

WALSAA EXPRESS

➔ YOUR CALS CONNECTION FOR LIFE

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Supporters of FISC Recognized and Celebrated at 2019 Reunion

By Cory Brown, WALSAA FISC Co-Chair

On January 26, Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) alumni and supporters braved the frigid temperatures to gather in Madison to celebrate at the 2019 FISC Reunion. Guided by our emcee Dr. Francisco Arriaga, a FISC professor, we celebrated individuals who have improved FISC and the agricultural industry. We presented three awards to individuals who have gone above and beyond to serve the FISC community. These awards and individuals include the J.S. Donald Teaching Award to Gregg Sanford, the Friend of Short Course Award to Al Herrman, and the Service to Agriculture Award to Ed Brooks. It was our honor to hear Kaitlyn Riley, the 71st Alice in Dairyland, speak about her experiences and the value of Wisconsin agriculture, followed by Jeff Endres of Yahara Pride Farms, who spoke about the challenges and opportunities of their watershed groups.

This event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Our lead sponsor at the Varsity Level was Compeer Financial, who has been a phenomenal partner over the years. At the Badger Level: Crave Brothers Farm and Pioneer; White Level sponsors: AgSource, East Central/Select Sires, Union Bank & Trust, and Vita Plus. In addition to our wonderful sponsors, we would like to thank those who took part in our silent auction and helped raise additional funds for student scholarships.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's FISC Reunion in January!

Read more about FISC award winners on pages 6 and 7.



*Pictured left to right:
David Klug, Bennie and
Betty Harder, and FISC
Student Ambassadors Olivia
Brandenberg and Joe Powalisz
share stories and experiences
at the 2019 FISC Reunion*

New Lifetime Members

Andrew Diercks '93
Elizabeth Mittler '18

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WALSAA: Stay Connected, Network and Give Back



Shawn P. Conley, WALSAA President

WALSAA members,

Spring is in the air, and WALSAA is springing forward with a new campaign drive!

For many years, WALSAA has presented the Outstanding Sophomore Award (OSA) to 10 deserving sophomores within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs). Sophomore year is a critical time for many students, as far as funding their education. The funding for these awards has historically come from two sources. We've been fortunate to raise at least \$10,000 from our annual WALSAA Fire-Up Silent Auction, which has then been matched by the UW Foundation for many years.

Unfortunately, we were notified last year that the matching grant dollars would not be available after 2019. Though disappointing, this provides WALSAA with a new and exciting challenge to not only raise our new scholarship endowment to replace these funds, but a chance to grow our scholarship program by supporting new awards. WALSAA greatly thanks the UW Foundation for the years of matching funds and looks forward to their advice and support as we grow the scholarship endowment!

To do this, WALSAA has developed a new UW Foundation fund entitled: The WALSAA Student Scholarship Fund. The revenue generated from this fund will be entirely allocated towards scholarships. We are kickstarting this fund with \$25,000 that has been raised from our past 40 WALSAA Football Fire-Up events. We also received some specified 2018 year-end donations for this fund.

This is a great start, but we have a long way to go to meet our goal. Please stay tuned as we prepare to roll out this new and exciting campaign. I would also encourage anyone interested in serving on this committee to contact Pierce Dopp (pierce.dopp@gmail.com) or past OSA recipient Taylor Fritsch (tfritsch@uwalumni.com) as they have generously agreed to co-chair this committee.

In closing, I would like to offer a MAMMOTH thank you to the 65 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. These individuals, as well as all other donors, are highlighted in our WALSAA Snapshot included in the middle pages of this issue.

On Wisconsin and Coolbeans!

WALSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

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Bill Barker, CALS Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs

I recently visited the Mariposa Grove on the southern edge of Yosemite National Park. This sacred place holds great significance for all who revere nature. In 1853, failed gold prospector Galen Clark walked into the high country of the Sierra Nevada in search of a healing environment for his tuberculosis. Instead, he became the first non-native person to fall under the spell of the ancient giant sequoias in the Mariposa Grove. In 1864, Clark convinced President Abraham Lincoln to turn his attention from the Civil War and, for the first time, extend federal protection to nature and set aside the Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley for their beauty and splendor. Clark spent the remainder of his life as a guardian to protect and advocate for this treasure.

Close readers of Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac" know that the very next year John Muir tried to unsuccessfully buy, and similarly protect, a beloved prairie meadow from his brother, solely out of love for the sheer beauty of the flowers there. Leopold beautifully wrote, "1865 still stands in Wisconsin history as the birthyear of mercy for things natural, wild and free." Small wonder that when Muir moved into the Yosemite Valley in 1869, he and Clark began a long friendship and conversation about a radical idea in those rapaciously extractive times — the idea that nature is worth saving for its own sake.

Muir drove the point home on a fateful meeting with President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904 as they camped in the Mariposa Grove beneath the mighty boughs of the huge *Sequoiadendron giganteum* known as the Grizzly Giant. Muir convinced him of the inherent value in untrammelled natural spaces; during his presidency, Roosevelt signed into existence five national parks, 18 national monuments, and 55 national bird sanctuaries and wildlife refuges. Upon creating Yosemite National Park, Roosevelt said, "There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of the giant sequoias ... our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred." Sadly, as I walked amongst the great trees, I saw abundant

evidence that we are failing at the great task Roosevelt set before us. All the great sugar pines, giants in their own right, are dead. A cascade of interrelated environmental stresses attributable to climate change killed them. Terrible drought weakened the trees, and a warming climate enabled pine bark beetles to expand their range into higher elevations. Millions of dead, beetle-killed pines of multiple species blanket the western United States now, ready fuel for forest fires of frightening intensity. In fact, at the nearby Nelder Grove, a terrible fire burned through this summer. Feasting on the dead pines, the fire burned so hot that more than 50 of the fire-adapted giant sequoia perished in the conflagration.

This is my first-hand observation of what the recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report clearly indicates is a pressing global emergency. According to the report, an effective response requires "rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society."

As forestry and agriculture represent major sources (and sinks) for carbon, what then is the role of another of President Lincoln's great innovations, the land-grant university? As I look across the breadth of research here and at other agricultural colleges at land-grant institutions, a common theme emerges - scientists and their students are working diligently to make agriculture and forestry more productive to mitigate their environmental impact.

But our challenge is this: can we move past "sustainable" agriculture to "restoration" agriculture and develop practices that provide habitats for biodiverse communities of plants and animals, effectively sequester carbon in healthy soil, minimize water usage, and produce no contaminated runoff? Will we realize Leopold's call for a Land Ethic, build on Clark and Muir's instinct to protect nature, and demonstrate that we can guarantee a future for the diverse landscapes of our planet? Our fate is linked with those of the giant sequoias.

This column was originally published on the North Central Region Water Network website (northcentralwater.org).

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

CALS Ambassadors

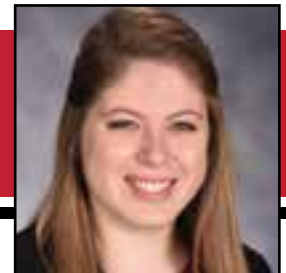


Lauren Jorgensen, WALSA Student Representative

With the polar vortex, campus experienced a rocky start to the beginning of the semester. Specifically, CALS Ambassadors had to cancel a Calling Night. Calling Night is an event where ambassadors reach out to newly admitted students to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and ask them if they have any questions about life at UW-Madison and CALS. On the semester's first Calling Night, we were able to call over 150 students! Due to campus closings, the second Calling Night was cancelled. We hosted a third one the night of the Super Bowl.

Despite the cold start, the Ambassadors' calendars will be heating up with many recruitment events. These events consist of nine info sessions, four Your UW Days, various individual tours, World Food Prize, and Admitted Students Day. This year's World Food Prize is anticipated to be the biggest one we have ever held, with multiple high school teachers reaching out to tell us that they will be bringing their entire class! We hope our work with these recruitment events will assist Dean Kate VandenBosch in her goal to double the current size of CALS.

CALS Student Association



Brooke Trustem, WALSA Student Representative

After a bitter, cold and snowy start to the semester, the students of CALS sprang into action! Our student organizations have some amazing plans for the semester filled with interaction and agriculture for the entire UW-Madison campus! For starters, the Association of Women in Agriculture (AWA) hosted their annual Rally to Fight Hunger event in February, packaging meals for Kid's Against Hunger. Events like this are exciting for the CALS campus as it revolves around agriculture and

feeding the world! An event that involves the entire UW-Madison campus is Ag Day on Campus, coordinated by the Collegiate Farm Bureau. This allows students to learn more about agriculture through interactive activities and by providing samples of Wisconsin products! These are just a couple examples of what the CALS Student Association has coming up this semester, and we look forward to being a part of them all!

Farm and Industry Short Course



Joseph Powalitz, WALSA Student Representative

Hello all! As I write this, the second semester of FISC has just started and we are in our second week of classes. We have just been hit with a fresh blanket of snow on campus, so we took advantage of it last week and did a little sledding. Despite the cold, we had a great time ripping down the hill on lunch trays borrowed from University Dining. Some of the students were prepared for the sledding festivities. We had a mixture of lunch trays,

blow-up unicorns and a seahorse. From an academic note, classes have resumed, and it sounds like everyone is enjoying the second semester of classes. For me, I am learning mostly about crop production, pest and weed identification, and how to safely and effectively use chemicals to control outbreaks within our farm fields. Graduation is March 16, and we look forward to finishing the semester strong! Stay warm and On Wisconsin!

WALSAA SUMMER PICNIC

Held During Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

Mark your calendars! WALSAA is holding its annual Farm Technology Days Picnic in conjunction with the show on Tuesday, July 23 at McFarlandale Dairy in Watertown, Wisconsin. Located a few miles from the show site on County Highway K, festivities will begin at 4 p.m. Beef and pork sandwiches will be served with all of the fixin's, including beverages. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for age 6 to 18, and free for children under 5. More information will be available in the next newsletter. **Online registration available at: www.WALSAA.org.**



WALSAA BREWERS BASH 2019 TICKET ORDER FORM

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

Online registration available at: www.WALSAA.org

Join your fellow WALSAA members at Miller Park on Saturday, April 6 as your Milwaukee Brewers take on the Chicago Cubs. We have 42 reserved tickets in the Associated Bank Check Deck in the outfield for the 6 p.m. game. Included in the ticket cost is a food buffet and two drink tickets, for \$100 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 with any questions.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Names for name tags: _____

Make checks payable to: WALSAA
Mail registration and payment to:
WALSAA
PO Box 5177
Madison, WI 53705

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

FISC REUNION AWARDS

Sanford, Herrman and Brooks Recognized for FISC Contributions



2019 J.S. Donald Short Course Teaching Award

*Pictured left to right: CALS Dean and Director
Kate VandenBosch and Gregg Sanford*

The J.S. Donald Short Course Teaching Award was established in 1976 by Delma Woodburn in honor of her father, John Donald, a FISC instructor, political figure and farmer. This year, the Short Course Teaching Award goes to Gregg Sanford, a research scientist in agronomy. Sanford teaches several courses, including a first-year core course on forage crops and another on grain crops production and management. He continuously exceeds teaching standards with his professionalism and quality of teaching. Students appreciate his innovative teaching style and incorporation of demonstrations and experiments directly related to on-farm application. His commitment to the success of his students is evident by the extra effort and attention he gives to their needs by tailoring lessons and taking the time to ensure they are confident in the material. He is a valuable asset to FISC.

Congratulations, Gregg.

We are honored to present the 2019 Friend of FISC Award to Al Herrman for his many contributions to CALS and FISC. Herrman grew up on a dairy farm in western Wisconsin and attended FISC in the 1970s. After graduating from FISC, he earned his bachelor's degree in dairy science from UW-Madison. Herrman served as a student representative and, later, as a member of the WALSAA Board of Directors for three terms, and as President in 1981 and 1985. Herrman recently retired from Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) after many years of service as chair of the Public Service Farm Show. He retired as the Director of Wholesale Power. Herrman has volunteered tirelessly for years on numerous agriculture-related committees, including WALSAA and FFA. He is the past chairperson of the WALSAA events committee, and, in 2017, he received the prestigious WALSAA Daluge Red Jacket Award.

Congratulations, Al.



2019 Friend of Short Course Award

*Pictured left to right: CALS Dean and Director
Kate VandenBosch, WALSAA FISC Committee Co-Chair
Bob Behnke, Al Herrman, WALSAA FISC Committee Co-Chair
Cory Brown, and FISC Director Jennifer Blazek*

Ed Brooks was recognized with the 2019 FISC Service to Agriculture Award for all he has done for agriculture over the years. Brooks is a recently retired member of the District 50 Wisconsin State Assembly, where he served for 10 years. Prior to that, he was a dairy farmer and member of the Foremost Farms board. Brooks graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in agricultural economics. He was an employee of the Farmers Home Administration and the Farm Credit System. Brooks has relationships and has influenced many agriculturalists in southern Wisconsin throughout his career.

Congratulations, Ed.



2019 FISC Service to Agriculture Award
 Pictured left to right: CALS Dean and Director
 Kate VandenBosch, WALSAA FISC Committee Co-Chair
 Bob Behnke, Ed Brooks, WALSAA FISC Committee Co-Chair
 Cory Brown, and FISC Director Jennifer Blazek

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Learn more about us at:
www.WALSAA.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16 ♦ Farm and Industry Short Course Graduation

April 6 ♦ WALSAA Brewers Bash, Miller Park, Milwaukee

April 12 ♦ WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting

April 12 ♦ Outstanding Sophomore & Leadership Awards Ceremony, Memorial Union, Madison

May 11 ♦ CALS Commencement

July 23 ♦ WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting

July 23 ♦ WALSAA Summer Picnic, McFarlandale Dairy, Watertown

Sept. 7 ♦ 44th WALSAA Football Fire-Up, UW Foundation Parking Lot, Madison

Oct. 25 ♦ WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting