

Newsletter April 2016

Edited by: Lisa Robson, PhD, Department of English and Creative Writing and BUFA Secretary



President's Report

*Doug Ramsey, PhD,
Rural Development*

At last year's AGM, I stated that we would begin having a newsletter again. While email keeps us in constant contact, a newsletter still provides a vital service. Perhaps most important is the visual dimension it can give the organization. It never happened. For this, I apologize.

My last communication of my term as President, therefore, is my report in the first newsletter in that term. So, I begin with an apology. We hope that this newsletter will become a template for future BUFA Executives.

Similarly, the website continues to be neglected. This newsletter will be placed here. We have also contracted our webmaster to assist us with adding content to the site. We want it to become an information source for members.

This has been a busy year. Much of our time has been spent ensuring that new aspects to the CA are implemented properly, including the transition to a 15 credit hour

teaching load, the development of revised IA job descriptions, and the implementation of the new Health Spending Account and tuition for dependents.

This has been a trying yet rewarding year. I was proud to serve the membership. We have a CA with provisions that are the envy of others. Ensuring it and our members are protected remains the paramount goal of BUFA.

I would like to thank the Executive who served with me and Maureen Barrett who takes care of the details for BUFA. It has been a great experience working with you – even if most meetings stretched too long.



Vice- President's Report

*Dion Wiseman, PhD,
Geography*

As Doug has said, in many ways it has been a very trying but very rewarding year and I feel that we have really accomplished a great deal.

As you know, our last round of negotiations resulted in several significant changes

including the transition to a 15 credit hour teaching load. As reported at the Fall AGM, BUFA approached the Employer to work together on developing a FAQ page and forms for our members and by all accounts the first year of this transition has gone quite smoothly.

Other CA implementation issues included amended IA job descriptions, the tuition waiver for dependants, and health care savings plan, and each of these has either been completed or is now up and running. In addition, revisions to the Q&R for IAs have enabled several members who have many years of service to be promoted this past year and we are very happy to see this.

As previously reported, we have also reinstated the practice of holding regular Joint Administrative Committee (JAC) meetings. We firmly believe that this open line of communication has really helped us to intercept and resolve issues as they emerge and provided us with a means of effectively resolving a number of other long-standing issues.

These include MOAs and MOUs resolving issues related to relocation expenses and the supervision of student field experience in Music and Education and the PENT program. We also continue to work with members in Health Studies to resolve inequities related to workload allocation for courses involving offsite, indirect clinical supervision.

Finally, I would also like to note that I was able to attend a CAUT Forum for Senior Grievance officers last December. It was a fantastic event and I will be sharing some recommendations with you in my report at the Spring AGM.

2016 BUFA Spring AGM

The Spring AGM is being held on April 28, 2016 at 4 p.m. in Lecture Theatre B in Brodie Building. This will include the election of table officers. Positions for election include:

- President
- Vice-President and Grievance Officer
- Secretary
- Area Representatives (Arts, Science, Education, Music, Health Studies, IA/AA/PA)

Please note that the Treasurer and Sessional representatives are elected at the Fall AGM. Details about the election are being sent out by Maureen Barrett via email. Nominations can be made before or at the meeting. Nominations made prior to the meeting need to be at the BUFA Office by 4:00 p.m. on April 26, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact an executive member (see www.bufa.org for contact information) or Maureen Barrett, our Administrative Assistant:

Room 333 Clark Hall
204-727-7347
barrett@brandonu.ca
www.bufa.org

CAUT

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is the national voice for academic staff in Canada. They have a wealth of resources that can be accessed at: www.caut.ca.

Bruce Forrest

By Bryan Hill, PhD, Dept. of Chemistry



Dr. Bruce James Forrest had a long and noted career at Brandon University and made significant contributions to the University, Department of Chemistry, and Faculty Association. He passed away in October 2013 after being on Long-Term Disability for several years in his fight against cancer.

Bruce came to BU as a tenured Associate Professor in Physical Chemistry from his position at Dalhousie University in 1986. His courses included the two flagship first year courses. He was also Department Chair for 16 years. Bruce published 35 peer-reviewed articles and was awarded equipment and research grants totaling over \$450,000.

Bruce served BUFA as President or Vice-President for 10 years and helped negotiate 4 collective agreements. In the 2008 Collective Agreement Bruce was instrumental in obtaining significant improvements to the Brandon University Pension Plan. He also served as a member or Chairperson of the Brandon University Pension Trustees for 10 years.

Bruce and his wife, Jane, left an extremely generous gift to the Department of Chemistry: a 2nd year Scholarship in Physical Chemistry plus 3 - \$15,000 Scholarships for Chemistry Majors entering into 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Year. On October 9th 2015, Bruce's laboratory, room 4-31 of

Brodie, was formally renamed the Dr. Bruce & Mrs. Jane Forrest Laboratory for Physical Chemistry at a ceremony attended by his friends, colleagues, university community, and his sister, Donna Pressley.

Collective Agreement

By Doug Ramsey and Dion Wiseman

Our Collective Agreement (2015-2019) can be accessed at www.bufo.org. Here are some points and links to access gains we made in the last round of bargaining.

Health Spending Account

In addition to Blue Cross coverage, each year members have access to a health spending account: \$400 for full-time employees and \$200 for part-time employees. Details can be found at:

<https://www.brandonu.ca/hr/files/Health-Spending-Account1.pdf>

Tuition for Dependants

Members now receive a waiver for tuition for their dependants taking courses at Brandon University (less other fees). This is a taxable benefit. Details can found at:

<https://www.brandonu.ca/hr/files/Tuition-Waiver-for-Employees-and-Dependants1.pdf>

Fees for Dependants

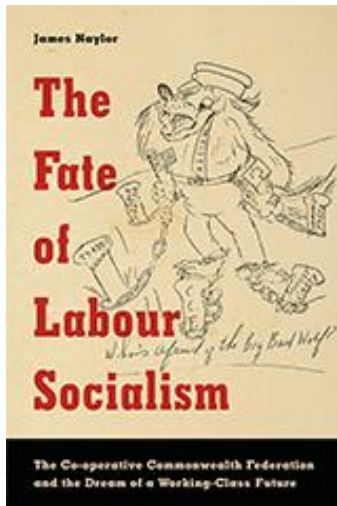
Prior to gaining tuition for dependants in the current CA, BUFA had a fund that members could apply to that would cover a portion of their dependants' tuition. The membership voted to rename this fund to cover fees not covered by the provision above. Please contact Maureen Barrett for details.

Celebrating Success

By Doug Ramsey

We hope that in addition to documenting challenges faced by our members and organization at Brandon University, future newsletters will also highlight the teaching, research, and service successes of our members. Of course we cannot possibly list everything! Here is a sample from this semester.

Jim Naylor, Professor of History, for example recently published *The Fate of Labour Socialism* (2016, University of Toronto Press).



At the close of the year, the Faculty of Arts celebrated the significant research achievements of faculty members in the Faculty of Arts. 2015 saw the publication of numerous articles and books, as well as participation in conferences, peer review, and service to academic organizations. The Faculty of Arts Speaker Series prepared a list of research accomplishments, which was printed and made available at the event. The Faculty of Arts will be working to host this as an annual event to recognize

the incredible work being done within the Faculty. Jonathan Allan, Canada Research Chair in Queer Theory and co-organizer of the event, announced his upcoming co-edited book, *Virgin Envy* (2016, University of Regina Press).



Eric Platz, the Music Representative on BUFA, recently released a new CD, *Life after Life*. The cover was created by Ben Davis, an Adjunct Faculty member in the Faculty of Arts.



A future newsletter will hopefully highlight the five NSERC award winners that have just been announced in Science at BU!