



Your CALS Connection For Life

2018 Outstanding Sophomore Award Recipients



Dhanya Attipetty • Biology and English literature

Dhanya Attipetty is from Oak Creek, Wisconsin. She is pursuing bachelors' degrees in biology and English literature, as well as a biocore certificate. Once she set foot on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, Attipetty got involved in several organizations. She was an algebra mentor for Achievement Connections, a tutoring service offered through the Morgridge Center for Public Service; plays violin in the UW-Madison All University String Orchestra; and works as a lab assistant and university dorm

front desk worker.

However, one project she is particularly passionate about is the Wisconsin Science Olympiad. Attipetty started volunteering for the event as an assistant, providing help wherever it was needed. She soon grew into her own role as the supervisor for the herpetology event. In this role, she created, administered, and graded exams and coordinated with Olympiad officials to make sure she had all materials and volunteers needed to run the event at the regional level.



Samantha Busch • Biochemistry

Samantha Busch comes to UW-Madison from Blue Mounds, Wisconsin. She is a biochemistry major pursuing certificates in global health, classics and biocore. Busch has been highly involved in several organizations on campus. She is a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta sorority; a UNICEF volunteer and advocacy committee member; and a U.S. partner for BRIDGE, an international friendship program that helps connect international and U.S. students.

Busch was also a BASES (Building Academic, Social and Emotional Support) mentor and provided one-on-one academic, social, and emotional support for local homeless children. Through this program, Busch started the Building BASES program. The program is designed to help educate students on homelessness and teach them how they can directly impact homelessness in the Madison area. To help achieve her dream of becoming a doctor, Busch is also a certified nursing assistant and works at a local hospital. She also completed a week-long healthcare volunteer trip to Costa Rica to help provide care for patients.

Welcome to the 2018 Outstanding Sophomore Award recipient features!

Each year, WALSAA names 10 second-year CALS students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as outstanding sophomores. The award focuses on the qualities that truly exemplify an outstanding student, including leadership, service, experience, and academic success. Continue reading to learn more about this year's award winners and why they are truly outstanding.

Since 1972, WALSAA has been THE alumni association of the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) and Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC).

WALSAA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports the connection of students, faculty and alumni to the UW-Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences.

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Emily Matzke • Animal science and life sciences communication

Emily Matzke is from Sauk City, Wisconsin and is currently pursuing bachelors' degrees in animal science and life sciences communication. If you can think of an agriculture-related organization at UW-Madison, the odds are pretty good that Matzke is a member of it. She is currently a member of the Badger Dairy Club, vice president of careers for the National Agri-Marketing Association, secretary of the Collegiate Farm Bureau, public relations coordinator for the Association of Women in Agriculture, and a co-host for the weekly Ag Chat Radio Show.

Matzke is also a co-chair for the World Dairy Expo (WDE) grilled cheese stand. This is a major commitment for a sophomore as she devotes many hours during the fall semester to plan and organize the stand leading up to WDE, and then 60 hours during the week of the show. Matzke also currently works as a sales associate for Sassy Cow Creamery and a program assistant for AgrAbility of Wisconsin, an organization that assists farmers and families living with a farm injury disability, or limitation.



Grace Padgett • Biochemistry

Grace Padgett came to UW-Madison from Burtonsville, Maryland. She is currently a biochemistry major with interests of becoming a physician one day. Padgett has been very involved on campus as a CALS SOAR advisor and a career services advisor, and as a Posse scholar within the Posse Foundation, a program that helps train students to be leaders within their community. She is also a research assistant in a biochemistry lab exploring the effects of a specific enzyme on metabolism and disease formation.

After finishing school, Padgett would like to use her education to improve healthcare for communities with people of color. To help achieve this goal, she joined the Health Occupations and Professions Exploration (HOPE) program to help educate under-represented high school kids on more than 40 healthcare-related professions. She is also the secretary for Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) and helps plan, communicate, and execute meetings and events.



Jinal Patel • Microbiology and business management

Jinal Patel is from West Salem, Wisconsin and is currently studying microbiology and business management. Patel's passion is research and doing anything she can to make a difference in peoples' lives. She currently works in a lab studying amoebic-bacterial interactions on top of her many other extracurricular commitments. Patel is currently a Class of 2020 representative in the CALS Student Association, an academic chair on the CALS Health and Research Society, and a volunteer in the Infusion Center at the UW Hospital.

Patel realized at a young age that she wanted to help those in need, this includes helping clear up medical misconceptions. Whenever she is back home on break, Patel volunteers as a transporter for the Mayo Clinic in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She is also a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and dedicates several hours a week to the Interim Healthcare of Wisconsin. To help abolish medical misconceptions, Patel volunteers with ScienceEncounters each fall and goes to Boys and Girls' Clubs to teach them about science concepts using hands-on displays.

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Abby Rothering • Biology

Abby Rothering is a sophomore from Richland Center, Wisconsin. She is currently majoring in biology and pursuing a certificate in environmental studies. Rothering came to UW-Madison with the goal of achieving academic excellence. Through hard work and dedication, Rothering has been able to achieve her goal and has enjoyed being on the Dean’s List for the last three semesters, even while increasing her class work load. She devotes 30 hours per week to her classes, in addition to the work she puts in at the McClellan Lab in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, where she helps conduct research involving instruments to take eye pressures.

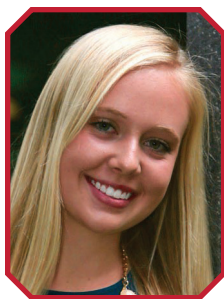
Rothering also understands the importance of taking leadership roles within her organizations. Her freshman year, she was a co-chair on her residence hall board and helped plan events for her fellow residents. She is also currently a member of the Pre-Veterinary Association Executive Board and its fundraising co-chair. In this role, Rothering helps plan, organize and run club fundraisers to benefit local groups, such as the Dane County Humane Society.



Anna Schmidt • Planning to declare biology and environmental studies

Anna Schmidt comes to UW-Madison from Rochester, Minnesota, and she is currently pursuing a dual degree in biology and environmental studies. Schmidt has a passion for the environment, specifically environmental microbiology, and dedicates a lot of her time to volunteering. Some of her volunteer work includes the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, where she works with a team to remove invasive species from Picnic Point, and The River Food Pantry, where she helps serve individuals and families who visit the pantry.

After graduation, Schmidt plans to earn her Ph.D. studying ways to improve all bodies of water. She hopes to find a career as a government scientist and educator focused on maintaining the health of our water resources. To prepare for a career in this field. Schmidt volunteered as an outdoor program leader at Lake View Elementary School, where she planned and implemented outdoor activities and lessons for third graders. She is also the head of the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Microbial Observatory Sampling for the McMahon Laboratory and leads weekly water sampling trips on Lake Mendota.



Jessica Strosahl • Dietetics

Jessica Strosahl is from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, and she is currently earning her bachelor’s degree in dietetics and her leadership certificate. Strosahl came into UW-Madison as a biology major but found her calling in dietetics. She ultimately hopes to achieve her Ph.D. in a nutrition-related topic shortly after becoming a registered dietician. She is currently a member of the Dietetics and Nutrition Club, participating in outreach events; a nutrition assistant for a local retirement community, aiding residents during meal time; a Wisconsin Admissions volunteer; and a member on the CALS Dean’s Advisory Board.

Strosahl also works for the University’s Career Exploration Center. Coming onto campus and not knowing what kind of career she wanted to pursue was difficult for her, but she is able to use her personal experience to help other students find a major for them. In this position, Strosahl tells all undecided students that purposeful exploration is the most beneficial strategy to help select a major.

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Brooke Trustem • Dairy science and agricultural business management

Brooke Trustem is a sophomore from Evansville, Wisconsin, and she is currently majoring in dairy science and agricultural business management, and pursuing a certificate in environmental studies. Trustem was raised on her family's 2,500-cow dairy farm. She is passionate about the dairy industry and hopes to remain in it. Through her education and experiences, Trustem plans to ultimately return home and work in a management role on the farm. She would also like to help coordinate events for younger children to learn more about agriculture and the many benefits it holds for the body and the economy. Through several internships, Trustem also gained interest in finding new ways to increase milk quality and efficiency and improve animal welfare.

To help prepare herself for this career path, Trustem has become highly involved in many agriculture-related organizations on campus. She is currently the outreach specialist for the Badger Dairy Club and a food chair for the Association of Women in Agriculture's Breakfast on the Farm. In these roles, Trustem helps coordinate and run events that help educate the public about agriculture.



Anna Walther • Community and environmental sociology

Anna Walther comes from Bristol, Wisconsin. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in community and environmental sociology, and certificates in French, global health, and leadership. Walther is the first to admit that she can't say, "No." From the moment Walther stepped on campus, she recognized the many opportunities the university has to offer students who want to get involved. She has been an avid participant in several organizations, including Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Salvation Army, Wheels for Winners, and Badger Volunteers.

Walther clearly has a passion to help her community and the communities around her. This is evident by her participation in the Alternative Breaks program. Through this program, students take the time out of their breaks between or during semesters to immerse themselves in a community and participate in public service projects. Walther was a participant in a Flint, Michigan trip in Spring 2017, and then she was a site leader in Memphis, Tennessee during winter 2018, where the group learned about urban education.



Congratulations to all of our 2018 Outstanding Sophomore Award recipients!

We are proud of all of our 2018 Outstanding Sophomore Award recipients and look forward to what they will accomplish in the years to come. We would also like to thank all of the applicants for this year's award and wish them good luck as they finish

The ability for WALSAA to provide this type of support is at the core of its mission and solidifies its connection to CALS. Starting with donations and continuing with annual silent auctions, WALSAA has been able to generate continued scholarship support over many years to deserving students of CALS. If you are interested in supporting students and advisors, visit www.WALSAA.org.