

DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOTS

Recent News and Advances



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Animal and Dairy Sciences

Megan Sippel Receives Arthur J. and Ellen A. Maurer Extra Mile Award

Megan Sippel, Graduate Program Manager for the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences, has received the Arthur J. and Ellen A. Maurer Extra Mile Award from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Since joining the department in 2020, Sippel has helped transform and professionalize graduate program support. Her work includes advising students on degree progress and university policies, coordinating professional development opportunities, supporting student funding and academic milestones, and helping students navigate challenges throughout their graduate training. Nomination materials described her as “an integral part of the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences” and a trusted resource who has made it her mission to support the well-being and academic success of graduate students.



Biochemistry

Three Biochemistry Grad Students Honored for Exceptional Mentorship and Teaching

The Denton Award for Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring went to Corinne Moss, a graduate student in the Coon Lab, and Matthew Kim, a graduate student in the Chaudhari Lab. The award, made possible by the generosity of Arnold E. and Catherine M. Denton, honors UW Integrated Program in Biochemistry (IPiB) students who provide exceptional commitment, guidance, and scientific training in mentoring and teaching undergraduate students.



Entomology

Learning From Dr. Helen Tai's Journey in Plant Genetics and the Potato World

"One part of the academic world that I have always found to be the most exciting is studying across a diverse range of topics," said PhD student Emma Terris. "In undergrad I pursued degrees in Genetics and Genomics, Spanish, and Global Health; my M.S. was a joint degree in Agroecology and Entomology; and now I am pursuing Entomology for my Ph.D. I have always thought that having a well-rounded knowledge base is an asset to being a good researcher, but occasionally it feels like it limits my depth in my own research area. I was grateful to learn about Dr. Tai's thoughts on the matter."



Plant Pathology

Six CALS Faculty Honored With Vilas Awards Including Paul Koch, Plant Pathology

Six CALS faculty members, listed below, were among 48 UW–Madison faculty selected to receive Vilas professorships and awards this year. The awards are supported by the estate of professor, U.S. Senator and UW Regent William F. Vilas (1840-1908).

Twelve professors, including one from CALS, were named to Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorships, an award recognizing distinguished scholarship as well as standout efforts in teaching and service. The professorship provides five years of flexible funding — two-thirds of which is provided by the Office of the Provost through the generosity of the Vilas trustees and one-third provided by the school or college whose dean nominated the winner.

