



President's Pen (Reflections)

In a few weeks we will be turning over the positions of President, Vice-President and Past President at our AGM. I have been the first President to serve consecutive years instead of the traditional one year term. (VP **Deanne Belisle '79 C** and PP **Eric Johnson '82 C** are also the first to do the same with their positions). So, this being my last article for the *SAGA* newsletter, if our Editor will humour me, I would like take some space reflecting about this organization and its roles.

While *SAGA* activities have not been what you would consider normal with the pandemic starting about two months after I started, the months since have allowed at least some time to understand *SAGA* better, what we do and some thoughts going forward. Primarily, *SAGA* exists to maintain a community of past graduates as well as connecting grads to the college, the students and the faculty. The annual reunion, maintenance of the membership contact list, the newsletter, our website, Facebook and Twitter are the most obvious ways this is happening but more happens and maybe more can be considered.

Your *SAGA* Exec regularly has opportunity to meet with the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Being invited to the Dean selection process, or having one of our members on the Stone Barn committee are examples of this type of thing. Maybe this is something *SAGA* should offer more of and not just through the Exec members. There is a lot more wisdom out there that could be an asset for the College when needing advice or committee participants. Should we have a process to call for interested *SAGA* members when the college or university is asking for input from alumni?

Supporting and connecting with students has been one of the things I found most refreshing during these years especially when it was still possible to meet in person. Attending events like graduation or the Bean Feed showed me that the sense of community of being part of ASA remains strong. We have typically been invited to ASA events, especially fundraising like Bedpush, or STARS. I know some of you are interested in supporting these efforts and ASA always does a good job of actively including us (do any of you grads want to push a bed this March?) Maybe we need a better way of connecting with *SAGA* members when a blood drive or Bedpush time comes up? We have thought of mass emails, but maybe not everyone wants to be notified each time. Let us know if you would like to see more emails of this type or if there is interest in being notified when the college is looking to engage past grads.

SAGA also supports the college through the provision of

scholarships covered by member's donations. Thank you to all that have donated. At our last *SAGA* executive meeting we tried something new by providing a small sponsorship to the U of S AgBio Range Team to attend a conference and competition in the US. It got us thinking that this type of direct academic support may have a place and we may be working on some ideas that could allow this to continue.

SAGA also serves some role in keeping of the history of the college, things like some of the departmental histories on the website, the Sodbuster publication by **Bob McKercher '54 C** and **Ted Turner '48 S**. More recently, **Irene Ahner '65 C** and her look into the early women Grads of the College and School of Agriculture, to capture a piece of history that is both informative and interesting. It makes me wonder if there's any room or appetite to see more of this retrospective type of thing in the newsletter or website.

Even our traditional Reunion weekends have been changing over time. There was a time when we had a separate mixer (smoker to you older grads) curling, speeches, and presentations by individuals to update on what they are up to and so on. Curling is gone, hockey remains, no more presentations, but now we have the AgBio/*SAGA* Friday Night Social. Some groups like to do tours while they are in town and have events and host their own hospitality rooms. Others prefer the mixer but might not attend the banquet. Some of the more recent grads, who likely maintain their connections better through social media, and some older grads that travel in the winter are asking if a summer event would work. These changes are just examples of what has happened with the reunion and a reminder that *SAGA* does need to listen to its members and consider how the reunion can continue to evolve.

SAGA has many opportunities to serve the members and sometimes this just requires an idea and people to pull it together. The *SAGA* Executive is the first point of contact a lot of the time, and traditionally it seems the executive is mostly people close to Saskatoon. One thing we are seeing from the pandemic is that virtual presence on the executive works just fine so maybe there is an opportunity to have more members participate remotely.

It's been a great couple of years as president. The Exec have heard me say this several times; they undersold this position. Getting to represent our organization at events and meeting people at the reunion and working with great Exec members is really pretty easy and lots of fun. Thanks for letting me serve these two years.

Jason Fradette '84 C

2021 Chairpersons

1941 & 1946. All Grades, before, after and in-between, please contact Deanne Belisle. Info below:

	Deanne Belisle	306-221-8321	deanne.belisle@prairiescan.gc.ca
1951 S	Bill Cooper	306-370-9107	bgcooper@sasktel.net
1951 C	Deanne Belisle	306-221-8321	deanne.belisle@prairiescan.gc.ca
1956 S	Peter Sunquist	306 946-2362	p.oescape@icloud.com
1956 C	Stu Whitney	250-477-5546	stuwhitney@shaw.ca
1961 S	Marcel Dubois	306-882-2258	marcel.dubois41@gmail.com
1961 C	Bob Baker	306-374-7986	rjbaker@sasktel.net
1966 S	Lorne McConaghy	306-921-9920	lorne@mcconaghyfarms.com
	Co-Chair - Neal Moyse	306-533-2520	
1966 C	Bill Turner	306-726-7772	turners@sasktel.net
1971 S	Ken Granberg	306-929-4583	kengranberg1@gmail.com
1971 C	Jim Spiers	780-914-3860	jimspiers@telusplanet.net
	Co-Chair Ray Ryland	403-652-8705	rayandmarj@gmail.com
1981 S	Dave Marshall	306-746-7602	dgm@sasktel.net
1981 C	Adrian Johnston	306-716-4115	
		Please use >	adrianjohnston59@gmail.com
1991 S	Deanne Belisle	306-221-8321	deanne.belisle@prairiescan.gc.ca
1991 C	Tim Hammond	306-948-5052	tim.hammond@sasktel.net
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

WOO HOO!! Finally!

Ticket sales began on Nov. 01, 2021. If you are planning to attend, please purchase your tickets early. Tickets are as low as \$80.00 for early-birds AND they are fully refundable any time before Jan. 5th, 2022! Whatever your plans, let *SAGA* be part of your kick-off to 2022!

Hi everyone, it's Deanne here, I have the honour of liaising with the Reunion Year Chairs for the combined 2021 and 2022 reunion event in Saskatoon on Jan 7-8, 2022. We are putting together a fabulous, if somewhat modified, program to ensure fun is had while staying safe. As I write this, I am heartened by numerous really-major events taking place. There seems to be pent-up demand for social interaction and entertainment. For example, we've had the Tim Hortons Curling Trials, the World Junior Championship Canadian Team Qualifiers AND the Canadian Western Agribition. *SAGA* is watching closely and using the best practices from these events to help design our *SAGA* reunion 2021/2022.

On November 16, Prez Jason and I, along with Ewald Lammerding, hosted a call with the reunion chairs. We had excellent attendance and an open conversation about options each of the years is considering, ranging from full-speed ahead to holding a summer 2022 event to postponing to 2023. Early indication is that enough people plan to attend on

2022 Reunion Chairs

1950 and All Years Prior

	Art Delahey	306-374-0494	delahey@sasktel.net
1952 C	Art Delahey	306-374-0494	delahey@sasktel.net
1952 S	Art Delahey	306-374-0494	delahey@sasktel.net
1957 C	Don Acton	306-374-2549	rosewood201@sasktel.net
1957 S	Deanne Belisle	306-221-8321	deanne.belisle@prairiescan.gc.ca
1962 C	Elwood Fleming	306-374-1415	ehfleming@shaw.ca
1962 S	Art Belanger	306-220-3036	belanger.anr@sasktel.net
1967 C	Mike McAvoy	306-543-6896	mikemcavoy@gmail.com
	Co-Chair Keith Head	306-653-1074	wkhead@sasktel.net
1967 S	Harold Fast	306-883-7857	hfast@fastfamily.com
	Co-chair Wayne Gamble	306-536-8756	wgamble@sasktel.net
1972 C	Bill Laing	780-984-4448	b.laing@shaw.ca
1972 S	Lyle Findlay	306-725-1515	lylefindlay@aski.ca
1982 C	Eric Johnson	306-480-9669	en.johnson@usask.ca
1982 S	Lucie Baillargeon	306-397-2678	glbailla@xplornet.com
1992 C	Deanne Belisle	306-221-8321	deanne.belisle@prairiescan.gc.ca
1992 S	Deanne Belisle	306-221-8321	deanne.belisle@prairiescan.gc.ca
2002 C	Barbara Nakashima	403-795-0179	barbarann79@gmail.com
2002 S	Deanne Belisle	306-221-8321	deanne.belisle@prairiescan.gc.ca
2012	Royce Lodoen	306-662-9093	royce_089@hotmail.com
2017	Alana Orsak		ajo343@mail.usask.ca
	Co-chair Erin Cote		erinrachellecote@gmail.com

January 8th to make it worthwhile to go ahead. For double the fun, some years are combining their classes, just like back in the day!

So please don't delay, go on-line and buy your ticket. And also contact your reunion Chair to see if there is a hospitality room, special tour, Sunday brunch or other merriment in the works. I want to give a huge shout out to the Reunion Chairs! *SAGA* is so lucky to have their support throughout the pandemic. I look forward to seeing you all in January!

Thinking of our B.C. farmers, their families and community,

Deanne Belisle '79 C – Reunion VP

A Hotel block is set aside at the Hilton Garden Inn, 90 22nd St E., Saskatoon, SK S7K 3X6
 Please call your reunion chair or cari.fleming@hilton.com to see if any rooms remain in the *SAGA* block.
 Alternate contact +1 306 667 5343 Office or leave message at +1 306 221-8969 Mobile. For information about
 our initiatives related to COVID, please visit covid.hilton.com.

Other adjacent to TCU Place: Holiday Inn Saskatoon Downtown, 101 Pacific Avenue, Saskatoon, SK
 1-306-986-5000 or 1-877-660-8550 OR <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/reservation>

2022 SAGA Honorary Life Members

Wilf A. Keller '69 C

After his childhood in Melville, SK, Wilf earned his BSA then a PhD in Crop Science at the U of S, followed by post-doctoral studies in Germany. Throughout his science career, Wilf had the opportunity to lead many research initiatives. These included the development and application of biotechnology in crop improvement with a major focus on canola. In recent years he was involved as a member of the team that successfully established the Protein Industries Canada Supercluster. He has chaired and co-chaired a number of science and innovation events such as the International Rape-seed/Canola Congress in 2015. In 2010, Wilf was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by The Society for In Vitro Biology. In 2015, he received the province's highest honour, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. In 2017, Wilf was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, and in 2018, he was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

President's Pen (Part Two)

This year my job is easier as we are planning to go ahead with 2022 reunion and banquet. As we are still dealing with the pandemic that cancelled the 2021 event, I thought I would talk about 2022 and some of the thinking behind this year's planning.

As you read in VP Deanne Belisle's article, you can see that she's really the one doing much of the organizational work and knows the details. My part is to describe what thinking got us to this point. As 2021 wore on we all saw some easing of restrictions during the summer and early fall, and we began to receive feedback from *SAGA* grads and the Reunion year Chairs, as they were in contact with their respective graduation classes. Many would now be interested in a 2022 reunion, though some are waiting until closer to the event to decide if they would attend. One thing we heard a lot is that Grads definitely want to see vaccination verification for attendance at the *SAGA* reunion. So, with all of that as guidance, in September we decided that we would plan for the event as best we could, realizing that we will have to adapt to any pandemic issues as we moved forward. We have now started to sell tickets, and are working with TCU Place to understand what we need to do to meet the COVID requirements, such as how to verify vaccination, changes made to food service or any capacity limits in rooms.

Some of the reunion weekend items still need some work to move ahead. Our Dean, Angela Bedard Haughn, has indicated that the Friday Night Social and tours at the Ag Building could happen. We will have to adhere to U of S pandemic safety rules, so we may be limited on how many people can be in the Agro lounge at any time, plus tours may

Grant D. Wood '79 C

Grant began his career at the U of S in what was then the Dept. of Horticulture Science, spent several years in the Extension Division, later back to the Dept. of Plant Sciences. He developed extension programs in all areas of agriculture for groups in Saskatchewan, across Canada, and around the world, substantially changing or developing several courses in horticulture, agronomy and experiential learning. One of Grant's favourite courses was Urban Agriculture, which is a component of the much larger Urban Greening movement, a blueprint to improve urban beauty, air quality and mental health while focusing on locally produced food. Grant co-ordinated the AgBio Rooftop Garden, a demonstration and research project in which vegetables were grown in containers on the roof of the AgBio building on campus. Another of Grant's initiatives, with the guidance of Saskatchewan Elders, was growing and harvesting ceremonial tobacco to use in Indigenous ceremonies on campus.

have to be much smaller groups. But we think all that can be managed. At this point, the Hockey Tournament is a go, but the Waldheim Recreation Facility has their guidelines as to how long players may be in the building. So you can see it won't be business as usual, but hopefully normal enough so everyone will have a good time.

Our big question right now is that commitment from prospective *SAGA* attendees for the reunion. We do have several groups that are ready to go, and have gone as far to book hotel rooms. We also know that as the COVID situation evolves in Saskatchewan, some people may be uncertain if they want to attend or even travel to Saskatoon. What we're hoping for, is that those who ARE planning to attend, please buy your tickets early, before Dec. 15th. That is the only way we can understand our numbers, then adjust things with TCU Place if needed. TCU Place needs a firm commitment from us by Dec. 15th, so that they can make their plans for the event. Don't worry, if you buy tickets now and later find it's not possible to attend due to some pandemic issue, we will be refunding tickets if needed.

SAGA is an organization that carries out activities for its members, and an in-person reunion is one of those things that some members have indicated is important this year. This is why we are preparing for and hoping for the best, kind of like seeding in a dry spring. Please continually check our website at saskaggrads.com for updates between now and Jan. 7th.

Here's hoping we can see a lot of you January 7th and 8th.

Jason Fradette '84 C

Dean Speak

As I sat down to write today, I took a moment to look back at what I wrote in May – I closed that message wishing you all a “long and lovely summer, hopefully with plenty of spring showers...” Well, that didn’t quite work out, now did it? Yes, summer was long, and there was no shortage of sunny days, but many of us faced horribly dry growing conditions, the effects of which we will be feeling for a long time yet. Prairie folks are rather stoic by nature, but the coffee row comments of “There’s always next year” seem a little more bitter than usual. It can be difficult to maintain a sense of optimism when there’s so much hardship in the world, from our own backyards to global unrest. But nonetheless, we persist, and we try to learn from the hardship and become more resilient. Resiliency and adaptation are at the core of the college’s plans. We’ve faced hardships before and have always adapted. But how we do this will dictate our future success. Will we resist the inevitable or will we face our challenges and embrace the opportunities within them? I’m counting on the latter.

Here on campus, the fall term was all about adaptation and things have been busier around the Agriculture building than they were in 2020-21. About 60% of our classes are in-person and we have the old North 40 space set up as a temporary study hall for our students who need to switch between in-person and remote classes throughout the day. Students are enjoying the ASA lounge and there was even a bit of back-and-forth commentary with blue and red chalk on the sidewalks around campus last month. Our staff continue transitioning back to on-campus work and we are

hoping to have everyone – students and staff alike – back in January 2022. That said, we also anticipate needing to be flexible; this pandemic doesn’t seem to be done with us yet. Convocation and Bean Feed are both remote this fall (watch our social media feed and website for celebratory video streams). In particular, please check out the announcement of Dr. Wilf Keller’s (BSA 1969) Honorary Doctor of Science – honorary degrees are the highest honor that USask can award, recognizing outstanding contributions the recipients have made to their community and to the world. Congratulations Wilf!! While you’re checking out our social media, be sure to check out the features on some of our outstanding graduates. Our current students have had to sacrifice so much of the ‘typical’ AgBio experience throughout the pandemic, but they have persevered and their successes should be celebrated!

Like many institutions and businesses, the university is moving ahead with mandatory vaccination for the winter term, which should provide new opportunities to host certain types of events and activities on campus. We’re currently making plans to welcome alumni to the college for a reunion social on Jan. 7th, but like everything these days, plans may need to be revised to keep everyone safe. Regardless how this plays out this time, I know we’re getting closer to gathering in person again. Until then, take good care of each other and keep in touch!

Angela Bedard-Haughn '01 C, MSc
Dean of AgBio

AGM Meeting Registration

The *SAGA* AGM will be Thurs., Jan 6, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Registration in advance is required. To ensure you receive meeting documents and reports, please register by Jan. 4th. Registrations after this date may still attend meeting but may not receive reports etc.

Registration link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqf-GqrzgjHdCfW92bXZuRuGhp5KtEzvXn>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Raelene Petracek '86 C

Best of the Season
Be Friends of All *Be Caring of All*
The SAGA Executive

87th Annual SAGA Reunion Banquet

January 8, 2022

Festivities will be held at: TCU Place – Centennial Halls (Downstairs)

Cocktails at 4:30 pm – Banquet at 5:30 pm – Program at 6:30 pm

Welcome: Jason Fradette '84 C, 2020 & 2021 SAGA President

Recognition of Years – 1941, 1942, 1946, 1947, 1951, 1952, 1956, 1957, 1961, 1962, 1966, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1981, 1982, 1991, 1992, 2001, 2002, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2017

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

Honorary Life Member Awards Presentation

Small Class and HLM photos will be taken starting at 4 p.m. ere the Banquet

Large Class photos immediately following the program

Times will be announced

The Mixer will officially start @ 9 p.m.

The 2022 AGM will be held virtually on Thurs. Jan 6th, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

Contact information to attend posted on Pg. 5 of this Newsletter and on the SAGA website

All SAGA events will be adhering to the University of Saskatchewan Safety Protocols We are U of S Alumni. At the College, the Waldheim Rink and TCU Place, participants will be checked for their Vaccine Status. A recent test will not suffice. Masks worn at all times.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PRICING SCHEDULE

	Early Bird Price til 11:50 p.m. on Dec 24, 2021	Dec. 25th Regular Price
Banquet & Mixer >> Years. 2001-21	\$60.00	\$70.00
Banquet & Mixer >> Yrs. Prior to 2001	\$80.00	\$90.00
Mixer Only - \$15.00 from website		\$20.00 at the door

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

Ticket purchase deadline is Noon, Wed. Jan. 5th, 2021

Purchase your Banquet tickets at: <http://saskaggrads.com/index.php?page=saga-reunion>
Once on the page, click on the Red SAGA button you need

SAGA uses MAINLY online registration.

For assistance, contact

Ward Headrick – Website: sagatickets@shaw.ca or (639) 317-8327

OR

Jason Fradette – President: fradettej@yourlink.ca or 306-244-2648

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

Deanne Belisle – Vice President: deanne.belisle@prairiescan.gc.ca

Ewald Lammerding – Editor: thesaga@sasktel.net

Raelene Petracek – Secretary: busyrae@sasktel.net

College Of Agriculture and Bioresources and SAGA Friday Night Social

Tentatively scheduled for Fri. Jan. 7, 2022 4:30 – 7 pm

For more information please contact: Hamish Tulloch hamish.tulloch@usask.ca

SAGA Hockey Tournament

SAGA Hockey Tournament is back on after a year off and some teams are chomping at the bit to get back on the ice. The tournament will be held at Waldheim again as they always go above and beyond for making the day run smoothly. The tournament will be a little bit of a different scene this year however with some extra rules. Players must be double vaccinated and must wear a mask when inside the rink not on the ice surface, except when actively eating or drinking. The rules not only keep us within the provincial health mandates, but also keeps the tournament in line with the other *SAGA* events. Closer to the Jan. 8th 2022 day of the tournament I will get teams to send rosters with proof of vaccination for the players on it.

With only these couple of extra rules this year I'm hoping this is just one more stride to getting back to normal so we can all get together again without a second thought. There will be a lot to catch up on since it's likely no one has seen each other since the 2020 tournament. It is my goal that the day is filled with the same reminiscing and laughs as always. Team entries and all other questions about the tournament feel free to contact me, I don't always have all the answers, but I certainly try to find them.

SAGA Hockey Chair Chay Anderson
chayanderson92@hotmail.com **306-640-7087**

Three Grads

Gordon Bacon '81 C, was recently inducted into the Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame, for his work over 20+ years with Pulse Canada. Since 1997, Gordon has helped Canada become the world's largest exporter of pulse crops.

Melanie Reid '19 C, was awarded the 2019-20 & 2020-21 Sask Flax Development Commission Graduate Scholarships. The award recognizes academic excellence at the College of AgBio for research of scientific relevance for sustainable and profitable western Canadian flax production.

Blair Goldade '87 C is the new Executive Director of Sask Wheat. He takes over from **Harvey Brooks '80 C**, '83 MSc, who has retired. Previously, Blair was Sask Wheat's research program manager and the Science Co-ordinator of the Canadian National Wheat Cluster for the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition.



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Farmers insuring farmers.

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INSURANCE**

Off the Saskatchewan Beaten Path



The K-T Line (or K-Pg) – The marker left behind when that asteroid rid humankind of man-eating dinosaurs 66 million years ago. The black lines are coal. Grasslands National Park – East.



Over a few millennia this hole was bored through an outcropping at Grasslands.



Between Marriott and Valley Centre (I think). Deceiving looks, long unused but solid on the inside. Boxstalls still need to be forked out.



What gets left behind. A Flyer wagon and Schwinn tricycle.



Straight west of Bents, and west of #4. At one time a thriving horse barn. Now a gatherer of rubbish.



Same yard, barely distinguishable behind the trees, the faint outline of the farmhouse roof. Whoever last lived in that house loved their Black Velvet. Upwards of 20 black tubes the bottles used to come scattered about inside. Of no use to anyone, anymore, either.

Finally got a camper! First trip of the year was to Grasslands National Park – East, just west of Kildeer and south of Fir Mountain. If you want to traipse Saskatchewan Badlands, this is the place to do so.

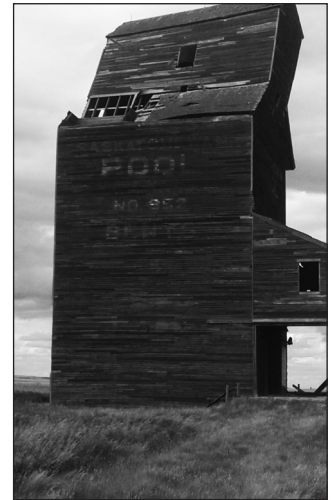
Then **Keith Head '67 C**, let my wife and I use the Head family farmstead, a ways north of Zealandia. We weren't prepared for just how quiet it can be out there at the base of the Bear Hills. (Beautiful, hated coming back to the city!) Hiking the Hills at the crack of dawn (as if), rounds of golf at Rosetown and Biggar, then cruising the countryside on our way back.

As bone dry land as everywhere this year, we found we could go anywhere there were tracks, be it old roads, combines, deer and/or rabbits. I love seeing what's over the next hill, the Mrs... not quite all the time. **Trevor Tyson**, an '88 classmate, dropped in to visit one evening. Another '88er, **Tim Wiens**, took me on my first ever tour of Stranraer and Herschel and that really neat escarpment that runs between.

Editor '88 S



The General Store (a very cute Post Office inside), Community Centre, roof of a house peeking above, kid's room is the Smurfs wallpaper.



A nasty Mar. 29th, 2021 winter storm left the empty Bents Elevator looking more desolate than it had on the 28th. The barely discernible name reads: Saskatchewan Pool No. 952 Bents. (Note the top left corner of the drive-thru.)



Prairie Sentinels. What's left of the village of Bents, SK. They still keep the pests under control.



Top of the Bear Hills north of Bents. Read: Archeology Club U Douglas 1921-87.



So many abandoned farmyards these days, then you pass one that lifts your spirits. A farm near Duperow; can't help but smile along.

SAGA 2021-22 Undergraduate Scholarships

Maeve Balmer '24

I'm from Calgary, Alberta, studying Animal Bioscience in College of AgBio at the U of S. I chose this program because of my interest in animals. I am excited to take new classes and learn about the topics that mean the most to me. This scholarship means so much to me, as it helps ease the financial stress which was amplified by the challenge of moving for university and transitioning into in-person classes.



Courtney Taylor '23

Hello. I chose to study agriculture because I love being in the agriculture industry, and am a third-year Agribusiness student from Warner, Alberta. I grew up on a commercial cattle operation that I hope to one day take over. This scholarship and your support allow me to pursue my education which will, in turn, help me make informed decisions about the future of our family operation. I'd like to extend my sincerest thank you to *SAGA* for sponsoring this scholarship and supporting students like me who are passionate about agriculture.



Philanthropy's Role in AgBio's Future

The past twenty months have been far from normal. Covid has given us all a lot to think about and working, largely remotely over this period, has likely made me more reflective. Covid has challenged us in many ways, but we've adapted – and perhaps permanently changed. Being responsible for the college's fundraising I have a particular lens on what these changes mean.

In last fall's newsletter submission, I remarked that the pandemic was having a negative effect on many charitable organizations, including the university and college. It's too early to say if this year's support will be more typical but at this point it appears that donors are returning. I sincerely hope by this time next year that the pandemic is not even worth a mention in this context (or any other). As much as it is a relief to sense that the worst of Covid may be behind us, I feel there are new and potentially greater challenges ahead, and donors will play a critical role in AgBio's ability to address these. Where Covid has arguably affected other sectors more than our own, the shift to a lower carbon economy will challenge the agriculture sector on multiple fronts. The pace of technological change means our courses and research need to adapt. Likewise, our research and teaching facilities will have to be modernized and expanded. Within change there is often opportunity – the question is, will we be prepared?

As USask strives to be the University the World Needs, this ambitious call to action has particular significance for the agriculture sector and we must be ready for meaningful changes ahead. Thankfully, Dean Bedard-Haughn has a vi-

sion of where we need to go and a plan for the steps along the way. She is supported by a diverse team of very bright faculty, as highlighted in the latest edition of *Agknowledge*, who are working very hard to improve the practices of today and prepare us for tomorrow's challenges.

As alumni, I think it's natural that our feelings for the college are anchored in the past. Many of us recall with fondness our favourite courses, reminiscences of friends, and of the places where these memories were made. But to truly be the University the World Needs we'll need to channel the spirit of the past into building an even stronger college for tomorrow.

To develop agriculture's future leaders, please consider supporting the SAGA Undergraduate Scholarship.

General donations to the college will help ensure that students get the support and facilities needed for a superior education.

Or if you are particularly keen on a specific area of AgBio's mission, please don't hesitate to reach out – I'm always interested in hearing from our supporters.

More information on supporting the College of Agriculture and Bioresources can be found at: agbio.usask.ca/alumni-and-giving/give.php

Thank You

**Hamish Tulloch, '91 C,
Director of Development**

One Person's Observations on Agriculture in Ukraine

I first came to Ukraine in January 1997 and was back at least once a year on beef production related projects before moving here permanently in 2007. Crossing the bridge into Kyiv always felt like coming home. Little did I know. My late wife had passed away from cancer in April 2004. In 2005 summer, I was back in Ukraine, NOT looking for a wife. Tanya had other ideas, apparently.

I had known Tanya for 6 years; she was a participant in a beef class I taught in 1999. I always wanted to go to Krasnoyarsk (as it seemed like a place no one in their right mind would visit). Tanya did her Ag degree there and when she found out not only had I heard of the place but wanted to go there, we became friends. We saw each other once a year or so and emailed periodically. So, in 2005, I stopped to visit her in Dnipro. Men are not too swift when it comes to romance. We courted by email for a year, I in English, she in Russian, using on-line translators. (My oldest thought the translations must have made me sound smarter than I was).

In 2006, I went to Siberia and met her family and Tanya came to Canada and met my kids. Both sides approved (mine because she was taking me to Ukraine, they said) and we were married in Dec 2006. In 2007 I moved to Ukraine, we renovated her big house on the outskirts of Zhovti Vody, 130 km west of Dnipro. I have done some consulting work since, but I am not an expert in Ukrainian agriculture. This article will reflect my experience, biases, and frustrations.

Ukraine is a poor country. There are many reasons for this but corruption and concentration of wealth and power in the hands of oligarchs is one of them. Making sure that people can afford food is a big responsibility for the government. In 2018 Kyiv Post reported that 60% of the population lived below the official poverty line. The Government of Ukraine has invested heavily in large commercial layer and broiler poultry operations and pig enterprises, as part of their strategy to provide affordable protein to the population. Consequently, chicken meat is very inexpensive,

and pork is not far behind in affordability. Good quality beef is available only in the big cities; here, we get cull cow beef.

Pork has not had an easy time of it despite government support. Per capita consumption in Ukraine is about 15 kg, compared to 30 in Russia and 45 in the EU. In 2020, the meat Industry Association announced Pig production – 2025, a program designed to have 20 million pigs on farms and produce 1 million tonnes

of meat for Ukraine and 2 million tonnes for export by 2025. Pig operations are sized by one time inventory and output measured in tonnes, Soviet style. One hopes they understand pigs per sow per year at the farm level.

Large-scale commercial pork and poultry operations import European technology and management, eliminating old Soviet style production methods. For that reason, they also attract investors, both Ukrainian and foreign. Another benefit is that the huge amounts of money involved are negotiated at high levels of the bureaucracy with accompanying opportunities for alleged kickbacks.

Cattle numbers have been in decline since 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed, and farms were no longer subsidized. Cattle are the least profitable enterprise because they did not and do not have a clue how to raise them. (I could rant for an hour as it just infuriates me). Production in Soviet times was 3000 kg per cow. Big modern dairy farms with technology, genetics, and management from Europe, and outside investment are gradually taking over with production of 8000 to 10,000 kg per cow. And when medium size farms can put together the cash, their production has increased to 6000 kg per cow.

In many cases, fattening animals for slaughter consists of growing them to 400 kg and selling them. There isn't an ounce of fat on them because their diet would barely keep a dry pregnant beef cow alive. One producer with a couple hundred cows told me that the money he made from milk he spent on feeding the males and cull females. My number one advice to both dairy and beef producers was FEED THE

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\$%&@#@#* CATTLE.

The decline in cattle numbers is especially noticeable at the village level. When I moved here, there were 20 cows that went to common pasture in the morning and came home at night, five of them right past our door. Today there is one cow left in the neighbourhood. The old people are dying off. Cutting hay with a scythe, raking it by hand and hauling it home to keep one or two cows is not worth it.

A bigger problem than lack of know-how is lack of capital. Equipment on the old collective farms, now gone private, is 30 years old and desperately needs replacing. But without outside investment it is impossible. Banks would not loan money to what we would consider medium to large sized commercial farms because they had no security. Until July 1, 2021, land could not be bought or sold, only inherited, and rented. When the collectives were broken up, each employee or their descendants got a share of the land, so who ever took over the collective farm had to rent the land from the former employees.

The huge Agro Corporations could pay slightly more and grabbed much of the good land. Some offered cash up front for 50-year leases, which essentially meant buying it. There were many reasons for the pushback against land as a commodity, but I am sure that the big guys benefited greatly from the status quo.

My next article will focus on grain and oilseed production, the impact of land sales, and the huge Agro Corporations.

Allen Hingston '69 C

Cheers with Peers @ Agribition



L – R: Lester Lodoen '74 S, Dylan Sebastian '20C, Royce Lodoen '02 C

Excellent Reading

Be sure to peruse the 2021 edition of AgKnowledge. It contains a wide variety of the work and research being conducted by AgBio and its many aspects to improve all manner of the agricultural future.



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ASA Report for the SAGA Newsletter

Hi all! I am super excited to be this year's Public Relations Officer within the ASA and have some great things to report from this year's ASA! Since September, we have had the privilege of getting to do some actual in-person events this year, rather than the completely online setting we saw last school year. Before I get to the fun stuff, unfortunately we were unable to host a Bean Feed or Ag Bag Drag this fall due to the ongoing pandemic and restrictions on group gathering sizes. Although, we still were able to host a first year meet and greet in the lounge, college tours for the first and second years, hosted a food drive on Halloween, sidewalk painting around campus, Bud Light Luau where we raised money for mental health, blood drives, mental health week, and budget pub where we raised money and donations for the food bank. In addition to all of this, we also collaborated with career services to put on a virtual career fair where many students were able to gain connections for future employment within the Ag industry.

Currently as I write this, we have our Movember campaign going on where we are trying to raise \$5,000 as a college for men's health. We are doing a Milk Chug challenge versus the Dalhousie University Aggies, as well as a bingo night. One thing I would like to mention is that for all of the things we do as a college, we were honoured to be awarded as a Youth in Philanthropy within the city of Saskatoon. As for things that are upcoming, we have plenty of things to look forward to. We have plans to host our own AgBio Challenge in January, our graduation ceremony on January 21st, our traditional Winter Mixer on February 12th, ski-trip, and a rodeo event in March that will be in place of Drag and Foam on the

Range. And of course, amongst this all, it is a year of Telemiracle Bedpush, and I couldn't be more excited to announce that we are definitely going to try to smash our last year's total of \$55,000!



L to R: Josie Huber '21 - 2021-22 ASA President, Dylan Stang '21, past PRO, Kate Sauser '23, current PRO, receiving the Youth in Philanthropy award.

To get things started for Bedpush, at the AgBio and SAGA Friday Night Social, we will try to cover the old bed that hangs in the lounge with \$20 dollar bills! I hope to see as many of you out pushing the bed with us on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th. We love our alumni involvement and can't wait to mingle with you all in the near future! Cheers!

**Kate Sauser '23
ASA Public Relations Officer**

AgBio Student Clubs Report

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

The Beef Team are students passionate about the beef industry and eager to learn and network. They are in the process of planning and fundraising for trip to Denver, Colorado next year for the Stock Show. They have lots of other cool opportunities for this year; an AI course for Mar. '22, an Alberta visit to local farms and a pregnancy checking course. At meetings they have the opportunity to hear grad students speak about their projects.

The Canadian Agri-Marketing Club (CAMA) picks an uncommon or new agricultural product or service and develops a presentation to take to the marketing competition in the States in April. Last year they developed a service called Haystack; a matchmaking service for producers to find hired hands.

This year, they are working on further developing virtual

fencing and may travel to Kansas City, if restrictions allow. If they are able, they will be fundraising and asking for sponsorship later in the year.

The Environmental and Bioresources Students' Association (EBSA) is an undergraduate student association at the U of S, and has students interested in a wide range of sciences including Environmental Sci., Renewable Resource Management, Agriculture, Biology, Plant Sciences, and more. EBSA is a great opportunity to enhance leadership skills, meet students with similar interests, and be the first to hear about upcoming job opportunities in your field. EBSA has a study room in the Ag building.

The Range Team is a group of students interested in rangeland preservation, ecology, and grazing management, and get presentations from range professionals in their areas of expertise. Every year they compete at the Society for Range Management's annual international conference, in which they write the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME), and participate in other competitions, social events, and tours. This year they hope to at-

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tend the conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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 Horticulture Club is made up of members interested in learning all the aspects of horticulture through hands on learning activities and seminars. The club also works to keep all university students engaged with horticulture by hosting different event such as greenhouse sessions, potato harvesting, tree ID walks, and much more.

The Pre-Vet club consists of students interested in learning about the WCVM and different ways to improve their chances of enrolling. This is done via mock interviews by WCVM students/faculty interviewing club members with questions similar to what they will face. They also have student vet advisors to answer questions that club members have. New for the '21/22 school year will be working with other Canadian Pre-Vet clubs to help members share opportunities and options.

This fall the U of S Rodeo team made many miles and many memories, travelling to Vermilion, Olds, and Fort Macleod, AB. In the spring they will go back to Vermillion and Olds and then to the CCRA finals in Brooks, Alberta. They also hosted their own barrel and pole jackpot in Delisle, host another jackpot this winter in Maple Creek, and have other fundraisers throughout the year. To stay in the loop, follow them on Facebook and Instagram @ U of S Rodeo Team!

The Animal Bioscience club is centred towards students in animal science or animal bioscience although anyone can join! They are constantly bringing in industry workers to speak about how students can apply their degree in different careers. Throughout the year, they will host different events, both educational and social, to encourage students to get involved with the club.

The goal of the AgBizz Club is to provide opportunities to acquire and develop professional attitudes and valuable life skills, augment education and employment opportunities, and increase knowledge by making connections between the club and industry leaders. AgBizz holds Canadian Ag Day in February, in Place Riel, in hopes of educating the public about all things agriculture. AgBizz plans on hosting an internal case study event in hopes of attending competitions beyond the U of S.

The Judging Team consists of students who are passionate about learning how to judge livestock. They do this through meetings, speakers, and participating in competitions, and are

currently practicing for many upcoming ones this year. They journeyed to Regina as competitors at Agribition.

The Dairy Team is open to all, regardless of the degree they are taking or level of experience they have. They work with industry leaders via dairy shows and presentations, and will be touring 3 local dairies to observe the different styles of operation.

Recently, the Dairy and Beef clubs teamed with Westgen on a 3 day course to learn artificial insemination. The main goal is to attend the Wisconsin World Dairy Expo, so are planning and fundraising. The Moo Moo Pub Crawl was a success. The steak dinner is next up.

Marshall Watson '23
AgBio Clubs Liaison

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Thomas William Drever '39 C Oct. 9, 2021.

Tom was 103 years old. At age 100, he joined us at the 2019 Reunion Banquet, becoming, as far as our records could indicate, our first-ever 80 year graduate to attend.

John Douglas Laurie '44 S Aug. 23, 2021

James Adams '48 S Oct. 2, 2021

William Gordon Till '48 C Apr. 17, 2021

James Calanchie '49 C Jan. 27, 2021

Neil Cameron Heuser '49 C July 26, 2021

Berthold 'Bob' Orphie Bergh '50 C July 14, 2021

John Prodanuk '52 C Aug. 4, 2020

Cecil 'Lloyd' Haight '53 S July 10, 2021

Ian William Hartle '53 S Apr. 21, 2020

Claude Gerard Prefontaine '53 S Aug. 9, 2021

John William Wilbraham '54 S Feb. 21, 2021

Thomas Lawrence Powrie '54 C Aug. 1, 2020

Desmond 'Des' Michael Bormeyer '55 S Aug. 19, 2020

Frank Joseph Ortt '55 S July 12, 2021

Norman Robert Bray '56 C, Aug. 9, 2021

John Kenneth Gronsdahl '57 S, '60 C June 11, 2021

John Herbert Linton '58 C, '61 MSc Apr. 28, 2021

Barry Alfred Raymond '59 S, '63 C Jan. 20, 2021

Charles William 'Mike' Smith '59 S Aug. 8, 2021

Augustine 'Gus' Mike Peesker '61 C Oct.27, 2021

Bernard 'Bernie' Albert Clarkson '62 S June 17, 2021

Harold Paul Rostad '64 C, '68 MSc July 10, 2021

John Wiens '64 C Jan. 5 2021

Gene 'Brian' O'Keefe '65 C June 16, 2021

Eric Vernon Holt '66 C July 2, 2020

Donald Bruce Ferguson '67 S Aug. 11, 2021

Robert James 'Jim' Birch '67 C Aug. 20, 2021

Donald Reinhardt Meyer '68 S, Oct. 6, 2021

Paul M. Boutin '69 S Sept 22, 2021

Garry Alex Conacher '71 S Apr. 15, 2021

Murray 'Dean' Peardon '73 S Apr. 24, 2021

Donald Gary Pfeifer '76 S May 29, 2021

Wade Robert Adamack '89 C June 1, 2021

Friends of the Stone Barn

This committee was first established in 2019 as the “ad hoc Committee on Campus Heritage.” Our primary concern then was not only the fate of the Poultry Science Building and Seed Barn, both of which we believed to be in jeopardy – but the larger issue of how the University was considering its heritage. The ad hoc committee to save the Stone Barn includes Ernie Barber, David Christensen, Hank Classen, Patrick Hayes, Lisa Kirham, Merle Massie, Vera Pezer, Karen Schewan-Lardner, Lindsay Stokalko and Bill Waiser. We have received support from members of SAGA. (SAGA researched a proposal for re-use of the Stone Barn in 2002. Many members donated funds).

We are trying to keep the fate of the Barn front and centre

through a newsletter, and by helping to bring the building to life by preserving and telling the stories and memories of those who worked in it. We have hired two students to assist with an oral history project – if you worked in the Barn, or assisted with research connected to the Barn...we would be pleased to hear from you (please contact Lindsay.Stokalko@usask.ca for more information). What future do we envision for the Barn, its place on campus and its history? We would love to hear from you – and we appreciate all the work SAGA has done in the past to help preserve this iconic structure.

Cheryl Avery is an archivist with the University Archives since 1991.

Saskatchewan Crop Organizations AGMs

Registration is now open for the 2022 Annual General Meetings (AGMs) for the Saskatchewan crop organizations.

Monday, January 10, 2022

8:30 am to 10:45 am	Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan
11:00 am to 12:30 pm	Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch & Market Outlook with Chuck Penner: Wheat
1:45 pm to 2:45 pm	Market Outlook with Chuck Penner: Pulses
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Saskatchewan Pulse Growers

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

8:30 am to 9:45 am	Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission
10:00 am to 11:00 pm	Market outlook with Marlene Boersch: Canola, Flax, Barley
11:15 am to 12:30 pm	Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission
12:30 pm to 2:30 pm	Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission with Complimentary Lunch

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

9:00 am to 11:30 am	Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission
1:00 pm to 2:45 pm	Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

Thursday, January 13, 2022

8:30 am to 2:00 pm	Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission

The **Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates' Association (SAGA)** will be holding its Annual AGM on January 6th, 2022 at 7:00 pm. The link to the meeting, meeting ID, and passcode will be posted on the SAGA website: saskaggrads.com

For more information and to register, please go to saskcrops.com

To become a member of SAGA, simply go to our web page. \$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, 2022

Ewald Lammerding, 2014 Preston Ave. Saskatoon S7J 2E8 OR thesaga@sasktel.net

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