



Volume 252

December 2009

## **SAGA Executive Welcomes You!**

Do you enjoy getting out and seeing fellow grads?

Our main duties are planning the reunion weekend and staying connected with grads and current Agros. Contact Jeff Schoenau at [jeff.schoenau@usask.ca](mailto:jeff.schoenau@usask.ca) before December 31, 2009 to join the *SAGA* Executive.

## **THE FUTURE OF SAGA IS IN YOUR HANDS!**

### **SAGA Financial Realities - Member Input/Suggestions NEEDED**

**To: All SAGA Members**

This newsletter is the cornerstone for keeping grads connected. The reality is that the cost to produce this newsletter has increased significantly in the last few years. If we continue doing things the same way into the future, *SAGA* will be able to produce 12 more issues (or 4 years) of this newsletter and then the money will be gone. The *SAGA* executive has pained over this reality for a few years, and now we need to share *SAGA*'s reality with the membership.

#### **Challenges**

The newsletter costs up to \$3,000.00 per issue for set-up, printing and full distribution. Life and annual memberships purchased each year do not pay for the production of one issue. The Reunion Weekend is not a fundraising event. The Reunion Weekend is operated on cost-recovery to provide an affordable, enjoyable weekend. The mailing list is managed by the U of S Alumni and there are issues with the consistency and currency of the list.

#### **Possible Solution**

*SAGA* provides the option of an annual or 10 year subscription to the Newsletter. An annual subscription would be \$10, and consist of the Spring and Fall newsletters for one year. For \$50, a *SAGA* member could receive the newsletters for 5 years. The subscription renewal month could be in the spring to ensure no break in the sending of newsletters to members.

#### **Benefits to SAGA and SAGA members**

There are several benefits to converting the newsletter to a subscription format:

1. *SAGA* could survive to celebrate 80 years and beyond.
2. *SAGA* could manage its own mailing list for the newsletter. *SAGA* would still have the U of S Alumni manage the member list, but the newsletter mailing would be a separate data base.
3. Archived newsletters could still be accessed through the *SAGA* website [www.saskaggrads.com](http://www.saskaggrads.com)

This is a significant change for *SAGA* and *SAGA* members. We really want your input as a member before we take this big step forward. Please contact us through the website, or by mail.

We want to hear from you.



[www.saskaggrads.com](http://www.saskaggrads.com)  
Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates' Association Inc.  
College of Agriculture  
University of Saskatchewan  
Room 2D27 - 51 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8



**Saturday, January 9 to  
Saturday, January 16, 2010**

*(All events at the Saskatoon Inn  
unless otherwise noted.)*

**Saskatchewan Ag Grads Association - January 9 & 10**  
TCU Place

**Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission - January 11**  
Flax Day 2010  
"Industry Sustainability - The Path Ahead"

**Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission - January 11**  
**Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan - January 11**

**Saskatchewan Pulse Growers - Pulse Days 2010**  
AGM & Poster Session - January 11  
Prairieland Park, Hall B

"Tools for Success" - January 12  
Saskatoon Inn (Live) and Prairieland Park (Video)

**Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission - January 12**

**Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association - January 12 & 13**

**Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission - January 13**

**SaskCanola - January 13**

**Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association - January 14** ► Canola Days

**Canadian Wheat Board Day - January 15**

**Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association - January 15 & 16**

**Special Session • Prairieland Park - Hall B**

**Wednesday, January 13**

**Beef on a Bun - 5:30 to 6:30 pm**

*Tickets at the Door*

**Special Session Presentation - 7:00 pm (No Charge)**

Speaker Sponsored by RBC Royal Bank

***The Politics and Policy Affecting Grain Prices***

John Phipps - U.S. Ag Journalist and Farmer

**Crop Production Week Sponsors:**

THE **Western Producer**

 **CWB**  
The Canadian Wheat Board



RBC Royal Bank®



**Redhead** EQUIPMENT LTD.



**MONSANTO**  
Food • Health • Hope



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Agriculture

**Details available at [www.cropweek.com](http://www.cropweek.com)**

or Phone Kevin and Marlene Hursh (306) 933-0138

## President's Message

Dear Members of SAGA,

Many of you would agree with the sentiment "SAGA has a wonderful newsletter which is an important link for all of us". As some of you are aware, even though most of the work of writing and editing is done on a volunteer basis, there are significant costs involved in printing and distributing this great newsletter. Many of us have now switched to the electronic copy and we hope the switch will help with distribution at the same time it reduces the costs for SAGA.

The **SAGA Newsletter** continues to be our primary method of communicating with you the SAGA members and we want to make sure that every member continues to receive it in their choice of print or electronic copy. We are currently discussing how we can continue to produce a Newsletter with dwindling funds and how we can ensure the future of SAGA. If you have some ideas, we would very pleased to hear from you. Contact anyone on the executive, or contact me with your suggestions.

Please remember that this year, the annual SAGA Banquet, January 10, 2010, celebrates the 75th anniversary of the beginning of SAGA. The Dean, Dr. Mary Buhr, will

present us with a short talk on what the future holds for the College of Agriculture and for the Diploma program. President Peter MacKinnon will speak to the reunion about the future of the University of Saskatchewan, "where the University is going".

There is a whole weekend planned for you. If you are into hockey or curling, you will be busy on Saturday, January 9. The evening can be spent mixing it up with your friends and fellow Grads at the Mixer, January 9, evening 8 p.m, at TCU Place. The Banquet starts at 4:30 p.m. at TCU Place, January 10.

On behalf of the executive, best wishes to each of you for your celebrations of Christmas and may the new year of 2010 bless you with good health and the wealth you need for you and your family.

And, may your travel to the Annual SAGA Banquet January 10, 2010, be a safe journey with warm weather and good roads.

Respectfully  
Carl Lynn, President

## 2010 SAGA Reunion Weekend

January 9 & 10, 2010  
All Events at TCU Place, Saskatoon  
(formerly Centennial Auditorium)

January 9

7 pm Annual Meeting  
8 pm Mixer Night

January 10

75th SAGA Reunion Banquet  
4:30 Cocktails  
5:30 Banquet

Program and group pictures to follow

Curling and Hockey Tournaments  
Reunion Years Degree & Diploma  
1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2005

Reunion Chairs contact Jeff Schoenau at 966-6844 or  
[jeff.schoenau@usask.ca](mailto:jeff.schoenau@usask.ca)

## Message From Vice-President and Reunion Coordinator Jeff Schoenau

Just to let everyone know that we have reunion year chairs for all reunion years (see list below, thanks much to all!) and that everyone is hard at work getting the troops gathered and the final details ironed out for the upcoming SAGA 75th Anniversary Reunion Weekend, January 9 and 10 at TCU Place in Saskatoon. For class members of the

reunion years being honored: degree and diploma classes of 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 2000 and 2005, if you have not been contacted by your reunion chair yet, do not hesitate to make the first move and contact them. We want to get as many ag grads out and about to this celebration as possible! See you there. Jeff

### SAGA Reunion Chairs for 2010

YEAR	COLLEGE	DIPLOMA
1950	Fred Fulton (Saskatoon) 373-1440 fn.fulton@sasktel.net	Bill Farley (Regina) phone 757-6844 fax 757-3911 wfarley@imagewireless.ca
1960	Glen Hass (Saskatoon) 374-0207 eghass@sasktel.net	Ron Morningstar (Lockwood) 946-2593 venus.farms@sasktel.net
1970	Dennis Ewanus (Saskatoon) 668-2259 ewanusdj@sasktel.net Helper: Bob Norman (Saskatoon)	John Beckton (Saskatoon) 934-2727 beckton.ag@sasktel.net
1980	Rod Delahey (Saskatoon) 373-6233 rod@marketingden.com Helper: Jill Turner (Saskatoon)	Gerry Stuber (Saskatoon) 955-5100 gerald.stuber@usask.ca
1990	Tanice Babecy (Melfort) 752-2256 tanice.babecy@sama.sk.ca	Scott Near (Kindersley) 463-3486
2000	Chris Baan (Swift Current) 778-0723 cdb661@mail.usask.ca	Jay Dixon (Balcarres) dixon_ent@hotmail.com 334-3005
2005	Chelsea Bulani (Saskatoon) 933-9940 chelsea.bulani@basf.com	Terrance McKee (Moose Jaw) 694-6108 tlm723@mail.usask.ca

### Time to Sharpen Your Blades & Dust Off your Brooms.

PRIZES to be WON! LOTS of FUN to be HAD!

**HOCKEY TOURNAMENT >>\$360 approx. per team  
(\$30 approx. per player)**

Contact: Gerritt Baan Cell # 291-7487 or gbaan@fna.ca

**CURLING BONSPIEL >> \$100 per team or \$25 for single players  
and we will get you on a team**

To sweep the winter blahs away, contact either:

Ewald Lammerding  
477-1369  
eflammerding@sasktel.net

or

Blair Cummins  
373-4393  
bmv@sasktel.net

## Dean Mary Buhr Speaks to Grads:

As I write this, the warm November sun is bringing us temperatures in the double digits, above zero! While reveling, I do recognise that you may well be reading this in the double digits below zero. It's all about counting your blessings, which certainly are numerous no matter what the weather.

The Bean Feed this year was an excellent event. As always, our students shone, qualifying for over 150 awards worth around \$300,000!!! This is, of course, thanks to the College's generous supporters and donors. We extend a huge vote of thanks for the incentive and support they provide our students, and were pleased that so many of them were able to attend the event.

We also celebrated our first annual Dean's Teaching Awards, recognising the excellent teaching in the College, with Professor Nick Low (Head, Dept of Food & Bioproduct Sciences) receiving the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Award for Teaching, and Professor Angela Bedard-Haughn (Dept of Soil Science) and Professor Terry Tollefson (Dept of Soil Science) receiving the Dean's Teaching Awards. Provost Brett Fairbairn brought greetings from the University, and alumnus Calvin Sonntag (MSc in Plant Breeding) was our engaging speaker. Approximately 320 students, supporters, faculty, family and friends in attendance certainly enjoyed the fabulous evening of celebration. Many thanks to the great staff of the College who organised it so superbly.

Not all the news is so positive, unfortunately. Saskatchewan, although resistant, is not immune to the world's financial plight. The University's endowment investments were hard hit, which necessitated reducing budgets in a variety of ways. The loss of income to the provincial coffers has led us to prepare for another cut, although we are still awaiting final word from the provincial government. Of course, the University's senior administrators have been in close consultation with the province as budgets are developed, and we recognise that our situation is markedly better than that of most of our sister institutions across this country. But fiscal prudence is necessary, and that means that we either reduce our costs, spending and programs, and/or find new ways to finance those things that we deem most important. The College has vital teaching and research programs crucial to our mission to advance the responsible use of land, water and bioresources to provide products and services that enhance the quality of life. This will require a major reinvestment in facilities, people and programs, and

we will be working hard with all of our partners in order to make this happen. You will be hearing much more about this in the months to come.

The official enrolment figures are in, and the College's total enrolment has increased by a small but notable percentage, in line with that of the University as a whole. Major growth was in our new programs of Agribusiness and RRM, and in diploma. However, enrolment in the BSA was down. We need your help in promoting our excellent programs to potential students wherever you go. Our variety of programs will suit the interests and aspirations of most people, and fit them for a wide variety of careers.

The highly successful Career Fair hosted by our students highlighted again the urgent need the world has for our graduates: as always, there are more potential jobs for our grads than there are grads to fill them. We firmly believe that AgBio has a major opportunity and responsibility to create a world that can sustain us and our world for generations to come, and we need to get the message out there about the exciting and rewarding futures available to our grads.

I wish you and yours all the very best for the holiday season, and for 2010. I hope to meet you at the Reunion!

### Proposed Changes to the SAGA Constitution

#### Article 3. Membership

4. Members of Faculty (as recognized by the Dean of Agriculture and Bioresources) will be Associate Members without payment of a membership fee (amend. 2010)

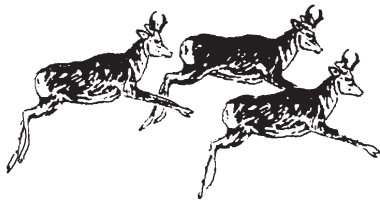
#### Article 4. Officers

4.c. Up to four (4) members-at-large to be named annually by the executive. (amend. 1952, 2010)

For ratification at the AGM, Jan. 9/10



## Thundering Herd



**Russell Fersch 95S** was named Sask cadet (grade 9-10) female wrestling coach of the year and one of his athletes was also named Sask cadet female wrestler of the year. This was the finish of a great season as Russell had 2 national champions with his cadet girls placing second in Canada at the national championships. Three other athletes won high school provincials and his teams won both girls and boys 3A team titles at high school provincials.

In mid-August, with a crop that looked like mid-July, **Corey Loessin 86C** and **John Cote 86C** fueled up their motorcycles and headed south. The destination was the 69th annual motorcycle rally in Sturgis, North Dakota.

By noon the next day, they were taking in the sights of downtown Sturgis - and there was lots to see! Apparently, about a million people attend the 10 day or so event; it was a whole new cultural experience!

One of the most surprising aspects was how many 'bikers' actually haul their bikes in trailers behind their motor homes to the outskirts, put on a leather jacket, and then ride into town. A few people thought it was amazing that Corey and John had ridden all the way from Canada!

The bike rally attracts people from all over and most were friendly, ordi-

nary people - they found it fascinating. The next day they rode through the Black Hills - which the Creator made specifically for motorbikes they're sure. Some of the planet's most spectacular scenery with winding, switchback roads and one way tunnels through the mountains. They stopped briefly at a giant rock carving that Americans are quite proud of, pulled over at a roadside bar to wait out an afternoon thunderstorm, and thoroughly enjoyed the ride. They headed east from Sturgis across South Dakota, avoiding Interstate highways, and saw a lot of CRP land.

The next day they biked from Pierre, SD east to Minnesota, then up Hwy 75 toward Canada. They saw corn, soybeans, some sugar beets, and more corn. After a saddle sore 1000 km day to south of Winnipeg, they had seen nothing but beautiful, productive river valley land and excellent crops. Home the next day, almost 4000 km in total and harvest was still a month off. It was a fantastic trip and a great way to see some of America with a small carbon footprint.

**Gary Kachanoski BSc** (Biology, U of S), MSc'80 (U of S, Soil Sci) and PhD (Soil Physics), U of California has been appointed as the President, Memorial University, Nfld. Gary was born in Dauphin and raised in Yorkton. He was the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at the U of S, 1996-2001. Later he was the VP of research at the University of Alberta. In his earlier life he was a hockey player with the Melville Millionaires junior team and later a car salesman in Yorkton.

**Alan Daku 72C** is currently employed by Hole's Greenhouses & Gardens Ltd. in St Albert, Alta. Prior to moving to Alberta he was employed by Honeywood Lilies at Parkside. He is an avid plant collector with Alliums

being a major interest.

**Brian Fowler 64C, MSc65** and **PhD70** of Saskatoon received the SSCA's Award of Merit in recognition of his work on winter wheat for Saskatchewan and his role in the development of direct seeding systems.

**Lyndon Carlson 82C** of Regina was appointed as president of the Canadian 4-H Foundation

**Richard Medernach 02C** of Saskatoon received the U of S Student's Union Academic Advising Award for 2009

**Jeff Prosko 05S** of Rose Valley was appointed as a member of the Agriculture Youth Advisory Committee of Saskatchewan.

**Harley Olson 72C** and **MSc74** of Regina was appointed as Assoc. Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs within Executive Council for the Government of Saskatchewan.

**Darren Crill 94C** of Saskatoon has been appointed manager of grounds with Facilities Management Division at the U of S.

**Derek Tallon 07S** and **09C** of Lafleche was appointed as a member of the Agriculture Youth Advisory Committee of Saskatchewan.

## Home Grown

**Darcy Booy 98C** and wife **Angela 00C** had another girl, Shelby Dale, on April 14, 2009. Breanna is a very proud big sister. The Booy's are farming near Glaslyn and Angela is on a one year maternity leave as the agronomist at Agriteam Services Inc. out of Glaslyn. Proud grandparents are **Larry (71S)** and **Vivian MacDougall** of Langbank.

## Pooped Deck



**Bill McLaughlin 62C** has moved to Narrellan Vale about 40 km west of Sydney. He is living with daughter Shannon and her partner Jason McCallum in their new home. Bill's wife, Marie, passed away a few months ago. It's colder than in Brisbane but he is well and truly settled in. His new address is: 7 Payton Court, Narellan Vale, New South Wales, Australia. 2567 and his new phone number is 02-4647-1974. He hopes all of his Canuck friends enjoy their next few months of COLD, NASTY, UNBEARABLE weather!!!!

**Lee Melvill, P.Ag., 74C**, Farm Marketing Consultant, Brooks, Alberta, retired from Alberta Agriculture at the end of September, 2008, after 34 1/2 years working for two provincial ag departments. He worked for Sask Ag. for nearly 4 1/2 years and Alberta Ag for 30. Since January, 2009, he's been doing farm marketing management and some financial management consulting with Meyers Norris Penny on a part-time basis. He's done most of his work in Alberta but also some in Saskatchewan and a little in Manitoba. In April, 2009, his wife, Sandy, opened "The Steaming Cup" a "Second Cup" type of café in Brooks. She serves all kinds of fancy coffees and teas and lunches. Lee finds it quite amazing how, in this economic climate, many people will spend five bucks every day for a fancy coffee or tea and not even blink an eye. Lee has also become hooked on cappuccinos and lattes.

On Saturday, September 26, 2009, Saltcoats Regional Park held a ceremony where a portion of the park was designated as an area in which native plants will, in future, be protected. Some Saltcoats residents have noticed a marked decline in the number of native prairie flowers blooming in the park. The designation has been given with an eye

to ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy native plants and their flowers. The ceremonies included a dedication to **Dr. Jim 47C** and **Shirley Jowsey** of Saltcoats who were feted in recognition of a life-time of work as naturalists.



**Jim and Shirley Jowsey at Saltcoats Regional Park.**

Among the many dignitaries who spoke during the ceremonies were **Grant McCallum 89S**, representing the Regional Park Board, and **Craig Smith 83C** of the Yorkton Branch, Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists. A plaque summarizing the contributions of the Jowseys will be installed at the site in the Regional Park in the near future.

The Jowseys were further honored at an ensuing banquet. They were mentioned in greetings received from Lieutenant-Governor Gordon Barnhardt who is, incidentally, a resident of Saltcoats.

**David Enns 49C** claims it would be fair to assume that he's now in the category called "retired". On April 2, 2007 he and Marion moved from their home in Sherwood Park to Churchill Manor in Edmonton. Churchill Manor is a very nice retirement home. The staff cook three meals every day and usually they have three options for the entree for the main meal. The food is excellent and can only be criticized on the basis that it quickly attaches itself to David's waist line. The staff also does light housekeeping on a once a week basis. With no lawns to mow, no snow to shovel, no meals to cook, no shopping for groceries---there's nothing left to complain about.

Marion (nee Monteith, B. Ed. Regina) had a hip replacement in early July of 2007, and never really recovered. She died in the Grey Nuns hospital on June 20, 2009. Her ashes were interred in the Monteith family plot in Balcarres.

*continued on page 9*

## ASA NEWS

With November coming to a close, student's extra circular activity slows down as they dust off the books and start studying for finals. The student body had many achievements over the first term.

FCC challenged the Agros to collect 1000 lbs of food for the Saskatoon Food Bank. With a lot of students' help and creative thinking the Agros managed to collect 1150 lbs of non perishable food items..

Ag Bag Drag (GOOSE) was a huge success this year as we made \$4, 500. A big Thank You goes out to all the graduates who attended. Three bands played at Drag - a local Agro band called Wrenched, a band from Humboldt, The Barley Boys, and an upcoming Saskatoon star, Kal Hourd.

The students are getting involved in a Kaiser tournament to raise money for Telemiracle. Sixteen teams from different years have signed up for this tournament. More fundraisers are planned to support Telemiracle in Term 2 as we will be hosting a steak night, auctioning off the ASA executive and running the Bi-annual Bed Push.

Many of the clubs such as CAMA, Stockman's and Rodeos, have been keeping themselves busy with tours and hosting events. The Canadian Agri-Marketing Association (CAMA) Student Chapter has been working on sponsorship and fundraising for the National Agri-Marketing Association's (NAMA) conference. So far, CAMA has held their annual pub-crawl as a social event and a toastmasters night as a professional development event. They have also been busy finding industry sponsorship. CAMA takes a marketing plan for Canadian based product to the NAMA conference each year; this year they plan to take a purple antioxidant enriched vodka product. After the Christmas break, CAMA will develop a marketing plan for this product and will ultimately present in Kansas City. In the second semester, CAMA plans to host more fundraising and professional development events such as a steak night and a critique night.

The University of Saskatchewan Stockman's and Rodeo Club has activities well underway for the 2009/2010 school year. Meetings are held every two weeks for general business and to coordinate special activities. One of these activities was a tour of the Cargill feed mill in North Battleford. Mitch Stuart took a group of 16 members through the mill, highlighting the commercial operations. A speaker on equine chiropractic and massage therapy is planned for some time in January. The judging team is up and running for another year. Two members competed in the youth judging competition at Farmfair International and five members competed in the youth judging competition

at Canada Western Agribition. The team is also planning trips to Little Royal and the University of Manitoba's judging competition. Planning for our own judging competition, scheduled for January 30, 2010, is underway, with both college and 4-H teams in attendance. Fundraising activities have included selling cabaret tickets for the New Holland Saskatoon Stampede and Rodeo and working night security in the cattle barns for the Saskatoon Fall Fair. The annual pub-crawl, held in early November, was the social highlight for the Stockman's and Rodeo Club members.

The range team for 2009/2010 has 18 members, 15 of whom will be going to Denver, Colorado with their coaches on February 7-12 for the Society for Range Management conference. The team meets with their coach, Darcy Henderson of Canada Wildlife Service, for weekly sessions to study all aspects of rangeland management. During the conference the team will write the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. The team has done quite well in the past, placing sixth or better in the last five years of the competition. This year, one member will compete in the Undergraduate Plant Identification Competition and two in the Undergraduate Paper Session. Fundraising for this trip includes steak nights and a raffle. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for individuals and businesses.

The intercollegiate rodeo season has ended for the fall season, but will start up again for spring rodeos. There is currently one competing member of the rodeo team, with a second member joining for the spring season. The U of S Stockman's and Rodeo Club is also working toward holding their first intercollegiate rodeo in the 2010/2011 season.

Hope to see you at the SAGA Mixer and Banquet. A few of the Ag students will help with this event and also sell Agro clothing and yearbooks. If you would like to pre-order any clothing and/or yearbooks please contact me at lko363@mail.usask.ca

**Public Relations Officer**  
**Lynnell Olson**

## FOR SALE

The Agriculture Student Association has gone through the collection of yearbooks and is selling any remaining yearbooks for \$10 each.

If you are interested in buying a yearbook, contact either SAGA or the ASA P.R.O. Lynnell Olson lko363@mail.usask.ca. Degree program yearbooks are available for the following years - '73, '75, '85, '86, '91 - '99, '02 and '05. Diploma program yearbooks are available for '80 - '83, '84 - '85, '88 - '92, '97 - '00.



*Pooped Deck from page 7*

**Bob Bullock 61C** and his wife Pat visited **Syd Pickerel 61C** in Surrey, BC on their way home to Saskatchewan from a week on the Sunshine Coast. They managed to get to Salt Spring Island as well to see **Lynn Thompson 61C**. All three are looking forward to 2011 when they will return to celebrate their 50th.

**Bryan Harvey 60C** became the President-Elect of the U

of S Alumni Assoc at the recent AGM. **Judy MacMillan 79C** was elected as a Member-at-Large.

**Les Henry 64C, Bob Mckercher 54C, Don Torrie 73S, Elwood Fleming 62C, Art Delahey 52C and Bernie Sonntag 62C** continue to show up at the Nutana Curling Club on weekday mornings with expectations of winning, but go home disappointed more frequently than in times past.

## From the Desk of Mark Wartman, College Development Officer

Early this past summer I attended the Farm Show in Regina. It was an excellent show and a great opportunity to meet with farmers and other people involved in the AgBio industry. As I walked around the grounds and stopped to visit at many of the booths, it became very apparent to me how linked the College of Agriculture and Bioresources is in this industry. People talked to me about their experiences as students at the College and about what an important role the College has played in their lives.

I made a point of stopping and speaking with people who represent companies that support the work of the College or have worked in partnership with the College on various projects. I stopped at the Morris Industries booth to speak with Casey Davis, President of Morris Industries and Don Henry, who is now with Morris and who helped set up an earlier gift agreement with another company.

In our new gift agreement, Morris Industries has committed to provide the College with a Morris contour drill and an 8 series XL Air Cart along with \$30,000 to help build the new Grain's Innovation Lab. Casey told me that they were pleased to be able to support the work of the College. Providing support offered them an opportunity to give back to a community from which they have received a lot. His personal commitment and the generosity of the company mean a lot to the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

As I continued walking along I passed the New Holland site and was reminded of the two big Blue tractors that New Holland is providing for the use of the College. Each year in the spring they provide two new tractors to support the work of the Soil Science Department and the Department of Plant Science. When the season comes to an end, the tractors go back into the New Holland inventory. At the next site was the Brandt Industries display. Brandt Industries for several years provided a sprayer, a harrow and an auger for use on our University farm.

Inside at the display booths, I ran into my old friend Al McDonald, who was working with Terra Grains Ethanol

Plant at Belle Plain. Terra Grains have been providing distiller's grains to help support the College's research work on feeds.

The FCC booth reminded me of the commitment FCC has to education and how they are providing \$30,000 over two years to support our AgBio Discovery Camps. Without exception the people I met spoke about how much they value the work of the College and they and their companies have backed that up by supporting and enabling the College in a variety of ways.

The people and companies mentioned above are not alone. There are many more that provide significant support for which the College is deeply grateful. At site after site I met individuals and saw the names and logos of companies that provide some type of support.

Right at the North West entrance of the Brandt Centre was the *Western Producer* booth. Did you see the "Thank you" spread in the October 15th edition of the *Western Producer*? It was great. They provided that space to the College for no charge. Yes, we have a lot for which to be thankful. These are difficult times and there are many challenges, but we are surrounded by thoughtful and generous people who work in a variety of places through which they can make significant contributions. These are people who use their gifts, abilities and opportunities to help build and strengthen the community that surrounds them.

As I continued my walk around the sites of the Farm Show I ran into many other people I knew, entrepreneurs, developers, business people and farmers. I know that many of them, when there is an opportunity, show that same spirit of generosity that provides enrichment and strength to the larger community. On behalf of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, thanks to each of you who have found ways to "Give Back".

By the way Ag Grads, if you bump into any of those I mentioned above, don't hesitate to thank them on behalf of the College. - Mark

## Adventures in Agriculture in Inner Mongolia, China

Inner Mongolia Agricultural University (IMAU) is located in Hohhot, China, a one-hour flight west of Beijing. IMAU is rapidly expanding its capability to teach courses at both undergrad and graduate levels in English. The university is keenly interested in having Canadian scientists and professors to teach courses there in English. Several Canadians have done this already including **Murray Fulton 77C**, **Kurt Klein 63C**, **Laurie Tollefson 75C**, **Bill Brown** and **Bruce Coulman**. Courses are taught on an intensive basis over a short period. IMAU pays travel costs and living expenses. Travel connections to and from Beijing, food,

lodging, classrooms and audio-visual facilities are all good. IMAU is now in the process of determining the specific courses for which they want Canadian teachers. A similar process is underway there to select members of their own faculty to go to English speaking countries to improve their capabilities to teach in English at IMAU. Teaching English to students at IMAU is also an opportunity, but this involves a longer term commitment than other classes. If these potential opportunities interest any SAGA members, please contact **Bernie Sonntag 62C** for more information – coordinates are on the back page.

### Agros Everywhere

**Syd Pickerell 61C** of Surrey, British Columbia has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the W.R. Motherwell Award\*. This award is presented annually by Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers to an individual or couple who have demonstrated excellence in leadership and dedication to both the OYF program and Canadian agriculture. Syd is a native of Foam Lake, SK, and following his graduation from the U of S with an Agriculture Degree, Syd's entire career was spent in the agricultural field, first in Manitoba and later in British Columbia. His involvement in the OYF Program began in the mid-1980s, when he was asked to judge the BC finals. In 1993, he became a member of the regional (BC & Yukon) Board of Advisors and from 2001 to 2005 he was Regional Chairman.

In 2005, he was presented with an Award of Recognition by the previous Minister of Agriculture for B.C., the Hon. John van Dongen, who thanked Syd for "his years of dedication to the OYF Program and the important role it plays in placing young farmers and agriculture in such a positive light".

In 2007, Syd served as a judge for the National OYF competition in Quebec and continues to assist the B.C. OYF when he can and is part of the planning committee as B.C. prepares to host the National OYF Event in 2010.

Besides OYF, he has served a wide variety of local, provincial and western Canadian organizations, including the Rotary Club, BC Institute of Agrologists, Western Canada Turfgrass Association, Kwantlen University College School of Horticulture, Poultry Industry Advisory Committee, Pacific Riding for the Disabled, and most recently, serves on the Board of Directors of B. C. Farm Machinery and Agricultural Museum located in Fort Langley.

Syd is always quick to acknowledge the support and assistance he receives from his wife, Janice, with everything

he is involved in. Janice has been there by his side for close to 50 years, avoiding the spotlight but playing a vital role in assisting him in carrying out his duties and obligations for the many organizations that he has been part of.

Syd and Janice traveled to Ottawa in early December to receive this award at the Outstanding Young Farmer's National Event which was held in the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel.

*\* W. R. Motherwell: He was a statesman, a pioneer of Canada, and a true visionary leader, becoming the Agriculture minister for all of Canada. At the age of 22, W.R. Motherwell, a native of Lanark, Ontario, heeded the call of the west and traveled by oxcart from Brandon, Manitoba to the homestead on which he settled at Abernathy, Saskatchewan. Upon his arrival there he began to participate in community affairs by helping to organize the local school board and the Presbyterian Church. In 1901 he was involved in the organization of the territorial Grain Growers Association and became the first president the following year.*

*When Saskatchewan became a province in 1905 he was invited to be the first provincial Minister of Agriculture. During this eleven year term in office he was instrumental in the establishment of an agriculture facility at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. From 1921 to 1930, he served as Canada's Minister of Agriculture and played an important role in the establishment of a cereal breeding program and rust research laboratory in Winnipeg, the adoption of grade standards for most farm products and the introduction of the restricted plan for the eradication of tuberculosis. His leadership and vision spanned over 50 years and he retired as a much-respected elder statesman known to many as the "Grand Old Man of Canadian Agriculture".*

**Guarantee your spot at the 75th SAGA Banquet.  
Use this form and reserve NOW!**

**2010 SAGA REUNION WEEKEND - JAN. 9 - 10, 2010. ALL EVENTS AT TCU PLACE**  
**\*\*All reunion participants MUST be a member of SAGA as this is a SAGA reunion weekend\*\***  
**Guests with grads do not have to be a member of SAGA.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**1) SAGA Membership (please check one):**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I'm a member

\_\_\_\_\_ No, \$10 annual membership fee \_\_\_\_\_

or \$100 lifetime membership fee \_\_\_\_\_

**2) SAGA MEMBERS MIXER/CASINO NIGHT - Jan. 9th at 8 p.m.**

SAGA Member \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_

**3) 75TH SAGA REUNION BANQUET - Jan. 10th at 4:30 p.m. Cocktails**

**5:30 p.m. Banquet**

**Program & Group Pictures to Follow**

\$45 x \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE A CHEQUE PAYABLE TO SAGA FOR THE AMOUNT CALCULATED ABOVE & RETURN THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO THE SAGA OFFICE BY **DECEMBER 18, 2009**. MEMBERSHIP RECEIPTS & TICKETS TO EVENTS WILL BE IN AN ENVELOPE AT THE MIXER. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE TICKETS PRIOR TO THE REUNION WEEKEND, PLEASE SPECIFY ON THIS FORM.**

**Our mailing address is:**

Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates' Association Inc.  
 College of Agriculture  
 University of Saskatchewan  
 Room 2D27 - 51 Campus Drive  
 Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8



**SAGA membership fees:**  
Life - \$100  
Annual - \$10

**Send It All To:**  
**Bernie Sonntag 62C**  
**318 Collins Cres.**  
**Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K7**  
**Phone/fax: (306) 653-7215**  
**Email: thesaga@shaw.ca**  
or  
**Ewald Lammerding 88S**  
**Email:**  
**eflammerding@sasktel.net**

**Deadline for the next issue:**  
**April 30/10**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS ( new? ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

GRAD YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL ( ) COLLEGE ( )

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER (self or other) \_\_\_\_\_

MY OWN DOINGS (and others') \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(add pages if needed)

The SAGA is a publication of:  
Saskatchewan Agricultural  
Graduates' Association Inc.

**Return undeliverable  
Canadian addresses to:**

Room 2D27 Agriculture Building  
51 Campus Drive, U of S  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A8

President: **Carl Lynn 74C**  
Editors: **Bernie Sonntag 62C**  
**Ewald Lammerding 88S**

