

Something about Mary

I promise to work hard, consult widely, and listen carefully not only as I learn the ropes, but always. Saskatchewan is an exciting place to be, and I look forward to meeting, playing and working with you.

Mary Buhr. From her first Dean Speak – May, 2009

Dr. Mary Buhr has made many outstanding contributions to the College of AgBio during her tenure as dean. One that is greatly appreciated and acknowledged by researchers, students and industry alike is the new Livestock Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE), bringing together the many facets of animal production together in one state of the art facility. Her enthusiasm and support of endeavours to make the college a welcoming place for all has been felt by everyone who passes through the doors of our wonderful college facilities. New research chair positions and academic programs were established under her guidance, contributing greatly to growth of important research, teaching and extension capacities in the college. The very strong support that Mary has developed for the college within the university, province and country over the last few years is testimony to Mary's tireless efforts. I personally had the opportunity to witness her tremendous dedication to the College of AgBio spirit of achievement in the 100 year anniversary celebrations that were conducted throughout 2012 in collaboration with SAGA.

Jeff Schoenau '84 C, 2010

An extraordinarily enthusiastic gentleman, who loved his old Fords, as much as he loved teaching kids at the College of AgBio, Terry would have written a jim-dandy article. {Feb. 2014}

Terry Tollefson '76 C-MSc. 2011

Dean Buhr came to the U of S and one of her priorities was to get to know the alumni and to encourage alumni to be involved with the College. Mary has been a faithful attendee at all SAGA events. Her outgoing manner and her pride in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources has helped to promote the College not only to alumni but to the world in general.

Jill Turner '80 C, 2012

It has been a great pleasure to have worked with Mary Buhr during her tenure at the U of S. No greater friend and supporter does SAGA have than Dean Buhr, who has faithfully supported student activities within the college during her deanship. If you need a spokesperson for the Agros, just look to Dean Buhr who will jump to the opportunity to tell everyone how great the student body is, the staff are, and the collective College of AgBio is. Mary has also been, and continues to be a strong supporter of the staff within the college. Faculty and Research scientists regularly receive encouragement to continue to be what the world needs. A huge thank you from SAGA... you will be missed.

Grant Wood '79 C, 2013

The first time I met Dean Buhr, I remember thinking after, this is a gal I want to hang out with. I've always liked the company of people who like their whisky on ice with just a splash of water. Not only did I enjoy our occasional meetings over a shot of Crown, I realized that I had always learned something new. Mary was very articulate and very knowledgeable about whatever topic we talked about. I particularly liked the high esteem in which she held SAGA, passionately impressed by us and the work we do. Mary, you have done much for the College, and for SAGA. Good luck in your future endeavours.

Blair Cummins '77 S, 2014



*Standing L to R: Mayson Maerz, Eric Johnson, Blair Cummins, Grattan O’Grady, Louis Bossaer
Seated: Bryan Harvey, Dean Buhr*

I first met Mary Buhr when she was Associate Dean, Academic at the University of Guelph. I was doing an accreditation site visit and she was the local contact point. I remember being impressed with the way she handled herself and recall urging her to run for Dean at OAC where they were looking for someone at the time. Thank goodness she did not heed my advice, otherwise she would have been dean there and not come to Saskatchewan. Mary came at a time when there was much to be pessimistic about. Agriculture enrolments across the country were down and the U of S was going through some unfortunate human resources policies and budget restrictions which had the undesirable effects of punishing successful units like the College of AgBio. Despite this, Mary has led the college to all time high enrolments and very successful research accomplishments. She leaves it in good shape for a successor to continue the valuable work that the College does for Saskatchewan and the world.

Bryan Harvey ‘60 C 2015

What I remember about Dean Buhr, was how hard Mary worked at building a stronger relationship between SAGA and the college. Most notable was how excited she was to hear Alumni stories on past pranks, Voc Ag history or old Agro events. You could tell Mary was truly happy talking to and getting to know SAGA members.

Louis Bossaer ‘95 C, 2016

I was lucky enough to be associated with Mary Buhr as both a student and, a few years later, as SAGA president. As a student, I found Dean Buhr was always very approachable, it meant a lot to any student to speak to someone with her designation. She always found time to speak to students, offer words of encouragement and if you were lucky, have a beer with her. At the Reunion Banquet the year I was president, Mary and I were swapping stories about university days just like we were old friends, but I knew she couldn’t actually remember me as a student. However, the buddies I had along with me knew

her much better as they had carried the RTD label (Recommended to Discontinue) during her time as Dean. Nonetheless, in her natural way, Mary had helped them through their 'difficult' times and they made it through University, whether they had a degree or not. Dean Buhr has always offered whatever she could, and was always so proud to be associated with the Saskatchewan agriculture community. Thanks, Mary, your generosity will not be forgotten.

Luke Ringdal '12 C, 2017

Dean Buhr brought an enthusiasm to all her interactions with SAGA. Always willing to attend the Ag Grad Banquet to say a few words; an active participant on the Tommy Fraser Memorial selection committee; and a driving force behind the creation of the Friday Night Alumni Social. I hope the next Dean will have an opportunity to glean some wisdom from her regarding dealing with our Alumni group. Thank you, Mary, for your efforts!

Mayson Maerz '83 C 2018

I decided to go through Mary's "Dean Speak" articles to get some perspective on the changes that have occurred in the College since 2009. There were 555 undergraduate students enrolled in 2008, just prior to Mary beginning as dean. The numbers rose to 1100 in 2015, 1250 in 2016, with similar numbers in 2019. Total student numbers (including graduate students) reached 1572 in 2019, a 70% increase since 2009! Other accomplishments included upgrading of the Phytotron, the opening of the Rayner Dairy Teaching and Research Facility, the Canada Feed Research Facility, and the LFCE, to name a few. Additionally, programming for First Nations was also initiated. Mary was a tireless promoter of the college, the faculty, and Agro students. Her catchphrase "Agros Rock" first appeared in a 2014 SAGA newsletter and she continues to convey that message. At the 2019 SAGA banquet, I realized Mary was a true Agro! When President Mayson went to introduce her, she was not sitting at her assigned seat, but was standing at the bar trying to buy drinks! It has been a pleasure working with Mary, and I look forward to continuing the great interaction between the College and SAGA in the future.

Eric Johnson 82'C. 2019.

Thank you, Mary Buhr. Your leadership has inspired agriculture graduates past, present and future!