

WALSAA EXPRESS

➔ YOUR CALS CONNECTION FOR LIFE

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Supporters of FISC Recognized at 2018 Reunion

By Bob Behnke, WALSAA FISC Co-Chair

Our annual FISC Reunion was held January 27 at the Coliseum Bar in Madison, Wisconsin. The event's program featured Vern Dougherty as the emcee, and we honored three award winners. The J.S. Donald Short Course Teaching Award was presented to Francisco Arriaga; the Friend of Short Course Award to Susan Crane; and the Service to Agriculture Award to Larson Acres. Thank you to Francisco, Susan, and Larson Acres and, of course, congratulations! Our guest speaker for the event was Pam Jahnke, the Fabulous Farm Babe. She shared with the group the importance of connecting with consumers.

Compeer Financial, our varsity level sponsor, helped make the 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 were also fortunate to receive a number of additional sponsorships. We use these sponsorships to fund and help offset some additional expenses students might incur while in school. At the Badger Level we had Crave Brothers Farm, LLC, and at the White Level we had AgSource, BASF, East Central/Select Sires, Union Bank & Trust, and Vita Plus Corporation. We appreciate your financial support!

Also, thank you to our silent auction donors and buyers! More than \$300 was raised to support FISC students.

As we look forward to next year, please put January 26 on your calendar for the 2019 FISC Reunion.

Read more about FISC award winners in this issue.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CALS Connection for Life: Leaking Steam



Marjorie Stieve, WALSAA President

In one of my recent servant leadership graduate classes, my professor was discussing engagement and he likened it to 'leaking steam.'

He said, "We all know those individuals, the ones everyone wants to work and be around... they are the ones who are leaking steam."

I was reminded of this at our recent WALSAA Board of Directors meeting. Although we are only a few months into our WALSAA year, I can tell you the organization's leadership is hard at work and is 'leaking steam' to be your CALS Connection for Life!

Our five main committees – scholarships, events, finance, FISC and marketing and development - have been enriched by talented and enthusiastic board and association members. Together, they have been advising students on how to fill out our scholarship forms, planning new activities, examining how to best put our fund dollars to work, planning the FISC reunion and finding new ways to communicate, respectively, just to name a few.

A HUGE thank you to the nearly 50 individuals who answered our year-end call for financial donations. Your support is greatly appreciated and helped us raise close to \$12,000. These donations will be put to good use as we continue to look for new avenues to support CALS students, student organizations and staff.

One example is the new CALS Accelerate program which WALSAA has committed to support the participation of 20 potential students this summer. This is an exciting opportunity for advanced students to fast-track through their CALS undergraduate programs in three years. More details on WALSAA's involvement and support for this program will be shared in future communications.

Another HUGE thank you to all our FISC students, graduates and friends who were part of the recent Short Course Reunion in January. We had great attendance and it was an excellent opportunity to highlight the achievements of our students while seeing old friends

and making new ones. Congratulations to all the students recognized and to Larson Acres, Francisco Arriaga, and Susan Crane on their well-deserved recognition as FISC Honorees.

Included in this newsletter is another project we've discussed for the last couple of years. The WALSAA Snapshot is a new communication tool to provide WALSAA members and friends more in-depth details on our funding sources and how our funds are being used. It provides a recap of some of the activities and CALS endeavors we support. It is also our new vehicle to give additional thanks to all the individuals and organizations who have supported WALSAA in the past year. The 2017 WALSAA Snapshot is inserted into this newsletter as the four center pages.

I'm confident, by pulling these materials together into one piece, we'll learn more about our organization and how we can work together to do even more in 2018 and the years to come.

Make plans to join us at one of our 2018 events listed below and let's all come together to keep 'leaking steam' for this great WALSAA organization and the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences!

WALSAA EVENT CALENDAR

March 17 • FISC Graduation

May 5 • WALSAA Brewers Game Fiesta

May 12 • CALS Commencement
**we need 2-3 volunteers to help*

July 11 • WALSAA Summer Picnic

September 15 • WALSAA Football Fire-Up

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Innovation Then and Now



Kate VandenBosch, CALS Dean and Director

CALS has a strong tradition of innovation. Perhaps the most familiar story is Stephen Babcock's novel butterfat test for milk. Yet our history is decorated with so many more "firsts."

Our college formed the nation's first departments of genetics, wildlife management and agricultural economics. CALS biochemists discovered the first vitamin A and vitamin B complex, which revolutionized the field of nutrition. Harry Steenbock was the first to figure out how to biofortify food with vitamin D, leading to the nearly complete eradication of rickets. Our horticulturalists were the first to clone a plant gene; shortly thereafter, the first transgenic plant was developed, clearing new paths for genetic engineering. Within the last decade, virologist Ann Palmenburg led a group of researchers who deciphered the complete genetic sequences of all 99 strains of nature's most ubiquitous pathogen, the common cold.

The list goes on, and though you may have heard it before, it remains an astounding catalog of accomplishments. These innovations and discoveries have changed the state of agriculture and human health throughout Wisconsin, the nation, and the world.

In recent years, this tradition has carried on in the world of technology transfer, an area where the late Mark Cook was a pioneer. A professor of animal sciences, Cook was a winner, along with Jordan Sand, of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) Innovation Award in 2012, the first year they were conferred. They earned this honor for developing a poultry feed additive that controls coccidiosis, a parasitic disease of the intestinal tract that severely hampers production, if unchecked.

Cook worked with WARF on 50 U.S. patents and more than 150 international patents, and he helped found several companies on the strength of technology he created. He did all of this while remaining devoted to his students. He continued to teach Animal Sciences 101, serve as a dedicated mentor, and share patent credit with

his young collaborators. Cook will be dearly missed, his absence a profound loss for CALS, but I am pleased to see that others are carrying the tech transfer torch.

For example, in late 2017, plant pathologists Medhi Kabbage, Damon Smith, and Ashish Ranjan were named WARF Innovation Award finalists for their work in developing modified soybeans with resistance to both physical and biological stresses. By targeting soybean oxidative machinery, the team has generated plants with increased drought tolerance and stronger resistance to Sclerotinia Stem Rot disease, which is one of the biggest factors in soybean yield suppression.

WARF, an independent non-profit set up to protect and commercialize campus discoveries, chooses award finalists from among hundreds of invention disclosures each year, so being selected for this honor is no small feat. This group of early career faculty and researchers holds great promise for the future, and they are in good company at CALS. In fact, in fiscal year 2017, CALS faculty and staff were involved in 81 out of 359 invention disclosures (more than 22 percent) through WARF.

Their work also carries echoes of the past. It harkens back to plant pathologist J.C. Walker, who, in 1911, developed strains of cabbage resistant to a fungus that was threatening Wisconsin's entire crop. This spawned the later development of disease resistance in onions, potatoes, beans, peas and cucumbers. Or in 1952, when CALS scientists released Vernal alfalfa, a winter-hardy, disease-resistant, high-yielding variety that forms the foundation of our state's \$10-billion-a-year forage industry.

Clearly, our strong tradition of innovation goes on, seeded by the discoveries of yesterday, propelled by the bright minds of today. I look forward to what tomorrow brings.

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

Rally to Fight Hunger and Ag Day on Campus



Logan Voigts, WALSAA Student Representative

As graduation approaches, it's hard to believe this is my last time writing this piece for the WALSAA Express. For two years, I have loved getting involved in this organization and the opportunity to meet many of the alumni from the college. After graduation, I will be pursuing a career in dairy genetics/reproduction, but I hope to stay active within WALSAA in the future. Below are a couple exciting spring events that I wanted to highlight as they are great events that showcase the hard work of our CALS student organizations.

Association of Women in Agriculture & Alpha Gamma Rho: Rally to Fight Hunger

For the second year in a row, AWA and AGR are joined forces to pack meals for the Kids Against Hunger organization. This organization coordinates meal packing drives throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest and distributes them as close as Madison and as far away as Kenya. This year, they packaged more than 30,000 meals!

Collegiate Farm Bureau's Ag Day on Campus

The Collegiate Farm Bureau's Ag Day on Campus will be April 18. 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 can read through displays and interact with volunteers of the club as they play interactive agricultural games, learn facts about agriculture, and try samples of various agricultural products and foods.



30,672 Meals Packaged During Rally to Fight Hunger



Save the Date! Ag Day on Campus is April 18

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WALSAA SUMMER PICNIC

Held During Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

WALSAA will hold our annual summer picnic in conjunction with Wisconsin Farm Technology Days on Wednesday, July 11 at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station. The festivities will begin at 4 p.m. at the Research Station, located just a few miles from the show site in Marshfield. We will have a summer cookout with brats, burgers and all the fixin's, including beverages. The cost will be \$6 per person. We will have more information in the next WALSAA Express. Mark it on your calendar!



WALSAA BREWERS GAME FIESTA 2018 TICKET ORDER FORM

Saturday, May 5 at 6 p.m. ♦ Miller Park ♦ 1 Brewers Way, Milwaukee

Online registration available at: www.WALSAA.org

Join your fellow WALSAA members for the Milwaukee Brewers Game Fiesta on Saturday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo!) at Miller Park versus the Pittsburgh Pirates at 6 p.m. We have 42 reserved tickets in the Associated Bank Check Deck in the outfield for the game. Included in the ticket cost is a food buffet and two drink tickets, all for the low price of \$75 per person! Please reserve your tickets right away, as we have a limited number of tickets for the event. Contact us at 608.438.1994 or admin@walsaa.org.

Name: _____

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Make checks payable to: WALSAA
Mail registration and payment to:
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Madison, WI 53705

Number of reservation(s) at \$75 per person _____	\$ _____
Additional 100% tax-deductible donation to WALSAA _____	\$ _____
Total Cost	\$ _____

FISC REUNION AWARDS

Arriaga, Crane and Larson Acres Recognized for FISC Contributions



2018 J.S. Donald Short Course Teaching Award

*Pictured left to right: CALS Dean and Director
Kate VandenBosch and Francisco Arriaga*

The J.S. Donald Short Course Teaching Award was established in 1976 by Delma Woodburn in honor of her father, John Donald, a Short Course instructor, political figure and farmer.

This year, the Short Course Teaching Award goes to Francisco Arriaga, assistant professor in soil science. Arriaga provides high quality and innovative instruction that is a significant asset to the FISC program. He has an easy rapport with students and is able to put a real-world spin on the topics he covers. He brings energy to the classroom and his passion for soil science is always on display.

Arriaga's positive relationship with his students is evidenced by the fact that he was elected by them to be the featured speaker during their commencement ceremony two years ago. He is a valuable asset to Short Course.

Congratulations, Francisco.

We are honored to present the 2018 Friend of FISC Award to Sue Crane for her many contributions to CALS and FISC. Crane has given her time and expertise to the CALS Strategic Planning Committee, served as a member and chair on the Board of Visitors, hosted numerous events at her family farm to benefit CALS, and much more. She also established the Norbert Kielpinski Scholarship to honor the memory of her father, a 1935 FISC graduate. The scholarship supports both one- and two-year FISC students from Waupaca County who demonstrate an interest in agriculture.

Crane recently retired from WE Energies where she held several leadership roles including the development of the Agricultural Services Program. Prior to her career at WE Energies, she was the marketing manager at Foremost Farms.

Six of Crane's children have graduated from CALS, three from FISC and three with four-year degrees. She continues to dairy and crop farm with her husband, Bob, and her sons, Ryan and Rob, near Burlington, Wisconsin, where their family has hosted the Kenosha County Dairy Farm Breakfast five times along with many CALS events.

Congratulations, Sue.



2018 Friend of Short Course Award

*Pictured left to right: WALSAA Past President Vern Dougherty,
WALSAA FISC Committee Co-Chair Bob Behnke, Sue Crane,
WALSAA FISC Committee Co-Chair Cory Brown, and
CALS Senior Associate Dean Richard Straub*

Larson Acres was recognized with the 2018 Service to Agriculture Award for all they have done to move the FISC program forward over the years. Larson Acres, Inc. is where six Larson families, spanning five generations, combine their interests, efforts, and enthusiasm for farming to operate a dairy business near Evansville in Rock County. The Larson family is honored to be a part of the area for more than 90 years, and they value their place in the community. What began with just 80 acres and six cows has grown to more than 5,000 acres of agricultural land and care for 2,800 cows. In all, 70 employees help care for 5,500 head.

At Larson Acres, dairy farming is about producing high-quality milk, but it's also much more than that. It is about doing what's right for the families in the community, their animals and their environment.

The Larson's are actively involved in the community in which they live and operate and are proud to give back to the community and neighbors in numerous ways. They support local organizations, churches, and schools through donations and service projects. They visit local schools to educate Wisconsin youth on dairy farming and the importance of agriculture. They host hundreds of farm tours for groups, day-care children, students, other producers and international visitors throughout the year.

Helping the industry is also important. Grad students, vet students and AI training classes all benefit from resources at Larson Acres. Most importantly, Larson Acres has helped the FISC program for many years. Every year, FISC students study and utilize Larson Acres' DairyComp 305 data. Having the ability to analyze a working farm and incorporate lessons learned in the classroom is invaluable. Hundreds of FISC students have benefited from the gracious sharing the Larsons provide.

In addition to in-class learning, students have the opportunity to tour the farm and see first-hand the data they study and gain knowledge and insights on the dairy. This learning approach really helps all FISC students put it all together. Seeing the opportunities available, various employment positions on farms, and just having the chance to learn real on-farm knowledge from farms like Larson Acres makes the FISC program successful.



2018 FISC Service to Agriculture Award

Pictured left to right: WALSAA Past President Vern Dougherty, WALSAA FISC Committee Co-Chair Bob Behnke, Sandy Larson, Dane Trustem, WALSAA FISC Committee Co-Chair Cory Brown, and CALS Senior Associate Dean Richard Straub

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17 ♦ Farm and Industry Short Course Graduation

April 6 ♦ WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting

April 6 ♦ Outstanding Sophomore & Leadership Awards Ceremony, Memorial Union, Madison

May 5 ♦ WALSAA Brewers Game Fiesta, Miller Park, Milwaukee

May 12 ♦ CALS Commencement

July 11 ♦ WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting

July 11 ♦ WALSAA Summer Picnic, Marshfield Ag Research Station, Marshfield

Sept. 15 ♦ 43rd WALSAA Football Fire-Up, UW Foundation Parking Lot, Madison

Oct. 19 ♦ WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting