

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 2021

John Hickie (56 S & '59 C) was born on the family homestead near Loon Lake, SK in 1935. The family moved to Waldron, SK, near Melville, where he completed elementary and high school. John initially majored in Crop Science but switched to Farm Management, graduating with great distinction. He obtained his MSc at the University of Guelph in Ag Economics.

He returned to Saskatchewan to work for the Ministry of Agriculture, spending 27 years as a Farm Management Specialist. In this role John influenced hundreds of farmers over the years with his practical approach to the business of farming. He too was a farmer, on 1700 acres near his childhood home. Upon retirement from Sask Ag and Food, he farmed his land full time.

John wished to give back to the community and to the institutions which influenced his life. In this spirit, he made several significant gifts to the University of Saskatchewan (USask), including the establishment of the Major Alfred Frank Mantle Memorial Scholarship in honour of the province's first deputy minister of agriculture. He had managed a similar award during his employment with the ministry that ultimately ran out of funds, and the experience solidified John's belief that Major Mantle's contributions to the agriculture sector should never be forgotten.

John was profiled in the 2019 issue of Agknowledge after donating a section of cropland (known as Perseverance Farm) to USask. The earnings derived from this gift provide enduring support for students at the college by funding scholarships while also ensuring the Major Mantle award remains viable in perpetuity. Through his gift of land to USask, countless students will be given opportunities for an education that helps them to establish rewarding careers in the agriculture sector.

David Christensen ('58 C) Dr. David Christensen (PhD) has spent most of his career in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at USask, 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 known for his expertise in dairy nutrition. He served on the SaskMilk Control Board and as technical advisor to Alberta Milk. His research has included mineral, forage and other feed evaluation. This was done in collaboration with 70 graduate students as well as other researchers.

Dave has been recognized nationally and internationally for his work and has received numerous awards including being named a Member of the Order of Canada (2002), induction into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame (2011) and being awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. But most importantly, Dave has been recognized and respected by the thousands of students that passed through his classroom doors for 50 plus years. He remains active with consulting, assisting graduate student projects and a few guest lectures.

2021 highlights

Bryan Harvey ('60 C)
University of Saskatchewan
Honorary Doctor of Science

World-renowned barley breeder, Dr. Bryan Harvey (PhD) spent four decades contributing to the field of plant science and to the Canadian agriculture economy through his work with the Crop Development Centre at USask. Among his multitude of awards and recognition, Bryan became a SAGA Honorary Lifetime Member in 2015.

SAGA Undergraduate Award
Scholarships

Our second year of funding two scholarships valued at \$3,000 each were awarded at the college's very first virtual Bean Feed awards celebration last fall. The recipients were Baylie Yasieniuk (second and final year of an Agribusiness Diploma) and Jourdyn Sammons (fourth year BSA majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Range Resources).

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

The Pioneering Women of the College of AgBio

Margaret Georgina Landes, 1936 BSA, 1937 MSc was the first woman to graduate from the college. **Irene Ahner '65 C**, has been researching and compiling the histories of the first female AgBio grads, in both the diploma and degree programs. Her results so far can be read in the Dec. 2020 and June 2021 issues of *The SAGA* (saskaggrads.com – Newsletters).

Irene, who ranches NE of Maple Creek, is asking all grads with possible leads and/or pertinent information of the women listed on p.8 of the June 2021 newsletter, to contact her. She can be reached at ireneahner@gmail.com, (306) 662-3463 or Box 939, Maple Creek, SK, S0N 1N0.

87th Annual SAGA Reunion
Weekend

SAGA has tentative plans to hold our reunion activities in-person the weekend of January 7-9, 2022. The Executive is following provincial health regulations and the most up to date information on plans for the reunion can be found at saskaggrads.com. We appreciate the patience of our alumni as these plans are subject to change due to the pandemic. The tentative plan is as follows: the Friday night social at the AgBio Atrium, Saturday hockey tournament in Waldheim and the banquet at TCU Place. The next reunion will include all classes from the postponed 2021 event.

We are pleased to be in discussions with the Chairpersons of *all* 44 of our honour-year classes (from 1941 & 1942 all the way to 2016 & 2017) to accommodate these grads at the banquet on Jan. 8, 2022, plus everyone from before, in-between, and after those years who wishes to attend.

For more information and updates, follow us on facebook, twitter and our website at saskaggrads.com.