walsaa

Your CALS Connection For Life

Volume 44 • Issue 1 • March 2014



WALSAA announces four **Innovation Grant recipients**

WALSAA funds donated last year during the 40th Anniversary Campaign will let members of four CALS student organizations pursue and expand innovative club programs this year.

One grant will help make it possible for members of the Badger Turf and Grounds Club to participate in the Golf Industry Show (GIS) in Orlando, Fla. Club President Adam Wepfer says participating in the conference will expand members' knowledge, not only by learning new industry research, mechanical innovations and technical advances, but better prepare them for the future of the industry and their careers.

Wepfer says, "The conference includes a four-hour exam; if we place in the top 10 schools, this could give us the standing of one of the top turf programs in the nation, which goes a long way for future educational resources and funding for our program. What we learn at this conference will also carry over to what we teach and share with others at events like CALS Day for Kids and Science Expeditions. "

See Innovations Grants on page 7

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Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences **Alumni Association** P.O. Box 5177 Madison, WI 53705-5177 PHONE (608) 438-1994 E-MAIL admin@walsaa.org WEBSITE www.walsaa.org

President's Message: Thank you for your contributions



WALSAA President Bryan Renk

ALSAA activities have picked up into the new year. With the WALSAA Football Fire-Up, our major fundraising event of the year in the rearview mirror, we move forward, investing in support of the college and CALS students. Thank you to all WALSAA contributors including: WALSAA donors, new lifetime members and annual members.

WALSAA welcomed many new graduates from the year's awards. college at Fall Commencement in mid-December by providing each graduate with a new Wisconsin portfolio, including an application for WALSAA membership. If you see a new graduate remind them about the great investment WALSAA can be for fundraising, friendraising and continued support of the college.

CALS students came back to campus in mid-January which signals the time of the year for WALSAA to accept and evaluate applications for various awards that are so generously supported by your WALSAA contributions. This year we have been able to award four Innovation awards to CALS campus organizations. These monetary grants are made possible by the generous contributions to the 40th Anniversary Fund. The fund raised more than \$14,000 to be awarded to CALS student organizations to grow programs, launch new initiatives or assist them in strategic planning and/or leadership training.

The Scholarship Committee is actively evaluating the Outstanding Sophomore Award applications.

WALSAA Board 2013-2014

Bryan Renk '83, '85 - 2014 President Sun Prairie, WI Sara Schoenborn '10 - 2014 Vice President Fitchburg, WI Sam Miller '84 - 2014 Past President Appleton, WI Bob Kaczmarek '80 Treasurer/Ex-Officio Kenosha, WI Sara Anderson UW Foundation/Ex-Officio Madison WI

Ten \$2,000 award recipients will be selected among sophomore student applicants. These talented CALS students are typically in the upper echelon of the university in achievement. In addition, WALSAA will award its Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) scholarships to five students, each are \$500 awards. WALSAA had a record number of applications for this

The Events Committee lined up another great sold-out friendraising event with the Hit the Ice with WALSAA Hockey Event held Feb. 21. Mark your calendars for the Farm Technology Days picnic on Aug. 13, and it won't be long before we turn our attention to the WALSAA Football Fire-Up.

We welcome our new annual and lifetime members. WALSAA is looking for additional membership and for existing members to continue to support and invest in the activities of the college, its students and faculty. Your financial support helps make this possible

Thank you again to all our contributors. As you can see, your investments are being well spent on the students and faculty at the college. Additional support is always appreciated. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to WALSAA by filling out the form on page 9 or through a secure connection at www. walsaa.org

Thank you and On, Wisconsin!

Robb Bender '10, '12 - 2016 Scott Bowe Jill Makovec '00, '02 - 2014 Faculty Rep Madison WI Madison W Madison, WI Bob Behnke FISC '91 - 2016 Russell Rindsig '68, '69, '73 - 2015 Brooklyn, WI Karen Martin Sarona, WI CALS Rep/Ex-Officio Al Herrman '77 - 2014 Russell Tietz '96, '98 - 2015 Beaver Dam, WI New Franken, WI Watertown, WI Will Peasley Tom Janczewski '98 - 2015 Tom Vergeront '77, '78 - 2015 Student Rep Milwaukee, WI Sun Prairie, WI Madison, WI Valerie Johnson '86 - 2016 Dave Welsh '90 - 2015 Waunakee, WI Heidi Zoerb Elkhorn, WI CALS Rep/Ex-Officio Rene Johnson '95 - 2015 Madison, WI Evansville, WI Visit www.walsaa.org to view biographies and contact information Dale Beaty '87 - 2014 Kim Jones '91 - 2016 Darlington, WI for each of the Board members. Milton WI

Dean's Message: Celebrating our impact

ur 125th anniversary – our "quasquicentennial" about CALS and help us grow the future: offers an opportunity both to celebrate our college's achievements and advocate for our continuing growth and success.

We're looking forward to connecting with alumni life? How has CALS helped your community? Let your and friends at a number of "quasqui"-flavored events local leaders and elected officials know. this year. Highlights include a dedication ceremony for the new Hector F. DeLuca Biochemical Sciences • As noted, please share your CALS experiences, Complex (April 24); a barn dance fundraiser hosted past and present - including your participation at by our Board of Visitors at the family farm of Susan anniversary events! - with your professional and Crane (June 28); and our Honorary Recognition Awards personal networks on social media. banquet (Oct. 16), quickly followed by our Science Festival weekend (Oct. 16-19). • Encourage the promising young people in your life to

consider attending CALS. The college's Visit Days are And that's just a taste of it. For a complete list, visit http://cals.wisc.edu/125th. Throughout the year that posted at http://cals.wisc.edu/academics/admissions. website will serve as a hub for all manner of tributes to our past – photos, videos, recollections – as well as a • Make a gift to the CALS Annual Fund at place to share your thoughts about the college's future. www.supportuw.org/giveto/cals. Donations to this We welcome your contributions via social media or fund go to the students and services that need it most. email (see information below).

Anniversaries serve as a time of reflection as well Let me take this moment to thank you for your as celebration. As we look back on CALS contributions, engagement and commitment to CALS. With your it is inspiring to appreciate how much the college has support we can ensure that CALS' future is every bit as improved lives in Wisconsin and beyond. For some shining as its past. On, Wisconsin! examples, I invite you to look at our current Grow magazine cover story, which focuses on transformational We welcome your CALS stories: achievements at CALS during the last 25 years alone. Twitter: UW-MadisonCALS, #UWCALS125 Facebook: UWMadisonCALS The rebound and current vigor of Wisconsin dairy, advances in genomics improving plant and animal email: cals125@cals.wisc.edu productivity, tech transfer success stories that have made UW-Madison globally renowned - these are only 4-H seeks centennial volunteers a few of the stories that make me so proud to be part of the CALS community. Wisconsin 4-H is celebrating its 100th anniver-

I know that members of WALSAA, as engaged alumni, are proud as well. What I invite all of us who know and love CALS to do, during our celebratory year, is take steps to ensure that more Wisconsin residents are aware of our college's value to the state. Here are a few things all alumni and friends can do to spread the word www.walsaa.org

(608) 438-1994



CALS Dean & Director Kate VandenBosch

• Share our stories with your community and elected local and state leaders. How has CALS touched your

sary in 2014 and is seeking a variety of volunteers to make the year special. If you would like to be involved, contact John Brunnquell, Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Director, to learn more at jbrunnquell@ egginnovations.com or (414) 704-1344.

FISC Corner: Opportunities to provide feedback



FISC Interim Director Jessie Potterton

reetings, WALSAA alumni!

wondering where October went...

I am amazed with what the students have accomplished in just a few months time. In visiting with instructors and listening to feedback from the students, this program is truly life changing. Students are planning for the next steps in their lives, looking for full-time work and internships, and thinking about what they'll be doing at this time next year. In less than a month, the FISC program will have closed the books on another successful year!

I've been hearing from alumni and friends of the Farm & Industry Short Course Program. Hopefully you've received a letter (that was sent to all FISC alumni), and I want to take a chance to remind you of several upcoming opportunities you'll have to provide feedback on your experiences in the program. They include:

 Listening sessions were held across the state earlier L this year. If you were unable to attend, provide feedback on our website at http://fisc.cals.wisc.edu/alumni/ listeningsessions/

Visit our website at http://fisc.cals.wisc.edu. We are Constantly updating the website with events, news, student and alumni information.

Email or call us at fisc@cals.wisc.edu or (608) 263-**5**3918.

Finally, FISC will hold a celebration June 7 for all FISC alumni and friends. In 2014, this college-sponsored celebration will be held in lieu of the January FISC Reunion. With 2014 arriving, we celebrate the 130th anniversary of FISC and the 125th anniversary of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. We hope you

can join us on campus for a day of celebrations, tours and Whew! It is the end of winter, and I'm still meeting with other alumni, faculty and staff.

I look forward to hearing from and meeting with you!



AWA Breakfast on the Farm

The Association of Women in Agriculture is excited to announce it will be hosting the 19th Annual Breakfast on the Farm. This fun-filled event will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Stock Pavilion located at 1675 Linden Drive on the UW–Madison campus.

This country tradition includes a farm-fresh meal of pancakes, eggs, applesauce, mushrooms, sausage, milk, juice and ice cream. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$7 (adults), \$6 (seniors 65+), \$5 (students), and \$3 (children under 5). After eating a delicious outdoor meal in the heart of spring, enjoy the petting zoo with plenty of baby animals, agriculture education activities and entertainment like the Prairie Thunder Cloggers, Old Time Polka Band and Bucky Badger.

Join the 125th CALS celebration!

2014 is the UW-Madison College of Ag and Life Sciences' quasquicentennial (125th anniversary) and there are a number of ways WALSAA members can connect and help us celebrate throughout the year.

We welcome your participation in one or all of these special celebrations.

April 24

Rededication of the Hector DeLuca Biochemical Sciences Complex

The UW Board of Regents approved naming the biochemistry and biochemical science buildings located on Henry Mall and Babcock Drive after notable faculty member Hector DeLuca. The celebration will include a picnic lunch, building tours and a brief program featuring Chancellor Blank and Dean VandenBosch.

May 23

Soil Science 125th celebration

As one of the college's original academic departments, soil science is planning a celebration highlighting the contributions of their faculty and alumni in the last 125 years.

June 19 and 20

Horticulture 125th celebration

Horticulture, one of the college's founding departments, is also celebrating its 125th anniversary with an on-campus symposium in conjunction with its annual garden party.

June 7 **FISC Alumni Celebration**

This year the Farm and Industry Short Course Program celebrates 130 years of training those in agriculture. FISC alumni are invited back to campus in June to connect with former classmates and tour new campus facilities.

June 28 **Barn Dance**

Members of the college's Board of Visitors are planning a barn dance fundraiser at the home of board chair Susan Crane in Burlington, Wis. Food, music, dancing and fun will be plentiful at this summer social that will raise funds for the college's programs and students.

October 16-19

Wisconsin Science Festival

CALS faculty, staff and students will be front and center during this weekend festival in Madison and in other Wisconsin communities. The festival is a great opportunity for aspiring scientists of all ages to learn more about discoveries and innovations at UW–Madison. Honorary Recognition, the college's annual awards program, will also be held in conjunction with the Festival on Thursday, Oct. 16.

Alumni can connect with the college by joining our LinkedIn group, following us on Twitter and liking our Facebook page. For complete details on the celebrations, and how you can get involved, visit us on the web at http:// cals.wisc.edu/125th



WALSAA welcomes new board members



Bob Behnke

Bob Behnke graduated from the UW–Madison Farm and Industry Short Course program in 1991. Since that time, Bob has owned and managed, along with his parents, Wally and Donna, a 60-cow herd of registered Holsteins.

He has also been active in the local and state has broadened his professional horizons. Holstein associations; served as chairman for the Green/Rock County Holstein Sale; been a volunteer at the National Post-Secondary Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo; showed cattle at the local, state and national levels; acted as official judge at several county dairy shows and is currently serving as the vice president of the FISC Alumni Board.

He and his wife, Denise, reside in Brooklyn, Wis.



Robb Bender

Robb Bender was reared on a small dairy farm in Cleveland, Wis., where a passion for agriculture was instilled in him at an early age. After selling the dairy cows in 2000, Robb's parents continued their agriculture passions

by cash-cropping in addition to their full-time jobs. Robb and his brother, Ross, recently decided to commit to the farm through the purchase of land to supplement Hereford cow/calf operation, Wildcat Cattle Company, the current acreage.

From 2007–2010, Robb attended UW–Madison and finished a bachelor's degree in dairy science in May 2010. He was active in many organizations, including husband have six children. the UW Marching Band, Babcock House, Badger Dairy Club, Collegiate FFA and Dairy Challenge. During his undergraduate program, he developed an interest in emerging agriculture and researching new technologies that prompted a career path change.

Thus, Robb stayed at UW-Madison and embarked

physiology, combining his passion for dairy cattle with his appetite for academic advances in research. After obtaining a master's degree in August 2012, Robb's academic career culminated in the pursuit of a PhD in dairy science - nutritional physiology, which he is expected to finish in 2015. Throughout graduate school, a dual appointment as a research and teaching assistant

on a master's degree in dairy science - reproductive

In his free time, Robb still enjoys farming at home, playing trumpet, watching Wisconsin athletics (Packers and Badgers) and, of course, spending time with family and friends. His main goal at WALSAA is to look for ways to increase participation (both financial and otherwise) of UW-CALS alumni across generations.

Kim Jones



With nearly 25 years of agricultural communications experience, Kim Jones has worked in nearly every capacity of account management and in most agriculture sectors. She grew up on a purebred Holstein

dairy farm in southeastern Wisconsin and earned agricultural journalism and dairy science degrees from UW-Madison.

Kim currently owns and manages a purebred with her husband, who is a full-time veterinarian. She also owns Tanbark Consulting, a small communications business serving agricultural businesses. Kim and her

Kim is looking forward to serving on the WALSAA board and spreading the word about the important work WALSAA is doing to support students and the entire College of Agricultural and Life Sciences campus.

> Continued on next page (608) 438-1994





from Bank Street College of Education in New York Karen Martin Karen Martin has been working City. Karen thoroughly loves being part of an academic in the CALS Office of Academic environment and has been involved with education Affairs since 2008. She is currently since 1985. While teaching in Connecticut, she received the CALS Scholarship Director and a "Celebration of Excellence" state teaching award for works with undergraduate, graduate an interdisciplinary agricultural project she developed and FISC student awarding. entitled, "Growing Together: Making a Garden."

She has a master's degree in mathematics education

Innovation Grants, continued from page 1

Another club benefitting from a WALSAA Innovation interests and create a network of aspiring professionals," Grant is College Farm Bureau at UW-Madison. The says club officer Karla Montes De Oca. "As a result, members will see successful underrepresented groups group says research shows the most effective way for farmers and agriculturalists to connect with consumers with whom MANRRS' student members can directly and build trust in today's agriculture is by engaging relate. This motivates many minority students to keep in dialogue and working to identify shared values of excelling in their studies and pursue higher learning." The fourth WALSAA Innovation Grant will help 16 producers and consumers.

Club Vice President Taylor Holterman says, "We feel National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) student chapter members participate in a student marketing the best way for our organization to start productive conversations about food and farming is to host student competition in Jacksonville, Fla. Team members enroll organization(s) on a tour of a nearby Wisconsin farm. We in a full-time class during the spring semester and hope the opportunity to meet a producer and see modern spend up to 20 hours a week in and out of the classroom agriculture firsthand will build trust among students. In developing a full-scale marketing plan for a new agriculaddition to a tour, the event will involve an interactive tural product. Each team has 20 minutes at the competition question and answer session among Collegiate Farm to present their marketing strategies and tactics, collateral Bureau members, the producer and the consumers. materials design, product naming, competitive analysis, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and business proposition and budget. In addition to this realworld experience, students also have the opportunity to attend business sessions and network with industry professionals.

Related Sciences (MANRRS) will use its WALSAA Innovation Grant to attend the MANRRS career fair and training conference in Birmingham, Ala. Participating in this program will allow students to network with The four WALSAA Innovation grants total more than professional employers, explore internship opportunities \$4,000. The WALSAA 40th Anniversary Fund has enough capital to make similar grants in the next two academic and make career placement connections. "This conference allows our members to meet students from other years. CALS student organizations should watch for a spring call for applications from the Dean's office. MANRRS chapters throughout the country with similar www.walsaa.org Volume 44 • Issue 1 7

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She and her family live in Middleton, Wis.

Campus Happenings: WALSAA Leadership Retreat



WALSAA Student Representative Will Peasley

or students, it is a busy time of year on campus with midterms around the corner. CALS student organizations are also hard at work planning their upcoming events.

the CALS student organizations, will be held April 21-27. Some of the events include CALS Undergraduate that we have alumni support behind us. Research Symposium and AWA Breakfast on the Farm.

In addition, through the WALSAA Innovation Grants, there will be new programs to look forward to from student organizations like Collegiate Farm Bureau, the Badger Turf and Grounds Club and others. These new This year CALS week, which highlights many of initiatives would not be possible without the generous donations of alumni. As a student it means a lot to know

On, Wisconsin.

New graduates welcomed by WALSAA



WALSAA was proud to welcome CALS' most recent graduates at the University of Wisconsin Fall the graduates' 10 a.m. commencement ceremony, CALS hosted a gathering in the Nicholas Suites at the Kohl Center. CALS graduates and their families enjoyed refreshments, visits with faculty, staff, Dean Kate Vanden Bosch and, of course - Bucky Badger!

As a parting gift, graduates who attended the CALS into the WALSAA community.

commencement reception were given a professional portfolio embossed with the UW logo. WALSAA included Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 22. Following a letter of congratulations and membership information in each portfolio. This gift will come in handy as students interview for jobs or attend graduate/ professional school.

> As a special promotion to graduates, WALSAA offered "one payment free" for use on a Lifetime Membership – a \$105 value. Please join us in welcoming these new alumni

Show your support for WALSAA's initiatives

Donations sent to WALSAA at any time are used to support the college, its students and faculty. Contributions enable WALSAA to award scholarships, fund CALS Ambassadors, support student leadership and recognize exceptional faculty - all efforts to support the university and the alumni's connection to it. Every dollar contributed is 100 percent tax deductible.

WALSAA recognizes its sponsors by the following giving levels:

- Annual contributions less than \$50 Other Support Red & White Club Henry Mall Club Babcock Hall Club Agricultural Hall Club – Annual contributions between \$500 and \$999 WALSAA Society Annual contributions of \$1,000 or greater

Donations can be made safely online (go to www.walsaa.org and click on the donate button) or by filling out the donation form below and mailing it in.

Please take a few moments to reflect on your experience at the college and consider how support from WALSAA may have helped your situation. The more support we can generate, the more we can do for the college. Thank you for your continued support of WALSAA.

DONATION FORM Name: Address: Phone:_ UW-Madison Graduate? Yes No If yes, year of degree: Additional degrees (please list): Field(s) of study: Donation to support WALSAA: \$ If you wish, please specify a purpose for this gift: Payment method: Check Money or

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Annual contributions between \$50 and \$124 Annual contributions between \$125 and \$249 Annual contributions between \$250 and \$499 Corporate donations are also welcome. Visit www.walsaa.org to learn more about these unique opportunities.

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Thank you to our 2013 WALSAA supporters

WALSAA would like to thank the individuals who made a contribution in support of WALSAA in 2013. This list excludes those people who make a donation through their lifetime membership enrollment.

WALSAA Society \$1,000 or greater

Daniel & Genese Brisky Eric Johnson Kay & Duane Maas Tim Martin **Beverly McGowan** Samuel & Nadine Miller Russell Rindsia Tom Wilson Family

Ag Hall Club \$500-\$999

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Alumni Updates

Ronald J. & Anne M. Putzer Scott Ruetten Sheldon Schieldt Dale & Delores Schoepke Allan Schultz Wayne Schwartz Mark & Kathleen Sherry Gary Sommers Patricia Stromberg UW Marching Band Robert L. Weiss Linda B. Wenck Maurice White Kenneth Witt World Dairy Expo Ralph Zibell

Other Less than \$50

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publication.

Katie Varney, BS'04, was named marketing and event specialist with Vita Plus. Varney will provide planning and project management support for Vita Plus-related events, training efforts, tradeshows and customer meetings. She will also work with the marketing team to further branding efforts.

Peggy Coffeen, BS'06, joined Progressive Publishing where she will cover dairy-related events in the Midwest and coordinate editorial content pertaining to cow comfort, facilities and housing, hoof health, and A.I. and breeding for Progressive Dairyman's U.S. and Canada editions. Crystal McNett, BS'06, was named trade show manager with World Dairy Expo, Inc. McNett previously was trade show & project coordinator for World Dairy Expo

Select Sires as a Holstein sire analyst. Jorgensen will be responsible for Holstein sire acquisition in assist Selects' member cooperatives in their efforts to grow semen sales.

Brenda Murphy, BS'97, is the new producer communications and programs director for the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board. She comes to the board from Agri-View, where she most recently served as sales and marketing manager. Previously, Murphy was managing editor of that

Kevin Jorgenson, BS'91, joined and is the former sales and marketing communications specialist with Select Sires.

Susan Orth, BS'06, was named Wisconsin and other states and will sponsorship manager with World Dairy Expo, Inc. She will be the lead contact for sponsors, sponsor customer service and communications. She has been on World Dairy Expo's staff since 2009 and most recently served as trade show manager.

> Nicole Reese, BS'06, was named executive director of Southern Wisconsin Agricultural Group. Reese, an agriculture teacher and FFA adviser for Milton High School, will be responsible for the non-profit's daily communication duties and community outreach.

New Lifetime Members

Mark Anderson, BS'99, Agronomy, Whitewater

New Annual Members

Ron Cambell, BS'92, MBA, Ellsworth

Sheryl Nehls, BS'81, dairy science, Cleveland

In Memoriam

Albin Jaeger, FISC'50 John Rowntree Gordon Monroe Halverson Volume 44 • Issue 1

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	Upcoming Events
March 15 April 11 April 27 May 17 Aug. 13	FISC Graduation WALSAA scholarship winner reception at the Memorial Union AWA Breakfast on the Farm CALS Spring Commencement WALSAA Farm Technology Days Picnic

The WALSAA newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 5177, Madison, WI 53705-5177. Circulation 1,400. Send change of address notices to above address. Layout and design by Karen Lee. Printing by Dairyland Power Cooperative.