



in Touch

1

KEEPING RETIREES ENGAGED IN THE UNIVERSITY

SPRING, 2025

University of Winnipeg Retirees' Association Newsletter

UWRA Board of Directors 2025/2026

President	Jim Christie
VP/President Elect	Vacant
Secretary	Debbie Machula
Treasurer:	Murray Wiegand
Member-at-Large (1)	Lynn Jones
Member-at-Large (2)	Dawn Rittberg
Past-President	Judith Huebner

Board Delegates

Newsletter	Bill Rannie
Scholarship/Bursaries	Ed Byard
United Way	Linda Dietrick
Zoom Technical Team	Judith Huebner Brian McGregor Steve Coppinger

Pension Trustees

Murray Wiegand (2023-2025)
Mary Anne Walls (2024-2026)

UWRA Address

UWRA
*c/o Human Resources
The University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9*

EMAIL:

uwra@uwinnipeg.ca

WEBSITE:

www.uwinnipeg.ca/uwra

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After 2 years, this is my final Newsletter message as President of the UWRA. For those of you who weren't aware, for me, these messages are the most challenging part of the position; they require a certain level of creativity that I seem to be lacking.

Having said that, this one presents an obvious topic: a look back and maybe a look forward and a lot of thank-yous. I retired in 2020, just after the world shut down due to Covid 19 so my first couple of years in the UWRA were totally remote. I made the mistake of confessing that I already knew how to use Zoom and could read an Excel spreadsheet, and the next thing I knew, I was one of the UWRA "techies" and had been handed the communication portfolio when Jane Barske stepped down. We all owe a huge amount of gratitude to Jane for organizing our data and electronic communications which only needed a bit of updating when I stepped in. A little arm twisting and I found myself UWRA VP and then President and even agreed to a second term.

Over that time, I worked with some wonderful UW retirees, some of whom I had already spent time working with before retiring and others, I didn't know nearly as well. Thank you to Murray Wiegand, our intrepid treasurer and Debbie Machula, our wonderful secretary, both of whom have been on the executive longer than I, and to Bill Rannie who has been editing our engaging newsletter for many years. Thank you also to Neil Besner, Ed Byard, James Christie, Steve Coppinger, Linda Dietrick, Lynn Jones, John Lehr, Brian McGregor, Peter Miller, Dawn Rittberg, Martin Robson and Mary Ann Walls.

We've had an interesting few years, meeting only virtually, returning to in person meetings but keeping Zoom going as well, meeting in 3C12, meeting in the Club and meeting in 3C12 again. We've had some great speakers, and I've had the opportunity to touch base with many of you I've worked with during my decades at UW. Now, I pass the torch on to Jim who will find it easy to follow in my footsteps and will do a fabulous job. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our meetings.

Judith Huebner

NOTABLE DATES

February 2	Groundhog Day
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 16-22	University Reading Week
February 17	Louis Riel Day
March 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 14	Pi Day (as in $\pi = 3.14$)
March 20	Spring (Vernal) Equinox
April 1	April Fool's Day
April 9	Vimy Ridge Day
May 4	Star Wars Day ("May the 4 th be with you")
May 8	80 th Anniversary, Victory in Europe
May 11	Mother's Day
May 19	Victoria Day
June 6	D-Day Anniversary
Late May	Blue Bombers' Season Opener
June 15	Father's Day

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 10:30-12:00 at the University from September to April, on the first Tuesday of the month except in September when it is on the second Tuesday and in January when there is no meeting.

The meetings are offered in hybrid fashion with an in-person meeting at the University (usually in 3C12) and via ZOOM.

January: No Meeting

February 4: In-person + Zoom

Speaker: Emma Alexander

Stories of migration, murder, politics and intrigue between Canada and India

March 4: In-person + Zoom

Speaker: Devon Clunis, Wpg Police Chief, 2012-2016

DEI: Review, Rethink, Renew

April 1: In-person + Zoom

Speaker: Prof. Emeritus Robert Young

History, Mystery, Murder, and Fiction: Winnipeg Crimes of the 1930s

HO HO HO

At its December meeting, the Association revived a practice which had been suspended by the pandemic-donating toys to Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre for Santa's visit to their community dinner. The response was gratifying and, as always, much appreciated by the Wii Chiiwaakanak staff. These dinners foster the connections between the University and its surrounding community, and these gifts of toys are another way the Retirees Association contributes to the University, in addition to its annual donations to the University's Scholarship fund and United Way Appeal.



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominations Committee has compiled the slate of candidates given below.

PROPOSED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2025-2026	
(Candidates other than Pension Trustees will assume office following the February AGM)	
Board of Directors	
President	Nominee: Jim Christie
Past President	Nominee: Judith Huebner
Vice-President (President Elect)	Nominee: VACANT
Secretary	Nominee: Debbie Machula
Treasurer	Nominee: Murray Wiegand
Member-at-Large #1 (Communications/Membership)	Nominee: Lynn Jones
Member-at-Large #2 (Communications/Membership)	Nominee: Dawn Rittberg
Other Positions	
Pension Trustees on Trusteed Board (terms begin June 1)	Maryanne Walls (2024-2026) Nominee: Jeff Babb (2025-2027)
Newsletter Editor	Nominee: Bill Rannie
Scholarship and Bursary Delegate	Nominee: Ed Byard
United Way Delegate	Nominee: Linda Dietrick

We shall remember with joy and gratitude ...

October 28, 2024

Doran Reid

Athletics

1989 – 2015

November 1, 2024

Elliott Levine

Philosophy

1965 – 2005

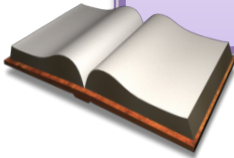
November 23, 2024

Bill Carlyle

Geography

1970 - 2012

As a lasting tribute to UWRA members, a library book is plated in their memories.



IN MEMORIUM – JOHN BUHLER

(from Your UWinnipeg) "The University of Winnipeg community mourns the loss of Honorary Doctorate recipient John Buhler [on December 21]. John made a lasting impact on the lives of our students and countless others throughout our community. The generosity of John and Bonnie Buhler allowed for the establishment of the Buhler Centre and has also provided much-needed scholarships and bursaries to many students over the years. We are thankful for John's vision for making this city a better place for everyone. A full obituary can be found online."

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVA PIP ON HER BEING AWARDED THE KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL



Eva was among 27 persons who received the King Charles III Coronation Medal at a ceremony at the Manitoba Legislature on December 10.

This medal, created to honour the coronation of King Charles III, is awarded to persons who “have made a significant contribution to Canada or a particular province, territory, region or community of Canada.”



“Dr. Eva Pip has received the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of more than 50 years of environmental advocacy and service to Canada. After 3 years lecturing at the University of Manitoba, she joined the U of W Biology Department in 1979, retiring as Full Professor in 2016 after 37 years of U of W service. She received the Clarence Atchison Award for Excellence in Community Service twice. She has since continued to advocate for water and the environment in several provinces and the Northwest Territories, participating in hearings and assisting various communities and Indigenous Nations. In 2023 she submitted a 563-page technical document to the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, objecting to the massive subterranean silica sand project proposed for southeastern Manitoba (<http://www.cecmanitoba.ca/hearings/silica-sand-extraction-project/doc/WS%20-%202021%20Dr.%20Eva%20Pip%20Updated.pdf>).”

“A video of the ceremony is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGFcg_Y2Ibl Her award occurs at 12:13.”

The Fish Whisperer Strikes Again!

UWRA Vice-President Neil Besner followed his dramatic 31 inch walleye catch reported in the last Newsletter by landing this impressive **41 inch (104 cm) muskellunge**, at Minaki on Oct. 29.

Some muskie lore:

- ❖ The name “muskellunge” comes from the Ojibwe words “*maashkinoozhe*” which means “great fish” and “*mji-gnoozhe*” meaning “ugly pike”.
- ❖ They have been called the “fish of 1000 casts” because they are very wary and elusive for recreational anglers.
- ❖ Ferocious efficient predators, they normally feed on smaller fish such as suckers and perch but are known to eat loons, ducks, even muskrats!
- ❖ They are typically 70-100 cm (28-40 in) long and weigh 7-16 kg (15-36 lb) but monsters up to 1.8 m (70 in) and 30 kg (70 lb) have been recorded.
- ❖ They may live up to 30 years.
- ❖ There are reliable, authenticated reports of muskies attacking and biting humans but such occurrences are very very rare. It is unlikely that there will be a movie made.



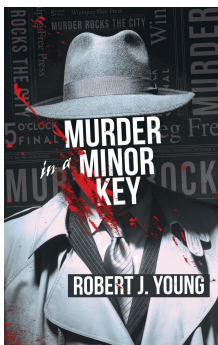


FROM OUR MEMBERS' PENS (or keyboards)

JEFF BABB and **CHRIS MEIKELJOHN**, in collaboration with Jeff's wife **MAUREEN** (University of Manitoba) and Hans Christian Peterson (University of Denmark), published on a paper "[Strøby Egede Vedbæk-Bøgebakken and relationships among Scandinavian Mesolithic skeletal material](#)", *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, online, December, 2024: 1-19. Doi:1017/ppr.2024.12, Cambridge Core, Cambridge University Press.

"The paper derives from new work on Mesolithic human skeletal material from Strøby Egede, a near coastal site in eastern Sjælland, with two foci. The first confirms sex identifications from original work carried out in 1986. The second, and central focus, re-examines comments by one of us (CM) based on work in 1982, and a new statistical analysis including data from the two Strøby Egede adults. In 1998 it was suggested that the Strøby Egede sample more closely resembled Skateholm, on the east of Skåne in southern Sweden, than Vedbæk-Bøgebakken on Sjælland, fitting lithic patterns noted earlier by Vang Petersen. We revisit the 1998 suggestion below, comparing data from Strøby Egede to those available from southern Scandinavia and Germany, and suggest that the 1998 comment was, in all probability, incorrect. The analysis below suggests overall morphological similarity between individuals in eastern Sjælland and Skåne, while noting the existence of AQ192 apparent outliers."

BOB YOUNG'S latest book, **Murder in a Minor Key**, first published last June, was released in paperback in November and is currently available at Whodunnit Book Store or by order at McNally Robinson or Amazon.



"Winnipeg, 1935. 47 year old Detective Inspector Sidney Baxter is the finest Detective with the Winnipeg Police Force with a keen analytical mind. He's also blind. When two grisly murders are discovered in different places, they appear to be unrelated. There is no evidence of theft as motive and no witnesses to either killing."

From racetracks to hospitals, from sumptuous theaters like the Capital, and the carpeted elegance of Eaton's Grill room, to the ten stool counter at Winnipeg's first Salisbury House the reader is drawn into a city, time, and place of a decadent past. From site to site Sidney Baxter and his ever faithful assistant Maxime Godbout must identify and apprehend the killer. Or killers."

If you have

- ✚ photos (other than of your cat) which you would like to share
- ✚ received an award or honour
- ✚ accounts of an interesting thing you did or plan to do
- ✚ descriptions or pictures of places you have visited
- ✚ something you crossed off your bucket list
- ✚ publications or other academic endeavors
- ✚ anything else which might interest our members

please send them to me at mewalker@mymts.net for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

University 55-Plus Programme

WHAT IS 55-PLUS?

- Initiated almost 40 years ago, this programme offers short, non-credit courses which promote life-long learning.
- Course subject matters are drawn from a wide variety of areas of interest, including the arts, science, history, religion, current affairs and more.
- Courses are taught by current or retired UW or UM faculty or from the broader Manitoba community.
- Classes involve one 2-hour lecture per week for 6 weeks.
- There are no tests, assignments, or exams but lots of potential for discussion and social interaction.
- The cost for each 6-week course is \$99.

The Fall offerings featured courses on Biblical 'short and tall tales', the evolution of the South Asian diaspora, the relationship between theatre and movies, life under forced communism in Eastern Europe in the 1960s, the defence of Canada 1949-2024, the science of good health, and Jews and Christians in Greco-Roman antiquity.

The Winter 2025 lineup of courses includes two courses which unfortunately began too early for this Newsletter – Madness and Music (by Donna Linklater) and Astronomy: How Did We Get Here? (by Vesna Milosevic-Zdjelar).

However, two other courses begin in late February with plenty of time to register after you receive this Newsletter:

Greeks and Romans at War (Instructor - Dr. Conor Whatley)

Six Tuesdays from **February 25 to April 1**, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Thomas Sill Multipurpose Room

This course will provide an overview of many ways Greeks, Romans, and neighbouring peoples waged war. There will be a special emphasis on war experiences of soldiers, civilian and military families. The topics covered include:

- ✚ Warfare in Archaic and Classical Greece, 600-404 BCE
 - the famed Greek hoplite and phalanx
 - the use of DNA to learn more about who fought in ancient conflicts
- ✚ Fourth Century Greece to the Wars of Diadochi, 404-275 BCE
 - Achaemenid Persian army
 - what motivated Greek soldiers to fight
 - rise of Macedon, Alexander the Great, and Thebes
- ✚ The Hellenistic Age and the Punic Wars, 300-200 BCE
 - the rise of military science
 - Roman naval combat
 - Hannibal's march across the Alps
 - Roman infantry

- ✚ From Warlords to Emperors, 200 BCE – 117 CE
 - Rome's remarkable manpower potential
 - Roman defeat at Kalkriese (Varus and his men)
 - victories over Boudicca in Britain
- ✚ The Roman Empire, 117 – 284mCE
 - Rome at war with Persia
 - remarkable finds at Dura Europos
 - conflict with the Palmyrene Queen Zenobia
- ✚ The End of Antiruity and the Birth of the Medieval World, 241-641 CE
 - shift from a predominatly infantry army to a cavalry one
 - impact of the Huns on Roman combat

The Tragedy of the Obsolescence of Politics (Instructor – Dr. Ernest Keenes)

Six Wednesdays, **February 26 to April 2**, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Thomas Sill Multipurpose Room

The skepticism, cynicism, and even violence directed towards the institutions, processes and persons of politics are symptomatic of its obsolescence. This is a tragedy because politics is what makes possible modern civilized life. What if the core tragedy of the 21st Century is that the price of surviving climate breakdown is authoritarianism? Of the many burdens borne by the generations to come in the twenty-first century, one is to recapture or to redefine politics fit for challenges resistant to the known limits and possibilities of political life.

- ✚ On the Meaning of Politics: Compromise and Decision, Public and Private
- ✚ Politics After All of the Gods Have Died: The End of History, or the Last Man?
- ✚ The Social Bases of Politics: Interest/Value/Identity; Pluralism or Tribalism?
- ✚ State and Government: Authority, Power, Legitimacy, Capacity and Instruments
- ✚ Message Sent, Message Received? Democracy, Parties and Elections, (anti) Social Movements
- ✚ Conclusion: The Old World is Dying: a New World Struggles To Be Born

FOR REGISTRATION, GO TO <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca.55-plus/>

If you have problems with registration, please contact Barb Doran at 204-786-9120 or at b.doran@uwinnipeg.ca

SPRING ALMANAC

Sunrise and Sunset Times, Day Lengths, and Average Temperatures in Winnipeg						
Date	Sunrise (am)	Sunset (pm)	Day length (hr:min)	Ave. Max. (°C)	Ave. Min. (°C)	Average (°C)
February 2	7:59	5:23	9:22	-10.6	-20.9	-15.8
February 9	7:48	5:37	9:49	-9.5	-20.0	-14.8
February 16	7:36	5:49	10:13	-8.0	-18.4	-13.2
February 23	7:22	6:01	10:39	-6.5	-16.8	-11.7
March 2	7:08	6:13	11:04	-4.8	-14.9	-9.9
Note: Times after March 8 reflect the shift to Daylight Savings Time on March 9						
March 9	7:54	7:24	11:30	-3.2	-13.4	-8.3
March 16	7:39	7:35	11:57	-1.1	-11.1	-6.1
March 23	7:23	7:46	12:23	1.4	-8.5	-3.6
March 30	7:08	7:57	12:49	4.0	-6.1	-1.1
April 6	6:53	8:08	13:15	6.9	-4.3	1.3
April 13	6:39	8:19	13:41	9.9	-2.7	3.6
April 20	6:25	8:30	14:06	12.4	-1.2	5.6
April 27	6:11	8:41	14:30	14.2	0.1	7.2
May 4	5:59	8:52	14:53	15.6	1.4	8.5
May 11	5:48	9:02	15:14	17.0	2.8	9.9
May 18	5:38	9:12	15:33	18.4	4.4	11.4
May 25	5:30	9:21	15:51	20.0	6.2	13.1

“Trump Says He Supports an End to Daylight Savings Time” (NYTimes headline)

“US President-elect Donald J. Trump called daylight savings time “inconvenient, and very costly to our Nation” in a social media post on Friday and said the Republican Party would try to “eliminate” it.” (NYTimes, December 14, 2024)

I wonder if he is aware that doing so would consign the US to a permanently backward existence, never again able to “spring forward”. And it would mean there could never be a repeat of the brilliant contest proposed by the Eldorado Daily Journal in 1984 (see below). Has he really given this the careful, informed, analysis that are the hallmark of all of his utterances?

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME CONTEST

On April 1, 1984, the Eldorado (Illinois) Daily Journal asked its readers to save Daylight Savings Time, and offered a prize for the person who saved the most. “The rules are simple: Beginning with the first day of Daylight Savings Time, those entering the contest must begin saving daylight. Those who save the most daylight by midnight of the last day of Daylight Savings Time will be awarded a prize. Only pure daylight is allowed. No pre-dawn light or twilight will be accepted. Daylight on cloudy days is allowable. Moonlight is strictly prohibited and any of it mixed with daylight will bring immediate disqualification. Contestants are instructed to save their daylight in any container they wish, then bring the container to the Daily Journal office at the end of DST- or when they think they have saved enough daylight to win. All entries will be donated to less fortunate nations who do not observe Daylight Saving Time.”



Bob Ellis, the Managing Editor, was stunned by the response. He was relaxing at home when the first call came, from CBS in San Francisco who wanted to interview him for a live national radio broadcast. An hour later, it was NBC in New York- again a live national radio program. After that, Ellis heard from “every section of the nation”. His story appeared in a Chicago newspaper and on a Dallas television station. An acquaintance heard it on a radio station while vacationing in Florida. (Snopes, UPI).

***Note the date.** I suspect conspiracy theorists, undeterred by the dodgy date, would surely grab their leak-proof containers and rush off to the sunniest places to begin collecting before the rays had all been harvested by their competitors.*



We're all well aware of the concept of April Fools Day - most of us have probably been the butt of an April Fools prank at one time in our lives, and many of us might even have engineered a prank or two. The practice is an old one. Some sources link it to late March festivals like Hilaria in ancient Rome and Holi in India. Others date it to the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 16th Century France when people who, through ignorance or stubbornness, continued to celebrate the start of the New Year during the last week of March and were called "April Fools" (although I have read that this widely-reported origin was itself an April Fools Day hoax by a Boston University professor Joseph Boskin to fool an AP reporter, so watch out!). And it has been, also perhaps incorrectly, attributed to Chaucer in his Canterbury Tales.

Whatever its origins, April Fools pranks may be as small and juvenile as sticking a "Kick Me" sign on the backside of an unaware "Fool" or as grand as false news items broadcast on national media to fool millions of people. The best of these are quite wonderful and the BBC is the master.

Some of the best media pranks (from various sources):

- ❖ The quintessential BBC April Fools prank was its 1957 broadcast on the show *Panorama* which CNN has called the "biggest hoax that any reputable news establishment ever pulled." The episode claimed that the Swiss spaghetti harvest had been a record, owing to excellent weather and the elimination of the spaghetti weevil. It showed happy harvesters plucking strands of rigid spaghetti from trees and placing them carefully in baskets. It was widely believed and many people wanted information on how to grow their own spaghetti trees.



- ❖ In 1980, the BBC announced that the face of Big Ben, the iconic Great Clock of Westminster, would be replaced by a digital version and the first person to contact the network would win the hands of the old clock. So dramatic was the response that the BBC apologized.
- ❖ In 2008, the BBC reported that a colony of flying penguins had been discovered and had left Antarctica for the Amazon rain forest.
- ❖ In 2014, King's College Cambridge announced their decision to replace boy sopranos with grown men who had inhaled helium.
- ❖ In 1969 the Netherlands public broadcaster NTS announced that inspectors were driving remote scanners through the streets to detect people who hadn't paid their radio/TV tax. They claimed that the only way to avoid detection was to wrap the antennae with tin foil. Supermarkets sold out of tin foil the next day and there was a surge of taxes being paid.
- ❖ In 2008, CBC reported that the Royal Canadian Mint was going to replace the \$5 bill with a \$3 coin called the "threenie".



- ❖ In 1998, Burger King announced its new "Left-Handed Whopper".
- ❖ in 2015, Cottonelle tweeted that it was introducing a line of left-handed toilet paper.



- ❖ In 1996, Taco Bell took out a newspaper ad announcing that it had bought the famous Liberty Bell "in an effort to help the national debt" and that it would henceforth be called the Taco Liberty Bell. White House Press Secretary responded that the Lincoln Memorial be renamed the Lincoln-Mercury Memorial.
- ❖ In 1998, it was alleged that Alabama was introducing a law to simplify pi (3.14159...) to just 3.
- ❖ In 1976, the BBC announced that on that day, the gravity of Earth would be reduced and if you jumped, you would float lightly in the air. It's not known how many people jumped unaccountably.
- ❖ In 1980, Boston television station WNAC aired a bulletin which reported that Great Blue Hill in Milton, Massachusetts, was erupting, complete with stock footage of a volcanic eruption. People fled their homes and the executive producer of the show was fired.
- ❖ In 1976, the BBC reported on rumours that the new public library in Grimond had been built upside down due to a photocopying error.
- ❖ In 1977, residents of Northern Ireland were asked to return unused water directly to the Silent Valley Reservoir as a water conservation measure.
- ❖ In 1975, Australia's *This Day Tonight* TV show reported that the country was going to convert to "metric time", where there would be 100 seconds in a minute, 100 minutes to the hour, and 20-hour days. Seconds would be renamed millidays, minutes would become centidays, and hours decidays.
- ❖ In 1982, the *Daily Mail* ran a story "Do Not Adjust Your Set-It Could Be Your Bra", reporting that 10,000 brassieres made locally might be causing television interference. According to the article, the support wire had been made of copper specially treated for use in fire alarms. When in contact with nylon and human body heat, it might produce static electricity and TV malfunction. The *Daily Mail* advised women to test their bras by wearing them for half an hour, then taking them off and shaking them a few inches above the TV. Among the hundreds of people taken in was the chief engineer of British Telecom who called his office and asked that all female employees have their bras tested to see if they were interfering with any of the company's electronic equipment.

The proliferation of absurd conspiracy theories and theorists in the US has taken a lot of the fun out of these hoaxes since tens of millions of people seem quite willing to believe any damn thing, no matter how ridiculous, moronic, vicious, deranged, and politically targeted they are. They're rarely clever, and by comparison, the hoaxes above seem thoroughly rational and credible and are vastly more amusing.



“Campus Novels”



Beginning in May 2018, these Newsletters have featured short reviews of “Campus Novels”, the genre of novels set in a university or college, which began to appear in the early 1950s. The subject matters include campus politics, collegial romances and sexual peccadillos, academic misbehaviours, tensions surrounding tenure, even murders; from the 1980s onward, such contemporary matters as gender inequities and sexual harassment have become increasingly common. Given universities’ eccentricities, absurdities, pettiness, egos, pomposities, and idiosyncrasies, it’s not surprising that comedy and satire are prominent. The great majority involve English or Writing Departments; a few other disciplines such as Sociology and Anthropology make occasional, often tangential, appearances, but the Sciences are almost nowhere to be found.

The varied British, American, and occasional Canadian settings depict real differences in national institutional cultures and practices. The earlier books, particularly those set in Britain, portray academic environments that are quaint and eccentric, certainly very different from current ones. For several decades, the main characters were almost all men but women became increasingly prominent in the 1980s. The books also reflect the mores of their times, with all the misogyny, homophobia, socio-politics, political incorrectness etc. that mark the past 60+ years. In recent decades, it seems like the standard satirical or serious academic plots have been mined out, largely replaced by murder mysteries set (sometimes loosely) on campus.

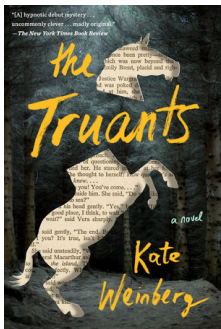
If you’ve read a ‘Campus Novel’, send a paragraph or two describing it and why you liked (or disliked) it.

Cumulative List with the Newsletter in which they appeared

1. *Lucky Jim* – Kingsley Amis – Summer, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
2. *Changing Places* – David Lodge – Summer, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
3. *Small World* – David Lodge – Summer, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
4. *The Rebel Angels* – Robertson Davies – Fall, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
5. *A New Life* – Bernard Malamud – Fall, 2018 – (UW Library, PS 3563.A4N4 1962)
6. *Nice Work* – David Lodge – Winter, 2018 – (part of Lodge Trilogy, Winnipeg Public Library)
7. *The Groves of Academe* – Mary McCarthy – Winter, 2018 (UW Library)
8. *The Masters* – C. P. Snow – Winter, 2018 (UW library – PN 6037.N58M3 1951)
9. *Dear Committee Members* – Julie Schumacher – Winter, 2018 (Winnipeg Public Library)
10. *Death in a Tenured Position* – Amanda Cross – Spring, 2019 – (UW PS3558 E4526D4 1981)
11. *Sticks and Stones* – Janice MacDonald – Spring, 2019 – (UW PS 8575 A1633S7 2001)
12. *Death Without Tenure* – Joanne Dobson – Spring, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
13. *Purely Academic* – David Stephens – Summer, 2019 – Winnipeg Public Library
14. *Moo* – Jane Smiley – Fall, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
15. *The Shakespeare Requirement* – Julie Schumacher – Fall, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
16. *Straight Man* – Richard Russo – Winter, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
17. *A Large Harmonium* – Sue Sorensen – Winter, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
18. *The Devil and Webster* – Jean Hanff Korelitz – Spring, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
19. *The History Man* – Malcolm Bradbury – Spring, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
20. *Gaudy Night* – Dorothy L. Sayers – Summer, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
21. *The Secret History* – Donna Tartt – Summer, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
22. *Stoner* – John Williams – Fall, 2020 – Winnipeg Public Library)
23. *The Tenured Professor* – John Kenneth Galbraith – Fall, 2020 – (Kindle)
24. *The Human Stain* – Phillip Roth – Winter, 2020 – (Kindle)
25. *The Lecturer’s Tale* – James Hynes – Winter, 2020 – (Kindle)
26. *Pnin* – Vladimir Nabokov – Spring, 2021 – (Kindle)
27. *A Killing Spring* – Gail Bowen – Fall, 2021 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
28. *Burying Ariel* – Gail Bowen – Fall, 2021 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
29. *The Night the Gods Smiled* – Eric Wright – Winter, 2021 – (Kindle, Amazon)
30. *Disorientation* – Elaine Hsieh Chou – Summer, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
31. *Vladimir* – Julia May Jonas – Summer, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
32. *The Mark Twain Murders* – Edith Skom – Summer, 2022
33. *Matricide at St. Martha’s* – Ruth Dudley Edwards – Fall, 2022
34. *The Madness of Crowds* – Louise Penny – Winter, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
35. *Disorientation* – Elaine Hsieh Chou, Spring 2022 (reviewed in Time Magazine)
36. *The Memorial Hall Murder* – Jane Langton, Spring, 2022
37. *All Souls* – Javier Marias, Summer, 2023 (reviewed by Neil Besner)

38. *Simon Said* – Sarah R. Shaber, Summer, 2023 (reviewed by Dan Stone)
39. *The Long Lost Jules* – Jane Elizabeth Hughes, Summer, 2023 – (reviewed by Dan Stone)
40. *The Marriage Plot* – Jeffrey Eugenides, Fall, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
41. *The Theory of Death* – Faye Kellerman, Fall, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
42. *The Late Scholar* – Jill Paton Walsh, Winter, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
43. *Campusland* – Scott Johnson, Spring, 2024 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
44. *Thinks...* – David Lodge, Summer, 2024 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
45. *Another Margaret* – Janice MacDonald, Fall, 2024 (Winnipeg Public Library)
46. *The Seventh Function of Language* – Laurent Binet, Fall, 2024 (Winnipeg Public Library)
47. *The Wrap* – Mark Sampson, Winter, 2024 (Winnipeg Public Library)
48. *The Truants* – Kate Weinberg, Spring, 2025 (Winnipeg Public Library)

THE TRUANTS by Kate Weinberg (2021) appears on many lists of “best campus novels” but it is only partly involved with campus life. True, it does involve a close, almost worshipful, relationship between the narrator Jess, a first year English Major



at Norwich University in England and Lorna, her professor/advisor, and also involves three other classmates whom she has met after arriving at Norwich for her first year. Lorna is somewhat of an academic star who has just published a greatly successful and much acclaimed book, *The Truants*, and is now working on a major study of Agatha Christie. In the early going, there is a fair bit of discussion of aspects of Christie's life and works, particularly the circumstances and causes of her famous “disappearance” for 11 days before she was recognized at a Yorkshire hotel. The four classmates, but particularly Jess and Georgie, develop a major “crush” on Lorna who reciprocates by blurring the roles of teacher, mentor, counselor, and particularly, best friend and soul mate. About halfway through, the book abandons the academic cloak and becomes a tale of betrayal and broken relationships among the quartet. Eventually a past murder (and perhaps even more than one) takes centre stage and Lorna falls from grace. To reveal more would spoil it for potential readers but, as with most of the reviews I have

read, I found the first half with all the Agatha Christie stuff and the professor-student interactions much more enjoyable than the meandering path toward a conclusion in the second half. The book is well-written and parts are excellent so it's certainly not without merit. I would give it a passing grade with a moderately positive recommendation.

DAVID LODGE'S PASSING: It is unfortunate but appropriate for a ‘Campus Novels’ section to note the passing of David Lodge on New Year's Day at age 89. Lodge had a respected career as a Professor of Literature and Literary Criticism at the University of Birmingham before retiring to devote himself entirely to writing. Over his lifetime, he published 15 novels, another dozen or so non-fiction books, and several plays and screenplays, but he is most celebrated for his beloved “Campus Trilogy” of *Changing Places* (1975), *Small World* (1984), and *Nice Work* (1988) (three of the first six books to be reviewed for the Campus Novels section of this Newsletter). From the Guardian's Obituary:

“Changing Places (1975) featured Philip Swallow, a bumbling, middle-aged English literature lecturer [at Rummage University] who is liberated, sexually and intellectually, by an academic exchange with a dynamic American professor, Morris Zapp (of Euphoria University in California). As well as exchanging jobs, the two men take up with each other's wives. Zapp, based on Lodge's friend Stanley Fish, became his best loved character. The novel won the Hawthornden prize and his widest readership to date. It was followed by the playfully allusive Small World (1984), which continued Swallow's and Zapp's misadventures, and then Nice Work (1988), whose two main characters, a feminist academic (Robyn Penrose) and a bluff businessman (Vic Wilcox) enacted the clash between two worlds. Inevitably, they also have an affair. These last two novels were both shortlisted for the Booker Prize.”

With these three novels, Lodge established himself as the master and exemplar of the Campus Novel genre. Although many of his other books, notably *The British Museum Is Falling Down*, *How Far Can You Go?*, and *Ginger, You're Barmy* were greatly successful and much admired, it will be for the Campus Trilogy that he will be most fondly remembered.