THE SAGA

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES ASSOCIATION

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President's Pen

A Look at What's Happening in SAGA

As I reflect on what to share in this newsletter, I'm reminded of just how much is happening behind the scenes at SAGA and how much goes into keeping our alumni community connected, engaged, and thriving.

The January 2027 Reunion is front and centre as we work through the many details that make this special weekend possible, including the Honourary Life Member awards and scholarships recognized at the event.

We celebrated the **75th annual Ag Bag Drag**! One of the things I love most about SAGA is our collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan's current Ag students (ASA). It's wonderful to see alumni creating new memories to add to the fabulous old ones, and to support student activities through both financial contributions and volunteer involvement.

Behind the scenes, we're redesigning our **website** to make it more user-friendly to better support Reunion registrations, payments, SAGA information, and our growing historical archives. A broader **rejuvenation initiative** is also underway as we explore ways to strengthen SAGA and better serve our membership. Please share your ideas and take part in our membership survey – your input matters!

Our twice-yearly **newsletters** and **social media channels** – Facebook, X, and LinkedIn – help keep members informed and connected. Please join us online!

We continue updating our Forever Young graduate listings, welcoming new graduating classes each year, and honouring our Empty Saddles, thus ensuring our history and our people remain part of SAGA's story.

Remember, U of S Ag graduates can **belong to SAGA** wherever they live, and executive meetings, as well as our AGM, are available both in-person and on Zoom. If you value agriculture, friendship, and staying connected, we'd love to have you join us!

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the **Reunion in January 2027**, even if it is not your recognition year – a chance to reconnect, reminisce about past shenanigans, and enjoy a full weekend of fun activities with friends, old and new.

As another challenging agriculture year comes to an end, it has been an honour to serve as your SAGA president this past year. We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in 2027!

Gina Zepick (Sebastian) '92 C

From the Editor

BY LINDSAY FOLK '88 C

Connection. Today there are so many more "modes" of connection but we still have to work hard to create connections. For me, that's what an organization like SAGA is about. I really enjoy the chance that I have with this newsletter to connect – like chatting with **Don Hepburn '72 C** and working with the SAGA executive. Your SAGA team is working hard again to create a memorable weekend of connections at Reunion 2027. A family wedding is keeping us away in 2027 but Reunion 2028 is pencilled into our calendar already! It will be 40 years since my husband Mark and I graduated and I am expecting a big turn out from our 1988 class. Can't wait!

From our family to yours – many blessings and best wishes for 2027.



92nd Annual *SAGA* Reunion Banquet

January 9, 2027

We've put together an incredible day that will take you on a journey through time. Saturday's festivities will be held at the Western Development Museum, 2610 Lorne Avenue. Entry to the WDM is free with your banquet ticket purchase, just let them know at the Visitor Desk that you are with SAGA. The Museum opens at 9:00 AM and Boomtown Café is open until 3:00 PM.

Registration . . . . . **3:00 PM**
Cocktails . . . . . **4:15 PM**
Photos (for guests of honour and small groups) . . . **4:15-5:15 PM**
Seating for Banquet . . . . . **5:15 PM**
Banquet Begins . . . . . **5:30 PM**
Program . . . . . **6:15-7:15 PM**

Program:

- Greetings from AgBio Dean, Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn
- Induction of 2027 Honourary Life Members
- Introduction of the SAGA scholarship recipients

Recognition of Years:

1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007, 2017 and 2022.

Following the program, class photos continue in front of Train Station (large groups) or the Blacksmith Shop (small groups). Imagery Photograph is offering professional photos for $45, payable on-site.

Please come after 8:00 PM if you are not able to attend the banquet and still want to catch up with your mates.

Tickets

Tickets must be purchased in advance (they will not be sold that night) and can be purchased online at the home page of saskaggrads.com. Space for the banquet is limited to 300 tickets.

Cost (each):

SAGA lifetime members **$95**
Non-members **$120**
Additional tickets **$95**

Ticket sales end at midnight Sunday, January 3.

ETransfer or credit card payment is preferred and payment must be received by **January 4**. After this date, we are unable to offer refunds for cancellations. Please indicate your honour year when you buy your ticket for the banquet, so you can be seated with your class.

Please note that the Bar at WDM is cash only (there is an ATM on-site).

Western Development Museum

Explore the Boomtown exhibits, view the Eaton's Christmas Display, check out the Sask Ag Hall of Fame and the gift shop. The entire museum has fully accessible entrances and galleries.

Planning to stay overnight?

A block of hotel rooms has been booked at Sandman Signature Hotel for the dates of January 7-10. For reservations, call 1-306-518-7263 or online at reservations.sandmanhotels.com. Rooms are being held until December 10. Use the Group Code 2027SAGA, for preferred pricing.

A special treat – ASA will be in the house! They have Agro merchandise for sale and are fundraising for STARS and are keen to swap AgBagDrag stories with you!

All Ag Grads are welcome!
We can't wait to see you there!

- ✔ If you have difficulties purchasing your ticket online, contact your reunion chair or Jason Fradette: treasurer@saskaggrads.com.
- ✔ If you have Agro friends who aren't receiving the newsletter or haven't joined SAGA, please put them in touch with us: contact@saskaggrads.com.
- ✔ If you are curious about who else from your year is attending, simply check in with your reunion chairs.
- ✔ If you have any other questions about the Reunion weekend, contact John Stephen, Gina Zepick or Deanne Belisle: reunion@saskaggrads.com.

2027 Reunion Chairs – Consider volunteering

We are looking for a few more 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 do not sell tickets for 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. Maybe you and a classmate can organize for your year?

If you have any questions about the Reunion or if you want to volunteer as a Class Reunion Chair please contact John Stephen at 780-986-6895 or by email at reunion@saskaggrads.com.

FRIDAY EVENING SOCIAL

Friday, January 8, 2027 | 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM
College of AgBio Atrium and Student Lounge

Join us for a relaxed evening of socializing. Find your class photo. Take in tours of the College's art collection and select lab spaces. Revisit Kirk Hall and the old Crop Science building. ASA will have merchandise available for purchase. Light refreshments provided. All are welcome – come and go as you please.

For questions about the Friday Social, contact **Ian Goodwillie** at ian.goodwillie@usask.ca



SAGA Reunion Chairs

YEAR	CONTACT	EMAIL	PHONE
1952 College	John Stephen	reunion@saskaggrads.com	780-986-6895
1952 School	John Stephen	reunion@saskaggrads.com	780-986-6895
1957 College	Larry Koturbash	koturbash@sasktel.net	306-361-8850
1957 School			
1962 College			
1962 School	Wayne Jensen	w.jensen@sasktel.net	306-373-0118
1967 College	Berny Wiens	bcwiens101@gmail.com	306-831-7590
1967 School	Woodrow Stewart	woostew2@gmail.com	306-640-2332
1967 School	Jim Horn	jandahorn@sasktel.net	
1972 College	Bill Laing	laings2012@gmail.com	780-984-4448
1972 School	Lyle Findlay	lylefindlay@aski.ca	306-725-7158
1977 College	David Cubbon	d.cubbon@sasktel.net	306-240-5229
1977 School	Blair Cummins	bmv@sasktel.net	306-221-8758
1987 College	Kevin Dow	kdow@sasktel.net	306-291-5909
1987 School	Duane Thompson	teetwodmt@gmail.com	306-795-7277
1997 College	Phil Graham	AgrosCollege97@gmail.com	
1997 School	Heidi Mark Teri Ife	markheidi95@gmail.com tsife@sasktel.net	780-871-8563 306-321-7742
2007 AgBio	Adam Fritzler	adamfritzler@hotmail.com	306-229-0121
2017 AgBio	Bayley Blackwell	bayley_bb@live.com	
2022 AgBio	Tana Thiessen	teetwodmt@gmail.com	306-947-7677

2nd Annual Ag Grad Kaiser Tournament

Hosted by Black Fox Farm & Distillery

The 2nd Annual Ag Grad Kaiser Tournament brings current and former agriculture students together for some friendly competition, a little nostalgia and a chance to reconnect with fellow Agros. Challenge fellow Agros to a game of Kaiser and see who has what it takes to claim the title. Not playing? Come out anyway, cheer on the teams, look over a few shoulders and enjoy the atmosphere.

When:
Saturday, January 9, 2027

Time:
10 AM to 2 PM

Food:
Pizza lunch

Register:
blackfoxfarmanddistillery.com/events/ag-grad-kaiser-tournament



SAGA Hockey Tournament

The SAGA Hockey tournament will be on Saturday, **January 9, 2027** at Waldheim Rec Centre in Waldheim. There is room for 6 teams, so get your team submitted before the slate fills! The tournament will start at 8:00 AM and each team is guaranteed 3 games. Single players are invited to register and will be put on a welcoming team. All grad years are invited to enter a team!

To enter a team or as a player contact Chad Scott at 306-391-0049 or chadscott826@gmail.com.



A Word from the Dean

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

Greetings fellow alumni!

I'm looking out the window at what might well be one of the last truly lovely days of fall – still a few leaves on the trees, a strikingly clear blue sky, and warm enough weather that nobody needs their toques or mitts just yet. Out in the atrium, our Agriculture Research Day is underway, with students (undergrad and grad) from across the college and across the campus presenting posters on their latest research results. Midterm exams are well underway and harvest is… almost done?

Here in the Dean's office, I'm happy to be back from a restorative leave and ready for whatever comes next. My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Trever Crowe for steering the ship while I was away and to all of you for taking good care of him in my absence at the reunion (even though he's an engineer…).

Last fall, I let you know that we were working on our new strategic plan for the college and I'm happy to share that the college faculty endorsed our new plan earlier this term and we are moving ahead with putting it into action. You will be unsurprised to hear that our top priorities remain teaching and research but we spent just as much time talking about how we will do these things – focusing on community connection and engagement, fostering an inclusive environment for underrepresented groups, and positioning AgBio as a national and global leader in our key areas of strength. We will continue to prioritize experiential learning and innovative research that translates into meaningful impact! We have tried to capture this in our revised Mission Statement (it's first refresh since the college was renamed back in 2006):

> ***We will strengthen sustainable agriculture, food security, and environmental stewardship through innovative research, teaching and collaboration that improves well-being for all, locally and globally.***

Importantly, the mission and plan were drafted with significant input from our newest cohort of new faculty: by spring, we expect to be up to 25 new hires in the last three years (we have two new hires already scheduled to start this winter, and a few more searches underway). While our faculty numbers had dipped in the first few years post-COVID, reflecting some financial challenges, we are excited to be back up to our more typical complement and to have so many smart and enthusiastic new scholars eager to have an impact in the communities and industries we serve. Watch for these folks at conferences, workshops, and field days and welcome them to our ecosystem!

There's so much happening in the college this coming year, so please keep an eye on our socials (LinkedIn, Instagram) for more to-the-minute updates. Otherwise, please keep in touch and I'll look forward to seeing many of you in January!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates' Association

The Annual General meeting of SAGA will be held:

Tuesday, January 12, 2027
7:00 PM SK time

This meeting will be held by Zoom only. Register in advance for this meeting on the SAGA homepage.

Register for AGM

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meeting registrations received before January 9 will be emailed reports in advance of the meeting.

SAGA Reunion 2026



1976 College
Front L-R: Stuart McDonald, Curt Vossen, Rick Stokes, Carman Read, Barry Harris
Back L-R: Bert De Gooijer, Don Battiste, Doyle Wiebe, Don Martin, Walter Fast, Al Bradshaw, Gary Meier, Connie Heisler, Elwin Smith, Royal Hinther, Robert Tyler, Bill Hill, Dave Bettschen, Brent Kennedy, Barry Gibbs, Phil Amundson.



1986 College
Front L-R: Taras Borowetz, Ray Elliott, Alice (Lipsey) Wilson, Janet (Campbell) Nameth, Raelene (Allard) Petracek, Kathy Murphy, Harvey Petracek, Lorna (Petersen) Stephen
Back L-R: Hugh McDermott, Allan Nameth, Bruce Harrison, Sheldon Maertz, Valerie (Smith) Pearson, Kevin Daniels, Rob Jones, Jim Forbes, Monique (Tremblay) Lischynski, Don Poisson, John Cote, Corey Loessin, Craig Rath
Attending the reunion, but missing in the photo: Darwin Pidwerbesky, Jeff Isenor, Blair Harris, Don Beauchesne, Tom Scott



1996 College
Front L-R: Kirsten Gaudet, Jeff Hammond, Travis Wiens, Jodie Atkinson, Brian Kohlman
Middle L-R: Garth Gross, Alexis Zalewski, Devin Wiens, Wade Dunham, Nanette Glover. Patrick Weatherald, Tyler Friesen
Back L-R: Curtis Sinnott, Aaron Backman, Lindsey Good, Todd Friday, Mike Kirzinger, Margaret Rigetti, Jay Bruggencate



1996 School
Front L-R: Dennis Stevenson, Priscilla Hanley, Wes Orosz
Back L-R: Roger Barron, Cam Weibe, Adam Anderson, Marcel Hounjet



2006 College
Front L-R: Colleen Vany, with us in spirit Marc Delage, Janel Delage
Back L-R: Sonya Fieldmeier, Jeff Bergermann, Erin Trytten, Justin Kusler



2016 AgBio
Front L-R: Shannon Walker, Shayla (Hertz) Wourms, Amanda (Wuchner) Smith, Olivia Whitmore
Back L-R: Shelby LaRose, Brayden Connor, Mathew Scott, Jaden Wood-Sparrow, Lane Christiansen



ASA
Front L-R: Karlin Frykas '26 C President, Jorga Beck '27 C Internal VP
Back L-R: Ashton Penmann '27 C Academic VP, Kenda Frykas '28 C Photo Lit, Laurel O'Neill '26 C PRO, Quinten Albrecht '27 C Councillor

SAGA Honourary Life Members 2027

These individuals will be recognized at the 2027 SAGA Reunion Banquet

Pat Flaten '82 S, '86 C, '02 MSc has been involved in research and extension work relating to soil and crop management for most of her career. She received her Diploma and Bachelor's and Masters degrees from the University of Saskatchewan. Her latest career position was as a Research Program Manager with Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF). Prior to that, she was Research Manager with Sask Canola for six years. Among her accomplishments, she was founding manager of the Saskatchewan Conservation Learning Centre near Prince Albert, a research and demonstration facility for the Parkland area of Saskatchewan. Pat was also very involved in the direct seeding movement and previously worked for the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association in Swift Current. She was the Head of Agriculture Programs at SIAST, a senior agronomist for a soil testing lab and at the Department of Soil Science at the USask.

Pat retired in 2022 after spending her working career in the agriculture industry, soil and crop management with a focus in research, research funding and extension. Pat's interest in good governance and bringing value to members is also witnessed by the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists, and other community boards including pickle ball, and various church boards.

Corey Loessin C'86 has spent a career in crop industry development, including extension and grower training in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Along with other USask educators he helped develop and deliver the Certificate in Agriculture, horticulture and farm business programs. Corey has also been involved in the communication of continuous cropping and minimal tillage approaches on the prairies. With a strong interest in pulse production, Corey was a director with both Sask Pulse and Pulse Canada, including chairmanship of both groups over a 10-year period. His interests included the Canadian Chemical Producers Association's Responsible Care program, trade, and the impact of Maximum Residue Limits for crop protection products.

Corey served on the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Board, and the Western Grains Research Foundation board to help guide research investment on behalf of farmers. He also filled the role of SAGA President in 1998. Corey farms near Radisson with his wife Joan and family. They have hosted on-farm tours including Canola Camp, Ag in the Classroom, pulse groups, chef/food groups, Cereals Canada and others. With a strong devotion to agriculture, Corey says it's been a great pleasure to share their farm strategy and systems and explain their focus on soil conservation.

We've come a long way baby

BY LINDSAY FOLK '88 C

How does an Agro go from a career in the livestock industry to becoming a sculptor? It's a good story … and as **Don Hepburn '72 C** told me, his sculpting passion all started in the Bowl, in February 1971.

Don grew up in the Yorkton area and eventually came to USask to study animal science. His first endeavour in sculpting was with the Agros, who created an ice sculpture of a mother sow, with little piglets nursing on beer bottles. Don graduated in 1972 and started his career in Swift Current, working for Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in the livestock yards. In 1974 he moved to Regina to work with Agriculture Canada. While in Regina, he found himself involved with Agribition and eventually became the Chair of the Dairy Committee. In 1984, the idea to do a butter sculpture as a competition came about and Don found himself creating sculptures in butter.

In 1992 Don and his wife Arlene moved to Cochrane, Alberta, where he worked with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency until he retired in 2004. Don became involved with The Stockmen's Memorial Foundation (an organization dedicated to the collection and preservation of the history of Western ranching and the livestock industry). Needing a hobby in his retirement, he decided to take up bronze sculpting, which has turned into a prolific and inspiring endeavour. Among his creations are Frank Jacob's Heifer (in recognition of the former editor of the Canadian Cattlemen's magazine), which he created 10 of, the sale of which raised $30,000 for the Foundation. He's also done a bronze of Ian Tyson as a cutting horse participant at Agribition, called "And Stood There Amazed". Don creates his bronze sculptures using the "lost-wax method", and then they are cast at a bronze foundry in Cochrane.





Arlene and Don Hepburn presenting "We've come a long way baby" to Luke Germain, ASA PRO

In October, Don and Arlene travelled to Saskatoon to donate the bronze "We've come a long way baby" to the Agros, in commemoration of the Class of 1972. The sculpture is of a steer, branded with two historic Saskatchewan brands - the 76 and Matador Ranch. The title of the bronze signifies both the significant distances that cattle from these ranches would have travelled, as well as the accomplishments and journeys of members of the Class of 1972.

Thank you Don for sharing your talents with present day Agros.

1966 Voc Ag Reunion in 2027

The class of '66 Voc Ags are hosting a reunion at Waskesui Lake June 11 and 12, 2027. 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

Lorne McConaghy
306-921-9920

Jim Horne ('67)
306-978-4078

Ralph Howes
306-684-0576

Murray Coolidge ('65)
306-821-6336

AG BAG DRAG Goose

BY KENDA FRYKAS '28 C, 75TH DRAG DIRECTOR

This year marked the 75th annual Ag Bag Drag! Since 1951 the U of S Agros have organized the biggest college event bringing in talent from across Canada. This year we had the opportunity to have Tony Stevens and headliner Aaron Goodvin play to a sold-out venue. With an attendance of 1,500 people (ish... I might have over sold a few extra tickets) the Agros celebrated an astonishing 75 years. Both current students and past alumni showed up and what a good time it was!

This year's Drag slogans were "Double the shot, hold the mix, see y'all at Drag '26" and "75 years true forever bleed blue". What better way to celebrate Drag than with the man who started it all. **Ross Reynolds '53 C**, trad jacket and all, joined us on stage to tell us stories from the first Ag Bag Drag. Did you know they used to wear suits so the men could hide mickeys in their jacket pocket? At 95 years young, just having finished helping with harvest, Reynolds came to party. He is a true Agro at heart and someone to aspire to be. Reynolds had everyone laughing from his stories and his humor. He kicked off the night yelling "Are we happy?" and OH BOY, he had every Agro chanting.

With the help of my committee: Quinton Albrecht, Zoe Schafer, Morgan Debenham, Jorja Beck, Courtney Strudwick, Ashley Klein, Rikell McCuaig, Ashton Penman, Jana Rumpel and Chase Sliworsky, we brought back many traditions. We kicked it off with the Drag BBQ outside the Ag Building with Babco Meats. Ticket sales started that day, and we sold out of early bird tickets in less than 2 hours.

October began and the Drag Car hit the roads of Saskatoon! Painted all blue, the car successfully made it 21 days on the street before having to be towed into Prairieland. Dylan Hogg and the first years kept the car running, with one trip to the impound to break it out and a few flat tire repairs.



Ross Reynolds '53 C and his granddaughters Sydney and Amber '27 C



Hearing stories and looking at yearbook photos, I knew we had to recreate the historic semi-truck that would stop at the Labatt factory and pick up beer for Drag. Logan Stockbrugger ran with my crazy idea to replicate this. Bringing in his iconic Peterbuilt, with a quick pit stop to pick up a trailer from the Trailer Guys, the tradition was brought back.

To mark 75 years we designed limited edition Ag Bag Drag hats with Prairie Proud. Selling out of 200, we put in another order and sold an additional 200.

[Reynolds] is a true Agro at heart and someone to aspire to be. [He] had everyone laughing from his stories and his humor. He kicked off the night yelling "Are we happy?" and OH BOY, he had every Agro chanting.

They were a big hit; looking around class, even around town you can find someone wearing our signature hats.

Drag 75 was a historic night, full of memories, old stories, dancing, music and of course beer! The alumni drank the VIP section out of rye! An event that will be remembered for years brought alumni and current students together to wear the Agro A with pride. Alumni showed up in their trad jackets and blue Agro merch ready to show us youngsters how fun Drag really is. This was a big event and would not have been possible without our sponsors South Country Equipment, JGL, Ag Grow Consulting, BASF, Adama, Gowan, SaskTel and A&E Schafer Farms. It was an honour to be this year's Drag Director, a surreal opportunity, learning experience, and most of all a blast. An event I will remember forever and look back at, thinking of laughs and smiles that were shared.

Ag Bag Drag Agros, and what a Drag it was!



Mayson Maerz's '83 C grandson asked, "is that you and Gramma on a bird?"

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Introducing 2026 SAGA Scholarship recipients



Aodhan Hildebrandt

My name is Aodhan Hildebrandt and I'm from Comox, BC. I'm currently in my final year of animal science with the goal of continuing my education at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.



Melissa Wilson

I am a fourth-year Food and Bioproduct Sciences (FABS) student from Saskatoon and a parent to a young daughter. I began my degree at another college, but one elective in FABS changed the course of my education. It led me to switch colleges, complete an honours thesis and win two competitive NSERC-USRA research positions within the department. I am so grateful for the support of the College and its faculty who have made this an incredible experience.

Prairie Chicken

BY IRENE AHNER '65 C

On October 24, 2026, a Celebration of Life was held for **Ernie Spencer '65 C**, hosted by his family in his hometown of Craik. Ernie passed away unexpectedly on June 21, 2026.

Classmates who were able to attend were **Bob Mason '65 C**, wife Cora Greer, **Jim Ewart '65 C**, **Marcel Dubois '65 C** and myself. His very close friend, **Ron Bischoff '70 C**, and his wife, Irene, were kind enough to take me along from Saskatoon. We were all treated to Ernie's favorite dessert, pie.

Ernie had been an Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Provincial Government in the 90's. His former Minister, Eric Upshall, came to honour Ernie and recount his memories.

His daughter, Lori Ann Frey, sent the following comments.

"I appreciate all of you for making time. I know that dad was very fond and proud of his Agro family and friends. It is something I have noticed over the years with Agros ... they are a different and caring lot. I have many friends that were/ are Agros that are still close friends with their classmates.

It makes my heart happy that my kids have formed the same friendships thru the Agros ... many of their friends have become my extra "kids". They are special—caring kids, that always step in and step up, many times without being asked. I saw that in my dad's friendships, and I couldn't ask for anything better for my own kids. I truly believe there is an "Agro personality" and part of it is being raised rurally, with salt of the earth roots."

We will miss him.

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email?

Do you want to reduce your paper footprint? Would you like to receive this newsletter immediately on the publication date and not wonder when it might be delivered to your mailbox? Want to reduce cost for your grads association?

Just send an email to newsletter@saskaggrads.com and we can make that change for you.

SAGA Survey: We Wanna Improve

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates' Association (SAGA) is an alumni volunteer group that promotes connections with all USask ag grads and students. We are taking a look at what we do and how, and improvements to help address member needs. Feel free to participate in a survey located on the SAGA home page by February 1, 2027 and answers will remain anonymous. If you want the survey sent to you, please email contact@saskaggrads.com. SAGA wants your feedback!

ASA Fall Semester Report

BY LUKE GERMAIN, ’27 C, ASA PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Hello SAGA members, we have had a very memorable first semester at the college this year. We started the year strong with a very impressive showing at both orientation and first-year games night. We had some really amazing events like Corona Luau, Inspark slo-pitch tournament, college splash and sidewalk painting. Other events included casino night, farm tour, club day, blood drives and various lunch and learns. We took part in our 2nd ever CIBC Run for the Cure event where we had over 40 runners show up and we raised $4,500 for breast cancer research! The 75th Ag Bag Drag took place at Prairieland on October 23, where our drag director Kenda Frykas ’28 C did such an amazing job completely selling it out! (see Kenda’s article). Some other fundraising type events still to come (at the time of writing) include the Halloween food drive, “Movember” for men’s mental health, as well as fundraising and laying a wreath in support of veterans and more recently the tragedy at CFB Wainwright. We will end the semester with a toy drive and our annual winter formal event.

Our major fundraiser this year is March for STARS (for STARS Air Ambulance), which will be headlined by bringing back the STARS Frozen Genetics Sale at the Farmgate sale on DLMS, January 4-5, 2027. While it is too late to get in the catalog, we are still taking donation lots in the form of frozen genetics, sale credits, or even simply donations. If you or your company has any questions or would like to donate please reach out to public.relationsuofs@gmail.com.

I have had an amazing time meeting some of you and cannot wait to work with SAGA and meet more of you for a strong 2026-2027 year!

AgBio Clubs Update

BY LUKE GERMAIN, ’27 C, ASA PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER AND **MADISYN ROBERTSON ’28 C,** ASA CLUB LIAISON

The **Agribusiness Club** brings together AgBio students to explore industry trends, hear guest speakers and tour local businesses. Upcoming events include a tour of the FCL Distribution Warehouse, guest speakers Laura Carruthers and Grace Squire discussing careers in agriculture, a flour mill tour and social events such as bingo, pool tournaments and the annual Cornhole Tournament and Dance.

The **USask Pre-Veterinary Club (PVC)** supports prospective veterinarians from diverse backgrounds by helping students explore veterinary careers and prepare competitive veterinary school applications. Events include mock interviews, animal-based labs, charity fundraisers and social nights. Members also receive priority access to exclusive university information sessions and veterinary school events.

The **USask Canadian Agri-food Marketers Alliance (CAMA)** team develops three-year marketing plans for new products, competing annually at the NAMA student competition in the United States (placing 5th in 2025 and 3rd in 2026). Members also compete in CAMA’s November case competition (1st in 2024), gaining industry connections, marketing experience and public speaking skills.

The **USask Poultry Science Society** connects students with hands-on learning experiences, industry professionals and research opportunities in poultry science. Members have the chance to tour hatcheries, feed mills, barns and processing plants, attend industry events and conferences and network with veterinarians, nutritionists and poultry specialists. The society also builds community on campus by hosting educational and social events for students with an interest in agriculture, animal science and food production.

Established in 2012, the **USask Rodeo Team** supports post-secondary rodeo athletes academically and in the arena. Members represent several Saskatchewan institutions, including USask, U of R and Sask Polytechnic. Operating under the CCRA, the team is Saskatchewan’s only Canadian College Rodeo Team and achieved record membership in 2025-26.

The **USask Beef Team** has an exciting year planned! Our members have been hard at work securing sponsorship and preparing for our upcoming trip to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. From January 7-13, 2027, 25 of our members will attend Cattlemen’s Congress and tour beef operations across the state, gaining valuable industry knowledge and networking opportunities. We are also looking forward to hosting our 3rd annual Beef Bash on Friday, February 5, 2027, at the Sutherland Hall. The event will feature a delicious beef supper, live auction and live music by Cole Patton. We would love to see you all there!

In early November the **Livestock Judging Team** will be sending a team of members to Farmfair International to attend the University of Alberta’s judging competition. Following that there will be a team headed to Canadian Western Agribition for their event. Once again, they will be collaborating with Prairieland and 4-H Saskatchewan to host their home competition “Dare2Judge” which takes place this coming winter.

A Tribute to Dr. John Stewart: A Personal Perspective

BY JEFF SCHOENAU ’84 C, ’88 PHD



When I started my graduate studies program in the Department of Soil Science in 1984 with Dr. Jeff Bettany, Dr. John Stewart was the Department Head. As an undergraduate student I was very interested in soil fertility and was inspired and guided by many excellent faculty in the Department, including Jeff and John, who worked closely together on nutrient cycling. Dr. Bettany became my supervisor and John served as my graduate committee chair. I have many fond memories of John as Department Head. He always had staff and students over to his house where he and his spouse Ann provided wonderful hospitality and fellowship. John served on many graduate student committees and always provided excellent advice. He taught a graduate class in soil nutrient cycling with emphasis on soil nutrient bioavailability which inspired me throughout my career including development of new soil testing approaches to account for nutrient mobility.

John was a globally recognized and respected expert in nutrient biogeochemistry, with emphasis on soil phosphorus and sulfur transformations. His basic research set the foundation for basic and applied research into these nutrients that continues to this day. For example, John’s research work in the 1970s and 1980s contributed to development of the best sulfur and phosphorus fertilizer management practices for what, at that time, was a new crop on the prairies: canola. John was a visionary and pioneer in the environmental science field as well. His research program measured and modelled soil processes, including gaseous emissions, that developed into entire sub-disciplines of environmental science research that are widely applied today.

John also travelled much to collaborate with other scientists across the world. I recall strong ties he developed with agricultural research efforts in Brazil and China, and the many individuals who came to study at USask because of his outreach. John worked tirelessly as Dean of the College of Agriculture in the late 1980s and early 1990s to make the new Agriculture Building, which we all know and love today, a reality. Dr. John Stewart indeed created a legacy that positively impacted many, many people. He made a great difference in my career and life for which I am truly grateful as no doubt, many others are too.

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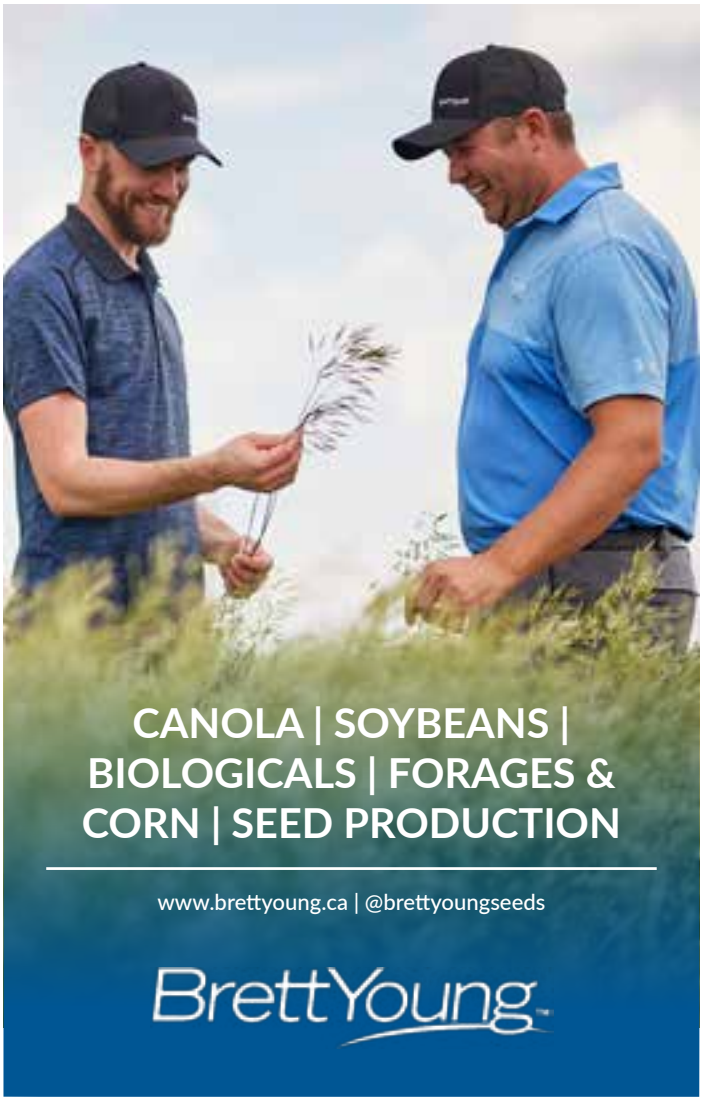

Empty Saddles

Names in order of graduating year

Wallace "Wally" James Simpson
'42 S, July 16, 2025

Frederick James Grant
'49 C, March 4, 2026

Alexander James "Jim" Webster
'49 C, August 21, 2026

William "Bill" Dale Heenan
'49 S, May 17, 2023

David Herbert Ford
'50 S, August 17, 2025

John Herbert Birchall
'51 S, June 7, 2026

Edwin Wightman Everitt
'51 S, May 13, 2026

Robert "Bob" Clarence Oberg
'51 S, May 25, 2026

Donald Allan Jenkins
'53 S, July 31, 2025

William M Bayda
'55 C, July 21, 2025

Dr. David "Dave" Leisle
'56 C, '58 MSc, January 4, 2025

John "Jack" Hugh Nelson
'56 S, September 24, 2025

John Milton Pascoe
'56 S, October 13, 2026

Harvey Clifford Goehring
'57 C, July 18, 2026

Delbert Allister Flaten
'57 S, March 26, 2022

Leonard William Fisher
'59 C, July 11, 2026

Meron J Lanoway
'60 C, April 6, 2024

William "Bill" Frederick Tingley
'61 S, August 31, 2026

John "Jack" Owen Ellis
'63 C, January 12, 2024

Dr. Andrew Schmitz
'63 C, October 8, 2026

Russell Stanley Jacobs
'64 C, March 10, 2026

James "Roger" Frederick Moore
'64 C, May 25, 2025

David "Dave" Albert Grajcyzk
'64 S, September 29, 2026

Ernest "Ernie" Spencer
'65 C, June 21, 2026

Larry Grant Thompson
'66 S, September 16, 2026

James Stuart Inkster
'67 S, June 27, 2026

William "Bill" Johnstone
'68 S, July 13, 2025

Douglas Arthur Horner
'69 C, June 3, 2026

Calvin Leo John Jackson
'72 C, July 9, 2026

Thomas "Tom" James Mathieson
'72 C, July 20, 2025

Raymond Knutson
'72 S, September 23, 2026

Keith Allan Springall
'73 C, September 6, 2026

Richard John Enns
'73 S, February 27, 2026

Vern "Dale" Polichuk
'75 S, June 8, 2026

Jay MacDonald
'76 C, July 16, 2026

Wesley Alvin Memory
'76 S, May 19, 2026

Gary William Langley
'77 S, February 7, 2026

Joanne Cora Kowalski
'92 C, '98 MSc, April 13, 2026

Nancy Erin McCrea
'99 C, June 16, 2025

Ryan Glenn Bender
'00 S, September 2, 2026

Ayla Alexandra Chipman
'20 C AgBio, July 16, 2026

Professor Emeritus
John Wray Black Stewart
Dean, College of Agriculture
1989-1999, August 20, 2026

We've lost track of some members …

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

Rodney Altwasser '66 C
Christopher Baan '00 C
Dwaine Bax '92 S
Terry Bohrson '71 S
Ronald Bonish '78 C
Schenley Borys '12 AgBio
Gordon Bue '78 C
George Burton '51 S
Myles Buttonn '18 AgBio
Robert Campbell '56 S
Gerald Coles '66 S
Douglas Collins '63 C
Kenneth Copithorne '60 S
Gerald Coutts '72 C
Dean Crozon '79 S
Wayne Cubbon '83 C
Graham Dorn '76 C
Darin Egert '89 C
Lanette Ehman '96 C
Laurie Entwistle '72 C
Terence Flynn '79 S
Celeste Foster '92 C
Jamie Freedman '07 AgBio
Raymond Gilmour '87 C
Douglas Graham '89 C
Sharie Gross '97 C
Frederick Gross '82 S
Thomas Hamlin '73 C
Gerald Harrison '83 C
Elwood Hart '59 C
Jim Hart '62 C
George Heidgerken '80 C
Rebbecca Holden '01 C
Perry Johnson '74 S
David Krause '89 S
Keith Lundgren '72 S
Andrew Mess '74 S
Thomas Monea '84 C
Larry Morningstar '62 S
Rodger Niebergall '79 S
Dr. Barry Olson '79 C
Edwin Plewes '83 C
Kathy Poff (Hanson) '88 C
Jason Remus '92 S
Bev Rosher '76 S
Peter Sandercock '91 C
Kevin Seaman '14 AgBio
Reg Skinner '63 C
Marshall Smith '47 S
Laura Thibault '94 C
Charles Thompson '51 C
Rodney Tondevold '68 S
Dave Walker '69 S
Wayne White '72 C
Van Whitehead '68 C
Michael Zentner '89 S
Henry Zilm '69 C

Life Membership in SAGA

Give the gift that lasts a lifetime! Know someone that will be graduating (or has graduated already). Being a member of SAGA is a great way to keep in touch with ag grads and create connections in the industry. Cost is just $150 for a Lifetime Membership. Purchase at the SAGA website.

Saskatchewan Crop Association Annual General Meetings

Register today for the 2026/2027 AGMs for these Saskatchewan crop organizations:

Thursday, December 3 and Friday December 4, 2026

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

AGM, Information Sessions, Trade Fair displays, Workshop

8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Carrot River Community Hall, 3240 – 3rd Avenue, Carrot River

Thursday, December 10, 2026

Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan

AGM and Information Session

9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Saskatoon Inn

Monday, January 11, 2027

Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association

AGM, Awards Banquet

TCU Place, Centennial Hall A, Saskatoon

Wednesday, January 13, 2027

SaskOats (Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission)

AGM, Research Update and Market Outlook Session

For AGM meeting details go to poga.ca

Thursday, January 14, 2027

Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission

AGM, Research Updates and Market Outlook Session

9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Prairieland Park, Hall A, Saskatoon

For more information and to register, please go to cropweek.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 April 15, 2027.

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