

WALSAA EXPRESS

➔ YOUR CALS CONNECTION FOR LIFE

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UW-Madison Launches New Global Health Major

By Nicole Miller, UW-Madison CALS Office of External Relations

2020 has been a time of expanded visibility of, and appreciation for global public health efforts, a year when people have been paying attention to the complex and varied impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the U.S. and beyond. It is in this context that UW-Madison is launching a new global health major, an alternative to the existing global health certificate for those students who want more depth in this topic area.

“The value of any global health training lies in the way it forces us to think about the day-to-day experiences of other people and to face the extreme inequities that still exist in disease incidence and other threats to good health, regardless of whether it’s looking at communities across the ocean or in our own backyard,” says entomology professor Susan Paskewitz, who helped develop the new major. “There’s an emphasis on empathy, on cultural awareness and humility, and on collaborative efforts to improve health at the population level.”

The new global health major is both a bioscience and public health major. Students in the major study human health and well-being through population-level and world health perspectives, exploring how human health intersects with multiple interconnected systems, such as climate change, food systems, disease ecology, environmental health, economic development, and healthcare access.

“It’s a really broad field, so the major is designed to help students find their passion area within [the field] and go deeper into the area they care about most,” says Todd Courtenay, lead advisor for the major.

Continued on page 4.



New Lifetime Members

Leo Ehlen '21
Steven Roets '21
Jay Woodhouse '21

In Memoriam

Howard Larsen, BS '50
Gale L. VandeBerg, BS '43
Donald E. Wilkinson, BS '47
Thomas J. Zwettler, BS '57

In This Issue

Global Health.....	1,5
Student Updates.....	6
FISC Corner.....	7
Day of the Badger.....	8

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Year's Revelations



Pierce Dopp, WALSAA President

I don't believe in New Year's resolutions, as they can be broken or ignored. A revelation, however, can be inspiring and thought-provoking. A revelation can move you to realize what is possible without compromising your long-term goals. 2020 was a year for organizations like WALSAA to adapt and survive. I am proud to say that WALSAA did more than survive this past year, as evidenced by our Fire-Up fundraising efforts in which we received more than enough donations to secure our OSA awards commitment for 2020-21. Our year-end donor drive also surpassed our expectations, coming in at just under \$10,000. My thanks to all of you who helped make our fundraising efforts successful through your donations and time spent volunteering.

My revelation is that 2021 will be the year for WALSAA not just to adapt, but to thrive. I have already been on multiple committee calls this year, including our January 22 Virtual Board Meeting, in which we have addressed the critical issues facing WALSAA now and in the future. I say without hesitation that I am excited about the progress that has been made on our various outreach initiatives to alumni and students.

No matter how long ago you graduated or how distant you are from the Madison campus, I hope that you will all think of WALSAA as your second family and the Madison campus as your home away from home. I envision our family as a global one that assures our members they always have WALSAA's support and respect.

Because you are family, we are committed to ensuring that give back to you by finding meaningful ways for you to strengthen your bond with your alma mater through

WALSAA. We believe that we can do a better job in creating opportunities to enrich your lives, and for you to enrich the lives of current students and your fellow alumni alike. This commitment has led your WALSAA Board to engage in a long-range strategic planning process that will assist us in thinking differently about how we market our programs. Led by Taylor Fritsch (WALSAA Vice-President), this process is designed to help us focus on how we are perceived by students, alumni and members; seeking opportunities to work within the industry and, or more importantly, working with each other to share our great message. That is our strength. That is WALSAA. To quote a former Board Member and WALSAA President Marjorie Stieve, "WALSAA is very good at making friends."

WALSAA works hard to serve your needs and interests. Your opinions and ideas are an important part of our planning efforts. As a part of our overall strategic planning initiative, please help us better understand what you expect of WALSAA events by completing the 5-minute survey at WALSAA.org. This information will help us better plan future events (in-person and virtual) and we would greatly appreciate your participation.

In closing, your Board is looking forward to going through the strategic process this year. We believe that the result will be a blueprint that will call for a mutual commitment between WALSAA and our members. With it, we will strengthen a sense of community as Badgers and our ownership of our beloved alma mater. We look forward to partnering with you in this process.

With warmest regards,
Pierce Dopp (B.S. 1981)

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Evansville, WI

CALS MESSAGE

'Meat' Our New Building



Kate VandenBosch, CALS Dean and Director

On November 6, CALS celebrated the long-awaited opening of the new Meat Science and Animal Biologics Discovery (MSABD) building. This state-of-the-art facility is part of the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences and home to the MSABD program, which serves many vital roles for the meat industry and for biological research more broadly. The program's main goals are to:

- **Develop** meat industry leaders (present and future)
- **Discover** new uses for animal components that enhance animal and human health
- **Provide** expertise and education about foods derived from animals
- **Improve** the safety and nutritional quality of animal-based proteins

The celebration was conducted remotely to comply with pandemic restrictions. But if you missed it, a recorded video program is available on the MSABD website at msabd.cals.wisc.edu. It features comments from Gov. Tony Evers, Chancellor Rebecca Blank, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary-designee Randy Romanski, state Sen. Howard Marklein, State Assemblyman Gary Tauchen, and MSABD Program Director Steven Ricke. The website also showcases photos of the facility, profiles of program faculty and staff, messages from alumni and other friends of the program, and a special playlist of songs called "Meaty Beats."

The MSABD project was already in the planning stages when I became Dean in 2012. Throughout the course of this project, I've learned so much about the rich meat science history at UW and CALS. As many of you know, Wisconsin meat scientists were part of a core group responsible for founding the American Meat Science Association more than 50 years ago. UW professor Robert Bray was elected as the association's first president.

Fast forward to more recent history, I was at the State Capitol in 2013, just prior to the vote to approve the project in the state budget, when several of our industry partners brought product samples to share with legislators and their staff. On that day, I learned that people in the Capitol could stack very small plates with large quantities of meat products with incredible skill!

During my time at CALS, I've been able to meet three classes of Master Meat Crafters, professionals who study to earn a certificate in

this specially designed program. I'm consistently impressed by their ability to quickly apply the skills they learn to improve their businesses, which, in turn, support their local communities.

I've also been inspired by the vision of our alumni and industry leaders to expand the facility's focus beyond studying meat as a source of food. They've challenged faculty and staff from many disciplines to consider how to harness the potential of other life-sustaining components of meat animals. In the MSABD building, we can examine what were once considered low-value byproducts and study how these elements can help save lives. This is part of the new biologics focus of our program, one that I'm confident will continue to embolden our thinking.

In closing, I want to recognize the many people within the meat industry, university, and state government who worked very hard for many years to make the new MSABD building a reality. Thank you to the members of the meat science advisory committee, all of our donors who gave so generously to help support the construction, and everyone who traveled to the State Capitol to share the value of this building with elected officials. Finally, I want to recognize the faculty, staff, and students in animal and dairy sciences, and throughout the university, who have contributed to the design, coordination, and planning of this remarkable building.

The pandemic is preventing public access to the MSABD building for now, but I look forward to the time when you can tour the building for yourself. I know you'll be amazed!



Continued from page 1.

The major, housed in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, will help prepare students for a wide variety of careers. Students can go on to become healthcare professionals who are well-informed about the broader systems that impact the health of their patients. They can become epidemiologists or research scientists in academia or with government agencies such as

the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Majors can also take on roles as community health professionals working on policy, education, or communication for governmental agencies or non-governmental organizations, locally, nationally, or internationally.

“Science is something I’ve always known my career would center around, but I didn’t quite know how to combine it with my love for travel and languages,” says Zari Dehdashti, a junior global health major. “Global health opens so many doors in realms that include these interests.”

UW-Madison students have already shown a strong interest in global health. The global health certificate, which has been available for more than a decade, is among the most popular on campus, with around 300 students earning one each year.

“The interest in developing a major started with the success [of the certificate], and with the realization that there are many students who wanted deeper engagement,” says Paskewitz. “Much of the training in global health doesn’t happen until postgraduate programs. We think that’s too late for undergraduates interested in this field.”

A new advising hub, staffed by Courtenay, along with seasoned Global Health certificate advisors Katie Freeman and Devika Suri, has been established to support students pursuing the new major and the certificate. And the curriculum has been designed to make it easy for students to switch between the major and the certificate, and vice versa.



Zari Dehdashti

The certificate is a 15-credit program that is easily accessible to all UW–Madison majors, as the required courses have no pre-requisites. The major requires 62 credits worth of fundamental courses, core courses, depth courses, and a capstone. As an official bioscience major, a series of foundational science courses are part of the package.

One hallmark of the overall program is the “global health field experience,” which can take place internationally or domestically, including some opportunities as nearby as the Madison area. It’s a requirement for the certificate, and majors are strongly encouraged to participate.

“The field experience is really an opportunity for students to get a more hands-on experience where they’re taking their classroom knowledge and seeing how it plays out in the real world,” explains Courtenay. “It’s about getting more of a personal connection [to what they are learning].”

After graduating with her bachelor’s degree in global health, Dehdashti plans to join a global health effort for a few years, return to school for a Ph.D. in epidemiology, and then seek an epidemiology position with a multinational organization.

“Something central to being a ‘global citizen’ is being willing to go out there and roll up your sleeves,” says Dehdashti, “and that’s exactly what I intend to do!”

The global health major became available in fall 2020. For more information or to talk to an advisor, visit guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/entomology/global-health-bs/.

A screenshot of the UW-Madison Guide website page for the Global Health, B.S. program. The page features a red navigation bar with links for Undergraduate, Graduate, Hondegree, Courses, Faculty, Archive, and Apply Now. The main content area includes a header for 'GLOBAL HEALTH, B.S.' and a grid of images showing a globe, a person in a lab coat, and a person in a field. A sidebar on the right lists navigation options: Overview, How to Get in, Requirements, Learning Outcomes, Four-Year Plan, Advising and Careers, People, and Wisconsin Experience. The main text describes the major as a bioscience and public health program focusing on human health and well-being through population-level and planetary health perspectives.



Friend of Short Course Award at the WALSAA Farm and Industry Short Course Reunion:
(L-R) CALS Dean and Director Kate VandenBosch; Bob Behnke, 2020 award recipient;
FISC Director Jennifer Blazek; and WALSAA President Paul Patterson.

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Nikita Piryani, CALS Ambassadors - Events and Scholarship Committees
Scott Rasch, Case IH - Events Committee Chair and FISC Committee
June Rousch, John Deere Credit - Finance Committee
Brooke Trustem, Boumatic - Marketing and Development and Scholarship Committees

Contracted Services:

Stephanie Hammerly, Membership and Events Coordinator
Jill Makovec, Bookkeeper

Welcome to the WALSAA Snapshot 2020!

This annual year-end summary is part of our commitment to be your CALS Connection for Life! Snapshot provides an in-depth look at our organizational resources, donors and sponsors, and leadership.

Please read through Snapshot to learn how your support is helping our members stay connected, network and give back to CALS.

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 and Life Sciences.

**Wisconsin Agricultural
and Life Sciences Alumni
Association**

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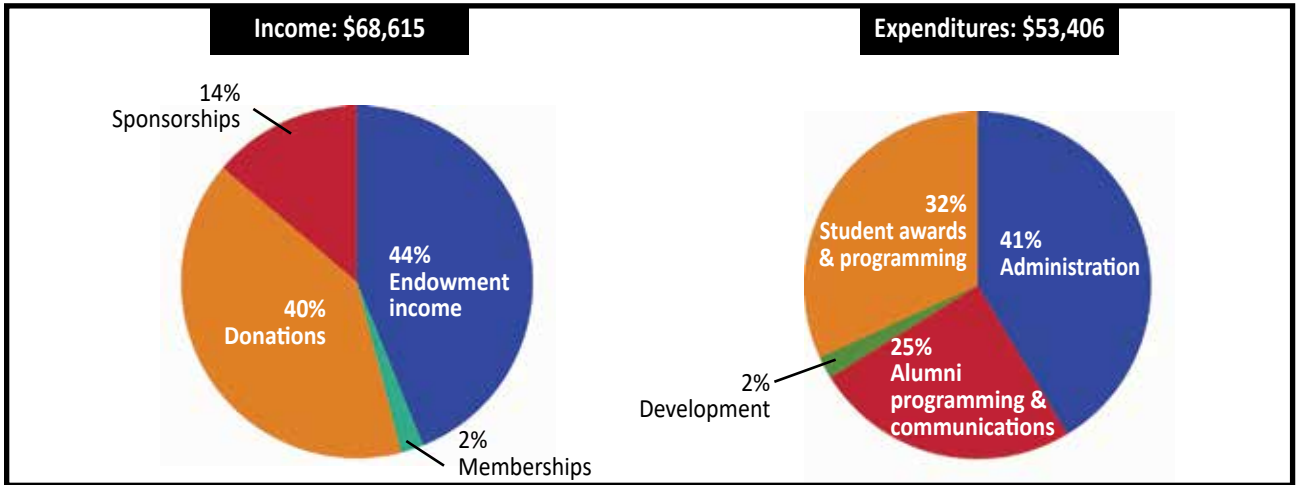
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Your CALS Connection For Life

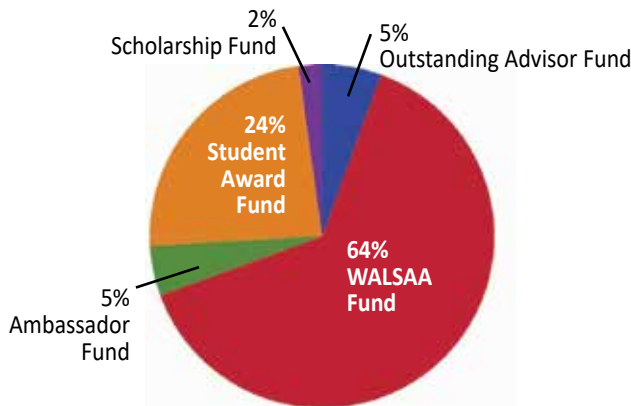
2020 Fiscal Overview



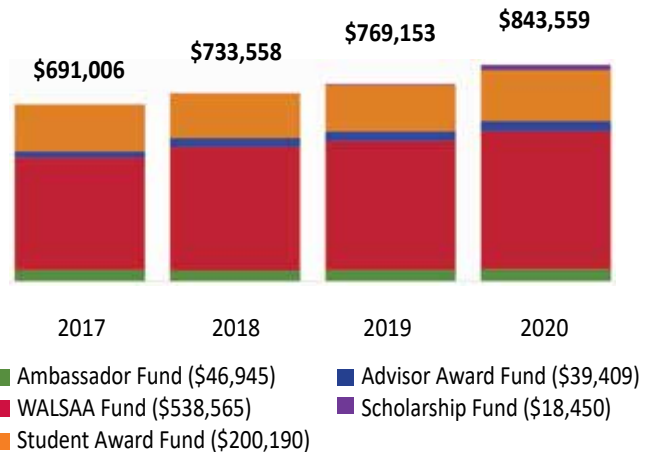
Note: Loss on events due to COVID-19 is deducted from endowment income on this display.

WALSAA Endowment Funds

Estimated Annual Income: \$37,960



Market Value Trend



Endowment Fund Descriptions

Ambassador Fund

This fund was established in December 2000 by the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) to support the student ambassador program in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS).

Outstanding Advisor Award Fund

The WALSAA Outstanding Advisor Award Fund was established in October 1997 as part of the WALSAA 25th Anniversary Gala to recognize a member of the CALS faculty for exceptional student advising service.

Student Award Fund

The Student Award Fund was established by WALSAA with a \$20,000 donation on March 1, 1991. The fund supports student travel awards, scholarships, intern experiences, and other student recognition and professional development opportunities.

WALSAA Fund

This fund was established to support WALSAA activities, programs and publications. It is primarily used to support programming for members.

WALSAA Scholarship Fund

This fund was established in December 2018 by WALSAA for gifts designated specifically for student scholarships.

WALSAA Resources at Work in 2020

Outstanding Sophomore Award

WALSAA recognized 10 exemplary sophomore CALS students last year. Students go through an application process, screening and personal interviews to each receive the \$2,000 recognition.

Last year's recipients and their majors included: Jared Baudhuin, dairy science; Ronni Brent, microbiology; Madison Castle, genetics and genomics; Asha Jain, biochemistry; Caitlin Kestell, genetics and genomics; Nikita Piryani, biology; Grace Puc, environmental science; Olivia Pusch, animal science and genetics and genomics; Mia Roccaro, animal science; and Katherine Satori, biochemistry.

Outstanding FISC Student Award

WALSAA recognizes Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) students who are leaders amongst their peers with this award. 2020 recipients included: Jenna Breitenfeldt, Wausau, Wisconsin; Emma Sanderson, Fredonia, Wisconsin; Luke Wavrunek, Denmark, Wisconsin; Hailey Richardson, Elkhorn, Wisconsin; and Jeremy Schlies, Denmark, Wisconsin. WALSAA also recognizes FISC students with Outstanding Leadership and Activity Awards and Academic Excellence Awards.

WALSAA Outstanding Advisor Award

WALSAA has been honoring advisors with the Outstanding Advisor Award since 1979. The 2020 recipient was Daniel K. Young. Young is a professor in the department of entomology and facilitates professional development through SWARM, which is a Friday social gathering of all the entomology faculty, staff and students.

WALSAA Student Impact Grants

WALSAA supports CALS student organizations by providing excellent leadership and professional development opportunities through our Impact Grant program. Organizations apply for necessary dollars towards special projects, professional development activities, educational trips, etc.

Here are a few of the 2020 WALSAA Impact Grant recipients and what the funding was put towards:

- **American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** - *Developed a new conference to provide an opportunity for students to engage and learn from the research of other undergraduates across the Midwest.*
- **CALS Health and Research Society** - *Host the CALS Undergraduate Research Symposium as an opportunity for undergraduates to present their research.*
- **Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences Club** - *Created a program for high school students to experience UW-Madison with a focus on agriculture and related sciences.*
- **Plant Science Graduate Student Council** - *Promote knowledge and appreciation of plant sciences through their annual Plant Sciences Symposium, which connects fellow students, faculty, and industry representatives.*
- **Quarter-Scale Tractor Team** - *Designed, built, and tested a quarter-scale pulling tractor for the International Quarter-Scale Competition held by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers each spring.*
- **Undergraduate Genetics Association** - *Experience a biotechnology company to give members an authentic experience of potential career opportunities.*



Outstanding Advisor



Outstanding FISC Student Award Honorees



Special CALS Commencement Gifts

Special CALS Commencement Gifts

WALSAA was honored to celebrate the UW Class of 2020 by sharing a special gift with them. More than 700 new CALS graduates received a WALSAA PopSocket® and a special congratulatory letter from Paul Patterson, WALSAA President, encouraging them to "POP over to WALSAA" and create more CALS memories.





Your CALS Connection For Life

A Sincere THANK YOU to our 2020 Donors

We would like to thank our sponsors, donors, and CALS for supporting our efforts to support CALS and FISC students during this time. A * denotes matching grant funds.

WALSAA SOCIETY (\$1,000 or greater)

American Foods Group
*UW-Madison College of
Agricultural and Life Sciences
Compeer Financial
Rick and Peggy Daluge/
Daluge Travel
Stephen and Pat Diercks/
Coloma Farms, Inc.
Liz and Joe Henry/
J. Henry and Sons
Al and Lynn Herrman
Duane and Kay Maas
James Mode
Paul and Sarah Patterson
The Wilson Family
Wisconsin Corn Growers
Association

AG HALL CLUB (\$500-\$999)

Raymond and Tracy Cooper
Taylor Fritsch and Emily Selner
Bob and Lisa Hagenow
Mark and Debbie Hansen
Tom and Bev Kennedy
Land O'Lakes
Howard and Ruby Larsen
Michael Marr/Valley View Farms
John and Marian McClellan
Steve Merry
Larry Skaar

BABCOCK HALL CLUB (\$250-\$499)

David Arndt
Shawn and Lori Conley
Dane County Dairy Promotion
Committee
Pat and Amy Galloway
Pamela Hodgson
Insight FS
Lakeshore Equine Services
Julie and Kevin Larson Family
Larry Lindsay
Samuel and Nadine Miller
Richard E. Ralph
State Bank of Cross Plains
Marjorie Stieve
Bill and Diane Thompson
Russell Tietz

HENRY MALL CLUB (\$125-\$249)

George Beestman
The Dennis and Catherine Buege Fund
of InFaith Community Foundation
Wayne P. Craig
Carl Daniels
David and Michelle Golz
Joel and Stephanie Hammerly
Randy and Linda Jones
John L. Koeller
Betty J. Krcma
Philip and Betty Maas
George A. Morris
Russell and Karen Rindsig
Jennifer and Jon Sawle
Gary Sommers
Mark P. Strohschein
John W. Wilks
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable
Growers Association

RED & WHITE CLUB (\$50-\$124)

Jon Anderson
Dan Bird
Traci Brewer
Robert Briggs
Elizabeth Burgy
Robert Cropp
Dirk A. Daniels
William Davies
Marshall Finner
James and Gladys Hansen
Keith Heineck
William D. Henquinet
Richard and Mary LaCroix
Dr. Thomas Lindahl
Gregory Long
Kara Luedtke
Joel P. Marquardt and
Marion E. Kaye-Marquardt
Nichelle Martin
Paul E. Mleziva
Carl Mueller
Dwight Mueller
Christine M. Olson
Pfizer Foundation
Robert T. and Patricia J. Reddell
Bob Reierson
Neal and Joan Sanders
Sheldon A. Schieldt
Dale M. Sievert
Wayne A. Slotten
Millard and Barbara Susman
Mark and Vanessa Thieleke
Russell and Dae Vogel
Donald Walther
David Welsh
Tom Wright
Scott Zimmerman

OTHER (Less than \$50)

Derek Brander
Bruce Buckley
Ron and Anne Checkai
David and Cindy Cooper
Joseph Dietrich
Jeff Edwards
Brad Markhardt
Michael and Judy Pedersen
Douglas Reinemann
Paul and Hope Reinhardt
David Stute

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

CALS Ambassadors



Nikita Piryani, WALSAA Student Representative

To recap, the fall semester went well for CALS Ambassadors. We were able to hold numerous events virtually such as the Graduate School Panel, Research Mentor Workshop in collaboration with WISCIENCE, CALS Majors Fair, and create a Virtual Tour Video. Also, we held seven CALS information sessions and open houses for prospective CALS students. We have had a handful of students attend each session.

The spring semester formally began for all UW students on January 25. The CALS Ambassadors have been busy. We had our first calling night on January 31 and were able to successfully contact 87% of the admitted students in the Early Action pool. The students had great questions for us and were excited to continue their journey with the UW-Madison. Moreover, we have also been continuing to host CALS info sessions virtually. We also held a Virtual Interview Workshop on February 4 in partnership with CALS Career Services. Finally, we have been working to increase our social media presence on Instagram and Facebook.

The CALS Ambassadors held or are planning to hold virtual CALS Admitted Students Weeks during the weeks of

February 15, March 15, and April 19. During these weeks, admitted students can participate in a variety of student panels about CALS majors, life in Madison, undergraduate research, and how to study and pick classes in college. There will also be a Closing Q&A Session for students to get their questions answered about CALS and academic opportunities.

Campus COVID-19 Briefing:

In order to limit transmission of COVID-19, the university has required students living in Madison and employees who work on campus to be tested according to the schedule provided by the Safe Badgers app saferbadgers.wisc.edu. The new testing method is a saliva test for rapid results. Students and employees will not be allowed to enter buildings unless they have the green “building access granted” status on the app.

University Health Services has also been able to vaccinate eligible Phase 1a and Phase 1b employees and students against COVID-19. More information can be found at covidresponse.wisc.edu/dashboard/.

FISC UPDATE

FISC Ambassadors



Leo Ehlen, WALSAA Student Representative

While we had to find new ways of teaching and sharing information with students, the fall semester online FISC program proved to be a great success. We built upon the momentum and created even stronger content for the online spring semester. I am excited to continue to provide more opportunities to interact with the students and keep the community aspect of FISC strong.

I have had an amazing opportunity to get to know the students while hosting several different events. I am really looking forward to providing more new events and different virtual activities for the students via Zoom.

We are also starting our virtual tours for incoming FISC students. We have an interactive virtual tour on our website for the students. Then we follow it up with a Zoom call for the students to ask questions and hear our experiences about this great program.

We are wrapping up our spring semester and I can't wait to see what FISC will look like in the fall!

TIPS FOR ESTATE PLANNING CONVERSATIONS

How to Get the Conversation Started

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Even in the most open families, conversation often quiets when two subjects arise: death and money. For both parents and adult children, confronting the prospect of each other's deaths can be uncomfortable. Privacy around financial matters is often a key concern, even among close family members.

Why conversation is critical

When it comes to estate planning, there are often significant financial and personal benefits to being transparent and having sensitive conversations. For example, you might assume one of your likely survivors would be comfortable managing a certain asset or serving as trustee, when in reality that person is not up to the responsibility.

From the survivors' perspective, it's important they understand your intentions and plans for your estate. Lack of clear communication during estate planning (or an inadequate or outdated plan) can not only reduce the amount your beneficiaries receive, it can also result in uncertainty and conflict for them in an already difficult time.

If you do most of the work on your family's finances, you'll want to be certain of your survivors' comfort level with taking on the task and their understanding of your intentions. For some, it may be best for a professional to assume the responsibility. Consult with your attorney or advisor.

Survivors may even make decisions based on erroneous ideas of what the deceased would have wanted. For example, when communication is lacking, some surviving spouses think honoring their loved one means keeping investments exactly as they were at the time of death. Eventually, this could lead to an outdated portfolio and missed growth opportunities.

Additional benefits of dialogue

Covering all the bases

Sometimes, to be effective, the conversation may need to extend beyond your immediate household.

As an adult child, make sure your parents have their own plans and will be properly cared for if one of them passes away or becomes incapacitated.

As a parent, make sure your children have an understanding of your plans and wishes; if the children are still minors, make sure the appointed guardians are willing and clear on your intentions.

As a grandparent or other relative, ensure your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., will be taken care of through your own estate planning, as well as coordinating with their parents on their plans, too.

The benefits of having a dialogue about estate planning within your family don't stop at asset protection and an accurate understanding of intentions. Such an open dialogue can:

- Bring your family a sense of empowerment, that you are taking control of each other's collective future rather than leaving some elements to chance.
- Pass on family values.
- Help your family develop a common understanding and a common philosophy for how you and your family's legacy will be carried out through generations.
- Help prepare the family in the event you or another family member becomes incapacitated.
- Help other members of your family—your parents, your siblings, or your children—develop a responsible plan.
- Allow your family to take advantage of some of the best tax strategies.

How to get the conversation started

Despite how important this conversation can be, it may still be difficult to initiate. There is certainly more than one right way to begin a dialogue; however, here are a few suggestions to help guide you:

- **Pick a positive, comfortable environment during a period of relative calm.** Don't wait until a time of crisis when it may be too late to make adequate plans and family members may not feel emotionally able to talk.
- **Be sincere about your intentions.** Be clear that you are initiating these talks out of concern that proper plans are in place and are understood.
- **Stress the importance and benefits of this conversation to everyone affected.** One way to do this is to show an example of an estate that was improperly handled because family members had failed to discuss their plans with each other.

FISC CORNER

New Scholarship Program Covers 100% of Tuition and Fees



Jennifer Blazek, FISC Director

The FISC Tuition Promise is a guaranteed scholarship for eligible Wisconsin students who have need to cover 100% of their tuition and fees for attending FISC. Students need to be Wisconsin residents who have, or their family has, an Adjusted Gross Income of \$60,000 or less OR have received federal benefits like School Lunch, SNAP, Medicaid, or the USDA Disaster & Emergency Assistance program. There are only two questions to fill out for the FISC Tuition Promise and it's built into the FISC Scholarship application, so no need to fill out the FAFSA!

The FISC Tuition Promise will start in the 2021-22 academic year. This program allows FISC to give more meaningful support to students, while continuing our normal robust scholarship program for those who aren't eligible for the FISC Tuition Promise.

I hope WALSAA members can share this with any students and families they know who would be great candidates for FISC.

For further details, visit fisc.cals.wisc.edu/financial-support/

FISC AWARD

Liesch Recognized with J.S. Donald Short Course Teaching Award

PJ Liesch, a professor and extension specialist in the entomology department, was selected to receive the 2020 J.S. Donald Short Course Teaching Award. He teaches an integrated pest management course in the Farm and Industry Short Course program. When he began teaching the class, he realized its current structure was limiting students' ability to gain hands on lab experience, so he worked with other instructors to focus on participatory learning experiences.

To benefit both conventionally oriented students with a focus on pesticide use, as well as organic growers interested in limiting the use of pesticides, Liesch dedicated two labs to allow for hands-on experience for both approaches to farming. This change in the course has been greatly appreciated by his students.

Liesch continues to seek improvements to his class every year. Based on input from students in the first and second year he introduced new aspects that provided fewer PowerPoint lectures and more interactive and participatory training. In addition, he always emphasizes his availability to assist students.

Liesch is a dedicated and highly knowledgeable instructor who has gone above and beyond his required duties to improve the knowledge and development of short course students.



PJ Liesch



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WALSAA to Support CALS Quickstart Students Through Day of the Badger Match



During UW-Madison’s Day of the Badger on April 6-7, CALS will be directing all gifts to the college to their QuickStart program. WALSAA will aid that effort by providing a \$2,500 matching gift.

QuickStart helps incoming first-year students get a summer jump on their UW–Madison coursework, reduce time to graduation, and join a cohort of fellow scholars. Nearly 140 students enrolled in QuickStart in 2020, and 58 students received scholarships thanks to 2019’s successful Day of the Badger campaign. The college hopes to raise \$25,000 this year.

Support CALS QuickStart at dayofthebadger.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9 ♦ WALSAA Virtual Awards Ceremony
Zoom link will be available at WALSAA.org

July 14 ♦ WALSAA Fan Deck Event
Wisconsin Woodchucks, Wausau

TBD ♦ WALSAA FISC Reunion
***FISC Reunion on March 27 has been canceled and plans are being made to hold this event later in 2021*

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.