

WALSAA to Award More Than \$33,000 in Student Scholarships This Year Thanks to Generous Donors



During the first few months of every year, you will find the WALSAA Scholarship Committee in full gear as scholarship applications arrive from UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) students. Currently, that comes in the form of sophomore or graduating senior students who submit applications and then if selected go through interviews to be considered for the Outstanding Sophomore Award and Senior Impact Award. It's an arduous process, but one that our volunteers who support these efforts find tremendous value and express amazement in the opportunities these students find through CALs, clubs and research activities.

CALS Students Received First Nancy J. Sprecher Enhancement Awards

Pictured left to right: CALs Dean and Director Glenda Gillaspy, 2023 recipients Sarah Almutawa and Mae Hurtado-Thiele, WALSAA President Michael Murphy (not pictured 2023 recipient Lauren Lansing)



New Legacy Members

- Larry Callin, B.S. '77
- Frederick Freitag, B.S. '74
- Michael Stranz, B.S. '09
- Rob Wolter, B.S. '98
- Rachel Zwieg, FISC '08

In Memoriam

- Janis Williams, B.S. '75
- Donald Schwarz, B.S. '55 M.S. '61

The Outstanding Sophomore Award (OSA) will be recognizing students for the 14th year in April 2024 at its annual award ceremony. This award is for sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership and service to the University and their community. There are currently ten scholarships offered at \$2,000 each. In its third year, the **Senior Impact Award** recognizes graduating seniors who have demonstrated an excellence in leadership skills, student activity participation, engagement in CALs programs and providing service to the University and the larger community. This award is presented to up to five students at a value of \$1,000 each. **Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC)** students and WALSAA alumni are now supported through scholarships via the FISC AgForward program with programming offered throughout the year.

Thank You! These awards would not be possible without the generous support of our WALSAA members, industry friends and faithful followers as well as previous support from CALs. Donations made during the WALSAA Football Fire-Up Silent Auction and other activities make this possible. Thank You, Thank You, Thank you!

Continued on page 7.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Football Fire-Up.....6
- New Board Member.....2
- Scholarship Recognition Awards...7
- WALSAA Snapshot.....4,5

CONTACT US

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time, Talents, Treasure



John Brunnquell, WALSAA President

The school year is in full swing, and your alumni committee chairs are busy, busy, busy. This year I have charged the committee chairs with a committee specific overall goal to advance the organization, in addition to their routine activities. I am very pleased with how all have embraced this extra ask. Specific to myself and the executive team, we are working on a time, talents, treasure data base. Our alumni have immense talent, connections, skills, etc. and when called upon, you always rise to the occasion. The issue is, historically this has taken an ad hoc approach. An opportunity presents itself and we brainstorm about potential alumni who might be able to assist. Our goal is to bring more process to the table. An example is, we, as alumni, do not have a coordinated way to support the college when the state is going through annual budget

issues that can impact the college. Yet we have several alumni who have great relationships with the other end of State Street. Our goal is to build a database over time so we can call upon alumni on specific objectives.

Separately, I would like to recognize David Cooper who chairs the scholarship committee. They are actively sorting through a record level of applicants for the Outstanding Sophomore and Outstanding Senior Awards. I had the privilege of being involved in this process and have been very impressed with the thoughtfulness and many hours of volunteer time that goes into the selection of these very worthy candidates and our future members.

On Wisconsin!

John Brunnquell (B.S. 1985)

WALSAA WELCOMES NEW FISC REPRESENTATIVE

Zwieg Joins the WALSAA Board of Directors



Rachel Zwieg graduated from UW-Madison's Farm and Industry Short Course in 2008. She earned certificates in both Soil Science and Green Industry. Rachel is an owner operator at Zwieg's Maple Acres LLC, a seventh-generation robotic dairy and crop farm. Rachel and her husband Kyle have focused on sustainability efforts and the integration of technology to gain efficiency and economic advantage. Zwieg's Maple Acres has been the top producing robotic dairy in North America for multiple years. Rachel and Kyle lead the way in preserving farmland by being one of the first 15 farms to enroll in a conservation easement in 2010 through the State of Wisconsin's PACE Program (Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements). Rachel and Kyle were selected as National Outstanding Young Farmers in 2023. The couple have three children, Theodore, and twins Landon and Logan.

WALSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

John Brunnquell '85 - 2025
President
Port Washington, WI

June Roush '87 - 2023
Vice-President and Treasurer
Middleton, WI

Michael Murphy '87 - 2023
Past President
DeWitt, IA

Curt Lauderdale
CALs Rep/Ex-Officio
Madison, WI

Andrew Stevens
CALs Faculty Rep/Ex-Officio
Madison, WI

CALs Ambassadors Student Rep
Caitlin Hanley

CALs Student Reps
Nicole Broege & Gabi Conidi

FISC Student Rep
Halei Heinzel

David Cooper '89 - 2024
Sun Prairie, WI

Alison Demmer '18 - 2024
Peosta, IA

Pierce Dopp '81 - 2024
Wausau, WI

Taylor Fritsch '14 - 2024
Sun Prairie, WI

Jane Hillstrom '80 - 2025
Dodgeville, WI

Mike Kawleski '84 - 2024
Sobieski, WI

Dawn Manthei '93 - 2026
Hartland, WI

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

Paul Mitchell '92 - 2026
Madison, WI

Lindsey Sarbacker '21 - 2026
Sioux Falls, SD

Brooke Trustem '20 - 2023
Evansville, WI

Rachel Zwieg FISC '08 - 2027
Ixonia, WI

CALS MESSAGE

The Inaugural FISC AgForward Was a Success: A Recap



Heather Gayton, Outreach Program Manager

In the Winter 2023 issue of *WALSAA Connection*, I was very excited to offer a preview of FISC AgForward, a multi-day educational opportunity offered by the Farm and Industry Short Courses program at CALS. I return to you with great enthusiasm to follow up about this revamped program.

The inaugural FISC AgForward took place at UW-Madison's Center for Dairy Research (CDR) on January 16-19. The theme of the short course was "The Dairy Industry in an Everchanging Landscape," with sessions focusing on agricultural economics, dairy diet and nutrition, reproduction, genetics, and animal welfare.

As a reminder, the new short course complements the residential FISC program at UW-River Falls (UWRF), and I am pleased to report that a majority of UWRF FISC students chose to participate. The sessions offered students an opportunity to learn about the latest university research, engage in meaningful discussions, and pose questions to CALS faculty. Participants enjoyed up-close interactions with CALS faculty, and they gave the program great evaluations all around. It was incredible to see how this newly developed program came together, and the level of engagement from participants was outstanding.

I'll use the second day of the program to share examples of the course content and organization. Luiz Ferrareto, an assistant professor and extension specialist in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences, reviewed forage production and management and described its impact on cow digestion, behavior, and productivity. And Marta Moura Kohmann, an assistant professor and extension specialist in the Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences, went over the production potential of different forage crops under various management systems — both harvested and grazed — and explored their role in environmental sustainability.

During the networking lunch on the second day, participants heard from Andrea Miller, outreach program manager for CDR, as well as Rachel Zwieg, a FISC alumna, who

along with husband, Kyle, was named National Outstanding Young Farmer in 2023. A networking lunch was provided each day of the program.

Other short court sessions were led by CALS faculty members and extension specialists Paul Fricke, Jennifer Van Os, and Kent Weigel from animal and dairy sciences and Paul Mitchell from agricultural and applied economics. They covered topics in their respective areas of expertise.

You can view photos from the second day of the FISC AgForward Short Course on the CALS Flickr page at go.wisc.edu/fisc-agforward-photos-2024.

I hope that gives you a sense of what FISC AgForward is all about. And if you missed out this year, please consider saving the dates and joining us January 23-24, 2025 for another informative and engaging event!

I hope that gives you a sense of what FISC AgForward is all about. And if you missed out this year, please consider saving the dates and joining us January 23-24, 2025 for another informative and engaging event!

Meanwhile, we have other UW-Madison FISC offerings coming soon. This includes the Farm Electrical Maintenance and Safety Short Course, which will be held in two parts. Part one will take place on the morning of July 11, proceeding the Potato Research Field Day at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station, and the second day is July 16, with a morning classroom session at Hancock and an afternoon field experience at Flyte Family Farms in Coloma, Wisconsin.

The Spanish for Dairy Series will be offered again as well. Level 1 will be offered in September, with live sessions on Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon. Level 2 will be offered in February 2025.

To get the latest updates or register for courses, visit fisc.cals.wisc.edu and follow on social media at facebook.com/FarmAndIndustryShortCourse.



Rachel Zwieg at FISC AgForward



Board Members, Officers and Staff

President: Michael Murphy
Vice-President: John Brunnquell
Treasurer: June Roush
Past President: Taylor Fritsch
Board Members: David Cooper, Alison Demmer, Pierce Dopp, Jane Hillstrom, Mike Kawleski, Curt Lauderdale, Kay Maas, Brooke Trustem
Retiring Board Members: Julie Larson, Jill Makovec, Scott Rasch
New Board Members: Dawn Manthei, Paul Mitchell, Lindsey Sarbacker, Andrew Stevens, Rachel Zwiieg
Student Representatives: Nicole Broege, Gabi Conidi, Caitlin Hanley, Halei Heinzel
Membership and Events Coordinator: Stephanie Hammerly
Bookkeeper: Jill Makovec

Since 1972, WALSAA has been THE alumni association of the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) and Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC).

WALSAA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports the connection of students, faculty and alumni to the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association
P.O. Box 5177
Madison, WI 53705-5177
608.438.1994
admin@walsaa.org
www.WALSAA.org



2023 WALSAA Outstanding Sophomore Award recipients: (L-R front) WALSAA President Michael Murphy, Sophia Green, Siyun Liu, Veronica Goveas, Julia Prouse, Hermary Gonzales, CALS Dean and Director Glenda Gillaspay, (L-R back) Lindsay Propst, Kylie Konyn, Sophia Schoenfeld, Natalie Roe and Kaela Groppe.

WALSAA Outstanding Sophomore Award Recipients

Hermary Gonzales, Wildlife Ecology
Veronica Goveas, Biology
Sophia Green, Animal Science
Kaela Groppe, Biochemistry and Psychology
Kylie Konyn, Dairy Science
Siyun Liu, Genetics and Genomics
Lindsay Propst, Genetics and Genomics
Julia Prouse, Microbiology
Natalie Roe, Dairy Science and Life Sciences Communication
Sophia Schoenfeld, Biology

WALSAA Senior Impact Award Recipients

Robert Hall, Genetics and Genomics and History
Mae Hurtado-Thiele, Genetics and Genomics
Lauren Lansing, Biology and Global Health
Kayla Okla, Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Studies
Aryan Saini, Biology and Global Health

Nancy J. Sprecher Enhancement Award Recipients

Sarah Almutawa, Biology
Mae Hurtado-Thiele, Genetics and Genomics
Lauren Lansing, Biology and Global Health

WALSAA Student Impact Grants

Association of Women in Agriculture
MOSAIC: Mentorship Opportunities in Science and Agriculture for Individuals of Color
Plant Sciences Graduate Student Council
Pre-Veterinary Association

A Sincere *Thank You* to our 2023 Donors

WALSAA SOCIETY **(\$1,000 or greater)**

American Foods Group
LaVerne G. Ausman
John and Cathy Brunnuell
Coloma Farms, Inc./Diercks Family
Compeer Financial
David and Cindy Cooper
Rick and Peggy Daluge/
Daluge Travel
Ehrke Holsteins Farm/
Bill and Jean Ehrke
Cierra and Cheryl Ehrke
Taylor Fritsch and Emily Selner
Al and Lynn Herrman
Liz and Joe Henry/J. Henry & Sons
Jaspersen Family Foundation
Tom and Bev Kennedy
Julie and Kevin Larson Family
Kay and Duane Maas
Jane Meyer
James Mode
Dave and Dawn Patterson
Sanimax
UW-Madison College of
Agricultural and Life Sciences
The Wilson Family

AG HALL CLUB **(\$500-\$999)**

Lawrence Behlen
Vern and Judy Dougherty
Dorothy Farrell
Rodney Gasch
Bob and Lisa Hagenow
Jane Hillstrom
Scott Johnson
Jack and Jane Kaltenberg/
Partners In Production Seeds
Alan and Mary Koepke
Lakeshore Equine Services/
Andrea McGowan, DVM
John and Jo Anne Lonergan
Michael Marr/Valley View Farms
Mark Masters
John and Marian McClellan
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
Samuel J. and Nadine M. Miller
Margaret Patterson and
Richard Mehalic
Paul and Sarah Patterson

Carol Schwarz
Gary and Teresa Sommers
Steven and Janelle Thomas
Lori Ward Bocher

BABCOCK HALL CLUB **(\$250-\$499)**

Alpha Gamma Rho
Emily Barker
Lisa Borzynski
Gerald Campbell
Case IH Racine Experience Center
Shawn and Lori Conley
Kim and Dave Daniels
Doctors Choice Supplements/
Jon Sawle
Pat and Amy Galloway
Marcy Heim
Eric Johnson
Nancy and Jerry Kaufman
Joel P. and Marion Kaye Marquardt
Robert H. Miller
Paul E. Mleziva
Debbie Moede
Scott and Sherryl Pertzborn
Russell Rindsig
Sheldon Schieldt
Mark P. Strohschein
Russell and Dae Vogel
Tom Wilson

HENRY MALL CLUB **(\$125-\$249)**

John and Darlene Arneson
Botham Vineyards & Winery
Robert Briggs
Bob and Janice Cooney
Maria Dais
William Davies
Carolyn Deegan
John and Carla Goode
Joel and Stephanie Hammerly
Taylor Holterman
Leon Janssen
Randal Jones
John L. and Nancy Brown-Koeller
Allen Kohn
Thomas Kriegel
Jill Makovec
John McCarthy
Jeannette Nussbaum

Gary Premo
Balwin Rielly
Jim Rutledge
Allan Schultz
Thomas Skatrud, Ph.D.
Tim Sprecher
Millard and Barbara Susman
Mark Thieleke
Wayne P. Craig
Theresa Wilfert
John W. Wilks
The Williams Family
WiscoBoxes.com
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable
Growers Association

RED & WHITE CLUB **(\$50-\$124)**

Jon Anderson
Robin Anderson
Tammy Beard
Lisa Behnke
Naomi Bernstein
Derek Brander
Edith Brandt, DVM
Michelle Brenner
Abigail Breseman
Nicole and Aaron Breunig
Traci Brewer
Jacob and Lauren Brey
Elizabeth Burgy
Martin and Kathy Burkhardt
Kent W. Carnahan
Ron and Anne Checkai
Peter Christianson
Wendy Clark
Sue Wheeler Cowan
Debbie Crave
Robert Cropp
Andrew R. Currie
Carl and Shirley Daniels
Mark Dopp
John Emmons
Dan R. Esch
Jerry Franz
Michael and Samantha Garvey
Tami and Gordie Gasch
Corey Geiger
Alan D. Goldman, DDS
James C. Graham
Howard Gust
William D. Henquinet
Elizabeth Herges

M. Kathleen Hilgers
Pamela Hodgson
Gail Holm
Hook's Cheese Company, Inc.
Dr. Fowler C. Humphrey
John and Joan Judd
David R. Kampen
Gregory Long
Dawn Manthei
Nichelle and Paul E. Martin
Jenny Martin
Gerald Meixelsperger
Mary Kaye Merwin
Steven Millin
George A. Morris
Ralph and Linda Myhre
Steve Pamerin
Richard E. Ralph
Robert Reiersen
Valerie Renk
Tom and Denise Retzleff
June Roush
Neal and Joan Sanders
Dan Schaefer
Sara Schoenborn
Susan Schultz
David Selner
Dale Sievert
Russell Skewes and Tedi Winnett
Joe and Sue Stellato
Marjorie Stieve
Erica Thomas
Tietz Family Farms Popcorn/
Rusty Tietz
Donald Walther
David Williams
Mary Woelfel
Tom Wright
Scott Zimmerman
Rachel Zwiig
Gary and Sandra Zwirlein

OTHER **(Less than \$50)**

Charles Crave
James Edwards
Eugene Hausner
Brad Markhardt
Paul Mitchell
Julianne M Pofahl
Doug Reinemann
Paul and Hope Reinhardt
David Stute
Lan and Gail Waddell
Daniel and Ellen Wepner
Dwight E. Ziegler

Save the Date! Saturday, September 7, 2024

WALSAA Football Fire-Up at UW Foundation, Madison, WI



New Band

The Jimmys, a 7-piece funky blues band, will be playing this year.. more details about the band in the next issue!



Tailgate Party & Silent Auction

The annual WALSAA Football Fire-Up Tailgate Party and Silent Auction raises funds to support CALS student scholarships. This year's event will begin 3 hours prior to kick-off of the UW/South Dakota home game.

Register at www.WALSAA.org

walsaa
Creating Connections for 50 Years

**Our College,
Our Connection**

RED JACKET AWARD NOMINATIONS

WALSAA is seeking nominations for the 2024 WALSAA Daluge Red Jacket Award. The Red Jacket Award was established in 2016 in recognition of lifetime service to WALSAA. It is named after two of WALSAA's most dedicated alumni, Rick and Peggy Daluge. A red jacket will be presented to someone who has helped WALSAA grow each year in their honor. Nomination form available at www.WALSAA.org. Please send your nominations to WALSAA , PO Box 5177, Madison, WI 53705-5177, or email to admin@walsaa.org by July 1.

WALSAA SCHOLARSHIPS

Additional Student Support by Individuals

continued from page 1

WALSAA is pleased to have the opportunity to administer and recognize students with two additional opportunities. The **Nancy J. Sprecher Enhancement Awards** are scholarship awards to CALS graduating seniors who has shown outstanding leadership and academic excellence and exemplifies the qualities that

the late Nancy Sprecher displayed during her career. Nancy J. Sprecher grew up in Wisconsin. She graduated from the UW-Madison in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Agricultural Journalism. She began her career as a market analyst at DeKalb AgResearch and Gene Kroupa Associates, and then joined the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, first as Executive Vice-President and rising to Chief Operating Officer. Toward the end of her long career, she moved to Minneapolis, MN, and became a director of Women's Food Service Forum, an organization that promotes women in leadership positions in agriculture and food related industries. Sprecher was successful in a male-dominated field and paved the way for other women to move ahead in those industries. When she died in 2021 at just 64 years of age, her wish was to have a scholarship fund established at CALS that would support the careers of students' post-graduation. This award began in 2023 and was made possible by Lon and Sue Sprecher and Steve Yaun.



Nancy J. Sprecher

Rick with BS 71, MS 75, PhD 82 and Peggy with a BS in 1970. Rick joined the CALS administration as director of Career Services, Student Recruitment, and WALSAA Sec-Treasurer. Both Peggy and Rick were charter members of WALSAA. Rick retired in 2008 after 36 years with the UW and 25 years as Director of the Farm and Industry Short Course. He worked with WALSAA during this entire time and helped grow the group from 300 members to over 2,000. Peggy held numerous positions in addition to raising two children, Tracy and Mark, both CALS graduates. Peggy worked with the Brown Swiss Association, Farm Credit of Madison, two stints as 4-H agent in Dane County, and 15 years as the Director of Business World, a program for high school students.

They enjoy giving back to students through scholarships. With the transfer of the FISC program, they are pleased to support WALSAA in their efforts to recognize outstanding students. This award is made possible by Rick and Peggy Daluge.

As you can see, WALSAA has many opportunities available for students through the generous support of our members and industry supporters. In addition, we have individuals who via WALSAA administration have found direct ways to support deserving students. If this opportunity interests you, WALSAA would love to visit with you further about structuring this recognition. Check out the next WALSAA Connection issue or other social media channels after April 5 to see the 2024 recipients of these awards.



Rick & Peggy Daluge

Rick & Peggy Daluge Recognition Award begins in 2024 for sophomore students who demonstrate excellence in academics, leadership and service to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences community. Rick and Peggy Daluge both graduated from CALS at UW-Madison.



Your CALS Connection For Life

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 372
La Crosse, Wisconsin

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

STAY UP-TO-DATE!

Have you not yet received the digital version of the WALSAA Connection e-newsletter? Scan the QR code and share your email with us to opt-in to the e-newsletter or sign-up at www.WALSAA.org.



Share Your Email With WALSAA

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11 ♦ CALS Spring Commencement

September 7 ♦ WALSAA Football Fire-Up
UW Foundation, Madison

