

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 2022

Grant D. Wood '79 C retired as a University of Saskatchewan (USask) AgBio faculty member in 2020. With a BSA in Agronomy and Horticulture, he completed his master's degree in Ag Extension in '96. Over the years, Grant has been recognized for his teaching and extension work by the SIA, USask and across Canada. He was also the SAGA President for 2013. One of Grant's initiatives for USask was growing ceremonial tobacco for use in Indigenous ceremonies held on campus. His favourite course to teach was Urban Agriculture, a component of Urban Greening. Both focus on producing locally grown food, and led to the AgBio Rooftop Garden being created. Grant continues to share his passion for urban greening and agriculture, and food security through his volunteer work with inner city communities and Canadian newcomers.

Wilf Keller '69 C earned his PhD in Crop Science at USask, then completed his postdoctoral studies in Germany. He was first employed at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Ottawa, then moved back to Saskatoon in 1990 to work at the Plant Biotechnology Institute, which is part of the National Research Council Canada. In his supposed retirement, Wilf decided to use his acumen at Genome Prairie, then Ag-West Bio. Throughout his science career, Wilf led many research initiatives, with a major focus on canola. He was also part of the team that successfully established the Protein Industries Canada Supercluster. Wilf is a member of both the Saskatchewan and Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. His retirement remains on hold as Wilf is now the Vice President of Outreach with the Ag Institute of Canada.

2022 highlights

We have some excellent must-read stories in our Dec. 2021 and June 2022 issues of *The SAGA*. This includes stories featuring graduates: Allen Hingston '69 C, Chong Sheau Ching '82 C, and Irene Ahner '65 C. All those and more are available at www.saskaggrads.com.

SAGA Undergraduate Award Scholarships

We are pleased to announce our third annual scholarship recipients. Maeve Balmer is studying Animal Bioscience and hails from Calgary, Alta. Courtney Taylor is studying Agribusiness and is from Warner, Alta. SAGA Undergraduate Award Scholarships are funded by fellow Ag grads donations.

Summer 2022 reunion

This past summer we were presented with a novel opportunity to serve our SAGA members in a new way! With pandemic restrictions affecting our last two winter reunions, we decided to explore a Summer 2022 Reunion.

Our plans fell into place when the Crop Development Centre (CDC) offered to share their facilities at the Kernen Crop Research Farm with us. We began the day at the Agriculture Building. The atrium quickly filled with Ag grads eager to (re)connect with each other. Guests were treated to tours of the old Crop Science building, presented by Bryan Harvey '60 C; the recently upgraded Controlled Environment Facility (Phytotron) courtesy of manager Adam Harrison, and the amazing College of AgBio art collection, showcased by AgBio Director of Development, Hamish Tulloch, '91 C. Several of the classes posed for their official 'Class Photo'.

We then headed to Kernen Farm to recognize Honorary Life Member (HLM) recipients of the last two years including: 2022 HLM's Grant D. Wood '79 C & Wilf Keller '69 C; and

2021 HLM's John Hickie '56 S & '59 C & Dave Christensen '58 C. AgBio Associate Dean Academic, Fran Walley, formally recognized these four HLM recipients who hadn't yet had a ceremony due to pandemic restrictions.

In his thank you speech, Dave Christensen intrigued us by recounting the ways the College has changed during his last 65 years. He asked if anyone remembered the 'Snake Dance' and quite a few hands were raised! The oldest member attending was Ross Reynolds, a '53 C grad. He shared with us how in 1951, he and the ladies of Home Ec. organized the first ever Ag Bag Drag.

Barb Stefanyshen-Cote '87 C and Raelene Petracek '86 C operated the refreshment stand, while Lorne McConaghey and Richard Bellamy, '66 School classmates, organized the air-conditioned bus rides.

Students from the Agricultural Students' Association (ASA) and the CDC also attended to sell ASA merchandise, direct traffic and lend a helping hand. Our future Ag grads are an impressive bunch, and we look forward to welcoming them to the SAGA alumni family!

The summer reunion was attended by over 140 members and guests who networked until the gates closed. We had a great time and look forward to the 88th reunion on **January 6-7, 2023**.

For more photos and updates, follow us on Facebook, twitter and our website at saskaggrads.com



All 44 honour year school and college classes ('41 and '42 all the way to '16 and '17) at the Summer 2022 reunion.

Photography by Kaylie Kryz