

# WALSAA EXPRESS

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FRIENDS



UW Madison • 116 Agricultural Hall • 1450 Linden Drive • Madison WI 53706 • PHONE (608) 262-5784 • FAX (608) 265-5905

## Short Course Reunion Set For Jan. 28

The annual Short Course Alumni Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28, in Pooley's Restaurant and Sports Bar at 5441 High Crossing Boulevard on Madison's far east side. Pooley's is located near the southeast corner of Highway 151 and Interstate 90/94 and is easily accessible from either highway. The event will begin at 12:15 p.m. preceded by an 11:30 a.m. social hour. The reunion will feature short presentations by Alice in Dairyland Gena Cooper, Interim CALS Dean David Hogg, WALSAA president Jennifer Vincent and Short Course director Rick Daluge.

This year's Service to Agriculture Award will be presented to renowned Rock County dairyman George Barlass, and longtime UW dairy economist Dr. Robert Cropp. The Friend of Short Course Award will be presented to the Wisconsin State Farmer newspaper for their coverage of the Short Course program and support of the annual reunion.

The 10:30 a.m. pre-reunion seminar will feature Sue Porter, Nutrient Management specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer



### Time to Reunite

The Short Course Reunion set for Jan. 28 is a chance to reunite with old friends. Seating is by the year attended so you are bound to recognize someone from back when. Plus, the learning never stops if you take time to attend the pre-reunion seminar focusing on nutrient management issues and storm water run-off regulations.

Protection, and Dane County will be a variety of door prizes as dairy farmer Walter Meinholtz part of the luncheon. Special from Blue Star Dairy. Their recognition will be given to the classes of 1996, 1986, and 1976 as they celebrate special reunions. Also all alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago (1956 and earlier) will receive special recogni-

tion in this 121st Short Course per person. As in the past, there anniversary year.



THE UNIVERSITY  
of  
**WISCONSIN**  
MADISON

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## President's Message



# Greetings From WALSAA's Newest President

**G**reetings to all CALS alumni, staff, students, and friends! I feel privileged to be serving as your WALSAA president for the next year. Although it has only been a few short years since I spent my days on the CALS campus attending classes and numerous club events, the changes in my life and on campus have been immense. I am so grateful to be able to serve the UW and CALS in return for the generous knowledge and experiences it has bestowed upon me.

During my first three years of service on the board, I learned not only about WALSAA and the great college we represent, but also about the many different people that bless our organization with their time and talent. It is the dedication and passion of these members that help make WALSAA one of the strongest and most self-sufficient alumni groups in the nation. The next few years will be exciting ones for this organization and I urge you not to miss out on

your opportunity to give back to the UW and CALS.

This past June I had the pleasure of attending the NAADA (National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association) conference in Des Moines, Iowa, with several other board members. As a first-time conference attendee, I was pleasantly surprised to experience the deep respect our fellow alumni groups across the country have for WALSAA. I was also excited to hear that the University of Wisconsin has been chosen as the host school for the conference in year 2007. As some of you are aware, preparations for the 2007 NAADA conference have already begun, and we will be looking for your continued support, along with volunteer time and talent, to help make this conference a success.

I'd like to take a moment to thank the board's past-president Jon Anderson for his commitment to WALSAA this past year. Under Jon's leadership, the board was able to establish a strategic plan to confront the bona fide realities facing our alumni organization today. By this time we should be well aware of one of

these realities as the changing demographics of the College and recent graduates which poses a challenge for recruiting new WALSAA members. Other objectives the board will focus on this coming year include: developing events and programs that are attractive to new members; improving communication and developing awareness of WALSAA to the pool of potential members; and continuing to grow our already impressive scholarship program. I feel fortunate to have such solid groundwork laid out for the board as I begin my WALSAA presidency.

Once again, I am honored to serve as your WALSAA president over the next year. I look forward to meeting many of you and encourage you to lend your time and talent to this fantastic organization. Please feel free to contact me or any other board member with comments, questions or suggestions on how to improve our organization. Remember, WALSAA is only as strong as its members allow it to be.

ON WISCONSIN!

*Jennifer Vincent, President*

# 121st Short Course Underway

This year's Farm and Industry Short Course session began on Nov. 14.

Enrollment is down slightly with 98 full-time students enrolled in addition to 11 degree students taking one or more Short Course classes. First year enrollment is up from last

year with 76 new students enrolled and only 22 second year students. A total of 59 students are receiving scholarships totaling \$72,000.

Plans are underway to offer a new specialty program next year in the Green Industry/Horticulture area in

collaboration with the Madison Area Technical College.

This will be in addition to current specialties in Dairy Farm Management, Grass Based Dairying, Crops and Soils, Farm Service and Supply, Farm Mechanics and Meat Animals.

# The Times They Are a Changing...



**S**eason's greetings from all of us in Ag Hall!

I have been thrilled and honored to serve as

CALS interim dean, a position I have held since September when Dean Aberle retired. The great news, as I'm sure you have heard, is that we are no longer in limbo on the future leadership for the College. Dr. Molly Jahn will become the 12th dean of the College on Aug. 1, 2006. She is the first woman to hold that position in the history of the College. Jahn is a professor of plant biology and vegetable breeding at Cornell University, and we eagerly await her arrival. She brings unique skills and inspiring leadership, and we are confident the College will be in good hands. I am sure you will join us in welcoming and supporting Dean Jahn.

In the meantime, between now and August, the current administrative team will continue to keep CALS moving forward. In particular, Irwin Goldman has taken on additional duties as interim executive associate dean, and Richard Straub has taken on additional duties as interim associate dean for research. I am fortunate to have an administrative team that is loyal, cooperative and dedicated to the mission of the College.

In addition to the new dean, there are two other recent significant changes in the College to report. Richard Barrows, associate dean for

academic student affairs, has announced his retirement next July. This is a decision that has been a long time in the making. Dick's wife, Linda, who is superintendent of the Oregon School District, will retire next summer as well. Dick says that he and Linda look forward to spending time with their two children and their families as well as engaging in community service. Marcy Heim, who has been a senior director of development at the UW Foundation responsible for CALS, retired on Nov. 15. Marcy was hired by the Foundation in 1983 on the recommendation of Dean Leo Walsh, and she was our very first development officer. Marcy will continue to work as a consultant on the Mead Residence Hall at Kemp Natural Resources Station. Both Dick and Marcy devoted their careers to CALS, and we thank them for their extraordinary commitment and many contributions to the College.

I have found the work of interim dean to be both interesting and challenging. What has had perhaps the greatest impression on me has been the many relationships between the College and our stakeholders out in the state. I am referring mostly to farmers and the many organizations that represent them. However, the College has other constituents in the green industry, governmental agencies and the environmental community. I am learning a lot and for the most part am trying to maintain the strong relationships Dean Aberle established during his seven years as dean. One activity that I particularly enjoyed was the recent opportunity to

provide an overview of CALS to the Farm and Industry Short Course students in Convocation. This is the 121st year of FISC, a program that has trained over 6,000 students, including many who became agricultural leaders in the state. Also, the Football Fire-Up, which returned to the Stock Pavilion this year, was one of the first events I had the pleasure of attending as interim dean. Finally, a special event I look forward to participating in is the December commencement as CALS graduates receive their diplomas.

WALSAA past president Jon Anderson, in his column for the most recent WALSAA Express, had it right when he described the one constant for the College and WALSAA is "change." I believe it is those who recognize, anticipate and capture the opportunities inherent during times of change who will succeed in the long run. CALS faces many challenges in the months and years ahead, but our standing as the premier agricultural and life sciences college in the nation has been predicated in large part on our historic ability to see "around the corner" and adapt accordingly. I am confident the College will remain well positioned to embrace new and exciting opportunities, and embark on a new administration that continues our legacy of advancing the Wisconsin Idea. WALSAA has been an important supporter of the College, and your support is particularly significant during this period of transition.

*David Hogg, Interim Dean*



# Winter Arrives on Campus

It's definitely winter here on campus! As I write this there is a fresh blanket of snow on the ground and the temperature is in the single digits. We know winter is approaching when Short Course students arrive on campus, final exams are upon us and the Badger football team heads for the Capitol One Bowl Game! Interestingly, the construction on campus seems to continue year round so my challenge is sometimes finding a route to my parking space and then to Ag Hall!

Fifty-five WALSAA members and spouses just returned from a great trip to Hawaii where we saw the Badger football team and women's basketball team defeat their opponents. The trip was a great

## WALSAA Elects New Officers

WALSAA's Board of Directors recently elected Jennifer Vincent as president and Steven J. Thomas as vice-president.

Vincent graduated with a degree in food science. Originally from Watertown, she now resides in Sun Prairie with her husband Preston. Presently, Vincent works for Kraft Foods – Oscar Mayer in Madison, where she is an associate scientist in the Research and Development Department. As the new president, Vincent has begun serving a second three-year term on the Board.

Thomas is an animal sciences

graduate. He and his wife Janelle and two children Zachary and Jaclyn live in Onalaska. Thomas grew up on a diversified livestock operation near Cobb in Southwestern Wisconsin. He is employed by Monsanto Dairy and is the sales representative covering western Wisconsin. As the newly elected vice-president, Thomas will be serving a second term on the Board.

The WALSAA Board of Directors is responsible for making decisions regarding the organization's budget, projects and programs. The Board consists of two student representatives, a faculty representative, a repre-

SAA. Fortunately, Jon continues on the board for another two years. We welcome Jennifer Vincent as she takes over the leadership of the Board for the next year. The Board will be very busy this next year preparing to host the 2007 NAADA conference in Madison and will need many of you to lend a hand. If you are interested in attending the conference at Virginia Tech in June, please let me know.

You'll note that this newsletter has a focus on the Short Course. The over 6,000 alumni of the Short Course are an important part of CALS and a significant part of our 31,000 alumni. We hope to feature different departments in different newsletter issues throughout this year. Stay warm and stay involved!

On Wisconsin.

*-Rick Daluge, Secretary-Treasurer*

## WALSAA Elects New Officers

graduate. He and his wife Janelle and two children Zachary and Jaclyn live in Onalaska. Thomas grew up on a diversified livestock operation near Cobb in Southwestern Wisconsin. He is employed by Monsanto Dairy and is the sales representative covering western Wisconsin. As the newly elected vice-president, Thomas will be serving a second term on the Board.

sentative of the Short Course alumni board, and a CALS Dean appointed secretary-treasurer. The other 12 directors consist of alumni elected for three-year terms.

The purpose of WALSAA is to support and strengthen the educational effectiveness of CALS at the UW-Madison and to maintain a close spirit of cooperation between alumni, the College and Wisconsin agriculture. WALSAA has over 2,000 members. Membership is open to all former students of the College's degree and Short Course programs, as well as friends of the College.

# Short Course Reunion



## Short Course Alumni Reunion Luncheon And Seminar Reservation Form

**Jan. 28**

**Pooley's Restaurant  
5441 High Crossing Boulevard  
Madison**

Reservations: \$17.50 per person

Reservation Deadline – Jan. 20

Your reservation must be returned with either a check or credit card information.

All reservations received after Jan. 20 or day of event walk-ins are \$20 per person.

Any reservations received after Jan. 20 can be paid by check or credit card at the door. Nametags, luncheon tickets & door prize tickets for reservations received after Jan. 20 will need to be picked up at the Short Course Reservation Desk in Pooley's

Nametags, luncheon tickets & door prize tickets for reservations before Jan. 20 will be mailed to the address below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) Attended \_\_\_\_\_

\*Use additional sheet of paper for names or addresses different from your own. We will provide nametags and seat you and your guests by the year attended.

### Payment Options

Check made payable to WALSAA for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$17.50. Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Or

Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$17.50 to \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Address on card \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like a WALSAA membership.  \$30 annual  \$55 two-year membership fee is enclosed or noted (check or credit card #).

Mail to: WALSAA, 116 Agricultural Hall, 1450 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706

Call 608-262-5784 or e-mail [walsaa@cals.wisc.edu](mailto:walsaa@cals.wisc.edu) with questions.

**Register Early By Jan. 20**



# Alumni Updates

**Congratulations!**

**Howard "Dan" Poulsom**, FISC '54, was awarded the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Service to Wisconsin Agriculture Award in December at their annual meeting.

**David Kretschmar**, BS' 83, has been re-elected to the AgStar Financial Services board of directors. Ag Star is headquartered out of Mankato, Minn. Kretschmar is a dairy farmer from Milan where he and his wife Kathy farm 1,580 acres.

**Kevin Bacon**, BS '84, MS '86 has been promoted to plant manager of the Madison Oscar

Mayer/Kraft Foods Plant. He continues to reside in McFarland.

**Bruce Kane**, BS '88, has joined Filament Marketing LLC as senior business manager. Kane previously was a training and outreach specialist with the Wisconsin Center for Education Research. Kane has majors in agricultural education and elementary education.

**Lynn (Strebel) Kroll**, BS '99, has accepted a new position with Wisconsin Public Service Corporation in Green Bay as the corporate community relations leader for Public Service's Eastern Wisconsin Region.

**Wendy (Rademacher) Clark**, BS '00, was married to Randall Clark and now resides at 1025 Maple Avenue, Waupun, WI 53963. Wendy has accepted new employment as Eastern Region dairy specialist for Vita Plus of Madison.

**Tom Lyon**, Patron, will be inducted into the national Cooperative Hall of Fame this spring. Lyon is retired CEO of Cooperative Resources International of Shawano. He is past chair of the UW System Board of Regents and a trustee of the Ralph Morris Foundation. Only four persons nationally will be inducted during the May 3 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

## WALSA Board of Directors

### Jennifer Vincent '02, President - 2008

2125 Corinth Drive  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
Home: (608) 318-0153  
Work: (608) 285-4513  
E-mail: Jennifer.Vincent@Kraft.com

### Steve Thomas '89, Vice President - 2007

904 Oaks Avenue North  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
Home: (608) 779-5951  
E-mail: Steven.j.Thomas@monsanto.com

### Dr. Rick Daluge '71, MS '75, PhD '82

Secretary-Treasurer, Ex Officio  
116 Ag Hall, 1450 Linden Drive,  
Madison, WI 53706  
Work: (608) 262-3127  
E-mail: rdaluge@cals.wisc.edu

### Jessica Agnew '03 - 2006

320 Mine Road  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
Home: (608) 355-9920  
E-mail: jagnew@uwalumni.com

### Jon Anderson '92, - 2007

427 Majeskie Drive  
Pewaukee, WI 53072  
Home: (262) 695-8294  
Work: (414) 227-1000  
E-mail: janderson@openroads-bgdn.com

### Bob Bosold '76 - 2006

3334 Nimitz Street

Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Home: (715) 835-4055  
E-mail: bob@waxx104online.com

### Steve Diercks '70 - 2007

109 South Scott Street  
Coloma, WI 54930  
Home: (715) 228-3841  
Work: (715) 228-3031  
E-mail:cffarms@uniontel.net

### Brian Fluno '97 - 2008

1712 North Woods Way  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061-1236  
E-mail: brian.fluno@sbcglobal.net

### Elizabeth Anne Henry '83 - 2008

7809 Dunroven Road  
Dane, WI 53529-9711  
Home: (608) 592-5299  
Work: (608) 262-9485  
E-mail: bothh@msn.com

### Jack Hippen '86 - 2007

9009 Settlers Road  
Madison, WI 53717  
Home: (608) 833-8485  
E-mail: jhippen@boumatic.com

### Alan Koepke '63 - 2006

115 Whittier Lane  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
Home: (262) 569-1059  
Work: (920) 474-7083  
E-mail: alankoepke@charter.net

### Dr. David L. Nelson

1034 Waban Hill  
Madison, WI 53711-3050  
Home: (608)274-5184  
Work: (608) 263-6879  
E-mail: nelson@biochem.wisc.edu

### Robert Pofahl '74 - 2008

1370 Boundary Road  
Middleton, WI 53562  
Home: (608) 831-0434  
Work: (608) 831-6563  
E-mail: bob@reaeng.com

### Chad Ryan '96

FISC Alumni President  
N4067 Twin Oaks Drive  
Fond du Lac, WI 54937  
Home: (920) 960-1449  
Work: (920) 923-3528  
E-mail: aryan@absglobal.com

### Nicholas Salm '65 - 2006

N2086 Rollwood Road  
Antigo, WI 54409  
Home: (715) 623-2429  
E-mail: njsalm@newnorth.net

### Grant Schneider, Student Rep.

301 Showerman Kronshage  
1650 Kronshage Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
Cell: (608) 886-0219  
E-mail: gfschneider@wisc.edu

# Jahn Chosen to Lead College

By Dennis Chaptman

Molly Jahn, a Cornell University expert in plant breeding, gene discovery and genetic mapping of agricultural plants, has been named the new dean of the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Chancellor John D. Wiley announced.

"Molly is a gifted scholar with the vision to blend top-notch education, research and outreach in the true Wisconsin tradition," says Wiley. "She is also an innovator who understands the importance of teamwork and the critical role of a land grant university in today's economy."

Jahn, a professor of plant breeding and genetics and plant biology at Cornell, says she looks forward to the opportunity to assume leadership of the college, which has 2,200 undergraduates, 1,000 graduate students, 270 faculty members and a budget of more than \$150 million.

"This is an incredible opportunity to lead a world-class agricultural college in a state in which agriculture and life sciences are so central to the economy and to the future," Jahn says.

CALS is awarded more than \$100 million annually in research funds, including federal grants, non-federal grants and gifts. In addition to its research and instructional roles, the college also has a strong extension and outreach mission, with 12 agricultural research stations across the state.

"Against the backdrop of a

globalizing world economy, land grant colleges must define and articulate a compelling vision for their survival in partnership with the public, the private sector and government," says Jahn, who has been on the faculty at Cornell since 1991.

Jahn, who will take over the deanship on Aug. 1, 2006, adds that her leadership style emphasizes team-based systems and principles that encourage innovation.

"I work to build a common vision, motivate, engage and distribute authority such that responsibility and recognition is shared, from the most junior to the most senior contributors," she says. "I aim to provide a supportive environment, creating a workplace focused on productivity and creativity."

Jahn has focused her research on breeding new vegetable varieties for use around the world and on gene discovery in crop plants - notably peppers and the cucumber family - with a focus on economically important plant traits. She currently manages more than \$6 million in federal and industry research projects and has more than 30 commercial licenses in force. She has been active internationally, with research efforts under way in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Additionally, Jahn directs the Public Seed Initiative and the Organic Seed Partnership, an outreach activity based on an alliance of public-sector



Molly Jahn

researchers, seed companies and non-profit groups interested in improving the use of public plant varieties and crop genetic diversity.

The Organic Seed Partnership also includes land grant colleges established in 1890 and was recently awarded the largest competitive grant in the history of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's organic agriculture programs.

Robert Heisey, chair of the research committee for the California Pepper Commission, says Jahn's appointment is "fantastic news for the farmers of Wisconsin." Over the years, the commission provided Jahn's lab with more than \$500,000 to work on disease resistance.

"Molly understands the importance of smaller farms, as well as corporate farms," Heisey says. "She also understands the importance of applying basic research to real-world situations. She's one of the smartest, best organized, most energetic people I've ever met."

Jahn earned her bachelor's degree in 1980 at Swarthmore College, her master's in 1983 in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her doctorate in 1988 in plant breeding from Cornell.

Jahn will succeed Dean Elton D. Aberle, who retired Sept. 1, capping a 38-year academic career that included stints at Purdue University, the University of Nebraska and the Madison campus. David Hogg, executive associate dean at CALS, was named to serve as interim dean.



**Dean Selected For CALS**



## Oldest Student Featured on Radio

Illinois: Fun For All!



### Football Tradition

Four CALS Alumni are having fun at the University of Illinois Salute to Ag Day before the Wisconsin-Illinois Game. From Left, Lynette Pozorski, Kim Olson, Maureen DeBruin, and Sue Alderman. Each lives in a different state and join WALSAA annually at our away game trip! Go Badgers!



### Tour...

Over 40 WALSAA members and spouses toured the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana campus before the Salute to Ag Day Tailgate at the University of Illinois. The Illini Union is in the background.



### ...Then Tailgate

Nile and Carol Beck enjoy some Illinois hospitality before the victory!

## CALS Alumnus And Current UW Student Interviewed On Public Radio

Milt Bliss, BS '35, was featured this past fall on Wisconsin Public Radio as UW-Madison's oldest student. Bliss is 95 years young.

"I'm the oldest student among the 45,000 on this campus," states Bliss.

"It's one of the great experiences in my life. To mix with 45,000 students, is an exhilarating and interesting and revealing experience. And I've never had anybody look at me with curiosity, or just take me for granted. I'm sitting there like they are, taking in the lecturer's words and pictures."

Bliss hosted the Wisconsin Public Radio Farm Program from 1935 to 1950, except for the years 1943-46 when he was in the Army during WWII. He also did double duty, hosting the agriculture-related educational programs as part of the Wisconsin College of the Air. Some of the programs Bliss hosted were Farming Today, Soils and Man, Farm Science Spotlight, Backgrounds in Agriculture and Agricultural Horizons. He had Aldo Leopold on several times. Bliss is a regular volunteer at the WALSAA State Fair Booth and has helped at the WALSAA Allen Garden



Milt Bliss

**Continued on page 10**

# WALSAA Enjoyed Seeing Badgers Win in Hawaii



Fifty-three WALSAA members and their spouses spent Thanksgiving week on the big island of Hawaii and three days in Honolulu watching the Badger football game and women's basketball games. They also enjoyed the hospitality of the Fairmont Orchid Resort near Kona and visited Volcanoes National Park on the island of Hawaii.



Aloha!



## Hangin' WIth Bucky

Part of the WALSAA alumni group attended the Badger women's basketball game in Honolulu. As you can see, they're hanging loose with Bucky Badger.

## One Final Cruise

Over 50 WALSAA members and spouses enjoyed a sunset dinner cruise in Honolulu before their departure back to Wisconsin.



## Hula Wisconsin Style

Three outstanding WALSAA members dance the hula on the sunset dinner cruise. Left to right, they are Robert Cullen, Bob Kaczmarek, and John Klessig.



## Hawaiian Ag Toured

University of Hawaii hosted WALSAA members for lunch and a tour of their ag research station projects in Hilo on the big island of Hawaii.



## Huddle Up

These WALSAA members, left to right, Pete Knigge, Dan Wepner and Mark Kiener, enjoyed the Badger Huddle prior to the Hawaii - Wisconsin football game.



## Short Course Students Receive Scholarships

### Emeritus Professor Creates Park



### Scholarships Given For Short Course

WALSAA scholarship recipients for Short Course this year were, left to right, Ryan Kuhn, Joel Dobbs, Peter Eskra and Jake Atkinson. Not pictured is Scott Koester.



### New Park Created Thanks to Pope

Art Pope, MS '43, PhD '46, retired emeritus animal science professor and his wife Betty have lived on a Verona area farm in Dane County for the past 44 years. He has always maintained a small flock of sheep on the farm. Five years ago, he sold 145 acres to the Town of Middleton to create a new 105-acre park, which opened this past August.

The Pope Farm Park is geologically unique because it's where the glacier ended leaving rocks from Canada and Lake Superior on the property. It also features conservation practices and will serve as an educational park for teachers to bring students out to learn about glacial history and farming. There are seven miles of hiking trails.

The new park is nine miles from campus just off Old Sauk Road.

### New Life Members

Andrea McGowan BS '89,  
DVM '97

Bree (Geoffrion) Klawien  
BS' 02

### New Annual Members

Brian Gutenberger - Patron  
Alan J. Carlson - Patron

### In Memoriam

Arthur Kurtz BS '39, MS '50



### Bliss

**Continued from page 8**  
Workday.

Bliss left in 1950 to take a position with the USDA's broadcast division and produced the National Farm and Home Hour for NBC until 1960. He later worked at WFIL Radio and TV in Philadelphia before coming back to Wisconsin and a position with the Soil Conservation Service.

"I have come to the conclusion, that having problems is a great favor because it makes one work on them," reflects Bliss. "And you have to find answers to your questions. And going to class, listening to the professor, taking different subjects tends to make one active mentally, as well as physically. I think maybe it takes off a few years. Can't guarantee it, but I enjoy it."

# Consider a WALSAA Membership. . .



From Short Course to four years, we know that your time at CALS was important to you. A WALSAA membership allows you to continue benefiting from CALS and to give something back to the College where it all started. Membership options are listed below. All dues include free spouse membership!

## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Life Membership/New Graduate (within two years of graduation).  
Three annual installments of \$125 or one-time payment of \$350
- Life Membership/Varsity (40 years or greater since graduation) \$225
- Life Membership (regular) four annual installments of \$125 or one-time payment of \$425
- Annual Membership - \$30/year
- Two Year Membership - \$55
- Please designate a portion of my dues for Academic Department use.  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please accept a tax-deductible scholarship donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a graduate, please list your degree(s) and date(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Check Enclosed
- Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:      \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard      \_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your application to:

WALSAA  
116 Agriculture Hall  
1450 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
Or call: 608-262-5784

Join Today!



116 Agriculture Hall  
1450 Linden Drive  
Madison WI 53706

Short Course Reunion  
To Be Held Jan. 28  
More info inside.

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Jan. 28	Short Course Reunion ■ Pooley's, Madison	June 18-21	NADA Conference ■ Blacksburg, Va.
Feb. 10	WALSAA Board Meeting ■ Madison	May 13	Commemoration Breakfast ■ Gordon Commons, Madison
March 4	Hockey Suite ■ Kohl Center, Madison	May 6	Alumni Weekend/Dean's Club Brunch ■ Edgewater, Madison
March 25	Short Course Graduation ■ Great Hall, Memorial Union	March 25	

## Upcoming WALSAA Events