

# STUDENT UPDATES

## Meet the 2026 CALS Ambassadors

CALS Ambassadors are current CALS students who are eager to share about the CALS student experience. They connect with prospective first-year, transfer, and admitted students to help them learn about CALS and share their personal experiences as part of the CALS community.

**Name:** Bianca Alvarez  
**Hometown:** Palos Park, Ill.  
**Majors:** Microbiology and Chicana/x/e and Latinx/e Studies

**Why I chose UW–Madison:** I chose UW–Madison for the perfect student and social life balance. I am able to devote myself to my studies and make great relationships with people and create beautiful memories.

**Favorite part of being in CALS:** My favorite part of CALS is the connection! We are able to work together, and this makes you feel that this huge university also has a perfect small tight knit community.

**Name:** Ellie Baudhuin  
**Hometown:** Rochester, Minn.  
**Major:** Genetics and Genomics  
**Certificates:** Health in the Humanities and Honors in Research  
**Why I chose UW–Madison:** The vibrant culture and scenic natural landscape initially drew me to Madison. I got excited as I continued to explore programs, learning about UW's status as an R1 research institution, and that it houses the first genetics department in the country. Stepping onto campus during my first tour, I truly felt like I could see myself at this renowned university.

**Favorite part of being in CALS:** The connection between peers, faculty, and alumni through their support of undergrads and the celebration of accomplishments. Coming from a high school graduating class of 70 students, I was nervous that I wouldn't find my place at such a big university. However, I can confidently say that CALS has given me, not just a place to belong, but a true home!



**CALS Ambassadors at Winter Commencement Celebration**  
**L-R: Nathan Buckley, Bianca Alvarez, Mackenzie Twomey, Ellie Baudhuin, and Patrick Colegrove**

**Name:** Nathan Buckley  
**Hometown:** Lakeville, Minn.  
**Major:** Biology and Life Sciences Communication  
**Why I chose UW–Madison:** I wanted a Big Ten college campus with all the research opportunities and athletics. However, the most important factor to me was the ability to create meaningful relationships with faculty and students in the small campus feel of CALS!

**Favorite class:** My favorite class has been LSC 251: Science, Media, and Society because I can now apply strategies to communicate science in my classes and extracurriculars.

**Name:** Patrick Colegrove  
**Hometown:** Chicago, Ill.  
**Major:** Biology  
**Certificates:** Science Communication and Biocore  
**Why I chose UW–Madison:** I was already drawn to UW–Madison as a hub of research and academics, but after visiting, I instantly felt the energetic and connected sense of community from the students, the campus, and the city itself.  
**Favorite part of CALS campus:** The Microbial Sciences Building is an amazing place to grab coffee to take to your classes, learn about on-campus microbio research, or just to study. I also love to take breaks with my friend and walk through Allen Centennial Garden when the weather is nice.

**Name:** Mackenzie Twomey  
**Hometown:** St. Louis, Mo.  
**Majors:** Microbiology and Global Health  
**Certificate:** Gender and Women's Studies  
**Why I chose UW–Madison:** I chose UW–Madison because whenever I asked a question, I was told no at other universities, but UW–Madison told me yes or we'll figure it out.  
**Favorite part of CALS campus:** My favorite part of the CALS campus is the BioCommons in Steenbock Library because it is a comfy place to relax and study with friends.

**Meet more CALS Ambassadors @** [cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/explore-cals/calsambassadors/](https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/explore-cals/calsambassadors/)

