It’s Food, Families and Fun at Football Fire-Up Sept. 11

It’s that time of year again! With the college football season getting ready to start, the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) Football Fire-Up Tailgate Party and Silent Auction plans are coming together for the 45th annual event. All money raised supports scholarships for deserving students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS).

The 2021 Fire-Up will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., prior to the Wisconsin vs. Eastern Michigan game on Saturday, September 11. It will take place in the University of Wisconsin Foundation parking lot, located at 1848 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

Continued on page 3

Varsity Sponsor

Badger Sponsors

Calling UW Band Alumni!

Bring your instruments and join fellow WALSAA members on Saturday, September 11 for a special alumni performance at Fire-Up

In Memoriam

John Galloway, BS ’48
Kenneth Johnson, BS ’56
Brian Wier, BS ’78

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Contact Us

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P.O. Box 5177
Madison, WI 53705-5177
Phone: 608.438.1994
Email: admin@walsaa.org

www.WALSAA.org
Badgers helping Badgers: New WALSAA Mentor Program

Pierce Dopp, WALSAAA President

Badgers helping Badgers. What does that phrase mean to you as a WALSAAA member? For me the phrase means that WALSAAA will be here for you, whether it’s in-person or virtually, to provide opportunities to connect with each other, students and your alma mater.

In my last message, I mentioned that WALSAAA was working towards having a mentoring program in place for the Fall 2021 semester. The decision has been made to make a pilot program available to this year’s 52 Outstanding Sophomore Awards Applicants. During this critical time for our students, the WALSAAA Alumni Mentor Program will enable alumni to share their professional and personal experience and expertise with these 52 CALS students in their junior and senior years of college. The connections made in the program will help prepare our students for a successful future, navigate uncertainty and leave a lasting impact on our campus community.

As an alumni mentor, you will have the opportunity to provide student(s) career and personal development advice as well as, building networks, increasing self-confidence, honing leadership skills and other issues relevant to career advancement. Your insights on managing change and overcoming difficulty can have a deep and profound impact, particularly during this time. Mentors and students will be encouraged to connect on a regular basis (e.g., once-a-month phone call, in-person meeting when possible, or email conversation); however, the frequency and form of communication are things that will be determined within each relationship.

Although the plan for UW this year is in-person learning for the student population, our alumni are even more crucial to our students’ success in these uncertain times. Whether you are right down the street or across the globe, we invite alumni from around the world to be part of the WALSAAA Mentor Program.

To be a mentor, you must fill out the application and submit it to admin@walsaa.org along with a current resume. Application is available at: www.WALSAA.org.

In closing, I hope you will strongly consider becoming a WALSAAA Mentor. Please reach out to me at pierce.dopp@gmail.com with any questions.

Pierce Dopp (B.S. 1981)

WALSAAA Football Fire-Up
Continued from page 1

Join WALSAAA as it continues a 49-year mission to connect the University of Wisconsin-Madison, CALS and CALS alumni. Guests will enjoy special appearances from Bucky Badger, live music by The SoundBillies, a boxed meal from Milio’s Sandwiches, drinks and a variety of beers from Working Draft Beer Company. WALSAAA would like to give special thanks to the generous people, companies and organizations that donate to Fire-Up. These cash and in-kind donations help reduce the overall cost of the event, benefitting both WALSAAA members and future scholarship recipients.


The 2021 Fire-Up will feature the WALSAAA Silent Auction to raise money to support scholarships, awards and student activities. In 2019, more than $25,000 was raised. This year’s auction will feature a variety of items, such as lodging in Door County and Hurley, a pedal tractor, Packers tickets, UW Badger men’s season basketball tickets and much more! Visit WALSAAA’s Facebook page for an updated auction list as the event nears.

Luncheon tickets are free for those 5 years old and younger; $10 for children 6 to 18; and $30 for adults. $15 of the adult ticket price is a fully tax-deductible donation to WALSAAA. The member cost for a combined package ticket to both the Fire-Up luncheon and game is free for kids under 2 (if sitting on a lap at the game); $30 for children 3 to 5; $40 for children 6 to 18; and $60 for adults (while tickets last).

Tickets can be ordered at www.WALSAA.org. Registrations in advance of the event are appreciated, however walk-ins are also welcome. All tickets are held at the event registration desk and picked up upon arrival at Fire-Up.
After more than a year of struggling against COVID-19, vaccines have been developed and deployed in record time, and we are starting to see a rational path out of the pandemic. As momentous as this is, the truth is that COVID-19 is only one battle in an expanding, long-term war between humanity and viruses. We must make good use of the approaching momentary pause to prepare for the next onslaught.

The accelerating emergence of deadly viruses has become an increasingly urgent problem for mankind as we push deeper into the natural habitat of animals that are the primary source of such outbreaks. In the century since the influenza pandemic of 1918, the pace of virus emergence and spread has progressively quickened. Beginning in the 1980s, we were hit by the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. The SARS coronavirus respiratory syndrome emerged in Asia in 2003 and, nine years later, MERS appeared in the Middle East. International outbreaks of the Ebola and Zika viruses made terrifying headlines during the past decade.

Confident predictions by epidemiologists and virologists that such emerging viruses would lead to deadly pandemics were dramatically realized with COVID-19 — and prospects for future pandemics are only increasing.

Timely action now should help to greatly cushion the impact of, or perhaps to prevent, the next pandemic. Such action includes allocating appropriate resources to priorities such as funding much-needed advances in critical basic research areas and expanding public health infrastructure.

The terrible toll in lives and money that COVID-19 inflicted underscores the importance of acting to protect our future. The United States alone, with 4 percent of the world’s population, suffered 20 percent of COVID-19 deaths — now well over a staggering half-million people — comparable to the total number of Americans killed in World War II and the Vietnam and Korean wars combined. The devastating hit to the U.S. economy was estimated to reach $16 trillion. For comparison, U.S. military spending on the “war on terror” in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past 20 years was approximately $6.4 trillion.

Given the massive damage caused by COVID-19, the amount that we spend on combating viruses is extremely modest, especially compared to other government outlays. The United States spends at least $700 billion a year on defense, more than our rivals China and Russia and our friends the United Kingdom and Germany combined. Although vital for many aspects of our national security, that spending is not intended to and did not protect us from COVID-19.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, led by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the primary funder of U.S. viral, bacterial, general microbiology, and immunology research, has a budget under $6 billion — less than 1 percent of core defense spending.

Further investments in relevant basic research, medicine and public health are critically needed and could provide game-changing advances in pandemic protections.

Fortunately, critical breakthroughs in understanding and controlling viruses are within our grasp, and investment in these areas will bring handsome rewards. Recent tremendous progress in general virology and understanding of the MERS and SARS viruses, for example, gave us a valuable running start in combating COVID-19.

Among other benefits, research will crucially extend recent discoveries on how viruses replicate and attack their hosts. One exciting outcome of such work is the growing revelation of similar features shared across multiple viruses, or even virus classes, including shared dependence on common host cell pathways. Similar to the way that many antibiotics work against multiple kinds of bacteria, these shared features can serve as targets for developing vaccines and antiviral drugs that inhibit not just one but a whole group of viruses, which would be a major step forward. For lack of such abilities, the world went into lockdown while scientists and doctors struggled mightily to generate, validate, and deliver specific vaccines against COVID-19.

Developing a growing toolbox of broad-spectrum antivirals would much better position us to deal with emerging viruses, providing a good chance that some broad-spectrum agents could work against a new virus threat, individually and likely more powerfully in combination. Generating such broad-use antiviral tools is particularly important since we cannot predict what type of virus will cause the next pandemic. Indeed, the most dangerous pathogenic viruses that emerged in the past century — influenza virus, HIV, coronaviruses, etc. — were all from very different virus families previously considered largely innocuous to humans.

Providing a response commensurate with the scale of emerging viral dangers will take concerted, collaborative efforts similar to the “space race” of the 1960s.
Stopping the Next Pandemic
Continued from page 3

Similar to that effort, a “space race” against pandemics would embody ambitious goals to understand and control viruses, consistent financial support, innovative approaches, and public/private partnerships. We also would need to strengthen public health education and that infrastructure essential to deliver resulting vaccines and drugs to the public. Also like the original space race, such a program would provide many valuable spinoff benefits — in this case, to medicine, biotechnology and other areas. For example, the new mRNA vaccine technology being used to protect people from COVID-19 promises valuable applications to fight cancer and other diseases.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not an isolated event but one step in an accelerating progression of viral threats. While overcoming COVID-19 must remain our immediate priority, we also must recognize this as a wake-up call to address some of the greatest continuing dangers to human health, the economy, and national security. The good news is that we can succeed if we are willing to support the crucial actions and investments needed to learn the strengths and weaknesses of our diverse viral adversaries and how to control them.

In addition to his CALS appointment, Paul Ahlquist is director of the John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Center for Research in Virology at UW’s Morgridge Institute for Research and professor in the Department of Oncology at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. This article originally appeared in The Hill, thehill.com.
Continuing with its newest tradition, the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) will present the fifth WALSAA Daluge Red Jacket Award at the WALSAA Football Fire-Up event on September 11. This year’s recipient is the late Bob Kaczmarek.

Kaczmarek was named this year’s recipient because of his dedication and service to WALSAA for many years. He served on the WALSAA Board for nine years and was president of the organization in 1997-98. Kaczmarek served the organization as the WALSAA treasurer during WALSAA’s transition from Ag Hall to a self-sufficient organization. He maintained the relationships with Ag Hall and the UW Foundation ensuring all scholarships continued to be awarded as designated. Before his sudden health challenges, he worked behind the scenes to set up the WALSAA Scholarship Fund, a place where members and supporters could donate to continue to support the Outstanding Sophomore Awards. There are few that have done more for WALSAA’s history, present and future. His work still secures WALSAA’s foundation.

Kaczmarek graduated from UW-Madison with a bachelor’s degree in construction administration, and received a master’s degree in business administration from UW-Milwaukee.

“Badger Bob” not only volunteered with WALSAA, but he led the Kenosha area efforts for Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA), sharing his pride for the UW in the southeast region. Most notably, he is known for all he gave to Badger Boy state. He was a counselor for many years, and enjoyed the opportunity to inspire, teach and lead young men in their civic responsibility and journey. He was a tireless volunteer and advocate for this program.

The WALSAA Daluge Red Jacket Award honors Rick and Peggy Daluge. Rick was WALSAA’s Executive Director for many years and a founding member of the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association (NAADA). Rick served as CALS Placement Director and CALS Assistant Dean before retiring as FISC Director in 2008. A red jacket is presented in their honor to someone who has made a significant contribution to WALSAA and the future of the organization.

To be a part of Kaczmarek’s recognition, go online at www.WALSAA.org to purchase tickets for this year’s WALSAA Fire-Up event. The WALSAA Daluge Red Jacket Award will be presented on Saturday, September 11 at 4:00 p.m.
FISC is well into its summer and recruiting period right now. Last month, we visited the Wisconsin FFA Convention and Expo where we talked to prospective students who might be interested. We are also planning on attending the World Dairy Expo in October and we are hoping for the same experience as FFA Convention. We have also added a new member of our ambassador team. Madalyn Miller-Nielsen is from Lake Mills, Wisconsin, and is planning on specializing in Dairy Farm Management. Personally, I am very excited about this addition because she has a lot of background in FFA and brings good leadership to our team. Also being in the summer months we are also planning vigorously to get FISC ready for the fall. Applications are open until September 15. We are very excited to be back in the fall and being in person again.

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CALS AMBASSADORS
Meet Siwei Qian

Join us in welcoming Siwei Qian to the WALSAA Board of Directors! Qian is a junior majoring in Biochemistry and pursuing certificates in Graphic Design, Biocore, and Computer Science. She came from Hebei Province, China. This is her first year with the CALS Ambassadors, and she will serve as the Alumni Relations Chair. Siwei plans to attend graduate school in the field of Biomedical Science as she is passionate about various biological interactions on the molecular level, although she’s still exploring various career options. In her free time, she likes visiting museums, skiing and go canoeing on Lake Mendota. She is also an amateur graphic designer. Siwei is excited to explore many opportunities in her remaining two years as an undergraduate student and gain improvements in many of her skills.

FISC UPDATE
FISC Ambassadors

Siwei Qian, WALSAA Student Representative

Leo Ehlen, WALSAA Student Representative

FISC is well into its summer and recruiting period right now. Last month, we visited the Wisconsin FFA Convention and Expo where we talked to prospective students who might be interested. We are also planning on attending the World Dairy Expo in October and we are hoping for the same experience as FFA Convention. We have also added a new member of our ambassador team. Madalyn Miller-Nielsen is from Lake Mills, Wisconsin, and is planning on specializing in Dairy Farm Management. Personally, I am very excited about this addition because she has a lot of background in FFA and brings good leadership to our team. Also being in the summer months we are also planning vigorously to get FISC ready for the fall. Applications are open until September 15. We are very excited to be back in the fall and being in person again.

OSA LOOK BACK
Celebrating 25 Years of Outstanding Sophomore Awards

This year, WALSAA celebrated 25 years of Outstanding Sophomore Awards during a virtual awards ceremony. Highlights included updates from College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Dean and Director Kate VandenBosch and Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) Director Jennifer Blazek, special recognition of 2021 award recipients and a look back to previous recipients.

Taylor Fritsch of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin was a recipient of WALSAA’s Outstanding Sophomore Award. Fritsch is an associate attorney with Michael Best & Friedrich LLP and is currently the WALSAA Vice President and chair of the strategic planning committee.

We asked how WALSAA had an impact on their lives and what advice they would offer current students. Fritsch shared, “The award provided financial support and helped set me apart from my peers in the job and internship market and when applying for law school. UW-Madison and CALS played an outsize role in helping me develop into the person and professional I am today. What better way to say “thank you” than giving back? WALSAA provides a ready-made platform to stay connected with CALS and support current CALS students.”

Watch for more Outstanding Sophomore Award look backs in future issues. 2022 application will be available in November.
COMMITMENT FORM

It’s Never Been More Important to STAY CONNECTED

YOUR CALS CONNECTION FOR LIFE: Staying Connected, Great Networking, Giving Back

Your Name:___________________________________________
Your Company Name (if applicable):___________________________
Address:______________________________________________
Phone: _______________________________________________
Email:________________________________________________

Here is what we want to sponsor/donate:

1. **WALSAA Football Fire-Up** (See full benefits on previous page.)
   **Saturday, September 11, 2021**
   - VARSITY LEVEL: $1,500
   - RED LEVEL: $500
   - SILENT AUCTION ITEM(S)
     - $1,000 VALUE AND UP
     - $100 TO 199
   - BADGER LEVEL: $750
   - WHITE LEVEL: $250

2. **WALSAA Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) Alumni Reunion** (See full benefits on previous page.)
   **January 2022**
   - VARSITY LEVEL: $1,500
   - RED LEVEL: $500
   - BADGER LEVEL: $750
   - WHITE LEVEL: $250

3. **ANNUAL DONATION**
   Amount: _______________
   - RED & WHITE: $50 TO $124
   - BABCOCK HALL: $250 TO $499
   - WALSAASOCIETY: $1,000+
   - HENRY MALL: $125 TO 249
   - AG HALL: $500 TO $999

I want to pay my this way:

- Please send invoice now
- Please send invoice 30 days prior to event
- Online credit card payment: www.WALSAA.org/online-donation/
- Check enclosed (payable to WALSAAS)

Instructions: Please return to admin@walsaa.org or send with payment to: WALSAAS, PO Box 5177, Madison, WI 53705-5177.
If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Hammerly at 608.438.1994.
On July 20, alumni and friends of CALS and FISC gathered for the annual WALSAA picnic. This year’s event was held in conjunction with the FISC Reunion. The picnic, which traditionally corresponds with Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, was held a short drive from the show site at The Florian Gardens Conference Center in Eau Claire. A backyard grill-out was served with burgers, brats and grilled chicken. Attendees enjoyed the beautiful gardens while catching up with fellow Badgers.

WALSAA presented the Friend of Short Course award to Northstar Bison, a FISC Fall Tour stop, for their dedication to the program. The Service to Agriculture award was presented to Bob Bosold for his service to the agriculture community as a broadcaster.

Without the generous support of our sponsors, WALSAA and FISC would be unable to recognize those who make agriculture and FISC better for our community, our alumni, and the students. Our lead sponsors at the Varsity Level were American Foods Group and Compeer Financial. Red Level sponsors included Daluge Travel and Wisconsin Corn Growers Association.

It is always exciting to see old friends and meet new faces. We hope you are able to attend next year’s gathering!

*Read more about FISC award winners on page 9.*
Northstar Bison in Cameron, Wisconsin were recognized with the 2021 Friend of Short Course Award. FISC students attended their farm during the Agriculture Experience Tour in November 2019. They provided bison burgers and an opportunity to hear from founders Lee and Mary Graese about how the farm and business started. Their daughter Marielle Hewitt shared how they raise and handle bison, answered students’ questions, while they were able to pet Anna, a bottle-raised bison who is a matriarch of the herd, through the fence. This is unique because most bison avoid people, even ones who are known to them. Students continue to rate this farm visit their number one of the trip. Many indicate how informative it was and that they didn’t even know bison farming was possible, or that there were bison in Wisconsin.

Congratulations, Lee, Mary and Marielle.

Visit www.northstarbison.com to learn more about Northstar Bison

Originally from the Madison area, this year’s recipient of the Service to Agriculture Award spent part of his youth on his uncle’s farm in Western Iowa. He graduated from UW-Madison CALS in 1976 and began a broadcasting career in Madison with Larry Meiller on his radio show on public radio that was then a farm information program. In February of 1977 he arrived in Eau Claire to do radio and TV at WEAU-TV and WAXX radio. Over the years, he has been a national board member for the National Association of Farm Broadcasting and have served both the UW-Madison CALS Alumni Board and the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Advisory Board. He has also received the Honorary Recognition award from CALS, been selected as the National Farm Broadcaster of the year in 2007, and was inducted into the Wisconsin Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2008 and the NAFB Hall of Fame in 2016. He jokes, “But I’m not smart enough to figure out how or when to retire.”

Congratulations, Bob.
Here is a partial listing of items that will be up for auction at Fire-Up. To see all the auction items, attend the event on September 11. Select items will be available for online bidding beginning on September 4 at www.WALSAA.org. More photos will be added to the WALSAA Facebook page!

**ITEM: One-week stay at Manney Place in vibrant Door County, Wisconsin!**
VALUE: $2,000
DONOR: The Wilson Family/The Manney Place

**ITEM: Food Fight Restaurant Gift Cards for dine-in visits or call-in carryout orders**
VALUE: $200
DONOR: Vern & Judy Dougherty

**ITEM: Four night stay at Daluge’s Hurley area lodge for up to 12 people**
VALUE: $500
DONOR: Rick & Peggy Daluge

**ITEM: Wisconsin Badgers Cornhole Boards Set**
VALUE: $325
DONOR: Taylor Fritsch & Emily Selner

**ITEM: UW Men’s basketball season tickets**
VALUE: $1,686
DONORS: Coloma Farms, Al & Lynn Herrman, Paul & Sarah Patterson, Marjorie Stieve, and WALSAA

**ITEM: Case IH Pedal Tractor**
VALUE: $250
DONOR: Case IH Racine Experience Center

**ITEM: “Under the Autumn Oaks” by Bonnie Mohr. A beautifully matted and framed print signed by the artist.**
VALUE: $150
DONOR: Ron & Sandy Curran

**ITEM: Two - One week stays at any Diamond Resort location worldwide. Many locations in U.S., Mexico, and Europe**
VALUE: $2,970
DONOR: Ehrke Holsteins Farm

**ITEM: Eight Green Bay Packers tickets to Jan. 2 game vs. Minnesota Vikings**
VALUE: $1,020
DONOR: Al & Lynn Herrman

**ITEM: Quarter Angus, grain-finished beef. Processed and cut at Weber’s in Cuba City. Processing is included.**
VALUE: $800
DONOR: Valley View Farms

**ITEM: WALSAA Lifetime Membership**
VALUE: $400
DONOR: WALSAA

Interested in donating? Contact WALSAA at 608.438.1994 or email admin@walsaa.org
Online registration available at: www.WALSAA.org

Join your classmates, professors, and friends to network and have fun at this fall’s 45th annual WALSAA Football Fire-Up on Saturday, September 11. The big event will be held prior to the 6 p.m. kickoff between the Badgers and Eastern Michigan. Fire-Up will again be held in the parking lot of the UW Foundation, 1848 University Avenue. Plans include a visit from Bucky Badger, special UW alumni band performance, live music from The SoundBillies, a silent auction with proceeds to CALS scholarships, a boxed lunch from Milio’s Sandwiches, drinks and various beer selections from Working Draft Beer Company. **BE SURE TO CHECK OUT FAMILY PRICING - - see below**

*Time subject to change by UW Athletics

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*Badger football tickets are available only to WALSAAMembers as a Game Day Package deal with Fire-Up luncheon tickets.

**$15 of each luncheon ticket is a gift of support to WALSAAM and is 100% tax deductible.

***Children under 2 must sit on the lap of an adult football ticket holder during the Badger game.

All football and Fire-Up luncheon tickets will be available at the “Will Call” table at registration. Tickets WILL NOT be mailed.

Make checks payable to: WALSAAM
Mail registration and payment to: WALSAAM, PO Box 5177, Madison, WI 53705
Register online at: www.WALSAA.org
Follow WALSAA on social media at:

www.facebook.com/WALSAAUW
www.twitter.com/WALSAA
www.linkedin.com/groups/4695448/profile

NEW DIGITAL EXPRESS!

We are excited to share that there is a NEW digital version of the WALSAA Express newsletter! Share your email address with us with the QR code below or sign-up at www.WALSAA.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 11 ♦ WALSAA Annual Meeting 2:45 p.m.
UW Foundation, Madison

Sept 11 ♦ WALSAA Football Fire-Up 3:00 p.m.
UW Foundation, Madison

The WALSAA board continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic situation. We will communicate any event changes through our website, newsletter, email and social media channels.