

The Saskatchewan Agriculture Graduates Association (SAGA) proudly represents the interests and accomplishments of graduates from the college and school. This past year was another year of notable accomplishments and contributions.



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Honorary life members for 2020

Harold Chapman ('43 C) grew up on farms near Saskatoon and Meskanaw, Sask. He earned his MSc in Co-operative Extension Education from the University of Wisconsin in 1972. Harold married Mary Bonnett in 1943, then enlisted in the military. From 1944 to 1952, Harold worked as an extension specialist and director of the provincial dept. of Co-operation and Co-operative Development, to help World War II veterans establish co-operative farms. One was the Matador Co-op Farm, the first of its kind in Canada. In 1953, he joined the Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life, established to report on the social and economic structure in Saskatchewan. Harold was the first director of the Co-operative Institute in Saskatoon in 1955, which provided week-long courses on all aspects of co-operatives. Catering primarily to managers, it taught bookkeeping and efficient business practices. In 1973, Harold became member and public relations director with the Federated Co-op for nine years until retiring in 1982.

Harold contributed chapters to two books: *The Contemporary Director and Dignity and Growth: Citizen Participation in Social Change*. In 2012, he wrote the book *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement*. Among his many accolades, Harold received the Order of Canada in 2016, and most recently, the 2019 Saskatoon Citizen of the Year award. His wife, Mary passed away in 2005 after 61 years of marriage. Harold has two children, three granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

Vern Racz ('68 C) was raised on the family farm near Kipling, Sask. Vern began working for the Department of Municipal Affairs in Regina in 1968 but returned to the University of Saskatchewan (USask) for his MSc in 1971. Vern worked as a livestock specialist with Sask Ag in Yorkton until 1980, when he transferred to Saskatoon to work as the provincial swine specialist. In 1984, Vern became director of the Saskatchewan Feed Testing Laboratory at USask, initiating the use of advanced analytical technologies, such as near-infrared analysis and atomic absorption spectroscopy. Under his leadership, submissions to the lab doubled

to more than 10,000 samples per year. In 1998, with feed resource utilization and development his primary interest, Vern became the executive director of the Prairie Feed Resource Centre (now the Feeds Innovation Institute), providing production and research information to livestock producers and the feed industry, in Canada and abroad. Vern retired in 2011 but continued to 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. In 2018, Vern received the Prime of Life Achievement Award from USask. Vern was an active member of SAGA, serving on the executive numerous times, and was the membership chair from 2008 to 2019. With his wife, Charlene, they have three children and seven grandchildren. Vern passed away on Oct. 19, 2019.

Ewald Lammerding ('88 S) ventured west from a dairy farm outside Grand Vally, Ont. at age 17, with stops in Vancouver, Calgary and Banff. He met and married a woman from Moose Jaw, Traci, in 1981. While a VocAg, Ewald initiated the Wheat for Flour program in conjunction with the Saskatoon Food Bank, which the Saskatchewan Vocational Agriculture Association continued for many years. He worked at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Goodale Research Farm cow/calf operation, and with a research herd of muskoxen, a unique experience for his three children to grow up with. Each of his children attended USask. Ewald spent several years as a herdsman with the USask Greenbrae Dairy.

Ewald has made 265 donations to Canadian Blood Services, plus a bone marrow donation. He is a four-time Big Brother and has been part of the SAGA Executive for more than 20 years with involvement in the bonspiel, *The SAGA* in 2008 (editor in 2012) and banquet chair since 2017.

2020 highlights

Congratulations to SAGA members, Bryan Harvey (1960 C, 2015 SAGA HLM) and Jim Halford (1963 C, 2019 SAGA HLM) who were inducted into the Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame.

SAGA Undergraduate Award Scholarships

Our first two scholarships valued at \$3,000 each were awarded at the college's Bean Feed awards ceremony last fall. The recipients were Amanda Loeffen and Brooklyn Bourgeois, both fourth year Animal Bioscience majors.

Details on how to contribute to the scholarship fund can be found at saskaggrads.com.

86th Annual Reunion Weekend

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SAGA executive has cancelled all January 2021 reunion activities. The executive will continue to explore options to safely reschedule the event and will coordinate with the reunion chairs as new plans take shape.

For information and updates follow us on Facebook, Twitter and our website at:
www.saskaggrads.com.