

## Cummins '77 S, Halford '63 C named HLMs at January banquet



2018 President Mayson Maerz '83 C, Blair Cummins '77 S and presenter Ewald Lammerding '88 S.

### Blair Cummins '77 S

Blair Cummins was born in Saskatoon, Nov. 6, 1957, the second of eight children to Joe and Isabelle Cummins, with four sisters and three brothers, and has two daughters and four grandchildren.

Blair has been tilling the same patch of soil since he was old enough to walk, and resides on the family farm with his wife, Marina. He operates a 5500 acre grain operation with brother Marty, but in his past Blair had an eighty sow farrowing facility, a thirty cow/calf herd, plus boarded one hundred cows for a neighbour. Marina and Blair recently purchased a U-pick Saskatoon berry and sour cherry orchard near the farm.

Blair was involved in community activities at an early

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### Jim Halford '63 C

Jim grew up on the family farm south of Indian Head where he attended school. After graduating from the College of Agriculture at the U of S, he obtained a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics in 1966 under Hadley Van Vliet. In 1976, he studied agriculture in the United Kingdom as a Nuffield Scholar focusing on alternative land tenure options. He did further work in this subject area in the 1980s for the Agriculture Institute of Canada, Sask. Agriculture, and the Sask. Indian Agriculture program.

Jim had started farming while attending the U of S. This continued after graduation and, during 13 winters, the farming habit was initially supported by working as a Farm Management Specialist for the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, followed by some private consulting. In 1979, Jim decided that “Vale Farm” (which his grandfather

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2018 President Mayson Maerz '83 C, Jim Halford '63 C and presenter Keith Head '67 C.

## Our 2020 Honorary Life Nominees

**Harold Chapman '43 C**, is slated to receive an Honorary HLM from *SAGA*. Harold was a pioneer in promoting and organizing local Co-ops throughout Saskatchewan. That story, *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement*. He is a member of the Order of Canada. At a century plus two, Harold has been one of the oldest Ag Grads in attendance at the SAGA Reunion Banquet the last three years

**Vern Racz '68 C** is a member of the faculty in Animal and Poultry Sc. and Director of the Feed Centre at the College of AgBio. No one is sure if he has actually retired, as he keeps roaming the world dispensing agricultural advice. A 2018 SAHF member, he has received countless accolades for his work. Vern finally stepped back from farming his land near Foam Lake, SK. He is a longtime member of the *SAGA* Executive.

**Ewald Lammerding '88 S**, grew up on a dairy farm in Ontario, but at 17 began wandering and working his way across western Canada. He and his wife moved to Saskatchewan on a brass monkeys type of day in Jan. 1982 and never left. Worked at the U of S for 18 years, then took to the roads again for a couple of years. Ewald is the current *The SAGA* editor, and has filled many roles with *SAGA*.

### *Cummins, continued from Page 1*

age, as an original member of the Blucher 4-H Multiple club for 10 years, eventually becoming a project and general leader. He was secretary treasurer of the Blucher Wheat Pool Committee, Chairman of the Bradwell Wheat Pool Committee, and President of the Blucher Feeder and Breeder Co-ops. Blair also served in many roles in the Allan community; the Rink board as Chairman, the Curling Club President, and on the Finance Committee to raise funds for the construction of the Allan and District Communiplex, while volunteering time and labour to build the facility. Blair was also President of the Blackstrap Senior Hockey League for a short period, and still finds time to play a little hockey and curl in Saskatoon.

He was a co-founder of the Blucher Shell Oilers Fastball team as well as a co-founder of the Sask. Prairie Fastball League. He played and helped run the team and league

until the league folded. The team continued in the Saskatoon leagues where Blair continued to play until his retirement.

Blair became involved with *SAGA* in the eighties, first in membership, then with curling, and became the first Ag Grad to serve two terms as president, both times jumping into the position to assist the Executive when the appointed person had to drop out.

Currently he sits as an MAL and organizes the Cheers with Peers events at the three Ag shows. (He's the guy often seen wearing his bright green Voc Ag jacket) Blair has been a third generation councilor in the RM of Blucher since 2011. Both his father, Joe, and grandfather, William, were division five councillors. He also sits as Blucher's rep to APAS, and has been on the Municipal Hail board of directors since 2015.

### *Halford, continued from Page 1*

homesteaded in 1890) needed to be farmed in a different way. He started Zero Tilling with a disc drill but soon learned that this was not the answer on his rolling, hilly, stony Oxbow Loam soil.

In 1983, the double-knife system of fertilizing, seeding and packing ... using a double shoot air delivery ... was initiated. This Conserva Pak (TM) Seeder led to a business of ongoing design, testing, manufacturing and marketing. Sales started in Western Canada in 1989, then northern USA, and Australia in 1993.

In 2007, the Conserva Pak technology (including 25 patents), trademarks and design were sold to Deere and Company. The 1870 Conserva Pak is the main seeder that John Deere sells today in Western Canada.

Jim has been recognized in a variety of ways.

1986 – Distinguished Graduate, College of Agriculture

1994 – Sk. Institute of Agrologists Distinguished Agrologist

1997 – Manning Foundation Innovation Award

1990 – 2004 – recognized by three farmer-directed Western Canadian conservation organizations

2000 – inducted into the Canadian Conservation Hall of fame

2010 – inducted into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame

2013 - nominated for the Oslo Business for Peace Award by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

Jim's three children (Grant, Beth, and Chris) were all involved in the Conserva Pak business at different times.

Jim and his wife, Dayle Bowman, continue to reside in Indian Head ... not too far from the farm! They have a total of five children and six grandchildren.

# President's Pen

Hello fellow Ag Grads! It is my pleasure to be serving as the 2019 President of *SAGA*. I have been involved in *SAGA* in the past as a Reunion Chair but this is my first experience on the Executive.

First off, I would like to welcome **Jason Fradette, '84 C** as our 2019 Vice-President. Jason recently retired from AAFC and brings with him a wealth of management and leadership skills. **Deanne Belisle, '79 C** has agreed to join the *SAGA* executive this fall with the intention of taking on the VP position in 2020. Deanne has had a distinguished career with Sask Ag and Western Economic Development and possesses great leadership skills. Additionally, **John Hauer, '84 C** is joining the *SAGA* executive. John works with Sask Ag and is currently President of the Native Plant Society and the Saskatoon Horticultural Society.

I also want to recognize the hard work and initiatives of **Mayson Maerz '83 C**, our 2018 President. Mayson and the Executive did an excellent job of liaising with the Agriculture Students Association and we are continuing to build on our growing relationship. Thanks to **Madison Englot, '19 C**, the 2018 ASA PRO, who sat on the *SAGA* Executive and kept us informed of college activities. We look forward to working with her replacement, James Pruiem, and Greg Cooper, the new ASA President.

I had the opportunity to attend the Bean Feed this year; Mayson attended Graduation, and I will be attending Convocation as well. We also put together a bowling team for an ASA fundraiser to raise money for STARS air ambulance. I am not sure if I was the worst bowler at the fundraiser, but I was awful close!! Congratulations to the ASA for their fundraising efforts to support STARS. In the month of March, they held a number of fundraisers under their "March for Stars" initiative and raised a total of \$14,000.00.

The 2019 *SAGA* Reunion turned out to be very successful. We were able to recruit a full slate of reunion chairs which was one of the reasons for its success. We had 400 registered for the banquet, up from 375 that attended in 2018. One of our biggest successes this year is that we sold 41 life memberships and 68 annual memberships, which is a 20 percent increase from the previous year!

Plans for the 2020 *SAGA* Reunion are well underway and we have been able to recruit 18 out of 19 Reunion chairs to date!! We are still looking for a 1950 School of Agriculture chair. If you are a '50 S Grad and interested, let us know.

The key for the long-term viability of *SAGA* is to continue to build on the momentum that has been created over the past few years. Initiatives such as the "Cheers with Peers"

at the Farm Progress Show, Ag in Motion and Agribition are a great way to get together with fellow grads. Spread the word and invite Ag Grads who aren't currently members so they can get to know what we are all about and learn of the benefits of being involved in the Association. Be sure to let us know if there is another Ag Show we can set up at.

*SAGA* is also providing sponsorship for the ASA 2nd Golf Tournament on July 27th at the Moon Lakes Golf and Country Club. Information on that event is included elsewhere in the newsletter. Dust off your clubs and enter a team!! I am working on my 300+ yard right-to-left drives for the event (Well, they're mostly dead right and more like 300 feet!)

The *SAGA* Undergraduate Award/Scholarship is now in place and we are pleased with the donations that we have received from the membership. The objective of the award is to reward undergrads with a combination of strong academics and community involvement. Special thanks to the **class of '79 C** who committed \$7900.00!! Details on the scholarship and how to donate are available on the *SAGA* website.

I also want to reach out to members to get involved with *SAGA*. We have a strong Executive; however, many have been on the executive for a number of years and we could use some more volunteers/executive members to help out. I haven't found that the commitment to *SAGA* to be very onerous, and it has been one of the most fun organizations that I have been involved with!

Have a great summer. Hope to visit with you at a Cheers with Peers stop, or the Agro Golf Tournament. Make sure you stay clear if you see me in the tee box!!

**Eric Johnson '82C**



**2019 Saga President Eric Johnson '82 C, 2018 president Mayson Maerz '83 C, Dean of the College of Ag-Bio, Mary Buhr, and Harold Chapman '43 C.**

# 2019 Saga Hockey Tournament

It was another successful *SAGA* Hockey Tournament this year in Waldheim.

With their hospitable rink staff it was a very smooth tournament. Reffing is always a tough thing to line up for the tournament, but this year the two Agro teams in the tournament did most of the reffing and they did an amazing job.

There were 6 teams total this year containing two Agro teams and 4 alumni teams. There were lots of laughs shared along with the reminiscing in the dressing room making it a great day.

I created The Bouchard Heart Award in memory of **Aaron Bouchard '02 C** who organized the tournament for several years. Its goal is to recognize the hard work and effort one puts in on and off the ice. This tournament would not be able to run without those people entering teams and getting people there. This year's recipient was **Steve Cuddington '04 C**, who was a longtime friend of Aaron, adding even more sentiment to the award.



**Bouchard Heart Award –  
Chay Anderson '14 C and  
Steve Cuddington '04 C.**

This was the 30th *SAGA* Hockey Tournament, with new teams every year I see no reason why this tournament won't go on for another 30 years

**Chay Anderson '14 C**



**A-side Gold – Oilers**



**A-side Silver - Millimetre Peters**



**B-side Gold – Hogsville**

## Friday Night Come 'n' Go Social

This fourth year saw our best turnout yet for the College-organized meet, greet and tour of the Ag Building.

More than 120 grads and family came to see the great art collection spread throughout the six floors, once again walk the halls and floors of the buildings and classrooms we did back when, or stroll around the refurbished Phytotron to watch the newest crop varieties, and 'Weeds' grow through a myriad of conditions. Thanks to **Louis Bossaer '95 C**, for delivering the delicious munchies donated once again by **Three Farmers**, and **Blair's Ag**.

## Dean Speak

**What a wonderful spring we are finally enjoying! Winter** seemed so reluctant to leave, making this warmth that much more appreciated. Spring moisture – the lack in the West, the excess in the East – concerns all of us, and I hope that by the time you are reading this we've had a three-day rain, and our eastern colleagues are warm and dry.

These climate extremes emphasise the value and importance of the College's efforts – past, present and future. Despite three years of low rainfall, we are not in a dustbowl, thanks to huge efforts from many. Low till, crop rotation including pulses, increasing diversity of land uses, better understanding of the inter-relationships of soil, air, water; animals, plants, microbes; policies, economy, social awareness - - all these factors (and more!) listed in this overly-long sentence are near and dear to the heart and minds of Agros. We Agros have contributed substantially to better bio-based products, produced more sustainably, distributed more widely, contributing to improved global well-being. For this, I can assure you that your Dean is deeply proud of you, and grateful to you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you do.

So know that it is with deepest regret that I also say: it is not enough. Our world needs much, much more from every one of us. Our Indigenous peoples teach us to live now so that seven generations from now will live better. Not our children, not our grandchildren – **seven generations** from now need to be living better lives. How can we manage this in the face of current predictions of loss of equatorial agriculture, climate-driven human migrations, disappearing arctic snow and permafrost, changing prevailing winds, warming oceans altering ocean currents and marine ecosystems, rising populations, and increasing political intolerance impacting trade? What can any one of us do when the issues are so enormous?

If one of you can wave a wand and fix everything, please do so! Otherwise, each and every one of us needs to consider how we can produce more (increase output), use less (reduce inputs), and really **think** about our methods (work smarter). If we each look at our world through our Agro lenses and find just one thing each of us can make work more efficiently, it will make a difference.

The College continues teaching, research and outreach – but we are certainly changing the methods and the content. We are re-examining our undergraduate programs, to ensure they provide learning in ways and places that matter. We still give basic information, still provide lots of hands-on experience – but information is expanding so rapidly that

we must also provide tools to access information, and to distinguish fact from opinion, useful from extravagant, future possibility from non-starter. Our new Work-To-Learn Learn-to-Work program provides students with essential non-academic skills. And we plan to slowly increase our undergraduate numbers, because the world needs more of us, but they must have high quality educations – and be dedicated, strong Agros!

We've had a really strong research year – a significant rise in research dollars and numbers of projects. It's not the dollars that matter most, but the nature of the work that will be accomplished. There will be new crops; improved stress-resistance in current crops; better understanding of how an animal's genetics affect its behaviour and ability to thrive on different feeds in changing environments; understanding how plant rootlets interact with microbes to absorb essential minerals; better food processing to improve storage time; trade policies and social license – it goes on and on. Equally important, we are looking at new ways to train graduate students and provide life-long learning opportunities so everyone can keep their skills and knowledge current in this rapidly changing world.

Please help us stay at the forefront of knowledge and relevance – drop in to visit me or the Agros in the lounge or your favourite prof. Or say hello at any event you see us at – WE LOVE AGROS!

**Mary Buhr, Dean of Agriculture and Bioresources**



**Our Centenarians - Thomas Drever 1939 C and Harold Chapan 1943 C. Both of these graduates were 101 years old the night of the Reunion Banquet.**

### 1949 School and College



Back – L-R Doug Kent C, Fred Grant S, Eric Beamish S  
Front – L-R Bill Heenan S, Jim Webster C

### 1954 School



Back- L-R: John Wilbraham, Bruce Jones, Lloyd Spicer, Bob Downey

Front-L-R: Dave Thompson, John Atamenenko

### We Must be Setting a Record!!

We know you see it every time you read the Newsletter, but you probably do not realize that 2020 will be SAGA’s 85th CONSECUTIVE Reunion Banquet and Annual General Meeting.

It all began in 1935, though it seems that the earliest meetings revolved around the AGM, eventually including a dinner, then awards. But the key point is 85 consecutive meetings.

So who do you know of the other Colleges that can beat this? Do we issue a challenge to the “others”?

### We need your input

We cannot post your story or mention, if you do not send it to us. We receive very little information from Ag Grads these days, which means we have to work that much harder to fill these pages. Please send to [thesaga@sasktel.net](mailto:thesaga@sasktel.net).



1954 College - Bob McKercher and Peter McLaren

### 1959 School and Spouses



Back-L-R: Gary Reed, Carlie Reed, Bill Hurd, Ina Hanley, Patricia Hanley

Middle-L-R: Isabel Flavel, Maryann Cuchion, Frances Weber, Mary Hurd, Gladys Raymond, Sheila Mason, Shirley Pridmore

Front-L-R: Brian Flavel, Alvin Avrey, Barry Raymond, Ron Mason, Bob Pridmore

## 1959 College



Back – L-R - Leonard Fisher, Dr. Glen Farrell, John Petruic, Elwood Hart.

Mid - L-R - John Hickie, George O'Bertos, Gerald Iffe, Dr. Lorne Fisher, Wilfred Davis, Jack Gilliland.

Front – L-R - Victor Surjik, Allan Short, Dr. Geza Racz, Ted Youck.

Missing - Frank Bode, who attended a Friday dinner with the group

## Books of Interest to Grads

THE SODBUSTERS VISION: *An Agriculture Building for the University of Saskatchewan.* **Bob Mckercher '54 C & Ted Turner '48 S and Jill Turner '80 C.** Ted was President of the Sask Wheat Pool for 18 years and 1995 SAHF. Bob was a AgBio Soil Sc. professor and 2017 SAHF.

To purchase your copy, please contact **Dennis Ewanus '70 C** at [ewanusdj@sasktel.net](mailto:ewanusdj@sasktel.net).

GRASS ROOTS “Cowboys and Paratroopers have at least one thing in common; they each take pride in their boots.”

The story of Boyd M. Anderson, a soldier, P.O.W. and cowboy from Fir Mountain, SK. Boyd received an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the U of S in 1979, and is a 1987 SAHF.

For more information please contact:  
[chayanderson92@hotmail.com](mailto:chayanderson92@hotmail.com)

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## 85th SAGA Reunion Banquet - Sat., January 11th, 2020

Festivities will be held at: TCU Place - in the Centennial Halls (Lower Level of TCU-P)

Cocktails at 4:30 p.m.      Banquet & Program begin at 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Eric Johnson '82 C – 2019 SAGA President

Recognition of Years – 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960,  
1965, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2015

Honorary Life Member Awards Presentation      Annual General Meeting @ 8:30 p.m.  
SAGA now sells the Banquet tickets only via our Webpage – opens November 1st, 2019  
Go to: [www.saskaggrads.com](http://www.saskaggrads.com) and follow the links  
\*\*\*>>> Remember, Grads from every year are always expected! <<<\*\*\*

## 2019 SAHF Inductees

On Saturday, April 27th, 2019, six new members were inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame. They included Chantelle Donahue, Clarence Hookenson, Dan Prefontaine, and Roger Pederson, plus a couple of Ag Grads.

**Arnold Petracek '65 C**, of Esterhazy, worked as an agronomist before taking over the family farm at Esterhazy in 1973 and later set up AJ Seeds. He served on the Sask Municipal Hail Insurance Association board of directors from 1975 until 2015. At the same time, he was busy as councillor and later reeve of the Rural Municipality of Fertile Belt, and as

a director with the SAHF. “I’ve had many jobs and got involved in many of the boards in agriculture,” he said.

**Neil Shantz '73 C**, from Guernsey, worked as assistant farm manager at the University of Saskatchewan for several years and then obtained his DVM in ‘82. After interning for a couple of years he specialized in Dairy cattle and swine. He was a strong advocate of preventative medicine in livestock production and health management. Recognized nationally and internationally, Neil has received numerous accolades for his outstanding service

## ASA Golf

Come join your fellow Agros and Agro alumni at the second annual Agros golf tournament. This year it will be held at the **Moon Lake Golf and Country Club, SW of Saskatoon, on Saturday July. 27th, 2019 @ 1:00pm.**

The tournament is a great opportunity to network with old friends, SAGA members, and industry members alike. Throughout the tournament there will be contests, like longest drive, hole-in-one and many more. The day concludes with a banquet at the Moon Lake Club house, where we award the prizes, while you mix and mingle with all.

**Registration** is due **July. 17th**. Information can be found on our face book event page “Agros Golf Tournament 2019”, or email [uofsagros@gmail.com](mailto:uofsagros@gmail.com). Fees per team are

\$450 which include; golf, power cart, meal, and entry into all games and contests. Spots are filling up fast so get your teams in ASAP!

If you are interested in sponsorship, please email [uofsagros@gmail.com](mailto:uofsagros@gmail.com). We will be happy to help out with any questions you may have!

We hope to see everybody out at this year’s tournament, and hope everybody had a good and safe planting '19, and for those still going we wish you the best. Thanks.

**2019 AgBio Students’ Association Exec.**



## A Donation Turns Summer Employment Into Valuable Life Skills

Support from our donors helps the college and its students in many ways - a recent gift from the RBC Foundation is changing the way our students think about and learn from their summer jobs.

This donation is tied to the RBC Future Launch initiative, which is an effort to help young people become better prepared for a rapidly changing job market. Through this initiative, RBC chose to fund the development of the RBC Learn to Work – Work to Learn program in AgBio.

The alignment between RBC's goals and the college's made this a natural partnership. The college, in an effort to better prepare our graduates for employment, had already surveyed students and employers for ways to improve our courses. Both indicated a need for enhanced skills in communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and professionalism.

The RBC Learn to Work – Work to Learn program is cen-

tered on an experiential learning course that allows students to cultivate these skills during summer employment while being coached and mentored by their employer, the success of which is dependent upon supportive industry participants (many of whom are our graduates). This approach to skills development builds upon one of our college's greatest strengths: an engaged group of alumni that are willing to share their experience and knowledge with the next generation of graduates. In addition, the program provides opportunities for students to participate in a variety of workshops and events designed to build their professional networks while exercising these soft skills.

Recalling my own experience as a student, I wish I had an opportunity to take a course like this so it's particularly rewarding to have been part of the team effort that achieved this for our students.

**Hamish Tulloch '91 C**  
AgBio Development Officer

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# ASA Clubs Update

The 2018-2019 school year has officially ended and with that the AgBio clubs have wrapped up their final events of the school year.

Some highlights from the last term include the U of S Canadian Agri-Marketing Association (CAMA) representing the college at the annual National Agri-Marketing Associations Conference in Kansas City. The U of S Judging Team also hosted a successful judging competition at Saskatoon Livestock Sales with 4-H and college competitors from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Other AgBio Clubs hosted speakers specific to their focus for further education and social interaction within the college.

Most of the clubs finish up the school year with an election meeting to install a new set of executives for the upcoming school year. Activities tend to slow down over the summertime while everyone is off working their summer jobs, however, multiple clubs have big plans for the fall. The U of S Dairy Team is looking to attend the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin at the beginning of October. The U of S Rangeland Team will begin practicing as soon as the

school year starts for the annual Undergraduate Rangeland Management exam which they have done very well at the past number of years. Furthermore, Club Day will be happening once again in September at the university. Club Day is an opportunity for all of the AgBio clubs to showcase what they are all about to engage more members and provide more learning opportunities to all students.

The ASA is looking for information concerning two awards they have found in their archives, and any information about them would be welcome. Please send your recollections to **Olivia Kennedy** at [oak589@usask.ca](mailto:oak589@usask.ca).

The "DUNN WELL" trophy is for second and third year students who are involved in Campus sports and show leadership in the sport they play.

The "Barry Edwards Memorial Shield" is an award that was handed out to the year of students that had the most participation in the annual blood drive (e.g. 1st years, 2nd years, etc.)

**James Pruiam '21 C - ASA PRO**

## Awards and Appointments for Ag Grads

**Caroline Brown '15 C, Sara Doerksen, '18 C, Kaitlyn Klutz '18 C, Karston Neilson '15 C - R.P. Knowles Scholarship** Recipients – Fall 2018

**Nathan Bell '17 DIPAGB – Ron Gallaway Scholarship**

**Linda Chelico '99 C – Awarded two grants by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. One for work concerning HIV, the other for possible causes of cancer.**

**Yang Chen '07 C – 2018 CBC Future 40**

**George Fedak '63 C – 2017 Vernadsky Gold Medal from the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (NASU)**

**Keith Hayward '82 C – has been/is Co-Chair of the Yorkton Film Festival**

**Adrian Johnston '81 C – 2019 Sask Pulse Growers Promoter Award**

**Patti Miller '83 C – is the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission**

**Kyle Montgomery '18 DIPAGR – the Charles C. Cook Student Leadership Award & Russell Fisher Scholarship & the Walter Scott Scholarship – Fall 2018**

**Jesse Reimer '17 C – S.N. Horner Graduate Scholarship – Fall 2018**

**Karen Schwean-Lardner '85 C – USSU Teaching Excellence Award – 2017**

**YanRan Tang '18 C – Andjelic Land Graduate Award in Ag Research – Fall 2018**

**Janice Tranberg '94 C – is the President and CEO of the National Cattle Feeders Assoc. and also the Alberta CFA**

**Dakota Wightman '15 C – Alexander Malcolm Shaw Memorial Graduate Scholarship – Fall 2018**

**Bakers share their recipes on a "knead to know" basis.**

# Road Trips

I've lived in Saskatchewan for almost 37 years, and have traveled extensively, but usually only to the other cities in the province, or places where my hockey teams went or watching the kids. Rarely have I cruised the countryside to any extent. I had been to Cypress Hills three or four times to camp when the stress factors hadn't developed into that yet, but had always taken #7 to Rose-town, south to Speedy Creek, across to Maple Creek and there we were.

This year, I was going to change that, at least a little bit.

In mid-July, letting my whims be the guide, I took off from Saskatoon. South to Gardiner Dam, thru Lucky Lake, past Beechy and came out north of Kyle. Once south of the river, I went west on the grid road to Cabri. Down to Gull Lake and, because I wanted to go to the western side of Cypress first, #1 to Irvine AB, and finally south to the resort village of Elkwater. Now that, is one cute little place.

I spent the night illegally camped out on the highest point of land in Canada between the Rockies and Labrador. There I met a family from Brandon, who come out every July. That spot is an official "Dark Sky Preserve", and they were kind enough to let me view all the planets they could find through their three telescopes. My first close-up of the moon was almost like I was standing on it.

The next day, I drove every little road, pasture trail and path going somewhere, that I thought my Caravan could handle, completely around Cypress West. Had to spend some time waiting for the cows to move!

Then, more or less on the backroad east to Fort Walsh. Came around a bend on the trail, and there was a wee little sign indicating I had just crossed back into Saskatchewan. There was a broken outcropping, so I grabbed a couple of chunks of sandstone to haul home for my rock garden. Spent a few hours peering about the Fort, before taking The Gap road/trail/cowpath into the backside of Cypress East.

There again, I was a bad boy, having an unpaid shower, hit the store to grab supper before vamoosing. That night was spent on the dike that creates Cypress Lake down in Frenchman Valley.

The next morning, I went south to Robsart, with the intent to visit Scotty the T-Rex in East-end, but because of time constraints, opted to go to Ravenscrag instead. Never did find it, tho pretty sure I followed the signs.

I had been invited to accompany **Irene & Derald Ahner '65 C**, to tour their Big Stick Community Pasture along the SW slopes of the Great Sand Hills. One of their last cow checks, as they have sold the herd. An eye opener for me; 6,600 acres to sort-of cover, 13 water places of various types to check, salt blocks to chuck; 225 cows, hopefully the same amount of calves and 12 bulls to take a look at. Lots of sand too, covered by scrub brush and pockets of bush. Two dunes, one moose, several deer and, we were pretty sure, an eagle. The Ahners treated me to a hearty bean salad and ham sandwiches lunch, plus homemade cream pie. I tarried long enough that Irene was compelled to offer me a second slice.

Then homeward. North on #21, but hung a right before I got to Leader, taking the grid across to Lancer, so that I could ride the ferry. I never realized the banks of the S. Saskatchewan here were the same as Drumheller, though the higher land is notably dryer. More grids till I came out at Plato on #44, east to Dinsmore {a worse paved road than any of the gravel grids!}, up to #15 then followed along the river to Pike Lake. 1500 kms, 1100 on roads I had never been, better yet, lots and lots of countryside I had never seen from eye level. It was a very excellent road trip.

**The Editor**

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# CHEERS with PEERS

Well, things just keep getting better every year! At each of our stops on the tour, be it Farm Progress, Ag in Motion or Agribition, we find more Ag Grads are stopping by to visit, and have some great discussions with fellow alumni. So, no worries, we will carry on this new tradition. Blair, Mayson and Eric are setting us up to have another summer!

First up is the Farm Progress Show in Regina, and we will be holding court once again in the **Brandt Centre (Hockey Rink) on Thursday June 20th. Stop by anytime between 4 and 7 p.m.** to enjoy a free beverage, and some good talks.

Then Ag in Motion outside Langham on Thursday, July 18th, 4-7 pm too, though we haven't nailed down the venue yet. To be sure of what we are doing, dates and times, and possible changes, be sure to check the *SAGA* webpage.

[www.saskaggrads.com](http://www.saskaggrads.com) or

[facebook.com/saskaggrads](https://facebook.com/saskaggrads) or

[twitter.com/saskaggrads](https://twitter.com/saskaggrads)



Pictured at Ag in Motion 2018 – **Allan McDougald '65 C**, **Greg Cooper '20 C** {19-20 ASA President} **Ewald Lammerding '88S**, **Louis Bossaer '95 C** & another grad {we didn't catch your name. Sorry.}

## Road Trips Continued

**Derald & Irene Ahner, '65 C**, escaped from the farm for five days at the beginning of August and actually drove through mountains to visit **Wayne and Elsie Gates, '66 C**. The Gates live north of Nelson, B.C., in the community of Balfour, having retired there 11 years ago to be near their daughters and grandchildren.

They have a fabulous yard full of trees, flowers and shrubs around a lily pond. Wayne is still using his horticulture specialty and grows orchids on the side. Elsie has become a Master Quilter, uses a very sophisticated computerized quilting machine, and has traveled to many places on quilting expeditions. After spending two days catching up on the news, the Ahners made their home through thick forest fire smoke which hung around Maple Creek for weeks afterward.

**Irene Ahner '65 C**

## The Old Tools Table

Thanks to **Fred Bowditch**, the 1964 School Chair, for responding to our request to bring along any old doodad that your Grandparents or Great-grandparents used to keep things up and running on the farm. Fred and a cohort arrived with a tableful of tools most of us had never seen before, and that includes the '39 to '49 grads.

Fred knew what most of the tools were for, but admitted not every one. So there was spirited debate as grads tried to figure these things out. Consensus was reached on most, but one tool, though it looked useful, never was adequately agreed upon by all. We challenge grads to do the same for 2020.

## Western Development Museum

Once again *SAGA* partnered with the WDM to provide information to grads of just what the "Good Old Days" looked like for farming families. The WDM printed off some 25 pages of ads; machinery for sale, aids for crop and livestock production and one about how to decorate and 'Maintain your Outhouse in Style!' And we had some pages from *The Progressive*, a 1924 newspaper, predecessor of the *Western Producer*. The WDM also donated pins, brochures and booklets as souvenirs. Our thanks to **Julie Jackson & Amanda Louie** for their generous help providing this material for our viewing while we attended the Reunion.

## 2020 Reunion/Banquet Chairpersons

1940 School & College	Eric Johnson	306-480-9676	en.johnson@usask.ca
1945 School & College	Eric Johnson	306-480-9676	en.johnson@usask.ca
1950 College	Fred Fulton	306-373-1440	fn.fulton@sasktel.net Saskatoon
1950 School	Eric Johnson	306-480-9676	enjohnson@sasktel.net
1955 College	Lorne Jackson	306-624-0426	lorjac9@sasktel.net
1955 Diploma	George Krenz Dale Donald	306-962-4507 306- 398-2857	Eston, SK S0L 2T0 Box 3 Rockhaven, SK S0M 2R0
1960 College	Glen Hass	306-374-0207	eghass@sasktel.net
1960 Diploma	Ron Morningstar	306-946-2593	venus.farms@sasktel.net Lockwood
1965 College	Irene Ahner	306-662-3463	ireneahner@gmail.com Box 939, Maple Creek, SK S0N 1N0
1965 Diploma	Lorence Peterson Murray Coolidge	306-249-2162 306.285.3690 h 306.821.6336 c	petersonl@sasktel.net murraycoolidge@gmail.com Lashburn
1970 College	Dennis Ewanus (Saskatoon) Co Chair: Ken Forden	306-668-2259	ewanusdj@sasktel.net fordk@sasktel.net
1970 Diploma	John Beckton (Saskatoon)	306-934-2727	beckton.ag@sasktel.net
1980 College	Rod Delahey (Saskatoon) Jill Turner (Saskatoon)	306-373-6233	rod@marketingden.com jill.turner@usask.ca
1980 Diploma	Gerry Stuber (Saskatoon)	306-955-5100	gerald.stuber@usask.ca
1990 College	Wade Obst	306-227-5388	obstacles@hotmail.com
1990 Diploma	Scott Near	306-463-9161 c 306-463-3486 h	scottn.pinkham@sasktel.net Kindersley, SK.
2000 College	Jean Lundquist	306-222-2564	jean.lundquist@nufarm.com
2000 Diploma	Kendra Loucks	306-476-7738 c	klcmfarms@gmail.com
2010 College	Jake Leguee	306-861-6793 c	jleguee@gmail.com
2010 Diploma	Brittany Carlson	306-270-3457 c	brittany.serblowski@gmail.com
2015	Moria and Zach Kutenbach	306-868-7687	m.e.petruic@gmail.com

# Livestock & Forage Centre of Excellence

*SAGA* organized our first tour out to the LFCE the morning of the Reunion Banquet. Over 25 grads and family members joined us on a bus provided by the ASA and the Longbranch Pub.

It was a nice sunny day in January and the ride was warm, but a school bus is a school bus.

Upon arrival at the \$38 million facility located south of Clavet, we were greeted by Lana Haight, Outreach and Engagement Specialist, and **Bart Lardner '91 C**, one of the head Researchers.



Lana gave us much of the details of the facility and the research it will conduct, while Bart gave us the details of the research that is presently being conducted.

Both were very informative and covered a lot of tough questions from the grads.

*SAGA* plans to arrange another tour in 2020 so please let us know if you are interested. Class Chairs will have details, or contact: [thesaga@sasktel.net](mailto:thesaga@sasktel.net)



## Calling all SAGA members!

The U of S Agriculture Students Association (ASA) is looking for volunteers on September 14 for the "2019 Farm to Fork Tour: Saskatchewan's Role in Feeding the World".

This is a tour for new university students as a welcome to the province and an opportunity to learn how Saskatchewan contributes to supplying the food we eat. We are looking for volunteers involved in farming, agri-business, food processing, the beverage industry etc.

Ideal locations would be within 30 minutes of Saskatoon interested in hosting a group of university students for 30-45 minutes during the morning or early afternoon of September 14. During this time, volunteers can build awareness for their farm, company, or product while telling their story about food production and how their operation fits into Saskatchewan agriculture.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **David MacTaggart** (ASA Academic Vice-President) at [drm166@mail.usask.ca](mailto:drm166@mail.usask.ca) or 1-403-896-2928.

## Treasurer's Report

The 2019 SAGA Reunion went very well, with a net profit of \$10,000 as of April 2019.

We had 400 people in attendance and for 2020 we are hoping to keep the registration fees the same as last year.

Registration by paying online really worked great and saves us hours of administration time. This is the way to go.

The value of our Mutual Fund is at \$52,800 and our Bank Account is at \$19,700 as of April 4, 2019.

We will be updating the website due to changes in technology, changes in security, and appearance of website. We hope to see you all at the 2020 Reunion.

**Dennis Ewanus '70 C**  
SAGA Treasurer

# Empty Saddles

Edward Phillip Hudek '40 C, (1980 HLM) July 25, 2018

James Stuart Reynolds '45 S, Jan. 23, 2019

Forrest Melroy Hetland '46 S, (1984 HLM) Feb. 2, 2019

Murray Hugh McCrimmon '49 S, Sept. 24, 2018

Owen Donnelly Williams '49 S, Dec. 7, 2018

Victor Anthony Bistriz '51 S, Sept. 5, 2018

Carmen Edward Kent '51 S, Sept. 15, 2018

Glenn Rayner Boughton '54 C, '56 MSc. Jan. 6, 2019

Gordon 'Stewart' Palmer '55 C, Feb. 15, 2019

John Morley Billet '63 C, Aug. 4, 2018

Howard Frederick Ball '64 C, Jan. 23, 2019

Terrance Edwin Rugg '66 S, Oct. 19, 2018

John Edward Hudek '76 C, Sept. 4, 2018

Homer 'Dennis' Smith '68 C, Sept. 27, 2018

Kenneth Allan Tuplin '68 C, Sept. 16, 2018

John Patrick Flanagan, '72 S, Nov. 2, 2018

George Frederick Langley '79 C, Sept. 1, 2018

Douglas Glenn Bradley '80 S, Jan. 22, 2018

Gordon Anthony Engel '96 C, Mar. 26, 2019

## SAGA Undergraduate Award Scholarship

The SAGA Undergraduate Award is now in place. We are looking forward to awarding two scholarships at the ASA Bean Feed this fall. The scholarships are open to continuing degree and diploma students in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Scholastic standing, involvement within their local community, the college and university, and the wider agricultural industry will be important selection criteria. These are significant scholarships, \$3000 each, and we encourage qualifying students to apply.

The Award will be funded completely by ongoing annual donations from Ag grads and other supportive individuals. Thank you to all who have contributed to date. A special thank you to the College Class of 1979 for their very generous pledge of \$7900 to the Award fund.

It is easy to make tax-deductible contributions.

By Online at: <https://donate.usask.ca/online/agbio.php>.

Select SAGA Undergraduate Award from the "Select Gift Designation" drop down menu and complete the online form.

By cheque, payable to: University of Saskatchewan. (On the memo line please note: SAGA Undergraduate Award).

Mail to: College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Development Office, 51 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A8

Thank you in advance for your contributions. It is a great way to support our College, our students, and the agriculture industry.

**SAGA Scholarship Committee**  
**Keith Head, Vern Racz, Ewald Lammerding,**  
**Mayson Maerz, Louis Bossaer**

# Crop Production Week 2020

**Dates: January 10 to 17, 2020  
(Schedule Subject to Change)**

**Locations:**

Saskatoon Inn

- Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association;
- Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission

Western Development Museum

- Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association

Prairieland Park

- Agri-ARM Applied Research;
- Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan;
- Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission

TCU Place

- CropSphere
- SAGA 85th Annual Reunion

Delta Hotel (formerly the Radisson)

- Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

To become a member of *SAGA*, simply go to our Webpage. \$100 for Life Membership.  
The *SAGA* reaches over 2200 fellow grads, all the AgBio Faculty, and each AgBio student.  
Be sure to send me tales of what's happening in your neck of the woods.

Next issue deadline is Nov. 15, 2019

**Ewald Lammerding 2014 Preston Ave. Saskatoon S7J 2E8      OR      [thesaga@sasktel.net](mailto:thesaga@sasktel.net)**

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