

THE SAGA

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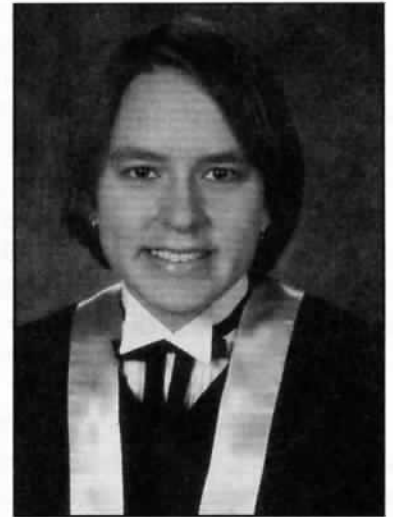
The above is a picture of a display placed this summer on the second floor of the Agriculture Building, along the eastern walkway. The inscription reads as follows:

Turning the Sod

This John Deere single furrow plough was used in the sod turning ceremony held to initiate construction of the Agriculture Building

Purchased by Professor Bracken for the department of Field Husbandry c. 1915, the plough was guided by Allan Van Caesseele, president of the Agriculture Students' Association and pulled by a team of Clydesdales driven by the Honourable Grant Devine, Premier of Saskatchewan.
November 10, 1988

Top Grad



Kirsten Elise Ketilson '01C of Saskatoon (above) was the top B.S.A. graduate this year and has been awarded great distinction in soil science and the Sk. Institute of Agrologists gold medal. During her five-year academic career, that included four Co-operative Education work terms, she received ten scholarships and awards.

Shon Martin Ferguson '01C of Edgeley was awarded the William Allen Memorial Prize in Agricultural Economics and **Moira Frances Moser '01C** of Hay River, NWT received the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association Prize. The Frank Sosulski Graduation Prize in Plant Sciences was won by **Amy Lynn Breker '01C** of Engfeld, SK.

'46 School Marks 55 years

Twenty eight members of the 1946 School of Agriculture class and their wives met at Saskatoon on June 22 to renew acquaintances and swap stories. The event was organized by Mason and Doris Simmons, with help from Cal Fensom, Mike Serienko and others. Unfortunately, Mike was not able to attend because his wife was ill, but at last report she was doing well. We were pleased to have retired professor Lorne Paul in attendance, as well as Bill Smith of Drinkwater, Frank Baker of Denzil and Ross McMurtry of Weyburn, fellows who took the first year but not the second.

Cal Fensom chaired the evening events and read messages from some of those unable to attend. These included Lorne Dietrick, Bob Gill, John Hunter, Emile Dangstorp, Alex Thompson, Frank Brennan, Gordon Tysdale, Alex Johnson and Don Scott.

Many of the group met over dinner on June 23, and after swapping more stories they discussed the next reunion. It was agreed they meet again in five years for the 60th, but consideration will be given to another reunion two or three years hence.



Pictured above are, l to r.

Seated: Lorne Paul '30Arts, '32MSc, Ernest Wengel, Walter (Bud) Wilk, George Easton, Don Murray, Ross Evans, Bob Montgomery

Standing: Duncan Acton, Frank Baker, Roy Loppacher, Jim Clarke, Ernest Hage, George Price, Ross McMurtry, Ted Pachal, Cal Fensom, Keith Waite, Cluny McPherson, Art Creurer, Bill Smith, Norm Johnson, Mason Simmons, Elwyn Morgan, Howard Massey, Earl Morley.

Missing from the picture: John Fowler, Stuart Finlay, Forrest Hetland, Graham Wright.

1951 College Class Celebrates 50th anniversary

Grads from the college class of 1951 and guests from nearby classes enjoyed a reunion on June 22, 23 & 24 in Saskatoon.

Those attending were grads Wally and Margaret Baldwin of Saskatoon; Art and Dawn Bevan of Saskatoon; Jack and Joan Braidek of Saskatoon; John Burton of Regina; Betty Brown, widow of former Dean Jake Brown; Wally and Joy Doyle of Victoria, BC and Kipabiskau Beach SK; Don and Shirley Gill of Medicine Hat; Harry and Lillian Gullet of Saskatoon; Bill and Mildred Maxwell of Salmon Arm, BC; John and Doreen McConnell of Saskatoon; Ron and Gwen McKenzie of Winnipeg; Jim and Doreen

Misfeldt of Saskatoon; Jack and Lee Peck of Regina; Jack '52C and Eileen Quick of Unity; George Rathwell '53C of Regina; Viola '51C and Russell '49S Rollins of Pincher Creek, AB; Jim and Holly Rooke of Victoria; Charlie and Marion Thompson of Martintown, ON; Paul Turner of Victoria; Harry and Rena Ukrainetz of Saskatoon; Art Wood and Sheila White of Edmonton; Mike and Doreen Yurkowski of Winnipeg; George '46S and Esther Price of Ottawa; Mytosk '54C and Eileen Masurek of Saskatoon.

There was a dinner at the U of S Faculty club on Friday, a come and go reception at the Braidek back yard on

Saturday afternoon and a brunch at Marquis Hall on Sunday. Members also toured the Agriculture Building after brunch. Those attending appreciated the leisurely pace and took full advantage of the opportunity to visit.

Two decisions were made by those attending. The first was that the class hold its next reunion at Victoria in the spring of 2001. Secondly, that the class support the Dean Jake Brown Bursary fund. Jack Braidek, chair of the reunion committee agreed to write to all class members to explain the bursary fund and pass along information about the grads.

The 2002 Ag Grad Reunion

January 11, 12, 13 2002

The Sk. Ag Grad Association is making plans for a reunion of grads in January 2002. And those classes who graduated in a year ending with '2' are getting their classmates to attend and enjoy the event.

Jim Vancha '79C, Vice President of SAGA, has contacted each of the diploma and degree classes and all but one have designated a reunion chairperson. Expect to hear from the person designated for your class as plans are developed. In the meantime you will want to mark the dates on your calendar and get ready to take part because reunions are a lot of fun and help to maintain the camaraderie you enjoyed during your university years..

The names of class chairpersons are noted below. They will be responsible for making plans and rallying their classmates. To contact Jim Vancha, call him at his home at (306) 249-5450 or on his cell phone at (306) 229-9123.

Diploma Reunion Chairpersons

- 1942 - Jim Misfeldt
1907 Wilson Cres.
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2N8
(306) 374-4217
- 1952 - Martin Hopkins
73 Knowles Cres.
Regina, SK S4S 4N9
(306) 586-8238
- 1962 - Art Belanger
111-27th St. West
Saskatoon, SK S7L 0J2
Home (306) 664-3683
Office (306) 975-5842
- 1972 - Lyle Findlay
Box 100
Semans, SK S0A 3S0
(306) 524-4409
- 1982 - Rod Marquart
Box 31A, RR#1
Regina, SK S4P 2Z1
(306) 545-3250
- 1992 - a volunteer is needed
- 1997 - Heidi Fuhr
209 - 10th Ave. SW
High River, AB T1V 1A7
(403) 652-4471
(306) 743-5096(farm)

Degree reunion chairpersons

- 1942 - Wally Clarke
403 - 2119 Oak Bay Ave.
Victoria, BC V8R 1E8
(250) 598-7794
- 1952 - Bob Brack
42 - 315 Bayview Cres.
Saskatoon, SK S7V 1B5
(306) 343-0075
bobbrack@home.com
- 1962 - Bernie Sonntag
318 Collins Ave.
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K7
(306) 653-7215
- 1972 - Bill Laing
10 Page Drive
St. Albert, AB T8N 4S8
(780) 460-2616
laing@compusmart.ab.ca
- 1882 - Bill Sherk
Box 446
Rosetown, SK S0L 2V0
(306) 882-2439
- 1992 - Andrea Webster
Box 775
Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0
(306) 695-7971
- 1997 - Phillip Graham
75 Chilcotin Way West
Lethbridge, AB T1K 7L7
(403) 328-9777

CIBC donates \$750, 000

The CIBC gave \$750,000 to the College of Agriculture at a May 24, 2001 ceremony to establish the CIBC Centre for Agricultural Entrepreneurship.

The Centre's program will be directed by the College of Agriculture with planned input from the agribusiness community. It will function primarily as a virtual centre, administered by a manager employed by the College of Agriculture. It will develop and provide resource materials to enhance existing courses and initiatives of the College, such as the work experience and international student exchange programs

Thundering Herd



Les Voice '74C has reported in from the farm at Bradwell with news about a clam bake out at Rosetown. The event was a celebration of 25 years of marriage for **Bobbie and Grant '76C Crossman**. Contributing to the storytelling, laughs and general good time were: **Peg and Ralph Wasylyniuk '74C**, **Bonny and Les Voice**, **Deb and Bill '76C Hill**, **Judy '79C** and **Ian '76 MacMillan**, **Bonnie and Gary '76C Meier**, **Sharon '75C** and **Vince '75C Walker** and **Tom Blacklock '80S**.

Alan Hanson '84S of Shaunavon continues to manage his oil field company, which specializes in soil reclamation and site restoration in the Shaunavon area, and runs a cow-calf operation on the farm. Michelle, his wife, is on leave from her job as field clerk/senior accountant with Talisman Energy at Shaunavon, tending to their little one (see Home Grown).

Alan reports that a couple of his classmates are busy in their careers. **Grant Selvig '84S** continues to farm and supplements his income by working at Southwest AgriServices in Shaunavon. **Scott Kerr '84S** works for Baker Petrolite at Taber, AB.

Sinclair Harrison '67C was elected to a record eighth year as president of SARM this spring. His ser-

vice in that organization goes back to 1986 when he became a director of SARM. Sinc says the job uses up about 200 days of each year, leaving little time for farming and other activities.

Vern Pusch '57S, Kipling farmer, received a community achievement award from the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development. The award acknowledged Vern's lifelong involvement in economic activities, mainly through the retail co-op movement. He has been president of the Kipling Co-op and is the longest-serving director of Federated Co-op Limited.

Scott Brown '95C is now the communication manager of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan. Robert Moss, an arts grad who is taking a master's degree in ag economics, has been hired by APAS as a research and development officer.

Rob Graf '82C, plant breeder at Agriculture Canada's research centre at Lethbridge, believes that the new variety of winter wheat developed there will boost farmer confidence in winter wheat. The new variety, named W337, is the first in Canada to be resistant to wheat curl mite, which transmits wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV). Producers have been nervous about growing winter wheat because it could serve as a bridge to infect spring wheat, especially in central and more northerly parts of the prairies, where winter wheat maturity may be delayed. Rob hopes the variety is fully registered by this fall; in the meantime his team is working on a second line of defense against the disease - developing varieties that resist both the wheat curl mite and WSMV.

Perry '84C and **Les Miller** report that Bozeman, Montana, continues to treat them well even as they burden U.S. taxpayers. Perry, an assistant professor at Montana State University, says he just finished, we presume graduated, his first M.Sc. grad student on March 28, **Jody 'Yoke' McConnell '97C**. Jody has taken over as research manager of the Southeast Research Farm at Redvers. Perry adds that he is always looking for more good Saskatchewan grad students.

Bill Kowalenko '68C, livestock agrologist with Sask. Agriculture, sent along an update on his several family connections with agriculture. Bill and Mary live in Outlook and their family has scattered, with **Brendan '92C, M.Sc. '95** and his wife **Darla '98BA** now living in Peace River, AB, where he works for AB Public Lands as Rangeland Resource Analyst and Darla with the Dept. of Social Welfare. They moved to the Peace in July 2000 from Unity where Brendan had been a rangeland agrologist for five years. Daughter Christy '95BA, '99BSN, lives in Kindersley where she works as a need assessment coordinator with Prairie West Health District and her husband James Bond is an agricultural service technician with J & B Equipment of Kindersley. Bill's brothers have also moved westward. **Albert '68C '70MSc** continues to live at Evansburg, AB with wife Sylvia and **Grant '68C** lives in Agassiz, BC, with wife Joan and works at the Agriculture Canada Research station.

Kent Britton '95C has moved from Swift Current and is now a territory manager with John Deere at Red Deer, AB.

Lorne Hadley '84C is the new director of the Canadian Plant Technology Agency, which monitors and enforces plant breeders' rights. Lorne Previously worked for UGG for 11 years. The agency offices are based in Saskatoon.

Last February, **Rob Eichorst '91C** was promoted to manager of the St. Brieux operation of Agricore (soon to be renamed Agricore United?). He and wife Allison live in Melfort, where she doubles as a homemaker and general secretary of Ducks Unlimited. Come winter, you are likely to find Rob down at the curling rink teamed with with **Art Legatt '81S** and **Lyle Quaroni '82S**.

Twins **Roy and Ralph Bailey '79S** continue to lead a growing list of seed processors in Saskatchewan. The Mildren pair built the Eagle Creek processing plant at Rosetown in 1995, getting in on the ground floor of the special crop processing business. A second plant was opened at Grand Coulee, near Regina. Both are in primary production areas with access to good rail service. Roy has said those factors and having Can Com Grain as a licensed and bonded marketing company have contributed to their success.

Ken Greer '85C is president of Western Ag Labs, a company that has adapted the results of U of S research to improved fertilizer use. It began when soils prof **Jeff Schoenau '84C** invented the PRS probe, which is able to absorb nutrients in the soil in much the same way as plant roots do. Western Ag Labs commercialized the probe, which is patented by the U of S. The instrument can be used in fall or spring, and, coupled with computer software, helps a farmer determine the

kind and amount of nutrient needs to be added to produce various crops profitably. Farmers are showing a keen interest in this new approach to plant nutrient management.

Halena Zaleski '84C is enjoying her job as a hog extension specialist at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, according to a story in the Western Producer. She does some research and a bit of teaching, but about 70 per cent of her time is spent working with Hawaii's 250 swine producers and their 6000 sows. The largest producer has 275 sows.

Laurie Hayes '85C is doing her bit for soil conservation and explaining agriculture to urban youngsters. She is now the manager of the Saskatchewan Conservation Learning Centre located on three quarters of land south of Prince Albert. The centre, started in 1993 as part of the federal Green Plan, now partners with Ducks Unlimited and the Saskatchewan Canola Commission, with support from a variety of private and public organizations. The project attracted some 2000 school students from central SK and many adults.

Rod Tondevold '68S is now a sales associate with Century 21 Dome. If you want to deal on property give him a call at the Primrose Drive office in Saskatoon.

Undergrad **Barbara Wilson** is the public relations officer for the Agricultural Students Association (ASA) this academic year. She can be reached by e-mail at <ss_asa@duke.usask.ca> or (after classes are underway) at the ASA lounge at (306) 966-7742.

Brent Zettl'90C has been much in the news recently, mainly because he is the only person in Canada who is growing marijuana legally. The production site is near Flin Flon where some of the underground mined-out area has been converted to production of pot to fulfill a Health Canada contract. Minister Alan Rock was out recently to check out the operation. The marijuana, processed into cigarette form, will be used for clinical trials to determine if it is effective and safe for people suffering from such diseases as AIDS and cancer. Brent founded Prairie Plant, the contracting company, two years before he graduated and expects to employ the 'underground' growth chamber technology on a range of products.

Warren Kaeding '85C, Churchbridge, SK farmer and seedsman is testing the Halloween market this year. He planted 7200 pumpkin plants on an acre of land, equipped it with trickle irrigation and even put several hives of bees at the site to encourage pollination and more pumpkins. An early frost will not be welcome.

Farmers honoured

John Cote '86C and his wife **Barb Stephanyshyn '87C** were chosen to represent Saskatchewan at the national Outstanding Young Farmer competition this fall at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. Their selection took place at June's Western Canada Farm Progress Show.

The couple has farmed for 11 years and run Lumec Farms, a grain/livestock operation on some 3900 acres at Leask, SK. Barb manages to do a bit of consulting in animal nutrition. They have two boys and two girls ages 8,5,3 and one. They are enthusiastic, saying that, "Farming is a wonderful profession."

Pooped Deck



Preece, Retired and Recovering

Mike Preece '51S took his doctor's advice and (regretfully) stayed away from his class reunion last January. Happily, his quadruple heart operation, appropriately on Valentine's Day, was a success and he reported in April that his convalescence was almost complete. Mike sent a note to his concerned classmates that contained the comments below.

"Our reunion brings many memories to mind, especially the spring day of 1951 when I, along with classmates Bill Car and Bill Macza, were at the Saskatoon CP station about to embark on a career of painting grain elevators in Alberta. I got a phone call just before buying my train ticket that resulted in my abandoning the painting thing to work for the next two years at the Massey dealership at Allen, SK. A long time later I learned that the painting endeavor soon ended in disappointment.

In 1951 I was a relative newcomer to Canada and my accent probably made my speech unintelligible to the locals. So what was I to do with myself after learning all the intricacies of slaughtering chickens "a la Dr. Ray", of controlling noxious weeds, the ramifications of mastitis, etc.,

etc.?? In actual fact I spent most of my working life behind a desk pushing a pencil and doing math, which when in school was my worst subject.

I worked with Federated Co-op at Paynton and Springwater for a time, then sold Ford products for Healy Motors at Edmonton. During that time I became involved in the Credit Union movement, that led to me spending 30 years working with Alberta credit unions, the last 20 years at Calgary in various management capacities. On several occasions I met **Eldon Anderson '50C**, who for many years was with the Saskatchewan umbrella organization Sask. Central Credit Union, in Regina.

I retired in 1988 and moved to the sunny shores of Shuswap Lake, B.C., where Pam and I now find time to sit and watch the trees grow."

Norman Roebuck '41S sent a letter to SAGA president Larry Hayes saying he is still doing pretty well, but had got caught up in the health waiting list and was not able to attend his 60 year ag grad reunion last January. Norman says he is doing a fair bit of writing on the history of Yorkton. He also sent along biographic notes that help to explain what he has done since graduation and why he has received many honours.

He was born in Yorkshire, England and the family came to the Melville area, settling on a Waldron district farm and building a good dairy herd. He became a seed grower and was the first president and manager of Northeastern Seed Company of Yorkton. He has served as 4-H club leader, municipal councillor, on the U of S senate and on the advisory council of the College of Agriculture. He is a past president and honorary life member of the Yorkton Exhibition Association and served as the presi-

dent of the Western Canada Fairs Association. Norman was one of the original shareholders and chairman of the board of Yorkton Television Company, and was in the employ of the station when it went on the air in 1958. He worked in news and was producer of CKOS TV farm broadcast. He retired from the station in 1972. Truly a remarkable number of careers and contributions to his community.

Tom Rackham '37C of Nanaimo, BC says he is in reasonable health and looks forward to hitting the 100-year mark in a few years. They enjoy the snow-free winters on the island and are sorry for those who live in more trying weather areas. Tom suggests that SAGA send *The Saga* to all new grads for the first year after graduation to get them interested in life membership.

Ed Schultz '64C, General Manager, Alberta Pork Producers Development Corp., is mighty pleased to announce the birth of his grandson, Carl, in July and named after his great grandfather who was born in 1900 and was also named Carl. Ed mentioned that a Schultz family reunion was planned for Pike Lake in July. The family has been in Canada for 90 years.

Delmar Pettem '49S of Assiniboia, phoned ye editor some time ago and ordered up another copy of *Forever Young* to give to an ailing grad friend. Nice touch, Delmar.

The April 2001 issue of SAGA had a brief report about the 1943 college grads having a reunion in June/00. The names of John and Betty Bond, Harold and Mary Chapman were

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Pooped Deck

omitted from the list of attendees. Sorry, folks.

Al Myhr '49C reported from Guelph that his friend and colleague **Dave Arnott** had died on April 1/01, after being hospitalized for three years following a stroke. Dave was a U of Man. grad who taught dairy science at the U of S from 1948 to 1952, then took post grad studies at Minnesota and Penn State before settling into a career as Food Science prof at Guelph from 1958 onward. Myhr adds, "interested grads can see a photograph of Dave and his cheese class of 13 students on a page about the middle of the 1949 Greystone under "Agro Candids". Dave is in the centre of the middle row of this intellectual body of aspirants. **Bill Spicer** and **Jack Campbell** are in the front row, next to **Eiler Humbert**, where they are shown hugging a couple of rounds of cheddar made by the class. If cheese needed hugging, you couldn't find a better couple of huggers than that pair of yard birds.

The Myhrs see **Stew Lane '39C** and his charming wife **Lee** quite often, as both families have homes in the Village by the Arboretum, located on the southern outskirts of the University of Guelph. Lee and Al both sing in a 60-voice choir made up of village residents. Al says, "My joy in living here is in meeting up with so many musically gifted fellow residents and our beautiful, large recreation centre where we can rehearse, hold dances and put on concerts."

On June 21, 2000, **Joe Campbell '41C** of Victoria celebrated his 90th birthday by entertaining friends at tea in the elegant University of Victoria faculty lounge. Joe says his web page:

<http://vuv.com/~jcampbel/> has won several awards.

Wes Nuttal '58C, retired soil expert, checks out the turf on the Wildwood and other golf courses pretty regularly. But he also stays involved in the community, this year as president of the Saskatoon Nutana Lions Club. Recently his club donated \$5500 to the Lions Eye Bank of Saskatchewan Inc., and Wes got his picture in the *StarPhoenix* along with the cheque and other club members.

Bill '48S and **Agnes Small** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 30, 2001. Several of Bill's classmates joined in the festivities on that beautiful afternoon in the Craven Community Hall. Those attending included **Frank McLeod '48S**, **Garl '48S** and **Beatrice Malin**, **Evelyn and Delbert '48S Enns**, **Doug '48S** and **Cec Broberg**, **Fred '48S** and **Iris Switzer**, **Jack '48S** and **Elsie Henshaw**, **Bill '48S** and **Martha Madin**, **Ted '48S** and **Mel Turner**, **Sig '48S** and **Viola Orthner**. A wonderful few hours were spent passing on good wishes and reminiscing.

On October 24, 2001, **Joe '44C** and **Jessie Zeman** will celebrate 60 years of wedded bliss. The SAGA extends congratulations and good health to them in the days ahead. Joe has been and is a staunch supporter of the College of Agriculture and its alumni.

Memories of the ASA Bean Feed October, 1939

by **Hartley Fredeen '41C**

My brother Howard and I enrolled in the College of Agriculture in the Fall of 1939 - quite a change from farm life! But the friendly faculty and students made the transfer exciting. What stands out most clearly in my memories of that fall was the annual bean feed social, held in the livestock pavilion. That evening we truly became a part of the larger college - the faculty and older students. We had assumed the bean feed was a well-established event, but according to an article in the April 2001 issue of SAGA by **Bob McKercher**, it was only in its seventh year.

Someone, perhaps **Jim Smith '41C**, drafted us to contribute to the talent (??) show. That was not difficult because at home in Macrorie we had an amateur family musical group. With my violin and Howard's guitar we probably produced a **Wilf Carter** song. **Les Ennis** joined us. Enthusiastic clapping indicated that an encore was expected, so we sang "Show Me the Way to go Home", in an effort to escape the limelight.

Few events in my life stand out as clearly as that happy gathering more than 60 years ago. I should add that we lost our good friend **Les Ennis** about 1944 to a chronic health problem.

Have you an interesting story to tell in the SAGA? Send it along to the editor. His address is on page 16.

Kirk Hall built - School of Ag rejoiced

by Bob Forshaw*

Classes for the School of Agriculture have traditionally begun about a month later than other university programs, making it difficult for students to find accommodation. This was especially true when enrollment was heavy with returning armed service students from 1944 to 1948.

The University set out to overcome that problem.

In late 1944 the University rented two buildings that had been used by the armed services at the Saskatoon Exhibition. One day in August I happened to be walking with university president J.S. Thomson when he said something about being so pleased, etc. - and I asked him, "What have I agreed to?" He then asked if I had spoken to Dean Kirk and when I said no and proceeded to visit the dean as soon as I got to my office. The Dean was not happy about President Thomson speaking to me about the matter and said, "damn him, it was agreed that I would do that first."

The dean explained that the two units had been rented and wondered if I would agree to be in charge of these temporary residences for School of Agriculture students. I took on the assignment and it turned out well, although the quarters were very crowded and students had to travel by street car to the campus and to have their meals at Sask Hall. I filed a report and on reading it Dean Kirk said, "Bob, I am not going to rest content until I get a residence for the School of Agriculture students."

In the 1946/47 winter session I was deaning students at

#4 SFTS, just south of the current Saskatoon Airport, when word came via Bill Baker, then-director of the school from the dean asking all students to wear their best bib and tucker to an address by Premier Tommy Douglas at the chemistry theatre. Later that day, at an event at the Bessborough, I overheard Douglas comment, "This afternoon I spoke to a group of the finest young people it has been my honour to speak to."

The next day I saw Dean Kirk and I said, "Dean, we are going to get a residence."

He responded, "Yes", then went on to explain that federal money first made available for youth training in 1937 and totaling some \$600,000 would be used in part to finance the residence.

Kirk Hall served very well as a residence, administrative and teaching centre for the School of Agriculture for many years. Kirk Hall was attached to the new College of Agriculture building and is now used for offices and classrooms by Extension, alumni, university development and others.

**Bob Forshaw grew up in BC and, after earning graduate, then post-graduate degrees from BC and Oregon, was a staff member in the Animal Science faculty at the U of S from 1943 to 1947, then at the University of Guelph until his retirement to Grand Forks, BC. Though separated from Saskatchewan for many years, Bob has maintained a keen interest in the U of S, its staff and graduates.*

University matters

Graduate Studies Dean Leaves

On September 1, Dr. Gary Kachanoski will take up his duties as Vice-president Research at the University of Alberta. He has been Dean of Graduate Studies & Research at the U of S since 1996. Kachanoski received a BSc (Honors) in biology and an MSc in soil science at the U of S, then a PhD in soil science at University of California, Davis. During his deanship he was recognized as a leader in policy review and development, and a key player in major research initiatives, including establishment of the new Virtual College of Biotechnology.

The International Scene

The College of Agriculture continues to be active in global teaching, research and extension programs.

Among the several activities an exchange agreement has

been developed with the Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, following the visit of **Dave Christensen '58C** and an agreement was established with the South China Agricultural University.

Bill Brown, professor of agricultural economics at the U of S, is leading the initiative in a project to assist in the transition to a market economy in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. And **Vern Racz '68C**, executive-director of the Prairie Feed Resource Centre and other faculty members provide technical support for Canadian feed exporters to Panama, South Korea, Thailand and China.

Christensen recognized

Dave Christensen '58C has been recognized as a distinguished researcher at the university of Saskatchewan. Among his research achievements were development of the first premixes for western Canadian conditions and a system for measuring the voluntary intake and digestibility of

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Program Review Leads to Action Plan

In 1999/2000, the College was one of the first units at the University of Saskatchewan to undergo a major review of its academic programs.

Systematic program review thoroughly examined all undergraduate and graduate programs, evaluating them according to the quality of curriculum, faculty, learning environment, infrastructure and outcomes, demand for courses and efficiency in the use of resources.

This new review process is designed to encourage program improvement, demonstrate accountability and provide information to guide decisions about programs and resources.

The process has involved a number of steps, including a self-study assessment and a site visit and report by an external review team.

Subsequently, each program area was assigned a rating based on a rigorous set of standards. Overall, the reviewers' reports emphasized the many strengths of the College's programs. Faculty quality, learning environment, infrastructure, efficiency, unique program features and relevance to the province were identified as particular strengths. Programs in Soil Science and Agricultural Economics received the highest ratings. As expected, the report also identified several areas for improvement. Notably, reviewers attributed the most significant program deficiencies to resource shortfalls, including insufficient faculty.

As the next phase in the process, the College must integrate the findings of this review as well as the results of a recent accreditation review of the BSA program with our own strategic planning efforts.

This may lead to the realignment or deletion of particular BSA majors or minors, BSc majors and postgraduate programs.

In terms of the BSA program, the challenge we face is to find a balance that achieves an optimum degree of focus. This means reducing the number of undergraduate courses offered while retaining sufficient flexibility for students to pursue subjects of greatest interest, preparing graduates well for careers in the agri-food industry and ensuring that

BSA graduates who wish to do so are well-equipped for entry into post-graduate studies. To this end, various streamlining measures are underway that will regroup the majors currently on offer.

Graduate programs are being evaluated on a departmental basis and both undergraduate and graduate programs will develop definitive academic renewal plans by Fall 2001.

Overall, the academic review process has been an invaluable planning tool and will be a tremendous help as we work towards a comprehensive business plan. In the College's strategic plan, due by December 2001, we feel we will be well-prepared to make a compelling case for new investment in the College of Agriculture as we strive to build a reputation nationally and internationally as an institution of unique and consistent excellence in teaching, research and public service.

- Ernie Barber, Dean of Agriculture

The President's Pen

SK Ag Grad president **Larry Hayes '80C** says, "Summer is in full bloom and Canadians take their leisure time seriously. Just like so many of you I am in holiday mode and will keep this message short."



The SAGA executive has been looking at several options for the upcoming SAGA reunion in January 2002, and we are exploring ways to increase the number of new grads who become members of SAGA. I will update you in the December edition of *THE SAGA* newsletter on those and other issues.

Have a good summer."

Barn Raisers Committee

Submitted by Rod Delahey

The Barn Raisers Committee has been looking at possibilities for re-developing the stone barn into some form of usable space. Over the past three and a half years reports have been received from an architectural firm and more recently from a MBA student group hired to look at the business case for the project. The architectural firm found the barn to be structurally sound and could be converted to other uses such as a convention facility or office space. The MBA report considered the market the barn would be operating in and then looked at the potential profitability of the proposed uses.

The MBA students, Rebecca Deobold, Phyllis Goertz, Lucia New, Shelley Spurr did a fabulous job of sourcing data and developing the report. They focused the study on the uses suggested by the committee; office space for rent by visitors or start-up companies and an Agricultural Interpretive Centre on the main floor, with the loft area used for a convention/banquet facility.

They estimated that the Agricultural Interpretive Centre would require a four million-dollar endowment to operate on a break-even basis. In my view this Centre would primarily be used to educate children and adults from the city, on the benefits of modern agriculture. Again in my view, this is something that is badly needed now and will be of growing importance as our population continues to dis-

tance itself from any direct family link to the farm.

The office space was found to be the moneymaker. If 66% of the space could be leased at an industry average, (currently about \$16/sq. ft.), there would be a net contribution from the space. How desirable the location would be depends upon many factors, however initial interest is fairly strong. The MBA team also pointed out that the U of S currently has an 18% office space deficiency.

The convention/banquet space in the two loft areas was seen as a business the required expertise. The MBA team suggested leasing the entire space to someone with the expertise to manage it. They also suggested that the unique atmosphere of the loft could give the facility a competitive advantage in a highly competitive marketplace..

Currently a final report is being drafted before presentation to the University. The University will then have to make a decision on what they want to do with the Barn and if appropriate start fund raising.

My thanks go out to the committee; Red Williams, Elaine Cadell, Alumni Development, Dave Christensen, Dean Ernie Barber, Colin Tennant, University Architect, and the three SAGA Presidents who served, Ewald (Shorty) Lammerding, Blair Cummins, and Larry Hayes. Hopefully this project will be wrapped up before a fourth President joins us!

University Matters, *continued from page 8*

feeds by cattle. That system is used in many places in the world today.

Crop Development Changes Emphasis

Research on alternative crops will replace genetic modification at the Crop Development Centre over the next two years. The change in emphasis is the result of a review by the province's Agriculture Development Fund, in which it was decided that gene transformation is less of a priority than the development of crops like herbs and spices.

Provincial funding will increase to \$2.35 million over the next five years, up from \$1.87 million in 2000-01, but this increase would not be enough to sustain all of the current program parts and add some new ones. The new funding provides the addition of a pulse crop pathologist and added emphasis on new crops showing promise for

nutraceuticals. Molecular marking, which allows scientists to detect specific plant traits is a project that will be developed to help breeders screen materials more quickly.

New Hybrid Brome

Agriculture Canada has a new brome variety and it was discussed at the U of S field day at the Termuende research farm on June 27. **Bruce Coulman '71C**, Agriculture Canada's head of forage crop research at Saskatoon, described the variety as a hay grass that gives a good first cut, similar to smooth brome, one of its parents, and it's a grazing grass later in the year, like its other parent, meadow brome. The trial at Lanigan is only in its second year, too soon for clear conclusions, but earlier small scale grazing tests at Swift Current had been promising.

Home Grown



Elwin '76C and Anne Smith of Lethbridge are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter **Catriona Roberta**, born on December 20, 2000. Grandma Hinshalwood of Scotland was over to check her out in

February and the family visited Grandma Smith at Limerick (SK) at Easter.

Earl and Celeste '92C Foster (nee Thomson) of Regina, are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, **Josie Lydia Foster**, on December 22, 2000. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 inches long, not bad for being six weeks early. Mom and baby spent two weeks in hospital but both are doing well. (Perhaps well enough to get back on the job with Crop Insurance, Celeste?)

Exotic insect quarantine lab New pest weapon

The College of Agriculture is now able to study new, more environmentally acceptable, methods of pest control.

The recently-completed sixth floor of the Agriculture Building has a quarantine facility that allows it to bring in and do research on pest problems from any place in the world. For example, Columbian PhD candidate Edison Valencia is looking at *Beauveria bassiana*, or Bb, a fungus that is used as a pesticide, to control Columbian coffee bean borer, a serious pest in his country.

The lab has to have the capability of containing both the Bb and the borer safely, and to simulate the conditions found in Columbia, in order to conduct experiments needed to identify application techniques. The lab has four phytotrons to produce a range of environmental simulations. Professor George Khachatourians is proud of the facility and notes that it is the only one in a Canadian teaching facility.

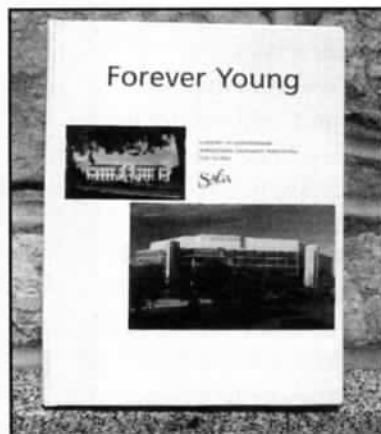
Another project is on whiteflies. This is an extremely adaptable pest that thrives in greenhouses and quickly becomes tolerant to chemical pests. A student is looking at the possibility of using Bb to control whiteflies over a longer term and without the exposure of workers to a succession of chemicals.

Forever Young

The History of Saga - 1935 - 2000

Yes, copies of this book are available for purchase.

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AG ADVENTURES Program

Ag Adventures is a new venture offered by the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. Its objective is to expose rural and urban children to the science of food production and processing industries of agriculture. The program offers a field trip program to schools in May and June, and week-long summer day camps in July and August for children in grades 3 to 8. Students run the program with support from College of Agriculture staff.

This year Ag Adventures has six people on staff. The director is Christine Dear, a 2000 BSA grad in animal science. She was hired in the summer of 2000 to develop business a plan for the Ag Adventures program and returned in 2001 to direct it. Other agricultural leaders are: Sherri Buckler, BSA in food science, who is currently completing her education degree; Michelle Cruickshank (fourth year plant science); Erin English (third year animal science) and Tamara Murray (third year animal science); Kona Hyggen (third year education) was hired to do a feasibility study of the aboriginal portion of the Ag Adventures program.

The program offered half-day field trips to all schools in Saskatoon and surrounding area in May and June. These



Getting acquainted with a farm animal.

turned out to be a great success. Seventeen classes attended with a total of 420 children. The Ag Adventures program helped to reinforce the agricultural concepts teachers had presented in the classroom. Teachers and students said they really enjoyed the hands-on nature of the program.

The summer day camp started in July and ran for eight weeks. The focus, again, was to use a hands-on approach. A highlight of the camp was the adopt-a-calf activity, that gave children an opportunity to learn how to care for their own calf during the week and understand the various inputs involved in raising farm animals. Numbers were not as high as hoped but all 50 campers gave positive reviews of the experience.

The Ag Adventures program will be offered again in 2002 and it looks forward to an increased attendance in the second and future seasons. If you are interested and want more information call (306) 966-2005, email <ag.adventures@usask.ca> or visit the Ag Adventures web site at: www.ag.usask.ca/agadventures



Students prepare for a cooking class.

Empty Saddles



Peter Bill Balon '50C grew up at Reynaud, SK and passed away unexpectedly while vacationing in France on March 23, 2001. He is survived by his wife Isabel, children Gail (Richard Seaby), Jeff (Michelle Tingley) and Richard (Jennifer), seven grandchildren. Peter took the agricultural chemistry option and his work career was in the federal public service with the Department of Industry. A great curler, he skipped the '50 ag grad rink to the prize podium at Ottawa's Guelph Alumni bonspiel on several occasions. He was also a strong supporter of the U of S alumni Ottawa branch.

Wilber Eley of Colonsay died on May 13, 2001 at Pasqua Hospital, Regina. He is survived by his brothers **Don '51S** (who was also his farming partner) and Harold of Regina.

Aileen Haid died at her Abbotsford, BC home on June 5, 2001, in her 99th year. She was predeceased by her husband Charlie and son Bill, and is survived by three children, Kathleen Toth (Mark) of Abbotsford, **Ed Haid '54C** (Shirley) of Anglin Lake, SK and Diane Bowman of Victoria, BC, 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Pearl Harriet Hart, born in the Bankend District on May 30, 1914,

died at the Pasqua Hospital, Regina on May 1, 2001. She is survived by her husband Ed, sons **Elwood '59C** (Betty), Edmonton; Mervyn (Beverley), Jim (Alice), Bob, daughter Margaret Korchinski, 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Howard Milton Henschel '54C of Rosthern died on April 12, 2001 at the age of 70 years. He is survived by his wife Audrey and their sons Glen and David. Before graduation Howard worked for Agriculture Canada on the summer grasshopper survey. After graduation he was employed by Revenue Canada at the Saskatoon branch from 1954 to 1968, rising to the audit division with its extensive travel. In 1961 he married Audrey Schoffer, received his pilot's license and bought his uncle's farm at Rosthern. They moved to the farm in 1968 and began an income tax and consulting business which they operated until selling it in 1996. Howard lost a leg, from the knee down, in a farm accident but still managed to actively farm and do income tax appeals until illness struck in the spring of 2001.

Joan "Holly" Knott passed away on July 18, 2001 after a valiant 10-year battle with emphysema. She leaves behind her husband, plant scientist Doug Knott, daughters Holly Ann (Jim Spinney) and Heather (Ralph Denno), son Ronald (Pat) and three grandchildren. A younger son, Doug, predeceased her in 1988. Holly was born on May 21, 1926 in Brooklyn, New York and met Doug in 1948 when both were graduate students at Madison, Wisconsin. They married in 1950. Holly taught speech arts, was active in the Grosvenor Park women's circle and was much involved in drama in Saskatoon.

James Douglas Johnston '48C of Ottawa, formerly of Weyburn, died in hospital on June 10, 2001 after a brief illness. He is mourned by his wife Audrey, daughter Jo-Anne Doherty (David) and grandchildren Sheilagh and Andrea, sister Gertrude Boyer of Red Deer, AB. Jim was retired from Agriculture Canada.

Elvis Brennan LaFond '86S of Marcelin died in a vehicle rollover on April 13, 2001. He was 57-years-old. He was predeceased by his mother Eva in 1998 and is survived by sons Jason (Roberta Valuck) of Edmonton and Jeremy of Muskeg Lake, grandson Malcolm, his father David LaFond of Muskeg Lake, brothers **Lester '74S** (Shirley), K. Patrick (Iva) sisters Joyce (Ken Sutherland), Janet, Melody and Lois. After graduation from the School of Agriculture, Elvis obtained his journeyman certificate in carpentry and worked for some time with Wright Construction in Saskatoon. His passions included his grandson Malcolm, farming and hockey.

Hugh John McCurdy '57C, formerly of Grandora, SK, passed away peacefully at Stevenson Memorial Hospital, Alliston, ON on May 6, 2001 in his 74th year. He was predeceased by his parents, John Leo and Perla May and is survived by his brother Eugene (Mac) and his wife Barbara.

Hugh Duncan "Howdy" McPhail '42C DFC was born at Bankend, SK on March 14, 1915 and died at North Battleford on March 28, 2001. Aircraft had an important place in Howdy's life, beginning with service as a bomber pilot during World War II, then after a few years with Sask. Pool he began McPhail Air Services

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at North Battleford in 1951. His company provided a wide range of services, from crop and right-of-way spraying to aerial photography, aerial searches and particularly training people to fly airplanes, for 30 years. He was inducted as a member of the Sask. Aviation Hall of Fame in 1995 and to the Sask. Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1999. A park in North Battleford bears his name. Howdy is survived by his wife Mary McPhail MD, son Hugh, daughters Alexandra and Tamara and five grandchildren.

Leslie Ivan Mills '72S of Saskatoon, was born on Sept. 27, 1930 and passed away on July 2, 2001. He is lovingly remembered by Sylvia, his wife of 48 years, sons Wesley (Macy) of Toronto, Curtis (Lynn) and their three grandchildren at Saskatoon. Also surviving are his brother Ralph (Evelyn), sisters Norine Storey (Keith and Linda Pulp (Norman)). Les's work career began with seismic work in the oil fields of Alberta and farming at Kensaton. Following graduation from Voc-Ag he was employed in the Crop Science department until retiring in 1987.

Allister Edgar Moar '48S and his wife, **Rosemary**, were both killed in a highway accident on May 18, 2001. They were living in Canwood, where Al had earlier served as municipal administrator. Predeceased by an infant daughter and their oldest son John, Al and Rosemary are survived by six children: Elizabeth (Sandy) Scott of Prince Albert, Grant (Lynn) of Airdrie, AB, Penny (Marvin) Kunitz of Regina, Lorie (Harvey Tuchscherer) Ludke of Swift Current, Wanda (Eric) Bell of La Ronge and Ken (Sherry) of Canwood, John's widow Wilma of Calgary, 21 grand-

children and four great-grandchildren.

Beverley Ann Peterson of Saskatoon died on April 30, 2001 after a courageous year-long battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband **Lawrence '65C**, sons Brian (Laurie) and **Colin '95C (Rachelle '96C)**, three grandsons, brother Kel (Marg) and sister Penny Anderson. She was predeceased by her parents Percy and Dorothy Ellard and brother Steve Ellard. Bev got her BSc N from the U of S in 1963 and touched many lives as a nurse educator, public health nurse and most recently with the older adult wellness program in Saskatoon.

Herbert Anthony Purdy '37C of Regina passed away on April 12, 2001 at the age of 92 years. Born at Condie, SK, he was predeceased by sisters Muriel and Harriet Purdy and Lois McIntosh (Donald), brothers Lawrence (Lorna) and Lenton. He is survived by his wife Jane Eira, daughters Margery (Larry) Wright and Allison Purdy (Steven Greve), five grandchildren and sister-in-law Joice Purdy. Herb completed his MSc in 1936 and worked at Agriculture Canada Research at Swift Current, then served in the Royal Canadian Artillery in WWII. After the war he worked for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce until retirement. He received the first honorary life membership given by the SK Chamber of Commerce and in 1992 was awarded the Canada 125 medal. Herb was an avid gardener and loved singing.

Lloyd George Putnam '37C of Saskatoon died at the Royal University Hospital on May 8, 2001. Lloyd was predeceased by his wife Earla and is survived by their daughter E. Lynne Robertson, son Robert Putnam, five grandchildren and one great-grand-

child. Lloyd was born on the family farm near Watson, SK on March 15, 1913 and, following attainment of his Master of Science in 1939, worked for Agriculture Canada Research at Saskatoon until retiring in 1978, except while serving his country in the army during WW II. After retirement Lloyd served as registrar of the SK Institute of Agrologists and received the Distinguished Agrologist Award in 1978. Lloyd loved the outdoors, traveling and their cottage at Emma Lake. He was involved with the Scouts for two decades.

Ashley G. "Bud" Smith '48C of Saskatoon, was born at Naicam, SK in 1924 and passed away on August 18, 2001. He was predeceased by his parents **A.A. "Spike" '15S** and Georgina Smith; and is survived by his wife Joanne, and their children Marna Sue, **Keith Allen '77S**, Gina Jo, Lori Anne and his brother Jim. Bud served in the navy before university and a few years after graduation established and operated Suburban Supply, a successful agricultural short line dealership. But he also devoted himself to the community in a number of ways, including serving as the president of the Saskatoon exhibition, as a member of the Rotary club of Saskatoon Nutana since 1967, and as a strong supporter of SAGA. He was on the founding board of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame. Bud was a great story teller and could always be counted on to liven things up in all his associations. He will be missed by his family and many friends.

Collette Sutherland, born at Kerrobert in 1931, died at Saskatoon on July 11, 2001. Collette joined the Prelate Ursuline Order in 1947, completed nurse training and left the Order in 1980. She married **Don Sutherland**

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'52C in 1981. She leaves to mourn her husband Don, their children Glenn Sutherland (Joan) Kimberly Sutherland, Laurie Sutherland (Charles), two grandchildren, siblings Wendelin Ostertag, Hilda Hefner, Rose Sperling (John), Joe Ostertag (Helen), and Victor Ostertag (Jean).

Bohdan "Bob" Joseph Strilchuk

'45C was born on the homestead farm at Arran, SK in 1916 and passed away at his Stensrud Lodge home in Saskatoon on June 5, 2001. Bob was predeceased by his parents Joseph and Anastasia Strilchuk, brothers Wasyl, Peter, Roman, Yohama, a sister at age five and his dear wife Nadia. He is survived by sons Myron (Wendy) of Lloydminster, David (Delores) of Regina, five grandchildren, two brother Julian of Grindrod, BC, brothers Max (Elsie) of Toronto, Boris (Eva) of Edmonton, twin sisters Zena (Leon Kossar, Tillie (Helmut) Hundt, both of Toronto. Bob's work career was in agricultural extension with SK Agriculture at Hudson Bay, Nipawin and Wynyard where he is remembered as an effective worker and a good friend.

John Allan Trew '50C of

Saskatoon died on June 30, 2001 at the age of 77 years. Allan is survived by his wife Josephine, four sons, Doug (Pauline) of Regina, Dick (Carol) of Saskatoon, Michael (Dianne) of

Calgary, Tim (Tammy) of Calgary, 10 grandchildren, sister Llewella Righetti of Regina, brothers Rod (Marie) of Saskatoon and Ross (Isobel) of Qualicum Beach, BC. Allan was born at Lemsford and served in the Royal Canadian Air Force before attending university at Saskatoon, then London, ON, where he obtained a PhD in biochemistry. This led to a career as a professor of biochemistry in the Dept. of Pathology, U of S. He retired in 1985.

Margaret Rosena Wilson, born February 17, 1900, died on April 1, 2001 at Regina. She is the mother of **Elwood "Woody" Wilson '50C** of Regina.

Francis "Frank" John Zillinsky '49C died peacefully at his Ottawa home on June 6, 2001 at the age of 83 years. He leaves to mourn his wife Hilda Barker, sons Jim of Ottawa and Gary (Valerie) of Almonte, daughter Susan (Ken Kowey) of Long Beach, California. Frank served with the RCAF 410 Squadron during WW II, during which time he met and married his Hilda. He received a PhD from Iowa State University in 1952 and in later years honorary doctorates from the U of S, the University of Regina and awards from several countries and organizations for his research work. After 17 years with Agriculture Canada Research, Frank went to work

at CIMMYT, the international crop breeding program headed by Dr. Norman Borlaug in Mexico, and was the world authority on triticale. They retired to Ottawa in the 1980s.

In addition to the deaths noted above and in previous issues, listed below are those agros whose passing was reported in the spring issue of Green & White.

Charles Frank Johnston '15S of Saskatoon. d. May 24, 1999.

Reverend Frederick Alfred Wildes '46C of Mississauga, ON. d. January 3, 2000.

Clement John Leidl '49S of Coquitlam, B.C. d. July 25, 2000.

Nicholas Stooshinoff '51S of Tisdale. D. August 25, 2000.

Howard LeRoy (Roy) Burnard '53C of Yarmouth, NS. d. October 11, 2000.

Rodney Orland Iverson '82S, '90C of Saskatoon. d. September 16, 2000.

Richard Melvin Dunbar '92C of North Portal, SK. d. November 10, 2000.

Flax fights diabetes

U of S researcher Dr. Kailash Prasad has shown that a tiny component of flaxseed may help or delay the development of diabetes in adults. His rat study on the subject, has been published in the Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine.

The main component of flaxseed with potential to control diabetes and other diseases is called secoisolariciresinol diglucoside (mercifully shortened to SDG). It is a small organic molecule and flax seed is the richest source

of this plant lignan. Plans are to conduct trials on humans using SDG in the near future.

The finding builds on earlier studies by Dr. Prasad that showed type I (juvenile) diabetes development was decreased with SDG. Other studies have shown SDG has reduced hardening of the arteries due to high cholesterol levels.

The University of Saskatchewan Technologies Inc. has worked with Prasad in obtaining a patent for the use of SDG in the prevention and treatment of both diabetes and hypercholesterol arteriosclerosis.

