

TofA #1 Archive June 14 2023 PDF Version FINAL Who's Who History of AFNS Staff (File name)

ABOUT TALES OF ALES :

TALES of ALES: Celebrating the Past, and Changing the Future - Stories about some University of Alberta Professors and their activities from the past, as part of the history of AFNS

The TALES are a series of stories written in retirement by Keith Briggs in 2021 – 2023 as Emeritus Professor of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (AFNS), Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science (ALES) at the University of Alberta. The TALES place into the record some notable agricultural science events and activities for the Archives, stories not previously told or elaborated that may be of interest to the academic, scientific and public communities. They feature Professors or other staff all found in the history of AFNS. The TALES author of record is Keith G. Briggs (AFNS / ALES, on staff 1969-199), with additional authors in some cases.

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ABBREVIATED TITLE:

TALES of ALES #1 : 'Who's Who?' in the history of AFNS academic staff (1908 – 2023)

AUTHOR:

Keith G. Briggs (Emeritus Professor and first Chair AFNS/Faculty of ALES)

FULL TITLE:

TALES of ALES #1 : The 'Who's Who?' of Professors and others in the history of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (AFNS/ALES), including timelines (1908 – 2023)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The following major sources of information are acknowledged: 1. William G. Corns 1965 In: Agriculture Bulletin 1915-1965 Golden Anniversary Edition. A history of the Department of Plant Science, University of Alberta to 1965. pp15-20; 2. William H. Vanden Born 2021/2022 Personal documents and web information kindly provided for use. 3. Web searches by the author and by William Vanden Born, 2021-2022, and many miscellaneous unpublished, published and/or archived University documents

ABSTRACT:

This document is not a TALE at all but presents a chronology of all Professors from 1908 to 2023, and some other staff, timelines of significant Departmental events, and other information about the Departments of Field Husbandry, Field Crops, Horticulture, Plant Science, and Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (AFNS), in the history of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) at the University of Alberta. Years on staff are indicated where known, as well as brief notes about staff activities, in some cases. Some conflicting dates and other information were found in the records.

AUTHOR APOLOGIA:

The author prepared this 'Who's Who?' listing as he was unable to find any complete listing of this kind in the records. The information contained herein is the best that could be found but has not all been independently verified by reviewers. The author recognizes that as of March 2023 some of the information is incomplete or may even be incorrect. During its assembly numerous contradictions and omissions were found in the available records. Any user of this listing should recognize that it does likely contain such errors, for which the author apologizes. Users of this record are therefore asked to correct or advise about any errors or omissions that they do find. They should view this document as a developmental draft of a document that does require additional work and verification. The author thanks in advance those users who do choose to engage in improving the accuracy of the information contained herein. Certainly, most of the staff listed actually deserve longer notes describing what they worked on and achieved. Thank you if you do add to the content, and good luck with that process! The author also hopes that it will be continually updated going forward, as new staff appointments are made in AFNS in the future.

Part A: Timelines (Past Professors and other staff, and Departmental developments, 1908 - 2000)

- 1908 *The University of Alberta was established and opened its' doors for the first enrollments*
- 1915 *The Faculty of Agriculture was established*
- 1915 Ernest A. Howes was appointed Dean of the Faculty (1915 – 1940) Plant breeding, horticulture and agronomy interests
- 1917 *Departments of Field Husbandry and Horticulture were established*
- 1915 George Harcourt (1915 – 1935; Special Assistant to Dean Howes; Lecturer, Field Husbandry and Horticulture = FHH)
- 1917 Garnet Homer Cutler (BSA Toronto; PhD Wisconsin) First Department Head of FHH. With Carl Scholl, developed experimental plot land on North Campus for crops research; Later became Assistant Chief, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University. Cutler tested and introduced varieties of cereals, grasses, legumes and potatoes for use in production in northern and western parts of the Province, the first such regional crop adaptation research ever conducted in the Province. The Department later extended this field testing work to a wider range of forage crops and to fruits and ornamentals
- 1917 *Carl Scholl assisted Cutler in completing the first surveys of North campus, and established designated research plot areas then used for the first field crop research programs of the Faculty*
- 1918 Guthrie Brown Sanford (BSA McGill; 1918 - 1922) Lecturer and, with Cutler, the first barley breeder in Alberta. Later became Officer-in-Charge of the on-campus Canada Dept. of Agricultural Pathology Laboratory from 1925 – 1928. Awarded Fellowship of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Served on the University of Alberta Senate and Board of Governors
- 1919 Robert Newton (BSA McGill; 1922 PhD Minnesota; Later Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (FRSC) and Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (FAIC); 1919 – 1932) Taught crops and agronomy, especially for returning war veterans. At this time the population of Edmonton was still only 60,000. Appointed Department Head of the newly named Field Crops Department in 1927. Cyril Conway was his general assistant who looked after details of Departmental facilities and operations'. J. W. Hopkins is also mentioned as an invaluable Departmental assistant to Newton, and later to Department Heads Aamodt, Neatby and McCalla. In 1932 Newton left the University of Alberta to become Director of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council. Newton worked on many projects but his pioneering research using forage storage in barrels to measure silage quality of forages including sunflowers was unique at that time, Subsequently became Dean of the Faculty (1940), and then President of the University of Alberta (1941).
- 1920 *The University buys 380 acres of land for use by the Faculty of Agriculture, an area later known as 'South Campus'*
- 1920 *All Faculty of Agriculture campus facilities moved to the west end of the 'North Lab'*

- 1920 James R. Fryer joined the Department of Field Crops (DFC); 1920 – 1949; Specialized in plant genetics and plant breeding, releasing alfalfa and corn varieties. Became Head of the Department
- 1925 Mr. Buckley appointed as Assistant Professor of field husbandry (1925 - 1927)
- 1927 Arthur Wellesley Henry (1927 – 1962 PhD Univ. of Minnesota 1923). He became very well known internationally for his research, for his teaching and supervision of undergraduate and graduate students, and as a very active participant in extension with farmers. Appointed as Assistant Professor and Chair of plant pathology. Was previously instructor of plant pathology at the University of Saskatchewan from 1917 to 1920 and was also previously an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota. He specialized in basic and applied research about seed and soil born pathogens, and flax rusts, and established the University of Alberta as the major Canadian training center for crop plant pathology. He released a flax variety. Was a career long researcher with the Alberta campus based Provincial Pathology Laboratory (later renamed the Crop Clinic Laboratory of the Provincial Government) and was very active in the Alberta Branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Canadian Phytopathological Society. His contributions were rated as outstanding nationally and internationally. He received an Alberta Achievement Award in Agricultural Education and Research in 1976. In 1980 he also received the Phytopathological Society Award for outstanding research
- 1927 The Department of Field Crops was re-arranged into specialty areas by Newton: Cereal Crop Breeding, Forage Crop Breeding, Plant Pathology, Plant Biochemistry and Field Crop Experimentation. Cyril Kenway was hired as a Departmental general assistant to Newton, to set up record keeping systems and resources for photography and laboratory teaching and research. A Mr. J. W. Hopkins Sr. also assisted with administration, as Departmental Secretary and Field Superintendent*
- 1928 Olaf Aamodt was appointed to DFC (1928 – 1935) Specialized in cereal breeding; Became Chair of Field Crops in 1932, and left in 1935 to be Head of the Plant Science Department at the University of Wisconsin
- 1930 University purchases 240 acres West of 'South Campus', used for animal forage/feed until 1970, when the best land was fenced for research use by the new cereal and oilseed breeding programs of the Department of Plant Science*
- 1935 Kenneth W. Neatby was appointed as Chair of Field Crops (1935 – 1941; FRSC; FAIC) Specialty was in drought resistance and rust resistant grain varieties; Neatby resigned in 1941 to be Director of Northwest Line Elevators Farm Service Division in Winnipeg, then moved to Ottawa to be Director of Science Services. His career long contributions to agriculture were so great that the K. W. Neatby Research Building at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa was named after him
- 1935 A separate Department of Horticulture was formed*

- 1935 James Sheldon Shoemaker was appointed to Head the newly created Department of Horticulture (1935 - 1946). He was known for breeding gladioli and for publishing many horticultural bulletins and books
- 1940 W. Boyes (BSc Saskatchewan, PhD Wisconsin) 1940 -1942)
- 1940 Robert Newton is appointed Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, replacing Dean Howes who had passed away
- 1941 Robert Newton is appointed President of the University of Alberta
- 1941 Arthur Gilbert McCalla, previously a Research Associate in Field Crops, was appointed Professor of Field Crops (PhD California; 1941 - 1970?)
- 1944 Arthur McCalla (PhD California 1941) was appointed Head of Field Crops after a period as Acting Head. His specialty was in the basic physical chemistry of cereal proteins, and factors affecting grain quality for milling and baking. He also taught crop production, biometrics and field experimentation
- 1944 *The Departments of Field Crops and Horticulture were merged to form the Department of Plant Science*
- 1944 *A new Division of Genetics and Plant Breeding was created within the Plant Science Department, with Dr. Fryer as its nominal head, and was later spun off to the Faculty of Science as a new Department of Genetics. At that time the Department of Genetics consisted of Drs. L. P. V. Johnson, J. Weijer, W. E. Smith, J. Kuspira, K. Lesins and G. W. R. Walker*
- 1945 *Parkland Farm was acquired for Plant Science field research (and eventually became part of 'South Campus')*
- 1946 Robert James Hilton (BSc Macdonald, PhD London; 1946 - 1956) was appointed Associate Professor of horticulture to replace Shoemaker, who had left to be Head of the Horticulture Department at Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. Prior experience included commercial research and extension experience in pomology, vegetable and fruit production in Nova Scotia
- 1946 William G. Corns was appointed as Assistant Professor, to specialize in crop ecology, plant growth regulators and use of selective herbicides. (BSA and MSc Alberta; PhD Toronto; (1946 – 1970). Corns had a high teaching load, dealing with a surging postwar interest in careers in agriculture by returning veterans after WW II, and was also responsible for the Departmental biochemistry laboratory. He was also one of the leading W. Canadian researchers seeking ways to control weeds using herbicides. Known for his diverse interests and skills, Corns had even researched how to make rubber from grain (in the war years) and spent three years working on research with the Federal Fisheries Board
- 1946 Paul F. Knowles (BSc Saskatchewan, PhD California; 1947 – ?) was appointed as Assistant Professor of genetics and plant breeding, replacing Dr. W. Boyes who had moved to McGill University. His specialty was cereal research and instruction
- 1947 W. E. Smith (MSc Alberta; 1947 – 1970) was appointed as Field Superintendent and Assistant Professor of forages, after completing his PhD in flax genetics at Nebraska in 1948. He became Professor of genetics at the University of Alberta
- 1948 Jack E. Fitzsimmons was appointed Field Superintendent (MSc Alberta; 1948 – 1970)
- 1948 R. H. Knowles (1948 – 1984) was appointed as Associate Professor of horticulture (BSc Ontario Agricultural College, BSc Landscape architecture, Michigan State, MSc Alberta; PhD; 1948

- 1950) He had also been campus Superintendent of Grounds during earlier years at the University
- 1948 Leroy P. V. (LPV) Johnson was appointed as Associate Professor of genetics and plant breeding (MSc Alberta, PhD Washington State; 1948 - 1970) His specialization was barley genetics, breeding and improvement, and population genetics.
- 1949 John Unrau was appointed Assistant Professor of genetics and plant breeding (BSA Saskatchewan, PhD Washington State; 1949 – death in 1961) His research group specialized in the study of cytogenetics and spring wheat breeding
- 1951 *Arthur McCalla became Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture (following the death of Dean Robert Sinclair) and in 1959 moved on to become the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, whilst retaining his position in the Plant Science Department*
- 1951 *John Unrau became Head of the Department of Plant Science following Dr. McCalla*
- 1952 Saul Zalik (MSc Manitoba, PhD Purdue 1952 - 1986) appointed Assistant Professor of plant physiology and biochemistry. Became Full Professor in 1964. Taught biometrics, also did research on plant morphogenesis, and grain quality of cereals and oilseeds
- 1953 *Clayton Person (Plant Science graduate student) was awarded the first PhD degree given by the University of Alberta, entitled 'Chromosome movement in a haploid of Triticum aestivum L.' Person became Chair of the Genetics Department in 1961. He was awarded an OBE for the international impact from his research on the genetics of plant/pathogen interactions*
- 1954 *New Agriculture Building was opened on Saskatchewan Drive, for all Faculty of Agriculture staff*
- 1954 John Kuspira (BSA, MSc (Sask); PhD (Alberta); 1954 – 1990 Appointed professor of plant genetics And cytology. Known as an inspiring and demanding teacher, and contributed extensively to the basic knowledge about the chromosomal genetics of the grass family and evolutionary origins of spring wheat
- 1957 Jan Weijer (from Holland) appointed in horticulture but in 1959 transferred to the field of genetics and radiation biology
- 1959 William T. Andrew (BSc Alberta, MSc Utah State, PhD Michigan; 1959 - 1987?) Vegetable specialist appointed as Associate Professor of horticulture
- 1959 William P. Skoropad (BSc 1950 and MSc Genetics 1951 Alberta, PhD Wisconsin; 1959 – 1982) appointed as Assistant Professor of plant pathology, became Head of the Plant Pathology Division, as a specialist in cereal crop diseases. Previous work experience was as a grade school teacher in Alberta and included work on potato diseases at the Canada Agricultural Plant Pathology Service lab (on campus). Became Full professor in 1967. Was Assistant Dean from 1967 to 1968, and was Acting Chair, later Chair of the Dept. of Plant Science. After retirement in 1982 he spent time at the Njoro Plant Breeding Station of the Kenyan Government, training staff in oilseed pathology. That project was managed by the University of Manitoba and was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. Career long research specialties included the epidemiology and genetics of barley scald, use of radiation to control grain storage molds, and mechanisms of fungal penetration of plants, the latter using the anthracnose disease of cereals caused by *Colletotrichum graminicola* as a model system. He published over 50 research papers and

was President of the Canadian Phytopathological Society of Canada and Charter member of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta from 1968 to 1969. He was also active in the Alberta institute of Agrologists and the American Phytopathological Society. Professor Skoropad passed away in 1993 after a truly stellar career in teaching, extension and research

- 1959 *Horticultural Native Fruit Station, Crimson Lake, established on Provincial Parkland land near Rocky Mountain House, jointly by the Department of Plant Science. Dr. Hilton, W. E. Evans and the Canada Department of Agriculture cooperated to establish this new facility to support the Prairie Fruit Tree Breeding Project out of Edmonton*
- 1959 *Woodbend Field Station (1/4 section, N of Devon) gifted to the Faculty by Imperial Oil Co., for studies of native vegetation control and grassland improvement using herbicides (for Dr. Bill Corns research interests)*
- 1961 *Department of Genetics formed in the Faculty of Science, with Dr. Clayton Person as its first Head*
- 1961 *William Corns appointed as Acting Head, then full Head, of the Plant Science Department*
- 1961 *Ellerslie University Farm acquired*
- 1961 William H. Vanden Born (MSc Alberta, PhD Toronto; 1961 - 1998) appointed as Assistant Professor of crop ecology
- 1962 Edward W. Toop (BSc UBC, PhD Ohio; 1961 – 1986?) appointed as Assistant Professor of horticulture (floriculture)
- 1962 Nicholas (Nick) Colotelo (BSc Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph; 1961 - 1983?) appointed as Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology
- 1962 Mary Spencer (BA Saskatchewan, MA Bryn Mawr, PhD California; 1962 - 1989) Transferred from the Faculty of Medicine) to Plant Science as Associate Professor of plant biochemistry, became Full Professor in 1964, and eventually Distinguished University Professor, internationally recognized for her research on the role of ethylene in plants. Appointed Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1976 and received the Canadian Society of Plant Physiology (CSPP) medal in 1991. Very active in the CSPP as VP and then President role in 1970-1971. Also held senior positions on the National Research Council and the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Further honors included the Order of Canada (2021), and Queen Elizabeth II Silver Medal (1997), Golden medal (2002) and Diamond Jubilee medal (2012). Professor Spencer was also well known for her national and local roles in continuing the promotion of women to enter careers in science. The Mary E. Spencer Award was established in 2018 'To recognize outstanding research in the field of plant biology and active public service engagement in the plant biology community by a mid-career researcher'.
- 1962 L. E. Tyner (BSc Alberta, PhD) was transferred as an Associate to Plant Science from the Federal Laboratory of Plant Pathology when the latter was closed
- 1965 *Department of Plant Science has 21 graduate students and 4 divisions: Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, and Weed Science and Ecology*
- 1966 Arthur (Art) W. Bailey (PhD Oregon 1966; 1966 – 1997) Appointed Assistant Professor of weed science, then reassigned as first professor of range management. Later

jointly appointed in the Department of Renewable Resources. Authority in fire ecology and prescription burning: Co-author of (1) Fire Ecology, pub Wiley Scientific, still in press in 2022; (2) Peters, S. B. R. and A. W. Bailey 1977 Range improvement in Alberta - a literature review: A project of the Plant Science 515 class, 433 pages; 1997 Received N. American Society for Range Management W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award 'For promoting and teaching range management and promoting the discipline'. Other awards included: 1996 University of Alberta Agriculture Club Award for Teaching Excellence, 'Best Teacher Award'; 1993 Society of Range Management 'Outstanding Rangeland Award', International Mountain Section; 2005 Range Research Award - the Agriculture Canada Gold Harvest Award; Founder and long-term promoter of two major Endowed University Funds in support of the undergraduate Range Team, and of related Range Management student activities in the Faculty; Formed the Grazing Management Inter-Departmental undergraduate program (jointly with professors Peter Walton, Jane King and Robert Hudson)

- 1966 Chuji Hiruki (PhD Kiyushu, Japan; 1966 - 1999) Distinguished University Professor; Virology, mycoplasma and biotechnology. Over the course of his career, he became a worldwide authority on plant diseases caused by viruses and mycoplasmas, and an international consultant on biotechnological and agricultural issues. He was recognized with many awards and honors for his work in plant pathology, including the McCalla Professorship, American Phytopathology Fellow, Royal Society of Canada Fellowship, University of Alberta Distinguished University Professor, Canadian Phytopathological Society Fellow, J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research, and Canadian Phytopathological Society Outstanding Research Award. In 2018, Chuji was conferred the Order of the Sacred Treasure (Gold Rays with Rosette) an award of appreciation from the Emperor of Japan to those who have made distinguished contributions to their field. Chuji loved flowers and gardening, photography, and traveling. He especially enjoyed cultivating and studying camellias
- 1969 Keith G. Briggs (BA, MA, Dip. Agric. Sci., Cambridge, England, PhD Manitoba; 1969 – 1999) appointed as Assistant Professor of cereal crops, plant breeding and agronomy; Chair of Plant Science for seven years, and was the first and founding Chair of the newly formed Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science for three years. Author in 2023 of TALES OF ALES, stories from the past history and roots of scientific and other professorial developments of AFNS from 1908 -2023. Taught advanced plant breeding, crop science and biometrics for plant scientists. Seconded to the University of Manitoba /Canadian International Development Agency, stationed at Njoro, Kenya (Government of Kenya National Plant Breeding Station) to head the Kenyan cereal breeding program, and to train Kenyan plant breeders (1981-1983). Major research interests included evaluation of Regional Variety Adaptation in Alberta (including publication of variety descriptions for grower use in Alberta), production agronomy studies of cereals, genetics and agronomy of crop adaptation to acidic soils, and the genetics of tolerance to soil acidity, including aluminum, manganese, copper and related conditions. With Professor Gregory Taylor (Faculty of Science) was a founder of the continuing International Symposium 'Plant-Soil Interactions at low pH'. Plant stress studies included drought, straw strength and lodging tolerance. The genetics of disease resistance for scald in barley and stripe rust and leaf rust in wheat was also studied, as well as collecting field data for the Canadian first

molecular genetic map for barley. During two sabbaticals Briggs studied scald resistance in barley and wheat tolerance to drought (W. Australia 1978), and wheat tolerance to extreme heat (Chiang Mai, Thailand 1988). Throughout his PhD studies and University research career Briggs maintained a close working and research relationships with the International Wheat program based in Mexico (CIMMYT = Centro Internacional de Maiz Y Trigo). A highlight arising from this was wheat breeder Dr. Norman Borlaug's visit to the Faculty in Edmonton at Plant Science Chair Briggs' invitation. This was very notable as Borlaug was the only agriculturalist to have ever received a Nobel peace Prize, and was able to share his always inspirational views and enthusiasm with students and staff alike.

Crop varieties were released by Briggs for spring wheat in both Kenya and Canada, as well as oat, barley and fall rye varieties bred by previous University of Alberta cereal breeders). The most significant varieties developed by Briggs included Glenlea wheat (from his PhD research in Manitoba), that established an entirely new class of wheat, the Canada Western Extra Strong (gluten) Spring (CWES) Wheat class. This variety was the *de facto* grain quality class standard, and was produced on an average 0.5 million hectares per year for 32 years after its registration in 1970. Laser CWES spring wheat was also developed by Briggs (and Kibite), the first shorter strawed variety with vastly best in-class straw strength, suitable for straight cutting. Also developed was the first acid soil tolerant Canada Western Red Spring wheat, named Alikat. Also released was the semi-dwarf Canada Prairie Spring (CPS) wheat variety Cutler, the earliest maturing wheat ever released in W. Canada, well suited to the short seasons of the Parkland crop zone.

Apologia note by Briggs, the author of this 'Who's Who': I certainly did not intend that my entry would be the longest one in the 'Who's Who?! Many others in this list deserve notes longer than mine about their many accomplishments, for sure. The outcome was hard to avoid..... It's just that I am the one person that I know most about!

- 1969 Zenon P. Kondra (BSA Manitoba, MSc Saskatchewan, PhD Manitoba; 1969 - 1988) Appointed as Assistant Professor of oilseeds and special crops. Taught plant breeding and established the first canola breeding program at the University of Alberta. With Professor Baldur Steffanson, Kondra was the co-breeder of the very first canola variety released in Canada, named Tower and registered in 1974. Kondra's research included agronomic and genetic studies of canola, as well as projects on other oilseed and special crops. He also completed early research on the University of Alberta use of a doubled haploid 'fast track' breeding system which later became another important tool in the breeding of canola variety by subsequent canola breeders at the University of Alberta. The broad genetic base of earlier maturing canola necessary for short season production zones, such as in the Parkland zone, was an important genetic legacy at the University when he retired in 1988. His variety Altex (the first of a number of canola variety releases) was widely grown in the Prairie region, and established a new benchmark for combining earlier maturity with improved yield and straw strength. In a joint program with author Briggs, Kondra was also co-project manager that in 1970 restarted a comprehensive

Regional Variety Testing Program for Alberta, with up to 25 testing sites throughout the Province. This networked testing program continues in 2023 producing annually updated new and old variety description adaptation data for Alberta cereal and oilseed producers. In 2023 the current publication describing the major collaborative work done to carry on this important work could be viewed with a web search using the words 'varieties of cereal and oilseed varieties for Alberta', on the Alberta Government Open Government Resource Program website.

- 1969 Peter D. Walton (PhD Lancaster; 1969 - 1995) appointed as Professor of forage crops. Developed a disease resistant alfalfa variety, and conducted basic research about tolerance to cold, drought and salinity in grass species (*Triticeae*), seeking suitable genetic sources to transfer into domesticated species. In the area of forage production Walton completed research on the use of companion crops that could be used to optimize the establishment of cultivated grasses, and also studies on quackgrass control in forage lands. Walton's academic advice to students was well respected by students and staff alike, and was frequently sought. He is now deceased but his colleagues described him as a 'full on' academic, personable and passionate about research and discovery in his field. He was Department Chair of Plant Science from 1975 to 1981. Originally from the UK, Walton had gained prior agronomic experience prior to 1969 in international research with the Empire Cotton Corporation in Africa, followed by several years as a professor at the University of Saskatchewan. At different times in his career he also worked overseas in various international programs in Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.
- 1969 Ton Phan (PhD : 1969 -1979) appointed as Assistant Professor of plant physiology
- 1973 Mary Jane Davies (Horticulture Diploma, Olds College - Best women's grades award;(1973 -1985) Appointed as technician in 1973 for the Andrew, Knowles and Toop horticulture group, then in 1974 for Professors Corns and Bailey (weed control and range management). From 1975 worked fulltime for Bailey, specializing in plant identification, grassland vegetation / sampling, and range burning ecology and management; Later became Technologist, established the range management herbarium and became the first University of Alberta Coach for the team that was the first-time competitor at the international Society for Range Management meetings; Continued coaching until retirement; Taught the Range Management section of the Forestry Camp (Hinton), and about the forest floor vegetation for the Forestry Department; 1984 Appointed Honorary President of the Faculty Agriculture Student Club, and received the 'Best Teacher Award' from the same Club. Before and after retirement became an in-demand consultant for on-site ecological vegetation identification, sampling and analysis. Some of those projects included Field collection and analysis of the Professor Bailey Anthropological field study at Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump; Rare and endangered species studies in Banff National Park (Sunshine road interchange, airstrip, 'Indian Village' grounds, day-use picnic sites); Botanical assessment of, the Quad ski lift at Lake Louise; Pipeline right of way studies near Medicine Hat and Hardisty, involving location mapping, and the saving and relocation of endangered species; Teaching plant identification in the Reclamation Course, Olds College
- 1976 Arnost Horak (MSc, Charles, Prague, PhD Manitoba; 1976 – 1988) appointed as Associate Professor of biochemistry and plant physiology

- 1979 Jalpa 'JP' Tewari (1979 – 2003) appointed as Assistant Professor of plant pathology
- 1979? E. Ann Clarke (BSc, MSc California; PhD Iowa State) Assistant Professor of forages, cropping and organic production systems (1979 ? - 1983?) Moved to University of Guelph
- 1983 Barry Irving Hired by Dr. Art Bailey, managed his research program at the Kinsella Research Ranch
 1985 Appointed as a full-time research and teaching technologist working with Professor Bailey. Assumed the role of Coach of the University of Alberta Range Team and taught the laboratory portions of ENCS 356, 406, 471, and 407, responsible for roughly half of the instructional marks for those 4 classes. 1996 Promoted to Ranch Manager for the Kinsella Research Ranch and Ministik Wildlife Research Center. Assumed full responsibility for instruction of the Range Team and ENCS 407. 2002 Completed Ph.D. in Rangeland and Wildlife Management. 2006 Promoted to Administrative Professional Officer, and assumed management and budget responsibilities for the Crops Unit, Metabolic Unit, Feedmill, and Composter. 2008 St. Albert Research Station and Mattheis Research Ranch added to managerial responsibilities. Gradually took over budget and management oversight of the Dairy Research and Technology Unit, Swine Research and Technology Unit, and Poultry Unit. 2013 Promoted to Faculty Service Officer. Held the management responsibilities for 25,000 acres of land, about 30 non-academic staff and \$4 million in annual expenditures supported by \$3 million in annual sales of agricultural products. 2018 Retired after 35 years of service to the University of Alberta. During his time as Range Team instructor the team amassed 57 team awards with 14 first place team awards and 108 individual awards including 21 individual first places, in total 165 awards. The University of Alberta Range Team was the highest awards winning team from over 27 universities that competed at the Society for Range Management Undergraduate Competitions with teams from Canada, the USA and Mexico. In recognition of this achievement Barry was awarded the W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award from the Society for Range Management for eaching range management and promoting the discipline. This is the second highest award given by the Society for Range Management. Barry was elected President of the Society for Range Management in 2019. Prior awards included the U of Agriculture Club outstanding teacher award (twice) and the Outstanding Teaching Award given by the Society for Range Management and the North American Range Science Education Council 2006)
- 1981 *New Agriculture - Forestry building is completed. Keith Briggs is the first occupant, then moved to the CIDA aid program in Kenya (1981 – 1983) as project leader for the cereal breeding program of the Government of Kenya at Njoro, Rift Valley, Kenya. During this time he was seconded to the University of Manitoba, who administered the CIDA program*
- 1984 Jane King (PhD Liverpool UK; 1984 - 2013) appointed as Assistant Professor of forage crops
- 1986 N. Rick Knowles (PhD Washington State; 1986 – 1995) appointed as Associate Professor of horticulture (vegetables / potatoes). Moved to Washington State University as potato research specialist
- 1986 *Briggs (with canola breeder colleague Kondra) developed the first University policies in W. Canada that allowed royalties to be charged on seed sales of University released plant varieties. This policy, initially extremely controversial in the crop industry, subsequently allowed multi-million dollars of seed royalties to be gained for use in continuing University of Alberta breeding programs,*

especially in the case of the University canola breeding program. The policies were later emulated by other W. Canadian agricultural Faculties with plant breeding programs

- 1987 Anne M. Johnson - Flanagan (PhD Victoria 1985; 1987 – 2000) appointed as Assistant Professor of oilseed biotechnology. Led the first forays into the discipline of molecular biology and biotechnology applications in plants at the University of Alberta. This included the inauguration of the Annual Alberta Plant Biotechnology Workshop held at Banff. This became the annual meeting of choice for Alberta graduate students and other researchers throughout the province to present their posters and scientific talks about their ongoing biotechnology work. Prestigious leading plant biotechnology researchers from N. America were featured as guest speakers. Johnson-Flanagan moved to Victoria BC for a career switch into patent consultation, registration and management
- 1988 William H. R. Langridge (PhD Massachusetts 1973; 1987 – 1993) Appointed as Associate Professor of plant biotechnology and molecular biology. Moved to School of Medicine, Loma Linda University, California
- 1988 A. Aladar Szalay (PhD Martin Luther University, Germany 1971; 1988 – 1993) Appointed as Professor of plant biotechnology and molecular biology; Moved to School of Medicine, Loma Linda University, California
- 1988 Gary R. Stringam (PhD Saskatchewan ; 1989 – 2002) Appointed as Canola Research Chair and Professor. His impactful research in canola breeding was recognized by his receiving the 1999 Alberta AsTech Award for Innovation in Agricultural Sciences. He used the Doubled Haploid Breeding System to improve the efficiency of the breeding program, that then resulted in the release of the variety Quantum in 1995. This first ever blackleg resistant variety essentially saved the Canadian canola industry from potential collapse from severe disease levels, as it went on to occupy over 30% of the annual W. Canadian acreage. The value of Quantum to the canola industry was placed conservatively at \$285 million just from production in 1995 to 1998. Further varieties were also released including Q2, Hi-Q and herbicide tolerant varieties, with improved yield and grain quality. Stringam published over 40 scientific research papers, and supervised numerous MSc and PhD graduate students.
- 1996 Ian Morrison (B. Sc. And MSc in Agriculture, University of Alberta. PhD Melbourne, Australia) Appointed Professor and Dean in 1996, but tragically died from an equestrian accident in 2006. Specialist in cropping systems especially herbicide uses and the discovery of and management of herbicide resistant weeds. Previously Chair of the Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba
- 2005 Linda Hall (PhD Saskatchewan ; 2005 – 2021) appointed as Professor of herbicide research and crop agroecology
- 2014 Stanford (Stan) Blade. (BSc Genetics, University of Alberta; MSc Crop Science in wheat breeding/physiology at the University of Saskatchewan; PhD McGill University (based on work at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, holding a Canadian International Development Agency Scholarship). Completed Wharton Business School Executive Development Program in 2012 (University of Pennsylvania); Professional Agrologist, appointed as Full Professor in AFNS and Faculty Dean in 2014 – continuing in 2023; *Major Research achievements*: Dean Blade's specialty areas are in plant breeding / wheat and grain legumes / cropping systems. Plant breeding achievements include

cowpea development in Sub-Sahara Africa and registration of Outlook field-pea variety in W. Canada; He is widely recognized and in demand for his broad educational contributions and R&D experiences concerning the role of innovation in creating prosperity in the agricultural and food sectors, especially as an external program adviser and reviewer. He has published 90+ research articles, 10 book chapters, 170+ conference abstracts, and has edited 4 books. *Major Awards include:* 2018 International Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry; 2022 Province of Alberta Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal; Premier's Award for Excellence in the building of Alberta's diversified crops industry (Stan Blade and his Team); Winner of awards from the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America, and editorial reviewer for numerous scientific journals. *Major Board Memberships and Consulting:* Trustee and later Deputy Director of Research for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture; Past Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Africa Agricultural Technology Foundation (in Nairobi supported by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation); Board Member of Edmonton Global; Founding Executive Director of Alberta Innovates BioSolutions; *Major Research and Program Reviewer and Speaker Invitations:* Harvard Agribusiness Seminars; Oxford Scenarios Program; European Institute of Innovation and Technology, European Union, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Food and Agriculture Organization, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (Canada), and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation; Board of Telus World of Science; Edmonton Public Library. A 'farm boy' from Millet, as he describes himself, Dean Blade brings grassroots practicality to all of his activities related to furthering the improvement of teaching and R&D in the Faculty of ALES

Part B: Timelines (Continuing AFNS plant science Professors as of 2023)

2022 Members of the Division of Plant Biosystems, Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (Source: AFNS website September 2022: Continuing Professors, listed by year of appointment)

Acronyms used here to indicate general research areas of individual Plant Biosystems staff:

- PBG = Plant Breeding and Genetics (Conventional and biotechnology driven breeding of crops for improved quality, yield and organic production)
- CB = Crop Biotechnology (Application of molecular biology to identify, characterize and validate novel genes for crop improvement, with particular emphasis on oilseed lipid synthesis as well as the biosafety of transgenic crops)
- CP = Crop Protection (Understanding of crop interactions with parasites, pathogens and weeds, the mechanisms of these relationships and development of management strategies)
- PP = Plant Physiology (Understanding biochemical and genetic regulation of vegetative and reproductive growth and development in agronomic crops)
- AGR = Agronomy (Development of sustainable agricultural practices that optimize crop production for crop yield and quality, and integrating plant breeding and development into crop production)
- REM = Rangeland Ecology and Management (Improving the productivity and sustainability of

- rangeland ecosystems with studies in forage production and agronomy, management and planning, monitoring and assessment, rangeland improvement and restoration, and the provision of diverse ecosystem goods and services)
- 1992 Jocelyn Ozga (PhD Michigan State 1989; 1992 - cont.) Assistant Professor of horticulture and crop physiology CB; PP
- 1997 Edward Bork (PhD Utah State 1997; 1997 - cont.) Professor and Mattheis Chair in rangeland ecology and management; Director, Rangeland Research Institute CP; AGR; REM
- 1999 Dean M. Spaner (PhD McGill 1996; 1999 - cont.) Professor of plant breeding and organic agriculture PBG; AGR
- 2002 Nat Kav (PhD Calgary 1992; 2002 - cont.) Associate Dean and Professor of plant molecular biology, genetic engineering and international development CB; CP
- 2002 Habib Rahman (PhD Copenhagen 1989; 2002 - cont.) Professor of canola genetics and molecular Biology PBG; CB
- 2002 Rong-Cai Yang (PhD, Saskatchewan 1989; 2002- cont.) Professor of statistical genetics, population genomics and spatial statistics PBG
- 2003 Steven Strelkov (PhD Manitoba 2002; 2003 - cont.) Assistant Professor of plant pathology CB; CP
- 2013 Cameron Norman Carlyle (PhD University of British Columbia 2012; 2013 – cont.) Associate Professor of rangeland ecology (Head of Plant BioSystems) REM
- 2017 Gavin (GuanQun) Chen (PhD University of HongKong 2008; 2017 – cont.) Associate Professor and Canada Chair in Lipid Biotechnology PBG; CB; PP
- 2019 Sheau-Fang Hwang (PhD Washington 1983; 2019 – cont.) Professor of applied plant pathology CB; CP; AGR
- 2019 Malinda Thilakarathna (PhD University of Dalhousie 2013; 2019 - cont.) Assistant Professor, of agronomy and plant/microbial interactions including nitrogen fixation PP; AGR; REM
- 2019 Boyd Mori (PhD Alberta 2019; 2019 - cont.) Assistant Professor of integrated pest management, including insects in field and horticultural agroecosystems CB; CP
- 2020 Linda Gorim (PhD Hohemheim, Stuttgart, Germany 2014; 2020 - cont.) Assistant Professor and Western Grains Research Foundation Chair in Cropping Systems AGR

Script continues on p15 please read on !

Part (C) 1917 – 2022: Chairs of the Departments of Field Husbandry, Field Crops, Horticulture, Plant Science, and Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (AFNS)

(NB Some earlier dates may be incorrect as conflicting information was found in the records)

Field Husbandry	1917 - 1927	Garnet H. Cutler	Field husbandry
Field Crops	1927 - 1932	Robert Newton	Field crops
			(1940 Dean of Agriculture, then in 1941 University President)
	1932 - 1935	Olaf Aamodt	Cereal breeding
	1935 - 1941	Kenneth Neatby	Grains research: Drought and rust tolerance
	1941 - 1944	Arthur G. McCalla	Cereal protein chemistry and quality
Horticulture	1915 - 1935	Ernest A. Howes	Field husbandry and horticulture
	1935 - 1944	James Sheldon Shoemaker	Horticulture
Plant Science	1944	John (?) R. Fryer	Genetics and plant breeding
Plant Science	1944 - 1951	Arthur Gilbert McCalla	Cereal protein chemistry and grain quality
	1951 - 1961	John Unrau	Cytogenetics and cereal breeding (Deceased 1961)
	1961 - 1970	William G. Corns	Crop ecology and weed management
	1970 - 1975	William H. Vanden Born	Crop ecology and weed management
	1975 - 1980	Peter D. Walton	Forage crops, agronomy and plant breeding
	1980 - 1982	William P. Skoropad	Plant pathology
	1982 - 1987	William H. Vanden Born	Crop ecology and weed management
	1987 - 1994	Keith G. Briggs	Cereal breeding and agronomy
AFNS	1994 - 1997	Keith G. Briggs	Cereal breeding and agronomy
	1997 – 2004	John J. Kennelly	Cattle nutrition, metabolism, dairy
	2003 – 2004 (6m) Vice-Chair	Peter Sporns	Food chemistry
	2004 – 2005 Acting Chair	Peter Sporns	Food chemistry
	2005 – 2014	Erasmus Okine	Ruminant nutrition and metabolism
	2014 – 2015	Spencer Proctor	Human nutrition
	2015 – 2020	Ruurd T. Zijlstra	Swine and carbohydrate nutrition
	2020 – 2021	Spencer Proctor	Human nutrition
	2021 – cont.	Heather Bruce	Carcass and meat science