

President's Pen

BY TERRY GRAJCYK '83 C

Greetings from your new president as we look forward to the next year of SAGA. Firstly, thank you to Henry de Gooijer whose work has helped the SAGA organization and as he contributes in the role of past president. Much appreciation!

The introduction to SAGA for me has been enjoyable and the connections along the agri-value chain are valuable. Talented people with extensive backgrounds and contacts is a sidebar of note. As people begin, continue with or near the close of working careers in ag, it's the people that make things happen. To some a cliché but worthy of repeat. The talent pool is deep and wide and at the same time humbling. Researchers, government partners, ag extension, farmers, marketers, international developers, communicators, mentors, and a multitude of service industry experts are part of who SAGA is.

For those I have not yet met, I am a College of Agriculture 1983 graduate residing on-farm near Zehner, Saskatchewan. I am originally from Mortlach, west of Moose Jaw. Zehner is a small community northeast of Regina, a combination of farmers and commuters in what is now becoming acreage country. Most of my ag career has been in farm extension / food safety / sustainability programming, a 10-year role with Sask Ag & Food, and now contracting on projects with national agricultural organizations. I am also a part-time farmer with a flock of sheep. Other volunteering has been with local crimewatch, hall board, Big Sisters of Regina, horse clubs, and events such

as the Grey Cup and North American Indigenous Games.

SAGA is indeed a group of do'ers. As we plan for 2026 Reunion in Saskatoon, we also look to participate in events throughout the year. When grads get together there are laughs and expanded connections – come out to these happenings at ag shows and we'll also be at UofS student events. The volunteers work to extend the network with upcoming ag grads and the multitude of diploma and college alumni across Canada and elsewhere.

SAGA may be a reunion but it's also about the future. Keeping networks alive and renewing acquaintances is important. One can do that through social media but in-person adds a spark that hasn't been replaced yet. Career-wise and person-wise it can be rewarding.

We have a great crew of volunteers that are welcoming and fun to be around. To any of you hesitating to get more involved, please don't! The group is



Terry Grajczyk '83 C

open to new ideas and are efficient in how they organize SAGA events. Ideas on how we can make SAGA better are welcome. I can be reached by text or phone at 306-737-2290, email: sundancefarms@imagewireless.ca or by mail to Box 1 Site 1 RR 1, Zehner, SK, S0G 5K0.

Looking forward to a great year and a fun grad reunion event in January 2026 at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon!



Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame

Dr. Bruce Coulman '71C and '73 MSc was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in November 2024. An award-winning forage crop researcher, Dr. Bruce Coulman developed numerous novel forage crop varieties throughout his career that shaped the future for profitable forage production in Canada.

From the Editor

BY LINDSAY FOLK '88 C

As I write this at the end of April, I am watching the snow gently fall (again) and reminding myself that moisture in any form is good. I hope that when you read this newsletter in early June what you can see from your window are crops, vegetables or flowers growing in abundance, and snow and cold are a distant memory.

I had the opportunity to attend an USask alumni event in Phoenix, Arizona this March and my husband and I and friends spent a really nice evening in the company of so many proud USask alumni. We had a chance to meet outgoing President Peter Stoicheff and Chancellor Grit McCreath, who have been truly wonderful ambassadors for the university. They both spoke of the many successes of the past year, including Rhodes scholars, research initiatives and the finale of the Be What the World Needs Campaign. If you happen to be in Saskatoon on June 18 you might want to consider attending the campaign celebration at Merlis Belsher Place.

Attending this alumni event caused me to reflect how fortunate I was to attend USask and graduate from Agriculture. A lot of good things happened from that first decision to come to Saskatoon! There is a lot to be proud and one way we can express our thanks is to contribute back to the university, You'll read elsewhere in the newsletter about the impact that the SAGA Undergraduate Scholarship has for today's students and so I'd encourage you to consider giving to fund that scholarship, or to other projects at the University.

Best wishes for a fruitful summer.

2025 SAGA Reunion

BY DEANNE BELISLE '79 C, BANQUET CHAIR

This year's Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates' Association reunion banquet took place at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon, marking a first for the event. The gathering drew 335 guests, representing seven decades of classmates and friends from 1955 to 2020, with the largest group being the 50-year grads from 1975 School and College. Folks travelled from as far away as Stratford-upon-Avon, U.K., as well as closer locales such as B.C. and Ontario. The event's broad participation served as testament to the strength and global connections of the U of S AgBio community, going strong for 90 years. SAGA (originally named The Saskatchewan Agricultural College Graduates' Association) was established in 1935!

The event began with early arrivers strolling down Boomtown Street, examining the agricultural machinery exhibits or browsing through ASA memorabilia. We were pleased to present Black Fox Distillery gin and Nine Mile Brewery products as part of the WDM's liquor selection with Agros/Voc-Ag ties. And this year, our Photographer organized two photo stations – one in front of the Blacksmith Shop and one in front of the Train Station – for keepsake photos. We hope the backdrops make for interesting photos, fitting for an ag-related crowd.

Following registration, WDM served a superb western-style meal. As dinner ended, guests heard from Dean Angela Bedard-Haughn and the two Honorary Life Members. SAGA President, Henry de Goojier, brought a personal touch to the event as emcee.

Lorne Jackson '55 C and Anne shared: "We enjoyed our trip to the Reunion. The weather in Moose Jaw had us wondering if we would make it, but after we got by Tuxford, the roads kept improving. During the evening, we were asked what we thought of the move to the WDM. It handled the capacity group, parking was adequate, accommodation nearby, and the bonus was, early arrivals could wander through the museum. Personally, there was a special bonus. Being hearing deficient, I heard every word that every speaker said over the microphone. That is unusual. The organizers have our thumbs-up."

Terry Grajczyk '83 C, incoming President of SAGA added her thoughts, reflecting on the Association's vision and looking forward to the next gathering: "The support and enthusiasm of ag grads are vital to SAGA's ability to deliver networking opportunities for U Sask AgBio alumni. This, along with connections in a social atmosphere between graduates and the College, is part of our vision as Executive. The energy and camaraderie at this event were heartwarming. If this reunion is any indication, our next banquet event will be even more exceptional!"

It was a particularly special evening for **Ewald Lammerding '88 S**, as this was his final event as a Banquet Chair. After 8 years of organizing the banquet, he will now focus on continuing the Forever Young record and staying involved with the Executive as a Member At Large.

This year's 90th banquet was a resounding success, marked by its new venue, wonderful company, and great deal of "reminiscing", recapturing the pre-pandemic buzz. We eagerly anticipate welcoming our community to next year's event, which promises to be equally memorable. Stay tuned for details and be sure to 'Save the Date'.

Check out photos from the weekend on [Facebook](#) or "[X](#)".

Honorary Life Members



Grant and Chantal Devine

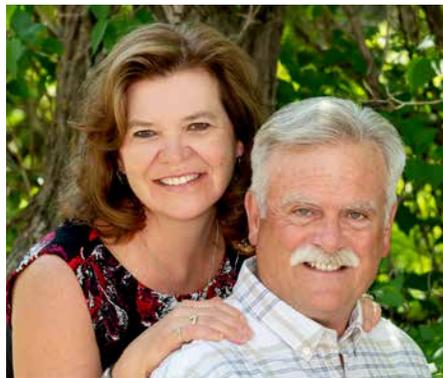
Donald Grant Devine '67 C was born in 1944 in Regina, and was raised on his grandfather's farm near Lake Valley. After earning his degree from the U of S he completed his MSc, Agricultural Economics from the University of Alberta in 1970, before attaining his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Ohio State University in 1976. Grant taught agricultural marketing and consumer economics at U of S from 1976-79, focusing on food retailing, grain handling and agricultural marketing efficiencies.

He served as the 11th Premier of Saskatchewan from 1982 to 1991, concurrently serving as agriculture minister; his passion for agriculture evident throughout his career. He brought forward policies that supported the industry through challenging production years, such as guaranteed loans to young farmers and province wide natural gas. He championed innovation and science, establishing Ag-West Bio to lead work on biotechnology, while the province's Agriculture Development Fund began during his tenure to advance agricultural research. His dedication and leadership led to a new College of Agriculture building at the University of Saskatchewan, which has become one of the leading agriculture colleges in Canada. His work on free trade, including a Canada-U.S. free trade agreement, was significant for Saskatchewan farmers and Canadian agriculture.

He led the charge on having Farm Credit Canada Corporation locate its head office in Regina, providing hundreds of jobs to the Saskatchewan economy. He was also instrumental to the province's investment in SaskFerco, with the urea and anhydrous ammonia fertilizer plant a first for Canada.

He has held a number of directorships and executive positions and has continued to use his experience as a farmer, researcher, economist and director to serve the agriculture community.

He currently has a farm and ranch near Moose Jaw. Grant and Chantal have been married for 58 years and have 5 children, 18 grandchildren and 1 great grand-daughter.



Marlene and Kevin Hursh

Kevin Hursh '80 C was born at Cabri, Saskatchewan and grew up on a nearby mixed family farm. He graduated with distinction from U of S, College of Agriculture, serving as Ag Student Association President and Senior Stick in his final year.

Following graduation, his first and only real job was with CFQC Radio and Television in Saskatoon. Eventually, his farm news coverage was province wide. He worked for 15 years doing farm news, establishing a weekly half hour show called Farmgate and doing daily noon hour farm news.

He left CTV in 1995 and together with his wife Marlene established Hursh Consulting & Communications based in Saskatoon. Through the years, Kevin has served as executive director of the Inland Terminal Association of Canada (ITAC), the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan and Sask Mustard. As a founding director and then executive director of the Canary Seed Development Commission, Kevin played a key role in obtaining human food approval for the crop.

Kevin and Marlene handled communications and promotional work for Crop Production Week in Saskatoon for 17 years.

Kevin and Marlene also own and operate the family farm near Cabri, growing a wide variety of crops including kabuli chickpeas, large green lentils, maple peas, brown mustard and Canary seed. Their three sons help out on the farm as their careers allow.

For more than 40 years, Kevin has written a weekly column, which for many years has been published in *The Western Producer*. He has also written for other farm publications and can often be heard on Saskatchewan radio stations. In his opinion pieces and speaking engagements, he strives to express what farmers need to hear, not necessarily what they want to hear.

Marlene and Kevin are proud of their Honorary Lifetime Membership bestowed by the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association and their Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Farm Writers Federation.

In 2021, Kevin received a Distinguished Agrologist Award from the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and in 2023, he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Kevin and Marlene are blessed with four grandchildren.

2026 Reunion Chairs – consider volunteering

We are looking for people to take on the role of Class Chair to communicate with their classmates for the Reunion weekend in January 2026.

It is not a difficult task – contact your classmates by phone, email, mail or social media. You do not sell tickets to the banquet or any other activity. Simply organize a class list and let them know about the reunion events. We will list your name and contact info on SAGA website and in the newsletter.

We have a few years covered but need more! Maybe you and a classmate can organize for your year?

CLASS	REUNION CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
1961 College	Wayne Clews	wayne@clewsmanagement.com	403-350-0940
	Bob Baker	rjbaker@sasktel.net	
1961 School	Marcel Dubois	marcel.dubois41@gmail.com	306-882-2258
1966 College	Bill Turner	turners@sasktel.net	306-726-7772
1966 School	Lorne McConaghy	lorne@mcconaghyfarms.com	306-921-9920
	Fred Wilson	wilsonfred@gmail.com	306-381-6070
1976 College	Carman Read	carmanread@gmail.com	403-318-0972

If you have any questions about the Reunion or if you want to volunteer as a Class reunion Chair contact reunion@saskaggrads.com or call or 306-737-2290.

**For up to date information on the
2026 Reunion, check out
www.saskaggrads.com > SAGA Reunion.**

Plan to attend the 91st SAGA Reunion

January 9 and 10, 2026

Friday, January 9: 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Friday Night Social at AgBio Building
Atrium Guided tours and Gabfest in ASA Lounge

Saturday, January 10: 7:00 am – 5:30 pm

SAGA Hockey Tournament at Waldheim

Saturday, January 10: 4:00 – 9:00 pm

Reunion Banquet at Western
Development Museum followed by Mixer:
9:00 pm – 1:00 am

Recognition of Years

1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976,
1986, 1996, 2006, 2016 and 2021

A block of hotel rooms (including suites) has been set aside at the Sandman Signature Hotel across the road from WDM. Conference rooms are available for classes to book a larger gathering. **Book early to avoid disappointment.**

For guest rooms, use the code **SAGAREUNION** when booking. Rate is \$159 + tax per night.

<https://reservations.sandmanhotels.com/113165?groupID=4754263#/guestsandrooms>

For conference rooms, call
1-306-477-4844, ext. 1856

SAGA Honorary Life Members 2026 Nominees

Maurice Delage '69 C received his BSA from the University of Saskatchewan in 1969 and MSc in 1978. Throughout his career he has been a leader, a visionary and an innovator in agriculture in Saskatchewan and across Canada. His efforts led to major advancements in the areas of crop protection and seed development for producers. Maurice's contributions to agriculture and society have been recognized with inductions into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame and Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame and awarding of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. He currently is involved in family's 35,000 acre grain farm, growing canola, wheat, peas and lentils. Delage Farms is located just north of Indian Head, SK.

Larry White '64 C obtained his BSA from the University of Saskatchewan in 1964. Throughout his career with Saskatchewan Agriculture, Larry was an exemplary leader, manager and communicator. He began his career as an Agricultural Representative in Watson, advancing to Regional Manager, first in Weyburn, then Prince Albert. When Larry retired from Sask. Agriculture and Food he joined the Saskatchewan Forest Centre and made contributions to the agroforestry industry. He also was instrumental in helping the Conservation Learning Centre develop a long term strategic plan, which helped renew the Centre and contributed to its recent success. Larry's outstanding service and worthy contributions to agriculture have been recognized when he was awarded the SIA Distinguished Agrologist Award in 2011.

A Word from the Dean

BY ANGELA BEDARD-HAUGHN '01 MSC, DEAN AND PROFESSOR, AGBIO

Greetings fellow alumni!

Spring has finally arrived in Saskatchewan, in fits and starts as is typical for the Prairies. I'm writing this during the busy final exam season, as students wrap up their studies for the term and get ready to head out to whatever their summers bring – back to the farm, out to the field for their summer jobs, or maybe starting their new careers. I'm already getting excited for spring convocation, which is such a highlight of being dean: seeing the wave of emotions our newly-minted alumni experience as they cross the stage and congratulating them on their accomplishments.

Spring is a season of new growth and new beginnings, and there has been much of that in AgBio this year! We have four new faculty members in 2025: Dr. Anže Švara has joined Plant Sciences, where he will be teaching in the horticulture area and developing his research program

on fruit genetics and improvement. Dr. Flavia van Cleef has a cross-appointment with the departments of Plant Sciences and Animal and Poultry Science, as the new Beef Industry Integrated Forage Management and Utilization Chair. Dr. Chantel Chizen (PhD 2024) has joined Soil Science in the area of Digital Pedology and Pedometrics. Dr. Kwabena Nketia has joined Plant Sciences and will be focused on Precision Agronomy. Drs. Chizen and Nketia are both part of the cluster hire in the area of Sustainable and Digital Agriculture that I mentioned in my message last fall. More information about each of these faculty members can be found on their individual profile pages at agbio.usask.ca. Two new faculty members are scheduled to start in Agricultural and Resource Economics this summer (more to come on them later) and there are three additional searches underway, including the new Saskatchewan Wheat Development

Commission Applied Genomics and Pre-breeding Chair.

You may also have seen the announcement in February regarding Nutrien's \$15 million donation to the University of Saskatchewan, over 75% of which is going to support initiatives here in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. These include establishing the Nutrien Centre for Sustainable and Digital Agriculture here in AgBio, providing student scholarships, supporting the activities of the *kihci okâwîmâw askiy* (Great Mother Earth) Knowledge Centre, and establishing the Nutrien Future Fund. We are excited to put this gift to work, creating more opportunities for our AgBio community and those we serve!

Finally, with summer on the horizon, I'm happy to share that I have been renewed for a second term as the Dean of Agriculture and Bioresources! It's been an honor to serve this community and share our stories on so many platforms and stages across Canada and around the world. I can't wait to see where we go next as we continue growing our future!



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SAGA Reunion 2025



1955 College
Lorne Jackson



1965 School
Front L-R: Arlyce Studwick, Linda Lorenz, Harold Turvey, Murray Coolidge
Back: Dale Strudwick, Edward Lorenz, Sharron Hankins, Jack Hankins, Thelma Nagel, Doreen Coolidge **Missing from picture:** Elaine and Barry Good



1960 College
Front L-R: Audrey Horkoff, Eileen Harvey, Elaine Hass
Back: Don Horkoff, Bryan Harvey, Pat Turner, Bill Copeland, Alma Copeland, Glen Hass



1955 School
L-R: Dale Donald and Bohdan Cipywink



1965 College, with spouses
Front L-R: Gillian McDougald, Jim Harren, Jean Harren, Derald Ahner, Anne McGowan, Jim McGowan, Jim Puckett
Middle: Irene Ahner, Cora Greer
Back: Lawrence McNabb, Doreen McNabb, Marcel Dubois, Lynda Dubois, Doug Sword, Bob Mason, Alice Gradauer, Peter Gradauer, Fay Puckett



1970 College

Front L-R: Ken Rosaasen, Doug Campbell, Dennis Ewanus, Wayne Sibley
Back: Darrel Cunningham, Brian Persson, David Thornton, Pat Gerwing, Bob Norman, Stu Brandt, Ron Watson, Ken Gillies, Larry Lee



1970 School

Front L-R: John Beckton, Don Flamme, Dale Gibson, Jim Workman, David Geddes
Back: Tom Mann, Bill Sheppard, Grant Swanson, Brian Wallis, Bill Haase

Looking for that Special Grad!

Irene Ahner '65 C, Keith Head '67 C and Ewald Lammerding '88 S, are seeking a fourth Ag Grad to join us for updating and then continuing the *Forever Young SAGA History Book*. The last year in Forever Young was 1999, so we are a bit behind.

We are looking for a fellow retiree who is familiar with using and managing databases, as this is the only way the College/University will allow access. You do not have to be based in Saskatoon.

The final product will be published only on the SAGA website, and once it set up, it will be updated yearly.

If you are interested, please contact Ewald at: eflammerding@sasktel.net or 306-260-3445

U of S AgBio Faculty Member among 2025 Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductees

On April 26, 2025 six distinguished individuals were officially inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame during a ceremony held at Prairieland Park. Among the honorees was Robert (Bob) Bohrs, a highly regarded fruit breeder and retired faculty member from the Department of Plant Sciences. Bob played a pivotal role in the development of nine sour cherry and ten haskap varieties and was instrumental in promoting the commercialization of these fruits across Canada.

The 2025 inductees also include:

- **Frank Bourgault** (deceased) – founder of Bourgault Industries
- **Gerry Bourgault** – President of Bourgault Industries
- **Harold Martens** (deceased) – former MLA, senior government official, rancher, and board member of multiple livestock associations
- **Dr. Grant Royan** – veterinarian and founder of Sherwood Animal Clinic in Regina
- **Bill Wilson** – a trailblazer in agricultural media

We've lost track of some members ...

If you know any of these members, please ask them to reach out to us to update their contact information – memberships@saskaggrads.com

Terry Bohrson '71 S
Gordon Bue '78 C
George Burton '51 S
Sandy (Lorne) Campbell '51 S
Robert Campbell '56 S
John Chuey '61 C
Denise Clair '06 C
Douglas Collins '63 C
Kenneth Copithorne '60 S
Gerald Coutts '71 C
Dean Crozon '79 S
Kevin Daniels ;86 C
Katelyn Duncan '14 C
Laurie Entwistle '72 C
Celeste Foster '92 C
Raymond Gilmour '87 C
Douglas Graham '89 C
Edward Gray '58 C
Marnie Gruber-Meyers '01 C
Ernie Harach '74 C
Blair Harris '86 C
Gerald Harrison '83 C
Jim Hart '62 C
George Heidgerken '80 C
Tom Janzen '77 C
David Krause '89 S
Keith Lundgren '72 S
Ted McCannel '50 C
Stephanie Meier '08 S
Andrew Mess '74 S
Lawrence Middleton '57 S
Tom Monea '84 C
Tiffany Peters '08 S
Ronald Phillips '68 S
Bev Rosher '76 S
Peter Sandercock '91 C
Clifford Shirriff '53 C
Reg Skinner '63 C
Alvin Stephens '80 C
Laura Thibault '84 C
Donald Thomson '60 S
Alexander Webster '49 C
Richard Wharton '77 C
Wayne White '72 C
Van Whitehead '68 C
Henry Zilm '69 C
Brian Zwaan '81 C

Reunion Kaiser tournament

To keep up some beloved Agro activities that (hopefully) won't involve the authorities, John Cote '86C and Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote '87C of Black Fox Farm and Distillery are hosting the very first Agro Kaiser Tournament, during the SAGA Reunion Weekend, on Saturday, January 10. Grab your old partners, recruit some new ones, or just show up solo. Stay tuned—more details to come, in the December newsletter.

1966 School Grads are planning a 60th Bash

Guess what?? All us '66 classmates are going to have wonderfully great time at the next SAGA Reunion weekend January 9-10, 2026.

Rooms have been blocked for us at the Signature Sandman Hotel, on Lorne Avenue. Swimming pool, hot tub, Denny's for breakfast, Chop Steak House for dinner, plus free parking. Also, the Sandman is directly across the street from the WDM.

We can start off with the Friday Night Social (January 9) at the College of AgBio Atrium which features tours of the facilities and a gabfest, then supper and more fun back at the hotel.

The 91st SAGA Reunion Banquet on Saturday, January 10 is at the Western Development Museum. This is a great place to mingle with fellow grads, plus we get to roam the entire facility for free! More details about the reunion in this newsletter.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Neil and Lorraine Moyses for all the years they did the planning for our many past Class reunions. It's time for them to step back, although they'll be hard-pressed not to advise us. Sadly, over the recent years, we have lost Keith, Len, Gerald and Henry.

So, let's get planning for January 9 and 10, 2026. Book your hotel room soon (definitely before December 11, 2025) as the Crop Production Week follows this event, so places will become scarce.

To book at the Sandman call 1-306-518-1263 or email: reservations@sandman.ca and quote **SAGAREUNION** (business block code).

See you all there, '66 School Classmates!

Lorne McConaghy and Fred Wilson – Reunion Chairs

lorne@mcconaghyfarms.com or 306-921-9920
wilsonfred@gmail.com or 306-381-6070

New Awards

The SAGA executive has approved the establishment of two new awards sponsored jointly by SAGA and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Distinguished Graduate Award

This award will be presented to graduates of agriculture programs at the University of Saskatchewan in recognition of significant achievement which contributes positively to society.

Distinguished Graduate Young Achievement Award

This award will be presented to graduates of agriculture programs at the University of Saskatchewan who show promise of contributing significantly to society. Nominees must be 40 years of age or less at the time of nomination.

Information will be posted on the SAGA and College websites when details are finalized.

60-year Reunion of the '65 College Class

BY IRENE AHNER '65 C

Eleven members plus some spouses of the '65 C class spent a very enjoyable weekend together at the 90th Ag Grad Reunion, January 10-11, 2025. Elsewhere in this newsletter there are reports on the details of the reunion with its change of venue, meals and presentations.

When I sent the original information for our January Reunion, I eventually received replies from most of our remaining classmates. Some were in such poor health that it was impossible for them to attend. Others did not want to be in Saskatoon at that time of year because its history of cold weather and piles of snow. I wish to report that, yes, Saskatoon had a lot of snow and it turned quite cold by Sunday but none of us who attended had any major problems.

In 1961, there were over 100 students in the first-year class of the College of Agriculture. The usual attrition occurred so when I joined this class in 1962, there were 80 male faces taking note. They were not all strangers due to high school, 4-H and co-op school events.

There were 44 of us who convocated in May 1965. This number included students from previous years who needed an extra year or two. Some of our own class convocated a year or two later. We have been a class who have faithfully taken part in our reunions at ten-year intervals though there has never been 100% attendance. Over the years we have been saddened by the passing of several classmates. The class pictures taken each decade have become invaluable keepsakes. For the past two reunions we have included spouses in the pictures, even if the grad is no longer able to join us.

Our class began the weekend with the Friday event at the Agriculture Building, taking part in the tours, greeting old friends and finding new ones. We then adjourned to the hotel across from the WDM for a class supper, storytelling and taking pictures. Jim & Eileen Ewart were able to join us that evening but did not stay for Saturday, so they don't appear in this year's picture. We were very pleased to have Gillian McDougald join us. Allan is no longer able to be out.

Saturday evening went extremely well. We all spent several hours reconnecting with each other plus old friends and their families from other classes. On Sunday morning we reconvened at an interesting restaurant, Pink Cadillacs, on 8th Street E. This was a suitable place for those of us raised in the '50's.

I would like to thank my co-chairs, Doug Sword and Marcel Dubois for their assistance in organization. Marcel was the sole chair of our first three reunions. I do hope we will be still able to do it all again in five years.

Note from "The Prairie Chicken"

BY IRENE AHNER '65 C

I was surprised with a very special Christmas gift this year. Allen Hingston, in Regina, contacted our Calgary daughter with the suggestion that she buy me a T-shirt with a Prairie Chicken embossed on the front, from Hardpressed Print Studio in Saskatoon. I received it in time to wear it for the Friday night event at our 60-year reunion. I intend to wear it at every appropriate SAGA occasion in the future.

Happy summer to you all.



2025 SAGA Hockey Tournament

CHAD SCOTT '17 C

This year's SAGA tournament was another successful year, thank you for all the teams that attended! The tournament was held January 11th at the Waldheim Rec Center. There were 3 alumni teams and 1 college team that entered this year.

We had some excitement in the A final! The college team, organized by Mason Beck, scrounged up a last second comeback raising the heart rate around the rink. Both teams agreed that 3 vs. 3 overtime is better than a shootout. It was short but exciting, a team organized by Royce Lodoen '12 scored in the first minute of overtime. Royce's team won the tournament in 2024, so we have back-to-back champions! The consolation match was between teams organized by Chad Scott '17 and Ryan Krupski '20. In a "hard fought" 3rd place game, Krupski's team was victorious. The Bouchard Heart Award was awarded to Kyle Garland '17. Having faced +125 shots during the day and never cracking into a frown, he deserved the award.

Waldheim once again was the perfect location for hosting the event. They always make it easy for the tournament organizer to have an enjoyable day with no stress. It's always a great time seeing your past classmates and bringing up memories. **Next year we're going to shoot (no pun intended) for 6 teams in the tournament, that will increase friendly competition and excitement.** The SAGA Tournament is meant to bring all your classmates together and reminisce on your university years. If your grad year is having a grad anniversary, consider entering a team. It doesn't just have to be all former students, it can be your children as well. If you are an alumni team or a college team, feel free to enter and enjoy the weekend with the Agros!



A Side Winners

Players (in no particular order): Royce Lodoen '12, Steve Sommerville '14, Jayden Balfour '12, Brett Blaquiere '12, Folly Baugh '16, Billy Brown '14, Jeremy Doerksen '12, Lucas Ringdal '12, Kyle Gregoire '12, Ian Briscoe, Peter Enns, Zach Hill



B Side Winners

Players (in no particular order): Ryan Krupski '20, Carter Altwasser '20, Lane Milton '19, Tyen Paterson '20, Dylan Stang '21, Eric Hanmer '21, Kyle Klenk '21, Dawson Malenfant '21, Michael Rebeyka '21, Terran Holzer '22, Ian Pekrul

Bridging the Gap: Why One Ag Grad is Speaking Up for Modern Farming

Dennis Bulani '78 C has spent a lifetime farming the land near Biggar, Saskatchewan – and like many of us, he's watched the public conversation about agriculture grow increasingly disconnected from the realities on the ground.

“People still trust farmers,” Dennis says, “but they don't trust how we farm.”

That troubling contradiction is what led Dennis to write his new book, *What A Farmer Wants You to Know About Food*, released earlier this year. In it, he tackles the hot-button issues – from GMOs to seed oils to pesticides – with a grounded, science-first perspective. **But this isn't a technical manual. It's a farmer's invitation to the table.** “I wanted to create something for the chief grocery shopper of the household. Something they could use to feel more confident about what's on their plates – and maybe even understand our work a little better.”

The timing is urgent. According to the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity's 2024 report, only 18% of Canadians have a high level of trust in farmers, and fewer than a third think the food system is on the right track. “That's a wake-up call,” says Dennis. “And it tells me we've got work to do.”

The Courage to Speak Up

Dennis knows firsthand how hard it can be to engage in conversations about farming with non-farmers. “It's like turning the key on an old engine,” he admits. “you're hoping it starts smooth, but you're bracing for a backfire.” But he's quick to point out that confidence isn't about having all the answers – it's about showing up with pride in what we do.

In fact, he believes that's something every ag grad can lean into: “If we want people to trust us, they need to see that we trust ourselves. Our pride in the way we farm can be contagious.”

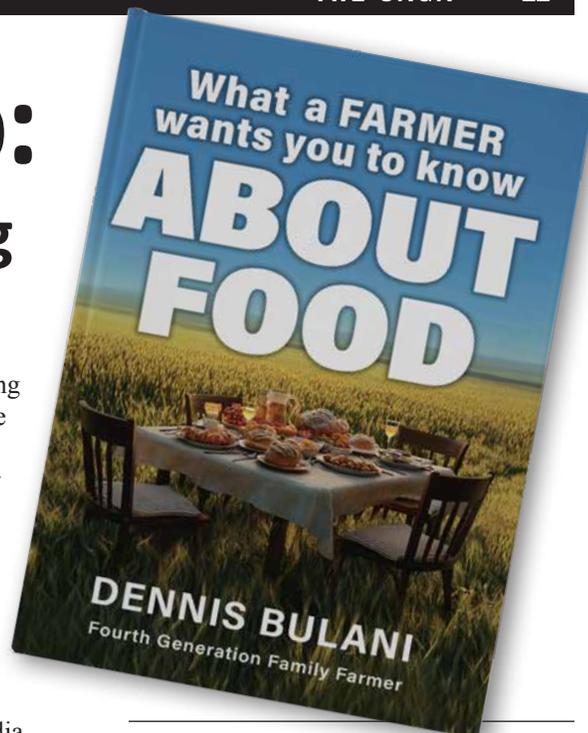
Small Starts, Big Impact

Dennis isn't asking grads to jump into debates or social media firestorms. Instead, he suggests starting small: “Think of two or three stories from your own operation. Maybe it's how you've reduced chemical use with precision spraying. Maybe it's how no-till has protected your soil. Then practice telling those stories in casual conversations – with a neighbour, a friend, someone at the rink.”

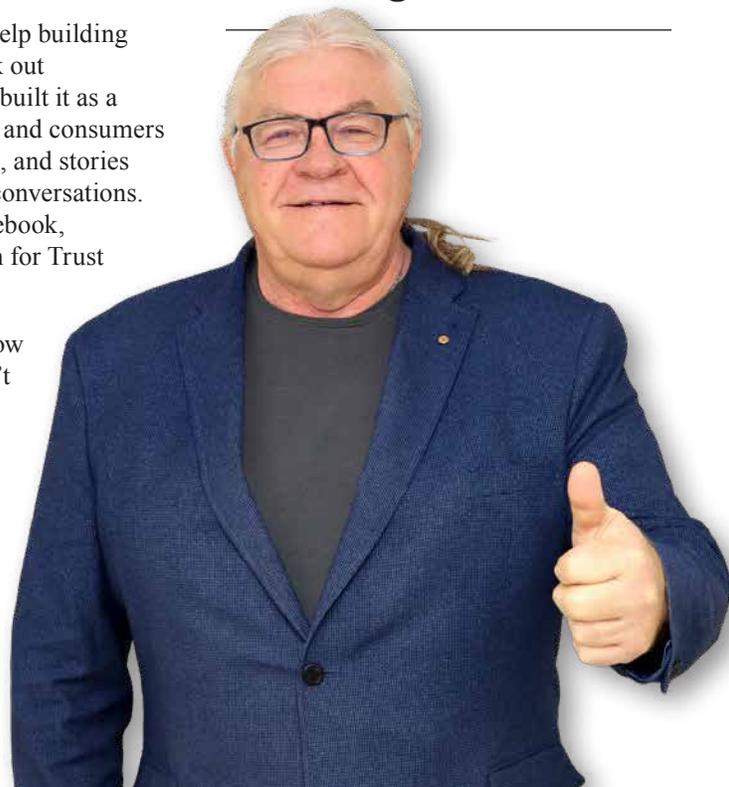
And if you need a little help building your confidence? “Check out TrustYourPlate.com. We built it as a resource hub for farmers and consumers alike – with facts, quotes, and stories to support open, honest conversations. We're also active on Facebook, Instagram and X - search for Trust Your Plate!”

Dennis's message to fellow alumni is clear: “We can't wait for someone else to tell our story. If we don't speak up, who will?”

The time to pull up a chair is now – who are you going to invite to your table?



“If we want people to trust us, they need to see that we trust ourselves. Our pride in the way we farm can be contagious.”



AgBio Club Updates

BY MITCHELL HAMP '25 C, ASA CLUB LIAISON

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the upcoming one, the AgBio Student Clubs at the University of Saskatchewan have much to share about their achievements and plans for the future. Here's an overview:

U of S Beef Team

The U of S Beef Team had a great year filled with many highlights. Bi-weekly meetings provided platforms for discussions on upcoming learning opportunities, with guest speakers enriching members' understanding of career paths and educational prospects in the beef industry. They hosted their first annual Big Beef Bash which was a great success, being well attended and providing funds for their trip to the Fort Worth Stock Show in 2025. A large group went down to Fort Worth taking in the Stock Show and learning about other aspects of agriculture.

U of S Range Team

The U of S Range Team experienced a productive year marked by regular meetings and engaging presentations on various rangeland topics. In January, team members showcased their skills at the Society for Range Management's annual conference in Spokane, Washington. The team looks forward to hosting more engaging meetings and social events throughout the year.

U of S Judging Team

Under the leadership of an enthusiastic executive team, the U of S Judging Team continued to excel in livestock judging and competition. Last season saw team members participating in various events across the country, honing their skills and fostering camaraderie among members. The 2nd annual Dare to Judge competition added to the team's list of accomplishments, further emphasizing its commitment to expanding learning and competition opportunities. With plans for the upcoming year brimming with exciting opportunities for members of all levels, the Judging Team eagerly awaits the start of the new season.

U of S Dairy Team

The U of S Dairy Team had a productive year, showcasing its diverse aspects from show cattle to commercial milking. The team embarked on insightful tours and organized successful fundraising events, including the annual Moo Moo Pub Crawl. The Dairy Team looks forward to continued growth and impact within the industry.

With anticipation and enthusiasm, the AgBio Student Clubs at the University of Saskatchewan eagerly await the opportunities and achievements that the upcoming year will bring.

ASA Report

BY MASON BECK '25 C,
ASA PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

It was a very rewarding experience being able to serve as the Public Relations Officer for the 2024-25 school year. It was great to connect with so many Alumni and hear so many old stories about our great college. As we wrap up the year, I would like to reflect on some highlights we had in the College of AgBio.

We held our graduation banquet on January 18 this year to honour our 2025 graduates. Laurel O'Neill, our Internal Vice President, and the incoming Public Relations Officer for 2025-26 planned an exceptional event, which received rave reviews. The Agros were honoured to have the Honourable Daryl Harrison in attendance to give the keynote address. As per tradition, the Senior Stick was passed down from **Jessica Davey '25 C** to **Garrett Russnak '26 C**, who barely made it off the stage before being grabbed by his fellow Agros.

This year was our bi-annual fundraising year for STARS Air Ambulance, we had an exceptional fundraising year surpassing any dollar amount raised in the history of the college for any not-for-profit cause, donating \$130,000. This huge amount was made possible through several events. We hosted an online Frozen Genetics sale on January 2-3 with 74 lots all graciously donated by alumni, current students, and industry members that have been impacted by STARS. Along with the Genetics sale we hosted our annual executive auction and several other small events raising money for STARS. A huge thank you goes out to all Alumni that gave support throughout the fundraising process.

Along with our STARS fundraising we did several other events, having our annual winter mixer hockey tournament in Radisson where fun was had by all. Agbio Challenge took place in March, which had 6 teams participate, seeing an uptake in numbers. The Agros also hosted several social events including an Agros Talent show.

A huge thank you to all of the Alumni I was able to meet through this role, it is very encouraging to hear the many stories about the best college on the university campus! I hope to see everyone down the road.

SAGA Scholarship Recipient – Ella Grimeau

Remarks made at SAGA reunion banquet, January 11, 2025

I am truly honored to accept this scholarship. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Saskatchewan Agriculture Graduates Association for this incredible support. Your generosity is not just an investment in me and USask Ag students, but in the future of agriculture and environmental stewardship.

While I did not grow up on a farm, some of my most cherished childhood memories come from summers spent near Round Lake. My great grandfather used to farm a large piece of land near the lake, and his children took over. I loved time spent playing between the canola rows with my cousins, hiking the hills, and collecting bugs. From this I developed a deep appreciation for the land and the people who dedicate their lives to working it.

When I graduated high school I had no idea I would end up in an agriculture

program. Initially I went into pre-med but quickly learned that wasn't where my passion was, so I decided to take a gap year. This gap year turned into 3 where I worked in my hometown and spent time working in Australia. During this time, I became more and more aware of the challenges we face—climate change, resource scarcity, and the growing need to produce food sustainably. These challenges fueled my passion for exploring how we can innovate and adapt to ensure agriculture not only feeds us, but continues to protect and preserve the ecosystem for generations to come.

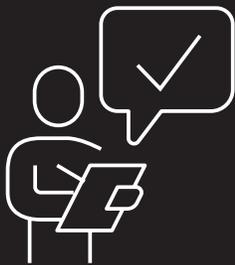
This scholarship is much more than a financial gift—it's a way to help me pursue the education needed to hopefully contribute to an even more sustainable agricultural system and to highlight the good work already being done.

To everyone here tonight, thank you for being so passionate about the importance



of a strong agricultural industry and in my ability to contribute. You are not only supporting my dreams, but you are also helping to cultivate a better, more sustainable future for all of us.

Thank you again for your incredible generosity. I promise to make the most of it.



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From left to right: George Lewko, Sheri (Birtles) Pedersen, Sherrilyn Phelps, Rick Steinke, Linda (Gavelin) Hinz, Allen Altwasser, Kory Rogers, Leo Jeanneau, Murray Easton, Reg Zachrisson, Tracey (Larose) Charabin, Boyd Hampson, Tim Hammond, Les Hanson, Grant Hesje, Lorelei (Carlson) Hulston, Glen Hill, Dale Kushner, Keith Jamison, Lyle Bateman, Rob Hamlin, Joy (Serne) Hesje, Paul Screpnek, Todd Denzin (there but not in the picture)

Class of '91 Reunion: Laughter, Legends, and a Little Jack Daniels

TIM HAMMOND '91 C

After a few pandemic delays, the College of Agriculture Class of 1991 finally made good on reunion plans, gathering on January 7, 2023, at Hudson's in Saskatoon. With a private room booked at the back of the pub, 24 classmates and about 12 spouses came together, traveling from across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba to join the fun.

It didn't take long for the years to melt away. Within minutes, the room was buzzing with laughter, hugs, and stories, as if no time had passed since April 1991. College wasn't just about academics; it was about leaving home, coming of age, and building friendships that have stood the test of time.

There was no formal agenda, just a night of reconnecting. A group photo was snapped early (before things fully "developed"). Later, the crew launched into an enthusiastic round of Agro songs, with surprising recall. In a wise move, the door was closed to spare the rest of Hudson's from the more "colorful" lyrics.

A few unforgettable moments stood out. A full conga line erupted and snaked through a much-younger crowd on the dance floor, prompting one spectator to comment on "a really cool chain of old people having a lot of fun."

Another highlight came when Todd and Glen brought out a symbol of a promise the class had made years ago, not just to reunite once, but to stay connected for life. Back in 1991, they sealed a bottle of Jack Daniels marked "Do Not Open Until 2011," a playful but deeply meaningful symbol of the bonds they shared. True to form (and a bit behind schedule), they opened it at the reunion. Each of us had a shot as we toasted our class, our college years, and the friendships that shaped us. The whiskey hadn't aged well, but the friendships certainly had.

It's fair to say the Class of '91 may have peaked early, with such a good time Friday night, some couldn't quite rally for the official SAGA events that followed. A post-party "pass the boot" moment helped square things up, a fitting end to a night full of joy, stories, and lifelong connections.



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The Be What the World Needs fundraising campaign means more than donations

HAMISH TULLOCH, C '91

With the university's *Be What the World Needs* comprehensive campaign's \$500,000,000 fundraising goal now reached, and its wrap-up event fast approaching (June 18) – it's reasonable to ask how the college fared in this endeavour.

As context, fundraising in the world of advanced education follows a standardized accounting methodology, which allows for counting certain gifts that haven't yet been realized such as pledges and some planned bequests. Also, campaigns of this scale don't just launch and go; they build momentum through a "quiet" phase and the campaign publicly launched two years ago with \$322 million already counted.

Within this framework AgBio did remarkably well. We contributed significantly more to the campaign's total than any other academic unit – raising more than twice that of every other college except Medicine. How were we so successful? I believe the answer has everything to do with who we are, what we've prioritized and how we go about our mission.

Our teaching and research activities are critically important to some of the most pressing global challenges – and the campaign helped a wider audience become more aware of this. Then there's our community. As a natural practice, we've fostered many exceptionally strong industry and personal relationships. We also have some unique funding opportunities through producer organizations. And it certainly helps that collaboration is in our DNA, which means a lot when moving from opportunity to realized gift.

Throughout the campaign, donors found many ways to support us. To highlight a few examples, gifts have helped new facilities get built, expanded our research infrastructure, grown our faculty complement, funded numerous awards, established a centre for digital agriculture, built capacity to fund our *kihci-okâwîmâw askiy* (Great Mother Earth) Knowledge Centre, and expanded our research lands.

Thank you for believing in us.

Empty Saddles

(Names in order of graduating year)

- | | |
|---|---|
| Calvin Cecil Gill '53 C,
November 22, 2022 | Joseph Melville Sparks '66 C,
November 2, 2024 |
| Howard Hugh Mattila '55 S &
'61 C, December 25, 2024 | Carman Berg, '68 C, May 15,
2025 |
| Arthur Raymond Domes '55 C,
February 10, 2023 | Alvin Edward Smith '68 S, 2020 |
| Theodore Max Kuervers '55 C,
January 15, 2021 | Evan Harvey Simpson '69 S,
August 14, 2020 |
| Robert Widdup '55 C, July 6,
2021 | Kenneth Richard Allan '69 C,
February 10, 2022 |
| Ronald Allan (Ralph) Moar '56
S, December 8, 2024 | Robert Laurent Chicoine '70 S,
February 13, 2025 |
| Peter Matthew Sundquist '56
S, January 31, 2025 | Robert Girvan '70 S, February
25, 2024 |
| Charles William Carlson '56 C,
January 23, 2025 | Murray Bourne Dyck '70 S,
July 19, 2023 |
| John (Jack) Leo Drew '57 S &
'61 C, November 18, 2022 | William Harry (Bill)
Middlemiss '70 S, April 23,
2024 |
| Frederick George Walker '57 S,
December 20, 2024 | Malcolm Arnold Nisbet '72 S,
December 8, 2024 |
| Barry John Brown '58 S,
November 11, 2024 | Gary Henry Cortus '72 C,
November 7, 2024 |
| Garth Harlan Wildman '59 S,
September 10, 2024 | James Ross Pollock '74 C, April
9, 2024 |
| Howard Morten Barnsley '60
C, November 9, 2024 | Larry Albert Nelson '76 S, July
12, 2023 |
| Douglas Mervin Helgason '61
S, May 30, 2022 | Edward Duchnitski '78 S, July
6, 2021 |
| Frank Edward Faber '62 S,
November 26, 2024 | David Anton Lundquist '79 C,
December 21, 2024 |
| Richard (Dick) Hiram Needham
'63 C, January 4, 2025 | Scott Douglas Anderson '80 S,
February 20, 2025 |
| Lawrence F Haylock '64 S,
February 7, 2025 | Edward John (Ed) Haraldson
'80 S, January 10, 2025 |
| Gary Ross Howland '64 C,
January 9, 2025 | Michael Fredrich Langmaier
'80 S, December 29, 2024 |
| Honorable Charles James
Mayer '64 C, April 29, 2025 | Greg Breault '82 S,
December 4, 2024 |
| Dennis Gary Zackrisson '64 C,
February 19, 2025 | Robert David Gares '89 S,
May 14, 2020 |
| William (Bill) Cole Latrace '65
S, January 7, 2025 | Stephan Cory Burbach '99 C,
April 7, 2025 |
| Gary Lyle Keefe '65 C,
February 11, 2025 | Ashley Tyler Harris '00 C,
September 8, 2024 |
| Elsie GeorJeanne (nee Beere)
Gates '66 C, December 2, 2024 | Mindy Marie Fladeland '05 C,
January 20, 2025 |

New Life Members

Larry Carnegie '85 C
 Ken Engele '95 C
 Stephanie Forseille '98 C
 Kent Gulash '85 C
 Austin Jamieson '18 C
 John Kotylak '85 C

Melanie Leppa '95C
 Shane Mann '95 C
 Matthew McNaught '23 C
 Dane Oram '15 C
 Natalia Rudnitskaya '10 C
 Aaron Van Steekelenburg '23 C

New Annual Members

Dan Bergen '75 C
 Alf Epp '75 C
 Murray Coolidge '65 S
 Don Flamme '70 S
 Dale Glover '95 C
 Kim Good '95 C
 Lindsey Good '96 C
 Karen Greer '85 C
 Jeff Hammond '95 C
 Harry Harder '75 C

Maurice Hounjet '75 S
 Scott Leppa '93 C
 Curtis Letkeman '95 C
 Rick McIntyre '75 S
 Kelsey Tollefson '15 C
 Lee Tollefson '15 C
 Carla Troback '96 C
 Blake Weiseith '13 C
 Jim Workman '70 S

Voc Ag '77 Reunion 2025

When: July 22 to 24, 2025

Where: Manitou Springs Resort and Spa near Watrous, SK

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Elton Ash is putting together a booklet on what the class grads have been up to over the years. Even if you can't attend, please send him a paragraph or two giving us a summary on "Your Life".

For more information please contact:

Blair Cummins: bmv@sasktel.net or 306-221-8758

Mark Woodworth: mark82laurie@hotmail.com or 306-378-4056

Elton Ash: ej.ash@outlook.com or 250-317-2346

To become a member of SAGA, simply go to our web page, www.saskaggrads.com.

The SAGA reaches over 2,200 ag grads, AgBio faculty and AgBio students. Be sure to send us your updates, what's happening in your neck of the woods!

Next issue deadline is October 20, 2025.

Lindsay Folk '88 C

3052 St. James Crescent, Regina, SK S4V 2Z2

OR cell 306-537-2802

OR newsletter@saskaggrads.com

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