



## President's Pen

Greetings Fellow Grads ... Time seems to fly by as we move through spring into June and closer to summer. Here's hoping that 2024 has been good to you thus far. And speaking about time flying by, *SAGA* will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary in 2025! It's an amazing accomplishment in which all Ag Grads can be proud. The spirit of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources is the envy of all colleges at the U of S and *SAGA* remains the gold standard (or maybe the Blue and Green standard) that all other alumni associations wish to achieve.

As part of our preparations for our celebrations in January, the decision has been made to move the 90th *SAGA* Reunion Banquet to the Western Development Museum (WDM) in Saskatoon. While TCU Place has been an excellent host for our previous banquets, the relocation to the WDM is a move that we hope will deliver a more affordable banquet while providing extra benefits such as access to the museum tours prior to the banquet and free parking to name a few. We look forward to seeing you at the reunion weekend.

You may have noticed a few extra emails coming to you from *SAGA* in the past year. While our newsletter will remain a twice a year release, we are using our email list to provide a few timely updates in advance of the newsletters. Our spring update included information on the reunion for 2025 and an update on the *SAGA* Undergrad Scholarship including links to the College's Scholarship report. Since its establishment in 2019, *SAGA*'s award has recognized and supported some truly amazing AgBio students. Note that the scholarship is short of the funds needed to give out its two annual awards this year. Please consider a donation to support this important award and thank you to everyone who has supported the *SAGA* Undergraduate scholarship.

After many years, even decades of a Life membership for *SAGA* being \$100, as of June 30, 2024 the cost of memberships to *SAGA*

will increase to \$150 for Lifetime and \$25 for Annual memberships. This was approved at the last *SAGA* Annual General Meeting. We'd like to be able to blame the carbon tax, but it's been that slow creep of inflation over time that has made a small increase to our membership fees a necessity. So with the change occurring July 1, you still have time to purchase that Life membership for yourself or as a great graduation gift to a recent graduate.

I need to recognize the great relationship that *SAGA* has with the Agriculture Students Association (ASA). Cailey Church was the ASA rep on the *SAGA* executive for the past year and was fantastic in organizing student support at the 2024 Reunion banquet and in keeping *SAGA* informed of ASA activities including the incredibly successful Telemiracle Bed Push, Bean Feed, ASA Grad and various fundraising events hosted by the students throughout the year. We look forward to working with Mason Beck, the new ASA PRO on the *SAGA* executive over the coming year.

I would also like to welcome our new Vice-President **Terry Grajczyk '83 C** to the *SAGA* executive. Terry resides and farms near the metropolis of Zehner. If you are trying to locate Zehner without using google maps, just head northeast of Regina. If you get to Edenwold, you've gone too far. I'd like to thank Terry for stepping forward into the Vice-President role. And would like to thank all members of the *SAGA* executive who volunteer their time to organize the reunion weekend, create the newsletters you receive, keep the finances in order, represent *SAGA* at the Ag Hall of Fame, organize our meetings and keep records of all we do and so much more. As "Many hands make light work," we appreciate all Ag Grads and students, and the time and effort you provide in support of *SAGA*.

Thank you! Have a great summer.

Henry de Gooijer '83 C

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### **SAGA Memberships fee changes – effective June 30, 2024**

The cost of memberships to *SAGA* will increase to \$150 for Lifetime and \$25 for Annual memberships purchased after June 30, 2024. This was approved at the last *SAGA* Annual General Meeting.

Do you have a graduating U of S ag student this spring?? A Life membership in *SAGA* makes a great graduation gift! To purchase a membership, go to <https://saskaggrads.com/index.php?page=become-a-member>

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## Thoughts ...

One of my privileges of being co-editor of this newsletter is the opportunity to connect! Since I've become involved with *SAGA*, I have met (mostly virtually) so many great people, invested in creating a vibrant community of ag grads.

Some wonderful people phone me ... two grandpas, Ernie Spencer and Lewis Reeve, called me to ask me about buying *SAGA* memberships for the grandchildren that were graduating from U of S this year. That's a unique and thoughtful graduation gift. Another day, I had an interesting conversation with Dawn Reesor (daughter of **Eric Reesor '67 C**), who called to let me know that her dad had passed away. We chatted about their family ranch in the Cypress Hills – “Historic Reesor Ranch” – which my husband and I and friends stayed at in 2021. These are all connections I wouldn't get to make, if not for *SAGA*. I'd love to hear from more of you ... if you have something to share with your fellow ag grads, please email me at [newsletter@saskaggrads.com](mailto:newsletter@saskaggrads.com) or call me at 306-537-2802.

We have a big garden at our farmyard and so I rely on the excellent resources of Gardening at USask. The website is full of gardening advice that is prairie-tested and they also offer public workshops and events. This spring, many classes were offered for free, sponsored by a generous donation from Norma and **Bob Mc Kercher**. You'll read later on in this issue about Bob, who passed away in January, written by his friend, colleague and curling team mate, **Les Henry**.

Lastly, I want to recognize past-president of *SAGA* – **John Hauer** – for his past (but still ongoing) service to our grads' association. And I would encourage any of you that are interested in volunteering with *SAGA* to just reach out. Getting involved is a wonderful idea to connect with your classmates and others in the ag industry that you don't know yet.

Take care ... best wishes for a wonderful summer season.

**Lindsay Folk '88 C**

## Looking for Members

We've lost contact with some of our members!

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

[memberships@saskaggrads.com](mailto:memberships@saskaggrads.com)

**Reginald Adam '52 C**

**Ronald Alexander '66 S**

**Ken Bassendowski '72 C**

**Gordon Bue '78 C**

**George Burton '51 S**

**Robert Campbell '56 S**

**Joh Chuey '61 C**

**Kenneth Copithorne '60 S**

**Gerald Coutts '72 C**

**Janice Cruise '87 C**

**Kevin Daniels '86 C**

**Gerald (Gerry) Dyck '60 C**

**Laurie Entwistle '72 C**

**Kenneth Forden '70 C**

**Douglas Graham '89 C**

**Gerald Harrison '83 C**

**Jim Hart '62 C**

**George Heidgerken '80 C**

**William Hetland '78 C**

**Tom Janzen '77 C**

**John Kindrachuk '79 S**

**Keith Lundgren '72 S**

**Ted McCannel '50 C**

**Stephanie Meier '08 S**

**Lawrence Middleton '57 S**

**Thomas Monea '84 C**

**Don Murphy '83 S**

**Malcolm Nisbet '72 S**

**Tiffany Peters '08 S**

**Bev Rosher '76 S**

**Peter Sandercock '91 C**

**Laura Shoemaker '93 S**

**Reg Skinner '63 C**

**Kimberly Sutherland '89 C**

**Laura Thibault '94 C**

**Sharon Walker '75 C**

**Vince Walker '75 C**

**Alexander Webster '49 C**

**Richard Wharton '77 C**

**Wayne White '72 C**

**Van Whitehead '68 C**

**Patrick Zentner '72 S**

**Henry Zilm '69 C**

## Announcing 2025 Nominees for Honorary Life Member

**Kevin Hursh '80 C**, is one of the country's leading agricultural commentators. He is an agrologist, journalist and farmer. Kevin and his wife Marlene run Hursh Consulting & Communications based in Saskatoon. They also own and operate a farm near Cabri in southwest Saskatchewan growing a wide variety of crops. Kevin writes regular columns for farm publications and can often be heard on Saskatchewan radio stations.

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

**Donald Grant Devine '67 C** received a BSA from University of Saskatchewan and completed a PhD in Agricultural Economics at Ohio State University in 1976.

He was Professor of Economics at the University of Saskatchewan from 1975 to 1980. From 1982 to 1992, Grant served as Premier of Saskatchewan and was involved in the privatization of the oil, potash and uranium industries and negotiated land transfers to Treaty Six Indigenous Communities.

Grant was a leading advocate for the fundraising to build the new College of Agriculture building on the U Sask campus.

# Congratulating 2024 Honorary Life Member Inductees

## 2024 Honorary Life Member Inductee – Janice Tranberg

**Janice Tranberg's** ('94 C) path to a career in agriculture began in rural Saskatchewan where she was raised, first around Balgonie, and then Big River. Drawn to plants, she obtained a horticulture diploma from Olds College, but her love of science led her back to the U of S, earning her BSA, followed by a 1998 MSc in molecular biology and plant pathology.

She started working in the "new and really cool" biotechnology sector with Performance Plants. After working as a research scientist, her career focus changed when Peter McCann, president of Ag-West Biotech, hired her as Communications and Regulatory Affairs Director. In 2007, she joined CropLife Canada as VP Western Canada, continuing to develop her expertise in regulatory affairs, communications, and government relations. In 2014, Janice moved to Regina for an opportunity as Assistant Deputy Minister of Regulatory and Innovation for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. Here she had the entire breadth of agriculture in her portfolio, which gave her new understanding into the way governments operate. Previously, her roles focused on advocating and bringing forward issues, but now it was "quite an interesting experience to work on the other side of the fence."

From 2015 – 2018, Janice continued building relations and representing crop producers as Executive Director with SaskCanola in Saskatoon. In 2018, Janice brought her expertise to the top leadership role in the Canadian cattle feeding sector. For the past five years, Janice has been the dual President and CEO of both the National and Alberta Cattle Feeders Associations, based in Calgary. Her focus has been on supporting and advocating for cattle feeders on a broad range of policies and issues impacting the competitiveness of beef production in Canada.

Her broad-reaching career in Saskatchewan and Alberta makes her a strong voice for the ag sector, and she sits on several industry and community boards and committees, including as the industry Co-chair of the AAFC Animal Protein Roundtable. Recently, Janice was awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for her vocal and effective advocacy for the livestock industry in Alberta and Canada.

Janice Tranberg is a well-known presence within the ag industry. Her strong policy advocacy and enthusiasm to work towards a positive future has brought meaningful change for Canadian farmers and ranchers.



**Janice Tranberg**

## 2024 Honorary Life Member Inductee – Dr. Fran Walley

Fran Walley recently retired (2023) from the University of Saskatchewan where she was Associate Dean (Academic) in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and Professor Emerita in the Department of Soil Science. Fran obtained her BSc and MSc from the University of Manitoba, then earned her PhD in soil microbiology from the U of S. She began her career as an Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist at a time when pulse crops were becoming widely adopted on the prairies.



**Dr. Fran Walley**

Her extension experience with farmers sparked an active research program of soil nitrogen dynamics and pulse crop agronomy. Her work in soil nutrient management was essential in informing agriculture management practices and improving our understanding of the benefits of crop rotation. Her ability to communicate this information garnered her invitations to present to regional farmer groups, and to national and international conferences.

An acknowledged outstanding professor, Dr. Walley introduced thousands of students to plant and soil science through her involvement in teaching one of the core first-year AgBio classes. Her goal was for students to not only have basic knowledge but also to share in the excitement of agriculture, regardless of whether they would go on to major in soil science, agronomy, ag business, or food science. Fran authored/co-authored more than 65 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters and supervised/co-supervised more than 30 graduate and post doc students.

For the last third of her career, Dr. Walley moved into an administrative leadership role. As Associate Dean (Academic), Fran strengthened her rapport with students and faculty, as well as with other key stakeholders in the agriculture industry, including the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists (SIA). An advocate of Indigenous learning, Fran and her team promoted a highly innovative course for Indigenous students, improving a certificate class to a 2-year Diploma Land Managers program.

Fran has been a national leader. During her term as President of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, she championed development of the first-ever Canadian based soil science e-textbook. Recently, she co-led a three-year project to create an online Prairie Nutrient Removal calculator for commonly grown Prairie crops. Fran Walley's leadership has contributed to the agriculture industry, helping to ensure it remains relevant and beneficial to students, farmers, and academics.

## Letter From A (Retired?) Prairie Chicken

In the fall of 2023, Derald & I, with the help of our family, moved from our farm house to a good-sized house in Maple Creek. We had owned the town house for over a year, bringing in a few boxes on each trip to town but now it was time for a move like we had never experienced. This may sound strange to most of you, but we never had to box up our entire belongings and furniture for a move, even though we lived in Saskatoon and Brandon for 13 years before coming back to the Maple Creek farm.

During the Saskatoon college years, I just had to pack suitcases for moves between home and light housekeeping residences. After 1st year, Derald's family purchased a used 8' x 35' house trailer for him to share with his new friends, the Keefe brothers from Griffin, Saskatchewan.

I replaced his roommates in 1965, moving in a few wedding gifts and combining our pots and pans. I did have to learn to cook on a gas stove and have never gone back to an electric one.

Our move to Brandon in 1967 involved securing things on the floor and having the trailer towed there. We lived quite comfortably in our small home, a block from the Agricultural Extension Centre where Derald had become the SW Manitoba Livestock Specialist. We now have friends who have RV's that are bigger than our old trailer.

When our family was expanding in 1969, we purchased a 12' x 52' trailer. In 1974, everything was boxed up on the floor again and home was towed to the farm. The old farm house was still in existence. We used it for storage until 2015 when it was finally demolished and replaced by a Sea Can.

We began building a new house in 1981, mostly by ourselves with neighbourhood bees on occasion. Moving finally in 1988 involved carrying dishes and furniture about 50' from one building to the other. The trailer became a workshop and storage place, complete with electricity and a refrigerator. I had planned to continue having two kitchens but the mice eventually put an end to that.

The whole experience of emptying rooms into boxes and labelling them for the right rooms in the town house was mind-boggling. Fortunately, our daughters, spouses and grandson have made several moves so they could provide expertise and strength. The final

move was done professionally.

In this whole process, we have discovered how much "stuff" had accumulated over the last 59 years of marriage, some not even seen since thrust into the back of a closet or cupboard. We were raised by parents who grew up through the '30's so we were taught to never throw anything away because it might be needed again.

We have also inherited mounds of pictures, dishes, remnants from sewing projects, old letters and diaries from several generations of each family. We have enough books to furnish a library and I have never thrown out a *SAGA* Newsletter or a *Green & White*. I know these can now be all read online but it is not the same. Derald still has some files from when he worked in Manitoba; taught courses for Wascana and was on the local Co-op Board for 30 years.

I have collected many community history books from both of our home areas which get used regularly. However, I also have history books from other Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario communities which I have found at garage sales or have been given to me because other people didn't want their parents' collections. I have piles of scrapbooks and still plan to make many more. I have used these for research when working on *SAGA* or community histories.

We are not done emptying the farm house and outbuildings so there is a lot more work to do. Meanwhile, there are piles of boxes around our town residence which may remain unopened for many more months (or years). We still participate in organizations and social occasions regularly. We just don't have so far to drive. Learning to function in a kitchen that I did not design has been a challenge but I can finally get meals without having to search for utensils and ingredients, most of the time.

I do hope we can have a few years in this house before the next major move to residences providing more care. Perhaps we can get things downsized before then but don't hold your breath.

Perhaps all this will prod some readers to start on this process voluntarily before they reach our age and have to leave it for their descendants.

**Irene Ahner '65 C**

Election time in Saskatchewan. A busload of politicians crashes into a field. When emergency services arrive the bus is empty and the only person there is the unconscious bus driver.

A farmer crosses the field with his loader tractor so they flag him down to ask if he's seen all those politicians.

"Oh sure, but I've already buried them," he said.

"They were all dead then?" asked the astounded EMT's. "Well, some of them claimed they weren't, but hey, these days you can't believe anything a politician says."

On a secondary Saskatchewan highway, an officer pulled a farmer over.

"Ma'am, do you realize your husband fell out of the car miles back?"

To which the farmer replied: "Thank God, I thought I had gone deaf!"

## A Word From the Dean

Greetings fellow alumni! I am writing this message heading into the May long weekend, which looks to be a rainy one in many parts of the province. However, I suspect most readers of this message will be relatively happy to see spring moisture, even if it comes at the expense of sunny days at the lake. Here in AgBio, crews have been busy preparing for the field season, and while the classrooms are quiet, the halls, fields and barns are filled with the chatter and laughter of dozens of summer students who are spending the next few months building hands-on experience with our faculty and their research teams.

Speaking of faculty, we've had two hires so far in 2024: Dr. Ana Vargas (PhD 2021) joined Plant Sciences as the Agri-Food Innovation Fund Chair focused on lentil and faba bean breeding, while Jessa Hughes (BSA 2016, MSc 2019) has started as lecturer in the Horticulture program. We have two replacement searches currently in progress (hope to have announcements for those in my fall update) and are just about to start the search process for five brand new complementary positions in the area of Sustainable and Digital Agriculture, spread across all five departments.

This cluster hire will allow us to accelerate our research and teaching in these areas of strategic importance and ensure that our students have more opportunity to learn both through their

programs and through working with these new faculty as future summer students!

As we plan for future faculty and students, we are also planning for convocation 2024, where we will celebrate the accomplishments of 300 new alumni, receiving 213 bachelor's degrees, 42 diplomas, 35 graduate degrees, 2 post-graduate diplomas, and 8 Kanawayihetaytan Askiy certificates. Convocation is one of my favorite days of the year, seeing the smiles as students cross the stage and hearing the cheers from their friends and family in the audience, recognizing the tremendous accomplishment. Of course, *SAGA* representatives will be on hand at our convocation luncheon to welcome these new grads to this incredible alumni association.

As these newest alumni join all of you, wherever you are, as colleagues and neighbors and members of your community, be sure to share your congratulations, and share stories of your student experiences – the legacy of shared experience is part of what makes the College of Agriculture and Bioresources such an incredible place to grow your future!

**Angela Bedard-Haughn '01 MSc**  
Dean of AgBio



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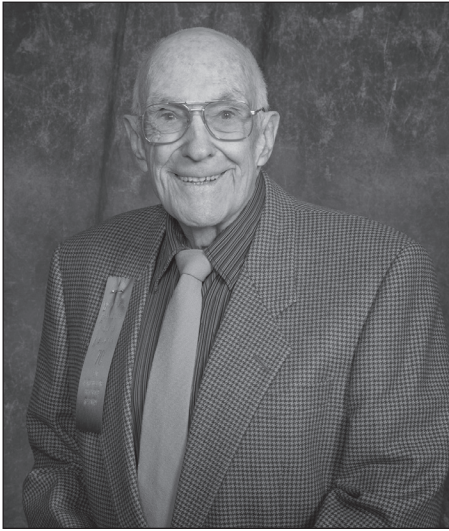
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# 1953 College



Ross Reynolds,  
Ag Bag Drag Founder

# 1959 College



Front L-R: Vic Surjik, Alan Short, Gerald Ife, Ted Youck

Back: Wilf Davis, John Petruic, Geza Racz, Leonard Fisher, George O'Bertos

# 1954 College



Peter McLaren

# 1964 College



Front L-R: Jerome Martin, Carmen Berg, Terry Anderson, Harvey Heavin, Dennis Zackrisson, Les Henry, Tom Lowes

Back: Boyd Burrell, Neil Jorgenson, Gerald Douglas, Don Connick, Bob Dyck, Bill Hunt, Ed Schultz, Larry White, Brian Duck, Gerald Girodat, Gary Broker, Ron Miller

The Class of 1964 saw 105 registered for their first year in the College in the fall of 1960. Several 'graduated' come Christmas of 1960 as they found university not for them and some transferred to other colleges. Many others moved on for various reasons over the years. In 1964 a total of 56 graduated.

The Class of '64 College has 38 members still seated in their saddles. Of this group of 'Boys who do the chores' 20 were registered for the 2024 reunion. In the end 19 of the old gang were able to attend, along with 11 spouses/partners. Name tags were a great reminder for changed faces and faded memories!

The Reunion was a wonderful event as friendships were renewed. Lots of visiting and laughter was a highlight. Many stories of past exploits, some better forgotten, were shared to the amusement of all, and embarrassment of a few! All in all, the Reunion was a success. Some felt a summer gathering would be a good thing to do if there was enough interest.

Larry White, '64 C

## 1969 College



**Front L-R: Dale Pulkinen, Wilf Keller, Gordon Stephenson, Terry Martin, Barry Gordon**

**Back: Jim Pratt, Orville Myrvang, James Sakundiak, Dale Conacher, Pat Callin, Maurice Delage, Glen Campbell, Ritz Reynolds, Jim Hammond**

## 1969 School



**Front L-R: Ed Pelletier, Ken Udell, Hubert Esquirol**

**Back: Bob Staples, John Ball, Grattan O'Grady, Duncan McVicar, Bevan Smith**

## 1974 School



**Front L-R: Lester Lafond, Art Unsworth (Class Chair), Brian Thompson, Lester Lodoen, Gary Nixon**

**2nd row: Rene DeMoissac (white shirt) Stephen Erickson, John Neufeldt, Jim Cooper, Sterling McIvor, Dave Melnyk (glasses)**

**3rd row: Dale Shirley (blue tie) Jerry Kindrat, Ed Roher, Ray Dueck, Lyle Hamann, Rick Stewart, Lorne Ulven, Dale Heenan, Murray Richardson (beard)**

**Back: Lyle Gaertner, Ivan Sharp, Perry Johnson, Ellis Leaman, Nick Partyka**

**Missing from the group picture: Clare Millions**

Old Betsy Unsworth farms her ranch down in SW Saskatchewan. The Sask Labour Board claims she is not paying proper wages to her workers. So an agent is sent out poste haste to interview her. Once at the ranch, the agent immediately demands "I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them."

"Well, lemme see" muses Old Betsy, "There's the ranch hand. For 3 years, I've paid him \$600 a week plus room and board. The cook's been here 2 years, and I pay her \$500 a week with room and board. Oh, and then there's the half-wit. She works 18 hours every day and does about 90 percent of all the work. She makes about \$10 per week and pays for her room and board. But I buy her a bottle of whisky every Saturday night as a bonus."

"Bottle of whisky as a bonus?" sneers the agent. "Alright, that half wit's the one I want to talk to. Right now!"

"Well great, then. Pull up a chair, while I go get that bottle," replies Old Betsy.

# 1974 College



Front L-R: Stuart Garven, Brian Drew, Keith Bater, Gerry Gross, Michael Pylypchuk

2nd row: Brian Kobelsky, Sharon Smith, Herb Carlson, Janet Payne, Lyle Ballard, Cecilia Mulhern, Glenn Sinden, Doug Johnson

3rd row: Bill Nussbaumer, Ralph Wasyluniuk, Bob Braun, Earl Smith, Jim Laturnas, Bill Legge

Back: Garth Smith, Richard Shout, Lorne Veitch

# 1984 College



Front L-R: Ross McEwen, Tom Thorson, Kevin Olson, John Hauer, Warren Kaeding

2nd row: Craig Halvorson, Paul McAllister, Ron Gilmour, Becky Hoehn, Linda Hughes, Raylene Boehmer, Jeff Schoenau, Chris Ruschkowski

3rd row: Greg Bristow, Perry Gerwing, Craig Martin, Audrey Jones, Dawn Popescul, Don Nachonechny, Ian McCreary

4th row: Jason Fradette, Gord Roger, John Stephen, Dave Struthers, Kent Fraser

Back: Joe Denomie, Tim Tollefson, Gerry Hertz

## Help Wanted

Since *SAGA* printed my stories about female ag grads, we have been hoping for their families to provide more information about them, especially the very early ones. To date, there have been very few responses. I have tried the Google approach with little success.

I would really appreciate information about the first woman to graduate in agriculture, **Margaret Georgina Landes, '36 C**. She was listed as being from Langham. Is there a history book from that community which might have her family in it? If any of you own such a book, please contact *SAGA*. Thank you.

Irene Ahner '65 C

# 1984 School



Front L-R: Morley Doerksen, Mike Gerhardt, Norman Mitzel, Kim Tomlin, Brian Nattress, Cam Campbell, Perry Stang

Back: Warren Stevenson, Jim Morris, Kevin Sidloski, Keith Froehlich, Donna Trottier (nee Eley), Brian Ecklund, Michael Stewart, Richard St. Jacques, Alex Galarneau

Other classmates that attended but not in the photo: Bill Richardt, Norm McIntyre, Ken Schumacher, Lewis Robin, Janice Dierker



## SAGA Hockey Tournament 2024

The annual trip to the Waldheim rink in January is always memorable for Ag College alumni and current U of S Ag college students. There were two college teams and two alumni teams participating in the tournament. There was one anniversary team this year, 10-year (2014 Grads).

The tournament was won by a team organized by **Royce Lodoen '12 AgBio**, which came with great joy from the group finally winning the tournament. The consolation match was between the two college teams. Mason Beck is a current student, he organized both teams and the team he played on won the match. Music was playing the whole game, so the atmosphere was very uplifting during the tense game. The **Bouchard Heart Award** was given to **Chay Anderson '14 AgBio**. Chay has organized the tournament for the past 4 years and has always played an integral role in helping organize a team. During the pandemic he had to deal with two tournament cancellations and headaches. After being on the winning team in this year's tournament he represents the tradition for whom the award was created.

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. Every team had a good day and it was a nice outing that came with the smell of a rink burger and the calming sound of skates cutting through the ice.



**A Side Winners – Millimeter Peter's**  
**Front L-R:** Earl Bohachewski, Mitch Bond, Jayden Balfour, Royce Lodoen, Brett Blaquiere, Kurtis Gaudet, Lucas Ringdal  
**Back:** Chay Anderson, Conrad Nagel, Folly Baugh, Micheal Parent, Jarret Currie, Billy Brown, Kyle Gregoire, Steven Somerville, Jeremy Doerksen



**B Side Winners – The Hornets**  
**Front L-R:** Anita Vachon, Walker Watson, Luke Packet, Carter Goudy.  
**Back:** Mason Beck, Chase Bruynooghe, Dylan Watt, Will Dobson, Andrew Altwasser, Dayton Packet, Tucker Packet, Kaden Gingell.

## Pulse Promoter Award – Eric Johnson

**Eric Johnson '82 C**, retired weed scientist and agronomist, has been recognized for the contributions he has made to the pulse industry, as the recipient of the Pulse Promoter Award by Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG).

Eric's career began with Saskatchewan Agriculture and then he moved to the Research Farm at Scott. Later, he joined the Department of Soil Science at U of S. Retired in March of 2023, Johnson leaves a legacy of 140 co-authored publications, years of mentoring younger agronomists, and a reputation for exemplary collaboration among researchers and scientists.

Congratulations Eric!

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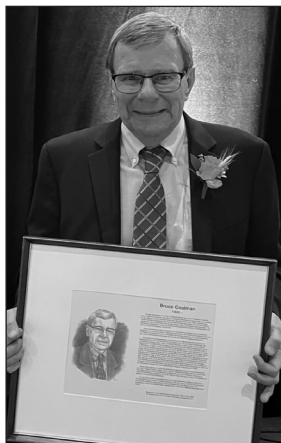
## Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame 2024 inductees

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame inducted six individuals into the hall on April 13, 2024 at a ceremony in Saskatoon.

Congratulations to ag grads **Bruce Coulman** and Leslie (Les) Johnson!

**Bruce Coulman, '71 C & '73 MSc**, spent his 42-year career in forage breeding working tirelessly to improve crop varieties for producers. He developed 24 novel forage crop varieties in nine different species, many of which were widely adopted by livestock producers as alternatives for the industry.

**Leslie (Les) Johnston, 2000 S**, dedicated his life to the livestock



**Bruce Coulman**



**Les Johnston and  
Dr. Gary Hoium**

industry. He helped establish the Saskatchewan 4-H Alumni at the U of S and spent 30 years supporting 4-H as a club leader, public speaker and educator. Les is a tireless promoter and defender of the beef industry and beef producers.

Also inducted to the Hall of Fame were Abdul Jalil, Brian Olsen, Grant Carlson and Stewart Stone.

More information can be found about the inductees at <https://www.sahf.ca>.

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame Gallery is located on the upper level of the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.



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## Reunion report from 1984 College

40 years is a long time, but 29 grads plus spouses came back for the reunion weekend. We had a fun filled weekend full of activities and much reminiscing, and the odd drink as well! The 40 years soon melted away. Funny how just a while ago we were all starting out our new careers, and now we're retiring?!

Friday we toured the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre and Star Egg. Both events were amazing. That night we got together for a social that lasted late into the evening. A little sluggishly we got together for lunch on Saturday, then spent an enjoyable afternoon at Black Fox Farm and Distillery. Barb and John gave us a great tour and many delicious tastings! Following this we got a terrific tour of the new and old AG Buildings. Thanks Dr. Brian Harvey, we learned lots!!

That evening we attended the Reunion Banquet and caught up with many old friends. Sunday morning we all parted ways, vowing we would do this more often ... maybe in 5 years?

Kevin Olson '84 C

## Reunion 2024



John Stevens '84 C and hard-working SAGA executive Irene Ahner '65 C, Raylene Petracek '86 C and Hamish Tulloch '91 C.

## Understanding Land Gifts

Gifts of farmland are incredibly generous and have the potential to wholly transform the areas they support. Interestingly, I have been experiencing an increase in inquiries about the university's approach to land gifts so for this update I've decided to discuss some of the common questions associated with these specialized donations.

One of the most frequent questions is whether the university will retain the donated land. Every situation is unique, and a number of factors are considered including the location, desirability for rental and the land's use other than for agriculture (such as resource extraction), but it is common for land to be retained. In fact, there are some significant advantages in doing so. The relative stability of land income compared to other investments offers some attractive benefits for investment risk management.

Can the revenue be used to support something specific? Yes - wherever possible we will accommodate these requests as long as the area of interest aligns with a need. Common examples include directing rental income to a specific area such as a student award or research theme, but there are many possibilities.

Would the college consider using donated land directly? Much depends on the location, and this should be discussed in advance, but it is possible and could be addressed in a gift agreement or will. What happens if the university sells the donated land? The purpose of the gift would be retained. The net proceeds from the sale would be invested, and some combination of the capital and earnings (as prescribed by the donor) would be used to support the same initiatives as the rental income.

What about existing lease/rental arrangements? The university's

main considerations are that the rental rates are in line with the market and that land is being managed appropriately. Typically, ongoing rental agreements would be adopted for a transition period then reviewed with these criteria in mind. Can land be donated as part of an estate? Land gifts can be carried out as a bequest through a declaration in a will - in fact this is most common - but land transfers can also be done at any time. Donors need to carefully consider the tax consequences of these plans and should consult with a qualified advisor.

What is the mechanism for accepting and receipting land gifts? Whether the land is donated as a bequest or during someone's lifetime, there are several steps involved. The first is an environmental assessment to ascertain that the university is not assuming any unexpected environmental risk (particularly important if there has been a non-agricultural use). This is followed by an independent appraisal to determine the land's value, which will also establish the gift value for receipting purposes. Once the university and donor are satisfied with the outcomes of these assessments then the title transfer can take place, and the land donation will be receipted.

Hopefully this information is helpful to those considering a gift of farmland, and of interest to others, but there are still many details that could be explored. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with anyone looking for more information on land donations.

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

# Ode to Bob McKercher 1931 – 2024

By Les Henry '64 C

Robert Barrie (Bob) McKercher was raised on good clay land south of Rosetown. He went off to U of S and received his BSA in 1954. He then did an MSc and worked as Departmental Assistant for the Soil Science Department. Part of his duties was instruction in the student lab and that is where I first met him. Bob was short so to command attention with rowdy students he stood on a wooden orange box. His labs were always well organized and many labs had information that was of practical use on farms.



**Wilkinson rink wins the Hutcheon Event**  
L-R: Dick Bassingthwaite '41, Bob McKercher '54,  
Doug Wilkinson '41, Dick Stayer, Les Henry '64.

By and by, Bob grew restless and decided a PhD was required to advance in the university environment. He chose the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland where the emphasis was on research with few formal classes required. His research topic was to be soil Phosphorus. He obtained the help of Canadian soil surveyor, Julian Dumanski, to obtain an excellent cross section of soil types across the various Saskatchewan soil zones. The samples were shipped to Scotland where he completed the work. The PhD thesis he produced is the most comprehensive and useful document on the topic. I have borrowed it a few times to get information for talks on soil P. It is my wish that his thesis be placed on the thesis shelves of the Soil Science Department, U of S.



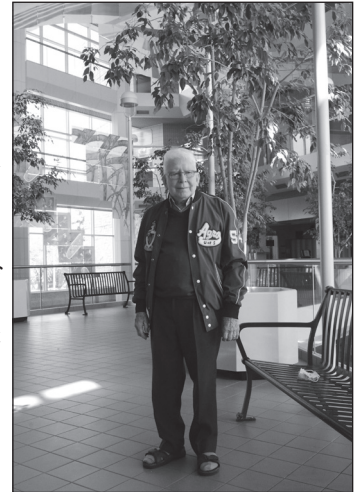
**Norma and Bob McKercher**

that much of it did not meet their real needs. I clearly remember Bob telling me – and many others – to take a piece of paper and draw to scale what you need in an office, lab or classroom. He also orchestrated the move floor-by-floor to avoid chaos. When we moved in, everything fit like a glove. The project came in under budget with money left over to build a 6th floor to accommodate Animal Science, and Bob oversaw that also.

Bob took a great interest in Agros, Voc Ags and the Sask. Ag Grads Association. He organized many of the reunions for his Grad year and was on the editorial committee for the production of “Forever Young: A History of Saskatchewan Agriculture Graduates Association 1935-2000”.

Bob McKercher was an Ag Grad to be remembered for sure.

My decision to major in Soil Science was influenced by Bob, and by one lab in particular. We were all Saskatchewan farm boys at that time. One week he instructed us to provide him the legal location of our home quarter. The next week he handed us the Municipal Assessment sheet for that location. In those days, before computers, there was a hand-drawn map of the quarter showing all the different soils, landscapes and any practical issues such as sloughs, stones and water runs. I was amazed at the great deal of information, especially considering that the Assessor likely only spent a short time on a quarter. To this day, I dig out the old assessment sheet if I want good information about a quarter section.



**Bob McKercher**

But, it was much more than a PhD that he came home with. A bright-eyed Scottish lass became his wife and they raised their family in Saskatoon. Their home was often open for his grad students and others to enjoy Norma's great culinary skills. At U of S, after the PhD, he held many executive positions in Agriculture and Grad Studies.

The very impressive Agriculture Building on campus was opened in 1991. Bob played a major role in communicating the ‘real needs’ of the future occupants to the architect. About that time many new public buildings were being built, but then the occupants moved in only to find

## 2024 Agro Bedpush

With the 42nd anniversary of bedpush having come and gone, we reflect on the wonderful tradition that continues to live on in our college. In the 42 years since the first bedpush we have now raised over \$500,000 for TeleMiracle. Half a million dollars is amazing and something every single Agro past, present and future can be proud of! It goes to show just how wonderful our Agros and the greater agriculture community is!

We spent a busy couple of months getting everything organised, including as much promotion as we could get with radio and news interviews. SaskTel TV was gracious to do a short documentary on bedpush and a bit of its history which can be watched at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZO\\_Uz4Qvek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZO_Uz4Qvek). Our fundraising events included calcutta bowling, bingo nights, spin classes, bake sale, a raffle, and exec auction. This year we had the most successful exec auction to date raising just under \$24,000 which included auctioning off the drag car.

This year's three days of bedpush was nothing short of wonderful - connecting with Alumni, fellow students and other special guests that came out to help push all with some beautiful sunny, warm weather in February (two days later there was a major blizzard so we are extremely grateful that it held off for us). Aside from a flat tire on the bed on the last day, no bike pump and no spare, the three days of pushing went off without a hitch. Luckily a local farmer, Jason Seidler, opened his shop up to us to pump up



the tire and make it the rest of the way... "It's a team effort. It's not what you've learned, it's who've you met" ~ **Brad Hamner '95 C**. A sense of pride and accomplishment flooded us all as we ran to the Regina sign. Later that day we revealed a grand total of \$98,922 on the TeleMiracle stage!!

Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who donated, shared posts on Facebook, came out to our events, helped push, or tuned in to watch the cheque presentation - we couldn't have done it and couldn't continue to do the bedpush without each and every one of you!

**Cailey Church '24 C**  
Public Relations Officer

## Updates from ASA

What an honour it was to serve as the Public Relations Officer for the 2023-24 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 this year to honour and celebrate the graduates of 2024. Jessica Davey, our Internal VP, planned a wonderful event with a delightful address from **Mayson Maerz '83 C**. As per tradition, the senior stick was passed down from **Ellie Stauffer '24 C** to **Jessica Davey '25 C** who 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!

A Toronto mogul moved onto the 20,000 acres of land he had bought in Saskatchewan. He went to the local livestock store, loudly proclaiming to the proprietor that he was going to take up chicken farming and show these country hicks how to do it right. He then demanded a batch of 10,000 chicks. "That's a lot of chicks," commented the proprietor. "I mean business," the mogul replied. But 2 weeks later he was back. "I need another 10,000 chicks," "So soon?" the proprietor commented. "You've built a

second barn already?" "Second barn for what?" queried the mogul. "No, no, I think the problem I'm having is how I planted that last batch. Not a single one has grown up!"

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!

**Cailey Church '24 C**  
Public Relations Officer

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\*\*\*

"Why are you stuffing that sheep into your computer?"  
"Because it needs more RAM."

## Updates from the U of S AgBio Student Clubs

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

### U of S Beef Team

The U of S Beef Team had a robust year filled with learning and engagement. Members embarked on an Alberta Trip, exploring various livestock facilities and operations in southern and central Alberta. Bi-weekly meetings provided platforms for discussions on upcoming learning opportunities, with guest speakers enriching members' understanding of career paths and educational prospects in the beef industry. Looking ahead, plans are underway for a trip to the Fort Worth Stock Show in January 2025, promising more enriching experiences and camaraderie among members.

### U of S Range Team

The U of S Range Team experienced a productive year marked by regular meetings and engaging presentations on various rangeland topics. In January, team members showcased their skills at the Society for Range Management's annual conference in Sparks, Nevada, placing 3rd in the Undergraduate Rangeland Management Exam. Fundraising efforts contributed to the success of the trip, with plans in motion for a trip to the upcoming SRM conference in Spokane, Washington, in February. The team looks forward to hosting more engaging meetings and social events throughout the year.

### U of S Judging Team

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

### U of S Dairy Team

The University of Saskatchewan Dairy Team remained a cornerstone of the dairy industry, showcasing its diverse aspects from show cattle to commercial milking. Led by President Owen Van de Kraats and Vice President Ethan Nienhuis, the team embarked on insightful tours and organized successful fundraising events, including the annual Moo Moo Pubcrawl. As a new executive team led by President Reagan Charlton takes the reins for the upcoming school year, the Dairy Team looks forward to continued growth and impact within the industry.

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

**Mitchell Hamp  
Club Liaison '25 C**

## The Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association is turning 90 in 2025

*SAGA* is planning a special weekend and what better place to hold such an auspicious celebration than at one of the preeminent places of Saskatchewan agricultural history, the Saskatoon branch of the Western Development Museum (WDM)! Besides our usual program, including Honorary Life Members and Class photos, all who attend will be able to roam the museum, visiting and catching up with classmates as you stroll past the WDM and Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame displays.

### 90th Annual *SAGA* Reunion Weekend and Banquet January 10 and 11, 2025

**January 10: 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

Friday Night Social at AgBio Building Atrium  
Guided tours + Gabfest in ASA Lounge **11: 7:00 am – 5:30 pm**  
*SAGA* Hockey Tournament at Waldheim

**January 11: 4:00 – 9:00 pm**

Reunion Banquet at WDM, Lorne Avenue.  
Followed by the Mixer: 9:00 pm – 1:00 am

### Recognition of Years:

1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, 2015, 2020

For more information about the Reunion weekend – check the *SAGA* website.

Hotel Rooms have been blocked (until December 10) at the Sandman Signature Saskatoon South Hotel (Lorne Avenue)  
- quote code: 2501SAGARE

# Empty Saddles June 2024

*In order of graduating class*

Irvin George Perkins '49 S, May 7, 2022  
 Lorne Edward Johnstone '49 C, January 2, 2024  
 Gerald Donald Webster '52 C, November 30, 2023  
 Robert 'Bob' Barrie McKercher '54 C & '56 MSc (1988 SAGA Honorary Life Member) January 1, 2024  
 Luther Muth '54 S, November 9, 2023  
 Thomas Lee Sanderson '54 S, March 6, 2024  
 Alfred 'Fred' Ernest Silzer '55 C, December 2, 2023  
 Edwin John 'Jack' Walker '55 C, December 1, 2023  
 Ronald Ralph Marquardt '58 C, September 2, 2023  
 Eugene Chipman Anderson '61 S, March 20, 2024  
 Charles 'Oliver' Green '62 C, February 13, 2024  
 Alden Leslie Oliver '62 C, November 15, 2023  
 Duncan Richard MacRae '63 C, November 22, 2023  
 Ronald Jon Fredrick Johnson '64 C, August 4, 2023  
 Jerry Earl Knipfel '65 C, April 11, 2024  
 Keith Eldon Johnstone '66 S, January 6, 2024  
 Henry Jean Lebastard '66 S, October 25, 2023  
 Gerald Dean Muldoon '66 S, January 1, 2024

Eric Leslie Reesor '67 C, October 24, 2023  
 Harley Wayne Lehmkuhl '68 S, February 17, 2024  
 Barry Thomas Hodge '69 S & '74 C, December 6, 2023  
 Garry John Stevenson '69 S, December 6, 2023  
 Robert William Allen '70 S, March 17, 2024  
 Robert 'Bob' Rae Girvan '70 S, February 25, 2024  
 Kenneth George Scott '70 S, October 23, 2023  
 John Edward Donaldson '72 S, December 28, 2023  
 Lorne Delmar Peek '72 C, February 22, 2024  
 William Ronald Palmer '75 S, December 21, 2023  
 Wilfred Joseph Berchinsky '80 S, February 9, 2024  
 Beverley-Jean Hards-Halpenny '81 S, April 11, 2024  
 John Lawrence Kutz '85 S, May 11, 2024  
 Darren Jay Titemore '96 S, March 7, 2024  
 Gavin Leslie Graham '01 C, September 8, 2022  
 Cindy Sarah MacKay '03 AgBio, February 12, 2020  
 Joan Catherine Harrison '05 AgBio & '76 BEd, December 4, 2023  
 Jeremy William Janzen '06 AgBio, December 23, 2023

## 2025 Ag Grad Reunion Chairs (as of May 15, 2024)

Year	Contact Person	Email	Phone
1945 College & School	SAGA VP	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1950 College	SAGA VP	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1950 School	SAGA VP	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1955 College	Need a reunion Chair	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1955 School	George Krenz		306-962-4507
1960 College	Glen Hass	eghass@sasktel.net	306-374-0207
1960 School	Ron Morningstar	venus.farms@sasktel.net	306-946-2593
1965 College	Irene Ahner	ireneahner@gmail.com	306-662-3463
	Marcel Dubois	marcel.dubois41@gmail.com	306-882-2258
	Doug Sword	dsword@shaw.ca	306-374-3673
1965 School	Murray Coolidge	murraycoolidge@gmail.com	306-821-6336
1970 College	Doug Campbell	dec@cabsi.ca	403-932-6866
1970 School	John Beckton	beckton.ag@sasktel.net	306-934-2727
1975 College	Cal Kelly	emeraldseed@sasktel.net	
1975 School	Need a reunion Chair	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1985 College	Need a reunion Chair	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1985 School	Need a reunion Chair	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1995 College	Louis Bossaer	lm_bossaer@hotmail.com	306-250-8402
1995 School	Russell Fersch	russfersch@sasktel.net	306-378-7977
2005 College	Chelsea Norheim	c.r.norheim@gmail.com	306-227-0944
2005 School	Need a reunion Chair	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
2015 College	Moria and Zach Kurtenbach	m.e.petruic@gmail.com	306-868-7687
2020 College	Amy Carruthers	amycarruthers06@gmail.com	306-344-7823

Check the SAGA website [www.saskaggrads.com](http://www.saskaggrads.com) for updates on reunion chairs.

If you have questions or require further information about the reunion contact [reunion@saskaggrads.com](mailto:reunion@saskaggrads.com)

**SAGA Undergraduate Scholarship – consider giving ...**

Since its establishment in 2019, *SAGA*'s award has recognized some truly inspiring AgBio students.

As noted in the December newsletter, the most recent recipients were John Paul Wasan (4th year Environmental Science major, Soil Science minor) and Gabrielle Ayles (4th year Horticulture major). These and other past recipients have shared some of their thoughts on what it's meant to be a recipient of *SAGA*'s scholarship – to access the full report, click <https://saskaggrads.com/ploads/pdf/2024%20SAGA%20Scholarship%20Report.pdf>

“Thanks to this award, I have been able to participate in many professional development opportunities, including travelling to international conferences on ecology and rangeland management in Montreal, Idaho, and Nevada”

John Paul Wasan

Note that our scholarship is short of the funds needed to give out its two annual awards this year. Please consider a donation to support this important award. To make a tax-deductible gift to the *SAGA* Undergraduate Scholarship go to <https://donate.usask.ca/online/advancement.php> Thank you for supporting the *SAGA* Undergraduate Scholarship.

**Welcome to our NEW SAGA Members!****New Life Members:**

Blair Goldade '87 C  
 Scott Horner '94 C  
 Perry Gerwing '84 C  
 Chay Anderson '14 C  
 Tim Wiens '94 C  
 Lisa Calwell '94 C  
 Craig Martin '84 C  
 Lynne Roszell '98 C  
 Tyler Peterson '23 C  
 Ron Brand '90 C  
 Sydney Hicks '23 C  
 Carter Masley '24 C

**New 2024 Annual Members**

Emily Gingrich '22 C  
 James Lokken '84 C  
 Tyler Crowe '19 C  
 Stephen Erickson '74 S  
 Lester Lafond '74 S  
 Dean Smith '89 C  
 Glen Campbell '69 C  
 Ted Youck '59 C  
 Barry Gordon '69 C  
 Lorne Veitch '74 C  
 Kate Sauser '23 C  
 Gordon Roger '84 C

To become a member of *SAGA*, simply go to our web page.  
 The *SAGA* reaches over 2,200 fellow grads, all the 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 **November 15, 2024**.

Lindsay Folk '88 C - 3052 St. James Crescent, Regina, SK S4V 2Z2  
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 OR [newsletter@saskaggrads.com](mailto:newsletter@saskaggrads.com)

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