

walsaa CONNECTION

Volume 51 | Issue 3 | Fall 2023

WALSAA Football Fire-Up: Watch Party Edition at J. Henry & Sons on Saturday, September 9



What: WALSAA continues a 50-year mission to connect the University of Wisconsin-Madison, CALS and CALS alumni. **WALSAA Football Fire-Up**, a fantastic event that fosters camaraderie and showcases the Badger spirit. This year, to accommodate limited on-campus locations before a home game, WALSAA has decided to host a watch party just outside Madison at J. Henry & Sons.

When: Saturday, September 9 at 4 p.m.

Where: We are extremely grateful for the hospitality of J. Henry & Sons and eagerly anticipate reconnecting with CALS alumni and friends while

passionately cheering on the Badgers as they face the Cougars in Pullman, WA. **WALSAA's Annual Meeting will be held at 4 p.m. and Fire-Up will kick off at 4:30 p.m., with the game starting at 6:30 p.m.**

What to Expect: Guests will enjoy special appearances from Bucky Badger and Alice in Dairyland, a tailgate meal including steak sandwiches, brats, The Williams Family's famous potatoes olé, drinks, a variety of beers and special J. Henry & Sons Bourbon cocktails. The 2023 Fire-Up will feature the WALSAA Silent Auction to raise money to support scholarships, awards and student activities. Last year, more than \$25,000 was raised. This year's auction will feature a variety of items, such as lodging in Hawaii, Door County, and Hurley, Packers tickets, UW Badger men's season basketball tickets and much more! **Visit WALSAA's website for an updated auction list as the event nears. Several items are available for online bidding.**

How to Engage: Tickets are \$40 for alumni and FREE for students. \$20 of the alumni ticket price is a fully tax-deductible donation to WALSAA. Tickets can be ordered at www.WALSAA.org. Registrations in advance of the event are appreciated, however walk-ins are also welcome.

Our Sponsors: WALSAA would like to give special thanks to the generous people, companies and organizations that donate to Fire-Up. These cash and in-kind donations help reduce the overall cost of the event, benefiting both WALSAA members and future scholarship recipients.

walsaa Our College,
Our Connection
Creating Connections for 50 Years

Varsity Sponsors



Badger Sponsor



IN THIS ISSUE

Football Fire-Up.....	1,5
New Board Member.....	3
Summer Picnic & FISC Reunion....	4
Silent Auction.....	6

CONTACT US

Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association
PO Box 5177
Madison, WI 53705-5177
P: 608.438.1994 E: admin@walsaa.org

www.WALSAA.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Connect and Give Back as a WALSAA Board of Director



Michael Murphy, WALSAA President

The WALSAA Football Fire-Up is right around the corner, and we are excited to have you join us on September 9. We have a great event planned for you. Thank you to J. Henry & Sons for generously offering to host and thank you to the volunteers, silent auction donors and sponsors!

WALSAA's Annual Meeting also takes place at the beginning of Fire-Up and we are looking forward to welcoming new board members. Are you looking for a way to connect and give back? Joining the WALSAA Board of Directors is a great way to do this. We all have busy schedules, and I'm sure you're asking how much of a time commitment this is. We have two in-person board meetings each year and three

virtual meetings and ask for participation in one or two of WALSAA's standing committees (marketing & development, scholarship, events, FISC, finance, student outreach). Most committees meet monthly for a 30-minute check-in via Zoom. We also encourage you to attend a few events throughout the year including Fire-Up, a summer picnic, and a winter event (if held). Let me know if this is something you would be interested in, and I'd be happy to discuss it with you in further detail.

Sincerely,
Michael Murphy (B.S. 1987)

CALS WELCOMES OUTREACH PROGRAM MANAGER

Gayton Joins Office of Extension and Outreach



Heather Gayton recently started a position in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences created to serve rural communities and businesses through continuing education and research programs.

Gayton is the first outreach program manager in the college's Office of Extension and Outreach. She is responsible for launching new educational offerings

targeting farmers and agribusinesses through short courses, as well as coordinating research efforts through the USDA-funded Rural Partnership Institute at UW-Madison.

"I see this position as a way to be a part of the solution in addressing opportunity gaps in rural communities," says Gayton. "I am excited to align talented, professional instructors at UW-Madison with farmers and other rural businesses to amplify learning outcomes that will ripple through thriving communities."

Gayton grew up in Batavia, WI, in Sheboygan County, majored in education at UW-Stevens Point and earned a master's degree in education at UW-Whitewater. In 2019, she started ZanBria Artisan Farms, a niche market farm in

Friendship, WI, while working as a public-school teacher.

"I just completed my tenth year in the K-12 public education sector before making the full transition to adult education," she says. "The last three years, I have been building the foundation for state-wide conservation networking initiatives around various agricultural and conservation topics."

This includes work as a Farmer Advocate for Conservation through the Nature Conservancy and the lead farmer in the "Farmers of the Roche-Cri" producer-led watershed group.

Doug Reinemann, associate dean for extension and outreach, says, "Heather brings energy, enthusiasm and important perspectives gathered from her strong agricultural network to this new role. We believe there are many ways UW-Madison instructors can assist our rural businesses, from organic practices to managing electrical systems, and we look forward to serving rural Wisconsin with these new offerings."

Gayton has an office on the UW-Madison campus and expects to develop and offer educational programs throughout the state. This fall, two ongoing UW-Madison FISC training courses will be offered, Spanish for Dairy and the Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program. Gayton can be reached at heather.gayton@wisc.edu.

CALS MESSAGE

New Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences



Heidi Zoerb, Associate Dean for External Relations and Advancement

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is pleased to announce the formation of the new Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences, effective July 1.

The new department will address humanity's grand agricultural challenges through research, education, extension, and outreach programs that range from investigating the inner workings of plants to assessing their relationships with landscapes and climate. The department's academic disciplines include agronomy, horticulture, ecology, agroecology, crop science, weed science, production agriculture, and plant breeding and plant genetics as they relate to agronomic and horticultural systems. Students, staff, and faculty will study a wide variety of plant species and cropping systems and will explore the diversity of uses that contribute to ecosystem, community, and individual health and well-being.

The new department's 32-member faculty consists of faculty members formerly in the Departments of Agronomy and Horticulture. The Horticulture and Moore Hall-Agronomy Building will continue to serve as the physical home for the departments, as it has since 1932. The Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences will administer the existing undergraduate majors as well as the master's and Ph.D. programs in agronomy and horticulture.

In spring 2020, a committee of faculty and staff from the two departments, cochaired by Natalia de Leon (agronomy)

and Jeff Endelman (horticulture), formed to explore the possibility of a departmental merger. Following visioning sessions and additional discussions with then-Dean Kate VandenBosch, department chairs Patrick Krysan (horticulture) and Chris Kucharik (agronomy) led the formation of merger working groups, town hall meetings, and written proposals for a new department in fall of 2021. The Board of Regents approved formation of the new department this spring. At an organizational level, the administrative staff for the agronomy and horticulture departments were consolidated into a single unit in August 2022.

While several peer land-grant universities in the U.S. have previously combined their horticulture and agronomy departments, this merger is unique in that it also incorporates agroecosystem science, a significant strength at CALS.

"We were driven by the idea of creating something bold, unique and visionary for the 21st century," says Krysan, who will serve as the first chair of the new department. "By combining and better leveraging our strengths, we look forward to expanding our efforts to address society's grand challenges."

WALSAA WELCOMES NEW STUDENT REP

Hanley Joins the WALSAA Board of Directors



Caitlin Hanley is currently a senior pursuing a bachelor's in Animal Science with a certificate in Food Systems and plans to graduate Winter 2024. As the CALS Ambassadors Alumni Chair, she coordinates with both perspective students and alumni to help forge CALS memories that last a lifetime. She is also involved in the Pre-Veterinary Association as the CALS Representative and Slow Food UW as the South Madison Program Director. Outside of school, Caitlin loves to go hiking, especially with her two German Shepherds. She is currently working on her goal to visit all of Wisconsin's State Parks, her favorites being Governor Dodge and Pattison.

WALSAA SUMMER PICNIC & FISC REUNION

Connecting CALS and FISC Alumni



On July 18, alumni and friends of CALS and FISC gathered for the annual WALSAA picnic. This year's event was held in conjunction with the FISC Reunion and Wisconsin Farm Technology Days at the Badger Steam & Gas Engine Club's grounds in Baraboo. Attendees enjoyed catching up with fellow Badgers and reminiscing on their years in FISC while paging through old Little Badger yearbooks.

A short program included a welcome from WALSAA President Michael Murphy, CALS Update from CALS Dean and Director Glenda Gillaspay, and an update on the new FISC program at UW-River Falls from Steve Kelm. We enjoyed meeting the newest Alice in Dairyland, Ashley Hagenow, and newly hired CALS Outreach Program Manager, Heather Gayton.

Without the generous support of our sponsors, WALSAA and FISC would be unable to recognize those who make agriculture and FISC better for our community, our alumni, and the students. Our lead sponsors at the Varsity Level were American Foods Group and Compeer Financial and Daluge Travel as a Red Level sponsor. Also, a special thank you to the WALSAA FISC Committee and WI Farm Technology Days staff for helping to coordinate the event.

We hope you are able to attend next year's gathering!

THANK YOU SPONSORS

VARSITY



**COMPEER
FINANCIAL™**

RED



WALSAA FOOTBALL FIRE-UP: WATCH PARTY

2023 TICKET ORDER FORM

Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 4 p.m. ♦ J. Henry & Sons ♦ 7794 Patton Rd, Dane, WI
 Online registration available at: www.WALSAA.org



Join the excitement of the WALSAA Football Fire-Up, a fantastic event that fosters camaraderie and showcases the Badger spirit. This year, to accommodate limited on-campus locations before a home game, WALSAA has decided to host a watch party just outside Madison at J. Henry & Sons on **Saturday, September 9**. We are extremely grateful for the hospitality of J. Henry & Sons and eagerly anticipate reconnecting with CALS alumni and friends while passionately cheering on the Badgers as they face the Cougars in Pullman, WA. WALSAA's Annual Meeting will be held at 4 p.m. and Fire-Up will kick off at 4:30 p.m., with the game starting at 6:30 p.m. The 2023 Fire-Up will feature the WALSAA Silent Auction to raise money to support scholarships, awards and student activities. Last year, more than \$25,000 was raised. This year's auction will feature a variety of items, such as lodging in Hawaii, Door County, and Hurley, Packers tickets, UW Badger men's season basketball tickets and much more! Visit WALSAA's website for an updated auction list as the event nears. Several items are available for online bidding.

VARSITY SPONSORS:

BADGER SPONSOR:



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

Advance registration is encouraged - Walk-ins also welcome

\$20 of each ticket includes a fully tax-deductible donation to WALSAA to support CALS student scholarships

Number of reservation(s) at \$40 per person _____	\$ _____
Additional 100% tax deductible donation to WALSAA _____	\$ _____
Total Cost	\$ _____

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

2023 WALSAA FOOTBALL FIRE-UP

Here is a partial listing of items that will be up for auction at Fire-Up. To see all the auction items, attend the event on September 9. Select items are now available for online bidding and offered with a "Buy it Now" option at www.WALSAA.org. More photos will be added to WALSAA's social media!



ITEM: One-week stay at Manney Place in vibrant Door County, Wisconsin June 7-14, 2024
VALUE: \$2,000
DONOR: The Wilson Family/The Manney Place

ITEM: Red Fleece stadium blanket with embroidered CALS logo
VALUE: \$30
DONOR: CALS

ITEM: Four night stay at Daluge's Hurley area lodge for up to 12 people
VALUE: \$500
DONOR: Rick & Peggy Daluge

ITEM: Quarter Angus, grain-finished beef. Processed and cut at Weber's in Cuba City. Processing is included.
VALUE: \$800
DONOR: Valley View Farms



ITEM: UW Men's basketball season tickets
VALUE: \$1,656
DONORS: Coloma Farms, Al & Lynn Herrman, Paul & Sarah Patterson, and WALSAA



ITEM: 4-pack of Green Bay Packers Football tickets vs. Kansas City Chiefs on Dec 3
VALUE: : \$560
DONOR: Al & Lynn Herrman



ITEM: 1 week timeshare stay in Princeville, Kauai, Hawaii
VALUE: \$1,500
DONOR: Duane & Kay Maas

ITEM: Michael Best Suite (14 tickets) at the Kohl Center for a Wisconsin Badgers Women's Basketball Game during the 2023-2024 Season
VALUE: \$750
DONOR: Michael Best & Friedrich LLP



ITEM: Golf Package including \$100 gift card to Trappers Turn in Wisconsin Dells, 24 Titleist TruFeel golf balls, Wisconsin Badgers logo divot tool and ball marker
VALUE: \$170
DONOR: Taylor Fritsch & Emily Selner

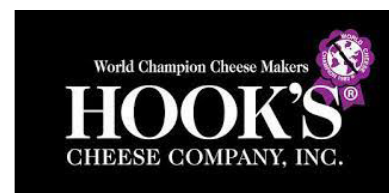
FIRE-UP SILENT AUCTION

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.

ITEM: Several packages of UW Football Tickets including games vs. Georgia Southern, Northwestern & Nebraska
VALUE: \$2,040
DONOR: WALSAA



ITEM: WiscoBoxes
VALUE: : \$150
DONOR: Sarah Botham



ITEM: Cheese Boxes
VALUE: \$100
DONOR: Hook's Cheese



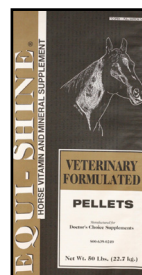
ITEM: Ron Dayne Autographed Helmets
VALUE: \$450
DONOR: Pierce Dopp



ITEM: PiP Seeds Winter Wheat
VALUE: \$600
DONOR: Partners in Production, LLC/ Jack Kaltenberg



ITEM: 15 lb pail of SportzDog by Fido-Vite & 50 lb bag of Equishine Pellets
VALUE: \$290
DONOR: Doctors Choice Supplements, John Sawle



ITEM: Bloody Mary Basket
VALUE: \$150
DONOR: Jill Makovec



ITEM: Bo Ryan Final Four Autographed Basketball with case
VALUE: \$125
DONOR: Pierce Dopp



ITEM: Case IH Pedal Tractor
VALUE: \$250
DONOR: Case IH

WALSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

Michael Murphy '87 - 2023
President
 DeWitt, IA

Kara Luedtke
CALS Rep/Ex-Officio
 Madison, WI

David Cooper '89 - 2024
 Sun Prairie, WI

Kay Maas '79, '82 - 2025
 Pewaukee, WI

John Brunnquell '85 - 2025
Vice President
 Port Washington, WI

Curt Lauderdale
CALS Rep/Ex-Officio
 Madison, WI

Alison Demmer '18 - 2024
 Peosta, IA

Jill Makovec '00, '02 - 2023
 Madison, WI

June Roush '87 - 2023
Treasurer
 Middleton, WI

CALS Ambassadors Student Rep
 Caitlin Hanley

Pierce Dopp '81 - 2024
 Wausau, WI

Brittney Muenster FISC '11 - 2024
 Seymour, WI

Taylor Fritsch '14 - 2024
Past President
 Sun Prairie, WI

CALS Student Reps
 Nicole Broege & Gabi Conidi

Jane Hillstrom '80 - 2025
 Dodgeville, WI

Scott Rasch '93, '97 - 2023
 Racine, WI

FISC Student Rep
 Halei Heinzl

Mike Kawleski '84 - 2024
 Sobieski, WI

Brooke Trustem '20 - 2023
 Evansville, WI

Julie Larson '86 - 2023
 Viroqua, WI



Your CALS Connection For Life

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



Follow WALSAA on social media at:



www.facebook.com/WALSAAUW



www.twitter.com/WALSAA



www.linkedin.com/company/WALSAA



www.instagram.com/WALSAAUW

www.WALSAA.org

**Halbach Recognized as 2023
WALSAA Outstanding Advisor**



Congratulations to Theodore J. Halbach, CALS Animal and Dairy Sciences, on receiving this year's WALSAA Outstanding Advisor Award! This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a deep concern for the

welfare of CALS undergraduates and has invested exceptional time and effort in providing them (individuals, teams, or clubs) with academic or personal guidance. The members of the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association have been honoring outstanding advisors with this award since 1979.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9 ♦ WALSAA Football Fire-Up

Watch Party Edition at J. Henry & Sons

Schedule of Events:

4:00 p.m. WALSAA Annual Meeting

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Tailgate meal served

5:00 p.m. Program

5:30 p.m. Meet Bucky Badger

6:30 p.m. UW at Washington State kick-off
Brats & chips served at halftime

End time at 9:30 p.m. (or when game ends)

Register online at: www.WALSAA.org

Oct. 20 ♦ WALSAA Leadership Reception