

President's Pen

BY GINA ZEPICK (SEBASTIAN) '92 C

To introduce myself, I grew up on a cattle and horse ranch in the Lumsden, Sask RM and attended the U of S College of Agriculture, in Animal Science, graduating in 1992. After 10 years with Sask Ag & Food, SaskWater and Information Services while also completing my MBA, I moved into entrepreneurship. Today, I work in leadership and people development – and still draw on those strong ag roots every day.

I now live on an acreage in the Pense RM with my husband and I'm fortunate that my parents are still on the family ranch nearby – so I'm never too far from where it all started.

I stepped into the role of SAGA President this past January after attending my first SAGA reunion weekend – and what a great experience! The excitement, the stories (some even better with age), and the connections were truly special. The banquet at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon was a perfect fit for our rural roots, touring the old stomping grounds on campus brought back many memories. Seeing my grad photo still hanging in the Ag building halls was both nostalgic and entertaining.

I took on this role to contribute to the SAGA legacy and to bring a few fresh ideas forward. I'm especially looking forward to connecting – and reconnecting – with fellow Agros of all ages, even as I now lean toward the more “experienced” end.

One of the first things I noticed about SAGA is the depth of knowledge and passion on the executive team. This group is committed to keeping Ag Grads connected to their Agro/VocAg roots – whether planted 1, 20, 50 or even 70 years ago. That passion shows in the strong turnout and great conversations at reunion events, from Friday gatherings to hockey games to the Saturday banquet. The stories, traditions, and yes, the legendary Agro/VocAg shenanigans are clearly alive and well.

A sincere thank you to our Past President, **Terry Grajczyk '83 C**, for making this transition seamless. Her guidance and willingness to jump in wherever needed made stepping into this role easy and enjoyable. It's also impressive to see many past



presidents and executive remain actively involved – SAGA truly benefits from that continued leadership.

And a warm welcome to our new Vice President, **John Stephen '84 C** of Leduc, Alberta. His enthusiasm, background in agri-pharmaceuticals and sales, along with his connections beyond the province, will serve SAGA well in the year ahead.

While agriculture and industry impact are a big part of who we are, at the heart of SAGA is connection – bringing U of S Ag Grads together across years, careers and communities.

I'm looking forward to a great year ahead and hope to see you out at an upcoming Ag event!

SAGA Honorary Life Member Nominees 2027

Pat and Corey will be recognized at the 2027 Reunion banquet in January.

Pat Flaten '82 S, '86 C, '02 MSc – Saskatoon

Pat has been involved in research and extension work relating to soil and crop management for most of her career. Her latest career position was as Research Program Manager with Western Grains Research Foundation. She received her Diploma, Bachelor's and Master's degrees from USask. Among her accomplishments, Pat was the founding Manager of the Saskatchewan Conservation Learning Centre near Prince Albert. Pat was also very involved in the direct seeding movement while in Prince Albert and while working for Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association in Swift Current. She has also worked as Head of Agriculture Programs at SIAST, Senior Agronomist for a soil testing lab and the USask Department of Soil Science.

Corey Loessin '86 C – Radisson

Corey has spent a career in crop industry development and his accomplishments include helping to develop and deliver the Certificate in Agriculture Program. Corey was a director with both the Sask Pulse and Pulse Canada organizations including chairmanship. He also served on the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Board, Western Grains Research Foundation Board, and was SAGA President in 1998. A full-time farmer with his wife Joan and family since the early 2000s, they have hosted on-farm tours for many groups. Corey says it's been a great pleasure to share their farm strategy and systems with visitors, and explain their focus on soil conservation.

From the Editor

BY LINDSAY FOLK '88 C


One joy of this editor role is hearing from ag grads from across the years. I received a nice note from Dianne Berg, spouse of **Carman Berg '64 C** ...

...I was so proud of the Agros and their bed push having raised so much money over the years! My husband Carman was a big supporter of Telemiracle. We have all of the Telemiracle Teddies. He was also very proud to say that our daughter, Stacey Burton, who grew up watching Telemiracle, is now the Financial Manager for the Kinsman Foundation.

I also had the opportunity to connect with a former colleague and mentor, and someone I looked up to early in my career – **Sharon Eistetter '79 C**. Read on page 10 Sharon's thoughts as she writes a book about something that is meaningful to many of us – retiring with purpose.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and the stories of the 2026 Reunion. I am inspired by the '66 grads College and School and how they are already planning a get-together for 2027. There's a lot of pride and sense of community in our grads!

Best wishes for a fruitful season ...



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Honorary Life Members 2026



Maurice and Jan Delage

Maurice Delage '69 C, '78 MSc is widely recognized as one of Canada's foremost leaders and innovators in agriculture. A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Maurice earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1969 and his Master of Science in 1978. His vision and optimism have driven transformative advancements in crop protection and seed development, shaping the future of farming in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

Maurice began his career with Niagara Chemicals in 1972 before joining Hoechst Canada Inc. in 1973, where he played a pivotal role in introducing new herbicide technologies. Rising through the ranks to become president, he led initiatives that positioned Hoechst as Canada's largest agricultural chemical company by the mid-1980s. He also championed the creation of the Bayer Global Centre of Excellence for Canola Development near Saskatoon, which pioneered innovations such as herbicide tolerance, hybrid vigor, and trait development—advancements that significantly improved yields and profitability for producers.

Maurice's contributions have earned him induction into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame, Canadian

Agriculture Hall of Fame, and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, one of the province's highest honors. Today, he continues to lead operations at Delage Farms, a 33,000-acre grain farm near Indian Head, producing canola, wheat, peas, and lentils.

Beyond his professional achievements, Maurice is deeply committed to giving back. He has supported the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, as well as cultural and community initiatives including the Globe Theatre, Saskatchewan Science Centre, and the restoration of the historic Bell Barn. His efforts reflect a lifelong dedication to strengthening both agriculture and the communities that sustain it.

Maurice Delage's legacy is one of leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to advancing agriculture for the benefit of producers, communities, and future generations.



Larry White

Larry White '64 C – his distinguished career in agriculture spanned nearly four decades, marked by leadership, innovation, and a deep commitment to serving Saskatchewan's farming communities.

Larry began his professional journey as an Agricultural Representative in Watson before moving to Yorkton as a Farm Development Specialist with the pioneering FarmStart Program. He later served as Regional Coordinator in Weyburn and Regional Manager in Prince Albert. In each role, Larry championed the delivery of unbiased, practical information to farmers, ensuring they had the tools and knowledge to adapt to a rapidly changing agricultural landscape.

As a manager, Larry emphasized teamwork, creativity, and professional development. He provided staff with the resources and guidance needed to respond to farmer needs, fostering a culture of collaboration and excellence. His dedication to extension work made a lasting impact on both the profession and the province's agricultural sector.

Upon retiring from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Larry continued to contribute to the industry through the Saskatchewan Forest Centre. He also served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Conservation Learning Centre, playing a pivotal role in developing a long term strategic plan that revitalized the Centre and ensured its ongoing success.

In 2011, he received the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists' Distinguished Agrologist Award, honoring his outstanding service and commitment to agriculture. Larry is a dedicated supporter of SAGA, sharing news of colleagues, organizing reunions, and strengthening ties among alumni.

Larry's career was enriched by the unwavering support of his late wife, Donna, who managed family life through relocations and raised their three children and to whom he proudly dedicates this award. He dedicates his achievements to his family, colleagues, and the many farmers he served.

Plan to attend the 92nd SAGA Reunion

January 8 and 9, 2027

Friday, January 8

3:30 - 7:00 p.m.

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

Saturday, January 9

7:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

SAGA Hockey Tournament at Waldheim

10:00 a.m. start

Kaiser Tournament at Black Fox Distillery

3:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Reunion Banquet at Western Development Museum followed by

9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Mixer

Recognition of Years

1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007, 2017 and 2022

More information about the Reunion Weekend will be available on the SAGA website later this year at www.saskaggrads.com.

Deadline for purchasing Banquet tickets is midnight January 2, 2027. Can book online this fall using the website above. Credit card or e-transfer payments are preferred.

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 block name **SAGA REUNION 2027** or the code **2027SAGA** when booking. Rate is \$165 + tax per night. <https://reservations.sandmanhotels.com/113165?groupID=4754263#/guestsandrooms>

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

2027 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 2027.

It is not a difficult task – contact your classmates by phone, email, mail or social media. You won't need to 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 in the SAGA newsletter and other postings.

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

CLASS	REUNION CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
1967 College	Berny Wiens	bcwiens101@gmail.com	306-831-7590
1977 School	Blair Cummins	bmv@sasktel.net	306-221-8758
1987 College	Kevin Dow	kdow@sasktel.net	306-291-5909
2017 College	Bayley Blackwell	bayley_bb@live.com	

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 John Stephen at 780-986-6895.

See you there!

Advance Notice – major Voc Ag Reunion

The class of '66 Voc Ags are sponsoring a reunion at Waskesui Lake June 11 and 12, 2027. Come early, stay late. We've done this before, our class had 49 out for the Saturday night banquet in January.

Beautiful Waskesui has great amenities: golf courses, pickle ball, lawn bowling, use of pontoon boats, BBQs, etc.

We are honoured to have the '65 and '67 Voc Ags join us, and we're extending the invitation to any 60+ year Voc Ags to attend. We have 40 rooms blocked and a large RV park. For more information, contact one of us:

- Fred Wilson 306-381-6070
- Ralph Howes 306-684-0576
- Lorne McConaghy 306-921-9920
- Murray Coolidge ('65) 306-821-6336
- Jim Horne ('67) 306-978-4078

A Word from the Dean

BY TREVER CROWE, ACTING DEAN AND PROFESSOR

Hello Sask Ag Grads! After a long prairie winter, spring always feels especially meaningful here in Saskatchewan. Its late arrival this year has been a reminder of patience, resilience, and optimism; traits that define our agricultural community.

Faculty renewal continues to be a priority for the College, and by the end of 2026, ¼ of the faculty members in the college will have been appointed within the last 4 years. Since January, we have welcomed four new faculty members. Dr. Yuan Fang joined the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences, with a focus on food safety and microbial ecology; Dr. Eric van Cleef joined Animal and Poultry Science, working on ruminant nutrition and crop-livestock systems, and Dr. Shannon Brown and Dr. Bryan Mood joined Soil Science as assistant professors with expertise in greenhouse gas emissions in agronomy/agricultural soil processes and forest ecology/climate science, respectively. Further, as of the time of writing this, there are 5 additional searches ongoing.

We will also see leadership transitions effective July 1, with Dr. Eric Micheels and Dr. Bobbi Helgason assuming the roles of Department Heads in Agricultural and Resource Economics and Soil Science, respectively. I sincerely thank Dr. Hayley Hesseln and Dr. Colin Laroque for their outstanding leadership and service as Department Heads in previous years.

Here at the College, preparations are well underway for a busy field season. We are also looking ahead to Spring Convocation, where we will celebrate a new cohort of Saskatchewan agriculture graduates and welcome them into a lifelong alumni community that spans generations, disciplines, and career paths. It is always an exciting time, and I am very much looking forward to congratulating our students as they cross the stage in June.

Our students are incredible, and we are immensely proud of their accomplishments. This year, 13 of 30 (43%) national scholarships awarded to Master's and PhD students at the University of Saskatchewan were awarded to AgBio students. In addition, thanks to the generosity of our donors, two Indigenous graduate students received Sprott Indigenous Graduate Student Awards, each receiving \$25,000 per year.

Whether you graduated this spring or many years ago, you remain an important part of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. I encourage you to stay connected by sharing your stories, mentoring students, attending events, and staying in touch with the College.

My message would not be complete without acknowledging the passing of a respected and beloved staff member, cherished colleague, mentor, friend, and fellow graduate – Jackie Bantle (BSA Hort '92). In her role as the manager at the Agriculture Greenhouse and Horticulture Field Lab, Jackie brought positivity, kindness, and unwavering dedication to everything she did, underpinned by her wonderful sense of humour. She left a lasting impact on the College, and she will be deeply missed.

Some notes from 1984 College class

BY JOE DENOMIE '84 C

After 40 plus years, Doug and Bob McKenzie are hanging up their toques and joining the "government feedlot".

Gord Roger '84 C has been in the Vet Pharmaceutical business since graduating. He and his wife, Jackie along with children Megan and Shane have a purebred Black Angus operation at Balgonie. Gord will continue with ambassador duties with the Sask Angus Assoc. so will remain in touch with many colleagues.

Joe Denomie '84 C along with his wife, Roseanne and children Orin, Jesse, Dillon and Olivia have been running a mixed grain and livestock operation in the Kuroki area since 1985. Joe will continue on as unpaid labor for the foreseeable future.

Since you had a great article on the Agro band from the early 60's, this is a great segway to the Agro Band in the '80s. This picture of the band is from **Kevin Werner '83 C** who is my old roommate and the younger brother of **Cecil Werner '66 C**, a band member of the Agro Orchestra, The Jurelles. Members of the '80s band were (left to right) Kevin Werner, **Francois Catellier '84 C**, **Dale Carpenter '84 C**, **Mark Tycoliz '83 C**, **Eric Jorgensen (Hillbilly) '83 C**, **Todd Farnsworth '85 C**, missing **Gloria Volk '83 C** and **Kelly Cruise '85 C**. I have Kevin's CD and they're damn good.



SAGA Reunion 2026



1956 College
Dick Lane



1961 College
Front L-R: Bob Bullock, Ray Wheeler, Gary Carlson Back L-R: Bob Gilmour, Syd Pickerell, Wayne Clews



1966 College
Front L-R: Ron Plunz, Bill Turner, Rod Altwasser
Back L-R: Kurt Sawatzky, Rick Armstrong, George Pearson



1966 College, with spouses



1966 School
Front L-R: Fred Wilson, Neal Moyse, Bruce Graee, Lorne McConaghy, Dwight Brown, Robert Cumming, Richard Bellamy
Back L-R: Ralph Howes, Vern Day, Ron Alexander, Bill Kendall, Hugh McDonough, Don Fox, Donovan Avis, Ray Hilderman



1971 College
Bob Rugg



1971 School
Front L-R: Clare Ward, Allan H. Ball, David Getz, Kenneth Granberg, Fred Holden, Everett Sanderson,
Back L-R: Vaughan Hess, Rene Gauthier, Barry Whitfield, Ken Turpie, Neil Campbell, Brian Irving, Ken Brown, Nestor Kowalsky, Marcel Bouchard, Doug Johnston



Honorary Life Members
Front L-R: Marcel Dubois '61 S & '65 C (2014), Larry White '64 C (2026), Maurice Delage '69 C (2026), Grant Devine '67 C (2025)
Back L-R: Irene Ahner '65 C (2011), Blair Cummins '77 S (2019), Grattan O'Grady '69 S (2016), Mary Buhr, Dean of AgBio 2009-20 (2017), Richard Bellamy '66 S (2000) Barb Stefanysheh-Cote '87 C (2017)

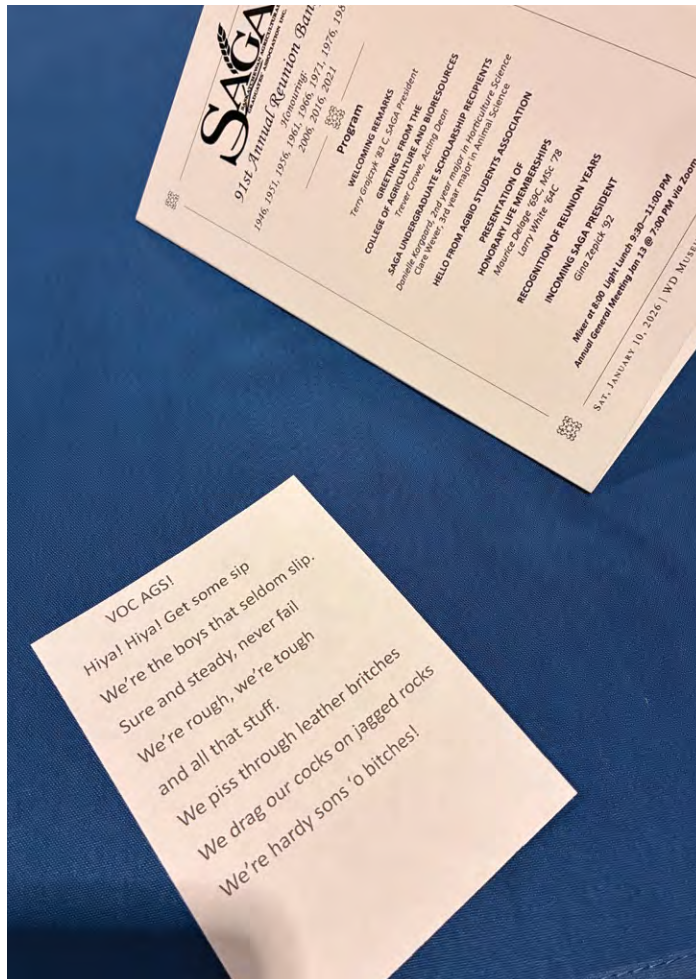
2026 SAGA Reunion – our 91st!

BY DEANNE BELISLE '79 C, BANQUET CHAIR

The 91st Annual Reunion and Banquet was a resounding success, welcoming 300 graduates and guests for an evening of celebration, connection, and shared memories, with representation from classes marking 10 to 70 years since graduation. A special highlight was reconnecting with 70-year grad, **Dick Lane '56 C** who began his public service in Saskatchewan and worked between Ottawa and the Prairies throughout his career. Dick and Catherine Lane delighted in sharing stories with both old friends and new.

We were also pleased to celebrate the Classes of 1961 College and School and the ever loyal '66 Cs, who never miss a reunion. And of course, the '66 Voc Ags made themselves heard loud and proud declaring they are indeed “hardy sons 'o bitches”. The largest groups came from the Classes of 1976 and 1986, with every decade proudly represented.

Greetings were brought forward from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Our honoured speaker, Acting Dean Trevor Crowe, opened with a light-hearted admission of his B.Sc.A.E.



(a brave ag engineer by my account) which earned him some good-natured ribbing. Jokes aside, the College continues to excel in all they do, both locally and on the global stage.

The highlight of the evening was the enshrinement of our newest SAGA Honorary Life Members, **Maurice Delage '69 C, '78 MSc**, and **Larry White '64 C**. Both have played a significant role in building the canola industry into what it is today. We congratulate them on their remarkable contributions to agriculture.

The success of the evening was made possible by the dedication of the volunteer executive, whose efforts created a memorable experience for all. The organizing committee received many kind comments, including:

“Your hard work and planning make it very easy for us reunion chairs to plan an excellent weekend! Many of my friends and family, who I explained the weekend to, are envious that we still have a connection to our university days after so long and that is due to SAGA! On behalf of the Class of 1986 C, our sincere thanks.”

– Lorna Stephen '86 C

“I feel the new venue is an excellent choice. The food was well prepared, with good variety. The Museum artifacts along with the Sask Agricultural Hall of Fame fit in very well for class members to reminisce. It is always nice to renew old acquaintances with instructors, etc. For our 60-year class that is very limited. But for the classmates who did return, it was a great event. The evening program was very well done.”

– R. Fred Wilson '66 S

As always, the atmosphere was marked by pride, camaraderie, and a deep appreciation for the traditions that bring us together. On behalf of SAGA, thank you to everyone who attended and celebrated our shared agricultural history – where it all began.

Nominations open for Distinguished Graduates Awards

SAGA and the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture and Bioresources are proud to introduce two new joint awards celebrating the achievements and impact of our graduates: the **Distinguished Graduate Award** and the **Distinguished Young Graduate Award**. Both recognize alumni who have made outstanding contributions to society, with similar criteria; the Distinguished Young Graduate Award is limited to graduates under the age of 40. Nominations are accepted at any time but must be submitted by September 1 to be considered at the January reunion. Full award details and nomination forms are available on the SAGA website.

2026 SAGA Hockey Tournament

BY 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 10th at the Waldheim Rec Center. There were three alumni teams, one Ag college and one team from Vet Med.

In the A final, the defending champs Millimeter Peters, led by **Royce Lodoen '12 AgBio**, were on the edge of a three-peat until the class of 2020 team came to play. Shooting Lane had a 4-1 lead with 5 minutes left and the Peters were able to make it 4-3. Congrats to the Shooting Lane for making it on the big red trophy. We had a college-centered B final. The team from Ag College showed the true Agro way and came out victorious. Thank you to the Vet Med team, a last-second entry into the tournament, they were a welcome addition.

Bouchard Heart Award was awarded to **Lane Milton '19 AgBio**. He rallied the troops for the 8 AM game, using "dump and chase" in rec hockey to win the A final and is now etched in Agro history.

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 former classmates and bringing up memories. If you are an alumni team or a college team, feel free to enter and enjoy the weekend with the Agros!



Bouchard Heart Award – Lane Milton



Shooting Lane – "A" Side Winner

Players (in no particular order): Darnell Holt '19, Lane Milton '19, Mike Rebeyka '21, Dawson Malenfant '21, Colton Lehne '21, Lane Burgen '26, Benson Eaton '29, Kyle Klenk, Riley Yasieniuk, Jaxson Samm



**Thank you
past president
Terry Grajczyk**



Brutherford Bruins – "B" side winner

Carter Goudy '27, Luke Packet '27, Dion Maksymchuk '27, Kalla Nicholas '27, Mitch Kielo '28, Max Phillips '27, Carter "Butters" Kaliciak '26, Ethan Hinz '26, Jackson Fuchs '26, Karlin Frykas '26, Garret Russnak '26, Chance Scott '27, Reegan Frey '27, Ashlyn McCullough '26

Retiring with Joy and Purpose

BY SHARON EISTETTER '79 C



I retired in 2017 after a rewarding 38-year career with Farm Credit Canada. After graduating from the U of S in 1979, my career took me through North Battleford, Regina, Swift Current, Red Deer, and finally Abbotsford, BC – where we now enjoy retirement and the beautiful climate.

What surprised me most was how challenging retirement actually is. Financial planning is one thing; life planning is something else entirely - and it's rarely talked about. As an avid reader, I searched for guidance but found very little. That gap inspired me to begin writing a book (now in the polishing stage). Along the way, I've uncovered some key insights.

Retirement after a long career is a major life transition—far bigger than most people expect. In my experience, there are four natural phases:

The **honeymoon phase** brings excitement and relief from responsibility. It feels freeing—but it doesn't last forever.

Next comes the **wandering phase**, where the lack of structure and connection can leave you feeling unsettled or unfulfilled. Some people get stuck here.

The **exploration phase** is when you begin trying new things—hobbies, volunteering, part-time work—and start to rediscover yourself.

Finally, with intention and a growth mindset, you move into **flourishing**: a stage of purpose, routine, joy, and a renewed sense that this can truly be the best chapter of life.

To reach that stage, mindset matters. Your beliefs about aging and retirement shape your experience. When you challenge

limiting beliefs, you open the door to living fully—and even extending your quality of life.

Structure is also essential. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking you have unlimited time, but if you don't design your days, they will be shaped by others. Creating a daily rhythm that reflects your priorities leads to far greater fulfillment.

It's equally important to stay engaged—mentally, physically, and socially. Move your body daily, nurture relationships, embrace technology, and actively work against boredom by staying present and curious.

Retirement is also an opportunity to explore new interests or even small income streams if that excites you. More importantly, it's a time to reflect on your values, your emotions, and the legacy you want to leave.

When you do this deeper work, something shifts. You begin to live with intention, shedding old expectations and discovering a renewed sense of purpose and joy.

Retirement isn't the end of something—it's the beginning of becoming more fully yourself.

Watch for Sharon's book to be published in late 2026 called "*Coming Home To Yourself; Practical Advice To Design A Retirement You Love*".

1961 College Reunion

BY BOB BAKER '61 C

Some of our group toured the agriculture building on Saturday, January 10. In the evening we attended the SAGA banquet and were recognized as 65-year grads. Attending were: Syd and Janice Pickerell, Gary and Jessie Carlson, Bob Bullock (accompanied by son Paul), Ray and Glennis Wheeler, Bob and Doreen Gilmour, Wayne and Wyn Clews and Bob Baker.

On Sunday morning, January 11, our group gathered for a hot buffet brunch at the host hotel. Added attendees included: Don and Nancy Wilkins, Dan and Angelina Beveridge and Joan Baker.

We enjoyed meeting together one more time, reminiscing and story telling - typical old-folks get-together. A couple of our guys (probably their spouses) showed some 1961 artifacts and photos from previous reunions. Some wore those loud blue shirts with the big A on the front. My personal assessment—a true long-time fellowship.

P.S. The brunch was pretty good.

ASA Report

BY LAUREL O'NEILL '26 C, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

What an honour it was to serve as the Public Relations Officer for the 2025/26 school year. It was great to connect with so many Alumni in my term. As the year has inevitably come to an end, I wanted to reflect on the wonderful year we had in the College of AgBio.

We held our graduation banquet on January 20 to honour and celebrate the graduates of 2026. **Jorja Beck '27 C**, Internal VP, planned a wonderful event with a delightful address from **Brad Hammer '95 C**. As per tradition, the senior stick was passed down from **Garret Russnak '26 C** to Jorja (who is also the incoming President). She didn't get very far from the stage before getting caught by her fellow Agros.

I would like to give a huge thank you to everyone that lent a helping hand with Bedpush this year,

the event was a huge success! You can read more about it in the bedpush article. Along with all of our fundraising events for bedpush we also held our annual winter mixer hockey tournament in Radisson which was a blast. **Ashton Penman '27 C**, Academic VP planned an amazing AgBio Challenge which took place in March with the topic being "how to increase Canadian agrifood capacity with limited land space to enhance overall productivity and sustainability". Four teams participated and this challenge proves that the agriculture industry is in great hands with this generation.

I hope you all are proud to be alumni of the long-standing best college around. It was a pleasure to meet some of you during my time as PRO and I hope our paths cross again in the near future!

AgBio Club Updates

BY JACKSON FUCHS '26 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 what some of the teams have been up to:

U of S Beef Team

We have started a yearly fundraiser called Big Beef Bash which is supper, an auction, and dance. It's always lots of fun for members, family and friends. We are also fortunate to have grad students, vets and other industry professionals come and speak to us about their work and how it fits into and impacts this industry.

CAMA

The University of Saskatchewan Canadian Agri-Food Marketing Alliance (CAMA) Student Chapter's main focus is to prepare for the Student Marketing Competition hosted annually by the

National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) in the United States. This year, our team travelled to St. Louis, Missouri to compete against approximately thirty teams as one of only two Canadian representatives and ended up placing 3rd overall.

Rodeo Team

After successfully hosting our first rodeo in many years in Delisle last September, we plan on hosting another rodeo in September 2026! The rodeo team has kids from all over Saskatchewan post secondary schools and is the only team in the province that is part of Canadian College Rodeo Association.

Judging Team

This year's team consisted of a highly motivated group of members, which contributed to a very successful competition season. The team began the year by earning Champion Team at Farmfair International, hosted by the University of Alberta. They also achieved Reserve Champion Team standings at both the Olds College and Lakeland College Judging Competitions. The team looks forward to building on this success and continuing strong performances in the 2026–2027 season.

SAGA and the Bedpush: Building a Tradition Together

Since 2018, SAGA has proudly partnered with current students to support one of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources' most visible and energetic traditions: the biennial Bedpush. What began as a conversation about how alumni could stay meaningfully connected with students quickly turned into something much bigger.

The Agros Bedpush began in 1982 to raise funds and awareness for TeleMiracle in a way that reflected the spirit and visibility of the agricultural community. That first year, students purchased a metal bed frame for just \$25 and modified it in the tractor lab with bicycle wheels before pushing it the full distance from Saskatoon to Regina, each runner covering the equivalent of multiple marathons to arrive live on the TeleMiracle stage. This creative fundraiser quickly became a defining College tradition. Over the decades, the event evolved into a three-day, roughly 250-kilometre relay supported by students, alumni, and industry partners, often completed in the face of Saskatchewan's toughest winter conditions. Today, Bedpush is recognized as one of the province's longest-running and most successful student-organized fundraisers.

SAGA's involvement since 2018 has helped build on that momentum. From the beginning, the collaboration worked because each group brought something unique to the table. Students brought the energy and organization that make Bedpush such a memorable event. In 2026, students planned the logistics, did TV and radio interviews, and hosted many fundraisers including a bake sale, spin classes, bingo nights, pie-in-the



face, 50/50 raffle, Calcutta bowling and an exec auction. Alumni contributed financial support, industry connections, mentorship, and every now and then, the occasional runner whose knees and hips were still willing to cooperate (with the odd injury here and there!).



Before alumni became involved, Bedpush fundraising totals typically ranged between \$26,000 and \$30,000 annually. Since 2018, with alumni support helping expand awareness through industry networks and social media connections, students have continued to build momentum and elevate the impact of the event, with the most recent Bedpush raising over \$135,000. Along the route, runners are regularly met by alumni, farmers, families, and supporters who stop to donate, take photos, or cheer the team on. These small moments highlight just how widely this tradition is recognized across Saskatchewan agriculture.

SAGA's participation has also created new opportunities for connection beyond the road itself. The Thursday night social hosted by SAGA has become a highlight of the trek, bringing students and alumni together to celebrate the

success of the first day while building friendships and professional networks that often last well beyond graduation. Stops along the route frequently include visits with alumni hosts who open their homes to the team, reinforcing the sense that Bedpush belongs to the entire Agro community. Alumni are able to join for a few kilometres or a full leg of the trip, making it easy to stay involved no matter where they are.

SAGA has now taken part in Bedpush in 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, and most recently 2026, continuing a tradition that reflects the strength of the agricultural community across generations.

2026 was the 50th Anniversary of TeleMiracle, and this year's fundraising broke two previous records and pushed total funds raised over \$1,000,000. Agros and alumni have proudly been pushing beds for 42 years!

Empty Saddles

Names in order of graduating year

Jacob “Jake” George Nickel

'52 C, October 26, 2025

Dr. Roy Douglas Crawford

'55 C, HLM '96, April 30, 2026

Kim Thorson

'54 C, January 7, 2026

James Edward Sawtell

'56 S, July 31, 2024

Dr. Douglas Kay McBeath

'57 C, January 4, 2025

William “Bill” John Bradley

'58 C, April 26, 2026

Orrin Mountford Clayton

'58 C, May 7, 2026

Dr. Wesley “Wes” Ford Nuttall

'58 C, November 29, 2025

Glenn Stewart Byrnes

'63 C, March 30, 2026

Ronald “Ron” Roy McKinnon

'63 C, February 3, 2026

Russel Lloyd Fisher

'64 S, November 4, 2025

Thomas James McManus

'64 S, February 18, 2026

Don Dowdeswell

'65 C, May 9, 2026

Ronald Pius Koenig

'66 S, December 25, 2024

John Royal Munro

'66 S, June 1, 2025

Donald “Don” Alan Rugg

'66 C, March 23, 2026

Jacob Erdman Wiens

'66 S, October 24, 2025

Ronald Gordon Gates

'67 S, November 22, 2025

Leonard John Kobelsky

'68 C, June 4, 2025

Lynn Hayes

'69 C, February 19, 2025

Murray George Thompson

'69 S, March 7, 2026

Ernest Julian Harach

'74 C, August 28, 2021

D. Richard Wharton

'77 C, November 11, 2025

Jacqueline Michelle Bantle

'92 C, April 20, 2026

Laura May Herle

'93 S, January 24, 2026

Matthew James Speir

'01 AgBio, October 12, 2025

Linda Anne Holland

'02 AgBio, May 5, 2024

Sarah Louise Lipoth

'02 AgBio, January 31, 2026

USask earns high marks in world university subject rankings

Affirming its place among the most impactful universities in the world, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) has achieved high placements in prominent university rankings by subject areas. USask was listed among the top 50 universities in the world for veterinary science in the QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2026, earning a spot at 49th overall. In addition, USask ranked 54th in the world in agriculture and forestry, both increases that speak to USask’s strong research and scholarly impact in those subject areas.



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Prairie Chicken Musical Memories

BY IRENE AHNER '65 C

Since composing the Prairie Chicken Letter for the December SAGA issue, I have gleaned more information about Agro musicians. On September 1, 2006, The Jurelles played for a wedding dance at the Hotel Saskatchewan. The bride was Cec and Barb Werner's daughter, Jen, who married Rob Dobson. They recorded the event with Cec playing in the band and produced CDs, one now being among my prized possessions. **Cec Werner '66 C** has recently been installed in the Sask Ag Hall of Fame and we are very proud of him.

A group who entertained at various Agro events was a trio formed after they met in Saskatoon. I will let **Peter Gradauer '65 C** tell their story:

"I was raised on a mixed farm four miles west of Lloydminster. After high school, I went to U of S in September 1961, enrolled in Agriculture. A very interesting group of students, mostly farm boys like me. Lawrence McNabb also had a musical background and played button accordion and guitar. I had an electric guitar and amp, a lot of records and a record player. We played together and performed whenever we could, playing mostly Western and dance and old time music, and some rock, and some folk, which was very popular.

In second year, we did lots of folk and played at many house parties and sing-alongs. Most memorable were at Jerry Knipfel's house that he and some others rented.

In third year, I had a better guitar that Lawrence played, and I played banjo. We sang a lot of folk music. I loved Johnny Cash songs and my favorite is still Folsom Prison Blues. Marcel Dubois joined us in third year, as he was a great singer and MC.

Our President, Doug McArthur, got us very involved in performing at campus functions, and we performed whenever we could. We were known as The Unmentionables or The Agro Trio. We sang three-part harmony and had a lot of fun."

All of the above names belonged to our 1965 Class. Sadly, Jerry and Lawrence are no longer with us.

Marcel Dubois became an active participant in the musical community around Rosetown and was one of the lead singers in "The Pull of the Land" which toured in the prairies from 2003-11. Marcel has sent me a wonderful story about those years which I hope to use for a future article. He and Lynda still live on their Rosetown farm but are mostly retired.

Maple Creek and district became much richer when **Heather Macnab '81 S** married **Peter Hecker '75 S** in 1980 and came to live on the Hecker farm in 1981. Heather decided that if she was going to become a farm woman, she needed a bit of training so she decided to take a Diploma in Agriculture. By this point, females in the School of Agriculture were not an aberration.

Heather's mother was a teacher who also taught piano, so Heather was introduced to music at an early age. It was not long after she became part of our community that she began teaching piano, voice and theory to many of our children.

They raised three children, two of whom have become superb musicians and one who became an excellent farmer/rancher. Heather's Voc Ag training did not go to waste. She used to keep chickens, help in the fields and raise bunnies, plucking them for fur which made excellent yarn.

Since 1986 Heather has been an integral part of our local Music Festival; a director of the United Church Choir; produced over 20 years of musical theatre with teenage performers; accompanied vocal and instrumental soloists; performed in opera choruses across the prairies and been part of oratorio choirs. Google Heather Macnab to find a very impressive resume outlining her certificates in piano, voice and speech arts.

A few years ago, Heather decided to perform the one-woman play, "Shirley Valentine" and enthralled audiences in Maple Creek, Battleford and Medicine Hat. She has also been Mother Abbess in "The Sound of Music" and Mrs. Tottenham in "Drowsy Chaperone", both in Medicine Hat. At our 2026 Music Festival, she and her daughter-in-law accompanied and/or directed over half of the entrants, including a new adult community choir.



Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductees 2026

Two University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture and Bioresources alumni were inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in April 2026. **Mark Pickard '78 C** (deceased), a visionary agri-food entrepreneur and founder of InfraReady, and **Cecil Werner '66 C**, a Saskatchewan agribusiness leader who developed major export markets for flax and dehydrated alfalfa products, were honoured.

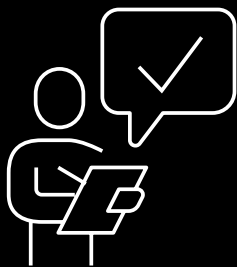
Other inductees to the Hall of Fame: Terry Baker, President of Franklin Land & Cattle Co. Ltd. and former chair of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and Viterra; Norbert Beaujot, founder of SeedMaster Manufacturing; Joe Kleinsasser, Rosetown Hutterite producer and long-time board leader; and Mary McKay Lindsay, an innovative cattle producer who helped establish the Speckle Park breed.



Cecil Werner's family unveil his portrait. Cecil is seated on the right.



Laticia and Courtney Pickard, daughters of Mark Pickard, unveiling his portrait.



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New Life Members

Alan Crozon '92 C	Neil Hruska '00 S
Kimberly Good '95 C	Sonya Fieldmeier '06 AgBio
Dale Atkinson '96 C	Carson Jorgensen '18 AgBio
Jodie Atkinson '96 C	Allivia Sauer '22 AgBio
Roger Barron '96 S	Cailey Church '24 AgBio
Murray Hodgins '97 S	

New Annual Members

John Heggie '66 S	Patrick Weatherald '96 C
Stuart McDonald '76 C	Cam Wiebe '96 S
Jo-Anne Heggie '76 S	Wade Dunham '97 C
Don Beauchesne '86 C	Brayden Connor '16 AgBio
Dale Glover '95 C	Shayla Wourms '16 AgBio
Aaron Backman '96 C	Bayley Moses '17 AgBio
Nanette Glover '96 C	Owen Van de Kraats '25 AgBio

Looking for old newsletters?

You can always find them on the SAGA website, under the "Newsletters" tab, going back all the way to 1960.

Interested in joining the SAGA Executive?

We are looking for someone to join our team in the position of **Website Co-ordinator**. This role involves updating the website with information throughout the year as well as attending executive meetings. We are looking at refreshing the SAGA website. If you are interested in helping out with the website refresh or joining our team please reach out to Gina Zepick at ginazepick@gmail.com.

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, 2026.

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