



Volume 268

December 2017

## President's Pen

As I reflect on this year, there are a couple of things that come to mind. First of all, 2017 will forever be remembered with far less than average rain for the majority of the province, and even the driest year on record for some areas, the crops found in the soil what they needed to produce a good crop. It does seem that many of the new technologies that we have adopted have made a large difference.

Soil moisture reserves are the main reason for this; to add to this, as **Les Henry** has talked about the past few years, a very high water table supplied the crop with its water needs. In July, when it seemed like the crops were burning up, the roots dug deep to this moisture and produced high quality grain crops. Subsoil moisture isn't the only reason for this production. Modern farming practices are much more efficient at water and nutrient use.

The second thought of 2017 is the celebration of the 150 years of Canada. In 1867, the federal Department of Agriculture was created and the first Minister of Agriculture was appointed. This certainly was not the beginning of Agriculture in Canada but maybe it was the beginning of the accelerated advancements that have forever changed agriculture in Canada and led us to where we are today. Some examples of the advancements seem to have happened not so long ago. In 1909, the first samples of Marquis wheat were introduced as an early maturing straw that opened the doors to plant breeding wheat in this century. The development of this wheat opened the Prairies and Canada to international markets. The continued innovation and mechanization of machinery over the years has allowed farmers to farm more acres with the same amount of manpower. In 1973, the development of Canola would prove to be the most profitable crop introduction for western Canadian farmers. Today canola is not only boasts the largest crop produced in Saskatchewan, but also in Canada. In 1997, AC Metcalf barley was introduced and gradually dominated the market and now prized by farmers and beer makers throughout the world. In early 2000, herbicide tolerance was bred into lentils, which created the ability of Canada to be the leading producer of Lentils in the world. These are some examples but there are hundreds of thousands of advancements that have taken Canadian farmers from the acre by acre production to the farmers that are responsible for feeding the world today. Canada is now the fifth largest agricultural exporter in the world, something our forefather's likely would have never dreamed of.

With all the advancements of the last 150 years, it is difficult to even think of what the next 150 years might hold for Canada in agriculture.

*SAGA* will also need to change to represent those that are involved in Agriculture. The only thing constant is change, and that is why we cannot stay the same. *SAGA* wants to attract a broader spectrum of Agriculture and Bioresource graduates. Currently the majority of our members are grads from the old Animal, Plant, Soil Sciences and Ag Econ/Management streams in both the College and Diploma. Now these have been revamped as Renewable Resource Management, Animal Bioscience, Agribusiness and Agriculture. The College also offers four diploma and two certificate programs. These are the new grads that we need to reach out to. How do we get these people involved with *SAGA*?

We are thinking about changing our name to Saskatchewan Agriculture and Bioresources Graduates Association. We hope this will begin to catch the attention of these grads because we represent everyone from the college and we want them to be able to keep in touch with one another after graduation and to also broaden their networks to new people with other disciplines.

Everyone is invited to take part in the reunion weekend January 5-7 which includes Friday night tours on campus with snacks and coffee held in the agriculture building. Saturday there is hockey held in Waldheim during the day with the main event - the banquet and mixer held at TCU place that evening. I hope to see you all there!

**Luke Ringdal '12 C, *SAGA* President**

## The *SAGA* 2018 HLM Nominees

**Art Delahey '52 C** spent years in the Ag service industry. During that time he arranged many agriculture tours. This was so successful that he purchased a travel agency and did it full time; arranging Ag related tours and holiday tours for Ag grads. Art purchased the Patterson Lily Collection, so supplied novel lily varieties for growers in Canada and around the world. He was President of the Lily Society, the '74 *SAGA* President and '14 Honorary President.

**Lorence Peterson '65 C** an Ag Econ grad, spent his career in agricultural finance. He began with Royal Bank, facilitating farm loans. At the time banks were not a major presence in the area of farm financing. But through the work of Lorence and other Ag Grads it became commonplace. Lorence has been a stalwart supporter of *SAGA*, and the auditor the *SAGA* books for as long as any of the current executive can remember. A thankless task Lorence does with professional care.

## 2018 Reunion Chairs

1943 School	Harold Chapman		
1948 School	Ted Turner	306-789-3929	mturner@sasktel.net
1948 College	Mayson Maerz	306-221-7902	mayson.w.maerz@monsanto.com
1953 School	Bob Dodds	306-374-7572	
1953 College	Ross Reynolds	306-528-7704	rossdrey@sasktel.net
1958 School	Duane Bristow	306-295-7010 or 306-374-1598	debristow@sasktel.net
1958 College	Dave Christensen	306-955-7235	dave.christensen@usask.ca
	Lorne Jackson	306-624-0426	lorjac9@sasktel.net
1963 School	Mayson Maerz	306-221-7902	mayson.w.maerz@monsanto.com
1963 College	George Wilson	306-373-3780	papageorge@sasktel.net
1968 School	Gord Moore	306-246-4964	rgmoore@littleloon.ca
	Dennis Lynch	306-885-4545	rdlynch@sasktel.net
1968 College	Vern Racz	306-373-6788	vern.racz@usask.ca
	Ken Ferch	306-736-2205	kc.ferch@sasktel.net
1978 School	Thad Trefiak	306-795-5012 or 306-675-4436	tm.trefiak@sasktel.net
1978 College	Glenn Annand	306-867-9669	annandagro@gmail.com
	Bill Hetland	306-874-7814	hetlandseeds@sasktel.net
1988 School	Ewald Lammerding	306-260-3445	eflammerding@sasktel.net
	Tim Weins	306-831-7970	tweins@sasktel.net
1988 College	Greg Sundquist	306-946-8104	gjsundquist@yourlink.ca
	Rod Krip	306-221-9667	rod.krip@kochind.com
1998 School	Roman Domashovitz	306-230-6073	romand@sasktel.net
1998 College	Teresa Partyka-Bowie	306-961-3997	teresa.bowie@bayer.com
2008 School	Mayson Maerz	306-221-7902	mayson.w.maerz@monsanto.com
2008 College	Jeff Bennett	306-291-2917	jeffbennett@bonetrail.ca
2013 School & College	Mayson Maerz	306-221-7902	mayson.w.maerz@monsanto.com

**Any questions, contact:  
Mayson Maerz at 306-221-7902 or [mayson.w.maerz@monsanto.com](mailto:mayson.w.maerz@monsanto.com)**

# 83rd SAGA Reunion Banquet

January 6, 2018

Festivities will be held at:  
TCU Place - in the Grand Salon  
Cocktails at 4:30 p.m.  
Banquet & Program begin at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome: **Lucas Ringdal – 2017 President, '12 C**  
Recognition of Years – 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998, 2008, 2013

Honorary Life Member Awards Presentation                      Annual General Meeting @ 8:30 p.m.

Class photos immediately following the banquet. Times will be announced.

The Mixer will officially start @ 9 p.m.

**Purchase your tickets early for the best deal. Prices as follows:**

	<b>**Early Bird Price** 'til midnight Dec. 23, 2017</b>	<b>Regular Price Dec. 23, 2017- Jan 3, 2018</b>	<b>Ticket at the door</b>
<b>Banquet &amp; Mixer</b>	\$75.00	\$85.00	N/A
<b>Mixer Only</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$20.00

Banquet Ticket purchase deadline is January 3rd, 2018.

SAGA will be using online registration, so reunion chairs ARE NOT selling tickets.

BANQUET TICKETS WILL "NOT" BE SOLD AT THE DOOR -- You will be turned away!!

**Purchase your tickets online at:                      <http://saskaggrads.com/index.php?page=saga-reunion>**

Ready to use from November 1, 2017 to January 3, 2018.

FAQs: contact **Tanya Napper** 306-966-4063 or email at [tanya.napper@usask.ca](mailto:tanya.napper@usask.ca)

**\*\*\*>>> Remember, Grads from every year are always expected! <<<\*\*\***

If you are having questions concerning the Reunion weekend, be sure to contact us early.

<b>Lucas Ringdal</b> - President	<a href="mailto:ringdal855@gmail.com">ringdal855@gmail.com</a>
<b>Raelene Petracek</b> - Secretary	<a href="mailto:busyrae@sasktel.net">busyrae@sasktel.net</a>
<b>Ewald Lammerding</b> - The SAGA Editor & Banquet	<a href="mailto:eflammerding@sasktel.net">eflammerding@sasktel.net</a>
<b>Dennis Ewanus</b> - Treasurer and Ticket Sales Manager	<a href="mailto:ewanusdj@sasktel.net">ewanusdj@sasktel.net</a>

## Name Change! Name Change!

In the last *SAGA* we talked about a name change and the need to recognize and reach out to all Saskatchewan Agriculture and Bioresource graduates. The college at last count offers 4 undergraduate degrees in; Agriculture, Agribusiness, Animal Bioscience and Renewable Resource Management along with four diploma programs and two certificate programs.

To accommodate and recognize this new diversity the *SAGA* Executive is recommending that we change the name formally at the AGM to Saskatchewan Agriculture and Bioresources Graduates' Association. The family has grown and diversified and with this comes greater strength.

**SAGA Executive**                      **Vern Racz '68 C Membership**

For the purpose of discussion at the AGM at 8:30 pm on Jan. 6, 2017:

1] Be it proposed that, we change Saskatchewan Agriculture Graduates' Association to Saskatchewan Agriculture and Bioresources Graduates' Association.

2] Be it proposed that, we retain the logo "SAGA" as it relates to the ongoing story of the Saskatchewan Agriculture and Bioresources Graduates' Association and is even more appropriate for the newsletter.

Note: To make this work we must all embrace this name change, while respecting our past heritage. By retaining the logo we have continuity and the other wording changes that need to be done can be done relatively easily over time.

The AGM is open and free to every *SAGA* member who wishes to participate and contribute. The AGM will be held in the Blair Nelson Room.

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## 2018 SAGA Hockey Tournament

As some of you know, we have been holding an annual hockey tournament for Alumni and current Ag students. This year, it will once again be a one day event in Waldheim on Saturday January 6th, starting at 7:30 a.m.

Fees will be \$300 per team, which includes ref costs, engraving, and something for the victorious teams to sip on. Food and beverages will be available all day at the rink. There will also be a 50/50, plus a draw, so be sure to bring some spending money!

We will once again be presenting the **Aaron Bouchard '02 C Award**. This award is to honour Aaron, who was a long-time organizer of this tournament and a large reason for its success. The award is presented to a player who shows heart on the ice, is a friend to everyone off the ice, and has an unfaltering love of the game.

It's been a good year for interest, with three student teams, four returning Alumni teams, and one new Alumni team. This means that we have filled our available spots for teams, but for any person interested in playing, please feel free to message me and I will get you placed on a team. Rules and schedule will be posted on the *SAGA* website.

**Billy Brown '14 C**                      **306-280-0450**  
**billy.b1313@gmail.com**

## 1957 School Youngsters

Rear: Clare Cooney, Del Flaten, Tom Runcie, Gord Sherwood, Jack Drew, Bob Dash, Bruce Grimes and Ray Cooper

Front: Carl Brown, Wilf Riffel, John Grons-dahl, Vern Pusch and Bob McLaren.

*Photo credit Imagery Photography*



## Dean Speak

Winter is coming... and we are needing every moment of it to complete needed tasks before the spring.

March 31, 2018 will see the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence achieve 'substantial completion', although the formal grand opening will probably wait until the warmer months. This world-class, one-of-a-kind centre will bring together every link of the food production chain, and will have a profound impact on the improvement of livestock production all across Canada and around the world. To create this centre requires the true partnership that Saskatchewan excels at, spanning every aspect of the agriculture value chain locally, nationally and globally. This is a very exciting time for all who will be impacted and those who have been working hard to make this centre a reality – and who will continue to be working tirelessly over the next few months!

That's the future – but for now, let me give you an update about the College currently. As of October, our undergraduate student enrolment numbers are at 1294. Again, a new high! This will be the first year that the college will not have a January intake of new students with the intention of maintaining our current enrolment and the integrity of our programming. Our professors are working hard to deliver a top-notch education and keeping class sizes manageable plays a key role in that. Our students are the leaders of tomorrow and they deserve the best that we can give.

On the research side, faculty are continuing to see success in attracting and retaining research funding and it is an exciting time for new sources of funding. We had our best-ever showing in the NSERC tri-council grants, another highly successful year in non-government grants, and many broad

partnerships. The federal government recently announced its Innovation Superclusters Initiative, with an investment of up to \$950 million over the next 5 years to support business led innovation superclusters. The first phase of applications is complete and Saskatchewan is in the running with its Protein Innovations Canada Supercluster proposal – and the innovation side of that will definitely involve AgBio. Stay tuned!

The University has recently hired its first ever Vice-Provost of Indigenous Engagement, and the College of AgBio is excited to have this leadership and guidance as we look to even further enhance our growing aboriginal programming and indigenous education. Our faculty and staff have been involved with many workshops and opportunities to share dialogue and learnings so that we are well placed to add the AgBio flavour to the University's Indigenization efforts.

And of course we continue with our extensive outreach to stakeholders of all descriptions in the province, and also around the world. The training and innovative ideas we provide must find their place in the world - we Agros are nothing if not practical!

Obviously keeping all these activities going, we have to be on our toes. And that is an understatement as we continue to be challenged by our growing student population, budget setbacks and new and exciting ventures and partnerships. But trust us - we will always remain committed to serving Agros; past, present and future.

**Yours In Agro Spirit, Mary**

### 1962 School Looking Real Good



Back: Wayne Jensen, Art Belanger, Frank Faber, Hubert Woodcock.

Front: Jack Gooshen, Lyle Leys.

*Photo credit Imagery Photography*

### 1962 College Came for the Show



Back: Bob Mitchell, Pete Kirychuk, Al Graham, Garnet Altwasser, Elwood Fleming.

Front: Jake Hamm, Julian Dumanski and Bernie Sonntag.

*Photo credit Imagery Photography*

## Friday and Saturday Events

**Three Farmers** will be supplying snack packs for the Jan. 5, 2018 Friday Night Tours of the Ag Building. As you are probably aware Ag grads love to be connected to their food and their province. There will be conducted walks through the Food Lab, Phytotron, and an Art tour. Free to attend - 4:30 to 7 p.m.

For possible Saturday group tours of the campus and Rayner Dairy Facility, please contact the AgBio Development Office: Tanya Napper at 306-966-4063 or [tanya.napper@usask.ca](mailto:tanya.napper@usask.ca).

And then, during the Mixer on Saturday night, **Black Fox Distilleries**, **Nine Mile Legacy** and **Living Sky Winery** will provide tasting samples of their beverage wares for all our thirsty Grads.

## Alumni News

**Laura Budd '85 S** was featured in the Aug. 18th edition of the Star Phoenix/Bridges for her activism for Transgender individuals.

**Grant Devine '67 C** was appointed to the U of S Board of Governors this summer.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road, and was cited for littering.

# HLMs at the 2017 Banquet

Back: Les Henry '64 C (2008), Bill Copeland '60 C (2012), Grat-tan O'Grady '69 S (2016), Gordon Moore '68 S (2010), Bob Dodds, '53 S (2002).

Middle: Bob McKercher '54 C (1988), Elaine Moats '77 C (2016), Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote '87 C (2017), Mary Buhr, Dean of Ag Bio (2017), Irene Ahner '65 C (2011).

Front: Bob Blakely '51 S (1997), Glenn Haas '60 C (2002), Jim Bessel '88 S (2017), Bernie Sonntag '62 C (2014), Bill Cooper '51 S (1992).

*Photo credit Imagery Photography*



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## Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame

The SAHF has transitioned smoothly into its new structure with open membership and a board selected from that broader membership.

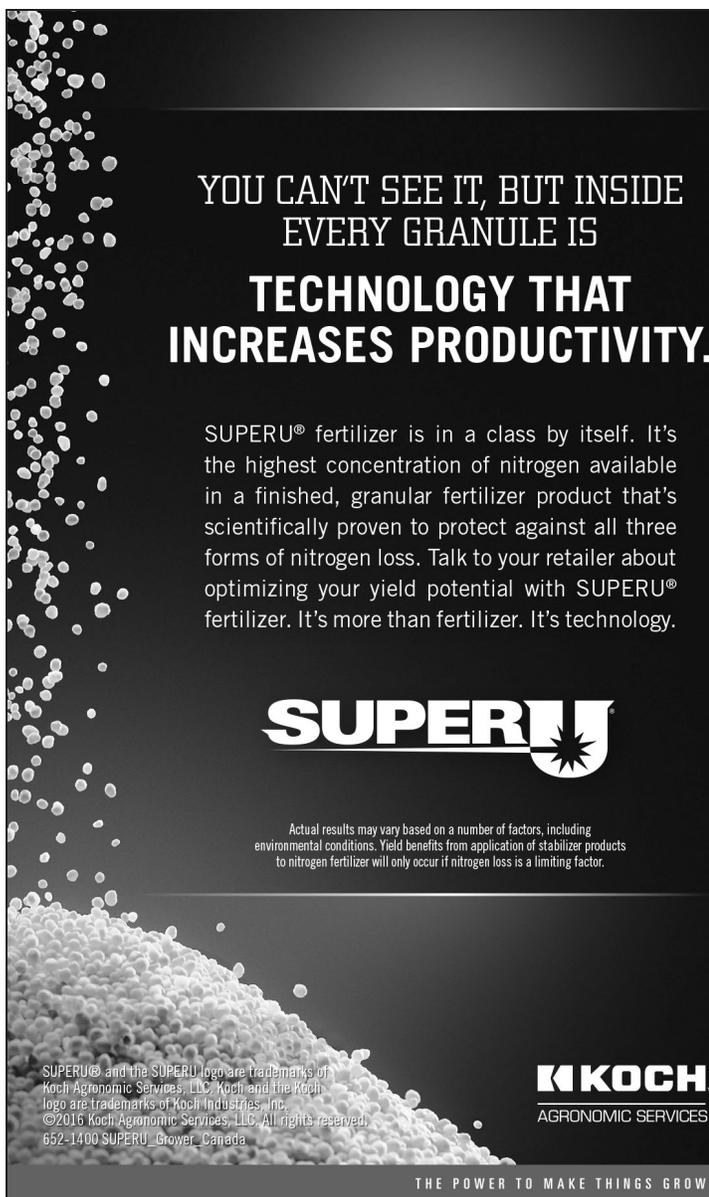
Reed Andrew continues to do an excellent job as president, ably assisted by Beth Herzog as an administrative manager.

Membership has expanded under the new format and is expected to expand further. Five new inductees were selected at the November meeting of the Board, there

are several well-known *SAGA* members among them. They will be announced at a stand-alone event in January 2018, which is a departure from past practice of announcing them at Agribition and Crop Week.

The 2018 induction ceremony will be held on Saturday April 21st, 2018 another change from the long term practice of holding it on the August long weekend.

**Bryan Harvey '60 C**  
**SAGA-SAHF**



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### If He Insists, Is it True?

**Mayson Maerz '83 C** achieved 34 yrs with Monsanto this past May – but insists he is still putting in a full days work. The Mrs., Linda works for the Saskatoon Health Region as Healthy Families Manager based out of West Winds.

Three kids are pursuing their chosen fields of commercial lending and law, no one wants to farm! Mayson reports he and Linda are now in the “Boomerang” phase of life – the kids disappear, the kids reappear ... repeat!

### Branching Out From the Farm

**Jeff Sopatyk '81 S**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Bullion Gold Resources, B.C. 37 years ago, Jeff established himself as a Pedigree and Select Status seed grower east of Saskatoon.

He grows a wide array of crops and has worked with many researchers from the U of S over the years, focusing on farm research, environmental issues, germ plasm trials, inoculants, fertilizers, and plant breeding programs. Jeff has been director of the Sask Pulse Growers, and Director of Pulse Canada.

### Expanding Farm Knowledge Using Geospatial Tools

**Wilson Johnston '04 C** was born and raised in Rose-town, SK where he still lives and works on the grain and oilseed farm with his family. Wilson is a Professional Agronomist, and continues to operate a successful independent agronomy consulting business called SoilSense. He helped establish the FieldSmart and Fieldalytics programs in equipment dealerships across western Canada. Wilson has been using geospatial agronomic tools for over 10 years.

# ASA Report

The ASA has been super busy this year. This year, Bedpush will be held in March, and our goal is to raise \$30,000. We are looking for many sponsors, donations and support to help reach this goal. A donation page will be set up to allow members to donate. Of course volunteers are always welcome to come out and push. For more information please contact me at [public.relationsuofs@gmail.com](mailto:public.relationsuofs@gmail.com).

One of our many goals this year is to bring back traditions that have been lost over the years. With that, we would like to hear about your favorite experiences you've had while being an Agro. Pictures as well as your stories will be shared and put around the lounge. To keep up with all the Agro events, we have created a Snapchat account; [uofs\\_agros](#). Add it, and see what's going on in the College of Ag.

Every Thursday, we host Agro Night at the Twisted Tartan and it has been a huge success. The Tartan, as well as Molson have both been very huge sponsors for us this year. We have been very happy with our partnership with Prairie Proud this year as they are continuing to support us and becoming more involved with the ASA. One major supporter we received this year was Red Bull. They will be helping us out with events such as Bedpush, as well as they gave us a fridge for the lounge for a fundraiser as well.

Due to rainy weather we did not host sidewalk painting this year, but we did have college splash. It was an awesome turn out, and the Agros won!! On October 3rd, many Agros travelled to Clavet for Fall Mixer. Drag Kickoff was on October 5th, as well as the release of the drag car. There was a few rowdy nights involving the engineers stealing the car, but nothing that the Agros couldn't handle. All money raised from drag this year will be going to Telemiracle and Bedpush.

On October 3rd, a bus load of Agros went down to Regina to watch the Riders play. Although they lost, it was a fantastic trip. The new stadium is very nice. The Career Fair was held on October 25th. The turnout was great, over 500 students attended, and nearly 70 volunteers helped make the day run smoothly. Huge thanks to everyone. Ag Bag Drag \*GOOSE\* was held on the 27th, followed by our drag pub crawl on the 28th. This year, we raised over \$18,000 and will be donating it to the new Children's hospital, Ronald McDonald House and Telemiracle. We are currently working on new fundraisers and volunteer opportunities with these three charities to get the Agro name more out into the community and touch even more people through our work.

As for our many clubs in the college of Ag, the U of S Stock-

man's Club is an organization that promotes awareness of animal agriculture and rangeland management through practical learning, teamwork, and friendly competition. The club is divided into various teams that specialize in certain areas including the Rangeland Team, Dairy Team, Beef Team, and Judging Team.

The Rangeland Team achieved its highest-ever placement in the 2017 Undergraduate Rangeland Management Exam in St. George, Utah, placing second out of 25 teams from across North America. Jade Marshall achieved the highest ever individual placement of a U of S student, placing 2nd out of 198 students. The team is travelling to Sparks, Nevada to compete in the 2018 competition.

The Dairy Team attended the 2016 World Dairy Expo last year in Madison, Wisconsin and also attended several farm tours around the Madison area. The Beef Team planned a trip to Denver for the 2017 National Western Stock Show and has also toured feedlots, cow-calf operations, the Canadian Beef Center of Excellence, the JBS packing plant and has also attended many conferences. The Judging Team practices written and oral judging as well as competing in judging competitions across Canada. At the Maritime Intercollegiate Judging Competition in March of 2017, the U of S placed second as a team with Adriane Good from the U of S placing second in the overall individual competition.

The U of S Rodeo Team is a member organization which aims to promote the sport of rodeo at the post-secondary level in Saskatchewan. The Rodeo Team planned the 7th annual University of Saskatchewan Rodeo in Martensville, Sk. on Sept. 23rd and 24th, which was a huge success.

The Environmental and Bioresources Students Association (EBSA) is a student group that provides social, volunteer, academic and athletic opportunities while connecting students within Renewable Resource Management, Environmental Science, Applied Plant Ecology and Soil Science. EBSA recently held a River Cleanup of the Meewasin River Valley on Sept. 25.

The Food and Bioproduct Sciences Student Club (FABSSC) is a club that encourages students to explore the field of food science through interactive activities. Each year, the FABSSC plans tours to various production facilities and provides an in-depth look at how our food is produced. Recent tours have included the U of S Dairy Barn and Lucky Bastards Distillery. The U of S Horticulture Club educates members on all aspects of horticulture through hands-on ex-

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## ASA News

periential learning activities and seminars. A recent event held by the Horticulture Club was a presentation at the U of S Green House regarding Tropical & Subtropical Fruits.

The U of S AgBizz Club is a student run club that is open to all students at the U of S who are interested in learning about a wide range of Agricultural topics including marketing, finance, land ownership, agronomy, career building, entrepreneurship, succession planning, and farm production. The AgBizz club plans tours, speakers, networking, and social events and recently held a Networking Night with Agricultural and Resource Economics faculty and students. The AgBizz Club recently sent a team of four students, including Madison Boon, Chelsea Gruber, Josee Monvoisin, and Shelby Devet, to the CorVanRaay Case Study Competition in Lethbridge. The U of S AgBizz team placed first out of 15 competitors at the case study competition.

The Animal (Bio)Science Club (ABS) is a new club within the college that aims to introduce students, with emphasis

## The Pooped Deck

**Lee Melvill, '74 C** retired the first time in '08, when Alberta Ag gave him a gentle nudge, as a way to reduce staff. He had worked 4 ½ yrs. for Sask. Ag, followed by 28 years for AB Ag. Then MNP, a private accounting and consulting firm, came knocking. Was their farm crop marketing advisor till retiring again in Feb. '17. Hopes he now has time to play music, ride horses and work on his old cars. Runs into **Keith Bader '74 C** once in a while at swap meets and talks to **Russel Horvey '73 C**, who farms at Delburne, AB.

**Rod Merryweather '83 C**, started with FP Genetics shortly after he retired from his first career and is now having a great time managing a small but successful company owned by 150 seed growers across western Canada. The company licenses exceptional cereal varieties from the CDC at Ag BioResources as well as many other plant breeders at AAFC and seed companies around the world. Plant breeders they work with include **Curtis Posniak '99 C PhD '03**, **Pierre Hucl PhD '86** and **Arron Beatty PhD '07**, who are all alumni and now professors at AgBio. In addition they hired **Joshua Moats '16**, the son of **Lee Moats '81 C**. Joshua is the Product Portfolio Coordinator and also farms with his Dad at Riceton, SK.

**M. Jerry Gramiak '65 C** states his memory has been on hold the past year since moving from Brandon, MB, to Westbank, BC, but is still kicking butt. Winters in Texas, but if you're passing through his BC area, stop in @ 350 - 2330 Butt Rd. Westbank B.C. V4T 2L3

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on Animal and Animal Bio-Science students, to employment opportunities within the agriculture industry. The ABS club recently held an event hosting Andrew Campbell, a dairy farmer and author for real agriculture, for "Trough Talk" on the topic of advocacy and social media.

The U of S Canadian Agri-Marketing Association (CAMA) Student Chapter is a business orientated student group, which focuses on increasing members' skills in marketing, finance, entrepreneurship, and leadership. The club works throughout the year to prepare for the National Agri-Marketing Associations' (NAMA) Conference in April. A marketing plan competition is included in the conference in which the group will present their marketing plan for a Saskatchewan based product. In 2016, CAMA placed second at NAMA, which is the highest ever placing for the U of S.

We thank you for your support and hope to see you at Bedpush.

**Carson Jorgensen 2017-2018 Pro ASA**

## Harold and Bob

As promised to our editor, I visited with Harold Chapman this summer, and thoroughly enjoyed our time. He is such an interesting man, with a wealth of information, impressive recall, and a zest for life. Amazing at 100 years young! Harold anticipates attending the 2018 reunion, but is unsure of fellow classmates. Of three still living, two are in Alberta and not likely to travel.

Harold recalls the Profs of his 1943 year. L.E. Kirk, Hadley van Vliet, Grant McEwen, Bill White, John Mitchell, Evan Hardy and Al Ewen.

Harold was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at the 2017 fall convocation. He also received a Distinguished Graduate in Agriculture award on July 5, 1986 signed by President Leo Kristjanson. Harold has written two books - one on the Co-operative movement and a biography. Harold has always been very community minded and such a gentleman. An inspiring role model if ever there was one.

**Bob McKercher '54 C**

## Talk About a Century!

**R Gordon Moore, '68 S** and family are celebrating one hundred years of continuous farming by the Moore family on east half of 16 43 11 w 3 in the RM of Douglas.

## Long-time Supporters Create a Legacy of Student Support

The college recently celebrated its 79th Bean Feed awards night. Those who attended would have noticed a number of entrance scholarships named after Margaret and Torie Tollefson.

Margaret (Marg) and Torvald (Torie) were from agricultural roots and held the educational and research activities of the college in very high regard. Torie came from a farm near Mossbank, SK and was a graduate of the School (1936) and the College (1942). He was also a scholarship recipient and very grateful for the support it delivered. He credited his education for providing the foundation of his very successful career with Veteran's Affairs. Margaret also felt a strong connection to the land, which revealed itself in her horticultural activities.

In 2006, Marg and Torie made a generous contribution to support students beginning their agricultural studies. At the time, they indicated more gifts could arrive in the future.

This additional support took the form of a planned gift that has now been realized through a bequest from Margaret's estate. As a consequence of their generosity, five renewable entrance awards (and likely other new awards) have been established. These awards will not only recognize and encourage excellence among our students but also perpetually remind us of Marg and Torie's appreciation for the valuable educational experiences provided by this college.

**Hamish Tulloch '91 C**  
AG-BIO Development Officer

## Professor passes away

Professor **Graham Simpson** passed away on Nov. 19th, 2017.

Dr. Simpson was born in Wellington, New Zealand and obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. at Massie University there. He obtained his PhD from the University of London in the U.K.. He came to the University of Saskatchewan as a Post-Doctoral fellow in 1959 and soon after was hired as a Crop Science faculty member.

Dr. Simpson's research interests were in stress physiology, especially drought tolerance. For a number of years he led an IDRC sponsored drought research project focused in India and Saskatchewan.

He cared a great deal about his students and not only dispensed his expert knowledge but also a good helping of philosophy and quirky humor. He was a social activist involved in many causes particularly the anti-nuclear movement.

Dr. Simpson was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Crop Development Centre and was the CDC's first Director, 1971-74.

**Bryan Harvey '60 C**

## From 2017 HLM Jim Bessel, '88 S

Thank you so very much for the *SAGA* Honorary Life Member induction and being included with a very special group of people. Their contributions to agriculture has been mostly within Saskatchewan but go far beyond our provincial and national borders.

I am humbled and proud to be part of this very distinguished group that call agriculture ... our working passion. It is a privilege to be working with what God has provided to us!

This ancient First Nation's proverb says it well, "**We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors . . . we borrow it from our children**".

My very best to all!

*Merry Christmas and  
best wishes for 2018  
from everyone at SAGA.*

## Letter from a (Windblown) Prairie Chicken

Ye Olde Editor suggested this fall that I should write a commentary about the weird weather we've had in recent years. I thought perhaps I should review some of the weather adventures that we've experienced over the 43 years we've been farming near Maple Creek (you know, "the warm spot today in Saskatchewan is Maple Creek", no matter what month it is!)

I grew up in west central Sask. where winter came at Thanksgiving and left on May 1st. University days in Saskatoon were much like this and our seven years in Brandon tended to follow the same weather pattern.

The week after we moved to the Maple Creek farm in May, 1974, it began to rain and this lasted for a week. I thought Derald had moved us to the Maritimes instead. Our farm access road was clay topped with no gravel so the only way we could drive the 4 ½ miles to pavement was in the ditches which were pure sand. I had a very good ditch trail to use for many years. (The road in recent years has been rebuilt with lots of gravel.)

Using my annual Christmas letters, I have found mild winters where one could go coatless on New Year's Day; blizzards in calving seasons; heavy snow winters; snowless winters; and ice storms in December, making the cow feeding area a skating rink for months. There have also been excellent years of sufficient rain and very pleasant temperatures.

Mt. Saint Helens blew its top in 1980, depositing ash on everything. We had several days of daylight but no sun. Two springs later, in late May, it began to rain. After two days of rain, it snowed over night and we woke to a foot of snow and flat trees. Discovered that this does not hurt Caraganas in full leaf. Just kick them out of the snow banks and they pop right up, intact.

There have been several drought years where cattle feed had to be purchased or cattle had to be moved long distances for summer pasture. The ones that stand out are 1988 with 5" of rain in the growing season and 2001 when the same period accumulated 3.7". Some of these years also attract hoards of grasshoppers.

We had some very cold winters in the '90s with lots of snow and spring run-off to fill dugouts and waterholes. Other years we were digging new wells and the cows had long walks to water. We've had dry springs where the local farmers were immersed in gloom, only to have heavy rains in late May which saved everything. There have been July hail storms, early frosts and VERY hot summers.

You all probably heard about our area in 2010 when the heavy June rain resulted in a flood in the town of Maple Creek which also ripped out a section of the Trans Canada highway. There are distinct advantages to living up on a sandy hill, miles from a creek! We could just enjoy the rain.

2016 was a year of intermittent rain which kept the pastures green and we could achieve a good hay and green feed pile of bales. We ended the growing season with a record 18" of moisture, the best here in 43 years. (We were Crop Reporters for our local R.M. for 30 years in case you are wondering why I have all these figures).

2017 has been the strangest year we have experienced. There was a reasonable snow cover but nothing serious. Spring rains kept us green but you had to live on the right side of the road or you got nothing. We were lucky till the end of June. From there on we had almost nothing till Oct. 2 when a heavy snowfall landed, breaking trees which were still in full leaf. This gave us nearly 2" of moisture. The temperatures were extreme all summer with very few days under +30 degrees. I had to water the garden almost every day. The hay and green feed crops were less than average but produced because of all the 2016 rains. Pastures held out as well.

On Oct. 8, the wind came up in the afternoon and increased to levels never experienced in this country, gusting to 120 km./hour. This blew down power lines which started fires in dry pastures and fields, resulting in devastating losses of pastures, feed supplies, farm buildings and tragically, one life of a young rancher from Walsh, AB who was fighting the fire near Burstall, SK. Two men were seriously burned in a similar fire near Tompkins. SaskPower had to shut off the electricity to stop the outbreak of fires and we were without their power for 22 hours. Thank goodness for generators.

We have no idea what we will be facing next spring but of there is very little snow or spring rains, we could be facing another year of scratching and searching for feed supplies and decent pastures. I am a firm believer in climate change as each year seems to be getting warmer. Perhaps I might reconsider if we get a month of -30's this coming winter instead of just on *SAGA* reunion weekend.

**Irene Ahner '65 C**

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

# SAGA Cheers with Peers

*SAGA* has firmly established a new annual tradition.

Considering our Reunion Banquet has been held for 83 consecutive years, our *SAGA* Cheers with Peers Tour will catch up by 2097. **Blair Cummins '77 S** and **Louis Bossaer '95 C** continued to provide a good time for Ag Grads this year.



**Candace Ippolito '02 C and  
Brooke Dorgan '03 C**



**Courtney Clarke '18 C and  
Celeste Wilson '19 C**

Farm Progress Show on June 22 was held in the North40 Lounge of the new stadium in Regina. With *SAGA* working hard at connecting old and new grads it was fitting it was held in the North40 with their blend of old and new stadiums. A great venue and opportunity to catch up with old friends, such as **Bill Aulie**, **Randy Frie** and **Lloyd Streifel**, all '83 C. Thanks to Young's Equipment for sponsoring this event.

This is the second year we were at Ag in Motion, on July 20. A great turnout with grads from a range of years.

Yes, **Glen Jones '96 C** and **Colin Peterson '95 C**, are considered old grads now. Thanks to **Jacqueline Toews '17 C** for bringing younger sis Joyceline who is also attending Ag Bio. She had a chance to meet the many different faces in the industry she will one day be working alongside.

**John Simpson '67 S** was the oldest grad to stop and chat at Agribition on Nov. 23; **Courtney Clarke '18 C** and **Celeste Wilson '19 C** were our youngest. Courtney and Celeste were Student Ambassadors at the AgBio booth. **Marisa Schuebel [Moe] '12 C** teaches at Vermillion Lake College, and brought a class with her to Agribition.

The Watering Hole is right between the cattle barns and provided such an excellent turnout; we managed to solve all the government's problems. Sponsored by Monsanto Bio Ag.



**John Simpson '67 S**



**Royce Lodoen '12 C and  
Marisa Schuebel (Moe) '12 C**

The butcher backed into the meat grinder,  
and got a little behind in his work.  
She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still

# Ag in Motion



Above, Jean Lundquist '00 C, David Latendresse '02 C and Tanner Martens '15 Diploma in Agronomy. At right, Jeff Bean '89 C and Darin Egert '89 C.



A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes . . . was on shaky ground.

The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.

The guy who fell into an upholstery machine has fully recovered.

A calendar's days are numbered.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

Don't join dangerous cults;  
Practice safe sects

## Empty Saddles

**Leslie Norman Cornish '47 S**, Aug. 26, 2017  
**Gordon Hebert Gardiner '48 C**, Feb. 27 2017  
**William Bryce Towill '49 C**, July 6, 2017  
**Alfred Arvid Olson '54 S**, Feb. 22, 2015  
**Henry 'Ross' Kingdon '55 C**, Sept 12, 2017  
**Norman Ronald Boe '63 S**, June 10, 2016  
**Arthur Leo Westlund '66 C**, Sept. 18, 2017  
**John Charles Buswell '72 C**, July 5, 2017  
**Robert John Gunningham '76 C**, Nov. 20, 2017  
**David Arthur Christopherson '79 C**, June 2, 2017  
**Sidney Bevin Quibell '79 S**, Sept. 29, 2017  
**Dean Murray Shier '83 C**, Aug. 4, 2017  
**Delbert Edwin Enns '48 S**, April 9, 2017  
**John Victor MacFarlane '49 S**, Sept. 23, 2015  
**James Cameron Dodds '54 S**, Oct. 14, 2017  
**Edward John Bowler '59S, '68C**, Aug. 3, 2017  
**Charles Vanblarcom Torgerson '56 S**, May 26, 2017  
**Gordon Samuel Bonner '64 C**, Aug. 2017  
**Ronald David Gabert '70 C**, July 10, 2017  
**Garry Russell Finell '75 C**, June 3, 2017  
**Bettyann Dorothy Busch '79 S**, Jan. 2017  
**Brenda Ruth Machin '79 C**, June 9, 2017  
**Jason Lee Teneycke '88 S**, Apr. 14 2010

### 2016-2017 Financial Report for SAGA

Chequing Account Balance as of Oct. 31, 2017 was \$11,788.21 vs. \$3,875.78 on Oct. 31, 2016

Investment Fund Account Balance as of Oct. 31, 2017 was \$51,162.45 vs. \$45,469.52 on Oct. 31, 2016.

Total Revenues for 2017 were \$33,259.00. Total Expenses were \$25,346.57 for a surplus of \$7,912.43

Total Revenues for 2016 were \$26,405.35. Total Expenses were \$26,761.27 for a loss of \$355.92.

The Reunion Weekend 2017 had a surplus of \$11,437.80 vs. \$6931.67 in 2016.

We contributed \$200 to ASA Activities (Bed Push for 2017 Telemiracle)

Net Expenses related to the Newsletters in 2017 totalled \$3,087.61 vs. \$3,053.70 in 2016.

In 2017 we received \$800 in advertising revenue vs \$500 in 2016.

Expenses related to the Website in 2017 totalled \$0.00 vs. \$3,408.83 in 2016.

Invoice from webmaster has not been received yet for 2017. We acknowledge and sincerely thank **Art Delahey '52 C** for a donation of \$100 to cover *SAGA's* membership in Sask Ag Hall of Fame. We acknowledge and sincerely thank **Lorence Peterson '65 C** for past audits and auditing the 2016-2017 books at no charge.

**Dennis Ewanus '69 C, SAGA Treasurer**

# Crop Production Week

**Friday, January 5 to Thursday January 11, 2018**

*Saskatchewan Ag Grads College of  
Agriculture & Bioresources Social - January 5*

*Saskatchewan Ag Grads Reunion Banquet & Program  
TCU Place - January 6*

*Saskatchewan Ag Grads Hockey Tournament  
Waldheim Rec Centre - January 6*

Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon Inn	January 8
Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association - Western Development Museum	January 8
Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission – Saskatoon Inn	January 8
CropSphere – TCU Place	January 9-10
Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission AGM – TCU Place	January 8
Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission AGM – TCU Place	January 8
Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission AGM - TCU Place	January 8
Saskatchewan Pulse Growers AGM – TCU Place	January 8
Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission AGM – TCU Place	January 9
Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission AGM – TCU Place	January 9
Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association – Saskatoon Inn	January 10-11
Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission – Prairieland Park	January 11
Agri-Arm Applied Research – Prairieland Park	January 11

To become a member of *SAGA*, simply go to our Webpage. \$100 for Life Membership.  
The *SAGA* reaches over 2200 fellow grads, all the AgBio Faculty, and each AgBio student.  
Be sure to send me tales of what's happening in your neck of the woods.

Next issue deadline is May. 15th, 2018

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