

## Honorary Life Members 2020



**Eric Johnson '82 C, Harold Chapman and presenter Murray Fulton '77 C.**

### Harold E. Chapman, 1943 C

Harold Chapman was born in Saskatoon in the spring of 1917, growing up on farms near Saskatoon and Meskanaw, SK. He obtained his BSA from the U of S in '43 and an MSc in Co-operative Extension Education from the University of Wisconsin in 1972. Upon graduation in '43, Harold enlisted in the military service; however, the war ended soon after his officer training was completed. Harold married Mary Bonnett in 1943.

From 1944 to 1952, Harold worked as an Extension Specialist and Director of the Provincial Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development. One of the goals of the department was to help World War II veterans establish co-operative farms.

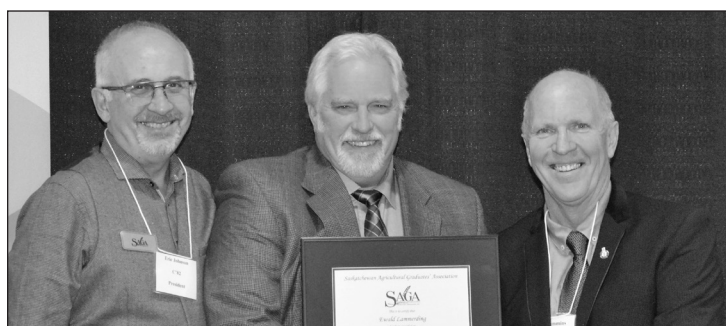
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### Ewald Lammerding, 1988 S

Raised on a dairy farm outside Grand Valley, ON. Ewald ventured west at 17, with stops in Vancouver, Calgary and Banff, where he married Traci. They moved to Saskatoon, and in 1985 he opted to continue his education.

While a VocAg, Ewald initiated the Wheat for Flour program in conjunction with the Saskatoon Food Bank, which the SVAA continued for many years. Upon graduation he worked at the Goodale Research Farm, the WCVM's cow/calf operation at Floral, SK. and the research herd of Muskoxen.

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**Eric Johnson '82 C, Ewald Lammerding and presenter Blair Cummins '77 S.**

### Vernon J. Racz, 1968 C

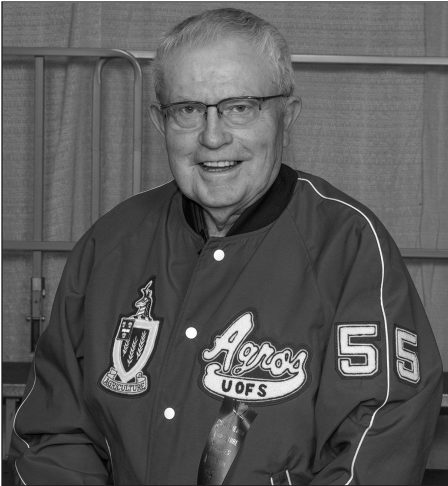
Vern was born in Broadview, SK and raised on the family farm near Kipling, SK. Received his BSA in 1968, Vern began working for the Department of Municipal Affairs in Regina in 1968 but returned to the U of S to take his M. Sc. in Animal Science from 1969-71. Following that, he worked as a livestock specialist with Sask Ag in Yorkton until 1980, when he then moved to Saskatoon to work as the Provincial Swine Specialist with Sask Ag until 1984.

In 1984, Vern became the director of the Saskatchewan Feed Testing Laboratory at the University of Saskatchewan, where he initiated the use of advanced analytical technologies, such as near-infrared analysis and atomic absorption spectroscopy. Under his leadership, annual submissions to the lab doubled to over 10,000 samples per year.

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**Eric Johnson '82 C, Julie Schuette (Racz) '94 C, Charlene Racz and presenter Dave Christensen '58 C**



**1955 College – Lorne Jackson.**  
Can't believe that jacket still fits him like that. {Or that Lorne still has that jacket!}

### Chapman, continued from page 1

Harold helped develop the Matador Co-op Farm, the first co-operative farm in Canada. In 1953, he was appointed to the secretariat of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life, which had been established by the provincial government to report on the social and economic structure in Saskatchewan. Harold organized more than 100 meetings in towns all across the province.

Harold was named the first director of the Co-operative Institute in Saskatoon in 1955. Drawing inspiration from similar institutions in England and Scandinavia, the institute provided week-long courses on all aspects of co-operatives. They catered primarily to managers, teaching them about book-keeping and efficient business practices. Harold spent almost two decades at the institute, which was later known as the Western Co-op College, then the Co-op College of Canada. In 1973, Harold moved to be Member & Public Relations director with Federated Co-operatives for 9 years until retiring in 1982.

Harold has contributed chapters to two books: *The Contemporary Director*, a handbook for elected officials of co-operatives, credit unions and other organizations, and *Dignity and Growth: Citizen Participation in Social Change*. In 2012, he wrote the book *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement*, that is essential reading for anyone interested in the cooperative movement.

In 2016, Harold received the Order of Canada for his seven decades of leadership in the co-operative movement. Most recently, the 2019 Citizen of the Year for Saskatoon. Mary passed away in 2005 after 61 years of marriage. Harold has two children, Bob and Gail, three granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren.

## 1955 School – These guys look great



**B: Vaughn McClarty, George Krenz, Dale Donald, Yrygve Njaa, Stewart Marshall. Seated: Don Dyck, Howard Mattila**

### Racz, continued from page 1

In 1998, Vern was appointed as the Executive Director of the Prairie Feed Resource Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. In this role, he led feed research and development activities, and extended production and research information to both livestock producers and feed industry personnel on a domestic and international basis.

Feed resource utilization and development from an industry perspective was his primary interest, utilizing feedstuffs such as barley, cereal grains, pulses, canola, flax, forages, ethanol coproducts and grain screenings. The centre later became the Feeds Innovation Institute. Vern retired from the U of S in 2011 but continued work as a forensic agrologist.

Vern served in an advisory capacity on many national and international committees, including Canadian feed commodity groups and companies in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and South America. In 2018, he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame for recognition of his contributions to the industry. Also in 2018, Vern received the Prime of Life Achievement Award from the U of S. Vern was an active member of the SAGA. He served on the Executive numerous times and was the Membership chair from 2008 to 2019. In addition to professional and volunteer work, Vern began his true passion of farming in the mid-1990s near Foam Lake, SK with his wife, Charlene. Vern and Charlene have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Vern passed away on Oct. 19, 2019.

### Lammerding, continued from page 1

He now contracts with area farmers for spring seeding and fall harvest. He was active in BBBS for 25 years and CBS with over 260 donations.

Ewald has been part of the SAGA Executive for many years, organizing and playing in the SAGA Bonspiel. He joined *The SAGA* in 2008, becoming Editor in 2012 and the Banquet Chair since 2017.

# President's Pen

This is my first President's Pen since accepting this role in January and at this time I would have expected I would be writing about how it's my pleasure to be SAGA President, how the 2020 SAGA reunion was a success, how I have enjoyed participating at various functions such as the 2020 College of Agriculture and Bioresources graduation, Agro Bed-Push fundraisers, or the Bean Feed.

When we gathered back in January for the 85th SAGA reunion, coronavirus was in the news, but it was distant and something that wasn't really yet affecting Canada. I don't know that many of us would have predicted a short three months after our gathering, functions such as our annual reunion would no longer be permitted, the University would send students home, or that all of us would be adjusting to changes in our personal life and our work.

This pandemic response really is affecting all of us, and the agriculture industry is facing its own unique challenges. Recent issues include meat processing plant closures and the ripple effects that's having on our beef, pork and poultry producers; some agribusiness suppliers having to quickly change how they operate their retail operations; scientists adjusting lab and field research plans for this year; and even some farmers having to find additional help as their regular farm labourers might be unavailable due to the COVID-19 situation.

However, agriculture is in a spotlight this moment and farming is being recognized for the key role it plays in providing basic necessities for Canadians, and in the case of Western Canada for global food security. Farmers are dealing with a lot this spring but I am sensing that many more Canadians are now appreciating what it takes to get a crop in and to make this whole agriculture sector move forward.

Even as Saskatchewan is cautiously starting to re-open it's unclear how long COVID-19 conditions may affect our lives and activities. At this time of year SAGA would normally be preparing for

2021's Reunion week by arranging the graduating year chairs, and generating contact lists and letters for them so they can contact their classmates and make arrangements to get together next January.

We already have TCU Place booked for the gala. For right now we will continue to with these preliminary planning steps but we are watching closely the public health guidelines and COVID-19 restrictions, and will of course adjust to the situation accordingly. Your SAGA executive will be asking graduation class chairs and all grads for input and advice on how we may want to alter reunion plans if necessary.

With all that is going on this spring, at home, at work and on the farm, take some time for yourselves and keep in mind that SAGA is a network of peers and friends. If you are wondering how some of your fellow grads are doing with this lockdown, it may be a great time for a phone call or email just to say hi.

If there is a grad you haven't talked to for a while and don't have their email, the SAGA website may help you connect if they are in the database. With some of us staying close to home these last weeks, or even for those of us occasionally physically distancing in a tractor cab in the middle of some quarter section, it's good to connect with someone outside our immediate circles.

Hopefully, when the next SAGA newsletter comes out this fall we will have more clarity on the COVID-19 situation. Hopefully, before next year, we will have seen the curves flatten and opportunities for SAGA-type socializing will return.

Thanks and stay safe.

**Jason Fradette '84 C**

## 2021 HLM Nominees

**John Hickie '56 S '59 C**, majored in Farm Management, graduating with great distinction, followed by a MSc. at the U of Guelph in Ag Econ. John returned to SK and worked for the Sask Ministry of Ag for 27 years as a Farm Management specialist, influencing hundreds of farmers with his practical, common-sense approach to the business of farming. All while farming 1700 acres near where he grew up. John has a strong sense of giving back to the community and institutions which influenced his life and in this spirit donated his land to the University of Saskatchewan.

**Dave Christensen '58 C**, has spent most of his career in the Dept. of Animal and Poultry Science at the U of S, starting in 1965 as Assistant Professor and actively continuing today as Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Dave's career has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and administration and he is particularly world renowned for his expertise in dairy nutrition. Recognized nationally and internationally for his work, Dave has received numerous awards including a Member of the Order of Canada, the SAHF and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.



# SAGA 2020 Hockey Tournament

It was another busy day at the Waldheim facility. The college teams helped immensely by officiating all the games again, and the Waldheim staff, as always, went above and beyond all expectations. Organizing this year was easy as it was the same six teams as 2019.

All the teams got a chance to play each other, which doesn't always happen. The Oilers won the A side trophy again. College 2 took the B, the C went to the Comets. **Chad Scott '17** won the Bouchard Heart Award this year, with honourable mentions to **Billy Brown '14** and **Lane Christiansen '16**. These three are prime examples of sportsmanship.



**Chay Anderson '14**

**Chay Anderson presents the Aaron Bouchard Heart Award to Chad Scott**



**Clockwise from left - Oilers - A side trophy winners, B Winners College Two (scruffy looking bunch) and Comets - the C Winners.**

Agriculture and Agri-food Canada has launched an [online employment portal](#) to provide links to resources for job seekers interested in working on farms, in distribution, food processing, and other related occupations. Resources include national and regional employment websites, and information on skills and training. AAFC's Step Up to the Plate – Help Feed Canadians encourages Canadians to step up to the plate in their community and seek out job opportunities in the agriculture and food sector. Posted on AAFC's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, complemented by a media buy on both Facebook and Instagram. Our #CdnAgHeroes are at the front lines every day

AND

Employers can receive up to \$14K to hire Canadian youth  
AAFC's Youth Employment and Skills Program will help fund approximately 700 agricultural positions for Canadian youth aged 15 to 30. An employer can receive 50 per cent of total eligible costs of hiring a Canadian youth—up to \$14,000—for positions in agriculture, agri-food, agri-food science or Vet Medicine. Positions can be retroactive to April 1, 2020 and must end by March 31, 2021.  
Eligible employers include: agribusiness, including farms and food production facilities, research institutions, farm organizations, universities and colleges, and provincial governments.  
Applications from employers will be accepted on a first come first served basis. Learn more or apply to the Youth Employment and Skills Program at [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca).

## Dean Speak

A huge Agro welcome to Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn, who will become the Dean of the College of Agriculture & Bioresources on August 15, 2020! Angela is a soil scientist trained at AgBio and the University of California in Davis, California, and is a recognised award-winning teacher and researcher, former Head of our Department of Soil Sciences, chair of many University and national committees, and is currently AgBio's Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. She was selected as Dean out of a strong group of national and international agriculture leaders, and will be an amazing Dean for we Agros. The College thrives when all Agros are deeply involved and offer advice, support and invitations to meetings (and parties!) ... so please do connect with Angela.

Angela will see the College into a very different fall semester, as all our teaching will be 'remote'. Our staff and profs are very busy now preparing some of the most innovative and exciting ways to present material online; videos and demonstrations and group discussions – not to mention working with the ASA for things like Clubs-on-line and casino nights by Houseparty (yes, one can party online!) and everything possible to both provide strong and personalised learning and that Agro spirit. It will be challenging but we are Agros, and we will find a way!

On a personal note, from the bottom of my heart, an enormous thank you, to each and every one of you, for all of the welcome, kindness and friendship that you have given so freely to me, since I came here eleven (11!) years ago, a stranger not knowing you or this place. What a wonderful time it has been! Together we have accomplished so much, weathered elections, changes of premiers, university presidents and prime ministers. We have survived budget cuts, floods, droughts, record cold, record high and low prices, and a global pandemic, too! So many changes, never without having fun - kinda sounds like Agros working hard and playing hard ... ..

The phytotron has had a multi-million dollar retrofit to energy-efficient lighting and computer controls; there's the Rayner Dairy Barn and Research Centre, the Livestock & Forage Centre of Excellence, the opening of the Canadian Feed Research Centre in North Battleford; a brand new undergraduate Animal Biosciences degree, a new inter-disciplinary PhD in Applied Economics, a new Kanawayihetaytan Askiy diploma; a stable new high number of undergrads (1300 – and that will grow), and a large new group of professors. As always, AgBio profs thrive on the blend of high-powered research, cool and effective teaching, and close work and collaboration to serve our communities of producers, scientists, industries and policy-makers locally, nationally and globally.

Our researchers have expanded the kinds and impact of their work, unravelling the wheat and lentil genomes; releasing new varieties of cereals, pulses and forages; developing better poultry housing and animal feeds; understanding soil microbiomes, thawing permafrost and gas station remediation; dealing with international policies and non-tariff trade barriers; creating nanoparticles for food flavouring and alcohol for hand sanitisers. We have

## The Wisest Bunch at the 2020 Reunion



**B: Harold Chapman '43 C, Keith Downey '50 C, Dean of Ag-Bio Mary Buhr, Fred Fulton, '50 C, Dave Thompson '54 S, Seated: Herb Dow '50 C, Fred Langley '50 C**

expanded our contacts with producers and industries next door, and globally. Our continually increasing number of undergrads have won national and international championships in marketing, rangeland, livestock judging, and app development. And, oh my goodness, what they've done with the Bedpush for Telemiracle!

We – ALL we Agros - did that together. It couldn't have happened without all of us. The support, energy and enthusiasm of you, our Agro family have encouraged, pushed, made suggestions and contacts, helped with hiring, provided donations of time and dollars and influence, and your College loves it! My proudest two moments were being made an honorary Agro by our students, and an Honorary Lifetime Member of SAGA (2017). I think that you do not truly know what an amazing place this is, and what amazing peoples you are.

This College, University and province are blessed with incredible resources, and with our peoples, whose priorities are founded on the land, and caring for it. We live surrounded by amazing gifts, and with them come significant responsibilities. Our world's northern great plains will be the crucial source of food and bio-resources for the generations to come. We – us Agros, here in Saskatchewan – must recognise that we are responsible for the best possible management and care of this precious resource. All our peoples must honour our different knowledges and find ways, which do not yet exist, that will be the foundation so future generations can live well, in harmony and balance with each other and our precious precious natural world. We can do it, we must do it - we must be the stewards the world needs.

And we will, because we are Agros, and AGROS ROCK!

**Always yours, Mary Buhr  
Dean of Agriculture and Bioresources 2009 -2020**

## 86th SAGA Reunion Banquet - Saturday, January 9, 2021

Planned to be held at TCU Place. Hopefully presented by Jason Fradette '84 C 2020 President  
Recognition of Years – 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011, 2016  
Banquet tickets purchased Only via our Webpage – opens November 1, 2020

Go to: [www.saskaggrads.com](http://www.saskaggrads.com) and follow the links

\*\*\*>>> Grads from every year are always expected to join us! <<<\*\*\*

## AgBio Clubs Update

Despite the unprecedented times, another school year is in the books. Here is what the AgBio student groups have been up to:

The Stockman's Club Dairy, Beef, Range and Judging teams all had exciting years. The Dairy team enjoyed their trip to Wisconsin and the Range team achieved second at the Rangeland Management Competition in Colorado over February reading week, with Erin Anderson achieving the highest score on the management exam.

The Judging team held, and won first place at their annual competition at SLS on March 8, hosting U of A, Lakeland, Dalhousie and 4-H competitors.

The Dairy team attended the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI and also visited some of the best production and show barns in Wisconsin such as Budjon Farms, Milksource, Hoardsman Dairy Farm, Crave Brothers and Maple Leigh Farm. Unfortunately, they were unable to do their annual Alberta dairy tours in the spring but plan to reschedule them for next year.

In 2020-21, they are also hoping to join the North American Dairy Challenge, competing against other schools to evaluate dairy farm management practices.

The U of S Range Team also had a successful year. They did many things, including fundraisers, guest speakers, and networking events throughout the year. There were 13 members to attend the Society for Range Management annual conference in Denver, Colorado in February of 2020. At the conference, they wrote the Undergraduate Range Management Exam to test their rangeland knowledge. The team placed second out of over 20 universities, and one of the members placed first individually out of 189 students who wrote the exam. A well-earned achievement for the team and a great representation of the quality education at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture and Biore-sources.

The U of S Rodeo Team has grown in members significantly this year and is hoping to continue on doing so into next year. Many of these members, across all different colleges within the U of S, competed in the Canadian Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. Although the season was cut short, most of the competitors had a successful season which will hopefully carry into next year. Practices were held each week with various coaches, fine tun-

ing skills and learning new ones in all the events. U of S's College Rodeo was to be held at the end of March, but with the circumstances it had to be postponed until fall. They are very excited to be hosting a rodeo and will always be looking for more volunteers and new members to add to the team!

The AgBizz club placed third among 10 teams at the Cor Van Raay Case Study Competition in Lethbridge, AB.

Although CAMA's annual trip to the National Agri-Marketing Association competition in San Diego, April 15-17, was cancelled due to the circumstances, they were still able to submit their executive summary for competition against more than 30 universities across the U.S.

The Horticulture club sold over 200 pumpkins in the fall, all of which were grown in their field project which exhibited great yields of tomatoes, carrots, beets and other vegetables. They also hosted workshops such as succulent wreaths during the holiday season.

In addition to these accomplishments, most of the 13 AgBio student groups hosted a variety of information sessions, farm tours, keynote speakers and industry professionals to speak on the specifics of their particular club. Overall, the year was a great success for attendance and engagement in all clubs.

On a normal year, most clubs would wrap up the term with an election meeting where a new set of executives for the upcoming school year would be voted upon. Although, given the premature University closure, it was common for clubs to have their nominations, biographies and voting all done electronically in order to maintain and ensure their success for the years ahead.



**Range Team at the Society for Range Management conference in Denver, Colorado**

**Ryan Krupski '20**  
ASA Clubs Liaison



## SAGA Undergraduate Award Scholarship

The first two SAGA Undergraduate Award Scholarships were awarded at the ASA Bean Feed last fall. The recipients were Amanda Loeffen and Brooklyn Bourgeois, both fourth year An. BioScience majors.

The Scholarship is another means by which our alumni association remains involved in the College and supports the students. It also increases awareness among the students of SAGA and will hopefully encourage them to make it an important part of their post-graduate and professional lives.

The scholarships are open to continuing degree and diploma students in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. As well as scholastic standing, involvement within the local community, the college and university, and the wider agricultural industry is an important selection criterion.

The Award is funded completely by ongoing annual donations from Ag grads and other supportive individuals. The response to the Award has been quite positive. The committee would like to thank SAGA members for their generous support.

Details on how to contribute to the Scholarship fund can be found on the SAGA homepage, [www.saskaggrads.com](http://www.saskaggrads.com).



**Amanda Loeffen and Eric Johnson**

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# Something about Mary

**I promise to work hard, consult widely, and listen carefully  
not only as I learn the ropes, but always.**

**Saskatchewan is an exciting place to be, and I look forward  
to meeting, playing and working with you.**

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

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

**Jeff Schoenau '84 C, 2010**

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

**Terry Tollefson '76 C-MSc. 2011**

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

**Jill Turner '80 C, 2012**

It has been a great pleasure to have worked with Mary Buhr dur-

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

**Grant Wood '79 C, 2013**

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

**Blair Cummins '77 S, 2014**

I first met Mary Buhr when she was Associate Dean, Academic at the University of Guelph. I was doing an accreditation site visit and she was the local contact point. I remember being impressed with the way she handled herself and recall urging her to run for Dean at OAC where they were looking for someone at the time. Thank goodness she did not heed my advice, otherwise she would have been dean there and not come to Saskatchewan. Mary came at a time when there was much to be pessimistic about. Agriculture enrolments across the country were down and the U of S was going through some unfortunate human resources policies and budget restrictions which had the undesirable effects of punishing



successful units like the College of AgBio. Despite this, Mary has led the college to all time high enrolments and very successful research accomplishments. She leaves it in good shape for a successor to continue the valuable work that the College does for Saskatchewan and the world.

#### **Bryan Harvey '60 C 2015**

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

#### **Louis Bossaer '95 C, 2016**

I was lucky enough to be associated with Mary Buhr as both a student and, a few years later, as SAGA president. As a student, I found Dean Buhr was always very approachable, it meant a lot to any student to speak to someone with her designation. She always found time to speak to students, offer words of encouragement and if you were lucky, have a beer with her. At the Reunion Banquet the year I was president, Mary and I were swapping stories about university days just like we were old friends, but I knew she couldn't actually remember me as a student. However, the buddies I had along with me knew her much better as they had carried the RTD label (Recommended to Discontinue) during her time as Dean. Nonetheless, in her natural way, Mary had helped them through their 'difficult' times and they made it through University, whether they had a degree or not. Dean Buhr has always offered whatever she could, and was always so proud to be associated with the Saskatchewan agriculture community. Thanks, Mary, your generosity will not be forgotten.

#### **Luke Ringdal '12 C, 2017**

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

#### **Mayson Maerz '83 C 2018**



**B: Mayson Maerz, Eric Johnson, Blair Cummins, Grattan O'Grady '69 S (1992) Louis Bossaer Seated: Bryan Harvey, Mary Buhr**

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

#### **Eric Johnson '82 C. 2019**

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

#### **Lexiphiles**

He had a photographic memory, which was never fully developed.

## Letter From a Prairie Chicken

Last winter the annual Piapot Lions Club Antique Show in Maple Creek attracted collectors and history nuts alike. Each year I looked forward to seeing **Dave Spencer '69 C**, from Medicine Hat who always had a booth with his wife Arlette, with items he continually found in a wide variety of places. Unfortunately we lost Dave to cancer in late December.

Every year at this event a well-known lady from Swift Current, Cecile Blanke, brings a table full of antiques and old books. She is a pillar of the Metis community in the southwest and has recently published a book *Lac Pelletier: My Metis Home* which you should all read. I was pleased that she still had some books for sale that day. Upon looking through what else she had, I found three old Greystones - 1944, 1945 and 1946. They now reside in our house.

When I began studying the Agriculture sections of these books I found several female Agros, most of whom I had never heard of till this point. I also found a great many names of grads who were in their prime of life and occupations in agriculture or politics around the province and on U. of S. staff when those of us from the '60's to '80's were in college. I am sure that most of the grads I am about to tell you about are no longer with us but I would really like to know if some are still present. After all, they were all younger than our friend, **Harold Chapman '43 C**.

I have spent a lot of time going through *Forever Young*, U. Of S. Alumni Directories, AIC Membership Directories and *SAGA Empty Saddles*, trying to find mention of these women in later life.

It appears that there was a custom to add brief bios of each grad in the Greystone. I have left grammar & spelling in bios as found. I was startled to find what was considered appropriate at that time for female grads. I thought our readers might like to see how times have changed.

### At the 2020 Banquet

Our efforts for another 'Old Tool Table' was hampered by the fact that we couldn't find a Grad who had old tools AND was coming to the party. **Don Mitchell '89 S** saved our bacon. He knew a buddy, who knew an Aunt's cousin (2x, maybe 3x, removed) who was sure they had sumfin' buried under some shelf in that 5 gallon pail.

**Barbara Stefanynshyn-Cote '87 C** and **Louis Bossaer '95 C** organized another delicious sampling of local goods. Black Fox Distilleries, Nine Mile Legacy and Living Sky Wineries certainly delivered. Special thanks for the display provided by the Western Development Museum. Photographs of Ag Days gone by, plus lots of giveaways; WDM history books, brochures, pin buttons and magnets. Nods to Amanda Louie for her hard work, again. And **Deanne Belisle '79 C** for creating the great collage.

**Alice Mary Wall '44 C, '46 MSC**, Saskatoon, majored in Field Husbandry. Quote: "A leading light of the Agro Amazons, Alice played a prominent part in organizing the Agro Girls' basketball team. A staunch crusader for the emancipation of women within the college." Alice was secretary of the ASA for 1943-44. The 1998 Alumni Directory tells us she was now retired in Lethbridge, widow of Frank Harper.

There is a picture in the 1946 book of their team consisting of **B. Murray ('45 C)**, **A. Caton ('47 C)**, G. Davis, M. Onerheim, A. Wall and **M. Fredeen ('47 C)**. The caption reads, "The Agro-ette basket ball sextette agrees that it owes its wins this year to the enthusiastic coaching of Murdoch Nelson. The team has been managed by M. Fredeen; floor captain is B. Murray. A. Wall holds top honors for shooting records on the team. Agros are indebted to Arts & Science for M. Onerheim and to Engineering for G. Davis."

Imagine an Agro women's intermural team in any sport in the '60's!!!! I wanted to curl with Derald in 4th year and we were informed that this was impossible as there was no mixed category.

Speaking of curling, in the 1945 Greystone, the following quote appeared for Interfaculty Curling: "This year curling came into its own as an organized sport. Women's teams were entered in the bonspiel. These teams were 'skipped' by boys but next year we hope to have a sufficient number of proficient curlers to be able to have women's teams 'skipped' by women. The teams were arranged on an Interfac basis. Three teams reached the 'eights' in the general bonspiel." Muriel Fredeen, Agriculture, was the manager for Womens' Curling. We've come a long way with women's curling since those days.

To Be Continued in Dec...

**Irene Ahner '65 C**

### 2020 Sask Ag Hall of Fame

Adele Buettner, John Feige, Jack Hay, Eileen and William Lamont, the Honourable Gerry Ritz and Ted Serhienko.

The Lamonts and John Feige are being honoured posthumously. Please visit the SAHF website to learn more about these seven inductees.

## 1960 School – Pretty Dapper



Ron Morningstar, Harry Jensen, Orest Narocki

## 1960 College – Ageless



**B:** Don Horkoff, Bill Copeland,  
John Hickie, Bryan Harvey  
**F:** Ken Turner, Glen Hass, Stewart White

## The Good "Old" Bean Feed Days!

This is a letter submitted to *The SAGA* by **Bob McKercher '54 C**, from his archives.

R.R.#3 Perth, Ont. Nov. 6, 2000

Dear Roly:

How nice to hear from you and look forward to the Christmas letter. We heard of the three deaths - always sad when old acquaintances pass away.

I am afraid I cannot enlighten you too much about the Bean Feed – that is to say how and when it started. I do recall attending a couple in perhaps '46, '47 or '48, but they were not held on campus. The one thing I do recall about them was the following day in class, the flatulence was incredible, and Bud Smith always took the prize for being the noisiest. Sorry I can't be of more help.

Hope all is well with you and Teri, and the rest of the group.

Sincerely, Don Kirk

**Roland (Roly) St. Arnaud '48 C** was a professor in Soil Science. **Don Kirk '48 C**, apparently was Dean L.E. Kirk's son. "Bud" was likely **Ashley George Smith '48 C**.

## Awards and Milestones

**Jennifer Mitchell Fetch '79 C** called it a career in oat breeding that spanned more than 20 years. Jennifer had worked at Ag Canada since 1998. Her program has produced a number of popular oat varieties, including Summit, grown on more than 200,000 acres in MB and SK in 2018. The program will now be run by **Kirby Nilsen '11 C & '18 PhD**, the AAFC oat breeder at the Brandon Centre.

**Fred Langley '50 C**, celebrated his 95th birthday on May 27. Until arenas had to close, Fred could be found sweeping rocks every week at the Nutana Curling Club in S'toon.

**Dale Adolphe '72 C** received multiple awards of recognition over the years. 2013 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. 2015 Honorary Life Member – Assoc. of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). 2017 HLM – Canadian Seed Growers Assoc. (CSGA)

**Crystal Ketel '17 C** – was the recipient of the C. Paul W. and Marianne M. Ziehlke Graduate Award in Agriculture at the Nov. 20, 2019 Bean Feed

**David McTaggart '20 C** was awarded a Knowles scholarship from the College of Graduate Studies.

**Grant Wood '79 C** - the 2020 Provost's Teaching Award from the U of S. The Provost's College Awards recognize an outstanding teacher who demonstrates evidence of outstanding teaching and educational leadership. (Talk about retiring in style!)



## Treasurer's Report

The transfer of records from Dennis to myself went smoothly. Dennis is well organized, making the transition easy.

The 2020 SAGA reunion went well resulting in a net profit of \$4,992. Attendance was down this year with 335 members attending. Most members registered on line. This process worked great from an administrative point of view saving time and effort.

SAGA is in good shape financially. We have a mutual fund valued at \$56,816 as of February 4th. The bank account as of May 25th was \$17,227.

COVID-19 has left us with some challenges as treasurer like most business. Hopefully things will soon be back to normal.

**Morley Ayars '75 C**  
SAGA Treasurer

## Remembered through Memorial Award

Vern Racz '68 C also completed his Master's in 1971. During his career, anchored in the feed sector, he took on a number of roles throughout the province. Known as a bridge builder, Vern understood the importance of connecting producer needs to research. The Dept. of Animal and Poultry Sc. was his ultimate career home; he was director of the Feed Testing lab, the Prairie Feed Resource Centre and the Feeds Innovation Institute. He retired in 2011. Sadly, Vern passed away last October at the age of 74.

I mostly knew Vern through his activities as a volunteer on the SAGA executive. He had no shortage of enthusiasm for AgBio and was also an extremely generous spirit. He spearheaded the establishment of the SAGA undergraduate scholarship. Now Vern's contributions are being acknowledged through an undergraduate award in his memory.

The Vern Racz Memorial Award pays tribute to Vern's area of specialization – animal feed and post-harvest technologies. The award was established by Milligan Bio with a donation of \$5000. Others interested in supporting this award may do so at: [donate.usask.ca/online/agbio.php](http://donate.usask.ca/online/agbio.php) OR by contacting me directly - [hamish.tulloch@usask.ca](mailto:hamish.tulloch@usask.ca).

**Hamish Tulloch '91 C**  
Director of Development  
College of Agriculture and Bioresources



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**2020/2021 Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship Program**

Canadian Western Agribition, in partnership with the Sask Ag and the Gov't of Canada, announced the second 18-month mentorship experience. Mentees are paired with strong leaders of Canadian Ag, exposed to industry knowledge, board and governance training, business education and networking opportunities. Mentees were selected based on industry involvement, existing skills, interests, abilities, desired outcomes and overall fit in the program.

Claire Alexander, with **Tyler Friesen '96 C**; Dana Carpenter, with Kristjan Hebert (Usask grad); Sera Grover, with Tim Oleksyn; Sydney Lake '17 BSCAGB, with Rob O'Connor; Eric Martens, with **Kevin Hursh '80 C**; Katie Serhienko '19 BSCAGB, with **Kathy Larson '01 C**. **Mathew Scott '16 C**, with Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel; Julie Mortensen, with Ryan Beierbach;

**2020 Lieutenant Governor's Award  
Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan**



**Colin Ahrens, '67 C**, second from right, has spent his entire life within the RM of Marriott No. 317, where he continues to farm. Colin served on the RM Council for an unprecedented 47 years - 27 years as the Division 3 Councillor followed by 20 as Reeve until his retirement in 2016. Pictured above are (L to R) Donna Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty, Colin and partner Naomi.



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## 2021 SAGA Reunion Banquet Chairpersons

Hi all. I have been reaching out to find "Reunion Chairs" or rather "Reunion Liaisons."

We need Liaisons to guide us in determining options, if necessary, for our January 9th, 2021 events. Many thanks to all the reunion chairs/liaisons already on the list for their support. Please consider volunteering (or a classmate, LOL). Send me a quick email or text at the contact info below. I look forward to the many conversations we will all have together.

**Deanne**

Deanne Belisle                      306-221-8321                      belisledeanne@gmail.com  
or 306-381-8321                      or deanne.belisle@canada.ca

1941 & 1946 - and any Grads before and after or in-between  
Please contact: Deanne Belisle - information above

1951 S                      Bill Cooper                      306-370-9107                      bgcooper@sasktel.net  
1951 C                      Please contact: Deanne Belisle - information above

1956 S                      Peter Sunquist                      306 946-2362                      p.oescape@icloud.com  
1956 C                      Please contact: Deanne Belisle - information above

1961 S                      Marcel Dubois                      306-882-2258                      marcel.dubois@gmail.com  
1961 C                      Bob Baker                      306-374-7986                      rjbaker@sasktel.net

1966 S                      Lorne McConaghy                      306-921-9920                      norma@mcconaghyfarms.com  
& Neal Moyse                      306-533-2520  
1966 C                      We require a Chairperson Volunteer

1971 S                      Ken Granberg                      306-929-4583                      kengranberg1@gmail.com  
1971 C                      We require a Chairperson Volunteer

1981 S                      Dave Marshall                      306-746-7602                      dgm@sasktel.net  
1981 C                      Adrian Johnston                      306-716-4115                      please use > adrianjohnston59@gmail.com

1991 S                      We require a Chairperson Volunteer  
1991 C                      We require a Chairperson Volunteer

2001 S                      Curtis Sambrook                      306-270-4640                      csambrook@mail.com  
2001 C                      Camile Baillargeon                      306-441-9772                      camilebaillargeon@gmail.com

2011                      Katie MacMillan                      306-741-4172                      katie.macmillan@outlook.com  
(leave message or text)                      katie.carefoot@outlook.com

2016                      Shayla Hertz                      306-537-8313                      hertzshayla@gmail.com  
& Kerry Gerein                      kerry.gerein@hotmail.com

Please check our website [www.saskaggrads.com](http://www.saskaggrads.com) over the summer, as we will have posted new Chairpersons to that list as they volunteer. And any other info that we post concerning this year.



# Empty Saddles

**Lorne Currie Buchanan '47 C**, Jan. 26, 2013

**Robert Henry Houghman '49 S**, Aug. 2, 2018

**John Hayes Coldwell '49 C**, Apr. 7, 2019

**Murray Edward Mooney '49 C**, Mar. 15, 2020

**John Richard Klettke '50 S**, Aug. 21, 2014

**Georgina (Gwen) Gwendolyn McKenzie (nee Hooper) '51 C**, Dec. 6, 2018

**John (Jack) Allen Peck '51 C**, Aug. 12, 2019

**Michael Andrew Zwarich '51 C, '53 MSc**, Jan. 29, 2014

**Vernon John Afseth '52 S**, Feb. 2, 2020

**Robert Angus McMillan '52 S**, Sept. 29, 2013

**Bernard Marc Prefontaine '53 S**, Nov. 4, 2018

**Angus (Gus) Finley MacKenzie '54 C**, Jan. 22, 2020

**Neil William McLeod '57 S**, Apr. 3, 2020

**Kenneth Harold Murray '57 C**, Mar. 4, 2020

**Douglas Albert Schmit '58 C**, Jan. 3, 2020

**Lorne Edwin Sparling '58 C**, Jan. 25, 2020

**James William Willett '60 S**, Feb. 1, 2020

**Claude Hubert Woodcock '62 S**, July 27, 2019

**Robert (Bob) Allen Bradley '62 C**, Mar. 1, 2019

**David George Spencer '69 C**, Dec. 27, 2019

**Donald Russel Richardson. '70 C**, Jan. 2020

**Gordon Osborne Tomtene '70 C**, Dec. 18, 2019

**Wayne Allan Newport '72 S**, Mar. 18, 2020

**Gordon Roy Olson '72 S**, Feb. 15, 2019

**Alfred (Fred) Joseph Valmont, '72 S**, Apr.19, 2020

**Gordon Robert Classen '73 S**, Feb 14, 2020.

**Joseph (Jim) James Armstrong '74 C**, Jan. 4, 2020

**David John Tryyki '78 S**, Jan. 30, 2020

**Charles Timothy Shaheen '89 C**, Oct. 5, 2019

**Darcy Robert Schmidt. '94 S**, Mar. 22, 2019

**Marc Joseph Delage '06 S, '08 B.Sc. (AgBus.)**, Jan. 18, 2019

**Shane Caleb Johnson, '14 C**, Jan. 28, 2020

## 2020 Agros Bedpush

The 2020 Agros Bedpush was a major success this year with a \$55,081.69 donation for Kinsmen Telemiracle!

The crew departed from Saskatoon on the morning of March 5th and reached Regina at 5:00 p.m. on March 7th.

On behalf the Agricultural Students' Association, I would like to thank **SAGA** for all of their efforts in gathering the 30 Agro alumni who came out to volunteer. This event is a tradition that all Agros, past and present, should take a great deal of pride in. Thank you again to all of our sponsors and everyone who donated, supported, and followed our efforts.



## Past-President Reflection

It has only been four months since we celebrated SAGA's 85th Annual Reunion, but a lot of things have happened since then! Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic will force us to suspend our Cheers with Peers Summer Activities at the Canada's Farm Show (postponed) and Ag In Motion (delivered remotely). Also, President Jason and VP Deanne are working hard to recruit reunion chairs and discuss options for the 2021 Reunion.

I want to thank everyone that contributed to the success of the 2020 Reunion. The Reunion Chairs and the hardworking SAGA Executive are to be commended for a job well done. I also want to recognize the efforts of two of our executive that retired this past year. **Dennis Ewanus '70 C** served on the executive since 2010, first as Assistant Registrar, then as Treasurer since 2011. Dennis did a masterful job of managing our finances, leaving our organization in great financial shape. This has enabled the Executive to sponsor a number of ASA activities, which has been key in strengthening our relationship with the students. I also wish to recognize **Keith Head '67 C**, our Crop Production Week Chair since 2011, and was the Executive member in charge of posting all items on the SAGA Website. Keith was also an important member of the Scholarship Committee, and 2019 marked the first year that we awarded the SAGA Undergraduate Awards to two deserving undergraduate students.

One of my priorities for the past year was to recruit new Execu-

tive members and I am very proud that we able to recruit **Jo Anne Relf-Ekstein '85 C** (Crop Production Week), **Morley Ayars '75 C** (Treasurer), **John Hauer '84 C** (Newsletter Assistant), **Ward Headrick '89 C** (Member-At-Large), and **Adam Ornawka '04 C** (Banquet, 2021 VP). Also, thanks to President Jason for recruiting my old Physics lab partner, **Henry de Gooijer '83 C**, as Membership chair. We are always looking for new blood, so if you are interested in being on the Executive, please contact President Jason.

One of the most satisfying parts of being on the ASA Executive has been interacting with the students. I want to thank both James Pruium and Carter Altwasser for involving SAGA in their activities, and for maintaining excellent communication between SAGA and the ASA. The ASA raised a record \$55,011.69 for Telemiracle 44 with their biennial BedPush. Special thanks to Mayson and Louis and the SAGA members that helped with the organization and also did some bed pushing as well! I would like to point out that the 2022 Telemiracle BedPush will be its 40th Anniversary. It would be great to get as many of the original runners from 1982 as possible to participate in 2022.

Finally, a big thanks to Dean Mary Buhr for her commitment to SAGA during her tenure. We look forward to your future involvement with us.

**Eric Johnson '82 C**

### SAGA Saturday LFCE Tour

Lana Haight , along with Researchers **Cassidy Sim, '19 C** & **Jenna Sarich, '19 C**, guided the tour and provided lots of answers of the uses of the LFCE. This year the facility was closer to capacity, so they had more to show us. We even had a reunion in the classroom. **Gail Carruthers '90 C** was learning what she could for the home farm while daughter **Amy '20 C**, was attending a class. Go to the SAGA webpage for more of the story.

### CHEERS with PEERS

The Cheers with Peers bunch, when able, will provide a place to relax with a cool one and comfy seating should things change sooner than hoped for. Always be sure to check our Webpage, Facebook and Twitter pages for announcements of whatever we'll be doing, if and when we can this summer.

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