



FISC recognizes influential program supporters

By Bob Behnke, WALSAA FISC Chairman

Our annual FISC Reunion was held Jan. 18 at the Coliseum Bar in Madison. The event's program featured Rick Daluge as the emcee, and we honored three award winners. The JS Donald Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Barry Kleppe. Kleppe has taught in the program for years and also has his own large animal veterinary practice. Also awarded were the Friend of Short Course Award to Sarah Pfatteicher, CALS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and the Service to Agriculture Award to Jessie Potterton, FISC Director. These two women moved our FISC program to new heights and secured its future at the University by getting the program integrated into the UW system and aligning FISC credits with the undergrad credits. This was no small task! Thank you to Barry, Jessie and Sarah and, of course, congratulations! To conclude our reunion, Vita Plus graciously opened its doors to us and presented the opportunity to tour the company's manufacturing plant.

Badgerland Financial, our varsity level sponsor, helped to make the Jan. 28 event a success. Thank you for all you do to ensure the next generation of industry leaders and producers receive a high quality education!

We are also fortunate to receive a number of additional sponsorships. We use

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President's Message: My CALS Connection for Life



WALSAA President Vern Dougherty

I attended the annual FISC reunion held in Madison and was fortunate enough to speak with Hugh Evans, FISC class of 1942. Hugh is a very sharp 93-year-old, who grew up on a farm not far from where I currently live. In our conversation, he shared with me that before he was a zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo, he farmed a section of land that is now a part of Lapham Peak State Park near Delafield. In our discussions, it turns out the hiking trails that I use in Lapham Peak, include a field called "Evans Prairie" and that prairie was named after him. How cool is that!

It is moments like this one that remind me why I am proud to be a lifetime member of WALSAA and it reinforced that indeed WALSAA is my CALS Connection for Life! It also reminded me of what being a FISC, CALS and UW-Madison alumnus is all about. We are a very small community. Whenever we meet another member of our "community" no matter from what generation, there is an instant connection. It was absolutely a joy to meet Hugh Evans!

Which brings me to the question I asked in the last *WALSAA Express*. This past fall, a 2016 CALS graduate told me he didn't see the "reason" why he should join WALSAA. At this point in his career, money is short so "giving back" really didn't pertain to him. Let alone coughing up money to join. I have been thinking about that question ever since and reached out to a number of you asking the same question. This is what I heard:

What are the top three reasons a new CALS/FISC

graduate should join WALSAA?

1. Staying connected to UW-Madison CALS/friends
2. Networking opportunities
3. Opportunity to give back to their alma mater (time, not just money)

I also heard a counter against joining. I have plenty of friends and those I want to "stay connected with" I already do, so "staying connected" doesn't pertain. To that argument, I say, I wish you had met Hugh Evans. Fact is, our connection only happened because of WALSAA. We graduated multiple decades apart, but his enthusiasm for life and UW-Madison FISC/CALS was contagious. I am glad to have met him. I am proud to say he is an alumnus of the same college that I attended. I am glad I am a WALSAA member.

Final note: At our recent WALSAA Board meeting we discussed the need for some new volunteers. It doesn't matter if you graduated 40 years ago or three months ago, we can use your help. Whatever you have time for is appreciated. As mentioned above, volunteering allows you to stay connected and gives you an opportunity to "give back" to your alma mater without digging into your bank account. Please consider it. Areas of need include: website development, social media outreach, scholarship committee and helping with events such as Fire-up on Sept. 9. If you are willing to help, please send me an email at verndough@gmail.com or let one of the board members know.

Thank you and Go Badgers!

Nominations sought for WALSAA Daluge Red Jacket Award

WALSAA is seeking nominations for the WALSAA Daluge Red Jacket Award. This was awarded for the first time in 2016 in recognition of lifetime service to WALSAA. It is named after two of WALSAA's most dedicated alumni: Rick and Peggy Daluge. Rick was WALSAA's executive director for many years and a founding member of the National Ag Alumni and Development Association (NAADA). A red jacket will be presented to someone who has helped WALSAA grow each year in their honor. Please send your 2017 nominations to WALSAA President Vern Dougherty at verndough@gmail.com by April 1.

Dean's Message: On the cutting edge of plant biotech



CALS Dean and Director Kate VandenBosch

It may already be March, but many of us in the CALS and greater UW community haven't lost our sense of holiday celebration.

That's because the year opened with an enormous gift: A \$10 million commercial biotech plant facility – a labyrinth of greenhouses and laboratories where some of plant biotechnology's first critical steps were taken – donated by Monsanto Co. to UW-Madison's University Research Park.

The purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility, located in Middleton, will serve as the hub of a new Wisconsin Crop Innovation Center (WCIC). It features 20 greenhouses encompassing 28,000 square feet, 15,000 square feet of controlled environments – shade houses and light rooms – and 50,000 square feet of high-quality laboratory space on 4.5 acres.

The gift enables us to create a plant biotechnology center that is unparalleled in the public sector. The WCIC inaugural staff, led by agronomy professor Shawn Kaeppler, bring more than 100 combined years of plant transformation experience to the table. Faculty advisory committee members come from plant pathology, botany, biochemistry, biotechnology, bacteriology and agronomy. As a whole the center is poised to provide cutting-edge innovation in areas including plant breeding, plant phenotyping, molecular biology, plant biology and bacteriology.

As Kaeppler notes, the new center offers an opportunity to expand both on the genetic traits that might be conferred on crop plants, and also on the types of plants developed with genetic improvements. With rapid advances in genome-editing techniques, plant DNA can be altered for crop improvements in more efficient and targeted ways. Such things as tolerance to drought and heat, increased crop efficiency and improved nutrient content are high on the list of traits plant biologists will be exploring.

And the facility's impact on teaching and training cannot be overstated. A research center of this scope



and quality will allow the college to recruit the best graduate and postdoc students. Undergraduates, too, will be incorporated into various laboratories and projects there, encouraging them to enter the plant science fields as professionals.

Established first as Cetus in the early 1980s and later as Agracetus, the facility and its plant biotechnology portfolio were acquired by Monsanto in 1996. Monsanto closed the facility in 2016 when it consolidated its research operations to the company's St. Louis, Mo. headquarters.

For this enormous gift, many thanks are in order. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of Monsanto and the company's recognition of a decades-long mutually beneficial relationship with scientists and students from UW, many of whom went on to successful careers at Monsanto. In addition, the facility represented an unusual opportunity that took hands-on support from all corners of campus to take advantage of. UW-Madison campus leadership and the leadership team at University Research Park deserve special commendation for their insight, hard work and flexibility.

Our collective dedication and enthusiasm led to a truly remarkable new facility that will benefit all of Wisconsin and, indeed, the world beyond, in the best spirit of the Wisconsin Idea.

With a kick-off like this, we can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings.

On, Wisconsin!

Learn more about the facility at cropinnovation.cals.wisc.edu

FISC Reunion cont.



Three awards were presented at the annual FISC Reunion on Jan. 28. Pictured, left to right, are CALS Dean and Director Kate VandenBosch; Sarah Pfatteicher, Friend of Short Course Award; Jessie Potterton, Service to Agriculture Award; Dr. Barry Kleppe, JS Donald Teaching Award; and WALSAA President Vern Dougherty.



Past FISC housefellows are pictured with Rick Daluge, right.



A lesson about the Vita Plus Corporation Madison distribution system.



Touring the Vita Plus manufacturing plant in Madison.

FISC Reunion

Continued from page 1

these sponsorships for scholarships and to help offset some additional expenses students might incur while in school. These sponsors are: Badger Level: Crave Brothers Farm, LLC; White Level: AgSource, East Central Select Sires, Al & Lynn Herrman, Union Bank & Trust and Vita

Plus Corporation. We appreciate your financial support!

Also, thank you to our silent auction donors and buyers! More than \$700 was raised to support FISC students.

As we look forward to next year, please put Jan. 27 on your calendar for the 2018 FISC Reunion.

Help support WALSAA and CALS expand the student experience

WALSAA has a proud history of supporting some of the best and brightest who pass through the doors of Ag Hall. We look to the well-rounded student – the one who succeeds not only academically, but is also involved with student organizations, studying abroad or grant-funded research – the one who embraces the CALS Signature Student Experience.

It is with that student in mind that WALSAA has committed to sponsoring the renovation of the lobby of the Dean's Residence, the future home of student experiences. It is important to us that we welcome students to the CALS campus, to these opportunities as they begin their Badger adventure...just as we welcome them to our proud alumni group when their journey is completed.

This endeavor allows us that unique opportunity – to show them our past and together, build a stronger future.



Will you join us? Contact Al Herrman at (920) 866-9992 aldh@centurytel.net to learn how you can be involved.

What a finish! UW Women's Hockey wins the shootout

By Al Herrman, WALSAA Events Committee Co-Chairman

More than 30 members and their families joined in to "Hit the Ice" with WALSAA on Feb. 11. The pre-event was held at Wando's with a silent auction and 50/50 raffle, \$685 was raised for WALSAA scholarships. Thank you to the donors and buyers! The group made their way over to LaBahn Arena to see the Badgers vs. Minnesota Duluth Women's Hockey game. What a finish to a great game! Steffens had two penalties during regulation, one of which saved a goal, and then she made the winning goal during the shootout in the 12th round. It was quite a game!

WALSAA Board of Directors 2016-2017

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Outstanding Sophomore profiles: Clara Cole & Sara Griswold

Clara Cole of Milwaukee is a junior majoring in animal sciences and poultry science.

"I am extremely fortunate to be at the University of Wisconsin-Madison because there are so many opportunities within this campus. I was grateful enough to earn a teaching assistant position for Animal Sciences 101. I am also extremely excited to serve as president for the UW Poultry Club and Getting Off-Campus Adolescents to Become Leaders Project, the social co-chair for the UW Pre-Veterinary Club, and treasurer for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. I will also continue to volunteer for the GUTS Conversational English program and Materials Science Center and

work at the Comparative Pathology Laboratory and Animal Sciences Department."

Not only does she have the drive to pursue all of these endeavors, but she feels this award has given her the confidence to face and overcome challenges. The award also allowed her to take poultry science courses last summer to help bring her closer to her post-graduation plans.

"After graduation, I plan to attend veterinary school and work as a poultry veterinarian for a few years. Ultimately, I want to continue my education to become a certified veterinary pathologist where I will either continue to work in the poultry industry or in the comparative pathological field. In the future, I

Sara Griswold of Black Earth is a junior majoring in life sciences communication.

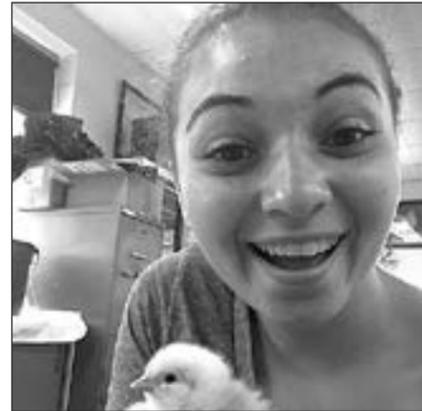
"Last summer I was the marketing intern for Badgerland Financial at its corporate office in Prairie du Sac. I had a number of different projects that have kept me busy. One project was to create an intern program to get to know the other interns better, as well as create awareness of the summer internships Badgerland Financial offers. I also created and was put in charge of a summer social media campaign and promotional videos for various events."

Sara said she feels fortunate to feel the support from WALSAA for UW-

Madison students like her pursuing a degree in agriculture. "This is truly an honor and allows me to showcase all of my accomplishments and leadership positions throughout my collegiate career. This award will help me financially as I continue to pay for my college education."

This school year, Sara has been very busy as she currently holds three different leadership positions in her student organizations on campus. She views it as a way to help her efficiently use her time to the best of her ability.

Upon graduation, Sara wants to find a career in the agriculture industry specializing in marketing and communications. This comes as no sur-



Clara Cole

hope to earn my PhD either during veterinary school in a dual degree program or after I earn my certification in veterinary pathology," Clara said.

When she does find free time, Clara enjoys dancing, playing the flute and reading. We wish you the best, Clara!



Sara Griswold

prise as Sara grew up showing dairy, beef and swine and a variety of other projects within 4-H. She also enjoys being outside, spending time with her family, and going to concerts and fairs in the summer. Good luck, Sara!

Thank you to our 2016 WALSAA supporters

WALSAA would like to thank the individuals and companies who made a contribution in support of WALSAA in 2016. This list excludes those people who make a donation through their lifetime membership enrollment.

WALSAA Society

\$1,000 or greater

Badgerland Financial
Richard & Peggy A. Daluge
Al & Lynn Herrman
Eric Johnson
Duane & Kay Maas
The Wilson Family

Ag Hall Club

\$500-\$999

Coloma Farms
Crave Brothers Farm, LLC
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Michael Marr
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Wisconsin Soybean Association

Babcock Hall Club

\$250-\$499

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\$125-\$249

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Russell Vogel
World Dairy Expo
Ralph Zibell

Red & White Club

\$50-\$124

Acala Farms, LLC
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Mapleridge Dairy
Mead Witter School of Music
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Kathleen Sherry
Mark Strohschein
UW Forestry Club

Other

Less than \$50

Danny Briskey
Don Henderson
Nancy Kavazanjian
Emily Lingeman
Bill Magill
Karl Ohm III
Neal Sanders
Dona Turner
The Country Today

Campus Happenings: Spring events on the horizon

By Logan Voigts & Emma Wagner, WALSAA Student Representatives

April 19 – Collegiate Farm Bureau's Ag Day on Campus

Wednesday, April 19, is the date for Collegiate Farm Bureau's Ag Day on Campus. This event, put on by the UW-Chapter of Collegiate Farm Bureau, serves to build awareness for agriculture, and help inform the campus of what agriculture does for them. Hosted on Library Mall, thousands of students go through the display and meet volunteers of the club as they can play interactive agricultural games, learn facts on agriculture, and try out samples of various agricultural products and foods.

April 30 – AWA's 22nd Annual Breakfast on the Farm: Bringing our Farm to Your Table

Breakfast on the Farm will be held Sunday, April 30, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the UW-Madison Stock Pavilion. A hearty, locally sourced breakfast is served along with educational opportunities, entertainment and a chance to meet Bucky! Breakfast is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors and children under 5 are free. All proceeds from Breakfast on the Farm will be directed to support Rally to Fight Hunger!

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www.walsaa.org

Upcoming Events

- March 18 • Farm and Industry Short Course
Graduation, Union South, Madison
- April 7 • WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting
- April 7 • WALSAA Outstanding Sophomore
& Leadership Awards Ceremony, Madison
- May 13 • CALS Commencement Event, Madison
- July 12 • 2017 Farm Technology Days Picnic,
Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy, Kewaunee
- July 28 • WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting
- Sept. 9 • 42nd WALSAA Football Fire-Up, Madison
- Oct. 27 • WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting
- Jan. 27 • 2018 FISC Reunion, The Coliseum Bar,
Madison

Alumni Updates

- Andrea Brossard & Mason Rens received Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Achievement Award
- Mitch Breunig was named president of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin
- Charlie Crave is now the treasurer of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin
- Logan Voigts, WALSAA student representative, was named Wisconsin Outstanding Holstein Boy of the Year
- Mark & Angie Ulness received the 2017 National Outstanding Young Farmer award

New lifetime members

- James M. Bradley, FISC '63
- Sara Harn, BS '16
- Brent Payne, FISC '13