of 2016. He later initiated having some SFURA colloquia at the downtown campus for members and others from the area.

John D'Auria played a major role in the organization and presentation of a highly successful pre-retirement workshop for current employees near to or considering their retirement options. The workshop was organized with the SFU VP Academic's office in collaboration with Human Resources and SFURA. This was the first such event in several years.

John indicated to President Petter, University Secretary Ian Forsyth and senior SFU Archives management that SFURA had an interest in supporting the digitization for preservation purposes of the many valuable and important photographs located in the SFU Archives. Ron Long had generated for discussion a document which asked SFURA to make a proposal to the SFU administration on the matter of proper care of all of the SFU historical photos. No progress has occurred with this initiative.

At the April 2016 Tri-Universities Summit, John reported the substantial interest in the funding for individual



### John D'Auria

*Submitted by Jim Boyd in memory of John D'Auria's accomplishments*

John D'Auria was an inspiring leader who served as SFURA president for two terms and as past president for the two intervening.

D'Auria arranged for members to hear the views of opinion leaders of his time. He brought Isobel Mackenzie, the first and only provincial seniors' advocate

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Rusticana by Pietro Mascagni, performed by Opera Appassionata at the Wellbrook Winery, Delta, BC; A Musical Soirée on the banks of Deer Lake. Songs by Chemsemble, a Sing-along, and Potluck Dinner; "Urban Planning for the mountainous landscapes; the case of the north Shore." A guided tour led by Mike Roberts.; Stanley Park Walk; 2010: Requiem for an Olympic Dream; Walk in Chinatown, Lunch at the Jade Dynasty

retired faculty research and activities available from the SFU Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and from the SFU Faculty of Science.

SFURA has sponsored many successful activities, the most rewarding of which was significant participation by members and others in a fundraising effort to create a new scholarship to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of SFU. John proposed this special award during his 2014 term and members and others donated generously. Later he chaired a small committee of three that approached SFU for some funding support for the SFURA 50th anniversary book project.

Another important contribution was working with Jim Boyd to develop and recruit a first-ever paid administrative assistant position so SFURA could continue to develop and grow. John also oversaw the development of the PayPal online payment system for handling membership renewals and event attendance thereby saving significant postage, paper and handling costs. He initiated free first-year memberships after noting that member numbers continued to be static at around 350.

During John's second term the BC *Societies Act* was revised with a major impact on the constitution and bylaws of all organizations registered under the Act. This change required significant board involvement lead by Frances Atkinson to ensure that SFURA was in compliance when the new Act came into effect.

John supported discussion on the possibility of establishing a mentoring program to play a role in assisting young faculty to understand clearly the path to tenure and other topics of interest. He noted retired faculty and staff contribute to the university in many ways in addition to estate planning and it would be good to keep their connections with the University. Another planned initiative was to assist by consulting with SFU Faculty Association on its development of new contractual arrangements with the university in the area of benefits, particularly those involving retirement.

In conclusion, John contributed enormous energy to the SFURA and its board even as his health became compromised.



#### Jim Boyd

Stepping up as SFURA president in 2014 was a real challenge as I had only one year's experience on the executive

board. I found the role of president to be both stimulating and challenging, and with the support of an effective board, I grew into the position which eventually made it more interesting and ultimately satisfying. A couple of former SFURA presidents assisted me with advice and the sharing of some of their own files.

2014 - 2015  
2015 - 2016

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Restaurant; Second Musical Soirée on the Banks of Deer Lake. Songs by Chemsemble, a Singalong, and Potluck Dinner; An Afternoon at the Vancouver Playhouse, Open House, Tour, and Performance of A Life in the Theatre.; Guided tour of the Riverview Grounds, the trees and arboretum; A Day at the UBC Museum of Anthropology; **2011:** Interest Group in Personal Technologies: Cellphones and Smartphones; Tour of

Many SFURA accomplishments during my terms as president were shared with John D’Auria who occupied the role the year before and the year after my appointment. John passed away after a short illness at the end of his second term.

The most successful achievement was the SFURA book project entitled *Remembering SFU on the Occasion of its 50th Birthday*. This was a complete effort by the entire SFURA Executive Board and other members who assisted with the project, notably the editorial team of Maurice Gibbons, Walter Piovesan and Ron Long. All operated on the simple premise of getting the book done and published. One recipient said “The book is a magnificent compendium of SFU’s history and I’ll treasure it.”

We improved communication with SFU through connections with President Andrew Petter and AVP External Relations Joanne Curry. I spoke on behalf of SFURA at two annual SFU president’s receptions for new retirees to demonstrate SFURA’s value as a source of SFU’s institutional memory and SFURA’s value as a source of expertise. I referred to all of the retirees as being truly an important contingent of successful *career alumni*.

In July of 2014, SFURA representatives, Hiromi Matsui, Ralph Korteling and Denyse Dallaire, formed a committee to formally approach SFU for more support. We met with Joanne Curry and VP Finance and Administration Pat Hibbits regarding a greater connection with the university with various types of support for our

organization. Although not a university department, we are not simply an external community group, but rather an integral part of the spirit and purpose of the university. Consequently, we sought further university administrative support to allow SFURA to thrive and to continue supporting the university’s vision, goals and mission. For example, we asked for improved access to information about retirees to enable broadening the membership base. These strategies ultimately failed, though there has been a follow-up source of assistance in the form of a modest contribution of \$5,000, which has continued to date. Overall SFU funding support increased to \$10,000 during my terms.

SFURA administrative tasks were handled on a volunteer basis for many years with the valuable assistance of Margaret Jones, who retired in 2016 after a fifty year relationship with the university. The College and University Retirees Associations of Canada granted a 2016 Tribute Award to Margaret based on my nomination.

At the end of my first term, I created a bound consolidated AGM booklet of reports from all board directors for circulation to departments and executives of SFU’s senior management. I highlighted several projects including the separation of the membership email lists into two categories to simplify the board’s reporting on its activities to members, while allowing the members to use the original maillist as a true discussion forum. I pointed out that,

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School for Contemporary Arts at SFU Woodward’s and lunch at the Irish Heather Pub; Mozart’s Don Giovanni performed by Burnaby Lyric Opera at the Shadbolt Centre James Cowan Theatre; Vikings on Vacation performed by Canada’s ‘Arctic Fusion’ band, Polaris Ensemble; 2012: A Little Lunch Music at the Shadbolt Centre with buffet lunch. (5 events in 2012); Tour of SFU Surrey hosted by Joanne Curry and lunch at the

while the number of retirees from SFU keeps increasing, our membership seems to remain static at around 300. The participation rate in SFURA is decreasing and we need to reverse this trend.

Another major effort saw the establishment of a Common Data Storage (CDS) database project spearheaded by Ralph Korteling. This database is stored on university hardware so that we have a good permanent record of all present and past SFURA actions and activities.

We developed a new brochure to promote SFURA and to incorporate the new policy of complimentary first-year membership for new retirees. We broadened our membership criteria to include some form of associate membership for those who worked at the university, but did not retire here, or who worked at SFU their entire career employed through grant money. The board believes our organization ought to promote inclusiveness and has already admitted many who worked for, but did not retire from, SFU.

Newsletter editor Maurice Gibbons travelled to Seattle in early September 2015 to a gathering of Northwest Retirement Associations. I later nominated Maurice for a CURAC Tribute Award based on his excellent work with the production of *Remembering SFU on the Occasion of its 50th Birthday*. He attended the CURAC conference to accept his award.

There have been many website improvements including an improved

layout, posting members' publications, a question and resources page, an expanded In Memoriam page, the posting of all past *Simon Says* newsletters and a useful link to our membership in CURAC, where various affinity contract arrangements are available.

The board endorsed the Kiva Small Development Loan Project and successfully enlisted the support of the SFU administration as a tribute to SFU's 50th anniversary.

**Frances Atkinson,**

It has been my privilege to serve as president of the SFURA for the 2017-2018 year, and again this 2018-2019



year. Sadly, the circumstances of my becoming president in 2017 were due to the serious illness of President John D'Auria, who subsequently passed away several months later. I was honoured to represent SFURA at John's memorial service in Mount Seymour United Church in November, and to make a brief speech at the gathering acknowledging John's contributions.

Our regular schedule of activities, events, and initiatives during the 2017-2018 season included some new elements. Particularly notable was a Harbour Cruises boat trip in August 2017

2017 - 2018  
2018 - 2019

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Central City Brewing Company Pub; Music in the Morning at Vancouver Academy of Music and lunch at The Epicurean Caffe Bistro; **2013:** [8 seminars, and 2 FIG seminars plus the usual annual events] **2014:** [6 seminars, and 4 FIG seminars plus the usual annual events] **2015:** [7 seminars, and 3 FIG seminars plus the usual annual events] **2016:** SFU's 50th Anniversary SFURA Reception at the Halpern Centre; Ides

along the Burrard Inlet and up Indian Arm. The trip was a big success with many members and guests participating. Great weather and evident camaraderie among participants throughout the trip made it a very special occasion. The SFURA board evaluated feedback received and is considering adding some form of summer outing to our regular calendar, possibly bi-annually.

SFURA's regular social activities also included the September 2017 annual Welcome Back Lunch in the DAC on Burnaby campus, and the November 2017 annual Fall Dinner at the Italian Culture Centre. The latter was a venue we had used only rarely in the past. Feedback on the venue was very favourable, as were comments about the excellent food and humorous recitations given by one of our members, Ron Baker, about the early days of SFU. The board agreed we should keep this venue on our list for future events.

Another new element was to hold the annual Ides of March Reception in the Segal Building downtown, following expressed member interest in having some events occur in the downtown area. Attendance at the Ides of March Reception was considerably higher than in former years, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the venue and food. At the event, we honoured our members who were at least 90 years of age as a mark of respect for their resilience and well-being. We presented lifetime memberships to three elders who attended the event in person: Klaus

Rieckhoff, Tony Arrott, and Ron Baker.

In 2017-2018, we offered another eclectic and interesting series of talks under our Speakers Program. We were sorry to say goodbye to our Speakers Program coordinator, Yasmin Jamal, who played a key role in building this program into a vibrant entity, and were pleased to welcome Apollonia Cifarelli into the role. (Details of all current and past talks can be found at [www.sfu.ca/retirees/current-year.html](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/current-year.html)) In addition, the SFURA FIG comprising Philip Mah, Tom O'Shea and Marv Wideen, organized two seminars covering estate planning and investment fees.

In 2017-2018 the board engaged in a number of outreach activities including participating in SFU's pre-retirement workshop that was attended by some 400 people, forging stronger links with SFU's 55+ program, offering our participation in the May 2018 Burnaby Festival of Learning jointly organized by The City of Burnaby and SFU, and attending and speaking at President Petter's Annual Reception in honour of SFU Retirees which takes place each May.

Also in 2017-2018, on April 25th SFURA was the host for the annual Tri-Universities Summit of Retiree Associations from B.C.'s universities and colleges, at the Wosk Centre downtown, which was organized by former president Jim Boyd.

Running the SFURA involves a lot of volunteer work, and I would like to extend sincere thanks to all 2017-2018 board members for so capably overseeing our

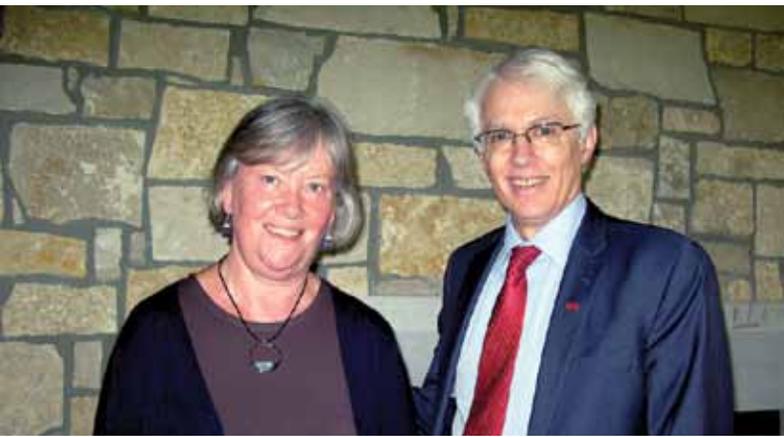
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of March Reception and SFURA Book Launch at Club Ilia; Tour of TRIUMF lead by John D'Auria; **2017:** Indian Arm Luncheon Boat Cruise; Annual Ides of March Reception; Annual Spring Dinner and AGM; Annual Retirees Reception; Annual Day at the Races – The Marg Jones Stakes; Annual Vancouver Canadians Baseball Game; Annual Welcome Back Lunch; Annual BC Lions Football Game; Annual Fall Dinner;

finances and investments, taking board minutes, producing our newsletter, organizing social events, keeping our website current, developing and maintaining our membership databases, communicating with members, pursuing university liaison opportunities, and producing the 20th anniversary booklet that is in progress as I write

this. Finally, my deepest thanks go to our valuable administrative assistant Annie Ye, for staffing office hours, managing memberships, answering emails, greeting members at events, and undertaking many other tasks. Thank you to all who have helped in any way to ensure SFURA continues to be a vital asset in our lives.







# Activities and Projects

FIG, SEMINARS, WALKING GROUP,  
*SIMON SAYS*, SOCIAL EVENTS, &  
WEBSITE

## **Financial Interest Group**

**Marvin Wideen, Tom O'Shea, and Phil Mah**

Since its beginning the Financial Interest Group (FIG) has planned and presented approximately 30 seminars involving a wide range of presenters: retirees, staff, and financial representatives from commercial firms. The scope has been very broad and the seminars have evolved over time in terms of complexity and participation.

How did FIG get started? In May of 2008, the SFURA executive circulated a memo to assess enthusiasm for an interest group on financial planning. Based on the positive replies, a meeting of interested retirees followed. A subcommittee (Philip Mah, Tom O'Shea, Marvin Wideen, Shue Tuck Wong, and Iris Woodham) met to discuss future plans. General interest in the topic of financial planning appeared evident and several topics were suggested, such as proper investments, stock trading, and reducing taxes. We agreed to aim for one session each semester.

Three seminars based on members' suggestions were planned in the first year. Marilyn Cairns shared her experience of being audited by the International

Revenue Service because of properties she owned in the U.S.A. Stan Kanehara described the "couch potato" approach to financial planning that he used when he invested his money and checked it occasionally from his couch. Alan Black made a presentation on SFU's Sun Life mutual funds that many of us own as part of retirement funds. In a later follow-up, Alan, Rob Grauer and Debbie Wilson reviewed a range of ideas as to how to make the best use of Sun Life funds. SFU staff have continued to offer presentations on the use and benefits of Sun Life over the years.

Other retirees also contributed to our interests in financial management. In 2010, Konrad Colbow described how to use options as a way to make money in trading. George Suart, an active trader at the time, described how one can move from a buy-and-hold to a buy-and-sell approach which he had found much more productive. Fred Einstein described his buy-and-hold approach with dividend-paying blue chip stocks and reported that he also traded options. Tom O'Shea, Phil Mah, Jay Burr and Tom Poiker came together to discuss how they planned their finances

during retirement. In another seminar, three retirees gave short overviews of approaches to financial management that they had applied in their retirement, Jim Boyd contrasted styles of a do-it-yourself approach using a financial advisor, Larry Albright described the maintenance of his and his wife's assets, and Marvin Wideen described the use of swing trading in the stock market.

The FIG group frequently asked retirees to make suggestions for future seminars or raise issues to be discussed. We received a request from Barbara McDaniel and Jay Burr on the issue of U.S.A. taxation for people with U.S.A. citizenship living in Canada. They shared their experiences with us about the U.S.A. tax department. Some were very surprising. For example, if a Canadian with American citizenship bought and sold a house in Canada, any profit could be taxed by the U.S.A. Barbara's and Jay's shared experience led to two more similar sessions. In a third session, Jay Fournier, a financial accountant, summarized the problems and laws involved for Canadians who own property in the U.S.A., earn wages, or do business there.

Other presentations of note include: David Andolfatto, Professor of Economics at SFU and Vice President of Economic Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, who explained the concept of quantitative easing and how it and other monetary policies have evolved; a presentation of current relevance was given by Mark Fattedad in which he discussed the evolution of sustainable investing, integrating Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) factors into fundamental analysis, and the risks and opportunities resulting from climate

change; our own Ted Cohn examined the political, economic and social aspects of foreign debt and financial crises; other more recent sessions have combined commercial individuals and groups.

Approximately 70 participants attended the session organized by Misa Zivkovic as well as Sogol Onori and Cheryl Norton from Sun Life. They described estate planning and information that can minimize taxes at death. The government tax structure can claim nearly 50% of money one leaves behind. Sogol described several strategies to reduce that high taxation rate. During one session this year, Phil Mah as chair introduced a group of four presenters who provided a broad spectrum in the fields of investment, taxation and real estate planning during retirement, and avoiding taxation for one's beneficiaries after death.

FIG members regularly contribute their personal financial stories to the pre-retirement seminars presented by the university in collaboration with SFURA.

Details of recent presentations and many past presentations are available on the SFURA website.

As always, the FIG welcomes suggestions for future sessions.

### **Seminar Series and Speakers Program**

#### **Evelyn Palmer**

Seminars and talks including brown-bag lunchtime presentations on financial planning, digital cameras and camcorders, art, social issues and travel were a part of the SFURA from the beginning. Lionel Funt initiated a series of travel talks and coined the title "Wandering Minds Travel Series". Those talks were held in the evening in the Diamond University Club. The chefs

were often persuaded to prepare a meal to suit the topic of the presentation. Now the talks are usually offered mid-day and the tradition of seminars combined with dining has continued as attendees usually reconvene at the Club or at a nearby restaurant to continue the discussions.

Evelyn Palmer joined the board in the fall of 2004 and she and Leigh Palmer organized a regular seminar series especially intended to showcase the expertise and/or research of SFURA members. Soon, interested non-member presenters were added to the roster of speakers. Subsequent coordinators of the series (later renamed the Speakers Program) were Marilyn Bowman, Mike Roberts, Ted Cohn, Jackie Viswanathan, Yasmin Jamal and Apollonia Cifarelli.

Series coordinators advertise the talks via email postings to SFURA members as well as the SFU community. Upcoming talks are publicized on the SFURA home page at [www.sfu.ca/retirees/calendar-events.html](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/calendar-events.html)

The Halpern Centre is the venue for most seminars as the SFU administration has made that space available at the internal rate. In response to member suggestions that some events be scheduled at alternate locations, a recent presenter spoke at SFU's Vancouver campus. Three of the talks were videoed and preserved in SFURA's Oral History Project.

To date there have been 93 presentations with many more to follow. A sampling of the seminar topics from SFURA's 20th year illustrates the variety in this multi-disciplinary series: Kate Bird, the history of Vancouver protests, riots, and strikes; Bruce Brandhorst, the natural history of Southern Africa,

Ted Cohn, the politics of international trade; Kenneth Craig, pain in the human animal; Richard Smith, the future of social media; Gail Anderson, the use of insects in death investigation; and more.

### **SFURA Walking Group**

**Ted Cohn, Dave Ryeburn, Parveen Bawa and Brenda Harrison**

Three retired SFU faculty members, Ted Cohn, Bob Horsfall and David Ryeburn started the SFURA Walking Group in 2009. Fourteen people came to the first walk that Ted led at Deer Lake on September 2nd of that year. However, the number of people joining the walks was highly variable. When the Walking Group practiced outreach and invited non-SFU members to join, the number of walkers increased dramatically. Many of the walks became more challenging and more akin to hikes. The walks/hikes were scheduled for Wednesdays. To make them more user-friendly to a larger group of people, they were divided into two subgroups: one a longer, more challenging hike, and the second subgroup a shorter easier hike.

The hikes-walks were wide ranging.



On the North Shore, they included Whyte Lake and the Baden Powell Trail, Capilano, the Old Buck Trail to Quarry Rock, Lighthouse Park, Dog Mountain, Lynn Headwaters and the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve. In Tri-Cities, our hikes included Burnaby Mountain, Belcarra Park, Sasamat lake, Buntzen Lake, Crystal Falls, Minnehada and the Traboulay PoCo Trail. When there was inclement weather, the group sometimes changed to locations such as Deer Lake, Burnaby Lake and Mundy Park. Although most of our hikes/walks were within about 50 km of Burnaby, we also hiked on Bowen and Galiano Islands.

There was a good deal of camaraderie among the hikers, and a large number of them took turns to lead hikes. It is impossible to mention everyone who contributed to the group, but there are some notable examples. The Walking Group organizing committee was composed mostly of SFURA members: David Ryeburn, Parveen Bawa, Ted Cohn and Brenda Harrison. Clarence Aasen from Victoria University (New Zealand) was an exception. Ann Crandall, Parveen Bawa, Lilian Chun, Brenda Harrison, Hanna Guenther, Dan McDonald and Doug Young took photographs of the hikers and the scenery. Joe Kalmek and Clarence Aasen introduced a number of new and challenging hikes to the group. David Ryeburn sent out meticulous announcements with details regarding access and routes.

Despite the ongoing vitality of the hiking group, the numerous efforts to recruit more SFU retirees for the hikes met with little success. As a result, by 2018 the great majority of the new hikers were not from SFU and the connection

with SFURA had become more tenuous. Efforts to recruit younger SFURA members on the organizing committee were unsuccessful. The walk notices provided descriptions of the routes to ensure that hikers knew what to expect, but there were liability concerns because accidents can occur. SFURA did not provide insurance for the group, partly because most of the hikers were not SFURA members.

In summer 2018, the regular walkers in the Wednesday SFURA hiking group had numerous conversations about the future of their group. Over time, the group had evolved into primarily a non-SFU group. As such, to remain strong it was thought essential for the group to encourage all willing participants (whether from SFU or not) to be organizers and leaders in an equal and self-sustaining way. Continued formal affiliation with SFURA was increasingly seen as an impediment to independent functioning. Accordingly at the SFURA board meeting of August 30, 2018, the board unanimously passed a motion to cease the formal affiliation between SFURA and the Wednesday hiking group.

SFU retirees continue to be most welcome to hike with the now independent Wednesday hiking group. The SFURA office at [retirees@sfu.ca](mailto:retirees@sfu.ca) will put them in touch with a current hiker.

## **Newsletter History**

### **Maurice Gibbons**

*Simon Says*, the newsletter of the SFURA, is issued three times per year and is designed to keep the members informed about the activities of the association, issues that concern retirees, and other topics that may be of interest, such as members' travel, research and

publications. SFURA distributes issues to most members as email attachments. Members who prefer to read on paper can opt to receive their issues by post. *Simon Says* also reaches individuals on the SFU administrative team and the institutional members of the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada. Back issues starting from 1998 are preserved on the SFURA website.

Janet Blanchet edited the newsletter in its earliest days 2002-2007. She passed it on to Tom Poiker, who passed it on to the current editor, Maurice Gibbons, in 2012. The first newsletter was four pages long, in black and white, and stapled, while the current issues have grown to 24 printed pages in blazing colour. Every editor added one or more interesting features. The function of the original newsletter was primarily to announce events and, as those announcements are now made by email messages and website updates, the current newsletter is able to offer longer substantial articles.

The publication is known for the many people involved in making it a success. Walter Piovesan is the associate editor and does the layout for the newsletter, and Ron Long manages the photography.

Several people write regular features and columns. The president, Frances Atkinson, writes a report about SFURA's activities for each issue, and Marilyn Bowman writes the "Reflections" column about personal issues related to aging. Evelyn Palmer writes the "All About You" column with news about members' travels and other activities. The FIG (Tom O'Shea, Phillip Wah, Marv Wideen) writes about financial issues and James Dean, our prescient economist, advises us on what is happening around the globe. We asked Sheila Delany to write with an edge



and she has, every issue. Tom O'Shea is the "socialist" writing about what we can do for fun and edification, while Parveen Bawa tells what we had better do to handle the struggles of aging, and Jim Boyd writes about our national presence in CURAC, the national body of retired university employees.

Every issue contains other articles that report on people's activities: their travels, research, and interesting experiences that they have had. As this report makes clear, the newsletter belongs to all of the members of the SFURA.

The editorial team that creates *Simon Says* also created the book, *Remembering SFU On the Occasion of Its 50th Birthday*.

## Social Events

### Tom O'Shea

Since the earliest days of the SFURA members have enjoyed a wealth of social activities. The Fall Dinner, the Ides of March reception and the dinner following the annual general meeting quickly became traditions. Bev Carlson was the first social convenor, followed by Elizabeth Michno, Tom O'Shea and Thea Hinds. Margaret Jones often assisted with local arrangements. Social events of both decades are listed in running

footnotes in this booklet.

Newer traditions include the Marg Jones Stakes (a horse race at Hastings Track) and baseball at Nat Bailey Stadium. The SFURA encourages individual members to organize informal events for other members. For example, an email invitation to the SFURA forum mail list brought five members together over several afternoons to design and construct a quilt, which was sold with proceeds donated to a university scholarship.

During his terms as social convener, Tom O'Shea promoted a variety of events ranging from a tour of the behind-the-scenes preparation facilities of the (now defunct) Playhouse to a day at the UBC Museum of Anthropology. Below Tom recalls his favourite event, Opera at the Winery.

*Frank Klassen, conductor, had formed a group called Opera Appassionata that was devoted to presenting amateur opera in diverse local venues. The promotional material for the opera set the scene in this way: 'Opera Appassionata is returning to the Wellbrook Winery, with the best-known of Mascagni's operas: 'Cavalleria rusticana'. Turiddu has told everyone he's going to Francofonte to pick up some wine, but that's just a good excuse to be together with Lola while her husband Alfio is gone. Turiddu ... knows that there's no need to go all the way to Francofonte to get wine when you can have both wine and opera at the Wellbrook Winery in Delta, just a 25 minute drive from Vancouver! The heritage barn will provide a unique setting for this passionate opera performed with soloists, chorus and orchestra. Optional wine-tasting will be offered at all 3 performances'.*

*Twenty-four SFURA opera/wine lovers*

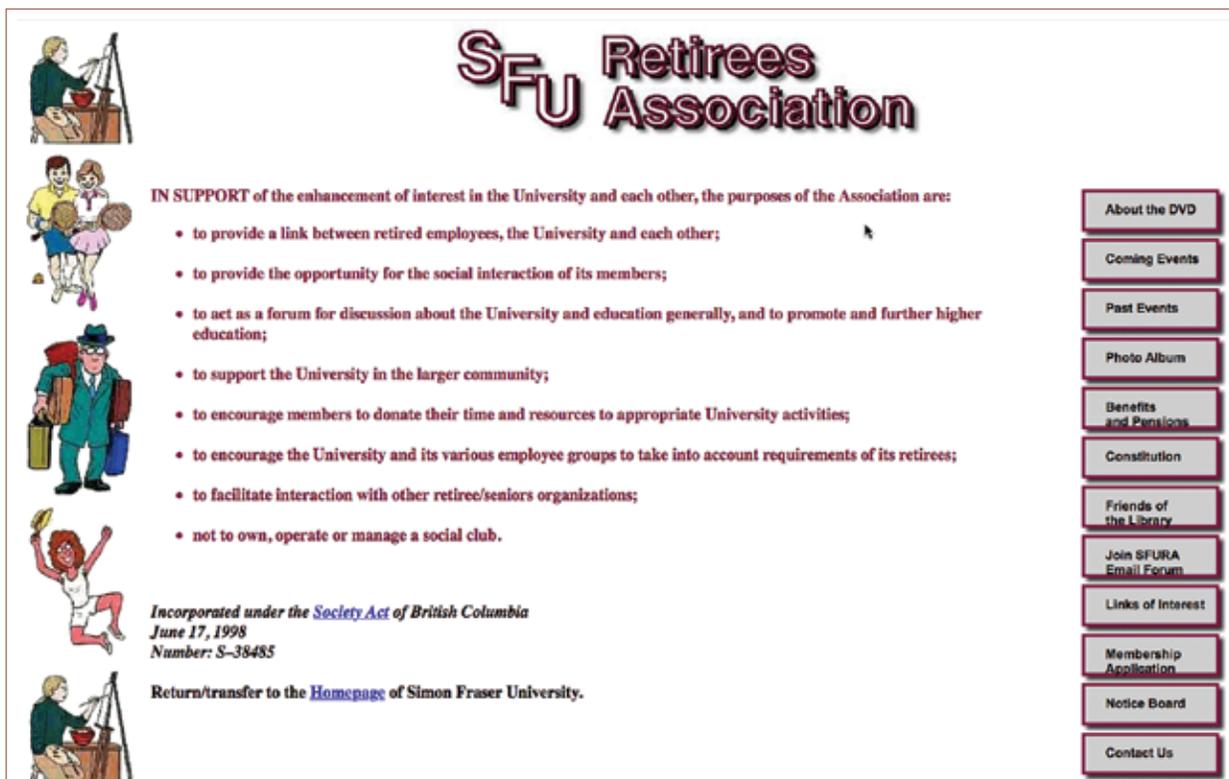
*attended and had front-row seats on straw bales and benches in the barn, as well as priority at the wine bar. Fruit wines, yes, but tasteful nevertheless, and provided fortification for the final dramatic scene when Turiddu tells his mother that he is going outside to get some air and asks that she be a kindly mother to Santuzza if he should not return: 'Un bacio, mamma! Un altro bacio!—Addio!' Turiddu rushes out. The villagers start to crowd around. Voices are heard in the distance and a woman cries, 'They have murdered Turiddu!' Santuzza faints and the mother collapses in the arms of the women villagers. A perfect day for all of us [except Turiddu].*

### **A Brief History of the SFURA Website**

#### **Walter Piovesan**

When the SFURA executive board first met officially in April 1998, SFURA's first webmaster had already designed its website. Norman Swartz, a professor in SFU's Philosophy Department, was self-taught in website design. He crafted the website using the tools of the era: HTML and some Javascript. The site was hosted on SFU's web service through an arrangement that continues to this day, and which demonstrates the ongoing support of the SFU administration. The site provided information about the emerging organization and gave details of events, meetings and other SFURA business.

Norman was SFURA's webmaster for many years and was responsible for the website's ongoing maintenance and development. When Norman became president of SFURA, Leigh Palmer served as webmaster for a period. With Norman's retirement from the executive board, and Leigh's desire not to continue



First SFURA Website by Norman Swartz

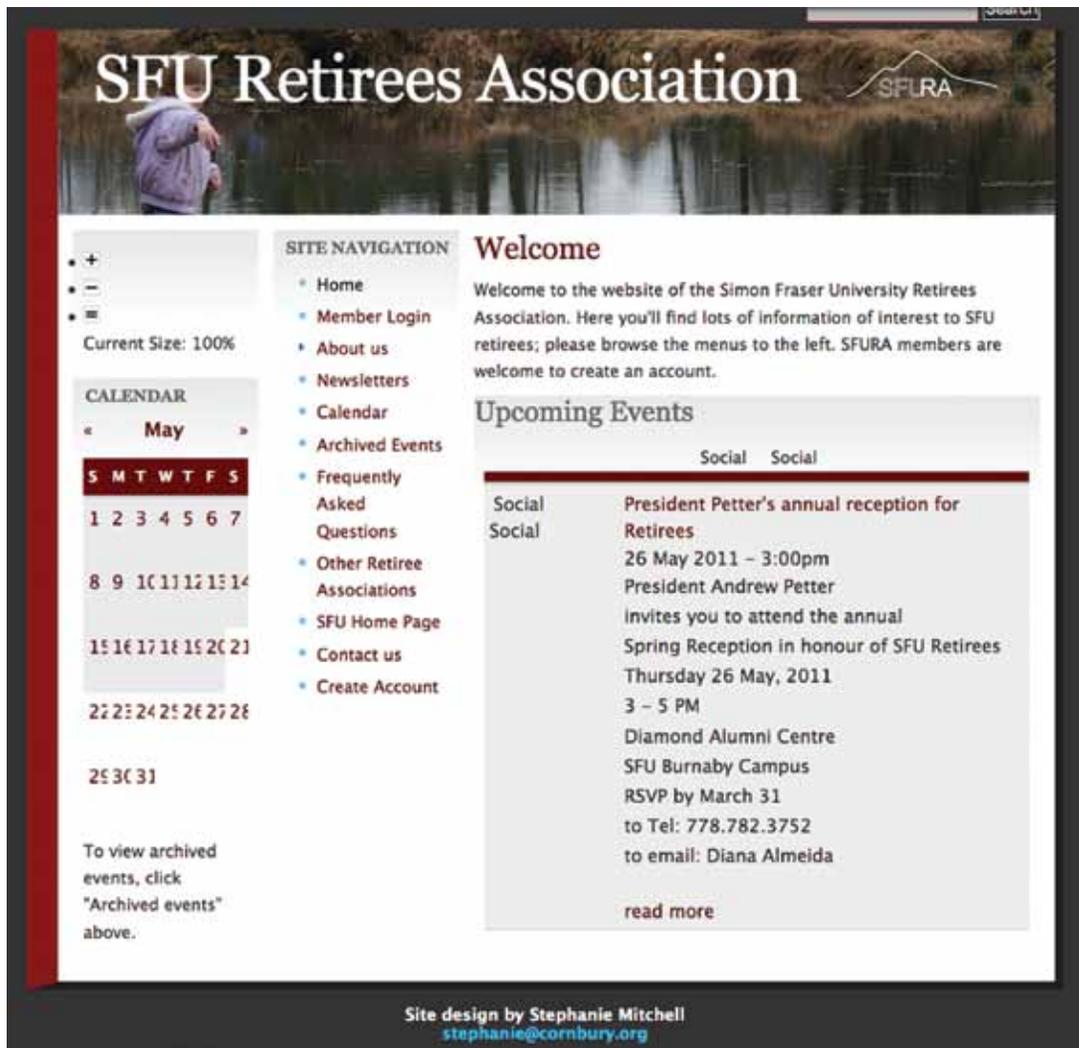
as webmaster, it was time to update and redesign the website.

Stephanie Mitchell, a retired IT Services employee, volunteered for the revision. The new website was designed with a new clean look and additional features. All board members were able to post events. Members could easily increase the fontsize for viewing. Upcoming events were prominently displayed on the homepage and also listed within the calendar. There was an area for members to login to access some additional information.

In early 2011, SFU's administration implemented a new policy that all university websites are to adhere to a Common Look and Feel (CLF) standard based on official logos, standard colours, and common templates. As one of the sites on SFU web servers, the SFURA's website was updated with the one initiated and supported by SFU's

IT Services. Marilyn Bowman, Percilla Groves, and Hiromi Matsui contributed to this effort, as well as Frances Atkinson and Melissa Luck from IT Services.

To help with the transition of the SFURA website to the new web standard, SFURA hired Karen Truong who had been recommended to us by Frances Atkinson of IT Services. Karen developed the new website utilizing the web Content Management System (CMS) known at that time as CQ5, which was bought by Adobe Systems. SFU now uses Adobe AEM as its corporate CMS. Karen's redesign included the addition of new features such as a calendar of events, an image gallery, member registration and other new sections. The AEM CMS has an administration control panel which provides the design of the website and the addition and updating of content with ease. Some sections can be assigned to authors who can then login to the site's



2nd Version of SFURA website by Stephanie Mitchell

control panel to add or edit content.

In August 2014, Karen once again worked on optimizing the SFURA website to reflect the new responsive mobile standards. She upgraded the site to the new CLF2 .0 standards and made design improvements to enhance the site and

make it viewable and useable on various mobile and tablet devices.

In 2016, Walter Piovesan took over the duties of maintenance and input of content to SFURA’s website. Not long ago we added both a news and recent publications sections to the site.

SFU Retirees Association thrives on the Energy and Expertise of its Members

It’s not just what you’ve done, but what you are doing and what you aspire to do next.



# Affiliations

## Tri-Universities Affiliation

Representatives from the SFURA, the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti and the University of Victoria Retirees Association meet at an annual summit to share information about activities and to discuss issues affecting their members.

Johnson Insurance provides MEDOC travel medical insurance at a favourable rate for all members of the three organizations.

## College and University Retirees Associations of Canada (CURAC)

The SFURA was a founding member of the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada /Associations de retraités des universités et collèges du Canada, informally known as CURAC. SFURA members John Walkley and Marvin Stark attended the founding conference in 2003. CURAC is registered under the *Canada Corporations Act* as a not-for-profit federation of university retirees associations.

CURAC's goals are: "to coordinate activities that promote communication among member associations, to share information, to provide mutual assistance, and to speak publicly on issues of concern to college and university retirees across Canada".

SFURA members are eligible to purchase several benefits at reduced rates through the affiliation with CURAC: extended health insurance and travel medical insurance from RTO/ERO (Retired Teachers of Ontario/

Enseignements retraites de l'Ontario), trip cancellation and travel medical insurance from Johnson's MEDOC, pet insurance from PetSecure, travel tours through Collette Travel, CARP memberships, subscriptions to Literary Review of Canada. MEDOC-Johnson and Collette Travel make contributions to SFURA finances based on the number of SFURA members making use of their services.

Tribute Awards from CURAC/ARUCC have honoured two SFURA members. Marg Jones received recognition in 2016 for her long volunteer service as treasurer, membership secretary, and consummate organizer on behalf of the SFURA. Maurice Gibbons was acknowledged in 2017 for his contributions as editor of the SFURA newsletter, *Simon Says*, and editor of the book of memoirs written by faculty, staff and students, *Remembering SFU on the Occasion of its 50th Birthday*.

SFURA sponsors attendance at the annual CURAC conference for at least one former or current SFURA president. Among those who have attended are Len Evenden, Tom O'Shea, Hiromi Matsui, Marilyn Bowman, Jim Boyd and Frances Atkinson. Tom Poiker assisted with the editing of the newsletter in 2009 and 2010. Jim Boyd was elected as Western Canadian representative to the CURAC board in 2014. Jim has served as treasurer of the organization since that year.

Bilingual newsletters and other information are available from the CURAC web site ([www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca)).

# Oral History Project

## SEVEN VIDEO STORIES

by Evelyn Palmer

The SFURA Oral History Project began in 2005 in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Simon Fraser University. Throughout the period of 2005-2013 7 DVDs were produced.

*The Excitement of the Early Years*, the first DVD, consisted of interviews of faculty, staff and students from the late 1960's. Members of the executive board conducted the interviews. Filming and editing were done by staff of the SFU Learning and Instructional Development Centre (later known as the SFU Teaching and Learning Centre). Marv Wideen describes this initial project in more detail as part of his presidential report in this publication.

SFURA members viewed *The Excitement of the Early Years* at a dinner meeting and it was also screened for the SFU community at the Burnaby, Vancouver and Surrey campuses. The showing to an audience of more than 350 at Images Theatre sparked interest throughout the university. A story about the production of this DVD entitled "History in the Making", appeared in *aq Magazine* in

April, 2006 (see <https://www.sfu.ca/aq/issues/april2006.html>).

*The Instant University*, the second DVD in the series, also consisted of interviews of faculty, staff and students from the late 1960's. Again, interviews were conducted by members of the executive board. Filming and editing were done by SFU staff.

*Thelma Finlayson: A Conversation with John Webster* was videographed and edited by Francis Campbell with board members in attendance at the filming. Finlayson and Webster were both entomologists and part of a group from the federal Department of Agriculture's Institute of Biological Control, who established the Pest Management Program at SFU. Thelma discussed her work for the federal government during and after World War II, and her life at SFU from 1967 through her post-retirement years.

*An interview with Arthur Erickson and Geoffrey Massey*, the architects responsible for the overall design of SFU, was videoed in 2006. An edited

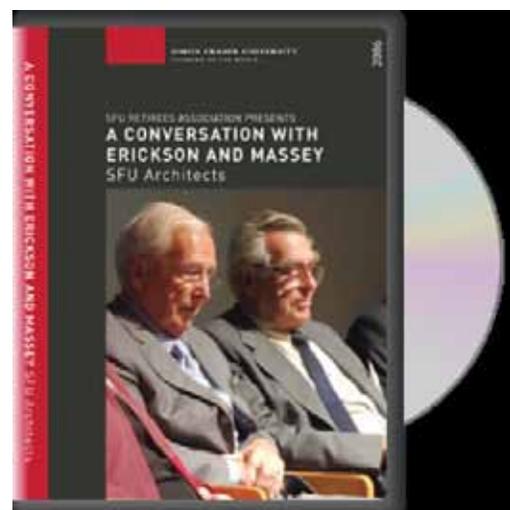
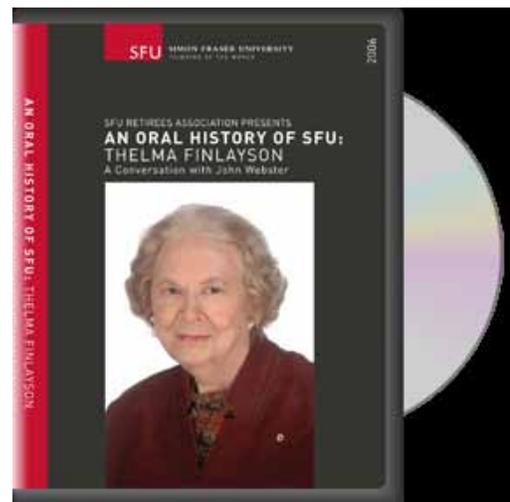
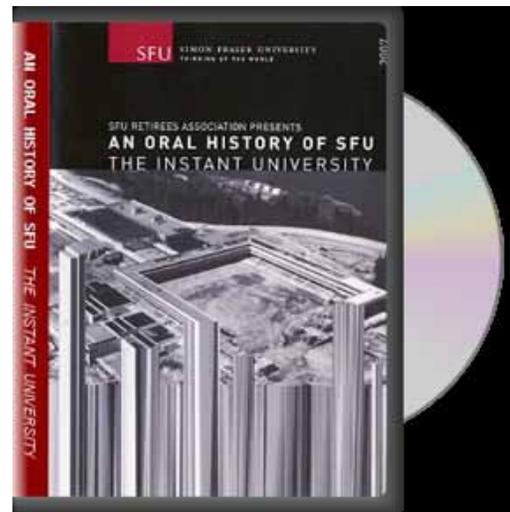
version was made into a YouTube video on the occasion of Arthur Erickson's death in 2010. Subsequently, the SFURA produced it as our fourth DVD.

*Times of Turbulence, Three Views* originated with the SFURA Seminar Series in January of 2012. Three retirees (Jerry Zaslove, George Stuart, Klaus Reickhoff) discussed their viewpoints of controversial events at the university in the late 1960's.

*Creating SFU: An Inside Story* as recalled by Ron Baker in 2013 also originated with the Seminar Series. Ron Baker held the position of academic planner for the first several years of SFU, working with Gordon Shrum and Patrick McTaggart-Cowan to found the university, hire department heads, faculty and staff, and set the curriculum. His seminar was videoed and published as our sixth DVD.

*SFU Athletics – the Early Years: Blight or Blessing?* records an event attended by a large and enthusiastic audience. Members of SFU Athletics departments decorated the walls of the venue with old photos and other mementos of the early athletics program. The talk was videoed, but the DVD was lost for several years. When found in 2017, it was added to the SFURA website to become our seventh DVD.

All seven DVDs can be viewed online through the SFURA website where they are described in more detail ([www.sfu.ca/retirees/history/dvd.html](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/history/dvd.html)). They are also stored in *Summit*, the SFU Library institutional repository ([summit.sfu.ca/collection/179](http://summit.sfu.ca/collection/179)).



# How We Made Our Book

## REMEMBERING SFU

by Maurice Gibbons

At SFURA's last board meeting before the summer of 2015, Yasmin Jamal noted that, if SFURA didn't do something, all the stories surrounding the beginning of the university would be lost. The university had many imaginative plans for celebration

of the 50th anniversary: bagpipes and highland dancing in the quad, an outdoor gourmet dinner and so on, but nothing that would remain, nothing that would tell our story. Yasmin suggested that we create a book and I volunteered to edit it.

I asked Walter Piovesan to handle the layout and production, and he agreed. When I saw the excellent early drafts of his work, I realized what a brilliant move I had made. Walter and I decided that much of the history would be visual, and so asked Ron Long to handle the pictures and to capture as many of the major events as he could. Ron was amazing at finding forgotten or hidden caches of old photos from which he selected the best.



The final book is as much a photo album as it is a storybook of our beginning and early days.

But the book almost didn't get done. The first two people I asked for stories had

both played major roles, but turned me down. I wondered if I had made a huge mistake. I thought of backing out. Then an unsolicited, charming and beautifully written article arrived from Hilary Jones. Doubts disappeared and we were off.

Walter and I met in August 2015 to discuss work on the 50th birthday book. I was confirmed as editor and Walter took responsibility for production and design duties. We met on various occasions to brainstorm getting contributors for the book. We started thinking about professors, but soon expanded to include students and staff and others. We wanted to find a leader of the student uprising in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Martin Loney came to mind

and Walter did an amazing job tracking him down.

At Ann Cowan's suggestion, in September Walter met with Roberto Dosil, a professor in SFU's Publishing program, to discuss the elements of book design. The initial meeting involved looking at book production and printers. Dosil said that using InDesign for layout, as Walter had planned, was fine but suggested finding templates as well. Walter met with Roberto frequently to get feedback on his design of the book.

In mid-September, Ron and Walter set up a series of meetings in the SFU Library and the SFU Archives to look for photos. Photos were found and scanned by Ron or a representative in Archives, and we were provided with copies for photo-editing. Ron prepared all of the photos for the book to meet the printer's needs. By mid-December the *Vancouver Sun* was providing many photos from its archives. Via Nini Baird, Tony Westman provided another treasure trove of photos.

While all of this was going on, articles were flowing in, being edited and then sent out for proofreading to our crack

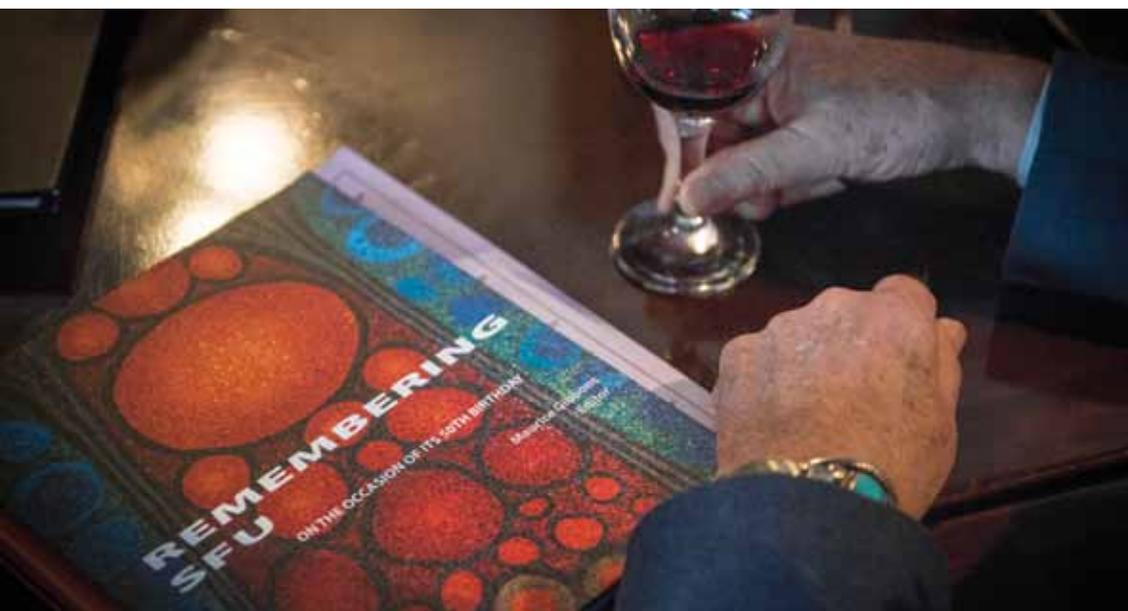
team of Evelyn Palmer and Jean Trask. By the time they finished proofing and reproofing they could recite most of the text by heart. Many others--the whole SFURA executive--helped us make sure that there were as few errors and omissions as possible. It was disheartening and a relief at the same time to proof the manuscript, thinking you had found everything, only to get it back marked up again. We have a very clean book because of those wonderful efforts.

In October/November Walter began discussions with a printer about basic costs and the formats for both the pages and the book. As we got closer to the final format, the estimated price of the book was higher than we could handle. Printing a book became a remote possibility again. By chance, at the beginning of December Walter found Friesens Corporation Book Division.

The final draft was submitted to Friesens at the end of February 2016. *Remembering SFU: On the Occasion of its 50th Birthday* was launched at SFURA's Ides of March reception in Club Ilia the

following month. It continues to be a campus best-seller.

We were fortunate that the editorial team all focussed on the simple task of getting the book assembled and published. Everyone helped. We made it our book, and it is a good one.



# Scholarship Fund

Amid early plans for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1965 opening of SFU, the SFURA executive board conceived of establishing a scholarship in honour of that significant occasion. The original proposal was for a scholarship to be awarded to an outstanding undergraduate student in a field of study related to aging. Recognizing that with the SFU multidisciplinary curriculum, aging could be an interest of students from a variety of majors, the group decided not to limit the support to gerontology students. As the project progressed, the terms of the scholarship were broadened and it is now available to outstanding third or fourth year students in any discipline.

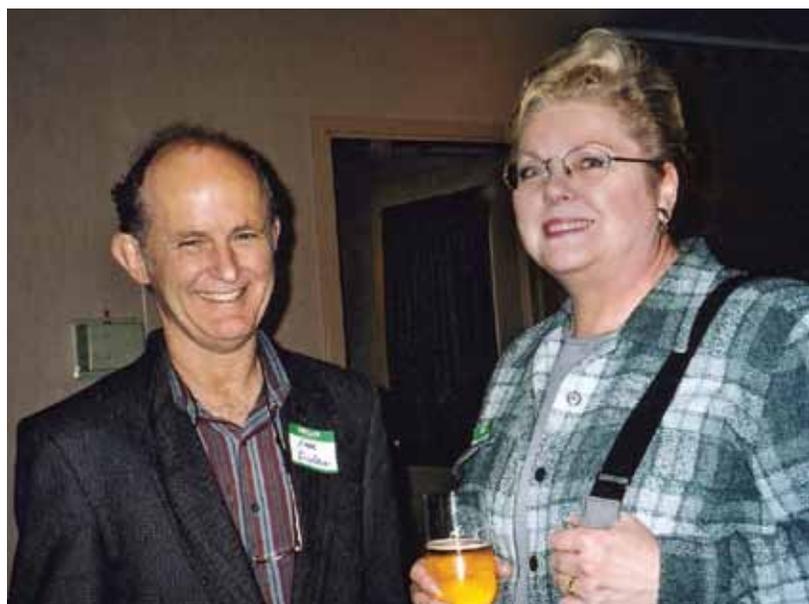
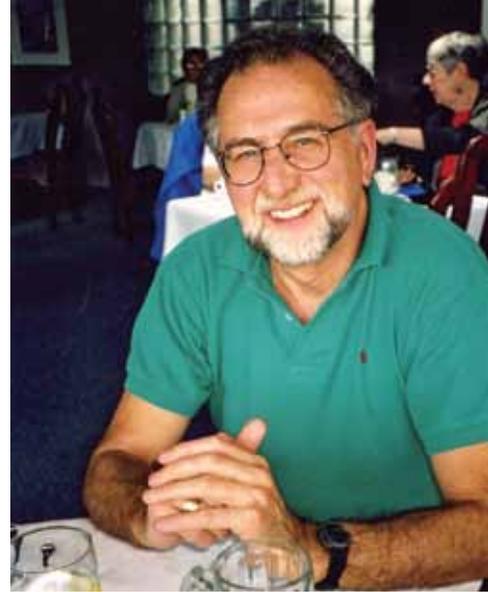
The award is funded by the SFU Retirees Association 50th Anniversary Endowment. The balance of the endowment at the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year was almost \$50,000 raised through the generosity of SFURA members with matching funds from SFURA and the SFU Advancement Office. To date 113 individuals have contributed.

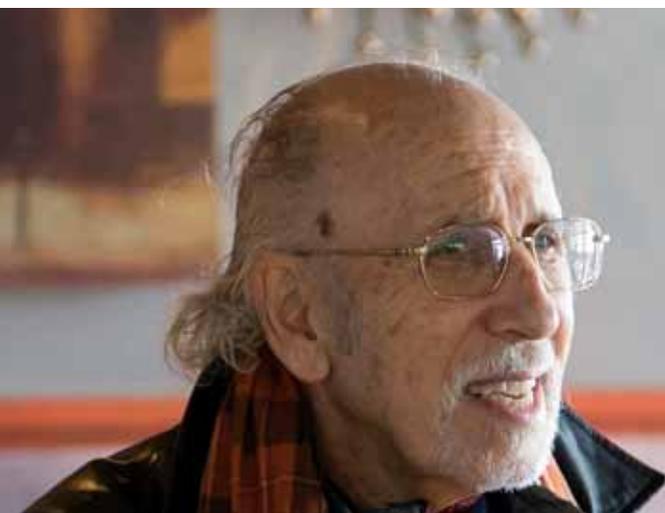
The current description of the award states that the SFU Retirees Association 50th Anniversary Scholarship “provides financial stability to deserving students while encouraging and motivating them to reach their full potential and achieve their academic goals.” The Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication

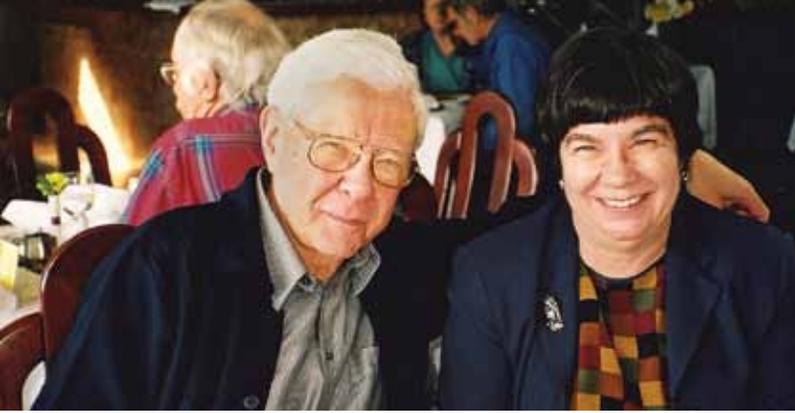
Committee chooses the award recipients from among students who have achieved academic excellence.

Since 2016, the endowment has disbursed five scholarships of \$1,000 each. A recent recipient stated in a letter of appreciation: “Attending Simon Fraser University has been filled with remarkable experiences starting from the first time I met someone with similar interests as my own, and proceeding through to the present moment where I have finished an honours thesis concerning research I carried out last summer thanks to the existence of the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards.” The student aspires to pursue doctoral studies in artificial intelligence as applied to medical research.

The SFU Advancement Office continues to accept contributions to the SFU Retirees Association 50th Anniversary Endowment. And (though strictly speaking outside the chronological scope of a 20-year history) the 21st SFURA board is pleased to announce the unanimous passing of a motion to donate 10 per cent of the 2018-2019 membership fees to the endowment fund. May the legacy of this scholarship grow till the 60th anniversary of the university, and beyond.







# Board Members 1998 – 2018

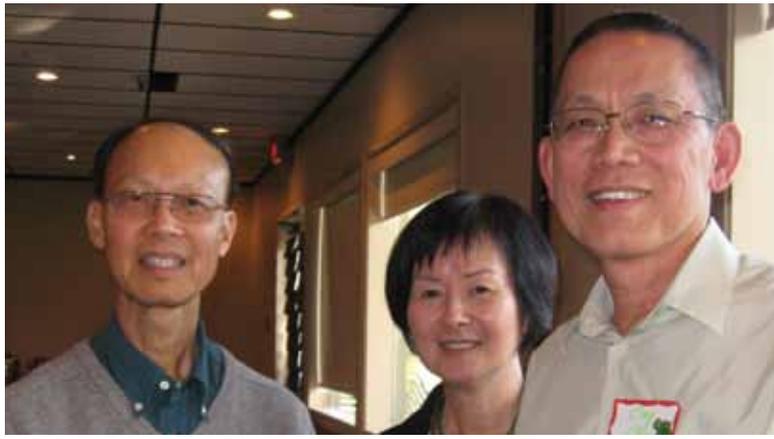
## 20 YEARS OF MAKING SFURA SUCCESSFUL

**Neil Abramson** 2017-2018 University Liaison. ▲ **Frances Atkinson** 2016-2018 Vice President 2016-2017; President 2017-2018. ▲ **Reo Audette** 2014-2017 Member at Large 2014-2015; Membership 2015-2017. ▲ **Janet Blanchet** 1998-2007 Secretary 2001-2002; Newsletter Editor 2002-2007. ▲ **Marilyn Bowman** 2009-2012 Seminar Series 2009-2010; President 2010-2011; Past President, Website Liaison 2011-2012. ▲ **Jim Boyd** 2013-2018 Vice President 2013-2014; President 2014-2016; Past President 2016-2018. ▲ **Jay Burr** 2016-2018 Treasurer 2016-2018. ▲ **Bev Carlson** 2000-2006 Social Events Chair 2000-2006. ▲ **Ted Cohn** 2012-2013 Seminar Series 2012-2013. ▲ **Denyse Dallaire** 2013-2016 Treasurer 2013-2016. ▲ **John D'Auria** 2012-2017 Vice President 2012-2013; President 2013-2014; 2016-2017, Past President 2014-2016. ▲ **C. Rod Day** 2002-2003. ▲ **Barbara Diggins** 2009-2010 Assistant Treasurer and Membership 2009-2010; Treasurer and Membership 2010-2012. ▲ **Harry Evans** 1998-1999 Treasurer. ▲ **Len Evenden** 2008-2009 President 2008-2010; Past President 2010-2011. ▲ **Lionel Funt** 1998-2001. ▲ **Maurice Gibbons** 2012-2018 Newsletter Editor 2012-2018. ▲ **Percilla Groves** 2011-2014 Secretary 2011-2014; Member at Large to October 2014. ▲ **Ted Hickin** 2015-2016 Member at Large. ▲ **Chris Hildred** 2011-2012 Personal Technologies Interest Group. ▲ **Thea Hinds** 2015-2016 Social Convenor 2015-2017. ▲ **Bob Horsfall** 2006-2011 Walking Group and Interest Groups Chair 2006-2008. ▲ **Kersti Jaager** 2008-2011 Social Events, Assistant Treasurer, and Treasurer. ▲ **Margaret Jones** 1998-2009 Treasurer and Membership Chair 1999-2008. ▲ **Hilary Jones** 2008-2010

Secretary. ▲ **Karen Kirkland** 2012-2013 Major Social Events. ▲ **Ralph Korteling** 2014-2015 Vice President. ▲ **Noory Lalji** 2004-2006 Secretary 2004-2006. ▲ **Donna Laws** 1998-2003 Vice-President 2000-2001; President 2001-2002. ▲ **Ron Long** 2012-2018 Photography. ▲ **Tom Mallinson** 1998-1999. ▲ **Hiromi Matsui** 2010-2014 Secretary 2010-2011; Vice President 2011-2012; President 2012-2013; Past President 2013-2014. ▲ **Elizabeth Michno** 2006-2008 Social Events Chair 2006-2008. ▲ **Tom O'Shea** 2008-2013 Social Events 2008-2010; Financial Interest Group 2010-2012; Vice President 2010-2011; President 2011-2012; Past President 2012-2013. ▲ **Evelyn Palmer** 2004-2008 Vice-President 2005-2008; Seminar Chair 2004-2008. ▲ **Marilyn Pankratz** 2011-2013 Treasurer. ▲ **Walter Piovesan** 2015-2018 Vice President 2015-2016, 2017-2018; Website, Technology 2016-2018. ▲ **Tom Poiker** 2007-2012 Newsletter Editor; Benefits Committee Chair 2007-2008. ▲ **Mike Roberts** 2010-2012 Seminar Series. ▲ **Allen Seager** 2016-2018 Member at Large. ▲ **Penny Spagnolo** 2001-2004 Secretary 2001-2004. ▲ **Marvin Stark** 2001-2007. ▲ **George Suart** 1998-2001 Vice-President 1998-2000. ▲ **Norman Swartz** 1998-2001 and 2007-2008. Communications Chair and Website 1998-2007; President 2007-2008. ▲ **Jean Trask** 2013-2018 Membership 2013-2014; Secretary 2014-2018. ▲ **Jacqueline Viswanathan** 2013-2014 Seminar Series. ▲ **John Walkley** 1998-2007 President 1998-2001. ▲ **Marvin Wideen** 2001-2008 Vice-President 2003-2005; President 2005-2007. ▲ **Dorothy Wilson** 2007-2008 Secretary 2007-2008. ▲ **Bill Yule** 2000-2007 President 2002-2005.







# Everything's Up to Date at Simon Fraser

by Ron Baker – *with a nod to Rodgers and Hammerstein*

Everything's up to date at Simon Fraser  
 Everything's up to date at SFU  
 They can go from class to class and not go in the cold  
 They even stamp their students "Do not mutilate or Fold"  
 And they've just put out a PHD who's only five years old  
 They've gone about as far as they can go, they've gone about as far as they can go

Everything's up to date at Simon Fraser  
 There are masses of machines at SFU  
 There are microphones in every room to amplify what's said  
 They tape-record each lecture for the students home in bed  
 And the Board of Governors listens in to chase out every red  
 They've gone about as far as they can go, they've gone about as as they can go

Everything's very Scotch at Simon Fraser  
 Everything's very Scotch at SFU  
 There's Baker, Barton, Bursill-Hall  
 Und Rudolph Haering auch  
 McShrum, McWong, MCloch, McBauer  
 Und Fried McDietrich too  
 And they'll all put on the tartan for a nickel out of you  
 They've gone about as Scotch as they can go, they've gone about as Scotch as they can go  
 And they'll all put on the tartan for a nickel out of you  
 They've gone about as Scotch as they can go, they've gone about as Scotch as they can go



Photos of Ron Baker on the construction site that became Simon Fraser University. Photos courtesy *Vancouver Sun*



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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

[www.sfu.ca/retirees](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees)

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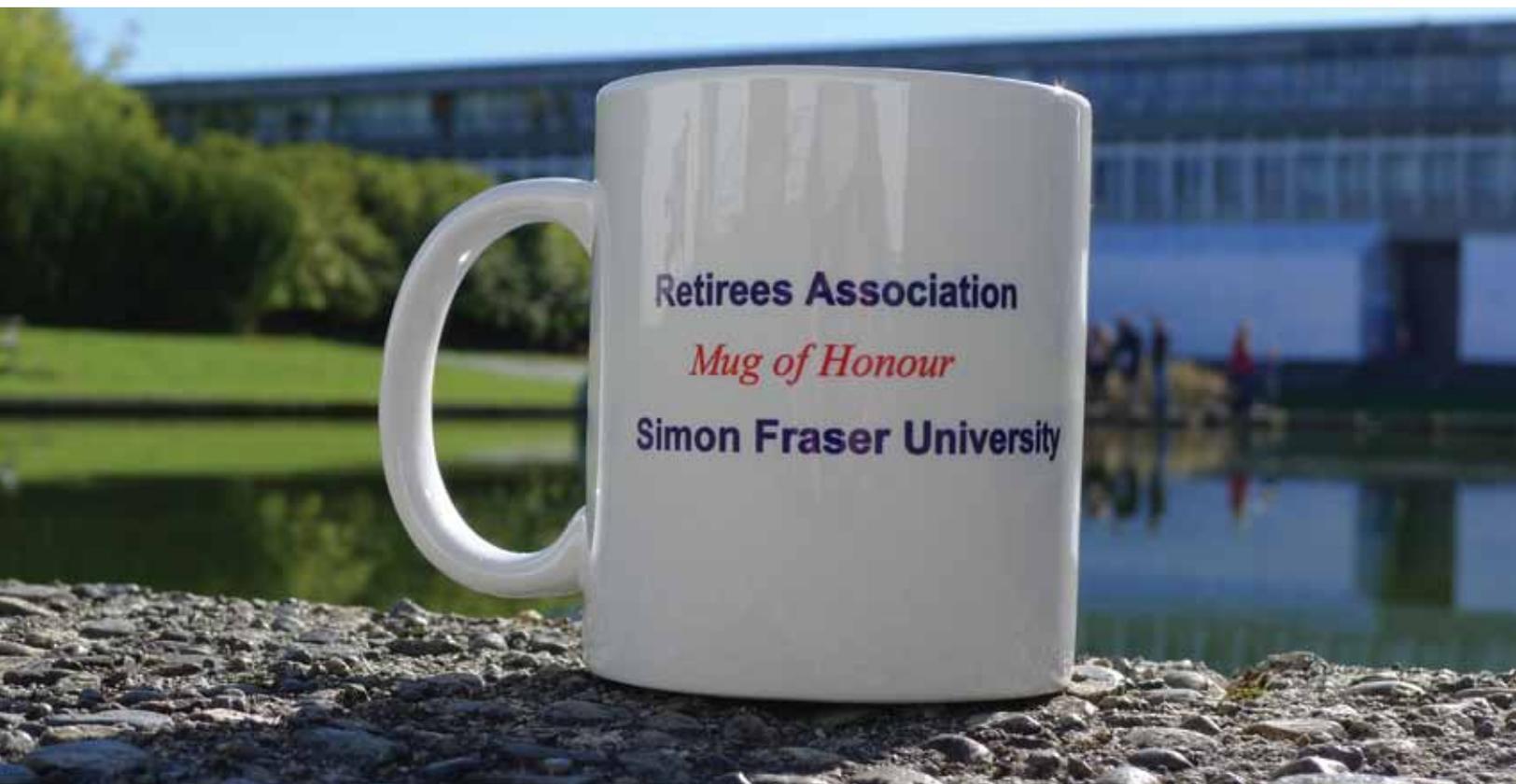
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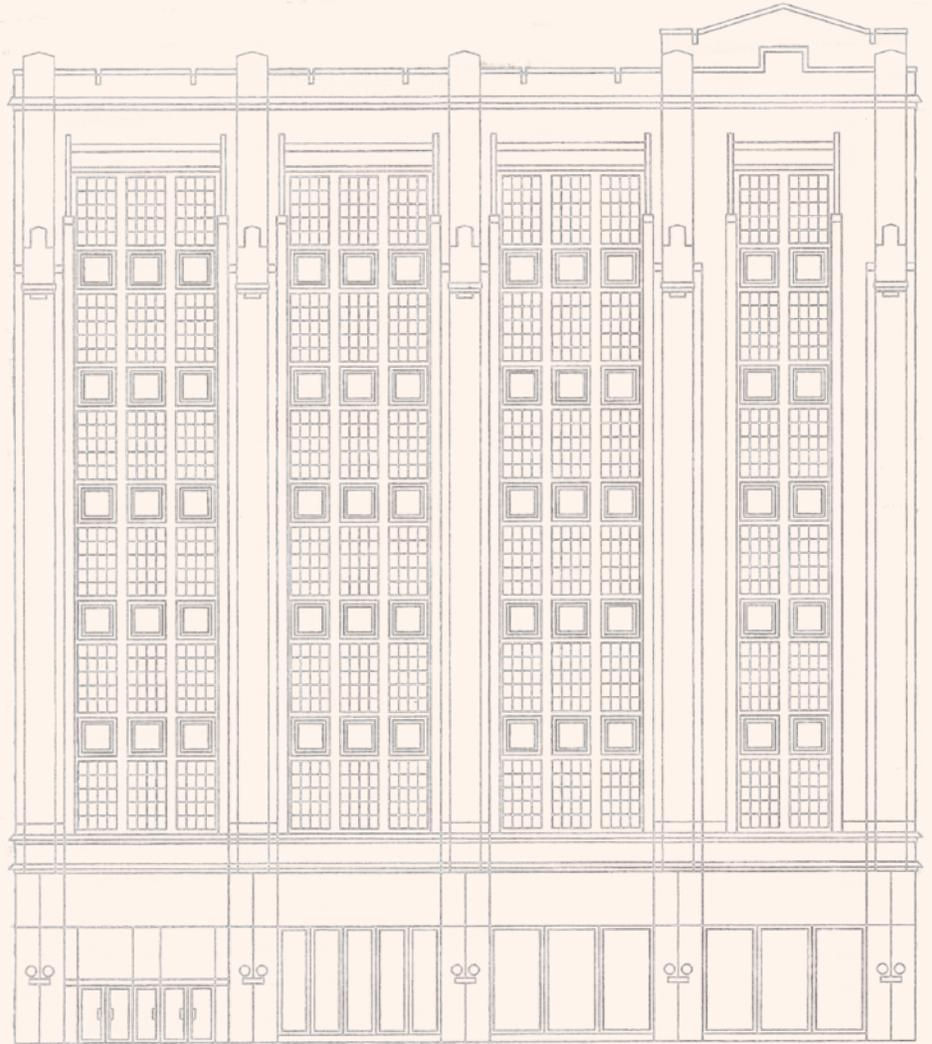
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# 20th Anniversary



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