

WALSAA EXPRESS

➔ YOUR CALS CONNECTION FOR LIFE

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Congratulations to the 2019 CALS Graduates!

WALSAA was honored to be part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Pre-Commencement Reception held in the Allen Centennial Garden prior to the UW Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 11. With more than 1,000 CALS graduates, family and friends in attendance, this was a great event to welcome new alumni to WALSAA. New graduates were congratulated by WALSAA President, Shawn Conley; WALSAA Board members, Bob Behnke, Taylor Fritsch, and Kara Luedtke; and WALSAA Membership and Events Coordinator, Stephanie Hammerly. They received WALSAA sunglasses, pom-poms and membership brochures. This year, new graduates that become lifetime members will be entered into a drawing for two free WALSAA Football Fire-Up tickets. Congratulations, graduates! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming WALSAA events!



Graduation Day CALS graduates posed for one last photo before walking together to Camp Randall for spring commencement.



Congrats! CALS graduates were congratulated by WALSAA Board member, Taylor Fritsch.

New Lifetime Members

Jenna Breitenfeldt '19
Emily Franke '21
Ethan Hass '19
Summer Henschel '21
Lauren Jorgensen '19
Dima Kenj Halabi '21
Jennifer Lintner '19
Rachel McCullough '19
Jessica Mehre '21
Dawson Nickels '21
Joseph Powalisz '19
Ethan Rocha '21
Mena Schmitt '21
Emily Schwanke '21
Erica Thomas '19
Yiding Wang '21
Elise Warda '21

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WALSAA: Stay Connected, Network and Give Back



Shawn P. Conley, WALSAA President

WALSAA members,

The University of Wisconsin-Madison just finished spring commencement, and what a day it was. I had the privilege and honor to accompany a Ph.D. candidate, Dr. Marian Lund Bolton, across the stage, witness Steve Miller (somebody call me the space cowboy) receive an honorary Ph.D., graduate a master's degree student, Derek Potratz, and watch J.J. Watt give an amazing commencement speech, all while representing WALSAA at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) Pre-Commencement Reception. Thanks to Taylor Fritsch, Bob Behnke, and Stephanie Hammerly who also helped represent WALSAA and network with students at the event. The joy and optimism of commencement weekend gave me an opportunity to reflect on what it means for me to be three times a CALS alum and Badger forever!

UW-Madison and CALS provided me with ample opportunities to develop academic, social, and professional skills I use today. However, as you would expect, campus life is much different today than it was in the 1990s when I was a student. Campus life is faster, more competitive, and, frankly, more complex as everyone has a smartphone and your actions, and subsequent reactions, are recorded forever. I often quip, "I am glad they didn't have smartphones when I was in college."

Student resources and needs are also much different today. I don't know how many hours I spent in Steenbock Library

searching through journals and photocopying papers. Today, students have terabytes of information readily available on said phones and spend more time trying to sort through legitimate papers and differentiate them from #FakeNews. Students today are also drawn to more experiential learning opportunities, and many seek research opportunities as early as their freshman year.

Evolving student needs dictate that WALSAA support must evolve as well. In 2018, WALSAA helped launch the new CALS QuickStart Program by providing \$25,000 in scholarships. This spring, WALSAA provided an additional \$2,500 in matching funds on the Day of the Badger in support of QuickStart. To further grow our financial support for campus scholarships, Pierce Dopp (pierce.dopp@gmail.com) and Taylor Fritsch (tfritsch@uwalumni.com) are co-leading an exciting capital campaign for our new UW Foundation fund entitled: The Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) Student Scholarship Fund. All revenue generated from this fund will be put towards scholarships. Get engaged by reaching out to either Pierce or Taylor to learn more.

Lastly, WALSAA is looking to develop experiential learning opportunities from within our alumni base. Please contact me directly (spconley@wisc.edu) with student opportunities within your organization or any ideas you may have. It is an exciting time to be a Badger!

As always, On Wisconsin and Coolbeans!

WALSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

Shawn Conley '96, '99, '01 - 2018
President
Madison, WI

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Student Reps
Jenna Breitenfeldt - 2020
Lauren Jorgensen - 2019
Brooke Trustem - 2020

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Belleville, WI

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Delafield, WI

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Darlington, WI

Julie Larson '86 - 2020
Viroqua, WI

Jill Makovec '00, '02 - 2020
Madison, WI

Scott Rasch '93, '97 - 2020
Racine, WI



Kent Weigel, Professor and Chair, Department of Dairy Science

As you might have heard through the grapevine, the department of dairy science is in preliminary discussions with the department of animal sciences regarding a potential merger. The initial impetus for this discussion was a request by Dean Kate VandenBosch, on recommendation of the CALS Redesign Committee, to consider the pros and cons of such a merger. This decision will ultimately be made by the faculty members in the two departments.

Why consider a merger?

This merger could bring several potential benefits to the departments, and I will mention two specifically.

First, the departments are highly interdependent. We already share a building and administrative staff (financial, human resources, and IT), and we cross-list and co-teach our core courses in nutrition, physiology, and genetics. Going forward, we may be able to meet the needs of our students and stakeholders more effectively with joint planning and intentional collaboration, rather than working side-by-side and hoping for the best.

Second, and most important in my mind, is the issue of “critical mass” in key disciplines or subject areas. A perfect example is the area of milk quality, where dairy science literally went from an internationally recognized program to nothing overnight when Dr. Pamela Ruegg left to become department chair at Michigan State University. This “one-deep” expertise strategy is not sustainable, and we need strong groups of professors in each of the traditional disciplines, such as genetics, nutrition, meats, and physiology, as well as emerging areas, such as data science and animal welfare.

Why now?

The majority of faculty members in animal sciences and dairy science were hired in the 1980s, and we are beginning a period of enormous turnover. As we make decisions about how to position our departments for success over the next 30 years, now is the time to determine whether to do this individually or together.

How will our students be impacted if a merger occurs?

Not that much, honestly, at least in the short-term. Any changes in our undergraduate majors are a few years away because, by rule, we cannot change the curriculum requirements for students once they’ve enrolled at UW–Madison. In the long-term, we will still have a major that serves the needs of science-oriented students

interested in becoming veterinarians, nutritionists or reproduction consultants. Similarly, we will have a major that serves the needs of business-oriented students interested in dairy management and dairy-related agribusiness roles, such as sales, marketing, and finance.

Exact names and course requirements are yet to be determined, but, if we do this properly, we can meet the needs of our students much more effectively in the future than we do today.

What about our stakeholders?

This is obviously a huge concern, especially for Wisconsin’s \$43 billion dairy industry. Again, if we do this properly, we should be better positioned to meet the needs of our key stakeholders in the future. If we decide not to merge, we take a huge risk in spreading ourselves too thin by trying to cover all disciplines and all species; neither UW–Madison nor any other land-grant university can do this successfully. We need to specialize and focus on the things that are most important to Wisconsin, and this strategic planning will take place throughout most of 2019.

What’s the process?

Now that both departments have “decided to try” by voting to work toward development of a formal merger proposal, the hard work begins. Five interdepartmental groups have been formed to cover the key issues and decisions. These working groups will meet biweekly over the next six to eight months to discuss options and strategies, and, during the summer, we will seek input and feedback from our students, alumni, and stakeholders.

By late fall, we hope to pull all of the recommendations into a formal proposal. If this proposal is approved by both departmental executive committees, it will be submitted to college and campus administrators and governance committees for their review.

The overall process will take 18 to 24 months. So, if we ultimately decide to merge, the earliest it will actually occur is mid- to late-2020. We need to be very thorough in our planning and discuss all of the pros and cons, both internally and externally, because, if we decide to merge, we need to get it right.

Meanwhile, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or other members of our faculty and staff if you have any questions or concerns.

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

CALS Student Association



Brooke Trustem, WALSA Student Representative

It's time to "Jump Around" because it's summer time! Students have officially finished finals and have already begun internships, study abroad trips, and maybe a summer course or two. Either way, CALS students are busy filling their summer with experience that will prepare them for life after UW-Madison.

We wrapped up a busy spring semester with numerous activities from our student organizations! CALS Week celebrated the hard work of our student organizations. From the CHARS Undergraduate Leadership Symposium and Dietetics and Nutrition Networking Event, to the Collegiate Farm Bureau Ag Day on Campus, it was a week filled with

excitement! Other organizations finished out the year with picnics and banquets, along with the Alpha Gamma Rho Dairy Dash, Association of Women in Agriculture Breakfast on the Farm, and the Saddle and Sirloin shows, Badger Bonanza and the Little International Horse Show, which celebrated its 100th year!

Thank you to all CALS Alumni that impacted students this school year! We look forward to working with you for the coming school year!

Finally, congratulations to the Class of 2019, you will certainly be missed on campus!

Farm and Industry Short Course



Jenna Breitenfeldt, WALSA Student Representative

Happy spring (finally)! Short course students are enjoying their summer break. It has been fun taking what we learned in the classroom, and from each other, and applying it on our farms and our lives. Many of us are working hard and are busy in the fields planting. FISC Ambassadors were at the WPS Farm Show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in March, and we will be at the State FFA Convention and the National Holstein Convention in June. We will also have a booth at Farm Technology Days in July. We look forward to seeing you at all these events!

MEET JENNA

Jenna Breitenfeldt is a second-year Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) student. She is from Wausau, Wisconsin and lives on a 100-cow dairy. Breitenfeldt enjoys milking cows, driving tractors and taking care of her 11 chickens. She is attending FISC to complete the dairy herd management certificate, along with the management of crops and soils certificate. After she finishes her programs, she plans to return to the family farm. She is excited to be the WALSA FISC Student Representative this year!

SEEKING RED JACKET AWARD NOMINATIONS

WALSA is seeking nominations for the 2019 WALSA Daluge Red Jacket Award. The Red Jacket Award was established in 2016 in recognition of lifetime service to WALSA. It is named after two of WALSA's most dedicated alumni, Rick and Peggy Daluge. A red jacket will be presented to someone who has helped WALSA grow each year in their honor. Nomination form available at www.WALSA.com. Please send your nominations to WALSA, PO Box 5177, Madison, WI 53705-5177, or email to admin@walsaa.org by July 1.

WALSAA AWARDS

Outstanding Advisor and FISC Awards

Dr. David Combs receives the WALSAA Outstanding Advisor Award from Kate VandenBosch, CALS Dean and Director, and Shawn Conley, WALSAA President



WALSAA has been honoring advisors with the Outstanding Advisor Award since 1979. This year's recipient is Dr. David Combs.

Combs was raised on a dairy farm in west central Minnesota, earned his Ph.D. in dairy science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is currently a professor in the UW-Madison Department of Dairy Science. His research mainly focuses on forage utilization by dairy cattle. Combs is a past recipient of the J.S. Donald Farm and Industry Short Course Teaching Award.

Since 1985, Combs has played an important role in the dairy science department in both research and instruction. Each year, Combs serves as advisor for 12 to 25 undergraduate students, while also teaching several courses from introductory livestock production to the dairy science

capstone. Outside of the classroom, Combs has mentored and coached UW's Dairy Challenge Team since 2002. Combs has played a large role in making Dairy Challenge the great experience and opportunity it is today for dairy students across the country. On top of all these commitments, he has conducted research that has impacted the dairy industry in multiple facets.

Combs shared, "Advising students is something many of us do, and it is so important in helping students to find their niche in agriculture. I am always proud to point out to our students that this is something I think CALS advisors are particularly good at. Thank you, WALSAA for sponsoring this award!"

Congratulations, David!



Outstanding FISC Student Awards

Five scholarships were presented to students who displayed excellence in leadership, service, academics and work experience. This year's winners are: \$1,000 to Jennifer Lintner, Waterford, Wis.; \$500 to Jenna Breitenfeldt, Wausau, Wis.; \$500 to Rachel McCullough, Juda, Wis.; \$250 to Ethan Hass, Manawa, Wis.; and \$250 to Joseph Powalisz, Manitowoc, Wis.



Activities and Leadership Awards

Three awards were presented to students actively involved in campus organizations and leadership opportunities. This year's winners are: Olivia Brandenburg, Fort Atkinson, Wis.; Ethan Hass, Manawa, Wis.; and Joseph Powalisz, Wis.



Academic Excellence Awards

Nine awards were given to students with the highest grade point averages in the FISC program. This year's winners are: Jenna Breitenfeldt, Wausau, Wis.; Clayton Hale, Juda, Wis.; Ethan Hass, Manawa, Wis.; Sawyer Henk, Beldenville, Wis.; Stephan Le Roux, Botswana; Rachel McCullough, Juda, Wis.; Brett Mullikin, Waldo, Wis.; Jacob Nousen, Birnamwood, Wis.; and Riley Ripp, Dane, Wis.

FIRE-UP SILENT AUCTION

Looking for a great way to support current Badgers? Consider a donation to our WALSAA Football Fire-Up Silent Auction! Proceeds benefit UW CALS students through the Outstanding Sophomore Award scholarships, student organization Impact grants and FISC awards. Contact Stephanie Hammerly, admin@walsaa.org or 608.438.1994, for more information or to confirm your donation!

WALSAA SUMMER PICNIC

2019 TICKET ORDER FORM

4 p.m. Tuesday, July 23 ♦ Watertown, WI

The University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) and Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) alumni and friends are invited to the annual WALSAA summer picnic during the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. It will be held on Tuesday, July 23 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the McFarland Dairy, 284 County Road K, Watertown, Wisconsin. Beef and pork sandwiches will be served with cold beverages to wash them down after a great day at the show. Side dishes and desserts will also be served.

Tours of the farm will be available during the picnic.

CALS leadership and alumni of other agricultural colleges from around the state will also be in attendance. Join us to catch up with old friends, network with new friends and enjoy the Watertown area.

Tickets for the event are \$10 for adults and \$5 for anyone under 18 years of age. Please RSVP in advance at www.WALSAA.org. Walk-ins are welcome.

The host of the 2019 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is Walter Granin Farms, W5340 French Road, Johnson Creek, Wisconsin. For more information, or if you would like to help out at the picnic, contact WALSAA at admin@walsaa.org or 608.438.1994.



Pictured from left to right: Robb and Christine Bender, Donna, Cindy, and Peter McFarland



Online registration available at: www.WALSAA.org

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Names for name tags: _____

| Event | Cost | # of Tickets | Total |
|--|------------------------|---|----------|
| Farm Tech Days Picnic *includes beef and pork sandwiches, side dishes, dessert and beverage. | Adults: \$10 | Adults: _____ | \$ _____ |
| | Children 6-18: \$5 | Children 6-18: _____ | \$ _____ |
| | Children under 5: Free | Children under 5: _____ | Free |
| Make checks payable to: WALSAA Mail registration and payment to: WALSAA, PO Box 5177, Madison, WI 53705 Registration MUST BE POSTMARKED by July 10. After that date, register online at www.WALSAA.org or tickets will also be available at the event. | | Additional 100% tax deductible donation to WALSAA | \$ _____ |
| | | Total Cost | \$ _____ |

WALSAA FOOTBALL FIRE-UP

2019 TICKET ORDER FORM

10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 7 ♦ UW Foundation Parking Lot ♦ 1848 University Ave.

Online registration available at: www.WALSAA.org

Join hundreds of your classmates, professors, and friends to network and have fun at this fall's 44th annual WALSAA Football Fire-Up on Saturday, September 7. The big event will be held prior to the kickoff between the Badgers and the Central Michigan Chippewas. Fire-Up will again be held in the parking lot of the UW Foundation, 1848 University Avenue. Plans include live entertainment, visits from Bucky Badger and Alice in Dairyland, a host of great silent auction items to bid on, and a huge steak meal with everything from beer to potatoes and ice cream.

**** BE SURE TO CHECK OUT FAMILY PRICING - - see below****

**Time subject to change by UW Athletics*

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Names for name tags: _____

| Event | Cost | # of Tickets | Total |
|---|---------------------------|---|----------|
| Game Day Package* Luncheon** & Wisconsin vs. Central Michigan tickets Kick-off 2:30 p.m. (max. 6 tickets per request) | WALSAA Member: \$90 | WALSAA Member: _____ | \$ _____ |
| | Children 6-18: \$70 | Children 6-18: _____ | \$ _____ |
| | Children 3-5: \$60 | Children 3-5: _____ | \$ _____ |
| | Children under 2***: Free | Children under 2: _____ | Free |
| Fire-Up Luncheon Luncheon** Tickets Only | WALSAA Member: \$30 | WALSAA Member: _____ | \$ _____ |
| | Children 6-18: \$10 | Children 6-18: _____ | \$ _____ |
| | Children under 5: Free | Children under 5: _____ | Free |
| *Badger football tickets are available only to WALSAA members as a Game Day Package deal with Fire-Up luncheon tickets. **\$15 of each luncheon ticket is a gift of support to WALSAA and is 100% tax deductible. ***Children under 2 must sit on the lap of an adult football ticket holder during the Badger game. | | Additional 100% tax deductible donation to WALSAA | \$ _____ |
| | | Total Cost | \$ _____ |

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: WALSAA

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

Registration MUST BE POSTMARKED by August 20. After that date, tickets will be available at the event for an additional \$5/each.



Your CALS Connection For Life

P.O. Box 5177, Madison, WI 53705-5177

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Learn more about us at:
www.WALSAA.org



Brew Crew! WALSAA members and friends enjoyed watching the Brewers vs. Cubs in the Associated Bank Check Deck.

Successful Brewers Bash Event

A cheering group of WALSAA members and friends attended the Brewers/Cubs game on Saturday, April 6. They watched an exciting game with many home runs and a high score that the Cubs eventually won. On a beautiful night at Miller Park, our group enjoyed meeting with old friends and making new friends in the Associated Bank Check Deck perched on the outfield wall in left field. With many Cub fans among our group, at least some of our group went home with a victory.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 23 ♦ WALSAA Summer Picnic

McFarlandale Dairy, Watertown

Sept. 7 ♦ 44th WALSAA Football Fire-Up

Oct. 25 ♦ WALSAA Board of Directors Meeting

Jan. 25 ♦ 2020 FISC Reunion

IN MEMORIAM

Gwendolyn Daluge, BS '42 MS '76