

WALSAA EXPRESS

⇒ YOUR CALS CONNECTION FOR LIFE

Volume 51 | Issue 1 | January 2023

WALSAA Football Fire-Up and 50th Anniversary Celebration Raises More Than \$23,000 to Support CALS Students

Alumni, friends, and family of the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) came together to network and raise funds as part of the annual Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) Football Fire-Up Event. The event was held in the University of Wisconsin Foundation parking lot prior to the Wisconsin versus Washington State football game on Saturday, September 10. Glenda Gillaspay, CALS Dean and Director, and Taylor Fritsch, WALSAA President, welcomed all in attendance. CALS administration and faculty were also present. This year's silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and donations raised more than \$23,000 for CALS scholarships, awards, and student activities. A big thank you to the sponsors, donors, bidders, and volunteers, and a special thank you to CALS for the \$10,000 matching grant.

2022 marked a special year for WALSAA as the organization celebrated its 50th Anniversary. When WALSAA was established in 1972, the organization embarked on a remarkable journey of service and fellowship with alumni and friends of CALS. WALSAA celebrated 50 years by reflecting on the organization's impact on both advisors and students. We even highlighted this success through an impact video launched at Fire-Up. If you have yet to see the video, we encourage you to visit the WALSAA website to watch it! Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach this 50-year milestone. We look forward to strengthening WALSAA's continued legacy of service for the next 50 years.

More about Crowley and Fire-Up on page 3



walsaa 50
Creating Connections for 50 Years

***Crowley presented with 6th
annual WALSAA Daluge
Red Jacket Award***

Pictured left to right:

*Dee Earleywine; Diann Crowley;
Tom Earleywine; Peggy & Rick
Daluge; 2016 Daluge Red Jacket
Award recipient, Jack Kaltenberg;
WALSAA President, Taylor Fritsch;
2018 Daluge Red Jacket Award
recipient, Liz Henry; and 2017
Daluge Red Jacket Award
recipient, Al Herrman*

In Memoriam

**Marshall Finner, BS '51, '53, MS '58
LaVerne Ausman, FISC '49**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Strength in Numbers



Michael Murphy, WALSAA President

Greetings WALSAA friends,

I am just beginning the journey as President as we close out the first 50 years and we open the book on the next 50. As we step into 2023 many things in the organization will remain the same including providing outstanding resources for CALS Students and building the base for a great Fire-Up experience. That being said, there are changes including having the pleasure of working with the new Dean and her team members in addition to searching for our next group of talented award recipients (Outstanding Sophomore and Senior Impact Award). The one common theme and the backbone of the success WALSAA has had is the

foundation of "There is strength in numbers." Each year we have wonderful committee members that have supported the needs of this organization and have completed their term. That leaves empty slots of knowledge, passion and commitment to the cause. Marketing & Development, Events, Student Outreach, Farm & Industry Short Course and Scholarships can all use a hand. If you would like to be a part of the success kicking off the next 50 years let Stephanie or I know and we would be pleased to have you join the WALSAA team.

All the Best!

Michael Murphy (B.S. 1987)

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Help Support the Next Generation of CALS Students



Taylor Fritsch, WALSAA Past President

As my year as WALSAA President draws to a close, I can't help but be overwhelmed with gratitude for this organization and its wonderful members and friends. Together with your help, we've made a difference for students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) and celebrated WALSAA's 50 years of creating connections!

As we enter 2023, I am excited by an energizing initiative we've been working on over the past year to help WALSAA sustain its legacy of success and support for CALS students—our 50/50 Campaign to develop new resources for student scholarship awards.

Leading up to the 2023 Fire-Up, we aim to raise \$50,000 in pledges and contributions. Fifty percent of all contributions will be utilized to support the new WALSAA Senior Impact Awards over the next five years. The other 50 percent of contributions to the WALSAA 50/50 Campaign will be added to WALSAA's Student Scholarship Fund at the UW Foundation.

The WALSAA Board of Directors piloted the Senior Impact Award in 2022, making three scholarship awards of \$1,000 each. The Senior Impact Award recognizes CALS undergraduates who have made outstanding contributions to CALS and the campus community through their leadership, involvement and service.

So many members and alumni have told us that the experiences they had at CALS outside of the classroom were very significant for their personal and professional development. It is my hope that the Senior Impact Award rewards students who have helped create and sustain those opportunities for fellow students through their leadership. As a member of the final selection committee, choosing just three recipients this year was very difficult. With your support, I hope we can support even more deserving CALS students in the future.

The WALSAA Student Scholarship Fund was established at the UW Foundation several years ago by a group of forward-thinking WALSAA members to support and increase student scholarships awarded by WALSAA over the long term. The fund provides a vehicle for WALSAA members and friends to direct contributions to WALSAA's student scholarship offerings.

WALSAA members received a mailing specific to the 50/50 campaign in December. We hope you'll contribute, or better still, a five-year pledge to help grow and sustain WALSAA's efforts to support CALS students.

On, Wisconsin!

Taylor Fritsch (B.S. 2014)

CALS MESSAGE

An Introduction



Glenda Gillaspy, CALS Dean and Director

Hello WALSAA members!

I'm excited to have this chance to connect with some of the most steadfast supporters of CALS. Since it's my first time sending a message through this newsletter, it seems only proper that I should tell you a little bit about myself and how I plan to work with you and others to promote excellence in the college.

As some of you already know, I became the new dean of the college in August. I come to UW from Virginia Tech, where I was a professor in the Department of Biochemistry for 24 years, the last seven of which I served as head. Like the biochemistry department here at CALS, my former academic home at VT was also housed in the university's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. And VT, like UW, is also a land-grant college, with a tripartite mission of research, education, and extension. So, while my geographical setting has changed, I find myself in familiar territory in terms of college and institutional goals.

My research has mostly focused on phosphate signaling in plants, and it could be described as both basic and applied. On one hand, I explore how plants communicate. But I also investigate methods for remediation of phosphate pollution.

Outside of my academic interests, there are several other key areas where I typically spend my time and energy. Throughout my career, I've placed a heavy emphasis on undergraduate and graduate education. At VT, for example, I helped lead efforts to modernize the curriculum, and I worked on a teaching and mentoring initiative aimed at diversifying the scientific workforce. Outreach and extension (vital parts of the storied Wisconsin Idea here at UW) have also been top priorities of mine. I'm proud to have been

involved with high school outreach programs that help young scholars find their love of science early. I also helped create a federally funded partnership that gives undergrads a chance to interact directly with farmers and connect basic science in the lab with applied science at agricultural research stations.

That's a little of the background I bring with me as I step into this new role. And I'm excited by what I see here. CALS has a stellar overall reputation. It's renowned for its research, and there's a willingness to innovate in education here. I see talented and experienced leaders throughout the college's departments, centers, and units. This includes a new team focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion that is looking to help CALS become an even more welcoming place. The college also benefits from the strong support of its alumni, donors, and other stakeholders throughout the state. And I could go on.

Many of these strengths dovetail with my past efforts and with the areas where I hope to focus and collaborate as dean of CALS. How that focus and collaboration happen will be decided and refined as I spend my first weeks and months on campus listening and learning. That includes hearing from students, faculty, and staff but also alumni, such as yourselves, as well as donors, members of industries connected to CALS, and other members of our college community. I look forward to your thoughts and ideas.

WALSAA Football Fire-Up

Continued from page 1

During Fire-Up, WALSAA also presented its sixth annual WALSAA Daluge Red Jacket Award to the late Jim Crowley, Jr., for his dedication and support of WALSAA. It was an honor to have his wife, Diann and daughter, Dee, and her family in attendance to receive the award on behalf of Jim. Crowley was named the 2022 recipient because of his dedication and service to WALSAA. He served on the WALSAA Board for six years and was president of the organization from 2002-03. Crowley also served the

organization as an active member and a key planner of the WALSAA Football Fire-Up tailgate event for 25 years. The Fire-Up events were a great success due to his involvement.

We also cannot forget those that make this event possible – our volunteers! WALSAA would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our volunteers for sharing their time and talents. A special thank you to the CALS Ambassadors and student organizations for their service at Fire-Up. We look forward to seeing everyone this fall for another WALSAA Football Fire-Up. On Wisconsin!

WALSAA STANDOUTS

50th Anniversary Celebration

To mark 50 years, the WALSAA Board of Directors decided that it would be fitting to recognize a group of individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the organization over the past 50 years. WALSAA's status as a volunteer directed organization makes it particularly unique. WALSAA owes its legacy of service to CALS in no small part to these volunteers. Congratulations to these members from every decade of WALSAA's existence!

Watch for more on WALSAA Standouts in future issues!

1972-81: Jack Kaltenberg – BOD 1978-82, President 1978-80; Mike Marr – BOD 1997-03

1982-91: John Hansen – BOD 1988-94, President 1992-94; Al Herrman – BOD 1978-87, 2012-17, President 1981, 1985

1992-01: Sheldon Schieldt – BOD 1994-99, President 1998-99; Bob Kaczmarek – BOD 1994-98, 2008-13; President 1997-98; Treasurer 2008-13



Pictured left to right: Jessica Sarbacker, Liz Henry, Al Herrman, Sheldon Schieldt, Jack Kaltenberg, and Jill Makovec

2002-11: Liz Henry – BOD 2005-11, President 2007-09; Jessica (Agnew) Sarbacker - co-chair of 2007 NAADA Conference hosted by WALSAA – BOD 2001-09 (student rep 01-03); Jennifer (Godwin) Vincent - co-chair of 2007 NAADA Conference – BOD 2003-08, President 05-06

2012-Present: Jill Makovec – BOD 2009-14, 2018-present; President 2010-12; Marjorie Stieve – BOD 2009-15, 2017-20, President 2017-18

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PROCEEDS TO CALS SCHOLARSHIPS

WALSAA WELCOMES NEW STUDENT REPS

Broege, Conidi, Heinzl and Michel Join the WALSAA Board of Directors



Nicole Broege

Nicole Broege is currently a junior at UW-Madison, majoring in Dairy Science with a certificate in Data Science. She is originally from Janesville, Wisconsin, where she grew up owning and showing a small herd of registered Holsteins, Rock-Edge Holsteins, with her two older sisters, Kristen and Jenna. Active in the industry, Nicole was dedicated to

the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association, where she was chair of the Junior Activities Committee and Outstanding Holstein Girl. On campus, Nicole is very involved with student organizations, serving this year as Secretary for the Association of Women in Agriculture, Treasurer for Collegiate Farm Bureau, and President of Badger Dairy Club.



Halei Heinzl

Halei Heinzl graduated from the Farm and Industry Short Course program in March of 2022 with certificates in Farm and Agribusiness Management and Dairy Herd Management. She is continuing her education at UW-Madison studying Life Sciences Communications. Halei stays busy by being involved in the agriculture community on campus.

She is a member of the Badger Dairy Club and Dairy Judging Team, the Historian for the Babcock House, and works at the Dairy Cattle Center. She has also continued involvement with the Short Course program as their marketing intern. She is looking forward to helping serve her community as one of the student representatives on the WALSAA Board!

Gabi Conidi

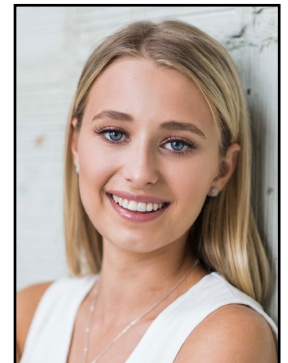
Gabi Conidi is an undergraduate student in her junior year from Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin studying Animal Sciences and Conservation Biology on the pre-veterinary track. Conidi received WALSAA's 2022 Outstanding Sophomore Award and joined the board in July 2022. She is also a CALS Ambassador and has been involved in the COMPASS program on campus.



Conidi is a member of the Comparative Orthopedics and Genetics Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin's School of Veterinary Medicine where she assists in research on genetic conditions in dogs, cats, and horses. She is also a student assistant in the Special Species, Ophthalmology, and Primary Care departments of UW Veterinary Care. In her free time, she loves to spend time with her animals, hike, and enjoy UW-Madison's campus.

Claire Michel

Claire Michel is a senior from Minneapolis, Minnesota majoring in Life Sciences Communication with certificates in Italian & Entrepreneurship. She serves as the Alumni Chair for CALS Ambassadors, which allows her to work with both prospective students and alumni on what makes CALS so great!



Outside of school, Claire enjoys spending time finding new books to read, talking about new movies/TV, practicing yoga, and trying to be a better cook. She loves the school spirit at UW and cheering on the Badgers at volleyball, hockey, football, and basketball games!



2023 Scholarship Applications Available

Applications for 2023 Outstanding Sophomore and Senior Impact Awards are available at WALSAA.org/students/walsaa-scholarships/. Application deadlines are January 30, 2023, for Sophomores and January 31, 2023, for Seniors. As a part of the WALSAA Speaker's Bureau webinar series, a video on resume building tips is available at WALSAA.org/students/speakers-bureau/.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Life Sciences Start, Leads to Personal Success



Tom Albrecht

One of the factors that lead to the success of CALS and WALSAA is that we have students and alumni who come from a wide variety of backgrounds and in various career fields. Life Sciences Start, Leads to Personal Success features some of our members that have taken their degrees, skills or passions learned from Life Sciences into new careers, community or personal development. Read on to learn how their degree in a Life Sciences major led to success.

Tom Albrecht graduated from UW-Madison CALS in 1976 with a degree in Forest Science. He was hired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry for his “dream” job, where he worked for 35 years. In his early career, he fought forest fires, and later did forest management on state and private lands in Shawano County. He enjoyed designing forestry practices to improve wildlife habitats.

The Division of Forestry recognized Tom for his successful efforts in public information on forestry and forest stewardship with the northeastern Wisconsin media.

During his college days, Tom learned of WALSAA from former Associate Dean Rick Daluge, who contacted students to help at the WALSAA Football Fire-Up. From classes at CALS and involvement in WALSAA, more opportunities became available to advance his career goals. Later, during his career, Tom served two terms on the WALSAA Board.

During his career, he additionally served many years in

leadership positions for the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. He was a co-founder of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame in the mid 1980s and currently serves as its president.

At UW-Madison CALS, Tom learned that achieving your goals meant more than doing just what was expected of you. He would urge any CALS student to take advantage of becoming a WALSAA member and help develop the leadership qualities they need for their future.

At UW-Madison CALS, Tom learned that achieving your goals meant more than doing just what was expected of you. He would urge any CALS student to take advantage of becoming a WALSAA member and help develop the leadership qualities they need for their future. “Going to WALSAA’s Fire-Up events are a treat,” he said, not only to cheer for the Badgers, but also because you meet and visit with like-minded alums who believe in the “Wisconsin Idea.”

Tom and his wife, Mary Jo, live on a river in a forested area of rural Shawano. He loves to fish in the summer and downhill ski in the winter.

CALS AMBASSADORS

Student Recruitment



Claire Michel, WALSAA Student Representative

It has been a packed semester for the CALS Ambassadors! We have participated in eight CALS informational sessions that allowed ambassadors to share their experiences and tips to prospective students and families, both online and in person. For the sessions held in person, ambassadors led tours of the CALS portion of the UW campus, sharing the unique buildings and research to the college. The sessions have been really impactful and they have had wonderful turnout which is very exciting. Last fall, ambassadors participated in the WALSAA Football Fire-Up, World Dairy Expo, and CALS Majors & Engagement Fair for current UW

students to learn about all that the college has to offer.

We are now planning for the spring semester and all the amazing events that it holds! There is preparation for Your UW Days as well as CALS Admitted Students Day. This day focuses on allowing admitted students and their families to learn more about CALS including majors, student life, undergraduate research, and how to be successful in college. Tours will also be held during the spring semester and are expected to be busy as more prospective students will be touring UW!

WELCOME TO THE WALSAA BOARD

Brunnquell, Hillstrom and Lauderdale Join the WALSAA Board of Directors



John Brunnquell

John Brunnquell graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy and a master's degree in Poultry Science. His research led to his being awarded patents for both fat and cholesterol reduction in shell eggs. Since founding Egg Innovations in 1999 and leading the company to a national presence, John earned

his Ph.D. in Avian Ethology at the University of Kentucky. He has served on numerous industry boards and committees and has been recognized many times for his volunteer work; including induction into the Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame and being named an Outstanding Alumni of the University of Wisconsin. John and his wife, Cathy, were selected as the United States' Outstanding Young Farmers by both the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Jaycees organization. John served as past President of the Wisconsin Agricultural Alumni Association, The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and Organic Egg Farmers of America. John and Cathy have three children and five grandchildren.

Jane Hillstrom

Jane Hillstrom found her passion for agriculture at an early age on her grandfather's dairy farm. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with double majors in Meat and Animal Science and Ag Education in 1980. A first

generation graduate, she credits CALS scholarships with helping her through college. She has served on the boards of a theater company and the Door County YMCA. She recently retired from a career in public relations. Jane and Mark Breseman, her husband, returned to Southwest Wisconsin after 25 years in Door County.



Curt Lauderdale

Curt Lauderdale works in the Office of Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). Curt serves as the assistant dean for student advising and development. In this role, Curt works closely with Career

Services and Academic Advising across the College. Curt grew up on a multi-generational dairy farm in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, attended Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, for his undergraduate degree and has a Masters of Arts in Education degree from The George Washington University Graduate School of Education. He enjoys exploring Madison with his dog Tilly.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 31 ♦ WALSAA Awards Ceremony

May 13 ♦ CALS Commencement

July 18 ♦ WALSAA Summer Picnic/FISC Reunion

