



President's Pen

Greetings fellow Ag Grads! I am sure that I can speak on behalf of most of our members in saying that we're glad to see the end of the 2019 growing season, although some will still be dealing with it in the spring of 2020. In the meantime, we can focus on the upcoming festive season and the 85th annual *SAGA* Reunion in January of 2020.

We made one major change in terms of ticket prices so the banquet is more affordable for younger members. If you graduated from 2000 to 2019, ticket prices are \$55 per person for early registration (prior to Dec. 24) and \$65 after that. If you graduated before 1999, banquet ticket prices remain at \$75 for early registration and \$85 for late registration. Further details on the weekend activities and banquet tickets are available on the *SAGA* website

First off, I would like to express our sadness and condolences to the families of two notable *SAGA* members. **Vern Racz '68 C** and **Bernie Sonntag '62 C** passed away recently. Both Vern and Bernie served on the *SAGA* executive; Vern as the registrar/membership for many years, and Bernie was a former newsletter editor from 2005 to 2011.

The *SAGA* Executive has continued to build a strong relationship with the Agriculture Students Association over the past year. We entered a team in the Agro Annual golf tournament consisting of myself, **Trish Johnson '83 C**, and **Blair Cummins '77 S**. Fortunately, Blair brought in a ring-er for our fourth (Blaine, affectionately known as Chubbs) and we finished off with a respectable three under par 69. I shudder to think what our score would have been with just the three *SAGA* members!

2020 Honorary Life Members

Harold Chapman '43 C. Harold was a pioneer in promoting and organizing local Co-ops throughout Saskatchewan. *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement* tells his story. He is a member of the Order of Canada. At a century plus two, Harold will no doubt be our oldest Ag Grad at the 2020 banquet.

Vern Racz '68 C, a member of the faculty in Animal and Poultry Sc. and Director of the Feed Centre at the College of

In talking about the ASA, they are organizing their biennial Telemiracle Bed Push from Saskatoon to Regina on the weekend of March 7 and 8, 2020. I noticed they had a challenge in the lounge between two students on who would meet their weight loss goal and be fit to run by the March weekend. At the last event, we had some *SAGA* members participate, so if you are a runner and would like to be involved in the Bed Push, let me know. I am not sure if I will be able to get this sexagenarian body fit to run by March (actually, I'll be in Hawaii). If you aren't a runner, you can support the ASA financially. Perhaps your reunion year might consider a pledge??

The *SAGA* Undergraduate Award/Scholarship fund continues to build and we handed out our first two scholarships of \$3000 at the annual Bean Feed. Congratulations to recipients Amanda Loeffen and Brooklyn Bourgeois, who are both majoring in Animal Biosciences. Please continue to send those donations in!! Again, a great project for a reunion year – last year the class of '79 C pledged \$7900.00!!

One success we have had this past year is to attract new people to the Executive, but we could still use a couple more to help out with some of our activities. If you are interested, let me know. This is a very fun executive to be part of!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the 2020 Reunion.

Eric Johnson '82 C

AgBio. A 2018 SAHF member, Vern received countless accolades for his work. He is a longtime member of the *SAGA* Executive. Sadly, Vern passed away on Oct. 19, 2019

Ewald Lammerding '88 S, a former Ontario farm boy, landed in Saskatoon in 1982. For 18 years he worked for An. Sc. and WCVM (Muskox herdsman). His three children have attended the U of S. Ewald has been on the *SAGA* exec. over the last 24 years and is the current *The SAGA* editor.

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
1950 School	Eric Johnson	306-480-9676	enjohnson@sasktel.net
1955 College	Lorne Jackson	306-624-0426	lorjac9@sasktel.net
1955 School	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 School	Ron Morningstar	306-946-2593	venus.farms@sasktel.net
1965 College	Irene Ahner	306-662-3463	ireneahner@gmail.com Box 939, Maple Creek, SKS0N 1N0
	Lorence Peterson	306-249-2162	petersonl@sasktel.net
1965 School	Murray Coolidge	306.285.3690 h 306.821.6336 c	murraycoolidge@gmail.com
1970 College	Dennis Ewanus	306-668-2259	ewanusdj@sasktel.net
	Co Chair: Ken Forden		fordk@sasktel.net
1970 School	John Beckton	306-934-2727	beckton.ag@sasktel.net
1980 College	Rod Delahey	306-373-6233	rod@marketingden.com
	Jill Turner	306-966-1382	jill.turner@usask.ca
1980 School	Gerry Stuber	306-955-5100	gerald.stuber@usask.ca
1990 College	Wade Obst	306-227-5388	obstacles@hotmail.com
1990 School	Scott Near	306-463-9161 c 306-463-3486 h	scottn.pinkham@sasktel.net
2000 College	Jean Lundquist	306-222-2564	jean.lundquist@nufarm.com
2000 School	Kendra Loucks	306-476-7738 c	klcmfarms@gmail.com
2010 College	Jake Leguee	306-861-6793 c	jleguee@gmail.com
2010 School	Brittany Carlson	306-270-3457 c	brittany.serblowski@gmail.com
2015 College	Moria & Zach Kurtenbach	306-868-7687	m.e.petrucic@gmail.com

For information, please contact Jason Fradette at fradettej@yourlink.ca or call 306-244-2648.

85th SAGA Reunion Banquet

January 11, 2020

Festivities will be held at: TCU Place – Centennial Halls {Downstairs}

Cocktails at 4:30 p.m.

Banquet at 5:30

Program at 6:30

Welcome: 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

Class photos immediately following the program. Times will be announced.

Annual General Meeting @ 8:30 p.m.

The Mixer will officially start @ 9 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PRICING SCHEDULE

	Early Bird Price til 11:50 p.m.	Regular Price	Ticket at door
	Dec. 24, 2019	Dec. 25, 2019	
Banquet & Mixer >> Yrs. 2000-19	\$55.00	\$65.00	N/A
Banquet & Mixer >> Yrs. Prior to 2000	\$75.00	\$85.00	N/A
Mixer Only	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

Ticket purchase deadline is Noon, Wed. Jan. 8th, 2020.

Purchase your Banquet tickets at: <http://saskaggrads.com/index.php?page=saga-reunion>

SAGA uses MAINLY online registration.

For assistance, contact Dennis Ewanus: ewanusdj@sasktel.net 306-281-7036[c] or 306-668-2259[h]

OR

Eric Johnson, President: en.johnson@usask.ca or 306-480-9676

Reunion Chairs DO NOT sell Banquet Tickets
We DO NOT sell Banquet Tickets at the door

>>> Remember, Grads from every year are always welcome! <<<

If you have questions concerning the Reunion weekend, be sure to contact us early.

Jason Fradette – Vice President
Raelene Petracek - Secretary
Ewald Lammerding - SAGA Editor & Banquet

fradettej@yourlink.ca
busyrae@sasktel.net
thesaga@sasktel.net

SAGA Hockey Night in Waldheim

Everything is booked at the Waldheim Rec Center for the January 11, 2020 SAGA Tournament.

Chay Anderson '14 C is the Prime Mover of our hockey universe, and he has big plans for a fun time. We want all Ag Grads to come out and play, so if you want to participate, just give Chay a call, text or email. He will happily assign you to a team.

It's a little known secret, but at the SAGA Hockey Tournament, not every player is able to finish what they started, for many reasons ... well okay, not many ... maybe just one ... but the point is, teams run out of players sometimes.

So, if you just want to play; or enter a team; or have question regarding the tournament, contact Chay right away:

chayanderson92@hotmail.com
OR
306-640-7087

Honorary Life Members



Back L-R: Bill Cooper '51 S (1992), Murray Westby '53 S (1995), Bill Copeland '60 C (2012), Bryan Harvey '60 C (2015), Dave Thompson '54 S (1996), Grattan O'Grady '69 S (2016)

M: Glen Hass '60 C (2002), Bob McKercher '54 C (1988), Art Delahey '52 C (2018), Irene Ahner '65 C (2011), Mary Buhr - Dean of AgBio (2017)

F: Lorence Peterson '65 C (2018) Jim Webster '49 C (1999), Blair Cummins '77 S (2019), Jim Halford '63 C (2019), Bill Heenan '49 S (2013), Les Henry '64 C (2008).

A Relaxing Time



The 1960 C class held their 54th consecutive annual summer reunion at Sarah's Cove, located in Elbow, in June. The grads and spouses spent a couple of days sharing stories, reminiscing and planning for the reunion to be held at the SAGA festivities in Jan. 2020.

Back L-R: Ken Turner, Bill Robertson, Glen Hass, Howard Barnsley, Bryan Harvey, Don Horkoff, Bill Copeland

F: Jeanette Stevenson, Pat Turner, Bev Robertson, Elaine Hass, Edna Gadd, Wallie Barnsley, Eileen Harvey, Audrey Horkoff, Alma Copeland.

Dean Speak

I have had the honour of being the Dean of this most wonderful College of Agriculture and Bioresources for over 10 years. Since July 1 2009 I have been surrounded by the Agro attitude of work hard play hard; don't brag just get 'er done; seek the best way possible to look after the land and do it; help out wherever and whoever possible. That attitude, combined with the coolest faculty, the best students, the most amazing alumni and the best possible friends and neighbours, has seen the College offer the world much-needed leadership in soil and environmental health; plant genomics; crop science; animal behaviour, nutrition, and management; innovative food and bioproducts; agro-economics business policies and practices. I end my term as Dean April 30, 2020, more in awe of this place than ever.

Our 2009 total of 939 diploma, grad and undergrad students has grown to 1572 in 2019; we taught 622 undergrads then and 1167 now. We've modified existing, and added new, programs at every level of education and training, dealing with emerging issues in novel ways that have attracted learners from our historic community bases and from many new provincial, national, international and Indigenous communities. Our students continue to achieve way beyond expectations, getting into the semifinals in last year's international agro-marketing competition, finishing first in the 2018 and 2019 International Rangeland competition, being the sole Canadian grad student to win a USDA fellowship – and of course they continue to be the heart of the campus energy, the source of the best social events (so I hear!) and the bane of the Engineers' existence! Our students are our most important job, and most precious responsibility, and let me tell you, they rock!

We are currently in a major review of our core programs, aiming to provide the best possible workers and leaders from this College in the 'university the world needs'. It is, of course, critically important to put the most recent knowledge at students' fingertips, and to teach the many different known interconnections in a functional agricultural ecosystem. But what we know, and how we implement that knowledge, is changing at such an incredible pace that it is at least as important to learn how to learn, how to work with people, and how to evaluate thoughts stated as truths. Indeed challenging topics to teach! All this while of course insisting on

SAGA Membership

Vern Racz '68 C has been our Membership Chair for many years; his sudden passing leaves a very large hole to fill on our Executive. Not just for the time and effort he put in streamlining our membership process; Vern was also the catalyst behind the *SAGA* Scholarship, expanding the *SAGA* bylaws to accommodate the new Under Graduate streams that now exist in the College of AgBio, and in designing our

the hands-on learning and practical focus that we and our graduates' eager employers know is crucial to succeed in the many great and varied careers available. We count on your advice and support to help us always strive to improve!

Our professors are great examples of balancing innovative research excellence with reality-grounded practice. The same prof will so frequently be recognised and decorated as a global leader in their discipline, at the same time getting a teaching award, and recognition from an industry for advancing sustainable productivity. We are proud of being the most research-intensive College on campus.

The multi-faceted excellence of all AgBio faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners and donors, and their exceptional efforts, talent and determination, have supported massive enhancement of the College's facilities and abilities to lead innovation in crop, soil, climate, animal and agro-economic research and teaching and improve the well-being of communities locally, nationally and around the world. These wonderful gifts with which we have been blessed must be used responsibly to meet our world's challenges. Our northern great plains must lead truly sustainable, regenerative agriculture capable of feeding an unthinkable number of people AND providing biobased products to replace almost all products currently coming from non-renewable resources- in an environment whose temperature, moisture, wind and water currents, pests, diseases, and social fads cannot be predicted.

Being part of the College that can do this is an amazing gift. The most meaningful events in my career have been becoming an honorary lifetime member of *SAGA*, and an honorary member of the ASA. My gratitude for your generosity is beyond bounds. My last request of you is that you keep on giving your time, wisdom and energy. Your new Dean will need all that, and also your strength and support to help this College achieve its destiny to be the palm of the hands that hold a sustainable, healthy planet. Together we can build a world that, seven generations from now, may not remember our names, but will thank this College - and know that Agros ROCK!

Mary Buhr

Dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources

SAGA web page.

Several members of the Executive banded together to try and finish what Vern was in the midst of doing with his latest overhaul. Hopefully we didn't screw up his process, but if we did, please bear with us ... and be sure to let us know what we need to correct, concerning mailing addresses for *The SAGA*.

1969 College



Back L-R: Terry Martin, Gordon Stephenson, Barry Gordon, Jim Sakundiak, Jim Hammond, Frank Lockwood.

M: Lorne Duczak, Ron Howard, Dale Conacher, Ralph May, Orville Myrvang, Lorne Christopherson, Al Hingston, Glen Shaw.

F: Wilf Keller, Keith Stolhandske, Pat (Dickson) Moulton, Gary Seime, Dale Pulkinen.

1969 School



Back L-R: Bob Bennett, Hubert Esquirol, Stuart Torrie, Dwight Oatway, Russell Houston, Ken Serviss

M: Milton Heavin, Eddie Pelletier, John Ball, Glen Smith, Evan Simpson, Duncan McVicar, Bob Staple, Ed Bothner, Bevin Smith

F: Greg Martin, Ken Udell, Grattan O'Grady, Eldon McKay, Dale Buckle, Barry Huffman

Mystery Tool Night

Most everyone at the 2019 Banquet had such fun trying to identify the weird tools that **Fred Bowditch '64 S** and a buddy brought that night, that we've decided that we just have to do it again.

There was some disagreement on what Fred said the tools were for, but there was no doubt they had been used for something on the farm. We suspect that some of the same tools had a different purpose in a different part of the province or prairies.

So if you are attending the 2020 Banquet on Jan. 11th, please bring along anything that your grandparents used to keep the farm running. Or if you know someone you can borrow them from, please do so. We'll display them on several tables, so that everyone can inspect the tools and argue their specific use.

Contact: thesaga@sasktel.net
OR 306-260-3445

SAGA Executive Volunteers

The *SAGA* Executive is constantly looking for Ag Grads to join us, be you an old Grad or new? It is always to a group's advantage to have members from across the years, it can lead us into different and exciting directions.

Fifteen years ago it was our first steps using email to deliver the Newsletter, 10 years ago, developing our very own *SAGA* web page, five years ago, getting into the Facebook and Twitter universe.

Where do we go next? Well, you can help us get there. So attend the Reunion/Banquet on Jan. 10-11, and join in on the fun!

Finding Inspiration in a Donor's Generosity

I first encountered John Hickie almost six years ago. We met in 2013 at Agribition to discuss the possibility of establishing an award at the college. I had no idea going into that meeting what John had in mind but it quickly became apparent that he is a person of exceptional character.

That day John talked about establishing an award in honour of Major Alfred Frank Mantle. John also spoke with great appreciation of his time at the college and how his education (and also hard work) shaped his success in life. John holds a diploma from 1956 and a degree from 1959. He chose Major Mantle as the namesake for this scholarship because John admired so much of what he stood for. Mantle, who became Deputy Minister of Agriculture 1910, has been credited with playing a foundational role in the province's agricultural history.

Having a strong sense of duty and service, Mantle enlisted in WW I and was tragically killed in action during 1916. Mantle's death was considered an enormous loss to the province's agriculture sector. Lost but not forgotten, the province administered a scholarship for the college's students in honour of Mantle from 1926 – 1983 when it ran out of funds. John, by coincidence, managed that scholarship during its final years. Fast forward three decades; John Hickie, through his own sense of duty and deep respect for a man he grew to admire, reestablished a new Alfred Frank Mantle Scholarship In Agriculture at the college.

John and I have continued to meet since that initial conversation at Agribition, and over time the possibility of an additional donation was discussed. This fall John transferred a section of land, affectionately known as Perseverance Farm, to the college. This most recent gift, the full story of which can be found in the fall 2019 issue of AgKnowledge magazine, will ensure that Mantle's legacy will go on in perpetuity and also establish an award in recognition of John himself (and I'd say very appropriately).

Working with John for more than six years my admiration for him has grown immensely. Just as he found inspiration in Major Mantle's story, I've been inspired by John's example of commitment and generosity to work even harder on behalf of all our college's donors.

Hamish Tulloch '91 C,
AgBio Development Office



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1964 College



Back L-R: **Brian Duck, Grant Griffin, Neil Jorgensen, Gary Howland, Helgi Goodman, Bill Hunt, Tom Lowes, Jim Bole, Gary Broker, Bob Lockwood, Larry White, Bob Dyck.**

F: **Bob Evenson, Gerald Douglas, Ken Brice, Carmen Berg, Don Connick, Al Blair, Les Henry, Norm Hemstad, Harvey Heavin, Gerald Girodat.**

1964 School



Back L-R: **Tom McManus, Doug Silversides, Gordon Ekstrand, Bill Shaw**

M: **George Reaves, Lawrence Haylock, Ron Follick, John Raine (Voc Ag jacket)**

F: **Gary Argue, Fred Bowditch, George Follick**

During The Mixer***

Once again your taste buds will enjoy the wonderful flavours from the wares of Black Fox Distilleries, Living Sky Winery and Nine Mile Legacy.

We don't know yet if they'll bring someone else with them, but these three companies have become a big hit!

If you and your company would like to get involved with this part of the evening, contact Louis Bossaer: louis.bossaer@fcl.crs

Awards and Appointments for Ag Grads

Dr. Harvey D. Voldeng '63 C, 'Msc, of ON. Appointed an Officer (O.C.) of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Karen V. Schwean-Lardner '85 C, '95 Msc, '12 PhD, of SK. Recipient of the USask 2019 Provost College Awards for Outstanding Teaching for the College of AgBio, and the 2019 Novus Outstanding Teaching Award.

Dr. Lisa L. Lomsnes (nee Hewalo) '86 C, '91 DVM, of AB. Appointed President of the Alberta Veterinary Assoc. for 2019.

Mike J. Hoffort '88 C, of SK. Re-appointed President and

CEO of Farm Credit Canada.

Brent H. Zetzl '90 C, of SK. Recipient of the 2019 Startup Canada Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the Prairies, from Scotiabank.

Ken A. Seitz '91 C, of SK. Newly appointed EVP and CEO of Potash, Nutrien Limited

Great article in the Fall 2019 Green & White about **Ruth Aschim '13 C** and her work concerning the growing Canada West problem of wild pigs.

Throwing in the Trowel

Grant Wood '79 C, has decided June 30, 2020 is the day he vacates his office {so he says}, and ceases dispensing gardening and horticultural advice {so he says too}.

For many years, beside teaching thousands of Ag students how to grow your vegetables {and in some cases, pineapples!}, Grant manned the Call-in Centre under the stairs beside the elevators. Grant Wood was likely *SAGA's* first 2-time Vice President, as during his Presidency, for the farmer in us, we couldn't find anyone to accept the VP role.

So through 2013, Grant was both *SAGA* President & VP; very ably handling both positions, all while working his day job. Above and beyond that, Grant was a fun steadfast friend to all he met. The College will certainly miss him.

{Oh, pssst, Grant... now that you're a free man, SAGA has this vacancy ...}

Saturday Tours – Jan. 11, 2020

Any Grads and spouses that wish to, have a choice for Saturday morning U of S Campus tour. Certain class groups will arrange to visit The Rayner Dairy Barn, or walk through the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron. These tours are through the College of AgBio, so if you'd like to go, contact:

Hamish Tulloch, hamish.tulloch@usask.ca
He will answer your questions.

LFCE Road Trip

We had a great time on our first tour to the new Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence. The LFCE facility is jointly operated by the College of AgBio and the WCVM, and opened in late 2018. We are trying to do it again on Sat. Jan. 11, approx. from 9:30 am – 2:30. It is about a half hour drive on a bus we arranged through the ASA; if we have enough interest. All the Reunion Chairs have been told, but even if this is not your year, you are still more than welcome to join us.

Please contact Ewald:

thesaga@sasktel.net or call 306-260-3445

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Mailing vs Emailing

As we keep reminding Ag Grads, our biggest expense in running *SAGA* is publishing and mailing *The SAGA*. The cost to print and mail a 16-page newsletter keeps rising, to the point that paper and stamps prices go up even between issues.

SAGA has turned to advertising over the last several years in an effort to keep our expenditures manageable, but rising input costs continually outpace us. The next logical step would be for us is to switch everything to email, which removes the need for paper, stamps and mailing a hardcopy of the newsletter, or simply post it on our web page.

But of course, we will not do that, as many of our members have poor internet service, or like to read something that they hold in their hands. Whatever the reasons, we will always provide an actual paper newsletter. But what we can do, is ask all the members that currently receive a mailed version of *The SAGA*, if at all possible, to voluntarily switch to an emailed version. If yes, please contact:

thesaga@sasktel.net or text/call 306-260-3445

SAGA Treasurer's Report - 2019

Chequing Account Balance as of Oct. 31, 2019 was \$13,432 vs \$10,080 on Oct. 31, 2018

Total Revenues for 2019 were \$38,206. Total Expenses were \$34,855 for a surplus of \$3,351.

Total Revenues for 2018 were \$33,700 Total Expenses were \$35,408 or a loss of \$1,707

Investment Fund Account Balance as of Oct. 31, 2019 was \$54,022.65 vs \$49,813 on Oct. 31, 2018.

Expenses related to the Website in 2019 totalled \$3,442 vs \$4942 in 2018.
The website was upgraded to keep in line with security requirements.

The *SAGA* Reunion Banquet 2019 had a surplus of \$10,510 vs \$9,132 in 2018.
We contributed \$200 to ASA Activities (Bed Push for Telemiracle 2019) as well as \$500 for golf sponsorship, and \$210 to a bowling sponsorship.

Net Expenses related to the Newsletters in 2019 totalled \$2,517 vs \$3,049 in 2018.

In 2019 we received \$1,500 in advertising revenue vs \$800 in 2018. Farm Credit Corporation, Brett Young & Municipal Hail gave \$500 each.

We are often asked why the registration is so expensive.
If you registered before Christmas, a couple saves \$20
The cost of the banquet works out to \$55 to \$60 per plate. This includes cost of the banquet, midnight lunch, use of all the rooms.
This year the grads did exceptionally well by registering online. Nearly all were online.
We had 412 preregistered, which brought in \$30,465, directly deposited into Moneris BMO
In addition we had 41 Life Memberships purchased @ \$100, plus 68 annual memberships at \$20.

We acknowledge and sincerely thank **Lorence Peterson '65 C** for past audits and auditing the 2018-2019 books at no charge.

Dennis Ewanus '70 C.



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With a new school year started, the Ag Bio student groups have been going full steam!

The U of S Stockman's Club consists of the Dairy, Beef, Range and Judging teams this year. All teams are preparing for busy years between tours and competitions across Canada and the US, such as the Dairy team going to Wisconsin and the Range team getting ready for the rangeland competition. In second semester, they plan to continue the tradition of the Coverall Pubcrawl. In addition to regular meetings each team brings in a speaker to talk about their industry.

The Dairy Team is having one of their busiest and entertaining years yet! They kicked off September with the first Moo-Moo Crawl in order to raise funds for 10 members to go to the World Dairy Expo, October 2-6 in Madison, WI. In addition to attending WDE, they visited some of the best



The Dairy Team

production and show barns in Wisconsin such as Budjon Farms, Milksource, Hoardsman Dairy Farm, Crave Brothers and Maple Leigh Farm. In second semester they plan to do their annual weekend trip to Alberta, and will visit the upcoming National Holstein Convention held in Saskatoon and Regina, April 15-18th.

The Judging Team has started practicing for their upcoming competitions this year and they hope to perform as well as they did last year where they were the top overall team at Nationals 2018.

The Beef team is planning a large trip to one of the major stock shows in the US this school year. Between trip planning and fundraising, they host regular meetings to have industry leaders give presentations on the industry.

The Rangeland Team meets weekly, learning about everything from ecology to economics to animal nutrition to grazing management, and much more. Each year they compete at the Society for Range Management annual conference in

continued on page 12

the US. At the SRM conference, they write the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME). They placed first in the URME competition in Minneapolis, MN in 2019, an accomplishment they hope to defend in 2020 at Denver, CO. The Canadian Agri-Marketing Association (CAMA) Student Chapter will be traveling once again to compete in the National Agri-Marketing Associations Conference next semester, this time to San Francisco. They have multiple meetings every month to create a marketing plan to present at the conference.

The AgBizz club recently competed at the Cor Van Raay Case Study Competition in Lethbridge, AB this October where they placed third among ten teams. Throughout the year, they have industry leaders speak on topics related to agriculture, as well as host tours at various Ag business's. The Animal (Bio) Science Club (ABS) is a club in the college with the goal to introduce students, mainly Animal and Animal Bio-Science students, to employment opportunities within the agriculture industry. The Horticulture Club is made up of members interested in learning all the aspects of horticulture through hands on



The AgBizz Club

learning activities and seminars.

The Food and Bioscience Club (FABS) brings together students in Food and Bioproduct Science to provide members with opportunities to help develop professional skills and increase interest in the field of food science. They host speakers, and tour places like distilleries and food production plants to extend their knowledge in the food science field.

The Environmental and Bioresources Students Association (EBSA) aims to provide a social, volunteer, academic, and networking opportunity for its members with an interest for the environment. They have members from all disciplines and are involved in many activities with like-minded students to learn more about a sustainable environment.

New for the 2019/2020 school year is the addition of the Environmentalists for Agriculture Club. This club aims to align like-minded students who are passionate about agriculture and share their knowledge of the impacts it has on the environment and how we can all be advocates for a sustainable agriculture future.

Ryan Krupski '20
ASA Clubs Liaison

(Ed's Note: WOW!! These Kids are damn busy!)

Other Upcoming Events

- Sask Sheep Development Board Symposium & AGM, Manitou Springs, Watrous Jan 10 & 11, 2020
- Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference, Saskatoon Inn Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, 2020
- Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association Conference, WDM Feb. 6, 2020

Fill the old bed with \$20s for Bedpush 2020!

The old Bedpush painting is hanging in the Agriculture Student Lounge.

At the AgBio and SAGA Social on January 10th, 2020, the Agros and SAGA are going to try and cover the bed with 20-dollar bills!

Blood Drives

The Agros have challenged SAGA members to a blood donating clinic. Work yourself down to the Saskatoon blood donation clinic at your convenience and ask for the Agros sign-in sheet at the front desk to participate. Then try to out-donate us Agro kids!

Happy Holidays from everyone at SAGA



Letter From a Prairie Chicken

As I was frantically rescuing garden produce this fall between snowstorms, I started thinking about my lengthy career with gardens. The 2019 weather for the growing season was so un-cooperative that gardening became a major challenge, much like the obstacle course encountered by the whole agriculture industry in Western Canada. It has fluctuated between hot & cold, too dry & too wet since spring. I usually don't have to give up on the garden till Thanksgiving, covering every night for two weeks with multitudes of old bedding, curtains & tarps, but this year, winter came early.

I was raised near Unity, SK by my mother, Anna Keay, who was a real horticulturist (garden nut). She grew vegetables, flowers, ornamentals and fruit trees. She read garden books and magazines, attended horticulture shows and traded plants slips with a wide circle of friends and relatives. Mom should have attended the U. of S. and become a Horticulture prof but in 1929, such a course of action for her wasn't even considered. She spent a lot of years at home with her parents, gardening and belonging to the Homemakers' Club. There are pictures of my grandparents with massive potatoes, pumpkins, etc., even in the midst of the '30's, so they were able to water the garden (with full barrels and pails). By the time I came along, she had several gardens around the yard. My father, Alex Keay took part in all this by hauling water for her from our pond, helping plant the potatoes, and scuffling and hilling with a horse-drawn implement. The rest of the gardening was Mom's department, using child labor as soon as possible.

Oh, how I hated gardening!! I didn't like weeding, picking raspberries, shelling milk pails of peas, or picking berries. In raspberry season we were expected to eat them three times a day. Of course there were many jars of canned fruit for eating in the winter. Needless to say, we were never short of vegetables and fruit to eat at any time. Beside all the outdoor gardening, the house windows were always full of plants, making it very hard for a little kid to see outside. I swore that I would never have house plants in a home of my own.

When we moved into a new house, Mom established a table in the living room covered with a wide variety of cactus plants. It was the most lethal collection I've ever seen. She started many of her own plants and had a center downstairs for this activity, along with a table under grow lights. One winter my Dad went around the house one day and counted over 200 pots of plants. She actually grew a lemon plant, and it produced one big enough to be used for a pie.

Mom became a 4-H Garden Club leader and of course I was

expected to be a member. I still have the wooden signs we made for this project. She loved to tour the gardens at the Scott Experimental Farm and became acquainted with the staff, including a member of the staff, Don Dabbs. With his help and advice, she eventually had a whole row of domestic saskatoon bushes, and many varieties of apples and cherries.

In our third year at the College of Agriculture, we all had to take a half class in Horticulture. When my section arrived at the old greenhouses, we were met by now Professor Don Dabbs, who said, "Oh, Irene. How nice to see you. Your mother & I are old friends." Rats!!! I had to pretend that I really cared about plants.

After we were married, Derald & I had tiny garden patches on trailer court lots. The first one was in the Sutherland Mobile Home Park. For a few years in Brandon we rented a community garden plot which produced quite well until vandals ruined the whole idea. We went back to a tiny but productive patch beside our trailer home. I was discovering that I had absorbed gardening by osmosis even though I had tried to avoid the whole scene. I still didn't care deeply about plants but just liked to produce fresh groceries and a few flowers.

When we returned to the farm in 1974, I inherited my mother-in-law's garden patch. It had been abandoned for a few years and it took more years to figure out the best methods for growing in sandy soil. Eventually I got a pattern in place that has been in use for nearly 40 years. We are fortunate to have a very good well beside the garden which has an unlimited supply of water. For years each row was watered in turn using a 70 foot plastic pipe with a hole every foot. In recent years this hose got harder for me to move and I finally persuaded Derald to put a pressure system in the well.

I did maintain my refusal to have house plants until one day our grade one girl came home with something rolled in a damp paper towel, all excited because her teacher had given each student a coleus slip!! Well, this grew into a small collection of house plants, mostly herbs and flowering plants rescued in the fall. One day I read an article about someone who had a pineapple plant growing in his office window. I decided to try this by planting the top of a commercial pineapple. It took root and two years later it produced a fruit. I phoned Grant Wood at Plant Sciences, U. of S. to ask how I would know when the pineapple was ripe. He told me that nobody can grow a pineapple in the house!! I had to visit him, with pictures to prove it. I managed to grow another one from the top of the first and both were delicious, but

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have had no luck with any more of them. Over all these years each garden has been different, depending on the weather. Some years the tomatoes have been abundant and the corn has been sparse; or there will be buckets of cucumbers and very few onions. (There are always lots of zucchini.) Most years the gladioli produce well. We have never lost a garden to grasshoppers, due to the flocks of blackbirds who live at the slough at the bottom of the yard. Even in 1988 we were the only ones in the neighbourhood whose garden survived. I have given away bushels of corn, tomatoes and potatoes to family & friends. Derald built a pumphouse over the well for our house trailer. This

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water system gave up after we moved into our house but the pump house became our root cellar which has worked well for a long time. It can be heated in the winter time so beside vegetables I keep all our canned goods in it.

I'm sure that my serious gardening days will come to an end before too long. I am already planning a major downsize for next year and trying to plant more raised beds closer to the house. I have always considered the garden to be a major contribution to making our living.

Irene Ahner '65 C

AgBio, and the Come 'n' Go Social - Fri. Jan. 10, 2020

The College hosts the Come n' Go to all Ag alumni starting at the Ag Building Atrium & the ASA lounge. It has grown in popularity and gives all the guests an opportunity to meet informally, then enjoying tours and displays that prompt both nostalgia and interest. No rsvp, just show up. The event runs from 3 – 7 p.m..

Guided by SAGA members, there will be three tours, offered throughout the evening:

- Controlled Environment Facility (CEF) Phytotron
- Art Tour (in Agriculture Building)
- Ag Buildings of Yesterday Tour (Kirk Hall, John Mitchell and Archaeology)

We are firming up the details, another tour may be added by the time you arrive. Information will be shared with Reunion Chairs to pass along, and on our website at agbio.usask.ca. or contact hamish.tulloch@usask.ca. with questions.

Refreshments provided by AgBio. Snacks courtesy of Louis Bossaer, Three Farmers and Blair's Ag.

Cheers with Peers

We aren't sure what happened in Regina this year.(Musta been the water??) We had a perfectly lousy turnout for Farm Progress.



L-R: **Steve Schmidt '00 C, Al VanCae-seele '89 C, Tricia Ward '99 C**

At Agribition, besides the guys hosting, only 10 grads showed, of which half were current students, working or showing at the place.

Fortunately, Ag In Motion, turned out just fine with almost 40 Grads stopping in to socialize.

That fun lasted till closing time. Shoulda done the same at the other shows. Next year!



Above, L to R **Hamish Tulloch '91 C, Kaitlyn Kitzan '20 C, Nicole Wensman' 20 C, Amy Carruthers '20 C, Allan McDougald '65 C and Blair Cummins '77 S.**

Thanks to the two Ag companies that sponsored our festivities:
Fieldview Canada for both Farm Progress & Agribition, Syngenta for Ag in Motion.

Empty Saddles

Willis Merwyn (Merv) Johnson '44C July 14, 2019

Walter Harry Wilk '46 S, Apr. 6, 2017

Douglas Harry Wilde '47 C, June 11, 2019

John Harold Lees '48 S, Aug. 23, 2018

Garld Howard Malin '48 S, Dec. 25, 2018

Eldon George Anderson '50 S, June, 2014

Carl Robert Kindt '50 S, Oct. 6, 2019

Allan Chester Linklater '50 S, June 26, 2019

Norman Earl Sim '50 S, July 19, 2019

David Alexander Ewart '50 C, Mar. 14, 2019

Howard 'Howie' Wray Rice '50 C, Oct. 28, 2018

Nicholas Mathias Rudrick '50 C, June 17, 2019

Lawrence Earl Smith '51 C, May 28, 2019

Donald Albert Afseth '52 S, Aug. 27, 2019

Earl Alfred Christiansen '52 C, Sept. 29, 2019

Edward Alfred Haid '54 C, Nov. 5, 2019

Stanley Robert Smith '55 C, June 9, 2019

Douglas Edmond Clunie '56 S, Oct. 30, 2019

George Frederick Wilson '56 S, Dec. 2, 2019
Walter Anthony LaBrash '57 S, June 23, 2019

Harold Halldor Bjornson '60 S, Sept 16, 2019

John Bek Pedersen '60 S, Apr. 14, 2019

Bernard Henry Sonntag '62 C, 2014 HLM, Oct. 21, 2019

Johnny Maybuck '62 S, Sept. 21, 2019

Hugh Walter Thompson '67 C, Jan 14, 2019

Vernon James Racz '68 C, 2020 HLM, Oct. 19, 2019

Douglas Morgan Winsor '68 C, June 13, 2019

Eugene John Bendig '70 C, Feb. 26, 2018

Donald Boyd Murray '73 C, Aug. 19, 2018

Wesley Gordon Horvey '74 C, Apr. 15, 2019

William Walls Dougall '75 S, June 14, 2019

Andre Marc Laforge '78 C, Dec. 11, 2017

David William Phillipow '79 S, Nov. 15, 2019

Garth Bruce Griffin '86 C, Apr. 1 2018

Richard 'Rick' Lewis Hards '88 S, Aug. 6, 2019

James Akira Tsukishima '89 C, July 24, 2019

Robert Warren Lawless '92 C, July 5, 2019

Ag Grads Work Recognized

On *Germination Magazine's* website, under Features, Science and Technology, you will find two very interesting articles. A Barley Story, features **Bryan Harvey '60 C** and his team who, will be recognized for Seed of the Year. CDC Copeland Barley, was named after **Bill Copeland '60 C**, on whose land the first cultivars multiplied. A very interesting read of how CDC Copeland blossomed into the most-grown barley variety the world over. And it all began in a small plot on the U of S campus.

And then there is **Rob Graf '82 C**, '89 PhD. Rob is the Principal Research Scientist, Wheat Breeder at the Ag Canada research facility at Lethbridge, AB. He is slated to receive the 2020 Canadian Plant Breeding & Genetics Award for all his work in creating many Winter Wheats suitable for the various conditions throughout western Canada. A must-read for any cereal farmers looking to diversify their rotation just a little bit more.

Crop Production Week 2020

Dates: January 10 to 17, 2020

Saskatchewan Ag Grads Social - College of Agriculture & Bioresources	January 10
Saskatchewan Ag Grads Reunion Banquet & Program - TCU Place	January 11
Saskatchewan Ag Grads Hockey Tournament – Waldheim Rec Centre	January 11
Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan – Prairieland Park, Hall A	January 13
Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission – Prairieland Park, Hall E	January 13
Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission AGM – TCU Place	January 13
Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission AGM – TCU Place	January 13
Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission AGM - TCU Place	January 13
Saskatchewan Pulse Growers AGM – TCU Place	January 13
CropSphere – TCU Place	January 14 & 15
Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission – Prairieland Park, Hall A	January 14
Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission AGM – TCU Place	January 14
Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission AGM – TCU Place	January 14
Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association – Saskatoon Inn	January 15 & 16
Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission – Prairieland Park, Hall A	January 16
AgriARM Research Update – Prairieland Park, Hall A	January 16
Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed & Leafcutter Bee Conference & AGMs, Delta Hotel	January 16 & 17

Details available at www.cropweek.com

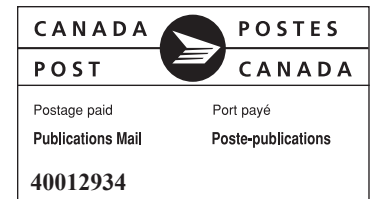
To become a member of *SAGA*, simply go to our Webpage. \$100 for Life Membership.
The *SAGA* reaches over 2200 fellow grads, all the AgBio Faculty, and each AgBio student.
Be sure to send me tales of what's happening in your neck of the woods.

Next issue deadline is May 15, 2020

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