

2023 Honorary Life Member Inductee Murad Al-Katib



Pictured left to right are 2022 *SAGA* President Deanne Belisle, 2023 HLM Murad Al-Katib and Dean of Ag Bio Angela Bedard-Haughn.

Murad is the President, CEO and a Board member of AGT Food and Ingredients Inc. A strategic business and financial thinker, Murad founded AGT Foods in 2001, building a

Canadian start-up into a global multi-billion-dollar value-added pulses, staple foods, and ingredient company. AGT operates manufacturing and processing facilities on five continents and it has deep and extensive experience in the Middle East, India, Africa and Asia.

Murad was born to Turkish immigrant parents and raised in Davidson. Murad completed his degree with Distinction in Finance and Organizational Strategy at the U of S, and also holds a Master of International Management with Great Distinction from Thunderbird School of Global Management (Arizona State University).

His career began in the public service with the Government of Canada and then as a founding director of the Saskatchewan Government's international trade and export development agency, the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP). Murad's varied experience in board roles include appointments to the Industry Strategy Council of the Government of Canada, Chair of the Advisory Board for Small and

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2023 Honorary Life Member Inductee Dr. Brian Fowler

Brian was raised on a farm at Clair, Saskatchewan. He used his participation in 4-H as a springboard to his U of S education. He earned his BSA with Great Distinction, completed his MSc at the U of S, then obtained his PhD at the U of Manitoba. As a Professor in the Dept. of Plant Sciences, and one of the first scientists at the Crop Development Center, Brian spent his career improving winter wheat production, resulting in 18 varieties adapted for the Canadian Prairies. These varieties have covered as much as 95 per cent of the winter wheat acreage in western Canada and have been grown extensively in the northern US Great Plains.

His early research concentrated on winter wheat and conservation production systems. This was a key element in the development of a low input, profitable, no-till production system, and responsible for expanding winter

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Pictured from left to right are 2022 *SAGA* President Deanne Belisle, 2023 HLM Dr. Brian Fowler and Dean of AgBio Angela Bedard-Haughn.

HLM 2024 Nominees

Dr. Fran Walley '93 PhD

Fran L. Walley is Associate Dean (Academic) in the College of AgBio and a Professor in the Dept. of Soil Science. Dr. Walley obtained her BSc. and MSc. at the U of Manitoba; then earned her PhD in soil microbiology from the U of S. She began her career as an Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist at the U of S at the time when adoption of pulse crops was underway on the prairies. As Associate Dean, Dr. Walley is a strong advocate for Indigenous programming, introducing an innovative diploma program for Indigenous land managers.

Janice Tranberg '94 C, '98 MSc

Janice Tranberg began in horticulture at Olds College, then switched her professional path to the U of S. With molecular biology as her forte, Janice began in the biotechnology field, but felt that her skills were better used elsewhere. Her many faceted career in SK and AB has always involved the Ag sector; Sask Ministry of Ag, VP of CropLife for Western Canada, Executive Director at SaskCanola. At present she is President and CEO of both the National Cattle Feeders Association (NCFA) and the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association (ACFA).

2024 Reunion Chairpersons

1944 & 1949 and including any Grads before, after or in-between, please contact:
Henry de Gooijer, 306-695-7141 or reunion@saskaggrads.com

1954 C	Bob McKercher	306-373-4080	rbnmckercher@sasktel.net
1954 S	David Thompson	306-795-7395 306-343-1060	
1959 C	Chairperson Required	306-695-7141	reunion@saskaggrads.com
1959 S	Chairperson Required	306-695-7141	reunion@saskaggrads.com
1964 C	Larry White	306-961-6765	nlwhite@sasktel.net
	Gary Broker	306-862-3439	bev.gary@sasktel.net
1964 S	Chairperson Required	306-695-7141	reunion@saskaggrads.com
1969 C	Wilf Keller	403-305-3339	wilf.a.keller@gmail.com
1969 S	Grattan O'Grady	306-241-0196	grattanogradey@gmail.com
1974 C	Keith Bater (interim)	306-441-2020	baterk@sasktel.net
1974 S	Art Unsworth	306-662-6110	tbr.ltd06@gmail.com
1984 C	Kevin Olson	306-932-7071	kevin.olson@sasktel.net
1984 S	Donna Trottier	403-347-0005 403-348-9321	donna.trottier@tatonga.ca
1994 C	Chairperson Required	306-695-7141	reunion@saskaggrads.com
1994 S	Chairperson Required	306-695-7141	reunion@saskaggrads.com
2004 AgBio	Greg Frey	306-892-2476	greg.frey@simplot.com
2014 AgBio	Chay Anderson	306-640-7087	chayanderson92@hotmail.com
2019 AgBio	Dayle Meyers	306-815-7887	dmm002@usask.ca

Class Chairpersons are extremely important to the success of our Reunion, but mostly to their individual classes. If a Chairperson is needed from your year, please consider stepping up or let us know of someone that may be interested.

President's Pen

Finally, spring is here. After what seemed like a long winter and cold spring, it seems we are finally heading toward summer. As I write, the weather-person is even forecasting for 30 degree weather this weekend. My lawn is growing. Farmers are busy in the fields seeding their crops. Pastures and hayfields are starting to green up, then hopefully grow. Now all we need is a good soaking rain. Maybe by the time you all read this we will have had that.

Finally, after three years of Covid, we were able to host our regular Ag grad reunion in January 2023. We welcomed over 300 guests to TCU Place for the festivities. From everything I heard a good time was had by all. We are well on our way planning the 2024 event. Save the dates of January 5 & 6, 2024 for next Reunion Banquet. I hope it is even bigger and better because it is my 40 year reunion coming up and I want to visit with all my former classmates.

I am John Hauer, and it is an honour and pleasure to serve as your 2023 *SAGA* President. I joined the Executive a few years ago when my wife and I moved back to Saskatoon. I am currently working as an Appraisal Agrologist with Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency. Previously I had almost 30 years of work experience as a Regional Forage Specialist, Range Management Specialist, and Land Agrologist with the Ministry of Agriculture in North Battleford, Kindersley and Tisdale.

I would like to introduce **Henry De Gooijer '83 C** as our new Vice President, he has been our Membership Chair the last three years. Henry, too, has had a varied work career. Henry and **Joanne '83 C** have a mixed farm in the Kelliher area. In addition to the farm, Henry is employed by the Science and Technology Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Previously Henry spent 18 years with the U of S, Department of Soil Science, Soil Survey, working in soil mapping and classification. Thanks Henry, for stepping up as VP and for continuing in the Membership role until we can fill that position.

I would like to thank **Deanne Belisle '79 C**, now Past President, for all her hard work helping *SAGA* steer through the last year as we were coming out of all the Covid restrictions. The *SAGA* board has undergone some changes this past year. Our Treasurer **Morley Ayres '75 C** has decided to step down. Thank you, Morley for your hard work. **Jason Fradette '84 C** has moved from his past-Past President role to become the new *SAGA* Treasurer. I would also like to thank **Ward Headrick '89 C** and **Chay Anderson '14 C** for their contributions to the *SAGA* Exec. Ward was our Website manager for several years, while Chay had been organizing the *SAGA*

Hockey Tournament since 2018. They have both passed the torch on to new executive members. No more pressure, so have fun guys!

We extend a warm welcome to four new members joining our *SAGA* Executive. **Lindsay Folk '88 C**, recently retired from her 34 yr. FCC career, and has stepped in as Newsletter co-editor. **Shannon Walker '16 C**, is taking over on the Website, while **Chad Scott '17 C**, has assumed responsibility for running the hockey tournament. **Randi Wenzil '13 C**, joined the Executive as a member-at-large (MAL).

During Covid we've held our meetings virtually using the Zoom platform, as we did with our last three AGMs. Many of the *SAGA* Executive reside beyond Saskatoon, so we are converting to a hybrid type system. In-person in AgBio meeting room, and linked virtually to the out-of-towners. This has opened up our ability for all the Exec. members to fully participate. And, we can always use more, so if you are interested, just let me know!

We continue to liaise and work closely with the College and students of AgBio, and the ASA. I want to thank **Matthew Trefiak '23 C** and the other students he rounded up to help at our summer and winter reunion events this past year. I look forward to working with **Cailey Church**, the 2023 PRO and the rest of the 2023 ASA executive this year.

And one important change. Many *SAGA* members, myself included, did not receive the emailed Dec. 2022 Newsletter. As a result, the June 2023 issue is being sent via a new email service. Hopefully, this will improve our distribution.

I hope to see you out at our various 2023 functions or at the winter Reunion this next year.

John Hauer '84 C

Harold Chapman '43C & 2017 SAGA HLM continues to enjoy his robust life. Born in 1917, Harold celebrated his 106th birthday in April. We heard that Harold was "tripping the light fantastic" once again to bring his late night party to a close.

How do you make Swiss cheese?
Use a holey cow.

What does a cow say when she's surfing?
Cowabunga!

SAGA Hockey Tournament (Finally!!) Report for 2023

There is no doubt teams and players were itching to get back on the Waldheim ice for 2023. The tournament was held Jan. 7th; usually it's a cold day when we are here, but this year we got nice weather, hence a great turnout! There were 2 college teams and 4 alumni teams, of which there was both a 10 and 30-year team.

The "A" side was won by a team organized by **Chad Scott '17**, The "B" side '93 C Grad team organized by **Joe Clavelle**, and the "C" side was won by **Dawson Malenfant's** team 2019-'21 grads. The Bouchard Heart Award was presented to **Royce Lodoen '12**. Royce continues to bring a team every year, and represents exactly who this award was created for. The 30 yr. team speaks for itself of the lifelong friends made at the U of S.

Hosting this tournament so many years at Waldheim has made it quite easy to plan and organize. The WRC staff was great, once again knocking it out of the park hosting us (especially with those paralyzers they were serving)! The 2 year hiatus of the tournament didn't show, as friends and teams were still visiting like no time had passed. Thank you all that participated in this event; already looking forward to next years.

If wanting to enter a team or just yourself in the Jan. 6th 2024 SAGA Tournament, please contact:

Chad Scott chadscott826@gmail.com 306-391-0049
OR
Derek Moses moses.derek@icloud.com 780-581-4310



"A" Side Winners



"B" Side Winners Scar Tissue 1993 College Team. Front L-R: Neil Dobson, Joe Clavelle, Dave Norris, Al Crozon and Will Dobson. Back L-R: Dylan Watt, Stu Southgate, Trent Klarenbach, Todd Rowan, Kirt Dickie, Murray Booy, with Mitchell Hamp, Zack Hill & Dayen Schmidt - *the 3 Kids helping out.*



"C" Side Winners



Royce Lodoen '12 receives the Bouchard Heart Award from Chay Anderson '14.

A Word From the Dean

I love spring – I love watching campus green up outside my window, seeing the fresh crop of enthusiastic summer students wandering the hallways and fields excited about the months ahead, and imagining that maybe this is the year the rains will come when and where we need them. I am an optimist by nature, but it's a lot easier to be an optimist in spring!

This spring, we are on the cusp of a lot of change in the college. We have a new Associate Dean (Academic) starting July 1 – **Dr. Tom Yates '01 MSc, '06 PhD**, will be taking the reins from **Dr. Fran Walley '93 PhD**, as she heads into retirement. Speaking of retirement, we have 9(!) faculty retiring on June 30 – no department is untouched. We are even seeing some of our longest-serving faculty move on to the next chapter, including **Dr. Suren Kulshreshtha** after a remarkable 54-year career in Agricultural and Resource Economics – the end of an era! It is a lot of change all at once, but we are happy for our colleagues who are looking forward to new adventures and fully expect to see many of them continuing to share their wisdom in their new roles as faculty emeriti.

As I write, we have three faculty searches underway, with a few additional positions in the pipeline for searches to be-

gin later this summer. Watch our Twitter feed @agbiouask in the months ahead for announcements on the new faces joining the college.

This summer marks the end of my third year as Dean of AgBio. This year has been so different in so many ways from the first two, which were dominated by COVID and its associated challenges in all aspects of our operations. I have enjoyed getting more opportunities to connect with our AgBio family in person, including the *SAGA* reunion and of course, the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, where the 2023 inductees included three notable alumni: **Kevin Hursh '80 C, Laurie Tollefson '75 C, '85 MSc**, and professor emeritus **John McKinnon '86 MSc, '92 PhD**. Congratulations!

If you're looking for opportunities to learn more about what the college has been up to, check out our field days, like the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence Field Day on June 20th. We will also be set up at Ag in Motion July 18-20, so if you are there, please be sure to swing by and say hello!

Angela Bedard-Haughn '01MSc
Dean of AgBio

89th Annual SAGA Reunion Banquet Weekend January 5th and 6th, 2024

Jan. 5th: 4 – 7 pm Friday Night Social @ Ag Building Atrium
Guided tours – Gabfest in ASA Lounge
Jan. 6th: 7 am – 5:30 pm SAGA Hockey Tournament @
Waldheim, SK
Jan. 6th: 4 – 9 pm Reunion Banquet @ TCU Place
Jan. 6th: 9 pm – 1 am Mixer

Recognition of Years: 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969,
1974, 1984, 1994, 2004, 2014, 2019

Information concerning updates for the Banquet
throughout this Newsletter
OR:

Visit our www.saskaggrads.com webpage
Be sure to attend, even if this isn't your year.
All our Ag Grads are Welcome!

Receive this newsletter by email!

The *SAGA* Executive has changed the way you will access the June 2023 edition of *The SAGA*. An email has been sent to you, using a new platform that we hope improves your experience in receiving it.

Instead of emailing you the "pdf" document, this email contains a link which will take you to the *SAGA* website, where the Newsletter is posted. Along with ALL past years, courtesy of **Keith Head '67 C**.

We'd love your feedback on this! Please send us an email at newsletter@saskaggrads.com and tell us what you think of this new format. Plus you can peruse all the other information we post year round on our Webpage, including our Gallery and Members sections.

The *SAGA* Editors - **Ewald Lammerding '88 S**
& **Lindsay Folk '88 C**

***Note: thesaga@sasktel.net email address
will be discontinued.

Letter From a Prairie Chicken

Last fall, a friend of our family, **Lloyd Redick, '49 S**, moved from Regina to our assisted living facility in Maple Creek. I have been visiting him regularly and I'm learning a lot more about our local community and more interesting tidbits about attending the School of Agriculture in the late '40's.

Lloyd was raised on a homestead not far from our current home. Our families have been neighbours for many decades. He attended country schools, starting in Grade Two. His mother had taught him his letters and numbers, so the teacher found it easier to add him to the Grade 2's. This had an effect on all his later education.

Lloyd's Grandfather had passed away in Maple Creek so the family thought it would be a big help to his Grandmother, if Lloyd moved to town to stay with her and attend high school. Following graduation in 1947, he wanted to farm, but felt he should first further his education at the U of S.

In order to travel to Saskatoon from Maple Creek, Lloyd had to take a train to Regina, transfer there to a train to Saskatoon, and then find his way with his few belongings to his boarding house on 33rd St. Keep in mind that he was only 17 and had never been in Saskatoon before. He tells me that up to this time, he had never been more than 100 miles from home, except for one baseball trip to Indian Head. In later years, most of us accessed to the university by being driven by parents or travelling via our excellent bus service. Many of us had already visited the city previously to shop, attend functions or arrange for accommodations. I'm not sure I would have been brave enough to do all this on my own at age 17.

Lloyd did have a place to stay on 33rd as he was welcomed as a boarder by **Elmer Hawn, '49 C**, a war veteran from Maple Creek, and his wife, Norah, a war bride. Elmer went on to obtain a Doctorate in Plant Pathology in Minnesota. He worked at the Experimental Farm at Lethbridge, conducting research into the production of alfalfa and passed away in 1991.

Bob Eccleston, from Piapot, joined Lloyd at the Hawn's for the 1947-48 year at the School of Agriculture. Meals were only provided five days a week, with their plates served, and no second helpings. They had to scrounge on weekends, using their very meagre resources. I think this was a common practice at boarding houses in our day as well. There was no way of sending perishable food supplies from Maple Creek at that time and there were very few trips home during the year.

They travelled to the campus by bus or on foot. There were no cell phones, Smart phones or GPS. One did not make long distance calls home for assistance but depended upon the mail service. At the time, the only phone system in our community depended on fence wires, so long distance was out of the question. There may still have been places to pick up mail in small rural post offices but there were no mail routes here.

Lloyd later told me that he changed boarding places for his second year and lived just west of Broadway near Five Corners. He now had a much shorter walk to the Campus. He does not remember the School of Agriculture Building (Kirk Hall). I have since discovered that it was not completed until 1950 when the first School of Agriculture Student dormitory was opened.

When I inquired about instructors he may have had, he could only recall one, who was very tall and thin, and put his foot up on the desk when he lectured. It was not hard to identify this Prof. Any of us who were at college before 1968 will all have fond memories of Hadley Van Vliet.

Lloyd thoroughly enjoyed his two years at the School of Agriculture, taking part in carpentry club, hockey, bowling, basketball and curling. He was interested in boxing as he had been a cadet boxer in Maple Creek with a coach from the Army base during WWII but decided that boxing at the U of S was of a much higher calibre. He did mention that many of his classmates were war veterans, and tended to elbow "the children" out of their way on occasion. He received a sports award at graduation. He would have liked to continue and get a B.S.A. but did not have the financial resources.

Lloyd farmed with his brother for a few years and then found employment with the PFRA for some years, living in Saskatoon before relocating to Regina. He retired as a hydrometric technologist with the Water Survey of Canada, working out of Regina. He has been a faithful member of SAGA and has not missed many reunions. He and his wife, Verla, spent many active years in Regina, taking part in church, genealogy, gardening, lawn bowling and enjoying their two children, grand and great-grandchildren. Sadly, Verla passed away Jan. 28, 2023.

Lloyd is very happy to be back in his original community among people that he has known all his life. We are all grateful for his friendship and his historical knowledge.

Irene Ahner '65 C

Reunion Banquet Ticket Costs for *SAGA*

The *SAGA* Executive has looked at the final costs from the 2023 Banquet. We feel this short summary may answer some of your questions about the costs associated with our annual event.

Let's start with the ticket prices. For the last two reunions, 2020 and 2023, we kept the same ticket cost: \$90 for banquet tickets (\$80 – early bird price) and \$20 for just the Mixer. These are prices for *SAGA* members; non-member Ag Grads pay an additional \$20 for an annual membership. For comparison, the 2016 Banquet the tickets were \$85 (early bird - \$73.50) and \$20 respectively. Not too much of an increase over the last few years. However, our costs are slowly catching up to us.

The 2023 Banquet costs were:

Room rentals, including sound system and set-up	\$5,415
Banquet meals and late lunch, including coffee	\$15,500
Taxes & gratuities (18%)	\$4,842
Misc. expenses	\$1,744
Less: discount from TCU Place (based on number of tickets sold)	<u>-\$3,100</u>
	\$24,400

With 310 tickets sold, that works out to \$78.70 per person.

In the end, the \$80 tickets were basically, 'At Cost'. Historically, *SAGA* revenue is a small amount from the banquet, sale of memberships and advertising in *The SAGA*. This is usually enough to cover overhead costs, printing & postage for the newsletter, banking fees and such. *SAGA* is not trying to make a lot of money, just enough to break even and keep events and activities in place for the members.

I think we all enjoy the TCU Place hospitality, and those roast beef dinners are some of the best in town. A night out at a nice restaurant in Saskatoon would probably be more than \$50 for a good steak. As TCU Place has already provided us the 2024 prices, we will be considering an increase in ticket price, or a decrease in costs.

Let us know what you think about ticket prices, or other options to consider. We are likely getting close to that \$100 mark in ticket price for next year for our usual banquet venue and meal. Whatever price we work out, I hope to see a lot of you at the 2024 Reunion.

Jason Fradette '84 C
***SAGA* Treasurer**



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Pictures from the January 2023 Reunion

1953 School



Front L - R: Leroy Larsen, Cletus Scherman.
Back L-R: Rollice Gronvold, Arnold Larsen, Murray Westby.
These gentlemen celebrated their 70th SAGA Reunion. The rest of us can only hope to wear so well!

1963 College



Front L-R: Paul Shukin, George Wilson, Stan Barber.
Back L-R: Jim Halford, Jerry Denison, Wilson Blair, Dave Rutledge, Lyle McNicole, Frank Dunlop.

The 63 guys have been meeting for 60 SAGA Reunions and countless Summer get-togethers of their own with their better-halves.

1968 School



Front L-R: Dennis Hluchaniuk, Dennis Lynch, Gordon Shantz, Gordon Parkinson, Gordon Moore.
Back L-R: Rod Brown, Bill Thomas, Dan Quark, Gerald Kohlert, Ron Wolfater, Blair Knudsen, Fred Kirby, Grant Moncrief, Rod Tondevooldt.

1971 College



Front L-R: Jim Spiers, Ken Mitschke.
Back L-R: Bob Rugg, Ian Bowie, Terry Aldous, Ray Ryland, Lorne Peek.
Attended afternoon social only: Dick Craddock, Jim Danyl.

1972 College



L-R: Robert Hart, David Sim.

1973 School



L-R: Calvin Tweidt, Clifford Crickett, Eric Wilmot.



Jim Spiers, the '71 C Chair, reminisced about the many hijinks the class got into. A bid to become the Engineering Queen. Stealing the Engineers' cannon (Pic), welding on a cover plate before returning it! "Ag Bag Drag" week involved cow races in the Bowl, milk boat races in the Lounge and sack fights.

1973 College



Front L-R: Russel Horvey, Grant Anderson, Jim Blyth, Joe Kernaleguen.
Back L-R: Lorne Ferguson, John Spencer, Don Kolla, Ron Hutchison, Len Howes, John Beckton.

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Pooped Deck

My oh my, the retired life is agreeing with **Gordon Bacon '81 C**, as the accolades pour in now that he's not around telling everyone not to bother. Gordon, recently stepping away as CEO of Pulse Canada and former CEO of Canadian Special Crops Assoc., has received the Pulse Promoter Award from Sask Pulse Growers for the innovation and value he has brought to the pulse industry. Gordon keeps himself busy as Director of Food Systems at the Global Pulse Confederation.

Murray Bennett '78 S picked up the pickleball bug before he retired after a long career with FCC. He is currently a Member at Large for Pickleball Regina. This year he has taken on the task of Tournament Director for the Pickleball Canada National Championship being held in Regina from Aug 23-27. When you're in Regina there is a good chance you will find him at the Queen City Pickleball Hub.

Murad Al-Katib - continued from page 1

Medium Enterprise for Canadian Minister of International Trade, Chair of the Government of Canada National Agri-Food Strategy Roundtable, Chair of the Executive Committee of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, the Board of Pulse Canada and as Board Chair of Economic Development Regina.

Current Board appointments include Canadian Pulse and Special Crops Trade Association, Protein Industries Canada Supercluster, Century Initiative and the Board of Directors of Saudi Arabia Milling Company, the recently privatized flour mills of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Murad is also a graduate of the Rottman Institute of Corporate Directors ICD course. Murad is a passionate advocate of Canadian agriculture speaking extensively on the opportunities and challenges facing the Canada's agriculture sector. Murad is also passionate about entrepreneurs, championing compassionate entrepreneurship and working to expand female, youth and First Nations participation in business start-ups, advocating the role of entrepreneurs in driving social change and innovation in the new global economy.

Murad has received a number of prestigious awards including: 2020 Globe and Mail "Innovator CEO of the Year", 2021 Canadian Western Agribition "CWA Top 50 in Canadian Agriculture", 2017 Saskatchewan Order of Merit, a University of Regina Honorary Degree, 2017 "Oslo Business for Peace" Honouree, 2017 EY "World Entrepreneur of the Year", 2016 UN Association of Canada "Global Citizen Laureate", PROFITGuide Magazine's "30 Most Fabulous Entrepreneurs of the Past 30 Years" list, Globe & Mail "Canada's Top 40 under 40" and the Western Producer "44 Innovators Who Shaped Prairie Agriculture".

Murad resides in Regina with his wife Michelle and his twin son and daughter Tariq and Serra.

Dr. Brian Fowler - continued from page 1

wheat across the western prairies. Farmers who pioneered the trend to no-till seeding gained their experience with winter wheat, and Brian provided these innovators with the necessary research and extension information. He was made a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy in 1994 and a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy in 2001 in recognition of the significant development of winter cereal production and conservation farming systems on the Canadian Prairies and the Northern Great Plains.

In 2011 he received the Ducks Unlimited North American Recognition Award, for his indelible mark on the landscape of the Prairie Pothole Region of Canada and the US. Brian's winter wheat varieties provided nesting sites for waterfowl and upland game birds over 10 million acres. Brian has been very active in extension programs, including the publication of numerous bulletins and fact sheets. He cooperated with DUC in developing the "Conserve and Win" program, working to promote conservation farming systems. The manual he developed is widely accepted as a primary information package in western Canadian conservation production systems and remains as the go-to information globally.

Using the internet as an educational and extension tool, Brian developed five websites that universities in the United States, Australia, Turkey, and Korea have requested to use. In addition to abstracts and research reports, he has published 186 papers in scientific journals, edited books and conference proceedings, with ongoing accolades for his work. Brian has had a long and significant impact in Saskatchewan, Canadian and global agriculture. He was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2018 and retired from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources as Professor Emeritus in 2019.

Brian and his wife Sharon (1946-2011) have 3 children and 6 grandchildren and he continues his adventures from his home base in Saskatoon.

AgBio Senior Sticks in Mexico



L-R: Bayley Moses (Blackwell) 2016/17, Tana Thiessen 2021/22, Connor Jorgensen 2019/20, Billy Brown 2012/13.

Hard working Agros need a break, say... in Mexico. Of 93 Agro Senior Sticks, 4 arrived at the same resort at the same time, hence the same swim-up pool-bar, showing off the same upper right thigh Senior Stick tattoos.

Tana Thiessen '22 C

Cheers with Peers @ 2022 Agribition



L-R: Kent Gulash '85 C, Shaun Kindopp Agribition CEO, Deanne Belisle '79 C, Ryder Lee '99 C and Page Newton '89 C.

Blair Cummins '77 S finally had a chance to host another SAGA "Cheers" at Agribition in Regina. 25 Ag Grads stopped by for free suds and a good gab. Blair plans to do the same at Canada's Farm Show in June, and Ag in Motion in July.

Check www.saskaggrads.com for more pictures and dates.

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We aren't.

Fascinating Life in Nunavut and the Arctic

After a 30-year career in private law practise, a stint teaching the Law School Admission Test in Seoul, South Korea, Ken took on a 2 year contract in 2007 as the Regional Land Administrator for the Baffin Region in Nunavut which encompassed 12 communities. Following this, he was offered the Manager's Position in Kugluktuk, which is the HQ's overseeing Land Administration of the 25 communities for the entire Territory – a position he continues in. He has been fascinated by the trips (all by air) to all of these communities. His Arctic experience has had its share of challenges but also its share of richness; in culture, in traditions, in the Inuit way of life, and awe-inspiring landscapes. He sums it up as both a unique and captivating experience.

There are no roads into Nunavut and no roads connecting the 25 communities. Goods can only reach communities by air or, when the Arctic Ocean thaws, by sea (always resulting in an ongoing increase in the cost of living for food and supplies). The tundra and the ocean provides the 'country food' menu of caribou, muskox, fish and seal. Beluga whale 'muktuk' (thick skin and thin layer of blubber) is an important food source and a traditional delicacy in the Arctic being a good source of protein and omega-3 fatty acids.

Temperatures, in the extreme winter, can be daytime (so to speak) highs in the minus 50's, and then colder with the wind chill. It takes mental endurance to deal with the 24 hours of darkness during November to January. Snow starts thawing

in May. The summer, with 24 hours of light, is a short period from July to August when the warm temperatures can reach as high as + 25 C, but only for a few days. Nunavut Territory is the largest province/territory in Canada. Much of the land is characterized as tundra, which is bare, rocky and treeless. The soil of the tundra is locked in permafrost, but the Arctic is now experiencing climate warming faster and more intensely than most other parts of the world.

Ken has played a part in the establishment of the Canadian High Arctic Station (CHARS) in Cambridge Bay which provides world researchers with a state-of-the-art facility. The CHARS brings science and technology and traditional Inuit knowledge together to make an international statement on Canadian research in the Arctic.

Ken Wasylyshen '70 C, '73 LL.B.

Ken had contacted The SAGA to inform us of several classmates that we didn't have listed on our Empty Saddles webpage. The Editor asked him to contribute this article. Ken also supplied our membership with the authentic '70 Agro's trademark holler:

**Raz'em! Jaz'em!
Make 'em step.
We're the boys that have the pep.
Who in U of S are we?
Agriculture S.A.C.**

AgBio Development Office Highlights

With summer approaching the college is turning its attention to the activities of the season. Field research programs have cranked into high gear, summer classes have begun, and plans for the college's presence at the Ag in Motion outdoor farm expo are taking shape. Except for Covid cancellations, we've been at the show every year since its inception, and I participate on the planning committee. Last year saw the resumption of normal activities, and it felt like AgBio leaned heavily on what we had done before, so this time we're focused on refreshing our presence with new displays and event activities.

Our goal is to showcase the College's place in the agriculture community by highlighting our cutting-edge research and educational training. If you're planning to attend, please book some time for a visit with the college (site 328 at the corner of 3rd street and Saskatchewan Drive) and see what we have to offer. There will be opportunities to learn about our latest research, check out innovative field tech or just

visit with fellow grads.

In fundraising news, the college continues to be transformed by our donors' generosity. As usual, gifts span a range of donor interests (and forms). There are more details coming on some of these gifts in the next issue of Agknowledge magazine, but I'm pleased to share a few highlights. We received a significant land donation, a new research chair was established, a new lab research space was funded, and new undergrad and graduate awards were set up. We even received a gift of high precision Swedish-made seed sorting equipment. The college is immensely grateful for every gift we receive. Your donations play a critical part in helping our students and researchers reach their potential.

Thank you!

**Hamish Tulloch '91 C
Director of Development**

Effect on Ukrainian Agriculture by Russia's Genocidal Invasion

The ongoing invasion has greatly affected Ukraine's ability to export grains and oilseeds. Russia controls the Black Sea and Odessa is the only port from which Ukraine can ship. Turkey brokered a deal for Russia to allow Ukrainian grain ships through as a humanitarian gesture to feed the many African countries that depend upon Ukraine. However, it is not going smoothly. In the meantime, Russia is stealing as much Ukrainian grain as they can and selling it to places like Syria, and even Turkey. Ukraine is moving some grain by rail into Europe to get it into export position, but the system was never designed for that and is backing up. This had a drastic effect on grain prices in the countries affected. Those countries attempted a complete ban but negotiated limits instead.

Planting is very difficult for several reasons. Many fields are mined, some fields have many shell holes and scrap metal buried, if within range are subject to shelling from Russian artillery, or fields are under Russian control. Areas planted in fall and spring crops are down by as much as 40% and yields are also expected to be down for lack of inputs.

About 30% of Ukrainian farmland is mined. Manual de-mining is slow, painstaking, and dangerous. But never underestimate the ingenuity of a farmer in a hurry to put his crop in. One farmer built a radio-controlled de-mining ma-

chine about 4 meters wide from parts of a destroyed Russian tank. The controller sits high in a bucket far from danger. If a mine is hit, repairs are carried out and they continue. Other farmers have come to see it and they will go home and repeat the process. (You can view his ingenuity at: https://youtu.be/65AcEc9PD_w.)

The impact on livestock production has been horrific in the battle zones. Villagers fled, leaving animals unfed and unwatered, and cows unmilked, Russians have shelled barns and shot cattle just for fun. The condition of large operations in Russian controlled areas is unknown. The main factors that resulted in a large drop in livestock numbers are the millions of displaced people, dramatically reduced incomes, and a weak economy. Ukraine is forecast to continue to import large quantities of pork and dairy products. Chicken, domestic and imported, will remain the main source of protein as it is the least expensive.

Al Hingston '69 C

(Al has written 2 previous articles for The SAGA, Dec. 2021 and June 2022. The town of Zhovti Vody, Ukraine had been home for Al and Tanya for 15 years. Al was unable to write for the Dec. 2022 issue because he was too busy fleeing his adopted country with his family. Al was the Chairperson for his class at the 2019 Reunion. Ed.)

News From the AgBio Student Clubs

During both the fall and winter terms, a lot has happened for the Clubs in the College of Agbio.

The Judging Team stayed busy in the fall participating in multiple competitions as well as hosting their own. Competitors included 4-H clubs, Lakeland College and the University of Alberta, and their own members. They attended a competition at the U of A and a final event at Canadian Western Agribition, competing against entrants from across the country. At each of these events the U of S Judging Team finished with high-point team honours. There are no plans for this summer, so the Club will get back into full swing come September.

The U of S Pre-Vet Club finally had their first year where everyone was back in classes. Interest in certain events was tremendous, which included the Sign-Up Meeting in Sept, Application Review Night, and Mock Interviews. At the beginning of the year PVC had various hands-on events. They also had the pleasure of Dr. Hogan, OzTREKK, Ross Vet School, Melbourne Vet School and Deanne Kaar presenting to Club members in-person. PVC will hold elections for Executive positions later this summer.

The FABS (Food and Bioproduct Sciences) Club kicked off the year with a tour of the Lucky Bastards Distillery. In October, they had a meet-the-faculty night, then did some pumpkin carving as a relief from midterms. The Club held multiple charity initiatives, donating clothes, food and toiletries to Ronald McDonald House and the Lighthouse in Saskatoon. Started off 2023 with a bowling night, and ended the year with what they call "Innovation Night". This summer the Club Executive is looking to expand, search for sponsorship and make plans for the 2023/24 year.

In the past year, the EBSA (Environmental and Bioresources Assoc.) Club was involved in numerous activities such as river cleanup in early fall, a handful of nature hikes at Spruce River trail and Cranberry Flats, plus general meetings occurring approximately once a month. They updated their logo and did a clothing sale to raise funds for the Club. There are no definite plans for this summer, but the potential is there for a hike or other activity around Saskatoon before classes resume in the fall.

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The Beef Club, had quite an exciting year. The highlight was their trip to Denver, Colorado in Jan. where 25 members toured the National Western Stock Show, taking part in local networking events and other tours. Excitement was very high, and members worked extra hard, organizing and fundraising including: a bottle drive, selling meals at the U of S, working at a multitude of Huskie games, and helping at the Sask Beef Expo. The Beef Club would like to thank all of their sponsors and supporters who helped make the Denver excursion possible once again! Several members.

volunteered with 'Ag in the Classroom to further educate youth about Canadian agriculture. The team is very eager to expand their knowledge, regularly having presentations and guest speakers to begin each meeting. Follow the Beef Club on their Facebook page "U of S Beef Team," or on their Instagram or Twitter accounts @UofSBeefTeam.

All 11 AgBio Clubs are excited for the upcoming year filled with opportunities and good times.

Carter Masley
2023-24 ASA Club Liaison

Checking in With The ASA

Hi everyone! First, I just want to say how much of an honour it was to be the Public Relations Officer for the 2022/23 school year, and how great it was to connect with so many Alumni over my time serving as PRO which, having reached its inevitable end, I would like to reflect on our huge success with March for STARS this year!!

To begin, I would like to thank every one of the Alumni who lent a helping hand with March for STARS whether it was by financial support, attending events, or showing up to participate in our first ever March for STARS parade for the cheque presentation at the STARS hangar in Saskatoon! I would also like to extend a thank you to the Saskatoon Police Service for their assistance in making the parade possible. So too the members of this year's Agriculture Students Association and our student body for all their help in making sure the campaign was a success! All said and done, the Agros raised an outstanding \$45,000 for STARS this year smashing the previous campaigns we had hosted.

We also held the AgBio graduation ceremony in-person this year (woo-hoo!). The event was planned and organized by our Internal VP, Ellie Stauffer to award and send off the 2023 graduates, including several of our ASA, past and present. We were delighted with some well-thought-out and delivered speeches, as well as the long-held tradition, the Passing of the Senior Stick, which was conferred from **Morgan Davey '23** upon **Ellie Stauffer '24**.

I can tell you Ellie didn't get very far from the stage before her fellow Agros caught up to her. I hope you all are proud to be alumni of the long-standing best college around, and it was a pleasure to meet some of you during my time as PRO.

I hope to stay in touch and see you all in the future during industry, ASA, and *SAGA* events!

Matthew Trefiak '23
Public Relations Officer

Three Ag Grads to Sask Ag Hall of Fame (SAHF)

Laurie Tollefson '75 C, '85 MSc. World renowned expert on Irrigation and Drainage.

Kevin Hursh '80 C. Revolutionized Agriculture reporting as long-time host of Farmgate.

John McKinnon '86 MSc, '92 PhD. Beef researcher of using byproducts to lower feed costs.

Dorothy Long (U of S) Home Ec., BEd. Taught about society's connection to food and farming.

Bill Huber. An internationally known Saskatchewan rancher.

Save the Stone Barn

Please go to our Webpage to read of the continuing efforts for the ever impressive U of S Stone Barn, a magnificent heritage structure that needs your help.

Visit www.saskaggrads.com for more information.

I asked a farmer if it's easy to milk a cow.
"Sure," he said. "Any jerk can do it."

Why did the cow jump over the moon?
The farmer had cold hands.

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?
Because they lactose.

Empty Saddles

Howard Clark Thomas '47 S, Dec. 30, 2022

John Christian Callsen '49 S, Aug 20, 2020

Harry Edwin Hill '49 S , Oct 30, 2020

William (Bill) Dale Heenan '49 S
(2013 SAGA HLM), May 17, 2023

Donald Roy Buchanan '49 C, Jan. 31, 2023

Theodore 'Ted' Arthur Koester '50 S, Dec. 5, 2022

John Stafford Burton '51 C, Dec. 9, 2022

Paul Anthony Turner '51 C, Jan. 23, 2023

Keith Fredrick Harris. '53 S, Nov 30, 2020

Glenn William Gutheil '54 C, Nov. 15, 2022

Louis Edwin Sparks '56 S, Feb. 22, 2023

Ernest Clare Cooney '57 S, Dec. 16 2022

Donald (Don) Findlay Acton '57 C, Apr. 29, 2023

Doug Fletcher Brown '57 C, '58 MSc, Dec. 3, 2022

John Allen Howard '61 C, Apr. 26, 2023

Lorne Paul Lepp, '61 C, Feb. 2, 2023

Adolph Thompson Ward '62 S & '70 C, Apr. 18, 2023

Wayne Charles Woolfitt '62 C, '63 MSc, Jan. 30, 2023

Robert Charles Stewart '63 C, Jan 14, 2022

Norman Clifford Hemstad '64 C, June 1, 2022

Alvin Edmund Barth '67 C, Nov. 27, 2022

Robert Terrance 'Terry' Wakelin '67 C, Oct 9, 2022

Stewart Dennis Adam '68 C, Nov. 16, 2022

Karl Gary Seime '69 C, May 9, 2023

Kenneth Elmer Pedersen '70 C, Sep 25, 2021

Robert John Rennie '71 C, July 26, 2022

Reginald Harold Larson '72 S, Apr. 28, 2023

Wayne Gerald Bird '76 S, Dec. 16, 2022

Anthony Ivan Allin '02 S, May 2, 2020

Christina Amy Nelson (nee Forreiter) '10
BSc-AgriBus, Dec. 21, 2022

Alfred John Quewezance CIPRM '11 (now
Kanawayihetaytan Askiv. Or K.A.) Sept. 7, 2020

New Ways to Contact SAGA

We have created new email addresses to contact *SAGA* Executive (thesaga@sasktel.net will be discontinued).

contact@saskaggrads.com - general inquiries

reunion@saskaggrads.com - inquiries about the reunion and Chairpersons (VP Henry de Gooijer)

treasurer@saskaggrads.com - money matters and to connect with Jason.

memberships@saskaggrads.com - updates or inquiries about your membership (Henry)

newsletter@saskaggrads.com - to submit news or to connect with the Editors (Ewald & Lindsay)
News deadline for the next *SAGA* issue is Nov. 15, 2023

Don't forget to visit the *SAGA* webpage www.saskaggrads.com to peruse all that we have there.

Membership Report

Updating contact information:

Ag Grads are a dynamic bunch, so maintaining up to date contact information for our membership is an ongoing task. New physical and email addresses, and new cell numbers occur frequently, or the old land line phone is dropped and we don't always hear about it.

Send us an email at: memberships@saskaggrads.com with any new information and we'll update our records.

New memberships:

We want to thank you for your membership in the Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association. And we encourage you to reach out to friends, family, colleagues who are Ag Grads and classmates who might not be members and encourage them to join. Membership in *SAGA* is the best deal in town, with an annual membership still only \$20 and a life time membership of \$100.

Your membership fee includes emailing of our newsletter and direct notification of news and events. Ag Grads must have a valid & active membership of one type to attend the Annual Reunion. Your membership also helps SAGA :

- To promote the social interests of Degree and Diploma graduates of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan.
- To promote closer relationships among graduates and between graduates and the college, including faculty and students.
- To keep graduates informed of recent developments at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan.
- To co-operate with the University Alumni Association on its efforts to promote the interests of the university as a whole.

If you are an annual member, and haven't renewed your membership in the past year, please renew your annual membership now. Better yet, consider a Life Membership and never worry about renewing again. Memberships can be purchased online at <https://saskaggrads.com> under the menu item, "SAGA Reunion" and "Purchase Membership".

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