



HISTORY OF THE UBC 25 YEAR CLUB

The first official UBC Twenty-Five Year Club dinner was held at the Faculty Club on November 24, 1971. It had been preceded in October 1970 by a gathering to honour University administrative heads and long-service non-academic staff brought together by President Walter Gage. On that occasion Dr. Gage directed John F. McLean, then Director of Personnel, Labour Relations & Ancillary Services, to create a club for non-academic staff members with 25 years of uninterrupted* service at the University.

In March 1971, after a number of meetings and much correspondence with President Gage, Gene McLintock (Purchasing), Jessie Field (Arts), Jack Hunter (Bookstore), and Mildred Kastner (Applied Science) met in John McLean's office to formalize a plan for the club which was to be named the UBC Twenty-Five Year Club. At this meeting, Gene McLintock and Mildred Kastner were appointed President and Secretary, respectively. An article appearing on April 8, 1971 in *UBC Reports*, the University's faculty and staff newspaper, refers to the creation of this new campus organization for staff and lists 15 charter members, each of whom had already been employed at UBC for a quarter century or more. In fact, one charter member (Eleanor Hanna, Finance) had begun working at UBC in 1926.

It was further agreed by President Gage that an annual dinner would be held to honour club members and their spouses. The idea of a small memento for service was recommended by Gene McLintock and subsequently Twenty-Five Year Pins were made for presentation at the annual dinner. With the help of the Ceremonies Office (at that time Peggy Sayle and Joan King), arrangements for the first annual dinner on November 24, 1971 then got underway.



1971 Inductees, Charter Members and guests:

Back Row L to R:

John McLean (C), Dave Dougherty, Gene McLintock, Jack Hunter (C), Percy Archer, Harry Tansley (C), Jim Martin, George McGee (C), Alf Battensby (C), Fred Colburne, Norman Smith (C), Lloyd Bowers, President Walter Gage, Laurence Funnell (C), Norman Keith

Front Row L to R:

Verna Newsom, Mildred Kastner (C), Eleanor Hanna (C), Muriel Upshall (C), Edith Kievel, Laura Koch

1. Verna Newsom, Edith Kievel and M. Lalonde (not in photo) had already retired so while not officially inducted into the 25 Year Club, they were invited to the dinners
2. C = Charter members were employees who had already reached 25 or more years by 1971.
3. Missing from photo: Dave Armstrong (C), Ed Bull, Jessie Field, Alex Fraser (C), Allison Law, Marjorie Longley, Danny Maloney, Anne McCullough (C), Eleanor Mercer, Don Pearce (C) and George Rogers

CHARTER MEMBERS 1971

Armstrong, Dave	Plant Science	McLean, John F.	Personnel
Battensby, Alf	Plant Science	McLintock, Gene	Purchasing
Fraser, Alex	Physics	Hanna, Eleanor	Finance
Funnell, Lawrence	Physical Plant	Pearce, Don	Plant Science
Hunter, Jack	Bookstore	Smith, Norman	Physical Plant
Kastner, Mildred	Applied Science	Tansley, Harry	Physical Plant
McCullough, Anne	Agricultural Sciences	Upshall, Muriel	Univ. Health Services
McGee, George	Food Services		

Gene McIntock remained president of the club until he retired in 1976. George Rogers (Physical Plant) then held office for two years. Since 1978, the appointment of president has been on an annual basis.

In 1971, there were 30 inductees into the club, including the 15 charter members. By 1981 the club had grown to 103 inductees, by 1991 to 310, by 2001 to 808 and by 2011 to 1390. By 2020 the total number of inductees will be close to 3,000.

Additional recognition was given to 35 years or service (in 2004), 40 years of service (in 2014) and 50 years of service (in 2020) and these staff members are acknowledged at the annual 25 Year Club Dinner.

Please visit the UBC Twenty-Five Year Club website at www.ceremonies.ubc.ca/25-year-club for a complete list of inductees, inductees by year and other information.

** The requirement of 'Uninterrupted Service' was changed in the mid-1990s when it was acknowledged by the University that this primarily penalised women in the workforce who took a few years off to raise their children and then came back to work. Based on the criteria of 'Uninterrupted Service', their service towards the Club would have had to start again from the return to work date and earlier service ignored. From then on, cumulative as well as continuous service of 25 years was recognized.*