

President's Pen

As I write this note, your SAGA executive is busy pulling together the final details for the 90th SAGA Banquet and Reunion Weekend for January 10 and 11, 2025. The 90th anniversary is a significant milestone for your alumni organization. It's important to remind ourselves of the positive role SAGA has had over those past 90 years in bringing together and connecting Ag Grads and supporting the activities of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. And what better place to celebrate our history than at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon, the venue for our upcoming banquet. Congratulations to the honour year graduates and to all SAGA members as we reach another milestone. If you are like me when I graduated, the year 2025 seemed like a distant number, but here we are, "Welcome to the Future". And as the Brad Paisley song of the same name celebrates technological and societal change in our lifetime and the need to embrace the future, it's no different than for all of us and for SAGA. We now use social media (Facebook and X) to provide updates to SAGA and ASA ag student events. Over two-thirds of our membership

now receives their newsletter by email and our website provides a window to a range of information and services including access to previous newsletters, purchasing banquet tickets and more. When **Terry Grajczyk '83 C** steps in as President of SAGA in 2025, it will be the second year in succession that the President of SAGA is not residing in the vicinity of Saskatoon. SAGA now effectively operates via Zoom meetings, meaning that ag grads at any location can now be members and participate on the SAGA executive. It might be the time to make that News Years Resolution for 2025 to take that step and volunteer to become a SAGA executive member.

Continuing with the theme of review and renewal, your SAGA Executive has also struck a working committee to review the purpose of the current Honorary Life Membership Award, the criteria for its awarding, and the procedures for soliciting and screening awards to determine their adequacy. The committee, being chaired by Bryan Harvey, will also provide recommendations for future awards to be given by SAGA. We look forward

to the outcome and guidance provided to ensure we continue to meet the needs of SAGA members and provide recognition from our organization in a fair and principled manner.

It has been a privilege to serve as your SAGA president this past year and I look forward to serving on the SAGA executive in the Past President's role in the coming year. I again need to thank all members of the SAGA executive including our ASA student reps and those who volunteer their time to organize the reunion weekend and banquet, create the newsletters you receive, post information on Twitter (oops X) and Facebook, keep the finances in order, represent SAGA at the Ag Hall of Fame and numerous other events, organize our meetings and keep records of all we do and so much more, throughout the year. We appreciate all Ag Grads and students and the time and effort you provide in support of SAGA. Thank you! I look forward to seeing you at the 90th reunion in 2025.

Henry de Gooijer '83 C



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association

The Annual General Meeting of SAGA will be held:

**Tuesday,
January 14, 2025,
7:00 PM (SK) time**

This meeting will be held by Zoom only.

Please register by January 11 on the SAGA website:

SAGA > Governance > AGM Minutes > Upcoming AGM

[Register for AGM](#)

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

Meeting registrants received on or before January 11 will be emailed reports in advance of the meeting. (Registrations received after January 11 may still attend the meeting, but you won't receive the reports).

Summer road trips and Agro roots

BY LINDSAY FOLK '88 C

Summer is the time for road trips and this year I took the opportunity to explore family history. I grew up in Calgary, but both of my grandmothers were from the Fort Qu'Appelle / Cupar area. When my dad visited from Calgary, we decided to check out his family history and I learned that my Agro roots go way back!

We started at the Cupar & District Museum, an amazing place which has clearly been a labour of love for museum volunteers of curating history and artifacts. My dad and I spent a lot of time looking through the history books, learning about my (paternal) grandmother's family. Her maiden name was "Scott" and her younger brother was **Duncan Scott '43 C**, who went on to be a professor in soil science in Iowa. We figured out how we were related to the Scotts of Cupar, who have an even longer Agro history! I've emailed a few times with **Chad Scott '17 C**, one of the SAGA hockey tournament organizers, but we've never met and now I know that Chad is a cousin! His brother **Matthew '16 C**, his dad **Michael '95 C** and his grandfather, **Leonard '51 C** are all proud Agros. On my side of the Scott tree, the Agro tradition continues another generation with our son **Carter '21 AgBio** (my husband **Mark** is also an **Agro, '88 C**).

After stopping in Cupar, we headed south to find an Old Stone House that we had seen referenced in the history books and that my dad remembers visiting as a young boy when he came to visit his grandparents. It took some searching, but we found it in surprisingly good condition for a home built in 1900. It was built for my (and Chad and Matthew's) great-great grandfather John Scott. The Cupar history book indicates, "*Stones were brought to the site by young men from miles around in exchange for a promise by Mr. Scott of a supper and dance once the house was completed*". It made me think that some things haven't changed, it still takes a community to get things done. It was a beautiful August day when we did this road trip, lots of harvest activity going on, and a chance for my dad to share stories about his grandparents.

This newsletter may find you preparing for Christmas, perhaps to spend time with family. From our family to yours, many blessings and best wishes for 2025.

**Old stone house,
south of Cupar**





90th Annual SAGA Reunion Banquet

January 11, 2025

Note new venue!

Festivities will be held at:
Saskatoon Western Development Museum,
 2610 Lorne Avenue

Cocktails	4:00 PM
Banquet	5:30 PM
Program	6:30 PM
Mixer	8:00 PM

Welcome:

Henry de Gooijer '83 C, 2024 SAGA President

Honorary Life Member Awards presentation following dinner.

Recognition of Years:

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

Grads from every year are always welcome!

Photos

Small Class and HLM photos will be taken before the Banquet, starting at 4 PM (Check with your Class Chair for the photo schedule). Large Class photos will be taken immediately following the program.

Tickets

Banquet tickets can be purchased at saskaggrads.com > SAGA Reunion tab.

Banquet & Mixer \$80
Mixer only \$20

Mixer tickets can be purchased on website or at the door.

Banquet ticket purchase deadline is midnight, January 5, 2025.

If you have difficulties purchasing your ticket online, contact your Reunion Chair or **Jason Fradette:** treasurer@saskaggrads.com or 306-244-2648

If you have questions about the Reunion weekend, be sure to contact us early:

Henry de Gooijer
reunion@saskaggrads.com
 or 306-695-7141

Terry Grajczyk or **Deanne Belisle**
reunion@saskaggrads.com

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

**Friday, January 10, 2025,
 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM**
**College of AgBio Atrium
 and 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 the Friday Social, contact **Ian Goodwillie** at ian.goodwillie@usask.ca



SAGA HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Greetings to the SAGA faithful, it's everyone's favourite time of the year.

The SAGA Hockey Tournament is happening **January 11, 2025** at **Waldheim Rec Centre** in Waldheim, SK. There is room for 6 teams, so get your entry submitted ASAP before the slate fills. The tournament will start at **8:00 AM** and each team is guaranteed 3 games. Single players are invited to register and will be put on a welcoming team.

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

Things to do at the Western Development Museum on January 11, 2025

SAGA is planning for everyone to have as much fun as they can on January 11 at the Western Development Museum (WDM) over the course of our 90th Reunion Banquet day. If you, or your Class, would like to spend time visiting the WDM before the Reunion start time of 4:00 PM, we have arranged for you to come in at no extra cost, providing you have previously purchased either a Banquet or a Mixer ticket, on the SAGA website. Just go to the visitor desk and let them know you are with SAGA. They will give you free access to Boom Town and Main Street.

We will have the SAGA registration table set up at 3:00 PM in the WDM foyer. Here you will receive your reunion

accreditation on a lanyard for you and your guest, Class ribbon, SAGA lapel pin (if you want), and a special SAGA 90th anniversary keepsake.

The WDM has graciously agreed to close the facility early to the public so that we will have the place to ourselves after 4:00 PM. The cash bar will open then, and we have received permission to carry drinks in Boom Town and Main Street, however, no liquids are allowed in the Sask Ag Hall of Fame (SAHF).

You and your Class can roam 'til it's time for your Class photo (your Chair has the schedule), or until its time for the Banquet. Just think of all the catching up that you'll do while wandering among the main floor exhibits and the SAHF.

Large class photos and more roaming can continue after the Banquet.

Come early to enjoy Saskatoon's prairie boomtown museum and the SAHF. We have a maximum capacity at the venue, so we encourage you to purchase your ticket without delay to avoid disappointment.

Banquet tickets will not be sold at the registration desk, but you can still purchase a Mixer Ticket at the door.

Please let us know if you plan to come early, by emailing: eflammerding@sasktel.net.

2025 SAGA Reunion Chairs

YEAR	CONTACT PERSON	EMAIL	PHONE
1945 College & 1945 School	SAGA Vice President	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1950 College	SAGA Vice President	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1950 School	SAGA Vice President	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
1955 College	Lorne Jackson	lorjac9@sasktel.net	306-624-0426
1955 School	George Krenz	Mail only: Box 591, Eston, SK	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 Marcel Dubois Doug Sword	ireneahner@gmail.com marcel.dubois41@gmail.com dsword@shaw.ca	306-662-3463 306-882-2258 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	Doug Leask Neil Ketilson	leaskdm@sasktel.net ketilson@shaw.ca	
1975 School	John Knudson	Phone only	306-873-7564
1985 College	Ray Elliott	elliott1@mymts.net	204-821-8205
1985 School	SAGA Vice President	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	chelsea.norheim@norheimranching.com	306-227-0944
2005 School	SAGA Vice President	reunion@saskaggrads.com	
2015 College	Moria and Zach Kurtenbach	m.e.petruic@gmail.com	306-868-7687
2020 College	Katie Protasenko	katie.protasenko@hotmail.com	306-425-9800

A Word from the Dean

Greetings fellow alumni!

Fall is always a time of change: changing seasons, changing leaves on the trees, the changing landscape of harvest, and frequently this year, the changing colors of aurora borealis (if you can stay up late enough to check them out). At the university, the changes include bringing the students back to campus, filling the hallways of the Agriculture Building with chatter and blue jackets.

In AgBio, we have welcomed Dr. Kaidi Wang in Food and Bioproduct Sciences as our new Agriculture and Agri-Food Innovation Chair in Applied Microbiology and have two additional faculty members scheduled to join the college early in 2025. The interviews for our cluster hire of five positions in Sustainable and Digital Agriculture are underway, so watch for updates on all of our new additions in May.

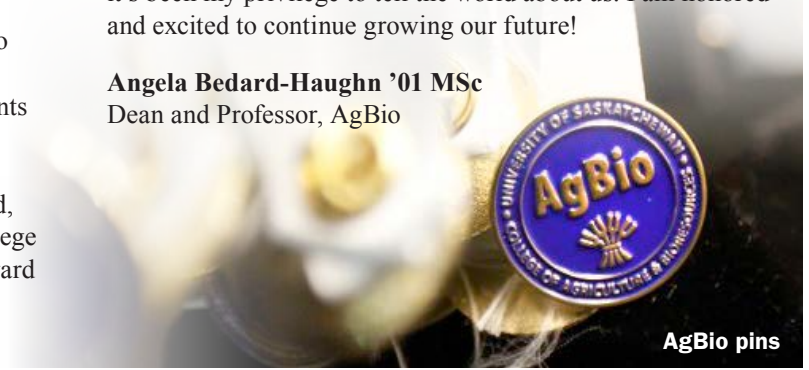
We held our second annual pinning ceremony this year – aimed at welcoming second year students to their new majors. Held in Convocation Hall, this event has just enough gravitas to feel special (I even bust out my regalia, which only ever gets worn for convocation ceremonies otherwise) but is also small enough to be a bit more informal. I try not to go too far off-script, but I just can't help myself sometimes. Students each receive a custom AgBio pin attached to a ribbon that corresponds to the color of their convocation hood, get a practice run at crossing a stage and shaking the dean's hand, and afterwards have an opportunity to mingle with the college executive and faculty. It's a new tradition that we look forward to continuing for years to come!



2024 Pinning ceremony

Heading into the winter season, I'm looking forward to connecting with many of you at Agribition, Crop Production Week, and of course, the SAGA reunion! It may be hard to believe (at least it is for me) that I'm already in the fifth year of my first term as Dean of Agriculture and Bioresources! It has been such a joy getting to know many of you in this role – thank you for sharing your stories and experiences with me. The lifelong community we forge in this college is incredible, and it's been my privilege to tell the world about us. I am honored and excited to continue growing our future!

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



AgBio pins

An Annual Agro Tradition

BY BRENT BENDER '83 C

Our 1st Agro Reunion started in 1988 when **Bill Aulie '83 C** and his wife Karen invited several of his Agro friends to their cottage at Buena Vista on Last Mountain Lake, after they were meeting annually at what was then the Farm Progress Show. The group includes: **Craig Smith '83 C** (Maidstone, farmer), **Brent Bender '83 C** (Regina, FCC retiree), **Doug Higgins '85 C** (Regina, FCC retiree), **Bill Aulie** (Rouleau, farmer), **Jeff Bean '89 C** (Rouleau, farmer), **Ron Gilmour '85 C** (Aylesbury, farmer), **Darren Bly '86 C** (Regina, FCC retiree), **Lorne Klein '83 C** (Weyburn, Sask Ag & Food retiree and bison rancher), **Gary Gale '83 C** and **Cathy Gale '86 C** (Holbein, FCC retirees, farmers), **Kern Clayton '83 C** (Winnipeg, UPL AgroSolutions) and **Gerry Hertz '84 C** (Edenwold, farmer).

Our reunion has grown to three generations over the years! Our kids and our grandkids look forward to this reunion every year with everyone pitching in to feed this gang over three days! There is never any shortage of food, laughter, story telling, beverages and good times over the course of the weekend.

A 9-hole round of golf starts each day followed by an afternoon of fun on the beach and water. Happy hour goes all day followed by a gourmet meal each night. Then it's time to sit by the fire and reminisce about the good days when we were wild and crazy Agros, along with a lot of chirping between the northern farmers and southern farmers. Craig Smith aka Smitty makes sure we have our nightly weiner roast to finish off each night!

As you can see from the photo, we designed a 150-foot water slide that provides a ton of fun for not only the



Three generations at the 2024 Reunion, Buena Vista



Front L-R: Darren Bly, Lorne Klein, Gary Gale Back L-R: Craig Smith, Brent Bender, Doug Higgins, Bill Aulie, Jeff Bean, Ron Gilmour



A little farmer ingenuity makes for a great water slide

... it's time to sit by the fire and reminisce about the good days when we were wild and crazy Agros, along with a lot of chirping between the northern farmers and southern farmers.

grandkids but us old Agros as well. All you need is a grain bag, rolled up tarps for side walls, liquid soap and water and presto ... you have one hell of a ride down our Agro Water Slide. Some things never change when you're an Agro!

We also introduced an impressive fireworks display, all run from an app on an iPhone. No more lighting of fuses and having the fireworks go off prematurely and firing into vehicles and onlookers, which has happened in the past. We also couldn't have an Agro reunion without

the Aaron Higgins beach volleyball tournament that is extremely competitive with both young and old vying for the Team Championship and bragging rights.

As we all know when a group of Agros get together it is sure to be a fun event. This Agro Reunion at the Aulie Cottage only gets bigger and better every year. Thanks to the Aulie's who got this tradition off the ground and have hosted this event every year since 1988! Can't wait till the 2025 reunion!

SAGA Reunion 2024



1994 College

Front L-R: Scott Horner, Carrie Nicholas, Janice Tranberg, Trish Meyers, Julie Schuette, Greg Stokke Back L-R: Colin Steen, Tim Weins, Chad Nicholas, Bill Greuel, Mike Paterson, Wade Beck, Shannon Meyers



2014 AgBio

Front L-R: Chelsea Toles (Emde), Maria Fradette (Epp), Kerrie de Gooijer (Andreas), Back L-R: Billy Brown, Colin Dutcheshen, Chay Anderson, Mitchell Bond, Steve Somerville



1994 School

Front L-R: Jason Wakefield, Lisa Smith Back L-R: Brian Krenz, Ron Saunders, Shane Stokke



Honorary Life Members 2024

Front L-R: Janice Tranberg '94 C (2024), Cecilia Mulhern '75 C (2013), Fran Walley '93 PhD (2024), Bryan Harvey '60 C (2015) Back L-R: Jim Halford '63 C (2019), Irene Ahner '65 C (2011), Grattan O'Grady '69 S (2016), Mary Buhr, Dean of AgBio 2009-20 (2017), Bill Copeland '60 C (2012), Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote '87 C (2017)

We've lost track of some members ...

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

Ronald Alexander '66 S
Ken Bassendowski '72 C
Gordon Bue '78 C
Sandy (Lorne) Campbell '51 S
Robert Campbell '56 S
John Chuey '61 C
Kenneth Copithorne '60 S
Gerald Coutts '72 C
Janice Cruise '87 C
Kevin Daniels '86 C
Laurie Entwistle '72 C
Kenneth Forden '70 C
Douglas Graham '89 C
Ernie Harach '74 C
Gerald Harrison '83 C
Jim Hart '62 C
George Heidgerken '80 C
Tom Janzen '77 C
David Krause '89 S
Keith Lundgren '72 S
Ted McCannel '50 C
Stephanie Meier '08 S
Andrew Mess '74 S
Lawrence Middleton '57 S
Gerald Miller '71 C
Thomas Monea '84 C
Don Murphy '83 S
Malcolm Nisbet '72 S
Tiffany Peters '08 S
James Pollock '74 C
Bev Roshier '76 S
Peter Sandercock '91 C
Jason Simpson '99 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
James Woodworth '85 S
Henry Zilm '69 C

Honorary Life Member 2025 – Kevin Hursh

Kevin Hursh '80C graduated with distinction from the College of Agriculture serving as Ag Student Association President and Senior Stick in his final year. Following graduation, he worked for 15 years doing farm news for CTV in Saskatchewan, establishing a weekly half hour show called Farmgate. Kevin and his wife Marlene run Hursh Consulting & Communications based in Saskatoon. Through the years, Kevin has served as executive director of the Inland Terminal Association of Canada (ITAC), the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan and Sask Mustard. Kevin and Marlene handled communications work for Crop Production Week for many years. Kevin and Marlene also own and operate a farm near Cabri in southwest Saskatchewan growing a wide variety of crops including chickpeas, large green lentils, maple peas, brown mustard and Canary seed. For more than 40 years, Kevin has written a weekly column, which for many years has been published in *The Western Producer*. He has also written for other 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.

Honorary Life Member 2025 – Grant Devine

Donald Grant Devine '67 C was born in 1944 in Regina and was raised on his grandfather's farm near Lake Valley. After earning his degree from the University of Saskatchewan, he completed his Master's in Agricultural Economics from the University of Alberta in 1970, before attaining his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Ohio State University in 1976. Grant taught agricultural marketing and consumer economics at the University of Saskatchewan from 1976-79. From 1982-91 he served as the Premier of Saskatchewan, while also holding the agriculture portfolio. While in these roles several agricultural policy initiatives were implemented such as reducing interest rates for farmers and homeowners, introducing the Net Income Stabilization Account and Gross Revenue Insurance Programs and creating Ag-West Bio Inc., the first biotechnology industry-government association in Canada. Grant was involved in the NAFTA negotiations between Canada, United States and Mexico and was a leading advocate for the fundraising to build the new College of AgBio building on the U of S Campus. He currently serves on the Land and Facilities and Finance and Investment committees of the Board of Governors at the U of S and has a farm and ranch near Moose Jaw.



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Cheers with Peers at Ag in Motion July 2024
L-R: Eric Johnson '82 C, Mayson Maerz '83 C, Colin Peterson '95 C, Tim Palmer '81 S, Louis Bossaer '95 C. Photo taken by Ewald Lammerding '88 S

Welcome to NEW SAGA Members!

Life Members

Noah Altwasser, AgBio '24
 Carter Altwasser, AgBio '20
 Sheldon Daniel, AgBio '20
 Wanda Englot, C '93
 Kendyl Mandziak, AgBio '22
 Tyen Paterson, AgBio '20



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Athletic Agro families

Some amazing athletic achievements for Agro families ...

Dr. Rex Newkirk, '92 C, '95 MSc, '02 PhD and his wife Kathy-Jo had the experience of a lifetime this summer as they watched their daughter Shelby compete at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Unable to attend her first Paralympics in Tokyo due to Covid restrictions that banned fans, the Newkirks were finally able to experience the games in person. The venue was a rugby stadium where they installed a temporary pool to accommodate the large number of fans in attendance. Every day was a sold-out crowd with 15,000+ fans at every session! If you were following the news, you will already know that Shelby hit the podium on the final night of competition, winning bronze in the 100m backstroke – S6 classification. A monumental moment for the whole family to be proud of.

Julie Kozun '22 AgBio, is a member of the Canadian Sitting Volleyball team, that won bronze at the Paris 2024 Paralympic games. They were the first team from Canada to win a medal, in this sport.

Aaron Higgins, son of Rose and **Doug Higgins '85 C**, won four medals in the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Berlin, Germany – silver in squat, silver in bench press, bronze in deadlift and silver overall. Aaron was also recently inducted into the Regina Sports Hall of Fame.



Rex and Kathy-Jo Newkirk cheering at Paralympics 2024, Paris



Shelby Newkirk receives her Bronze medal in swimming

Convocation 2024



Former SAGA presidents: John Hauer '84 C, Deanne Belisle '79 C and Eric Johnson '82 C sitting on a bench that honours Bob McKercher



Cailey Church, 24 'C, ASA Public Relations Officer and John Hauer



New 2024 grads: L-R Kennedy Fedak-Crozon, Olivia Nichols, Brooklyn Colborn



Dean Angela Bedard-Haughn at Convocation 2024 Luncheon

Current state of agriculture in Ukraine

BY ALLEN HINGSTON '69 C

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.

By the end of 2023, the Ukrainian agricultural sector had sustained an estimated US\$80 billion in damages and losses. Rebuilding Ukraine's agriculture is expected to cost US\$56.1 billion and demining will cost an additional US\$32 billion. Russia also blockaded Ukrainian agricultural exports. The Black Sea Initiative and the more recent Ukrainian Corridor have helped to keep Ukraine's economy afloat and avert a wider global food security crisis.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative of 2022 lasted one year before Russia reneged on it. Military success in the Black Sea allowed Ukraine, in August 2023, to create the Ukrainian corridor, a "safe route" through Turkish, Bulgarian, Romanian, and Ukrainian territorial waters. Export volumes by the late fall of 2023 had rebounded significantly. The new shipping route is open to all exports and imports. The improved security situation in Ukrainian territorial waters was decisive for this success, along with an innovative solution to reduce the risks of insuring ships carrying Ukrainian products.

By reducing Ukrainian grain exports, Russia is blackmailing the global community with the real possibility of creating famine in other countries. Due to attacks on grain and port infrastructure, many African and Asian countries that relied on Ukrainian grain are now at risk. Russia has promised to replace Ukrainian grain and provide free grain as well to these countries.

While countries in the Middle East and North Africa area (MENA, including Turkey) remain large markets for

Ukraine, the share of exports has dropped from 53% to 34% over these same periods. The largest impact to wheat exports has been felt by Sub-Saharan Africa, which fell from 10% to 3% and South and Southeast Asia, which fell from 30% to 12%.

Russia is intent in replacing Ukrainian grain exports with their own grain and currying favour with African nations to support them against the West (shades of the Cold War). Russian wheat production over the past two marketing seasons has been at a record high due to record plantings and yields. The USDA estimates that Russian wheat exports will likely be a record-high 51 MMT for the 2023-24 marketing year.

Russia accounts for a large share of global exports of fertilizer components such as potash, urea, diammonium phosphate and anhydrous ammonia. Market prices for these commodities spiked after the invasion in February 2022. This puts at risk those countries trying to boost their own grain production.

On September 11, 2024, a Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged bulk carrier was struck by a Russian-launched missile after leaving the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk in the Odesa region. There were no casualties as the missile failed to explode. It was the first time a missile has struck a civilian vessel transporting grains at sea since the start of the invasion in February 2022. Some vessels have been damaged during Russian attacks on Ukrainian ports where they were moored.

For more information:

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/food-silent-weapon-russias-gains-and-ukraines-losses>

Maps of crop producing areas of Ukraine:

https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/rssiws/al/up_cropprod.aspx



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
CROP ROTATION SURVEY

**We are once again asking
Prairie farmers to participate
in the University of
Saskatchewan's
Crop Rotation Survey!**

Help to inform government and the public about the improvements to Prairie crop production sustainability over the past 25 years and shape policy in a way that recognizes farmers' contributions. Completed surveys are eligible for up to \$200 in compensation. For more information, contact chelsea.sutherland@usask.ca. To register for the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/CRSRegistrationForm2024>.

U of S Agriculture Student Clubs Update

BY MITCHELL HAMP '25 C, ASA CLUB LIAISON

The **Rodeo team** members represent Saskatchewan in the Canadian College Rodeo Association, attending rodeos across BC and Alberta. The team hosts events such as barrel racing and team roping jackpots, clinics and various other equine-related events, as well as team nights. The team is currently planning to host a Canadian College Rodeo Association-sanctioned rodeo for the 2025-26 season.

This year, the **Agribusiness Club** along with the renewed CAMA Sask Student Chapter are back for another year of learning and development. The CAMA group will attend the NAMA conference in April in Kansas City, Missouri for the second year since the covid hiatus. In addition, the CAMA group will be attending the Best of CAMA student case competition in Calgary in November. Along with CAMA activities, the Agribusiness Club has organized tours and networking opportunities with agribusinesses surrounding Saskatoon, including Twin Peaks Creamery, Duckfoot Parts, MNP to facilitate connection between students and industry. For involvement in the college community, the Agribusiness club is also bringing back the Corn Hole Tournament on Saturday, November 23 at the Clavet Hall.

The **Judging team** will be sending members to Farmfair, Agribition, Lakeland and potentially Guelph. As well our own competition "dare2judge" will take place in January. The club is open to members of all skill levels from no experience to those with lots of practice. Additionally, we have many fun events throughout the year for team members to bond and make new friends. For more information, follow the U of S judging team on Facebook.

The **Pre-Vet 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.

The **Dairy team** meets monthly and brings 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 pub crawl.

The **Beef team** has been hard at work fundraising and planning our upcoming trip to Texas for the Fort Worth Stock Show in February. This trip will include tours of local livestock operations as well as time exploring the show. The team meets biweekly with guest speakers and presentations to follow every other meeting. Our most recent meeting included an excellent presentation by a veterinarian from Cattle Health Management of Brooks, Alberta. In the new year, we are

looking to plan a Low-stress Cattle Handling Workshop and Verified Beef Producer Plus Course at the Livestock and Forage Center of Excellence. To keep up to date with team activities, follow us on Facebook at "U of S Beef Team" and Instagram @uofsbeefteam.

Over the fall term the **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 Halloween carving event with the FABS club using club grown pumpkins. They expect to host more food sessions baking cookies, pies, tarts, and bread.

ASA Report

BY MASON BECK '25 C,
ASA PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Hi everyone, I am excited to serve as this year's Public Relations Officer for the ASA! The year so far has been incredibly busy! We have had a first year meet and greet games night, budget pub, casino night, bud light lime luau, sidewalk painting, Halloween food drive and blood drives. A huge thank you to all sponsors and SAGA members that help us put these events on. Our highlight of the fall was Ag Bag Drag where the slogan was "pour me one more at DRAG 24". The event was hosted at TCU Place with a strong attendance of approximately 1,250, including Aggies from University of Alberta, Olds College, and Lakeland College. The night was opened by The Fox & Hounds from Medicine Hat, Alberta followed by Chad Brownlee! As I write this we are also starting our Movember Campaign with a goal of raising \$5,000 for men's health.

Coming up in the future we have our graduation banquet on January 11 and several other events with dates to be determined. This year is a STARS year where we fundraise for STARS Air Ambulance. After raising \$40,000 on the last one, we are setting our sights big with a goal of \$110,000, more than the Agros have ever raised before! I look forward to the many opportunities to mingle with you all in the near future.

Unpacking AgBio's Success

Adaptability, resiliency and trust in what we do

BY HAMISH TULLOCH '91 C

My office houses a small collection of materials from the college's past – things like graduation booklets dating back to the 1950's, a collection of convocation guides, a handful of the Greystone yearbooks – it's surprising what these illuminate on closer examination.


Hunting for something in this collection, I came across a program guide for Bean Feed from 1991. This was the year I graduated, which may be why it caught my attention. I was struck by the size, format and page layout – it's the same as we follow today. How little things change (or so I initially thought). But comparing the current and old programs, a different picture emerges. Each booklet opens with an overview of the evening's activities followed by a number of pages devoted to award descriptions. The most striking difference between the older and current booklet is the thickness. Back in 1991, it took just 5 pages to summarize the scholarships. Now 24 pages are needed for these descriptions. I counted 19 individual scholarships in the 1991 booklet. Last year's Bean Feed program had 104. In both guides, the award names recognize a mix of organizations and individuals – more than half of the scholarships given out in 1991 were established by companies and industry groups – today more than 90% of our scholarships were established by people. Of the organizations associated with the awards in 1991, very few exist today. All of the ag companies listed in the 1991 booklet are gone now (either wound up or merged). Only one of the organizational awards (the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists Scholarship) is still active. Interestingly, the awards named for people in the 1991 guide have demonstrated considerably more staying-power – almost all still exist.

These observations got me thinking about some of the other changes that have occurred at the college over the years. One of the most significant is our growth. This academic year the college has over 1,700 students, of which approximately 80% are undergrads. Although not a recent change, the proportion of women in our programs is quite different from the pre-1990s. These days the undergrads are about 64% female. To put this in some context, the only colleges that attract more women are nursing, dentistry, education, veterinary medicine, and pharmacy & nutrition.

The college's programs have also evolved over the years. There are now 16 majors that can be chosen to pursue a bachelor's degree. Of these, Agronomy, Animal Science, Animal Bioscience and Agribusiness currently make up more than 60% of our undergraduate students. Horticulture, which was my major, has moved from the fringes to have

more students than Crop Science. Another major shift in the college's undergraduate programs involves our social science offerings. Once exclusively represented by Agricultural Economics degrees, the introduction of the Agribusiness program began to draw a whole new cohort of students from less traditional backgrounds.

I believe these changes say something about the college's resiliency and adaptability. We seem to have a natural ability to recognize emerging needs and capitalize on new opportunities. Observe that students are looking for a more direct path to become veterinarians – offer a program to do that and more. Identify a gap between Ag Econ and our science focussed majors – enter the Ag Business program to fill it. Witness crop production technologies advance at breakneck speed – welcome to the Precision Ag Certificate. Experience the transitory nature of industry support – be something that real people care about. And that, at the college's core, may be the secret to our success.



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Letter from a Prairie Chicken

BY IRENE AHNER '65 C

My story this time is going to be a memorial for two of our departed old friends, both SAGA members and supporters.

Our classmate, **Jerry Knipfel '65 C**, M.Sc., Ph.D., left us on April 11, after many successful years in Swift Current. He was a long-time researcher at the Canada Agriculture Research Station. He and his family established a tree nursery and park from a bare hillside a few miles east of Swift Current. He was also a very active community member. On June 30, the family hosted a celebration of life for him at Merivale Nursery in their house yard. Nine members plus some spouses of the '65 C class travelled from Calgary, Maple Creek, Rosetown, Saskatoon, North Battleford and Lloydminster to be part of all the remembering. The family provided an hour of remembrances plus an excellent video of Jerry's life and accomplishments. Later some of us gathered for supper to continue telling college stories.

One of my stories for SAGA last year was about **Lloyd Redick '49 S**, who had returned to his roots in Maple Creek in 2022. He was raised in our home community, close to the Ahners. He was a wealth of information about his early years and his working life with the PFRA and the Water Survey of Canada. He was devoted to SAGA and rarely missed a reunion.

Lloyd was 94 on January 13, 2024. I made sure that I took home a 75 Year Ribbon for him from our reunion. It was hung proudly in the hall picture case outside his room. His health began to deteriorate earlier this year and he was moved to long-term care. After a series of ups and downs, he passed away on September 22, his mind was sharp to the end. His funeral was in his beloved Maple Creek United Church where he and wife, Verla, had been the first couple married in the current building. On display was his United Empire Loyalist uniform and his School of Agriculture jacket! Following the funeral, his daughter left me a copy of the letter all School Grads received upon graduation in 1949 from Acting Director A.A. Stilborn. It offered congratulations but also outlined expectations for the future careers of each grad and it mentioned that the new School of Agriculture Building, Kirk Hall, should be completed in the fall of 1949. The grads were reminded that attending reunions would be enjoyable experiences.

As we are now in the category of octogenarians, there will be many more of these occasions for old friends. However, we can rejoice in the fact that we were blessed with knowing them.

Empty Saddles

(Names in order of graduating year)

George William Perry
'47 S, December 15, 2023

Lloyd Osborne Redick
'49 S, September 22, 2024

James Smith '49 S & '52 C,
October 25, 2024

Maurice Lefebvre
'50 S, July 31, 2024

Martin Thomas Marchildon
'50 S, July 15, 2024

Hugh 'Donald' Sutherland
'52 C, July 30, 2024

James Stanley Stukings
'56 S, April 9, 2024

Robert Best McLaren
'57 S, May 11, 2021

Kenneth James Sawby
'57 S, June 3, 2018

Harry Lucien du Russel
'60 C, May 31, 2024

Robert 'Wayne' Johnstone
'60 S, July 29, 2024

Kenneth Campbell Turner
'60 C, August 20, 2024

George Barry Webster
'62 S, September 18, 2024

Durold Frederick Textor
'63 S, August 18, 2022

Lynn 'Allan' Blair
'64 C, October 19, 2024

James Leslie 'Les' Henry
'64 C, '68 MSc, (2008 SAGA HLM) June 14, 2024

Victor Romeo Rondeau
'64 C, October 28, 2024

Rodney Fredrick Harris
'65 S, May 24, 2019

Herbert 'Paul' Douglas
'66 C, April 22, 2015

Patrick James Clift
'67 C, July 5, 2024

Stanley Gordon Bethune
'68 S, May 17, 2020

Gordon David Eckhoff
'68 S, April 1, 2023

Charles Dennis Van Der Haegen
'68 S, June 14, 2024

George Herbert Weaver
'68 S & '72 C, October 27, 2020

Gregory 'Greg' Rea Martin
'69 S, July 1, 2024

Bruce Roger Hill
'71 S, October 9, 2024

Edward David Holzman
'72 C, August 12, 2024

Gary Thomas Lockhart
'73 S, August 12, 2024

Donald Wayne Walker
'74 C, October 1, 2021

Wayne Stuart Wright
'74 S, September 22, 2024

Joseph William Remail
'76 C, September 19, 2024

Mark Dwayne Pickard
'78 C, April 21, 2024

Patricia 'Joanne' Dwernychuk
'82 C, September 10, 2024

Allan Peter Mitschke
'82 C, August 26, 2024

Robert Leonard Scheibel
'84 S, June 17, 2024

Rodney Glenn Weins
'87 C, March 26, 2022

Vaughn Donald Minogue
'91 S, May 31, 2024

Linda May Hall '92 PhD,
September 17, 2024

Donna Marie Leray
'94 Cert., June 25, 2020

Lester Denis Skarra
'94 Cert., September 19, 2024

Margaret Fern Petrishen
'02 Cert., July 4, 2024

Nickolous 'Nick' Gordon Peat
'05 AgBio, April 11, 2019

Barrett Andrew Rankin
'08 AgBio, June 17, 2024

A Tribute to Les Henry: Keeping soils and water on the front burner

BY JEFF SCHOENAU '84 C

A highly respected and influential soil and water scientist, SAGA Honorary Life Member, influencer and mentor, Les Henry '64 C, passed from our midst in June of this year. Les was a farm boy from Milden, he completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture in the 1960's. He joined the Soil Science Department in 1968, becoming full professor in the Department of Soil Science and the Extension Division in 1980. Les received many awards and accolades over the years for his contributions in soil fertility, soil salinity and water management research, teaching and extension including among others. He was recognized with fellowships with Agriculture Institute of Canada, Honorary Life memberships with Canadian Society of Extension and Saskatchewan Agriculture Graduates Association, induction into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame and an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan at spring convocation in 2022.

Les was a keen advocate of getting the right message out there front and foremost to the students, growers, industry and the scientific community end users. He did this throughout his career at the University of Saskatchewan as professor in introductory and advanced soil science classes, as a writer for Grainews magazine, a presenter at all variety of outreach venues across the prairies and at scientific workshops like Soils and Crops, and by serving on the executive of organizations like SAGA and SIA. Les was also a great friend of the Agricultural Students' Association in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. In the Soil Science department, we all appreciated the

insight that Les brought to the research issues and questions of the day that faculty and graduate students were addressing. Les asked the "hard" questions that made us think about how and why we were doing what we were doing. Invariably this academic interest and debate led to better, more relevant research studies being conducted.

The wellbeing of the farming community was a high priority for Prof. Henry. Every fall up to his passing, Les would come to visit with myself and others who were actively engaged in farming to find out how things had turned out in the farming season. The genuine interest in fostering agriculture development that Les displayed was truly impressive, travelling nearly every mile of main road and highway in Saskatchewan!

Les was an inspiration for my own activities in extension and provided me with much sage advice over the years that greatly helped me. Know Your Audience, Don't Be Afraid to Say You Don't Know, Stored Soil Moisture is Money in the Bank, Carry a Spare Bulb for the Projector are just a few short



Les Henry, 1940-2024

ones that come to mind! Les integrated much of his knowledge into "Henry's Handbook of Soil and Water" which I think is a "must have" on every soil scientist and agronomist's shelf. An impressive collection of slides and reports from his extensive field research was also amassed by Les over the years, showing and describing crop responses to fertilization and other management practices. Les carefully organized these and many other unique documents following his retirement so that I and others could use them into the future, and many are still used in my own teaching and extension work. I was very honored to receive in April of this year the inaugural Les Henry Soil and Water Award established by Les. Les was an exceptional mentor, colleague and friend that we all greatly miss.

2024 SAGA Scholarship Award Recipient

The SAGA Scholarship was first awarded in 2019, a concerted effort by former Membership Chair Vern Raczy '68 C. The Scholarship is fully funded by ag grad contributions and SAGA. SAGA is pleased to award this year's scholarship to **Ella Grimeau**. Originally from Regina, Ella Grimeau is in her third year at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. She is majoring in Environmental Science, minoring in Soil Science, and working towards a certificate in sustainability. She chose this path because it aligned with her interests in sustainability, Canadian agriculture, science-based decision-making, indigenous governance, and purpose-driven work for the community. Congratulations Ella!



Saskatchewan Crop Association Annual General Meetings

Register today for 2024 / 2025 AGM for these Saskatchewan crop organizations:

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

Annual General Meeting, Seed
Production & Market Information
Sessions, Trade Fair displays

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Arborfield Town Hall, Main Street,
Arborfield, Sask.

Thursday, December 12, 2024 Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan

Annual General Meeting and
Information Session

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Saskatoon Inn, 2002 Airport Drive,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association

Annual General Meeting and
Information Session

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Mixer: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Banquet: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

TCU Place, Suite 1, Saskatoon, Sask.

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 SaskOats (Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission)

Annual General Meeting, Research
Updates and Market Outlook Session

8:45 AM – 12:00 PM

PrairieLand Park, Hall E,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Thursday, January 16, 2025 Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission

Annual General Meeting, Research
Updates and Market Outlook Session

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

PrairieLand Park, Hall E,
Saskatoon, Sask.

**For more information
and to register, please
go to cropweek.com.**

To become a member of SAGA, simply go to our web page,
www.saskaggrads.com.

The SAGA reaches over 2,200 ag grads, AgBio faculty and
AgBio students. Be sure to send us your updates, what's
happening in your neck of the woods!

Next issue deadline is May 1, 2025.

Lindsay Folk '88 C

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