

The Saskatchewan Agriculture Graduates Association (SAGA) proudly represents the interests and accomplishments of graduates from the college and school.



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90th Annual SAGA Reunion Weekend and Banquet – January 10 and 11, 2025

Our next reunion weekend and banquet will be a celebration of 90 years of University of Saskatchewan (USask) agriculture grads gathering together. SAGA is planning a special weekend and what better place to hold this auspicious celebration than at one of the preeminent places of Saskatchewan agricultural history – the Saskatoon branch of the Western Development Museum (WDM).

Jan. 10, 4 – 7 pm: Friday Night Social at USask Agriculture Building Atrium, guided tours and Gabfest in ASA Lounge

Jan. 11, 7 am – 5:30 pm: SAGA Hockey Tournament in Waldheim

Jan. 11, 4 – 9 pm: Reunion: Banquet at WDM, followed by Mixer, 9 pm – 1 am

Recognition of years 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1985, 1995, 2005, 2015, 2020

Honorary life members for 2024

Dr. Fran Walley '93 PhD is the recently retired associate dean (academic) in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio), and a professor emerita in the Department of Soil Science at USask. Fran grew up dreaming of becoming a vet. As luck would have it, the University of Manitoba (U of M) required pre-vets to take a soil science class taught by Bob Soper, distinguished USask graduate. She was entirely hooked on soils from that point on. Dr. Walley obtained her BSc and MSc from the U of M; then earned her PhD in soil microbiology from USask. She began her career as an assistant professor and extension specialist, when pulse

crops were becoming widely adopted on the prairies. Her extension experience with farmers sparked an active research program in soil nitrogen dynamics and pulse crop agronomy. Fran is the author or co-author of more than 65 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters and has supervised/co-supervised more than 30 graduate students and post docs. Dr. Walley has long been involved in teaching introductory soil science and was particularly proud to share her love of soil science and the College of AgBio with her students.

Janice Tranberg '94 C has been the dual president and CEO of the National and Alberta Cattle Feeders Association based in Calgary, Alberta since 2018. Janice's career path began in rural Saskatchewan where she was raised, first around Balgonie and then Big River. She was drawn to plants and obtained a horticulture diploma from Olds College. Eventually, her love of science led her "back home" to USask, where she received her BSA degree, followed by a MSc ('98) in molecular biology and plant pathology. Janice started working in the "new and really cool" biotechnology sector with Performance Plants, then moved to Ag-West Bio, CropLife Canada, and finally as Executive Director of SaskCanola. Her broad-reaching career has always involved the ag sector where her interests expanded to policy development, regulatory affairs and government relations. Her focus has been on supporting beef producers and advocating for the cattle industry as it dealt with the many unforeseen impacts of COVID.

2024 highlights

Henry de Gooijer '83 C is the 2024 President and Terry Grajczyk '83 C is the Vice-President.

Gabrielle Ayles and John Paul Wasan were recognized as the SAGA Scholarship recipients for 2023-24. Most recently, Ella Grimeau was awarded the SAGA Scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year.

SAGA and the Saskatchewan agriculture community lost two leaders this year,

with the passing of Bob Mc Kercher '54 C in January and Les Henry '64 C in June.

The June SAGA newsletter (available online at saskaggrads.com and to members by email or by mail) contained class photos of the 2024 Reunion, which was a great success.

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame inducted six individuals at a ceremony in April. Among the inductees were ag grads Bruce Coulman '71 C and Leslie Johnson '00 S. Congratulations, Bruce and Les! Also inducted to the Sask. Hall of Fame were Abdul Jalil, Brian Olsen, Grant Carlson and Stewart Stone. Bruce Coulman was also inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame this year!

Stay in touch

If you're a SAGA member and have changed your contact information (email address, mailing address) – please reach out to us, to make sure we have your most up-to-date information:

SAGA membership
memberships@saskaggrads.com

General inquiries
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SAGA reunion and chairperson
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SAGA Treasurer
treasurer@saskaggrads.com

Submit news to The SAGA editors
newsletter@saskaggrads.com

Call for volunteers

SAGA is a volunteer-led organization dedicated to creating community for Sask. agricultural graduates. Each year we need volunteers to be chairpersons to organize their classmates for the annual reunion. Are you interested?

SAGA invites all degree, diploma and certificate graduates of the College of AgBio to join our alumni association. Please see saskaggrads.com for more information.