



## President's Pen

Here we are leading up to another year end in the Sask Ag Grads Association. Our yearly Annual General Meeting is set for 7:00 p.m. on January 16, 2024. The meeting is held over Zoom so any member can attend from anywhere. So please join in and hear what *SAGA* has been up to this past year.

I want to thank my hard-working executive that I have been fortunate to work with this past year, both our new executive members and our experienced members. Through the co-operation and hard work of the executive we have been able to make some very important changes this past year. These changes had been started last year under Deanne Belisle's leadership.

Our newsletter co-editors Lindsay Folk and Ewald Lammerding have switched us to a new email delivery system, Mail Chimp, which is working much better. Now that we have this new reliable email service we are encouraging any member that is willing to switch to only email newsletters to do so. Our organization runs on a very limited budget. Printing and mailing the newsletter is a significant cost for the organization. So any savings we can make the better. Those savings would then be directed to more worthwhile projects that *SAGA* supports.

We have also switched to five new email addresses (which you will see on page 16) that you can use to contact executive members. These email addresses will stay with the executive positions and not have to change as executive members change.

**Henry de Gooijer**, our Vice President, and person in charge of recruiting *SAGA* Reunion chairs has done an excellent job. He has recruited many, many reunion chairs for the feature years of the

89th Annual Reunion Weekend to be held on January 5 and 6, 2024. I encourage everyone to come out to the reunion weekend and reconnect with fellow classmates, workmates or other acquaintances. I know I am looking forward to it and not just because it is my 40-year reunion.

*SAGA* sponsors two undergraduate scholarships. These scholarships will be awarded to two undergrad students at the ASA Bean-feed Award banquet. This bean-feed banquet is quite a bit different from the wiener and beans feed we held in the engineering lab when I was in the college. Ag Grad alumni have been very diligent about donating to this good cause. However through the Covid years we have not had our usual venues to promote this cause and the level of donations have slipped a bit. So as a reminder, as you are considering your year-end donations, keep the *SAGA* scholarship fund in mind. If you choose to donate to the U of S, just tag it for the *SAGA* Alumni Scholarship. Then our tireless AgBio rep, Hamish Tulloch, will direct it into our scholarship fund. As a reunion feature year maybe you can collect from amongst your peers to make a group contribution to this cause.

Speaking about gifts and giving, are you looking for a Christmas or graduation gift for a family member who is graduating from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources? Why not buy the new grad a *SAGA* Membership? After we had one such request last year, I realized what a good idea that might be.

So long for now. Hope to see a bunch of you at the reunion in January.

**John Hauer '84 C**

## Harold Everett Chapman 1917 – 2023

Harold Chapman passed away on November 14 at the age of 106. At the age of 102, he was a 2020 *SAGA* HLM. A staunch believer of the Agricultural Co-operative movement his entire life, Harold worked hard teaching it to generations of Saskatchewan farm families.

(**Hamish Tulloch '91 C**) My connection to Harold relates to a graduate scholarship that he and his classmates established. A true gentleman, Harold regularly phoned to express his appreciation for our reports on the scholarship. There were so many admirable qualities about Harold – his kind manner, his interest in others, his humour, the way he carried and presented himself. But

the memory that always gives me a smile was the time I picked him up for one of our Bean Feed events. He was a bit late coming down to the lobby of McClure Tower and apologized for holding us up. He then mentioned that he just finished his exercise class. I said the slight delay wasn't a problem and remarked on his efforts to stay healthy by taking part in a fitness class. He grinned then replied: "I wasn't taking the class – I was giving it". He was 97 at the time.

Harold's recipe for a long life was: "Don't smoke. Drink in moderation. Cultivate and enjoy the relationships you develop. And no running around with fast women." (*SAGA Reunion 2018, age 100*)

## Notice of Annual General Meeting Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association

The Annual General Meeting of *SAGA* will be held:

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 7 p.m. (SK) time**

This meeting will be held by Zoom only.

Please register by **January 13, 2024** on the *SAGA* website:

<https://saskaggrads.com/index.php?page=upcoming-agm>

When you register, you will receive a confirmation email and link to attend the meeting virtually.

Meeting registrations received on or before January 13 will be emailed all reports, in advance of the meeting. (Registrations received after January 13 may still attend the meeting, but you won't receive the reports).

There are two motions to be presented at Annual General Meeting:

### Motion #1 – Cost of memberships

Be it proposed that the cost of a Life Membership will be \$150 and the cost of an Annual Membership will be \$25, for memberships purchased after June 30, 2024.

### Motion #2 – amendment to *SAGA* Constitution

Be it proposed that Article 6. Care of Funds of the *SAGA* Constitution be amended to:  
... any two of the Past-President or President or Vice-President or Treasurer shall be authorized signing authorities

The Constitution currently states:

... any two of the President or Vice-President or Treasurer shall be authorized signing authorities. ...

## SAGA Hockey Tournament

Greetings to the *SAGA* faithful, it's everyone's favourite time of the year. The *SAGA* Hockey Tournament is happening January 6, 2024! The tournament will be held at Waldheim Rec Centre in Waldheim. There is room for 6 teams so get your entry in ASAP before the slate fills. The tournament will start at 8 a.m.! Single players are also invited to register and we'll put you on a team.

Feel free to attend the Reunion Banquet and Mixer at TCU Place after the tournament.

To enter a team/player contact Chad or Derek:

**Chad Scott**  
(306) 391-0049  
[chadscott826@gmail.com](mailto:chadscott826@gmail.com)

**Derek Moses**  
(780) 581-4310  
[moses.derek@icloud.com](mailto:moses.derek@icloud.com)

## Another Century Grad

**Ossie Lakness '49 C**, joined a group of senior curlers in June, for an afternoon social and a beer. He had celebrated his 100th birthday this spring. Ossie was a regular skip in our curling league up to age 98 and he played golf to the same age. Ossie had been a sailor during WW II on frigates protecting Atlantic convoys, after which he attended the U of S. With an Ag degree in his pocket, he has been farming near Govan ever since. Ossie states his "secret" to a long life is a positive attitude and staying active.

**Bill Hunt '64 C**

# 89th Annual SAGA Reunion Banquet January 6, 2024

Festivities will be held at: TCU Place – Centennial Halls (Downstairs)

Cocktails at 4:30 p.m. – Banquet at 5:30 p.m. – Program at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome: John Hauer '84 C, 2023 SAGA President

Recognition of Years – 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969,  
1974, 1984, 1994, 2004, 2014, 2019

\*\*\*>>> Grads from every year are always welcome! <<<\*\*\*

Honorary Life Member Awards Presentation following Dinner

Small Class and HLM photos will be taken before the Banquet, starting at 4 p.m.

Your Class Chair will have the schedule

Large Class and large group HLM photos immediately following the program

The Mixer will officially start at 9 p.m.

## PLEASE NOTE THE NEW PRICING SCHEDULE

<b>Early Bird Price:</b>	<b>\$95</b>	if purchased before December 22, 2023 11:50 p.m.
<b>Regular Price:</b>	<b>\$105</b>	if purchased after December 23
<b>Mixer Only:</b>	<b>\$20</b>	whether purchased in advance or at the door

**Banquet ticket purchase deadline is Midnight Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

**Purchase your Banquet tickets at: Ag Grad Reunion Ticket - 2024**  
(saskaggrads.com). Once on the page, click on the SAGA button (left side).

*Purchasing tickets online is preferred. If you need assistance, please contact:*  
Jason Fradette – SAGA Treasurer: fradettej@yourlink.ca or 306-244-2648

**If you have questions concerning the Reunion weekend, be sure to contact us early.**

<b>John Hauer – President:</b>	<b>john.hauer@sama.sk.ca</b>	<b>306-220-3457</b>
<b>Henry de Gooijer – Vice President:</b>	<b>reunion@saskaggrads.com</b>	<b>306-695-7141</b>
<b>Ewald Lammerding – Banquet:</b>	<b>eflammerding@sasktel.net</b>	<b>306-260-3445</b>

## 2024 Reunion Chairpersons

1944 & 1949 – and including any Grads before, after or in-between  
Please contact: **Henry de Gooijer 306-695-7141 reunion@saskaggrads.com**

Year	Chairperson	Phone	Email
1954 C 1954 S	Peter McLaren Chairperson Required	306-922-0115	petermc@sasktel.net reunion@saskaggrads.com
1959 C 1959 S	John Petruic Alan Short Francis Weber	403-410-7909 306-342-4252 306-338-7747	jpnetruic@gmail.com murray@littleloon.ca
1964 C 1964 S	Larry White Gary Broker Chairperson Required	306-961-6765 306-862-3439	nlwhite@sasktel.net bev.gary@sasktel.net reunion@saskaggrads.com
1969 C 1969 S	Wilf Keller Grattan O'Grady	403-305-3339 306-241-0196	wilf.a.keller@gmail.com grattanogradey@gmail.com
1974 C 1974 S	Keith Bater (Interim) Art Unsworth	306-441-2020 306-662-6110	baterk@sasktel.net tbr.ltd06@gmail.com
1984 C 1984 S	Kevin Olson Donna Trottier	306-932-7071 403-347-0005 403-348-9321	kevin.olson@sasktel.net donna.trottier@tatonga.ca
1994 C 1994 S	Chairperson Required Chairperson Required		reunion@saskaggrads.com reunion@saskaggrads.com
2004 C	Greg Frey	306-892-2476	greg.frey@simplot.com
2014 C	Chay Anderson	306- 640-7087	chayanderson92@hotmail.com
2019 C	Dayle Meyers	306- 815-7887	dmm002@usask.ca

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## A Word From the Dean

Greetings fellow alumni! I am writing this message at Agribition in Regina, where I've been thinking a lot about traditions and legacies. I enjoyed a great evening at **Premier Moe's ('97 C)** Agribition reception, where I chatted with many of our alumni, including **Gerry Hertz ('84 C)** about the upcoming reunion and the challenges of balancing academics and athletics. Other alumni told stories about their Agro days, often with a wistful smile and a shake of the head. I enjoyed similar conversations at Ag in Motion back in July, where alumni stopped by the AgBio tent just to say hello, share a few of their favorite memories, and pick up their own "Class of \_\_\_\_" sticker to show their Agro pride. And with the recent news of **Harold Chapman's ('43 C)** passing, I have been thinking about the many stories I've heard about him and his incredible legacy – and the importance of applying your talents to what matters most.

Also this week, I got to catch up with some of our newest alumni, like **Emma Cross**, our award-winning grad from the class of 2022 (won both the SIA Gold Medal and the Governor General's Silver Medal for top USask grad) – it was great to hear how she's apply-

ing her talents. As January rushes towards us, I've been hearing more about preparations for ASA's Class of 2024 grad, and we have sent out invites for our belated pandemic grad celebration in early January. For these newer alumni, the stories are still fresh, but they are happy to tell me about their new careers and how excited they are to be putting their education to work.

Whether I'm talking to our more seasoned alumni, or to our recent (or almost) alumni, the common thread is the same: it's the community and the traditions that ties us all together. Some of the traditions have survived the years even if they have morphed along the way, others have run their course, but the memories of traditions live on in the stories we tell within our community – and in that way our community is part of the legacy of this college.

Whether long-time alumni or new – keep telling those stories.

**Angela Bedard-Haughn '01 MSc**  
- Dean and Professor, AgBio

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## Honorary Life Member - Dr. Fran Walley

**Dr. Fran Walley '93 Ph.D** is the recently retired Associate Dean (Academic) in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and Professor Emerita in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan.

Fran grew up just one mile away from the University of Manitoba and dreamed of becoming a vet. As luck would have it, the U of M required pre-vets to take a soil science class taught by **Bob Soper, '53 C & '55 MSc**, distinguished Graduate of the University of Saskatchewan. She was entirely hooked on soils from that point on.

Dr. Walley obtained her BSc and MSc from the U of M; then earned her Ph.D 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. Her extension experience with farmers sparked an active research program in the area of soil nitrogen dynamics and pulse crop agronomy.

Fran is author or co-author of more than 65 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters and has supervised/co-supervised more than 30 graduate and post doc students. Dr. Walley has long been involved in teaching introductory soil science and was particularly proud to share her love of soil science and the College of AgBio with her students.

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## Honorary Life Member - 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 at Big River. She was drawn to plants and obtained a horticulture diploma from Olds College.

Eventually, her love of science led her "back home" to the University of Saskatchewan, where she received her degree, followed by a MSc. ('98) in molecular biology and plant pathology.

She started working in the "new and really cool" biotechnology sector with Performance Plants, then moved to Ag-West Bio, CropLife Canada, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and finally became the Executive Director of Sask Canola. Her broad-reaching career in Saskatchewan and Alberta has always involved the ag sector where her interests expanded to policy development, regulatory affairs and government relations.

Since 2018, Janice has been the dual president and CEO of both the National and Alberta Cattle Feeders Association and is now based in Calgary. Her focus has been on supporting beef producers and advocating for the cattle industry as it dealt with the many unforeseen impacts of COVID.

She finds that working collaboratively with the other sectors and building close relationships with producers and members helps her to be a strong advocate.

**Deanne Belisle '79 C**

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## What is the Be What the World Needs Campaign and why does it matter?

You may be experiencing an increased volume of communications from the university about its latest fundraising initiative, the Be What the World Needs campaign. This spring USask publicly launched the largest fundraising initiative in its history with the ambitious objective of raising \$500 million.

This is a comprehensive campaign, meaning there are numerous priorities being promoted across the University. However, the overall goal is to attract support to the following priority areas: Support Indigenous achievement, Design Visionary Spaces, Inspire Students to Succeed and Lead Critical Research. At its core, this fundraising campaign is about raising money, but there are other reasons for undertaking it. With a primary focus on higher education, the university can seem a bit insulated from the realities of those outside its walls.

Having worked on the outside in the private sector and not-for-profit worlds, I can say this criticism isn't completely unfounded. However, to really embrace this campaign and become the University that the world needs has required realistic consideration of our strengths and priorities. It also necessitates increased engage-

ment with our community. AgBio is one of the university's two founding colleges, and agriculture represents one of its priority areas of research. In light of that and, the college's place in addressing global challenges from food security to climate change, I see the campaign as an opportunity to shine a spotlight on our role as a critical problem solver.

The success of the campaign is not just about reaching a fundraising goal, and arguably that's a secondary objective. I think it's far too early to declare the outcomes of this initiative but if the campaign translates into well-deserved recognition of the college's strengths and accomplishments from a broader community then this could set the stage for greater support for AgBio over the long run. This would be a worthwhile achievement in my opinion.

You can learn more about the university's signature areas of research and the Be What the World Needs campaign by visiting: <https://research.usask.ca/about/signature-areas/agriculture.php>  
<https://give.usask.ca>

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



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## The First Sixteen- A Podcast from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

**The First Sixteen** is a podcast series that explores the freshest ideas in agriculture and food. Each episode explores a single topic in depth - digging deep into new practices, innovative ideas, and their impacts on the industry. Learn about Canada's agricultural sector from the people making the breakthroughs and knocking down the barriers! Farmers and foodies, scientists and leaders, and anyone with an eye on the future of the sector - this podcast is for you! A new episode is published each month.

Listen to The First Sixteen podcast on the Agriculture and Agri-food website or on Spotify and Apple podcasts.

## Our 50th!! Class of 1974 Voc Ags "Loud & Proud"

When we entered Voc Ag in 1972 most of our 75 young men were straight from the country into the unsuspecting arms of **Dean Art Stillborn '41 C & Assistant Dean Fred Fulton '50 C**. A Gov't incentive program for "mature" students returning to school called "manpower" kept 20% of the enrolment well supplied with school necessities and improved attendance.

Other U of S Colleges looked at us as a winter retreat for Rural boys, but we took our responsibilities seriously. It became apparent that the AGRO's weren't "challenging" the Engineers enough, so we fertilized their grass with fresh manure (when Animal Science was cleaning corrals) and buried the Engineer's "Tank" with snow using a "borrowed" pay loader from Vet Med parking lot, then applied enough water to hold it firmly in place till June. There was an advanced sheep reproduction study by placing live ewes in the St. A's rez... Most of our "study" sessions seemed to be at the KG or Sutherland Hotels. Professor **Gary Storey '63 C**, no longer took train rides after escorting our class on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange tour!

**Dr. Don Rennie '49 C** was durn near laughed out of Crop Science class for introducing the crazy idea of reducing summer fallow by "continuous cropping". Just after we had learned how to set a Martin Hitch on discers! (Young farmers today don't even know what that is!) With the birth of Sterling's first daughter, we "smoked" Dr. Red Williams out of Animal Science class with cigars as he was trying to introduce R.O.P. Now, the only thing needed is a steer with 3 ears for all the EID tags.

Virtually ALL of us returned to the Farm or Ranch VERY successfully, there were only 3 or 4 that crossed over to the "Dark Side" working for the Government! Perhaps they were the smarter, as they are now well paid in retirement. Many of our class enjoy southern "crop inspection" duties from Texas to Arizona

to Hawaii on an annual basis to beat the cold, while the rest of us feed cows and curl for winter pastime.

As we all hit 60 years of Ag experience, grandchildren are a very proud topic; all you have to do is ask. In the last couple of years, with no kids returning to take over, about 10% have SOLD the farm. A few more have rented out the land and taken to driving Semi's, now there is a "road trip" for coffee. Daryl started up a large Crane Truck Company in Winnipeg; said it's like farming, work long hrs and always got something to fix. Tom's acres are measured in sq ft of glass as he operated a large greenhouse operation.

Alas, the circle of life has taken 13 of our Grads all too soon, a few more are dealing with serious health problems, it's a reminder that everyday is a good day. As we celebrate our 50th Class Reunion, we have made a point of inviting those Widows to join us "gratis" as they are as much a part of our Grads as our Classmates...

I mention our class of guys, there were NO female students in our class. We had to invite the College of Education, Nurses & Home Ec girls to all functions, always with an eye to our local community futures ... Our Grads are a diverse lot, from every corner of the Prairies; we grew together as Lifelong friends, graduated on the Dean's roll and went on to very successful innovative Agriculture operations, Leadership in our local communities & service organizations, we've run for parliament! This year already there have been three 50th Wedding Anniversaries with more soon! Many of our kids have graduated from U of S College of Ag. I remember at our 20th Reunion, looking over at them "old" AGRO's across the Banquet room and thinking "Holy Crap, what an old look'n bunch of bug'rs!! Sure glad we don't look like them ...

**Art Unsworth '74 S Chair**

*Best of the Season*  
*Be Friends of All*                      *Be Caring of All*  
*The SAGA Executive*

# 1983 School



**Front (seated) L-R: Darrell Morvik, Brent Wilkins, Danny Esquirol, Lyle Sandercock.**

**2nd L-R: Randy Jones, David Klinger, Lars Bjorgan, Kieran Doetzel, Ivan Stokalko, James Slywka, Mark Forbes, Calvin McDonald.**

**3rd L-R: Miles Anderson, Randy Reed, Glen Stacey, Mike McAllister, Joe Esquirol, Wayne Gronvold.**

**Back L-R: Warren VandenAmeel, Class Chair - Neil Crosbie, Glen Ross, Scott Stevenson, Kelly Stevenson, Mike Poisson.**

# 1983 College

**Front L-R: Eric Jorgenson, Candace Vanin, Mayson Maerz, Lloyd Streifel, Gary Gale, Murray Flaten.**

**2nd L-R: Marilyn Kot, Jill Burt, Patricia Johnson, Terry Grajczyk, Juanita Polegi, Don Nakonechny, Jo-Anne de Gooijer, Barry Rapp, Brent Bender.**

**3rd L-R: Bill Aulie, Ron Hughes, Craig Smith, Lorne Klein, Randy Freid, Kern Clayton.**

**Back L-R: Dan Bechtel, Lindsay Hanson, Wally Hoehn, Henry de Gooijer, Kent Fraser.**



# 2012 AgBio



**Front L-R: Earl Bohachewski, Tyson Buyer, Erin Cuthbert, Royce Lodoen.**

**Middle L-R: Sheryl Serdachny, Randi Wenzel, Justin Shepherd, Matthew Peters, Jordan Wolkowski.**

**Back L-R: Brett Blaquiere, Lexie Wehrle, Lucas Ringdal, Jay Streisel, Conrad Nagel, Curtis de Goojier.**



## 2013 AgBio



Front L-R: Breanne Cowan, Chantalle Ringdal, Vicki Lawrence, Breann Moore, Ashley Buyer, Andrea Astleford.

Back L-R: Braeden Syroteuk, Bryce Moore, Bryce Ehman, Jarrett Currie, Cole Jensen, Paige Hobman, Lyndon Boucher, Brett Jans, Braden Olson.

## 2011 AgBio



Front L-R: Danica Wolkowski, Katie Carefoot.

Back L-R: Risa Wendland, Bryce Wendland, Brandon Sparrow, Courtney McClinton, Rob McClinton.

## Cheers with Peers 2023

Blair Cummins '77 S arranged things once again for a Cheers With Peers get-together at the 2023 Agribition.

Maybe because it was held on a Wednesday, we didn't get the expected turnout. Next year, eh?

L-R Art Unsworth '74 S, Barry Kusler '73 C, Al Van Caesele '89 C and Blair. Candace Ippolito '02 C and Marty Seymour '98 C also stopped by for a beverage.



## 2018 AgBio



Luke Jorgensen and Myles Butt.

## 1964 College is Planning Something

The College Ag Grad Class of 1964 are planning several group reunion activities in recognition of their 60th year since graduation. There were 55 in our grad class of which 37 survive to this day. About half the group is expected to attend the Reunion, a very hardy group indeed!

We will be kicking off with College tours at the Friday Social, followed by a reception Friday evening at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday there will be a noon luncheon at the HGI, then our group will attend the SAGA Reunion Banquet that evening. Sunday morning there will be a group breakfast at HGI after which goodbyes will be exchanged until we meet again.

Co-Chairs Larry White and Gary Broker

**Best of the Season from your SAGA executive!**

## Report on Ukrainian Agriculture

Russia's war against Ukraine continues with no end in sight. Ukraine concentrates on destroying Russia's means to wage war, while Russia concentrates on destroying infrastructure, cultural institutions, and the Ukrainian people.

The safe passage for Ukrainian grain exports negotiated by Turkey in July 2022, expired in July 2023 and Russia immediately began targeting grain storage and export infrastructure in the seaports such as Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Pivdennyi and the Danube River ports such as Izmail and Reni and have destroyed over 300,000 metric tons (mt) of grain and 115 port infrastructures.

Ukraine established a narrow safe corridor hugging the coastal waters of Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey. However, a Russian missile hit a civilian vessel on November 8. Ukraine has threatened to target ships headed for Russian ports in retaliation and sunk an oil tanker destined for Syria.

Because of favorable weather conditions, Ukraine is expected to harvest 79.1 million mt of grain and oilseed in 2023, surpassing last season's harvest of 76.8 million mt. Ukraine reports 4.7 million hectares (ha) of wheat were harvested this year, with average yield 4.73 mt/ha totaling 22.2 million mt, barley at 5.7 million mt, and corn at 28.5 million mt. Oilseed production could reach 21.6 million mt, while the sunflower harvest may hit 13 million mt and soybean production could reach 4.6 million mt. Canola production is forecast at 4.2 million mt compared to 3.5 million mt in 2022 and will all be exported to Europe via Danube ports

and overland routes.

Agricultural workers are only able to utilize 10.895 million ha of land for spring and winter grains, which is 980,000 ha less than last year. By mid-October Ukrainian farmers had planted nearly 4.5 million ha of winter crops. So far, farmers have sown 3,018,000 ha of wheat, 260,000 ha of barley, 63,000 ha of rye, and 1,124,000 ha of winter rapeseed.

The volume of winter crops is expected to drop by 20% compared to last year as farmers lack financial resources. The agricultural sector is heavily indebted by more than Ukraine hryvnia (UAH) 100 billion (\$2.7 billion US), and there are big risks. Low prices, reduced exports and high production costs made growing every major crop except soybeans unprofitable this year.

Costs of shipping by truck or rail are very expensive compared to shipping from seaports. Shipping by barge up the Danube is also expensive because of a lack of barges. Farmers will lose \$55 per mt on their corn and \$44 per mt on their wheat in 2023-24 under the pessimistic scenario. It will be the first time in 20 years that farming has been unprofitable in the war-torn country.

World wheat prices have held mainly because of bumper crops in other wheat producing nations and the fact that Russian agriculture is not under sanctions so they can export their wheat via the Black Sea.

**Al Hingston '69 C**  
Ukraine resident for 15 years



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## Letter From a Prairie Chicken

In 1984, Derald & I were enlisted by our Ag. Rep, **Daryl Tumbach, '72 C**, to become Crop Reporters for the R.M. of Big Stick. As our farm is in the SE corner of the R.M., our reports did not necessarily reflect the average of the R.M. For the first few years, we recorded rainfall, crop progress, soil moisture depth, damage from hail, gophers & grasshoppers, and commented on any unusual weather events. We filled out a form and raced it to town to mail to Regina. We were fortunate that the Ahners had been rainfall reporters in the '50's and had been supplied with a rain gauge graduated in 100ths of an inch. We still use it and then translate the amount to millimetres for the current generation.

The system moved on to phoning in the weekly report. I developed a very friendly relationship with several of the staff answering the phone on Monday mornings. This lasted till after we completed our 30th year in the fall of 2014 as we did not have access to the Internet till late in our reporting career. I do check the weekly Crop Report from time to time and unfortunately there are currently no reporters in our corner of Saskatchewan. This does not help when the Dept. of Agriculture makes decisions regarding drought, pests or excess water problems. This service is still a vital part of our industry. It doesn't take a great deal of time each week, so I hope that the younger generations of our Ag. Grads who are presently farming will step up and carry on with Crop Reporting.

**William (Bill) Hamilton '50C**, (Oct. 5, 2023) has been a friend ever since the summer of 1961. I was to attend a Co-op Gradu-

ate Seminar at Valley Centre for Fort Qu'Appelle. I travelled from Unity to Regina by STC bus (remember those?), stay overnight in a downtown hotel and call a Mr. Hamilton. It took me all evening to call him because I had never used a dial phone and didn't understand letters & numbers. Eventually someone explained the system to me and I notified Bill that I was in the city. He came the next morning to collect me and two others. He took us to his house where his wife, Esther, had prepared lunch for all of us.

In the afternoon, he drove all of us, including Esther, to Fort Qu'Appelle, where he would be on staff and Esther (D. Aug. 16, 2021. 74 yrs. of marriage) would be the house mother for the girls. It was a very enjoyable week and we learned more about the Co-op, Wheat Pool and Credit Union systems. We all made many new friends who we joined later at University. Diane (Hancock) Berg, wife of **Carman Berg, '64 C**, and I have now been friends for 62 years.

Bill has been a faithful attendant at Ag. Grad Reunions and has always greeted me as an old friend. It dawned on me when reading his obituary that when we first met, he was only 38 years old!!! I thought he was a very distinguished, mature gentleman. My, how young we think 38 is now. Bill had been part of the '50 C class which sang at the Reunions. **Fred Fulton** and **Eiler Humbert** were part of this group singing "Those Were the Days, My Friend", which they occasionally changed to suit the times. I do hope someone has preserved all the words.

Irene Ahner '65C

## David Everard Thompson 1932-2023

As we are with the passing of any of our *SAGA* members, we are saddened with the loss of Honorary Life Member (HLM) **David Thompson, '54 S** on September 22. Dave leaves a great legacy, and as a true farmer from the heart, he waited for the 2023 crop to be in the bin before he passed. He gave of himself to his wonderful family, his land, his community and his country.

David's many contributions were recognized in many ways including: 1996 *SAGA* HLM, Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan in 2005 and Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022. Dave so enjoyed being with fellow grads and made an effort to attend as many *SAGA* reunions as possible. Irene recalls meeting Dave at functions in 2010 and 2015 at the Saskatchewan Legislature which honoured Sask. crop reporters (one of the many roles Dave performed) and the joy of greeting Dave as an old friend and fellow Grad.

Every year at the *SAGA* Reunion, a group picture of the Honorary Life Members is organized, and there's Dave, with the biggest smile possible, in our January 2023 picture.

Irene Ahner '65 C & Henry de Gooijer '83 C

## Honorary Life Members 2023



Front L-R: **Jim Halford '63 C (2019)**, **Brian Fowler '64 C (2023)**, **Murad Al-Katib (2023)**, **David Thompson '54 S (1996)**.

Middle L-R: **Bryan Harvey '60 S (2015)**, **Murray Westby '53 S (1995)**, **Mary Buhr – Dean of AgBio 2009-20 (2017)**, **Irene Ahner '65 C (2011)**, **Bill Copeland '60 C (2012)**, **Darald Marin '63 S (2012)**, **Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote '87 C (2017)**.

Back L-R: **Dave Christensen '58 C (2021)**, **Blair Cummins '77 S (2019)**, **R. Gordon Moore '68 S (2010)**, **Grattan O'Grady '69 S (2016)**.

## SAGA Scholarship Awards Recipients

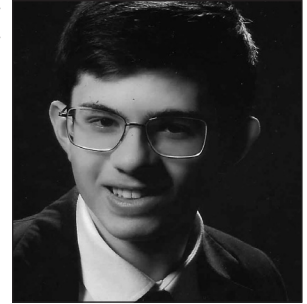
The *SAGA* Scholarships were first awarded in 2019, a concerted effort by former Membership chair **Vern Racz '68 C**. Fully funded by Ag Grad contributions and *SAGA*, seven recipients have been chosen the last four years, with two more joining their ranks for the 2023-24 year. These students were chosen by the College of AgBio and announced during the annual Bean Feed program.

**Gabrielle Ayles** is a 4th year horticulture major from Saskatoon. Her passion is improving community food security through small-scale agriculture projects in both urban and remote locations.



**Gabrielle Ayles**

**John Paul Wasan** is a 4th Year Environmental Science major from Saskatoon, SK. He also studies invasive plants in grasslands as a member of the Bennett Ecology Lab in the Department of Plant Sciences.



**John Paul Wasan**

## U of S Agriculture Student Clubs Updates

The USask Pre-Vet club is a community of prospective veterinarians, helping students figure out if a career in vet med is right for them and provide them with support with their vet school applications. The club hosts events such as mock interviews, animal-based labs, charity fundraisers (currently collecting donations for the SPCA and “We all Need a Rescue”) and community nights.

This year the AgBizz club in addition to their regular club activities, are working towards revitalizing the CAMA (Canadian Agri-food Marketers Alliance) Student Chapter, which had ceased operations during the pandemic. In CAMA, students create a marketing plan for an agricultural product to present at the national competition in Kansas City, Missouri, in April. The group also has tours planned with local breweries and distilleries, an internal student development seminar with MNP and a home case study competition to sharpen skills.

This year the Food and Bioproduct Sciences (FABS) Club hosted a distillery tour, trivia night and meet the professors event, and pumpkin carving. They had a ‘shave-away event’ where Dr. Michael Nickerson, Department Head volunteered to shave his head for donations reaching \$1,500 for Haven Family Connections. For the holiday season, the club is doing a Holiday Hamper Drive for Ronald McDonald House Charities in Saskatoon. Next term, the club will host a Multicultural Potluck to celebrate the culture and diversity of their club and department through food. The Food Industry Tour and Innovation Night is also in the works.

Over the fall term, U of S Horticulture Club, hosted mushroom growing sessions, field harvests, started their annual strawberry and tomato growing sessions, and utilized produce grown over the summer in both the field and on the rooftop. In addition, they were able to host a pumpkin sale in the Bowl and a Hal-

loween carving event with the FABS club using club grown pumpkins. They have brought in local producers from CHEP and are excited to bring in other Saskatoon growers. Going forward, they are excited to host a pub crawl at local distilleries, as well as grow fresh flowers for Valentine’s Day. They expect to host more food sessions baking cookies, pies, tarts, and bread.

The U of S Judging Team is planning to attend the Canadian Western Agribition Competition on November 20 and host their own competition in Saskatoon, January 26 - 28. They also plan to attend Lakeland College and the University of Guelph’s competitions in March. They are really excited about the year ahead after having high point individuals and grand and reserve champion teams at the U of A competition at Farm Fair International. The club has record registration with 33 members that are eager to compete across Canada!

The University of Saskatchewan Dairy Team meets on a monthly basis, where we bring in guest speakers from the industry and discuss and plan our events. The team has bonding activities including local and distant farm tours, and our annual pubcrawl.

To start off the year, the University of Saskatchewan Beef Team club embarked on a 4-day trip across Southern Alberta where they visited operations including a cattle genetics barn, commercial and purebred operations, feedlot, biogas facility, bison farm, and a trip to the Olds Fall Classic. The team is also planning tours to the U of S Livestock and Forage Center of Excellence and are hopeful for an AI course, low-stress cattle handling workshop, and a Verified Beef Producer Plus course. To keep up to date with the U of S Beef Team please follow us on Facebook page “U of S Beef Team” and Instagram @uofsbeefteam.

*continued on page 13*

*continued from page 12*

The Environmental and Bioresources Student Association is planning a few events for the year: a sustainability simulation evening, group snowshoe at Wanuskewin Heritage Park and a trip to Crossmount Cider company to participate in skating and other fun activities outdoors. They also want to host sessions with people in the industry to learn more about future job opportunities and other interests such as a learn to compost session. This year EBSA hosted a garbage cleanup on campus, filling a large black bag full by just walking towards the river and participated in a hike at the Spruce River Highlands Trail up at Prince Albert National Park.

At the weekly meetings of The U of S Range Team they discuss important topics that will prepare them to compete in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME). The conference's undergraduate component includes the URME, the Plant Identification Test, the Extemporaneous Speaking Competition, the Undergraduate Paper Session, and the Range-land Cup poster presentation contest. This year's conference will be held in Sparks, Nevada February 2024. Last year we received 3rd place in the URME out of over 20 universities!

**Carter Masley 2023-24 Club Liaison**

## ASA Report

Hi all, I am very excited to serve as this year's Public Relations Officer for the ASA! It's been a busy year so far with lots going on. Since September, we have had a first year meet and greet game night, budget pub, casino night, Corona Luau, sidewalk painting around campus, Halloween food drive and blood drives. I would like to thank all sponsors and SAGA members who came out and participated in our casino night! Of course, we also hosted Ag Bag Drag where the slogan was "screw the degree and come to drag 2023" with our very own Casey Pratchler opening followed by Brayden King and Washboard Union. Tickets sold out with around 1,500 people in attendance including many from other western Canadian universities and colleges. As I write this, we have our Movember campaign on the go with a goal to raise \$5,000 as a college for men's health. To support this fundraiser, we did a shavedown and bingo night to help raise funds.

As for things to look forward to, we will be hosting Agbio challenge on January 13, our Graduation banquet on January 20, winter mixer on February 10, and unhinged with a date TBD. Amongst all this, it is also a bedpush year! After raising over \$88,000 on the last one, this year we are going to try for \$100,000! To kick things off, we will try to cover the old bed that hangs in the lounge with \$20 bills at the Friday Night Social! This year the event will be a little earlier as TeleMiracle is February 22-24, I hope to see many of you out helping to push the bed! We are excited for the upcoming opportunities to mingle with you all in the near future!

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

## The Guessing Games (Or, What the Hell Was That Thing For?)

Over the last number of Reunions, *SAGA* has enhanced the evening with many photos, news articles and advertisements from way back in the day, courtesy of the Western Development Museum. These articles have been from several periods of the time. It is interesting to compare farm production prices and machinery styles of 75-100 years ago, to the behemoths trundling about the fields these days.

We have also had a Guess the Tool game that we think added fun to the evening. We've had some pretty lively arguments over exactly what some tool was designed or used for. To that end, we are again asking any grads that plan to attend on January 6 to bring in one or two of those ancient unknown implements stashed in that rusted old 5 gallon (20L!!) pail, or up on the back shelf of your shed or barn. Doesn't have to work, could be rusted solid, you yourself don't even need to know what it is.

Just bring it, please contact Ewald Lammerding at [eflammerding@sasktel.net](mailto:eflammerding@sasktel.net) or 306-260-3445.

**Farmer Lammerding is so  
interested in conserving energy,  
he's built a pig-powered car.**

**He has to get rid of it, though.  
Every time he turns a  
corner, the tires squeal.**

## Welcome to Our New SAGA Members in 2023

### SAGA Life Members

Luke Jorgensen '18 C  
Lindsay Folk '88 C  
Robert Hamlin '91 C  
Kirt Dickie '93 C  
Naomi Darragh '05 C  
Emma Cross '22 C  
Wyatt Bolt '23 C  
Janice Tranberg '84 C  
Morgan Davey '23 C  
Robert Stuart Garven '74 C  
Chad Scott '17 C  
Lorne Christopherson '69 C  
Orville Myrvang '69 C

### 2023 Annual Members


Patricia Johnson '83 C  
Paige Hobman '13 C  
Rollice Gronvold '53 S  
Randy Frei '83 C  
Mark Forbes '83 S  
Bryce Ehman '13 C  
Murray Easton '91 C  
Faye Dokken '03 C  
Jo-Anne de Gooijer '83 C  
Andrea Astleford '13 C  
Wayne Allen '63 C

## Stone Barn Update

There has been some movement on the future of Stone Barn. The University received about 600 responses to their request for ideas on how to repurpose the Barn: "Many creative and thoughtful." At some point there will be more public input sessions to discuss some of these ideas.

There have been some cost estimates for renovating the Barn (please read below). These will vary, depending on how the Barn is repurposed. The University will of course, need to fundraise for this. Historian and professor emeritus Bill Waiser, also a member of our ad hoc committee to save the Barn, has offered to assist the University committee with these fundraising efforts. If you are interested – please go to the University's online site for donations. You can select gift designation, there is an option to "Support Spaces of Significance," with the Stone Barn at the top of the list.

So, moving forward!  
**Cheryl Avery**



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Dear USask Community,

I am pleased to provide an update to our USask community regarding the latest developments on the Stone Barn. Just this week, I had the opportunity to update the USask Board of Governors on the status of the barn and thoughts on immediate next steps.

Following a very fruitful community visioning exercise in May, we engaged the land and facilities team to provide an estimate for conducting immediate to long-term improvements and updates to the barn. Over recent years we have maintained the structural integrity of the barn; however, for the immediate future, we would like to restore the roof and renew the siding on the structure so that it is in a good, sustainable state while we proceed to decide on a long-term vision for it.

This restoration of the roof and siding, with estimated costs of between \$3M and \$7M, presents a unique opportunity for our community to make a lasting impact. As custodians of this beloved barn, we invite you to join us in its preservation. Your support will not only ensure the immediate roof and siding restoration, but also contribute to the realization of our long-term vision for the barn. Together, we can transform this historic structure into a centerpiece landmark of our community, made possible through your generous donations.

**Peter Stoicheff**  
 President and Vice-Chancellor, USask

### We've lost track of some members ...

Our new email distribution system indicated that some of the Member email addresses we have are outdated. If you know any of the following, please ask them to reach out to us at [membership@saskaggrads.com](mailto:membership@saskaggrads.com) to update their contact information. Thank you!

<b>Wilson Acton '05 C</b>	<b>Ivan Horvey '77 C</b>
<b>Reginal Adam '52 C</b>	<b>Ross Hutchinson '73 C</b>
<b>Ronald Alexander '66 S</b>	<b>Tom Janzen '77 C</b>
<b>Terence Anderson '64 C</b>	<b>Deanna Klusa '88 C</b>
<b>Lawrence Baschak '79 C</b>	<b>Keith LePoudre '76 C</b>
<b>David Bates '66 S</b>	<b>Rodney Merryweather '83 C</b>
<b>Jay Bruggencate '66 C</b>	<b>Lawrence Middleton '57 S</b>
<b>John Chuey '61 C</b>	<b>Don Murphy '83 S</b>
<b>Gerald Coutts '72 C</b>	<b>Randy Pistawka '81 C</b>
<b>Brent Difley '80 C</b>	<b>Bev Rosher '76 S</b>
<b>Dean Dyck '82 C</b>	<b>Thomas Scott '86 C</b>
<b>Murray Eichorst '68 S</b>	<b>Laura Shoemaker '93 S</b>
<b>Laurie Entwistle '72 C</b>	<b>Jason Simpson '99 S</b>
<b>Kenneth Forden '70 C</b>	<b>Patricia Townsend '80 C</b>
<b>Erwin Hanley '93 S</b>	<b>Van Whitehead '68 C</b>
<b>Connie Heisler '76C</b>	

# Empty Saddles

Harold Everett Chapman '43 C, (2020 *SAGA* HLM),  
Nov. 14, 2023

Lester Arthur Schmidt '47 S, Dec. 20, 2019

William Hamilton '50 C, Oct. 5, 2023

Donald Vernon Gill '51 C, Feb. 16, 2022

Gary Frederick McKechney '52 S, Oct. 9, 2023

Donald Mansell Spicer '52 C, June 24, 2023

Thomas Edwin Nicholson '54 S, Nov. 15, 2020

David Everard Thompson '54 S, (1996 *SAGA* HLM),  
Sept 22, 2023

Jake Edward Braun '55 S, July 2, 2023

Donald Stewart Dyck '55 S, Apr. 4, 2023

Vaughn Basil McClarty '55 S, Sept. 8, 2023

Donald Keith Biehn '56 S, July 27, 2021

Ronald Duane Buck '56 S, Sept. 2, 2023

Barry Robert Frisk '58 S, Sept. 15, 2023

Antony 'Tony' Thomas Sander '58 S, Sept. 10, 2023

Gerald 'Gerry' John Gartner '62 C, Oct. 21, 2023

Erven Ernest Mackintosh '62 C, Mar. 27, 2023

Helgi Dennis Goodman '64 C, Oct. 16, 2022

Brian Charles McIntyre '64 C, July 25, 2023

Robert John 'Jack' Monteith, '64S, May 27, 2023

Leonard Malcolm Campbell '66 S, Dec. 29, 2022

John 'David' Robinson '66 C, Feb 3, 2023

Philip Henry England '67 C, July 1, 2023

Edward Morris Ceslak '68 S, Aug. 3, 2021

Daniel Albert Lockinger '73 S, Sept. 29, 2023

Donald Mitchell Bouchard '74 S, Feb. 2, 2017

Norman David Henderson '74 S, April 9, 2023

Raymond John Wagner '74 S, July 4, 2022

Alex 'Charles' Wdowach '74 S, Feb. 6, 2023

Dale Stuart McKague '76 C, May 1, 2022

Eric Allan Oliver '78 S and '90 C, Oct. 9, 2023

Carl Lyle Singbeil '78 C, Oct. 2, 2023

John Douglas Tinline '80 S, Apr. 19, 2023

Keith Edward Sanftleben '85 C, Aug. 5, 2023

## College Of AgBio and SAGA Friday Night Social

Fri. January 5, 2024, 4:30 – 7 p.m. in the College of AgBio Atrium and the Student Lounge. As usual, there will be tours of the Ag College building, and a gabfest all evening. Refreshments will be available in the lounge.

For questions about Friday Social, please contact: Hamish Tulloch at [hamish.tulloch@usask.ca](mailto:hamish.tulloch@usask.ca)

### University of Saskatchewan Tours

We want the Reunion Classes to be aware that you can arrange your own tour of other University sites for Friday afternoon or Saturday morning/early afternoon. But you are responsible for booking them from the following:

To book the Rayner Dairy Barn tour contact: Ian Goodwillie at [icg665@mail.usask.ca](mailto:icg665@mail.usask.ca) OR 306-966-4063.  
You must coordinate your plans with Ian no later than December 15.

The Canadian Light Source tour is absolutely awesome, you won't be disappointed going there. Please book directly with them. Contact: [tours@lightsource.ca](mailto:tours@lightsource.ca) OR 306-657-3644, or book online: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/public-tours-registration-48857364693>

## Saskatchewan Crop Organizations' Annual General Meetings

Registration is now open for the 2023 Annual General Meetings for these organizations:

**Monday, December 11, 2023**

**Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission**

AGM, seed production and market information sessions, evening social

8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Whitefox Community Centre – Whitefox

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**

**Canaryseed Development Commission Saskatchewan**

AGM and information session

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Atlas Hotel, Regina

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

**Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission (SaskOats)**

AGM, Research updates and market outlook session

8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PrairieLand Park, Hall E, Saskatoon

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

**Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association**

Banquet

5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

TCU Place, Saskatoon

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association**

AGM and information session

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

TCU Place, Saskatoon

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission**

AGM, research updates and market outlook session

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PrairieLand Park, Hall E, Saskatoon

For more information and to register, go to <https://cropweek.com/>

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 **May 15, 2024**.

**Lindsay Folk '88 C** - 3052 St. James Crescent, Regina, SK S4V 2Z2

**OR** cell 306-537-2802

**OR** [newsletter@saskaggrads.com](mailto:newsletter@saskaggrads.com)

You may also reach *SAGA* at these email addresses:

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

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

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

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

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President: **John Hauer '84 C**

Editors: **Ewald Lammerding '88 S**

**& Lindsay Folk '88 C**

